

# REPORT ON SRHR AND ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR WOFAD Staff and Volunteers



**Introduction:** Women for Fair Development (WOFAD) is currently working in collaboration with the World University Service of Canada-Malawi and the Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS to implement the We Have Rights Too! Project. This project, generously funded by Tilitonse, aims to ensure that the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS (WLHIV) are respected, protected and upheld. To achieve this objective, one of the project's outputs includes increasing the technical capacity of 10 WOFAD staff in promoting the SRHR of WLHIV.

The SRHR of WLHIV continues to be violated due to the lack of awareness, commitment and action in upholding these rights amongst duty bearers at all levels. To address these issues, WOFAD staff and volunteers will be working to:

- Raise awareness on SRHR and systems for redress
- Train and support 20 community SRHR promoters and peer educators
- Advocate on issues affecting the SRHR of WLHIV, including access to and quality of sexual and reproductive health services.

Training WOFAD staff on SRHR and advocacy will be central to both improving the ability of the organization to address SRHR issues and to ensuring the sustainability of the We Have Rights Too! Project.

**The purpose** of the two days of training on SRHR and advocacy was to develop the capacity of WOFAD staff to effectively raise awareness, deliver trainings, provide support and carry out advocacy on SRHR issues with WLHIV.

<b>Name of Activity:</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and Advocacy Training for WOFAD staff and Volunteers		
<b>Date of Activity:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> April 2013.	<b>Type of Activity:</b>	Workshop
<b>Location:</b>	Mkango Lodge, Blantyre	<b>Donor:</b>	Tilitonse
<b>Compiled by:</b>	Kristina Hunter	<b>Date submitted:</b>	May 20, 2013
<b>Other participating staff members:</b>	Linnah Matanya – Executive Director of WOFAD	<b>CC'd</b>	WOFAD ED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WOFAD Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WUSC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Workshop Objectives:**

- To equip participants with knowledge on SRHR concepts, relevant laws and policies and key issues surrounding SRHR in the target communities (T/A Kuntaja, T/A Kunthembwe and T/A Machinjiri)
- To enable participants to plan and facilitate trainings for disseminating appropriate information on SRHR issues
- To provide knowledge and develop skills to counsel and provide psychosocial support for WLHIV
- To build the capacity of WOFAD staff to effectively engage communities to advocate for SRHR issues

### **Description of Activity:**

Over the course of two days, WOFAD staff and volunteers were equipped with knowledge and skills through power point presentations, group activities, videos, guided discussions and mini-presentations. The following key themes were covered:

- ✂ **Key SRHR concepts, relevant laws and policies**
- ✂ **Community mobilization and advocacy on SRHR**
- ✂ **Conducting a Political Economic Analysis to inform the development of SRHR advocacy strategies**
- ✂ **Understanding how to help women seek redress following SRHR violations**

Participants were taught basic SRHR terminology, key international and domestic laws and policies for SRHR and made aware of SRHR violations happening in target communities where WOFAD will be working. Key legal documents covered included Malawi's Constitution, the Protection against (Prevention of) Domestic Violence Act 2006 and the Gender Equality Act 2013. In addition, Richard Muluzi from the Women's Legal Resource Centre, provided a presentation that extensively described the system for legal redress in Malawi surrounding acts of domestic violence and sexual and reproductive health rights violations. This presentation provided participants with an understanding on how to help women seek redress following SRHR violations.

For community mobilization and advocacy on SRHR, participants were taught about the various roles information, education and communication (IEC), social mobilisation and advocacy could play in addressing SRHR issues. Furthermore, participants were taught the steps to engage in for advocacy and were able to discuss advocacy initiatives WOFAD could undertake for SRHR.

In order to fully understand SRHR issues in Malawi and to determine effective entry points for advocacy, participants were taught how to conduct a Political Economy Analysis (PEA). In groups, participants were able to practice conducting a PEA as they completed a country level, sector level and project level analysis for understanding why women are reluctant to seek redress following a SRHR violation. These concepts were further reinforced when Jacob Mapemba reviewed PEA on Day 2 with the women.

Communication skills and issues of power were briefly discussed for staff and volunteers to effectively train and engage WLHIV on SRHR issues and advocacy. In recognition of the fact that WOFAD will be working with marginalized populations, the presentations sought to foster staff sensitivity in making certain negative power dynamics would not be replicated in the field and that methods of communication would foster active participation and a sense of inclusion.

On the final day, participants worked together to develop an action plan for WOFAD on how the organization would work towards promoting SRHR and engaging in advocacy following the training. Furthermore, participants committed to developing a position paper that will be used in the organization's advocacy efforts.

To facilitate thorough understanding of the material, WOFAD staff worked together to periodically interpret presentations into Chichewa while facilitators presented.

### **Results:**

- ✂ Participants were able to learn and understand key SRHR issues and relevant laws and policies in Malawi
- ✂ Through the WOLREC presentation, participants gained a greater understanding of the system of redress available to women who have faced a SRHR violation. Participants also gained insight in to how real cases of SRHR violations in their communities would be dealt with in court.
- ✂ Participants learnt about the purpose of and how to undertake social mobilization and advocacy initiatives. Moreover, participants were able to discuss ideas for advocacy WOFAD could engage for SRHR issues.

- ✂ Participants learnt about and practiced conducting a Political Economy Analysis. In the process, participants were able to identify potential entry points and areas for advocacy regarding SRHR issues.
- ✂ Participants were trained on how to effectively communicate with populations that have been persistently marginalized. The skills gained in the process will facilitate the development of effective training and community engagement on SRHR issues.
- ✂ An action plan and position paper were developed to help guide WOFAD's future activities and advocacy surrounding SRHR.

**Lessons Learned:**

- ✂ Key legal documents women need to understand in seeking redress: Constitution, Prevention of Domestic Violence Act and Gender Equality Act. The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act provides for a Protection Order, Occupation Order and a Tenancy Order. However, it was noted that there has been poor dissemination of information on these acts and a need to increase awareness on what rights are protected through Malawi's legal documents.
- ✂ The challenges in service delivery and limitations in support available through the Police Victim Support Unit (PVSU), legal system and health system. These weaknesses were identified as potential points for advocacy. For example, there is no HIV/AIDS law which leaves many women vulnerable; lawyers are extremely expensive and the legal system is complicated; the PVSUs are poorly resourced and difficult to access in rural regions.
- ✂ The complicated nature of the current legal and referral system led to the conclusion there is a need for more one-stop centres, similar to the initiative started at Queen's Hospital.
- ✂ Overall, awareness on rights and relevant laws and policies need to be increased. Sharing this knowledge will help empower women to seek redress following an SRHR violation.
- ✂ Women are failing to use contraception for a wide array of reasons. It was suggested that further research be conducted to better understand the issue and how to address it.
- ✂ Cultural and religious practices persist that infringe upon the SRHR of all women. It was agreed these factors also need to be targeted.

**Recommendations:**

- ✂ Following the training, there remained significant interest in additional training on the legal system for redress available to women who have faced an SRHR violation. A suggestion was made to determine if WOLREC would be able to help provide paralegal training for WOFAD staff and volunteers.
- ✂ There are many potential SRHR issues WOFAD can address through advocacy and social mobilization. WOFAD will need to narrow down their ideas and decide on action items and advocacy areas that the organization will have the capacity to effectively carry out.
- ✂ It was agreed that there is a significant need for one-stop centres that will address the legal, health and social needs of women who have faced a SRHR violation. WOFAD will continue applying for proposals and looking for funds to develop such a centre.
- ✂ To further enhance awareness on the system of redress, WOFAD can develop a resource centre at the office and at CBOs in all target T/As for the We Have Rights Too! Project. This resource centre will provide women access to relevant legal documents and information on SRHR.

**Participants:**

Linnah Matanya, Ruth Mpando, Chrispine Kasiya, Mary Boloweza, Rose Ching'amba, Sophia Demba, Emma Pote, Lonney Lombola, Marvice Dazah (Women: 8, Men: 1)


Additional individuals present: Jacob Mapemba (WUSC) and media personnel (3) from Lucy Kadzongwe (Zodiak), Blessings Kanache (MBC) and Mr. Mana (National Newspaper) and Richard Muluzi (WOLREC)

**Action Items:**


Action (to be followed up on)	Responsible	Due
1. Finalization of Action Plan and Position Paper	Kristina with all of WOFAD	May 20
2. Determining possibility of additional legal training for WOFAD staff and volunteers (potentially through WOLREC)	Linnah, Chrispine, WOFAD	May 22

**Other Comments:** The process of interpretation nearly doubled the time required for each presentation. As a result, less material was covered during the WOFAD training compared to COWLHA. The specific material that was not as thoroughly covered:

**Communication for effective training and community engagement on SRHR issues****Communication that works**










 Processes and techniques for effective communication: engaging vulnerable groups : **Giving & taking feedback**











**Power & anti oppression Dynamics (communications)**

 Providing **perspective on oppression, power and marginalization**  
Fostering participation and knowledge sharing

However, the translation process also proved beneficial as it created a space where women felt comfortable actively participating, worked together to clarify ideas and concepts and provided personal experiences throughout the training. Women actively participated throughout the training, truly worked together to ensure all participants understood the information being presented and provided input that enhanced training content.

**NOTE:** Please Find attached the program , and relevant pictures attach any relevant printed materials, i.e. Invitation list, and the training program.

Day 1 = 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2013.			
Time	Activity	Methodology	Resp.
8:30	<b>Logistics &amp; announcements</b> <b>Opening Prayer</b> Introductions and Icebreaker Workshop Objectives & Methodology Ground Rules & Expectations Allocate time Keeper & Rapatours		Ruthie, Believe and Kristina
	Welcome remarks		Linnah
<b>SRHR Concepts</b>			
9:30-11:00	<b>Key SRHR Concepts</b>  Sexual and Reproductive Health  Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights  Relevant International and Domestic Laws and Policies (Including Gender Equality Act 2013)  Key Issues from Baseline Survey  Videos: The Girl Effect and SRHR is No Joke	-Presentation -Videos -Role Playing	K
11:00	<b>-Break-</b>		
<b>Community mobilization and advocacy on SRHR</b>			
11:15-12:30	<b>Social Mobilization, IEC &amp; and Advocacy.</b>  Definitions  Steps of advocacy  Problem & Objective Analysis (Social mobilization, IEC & Advocacy)	-Presentation	B
12:30	<b>- Lunch -</b>		
<b>Conducting a Political Economy Analysis</b>			
1:30	<b>Conducting a Political Economy Analysis (PEA)</b>  What causes SRHR violations?	-Presentation	
3: 15	Group Activity on PEA	-Group Work	
4:00	<b>End of the day remarks &amp; evaluations</b>		K & B
4:30	<b>Closing prayer &amp; tea break</b>		

Day 2 = 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2013			
Understanding how to help women seek redress following SRHR violations			
8:30-9:30	Logistics & announcements Opening Prayer Energizer Review of material from previous day	N/A	B + Jacob
9:30 -10:30	<b>Problem-Tree Analysis for SRHR</b>		Jacob
10:30-11:00	<b>System of redress in cases of SRHR violations</b>  <b>Domestic Violence Act (2006) and gender related laws</b>  <b>Legal redress, medical support and challenges</b>	-Presentation by the Women's Legal Resource Centre	Richard
11:00-11:15	<b>-Break-</b>		
11:15-12:00	<b>Continuation of WOLREC Presentation</b>		Richard
12:00-1:00	Lunch		
Communication for effective training and community engagement on SRHR issues			
1:00-2:00	<b>Communication that works</b>  Processes and techniques for effective communication: engaging vulnerable groups : <b><u>Giving &amp; taking feedback</u></b> <b>Power &amp; anti oppression Dynamics (communications)</b>  Providing <b><u>perspective on oppression, power and marginalization</u></b>  Fostering participation and knowledge sharing	-Presentations -Role playing -Individual exercises	Believe
Development of an Action Plan			
2:00-2:20 (20 mins)	<b>Action Plan Presentation</b>	-Presentation	Believe
2:20-3:05 (45 mins)	<b>Tools for developing an action Plan</b>  Prioritization Activity for Group Decision Making  Action plan development	-Matrix Activity -Group activity	Kristina
3:05-3:30 (25 mins)	<b>The Way Forward: Position Paper Development</b>  What are we committing ourselves to do  What changes do we want to see  Defining strategies and responsibilities	-Group activity to draft a: - position paper	Believe
3:30-3:45	Closing remarks, reflections		K & B

## WOFAD Action Plan (In Response to SRHR and Advocacy Training)

Objective: Increased knowledge on SRHR, relevant laws and policies and systems for redress and assistance among women in the targeted Traditional Authorities		
Activities	Time Frame	Outcomes
WOFAD staff and volunteer paralegal training by the Women's Legal Resource Centre on relevant laws and systems for redress following an SRHR violation.	By August 2013	-Number of training sessions held  -Improved capacity to counsel women on their rights and appropriately assist them in seeking redress following an SRHR violation
Training of 20 SRHR promoters and peer educators (Part of the We Have Rights Too! Project)	September 2013- November 2014	-20 SRHR promoters and peer educators trained  -Number of women and men made aware about their SRHR, relevant laws and policies and systems for redress and assistance through the SRHR promoters and peer educators
Open Days for SRHR Awareness	July-September 2013	-3 Open Days held (One per T/A – Kuntaja, Kunthembwe, Machinjiri)  -Number of women and men attending the Open Days (Increased awareness on SRHR, relevant laws and policies, systems for redress and assistance)  -Number of media attending and media coverage
Establishment of resource centres at WOFAD and CBOs	June -September 2013	-Number of resource centres developed (including booklets, pamphlets and print-outs on SRHR, relevant laws and policies, systems for redress and assistance)
Airing of the "Girl Effect" video in various public forums to raise awareness on SRHR	July-September 2013	-Translated version of the "Girl Effect" video  -Number of public forums in which the video was screened
Objective: Increased access to health, legal and social support following an SRHR violation		
Development of a Rescue/One-Stop Centre to	May (Completion	-Securing funding



<p>access health, legal and social services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sourcing funds through writing proposals to various funding agencies (WOFAD is currently developing a proposal to the African Women Development Fund for 25, 000 USD)</li> </ul>	<p>of Proposal Writing)- September 2014</p>	<p>-Rescue/One-Stop Centre developed</p>
<p>Objective: SRHR of WLHIV are promoted and upheld through advocacy initiatives among key duty bearers.</p>		
<p>a. Advocating among community leaders, traditional leaders and religious leaders to protect and promote the SRHR of WLHIV (Part of the We Have Rights Too! Project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions with community leaders about specific advocacy initiatives they feel would benefit WLHIV facing SRHR violations</li> </ul> <p>b. Calling for more one-stop centres to be established throughout Malawi - to help reduce the barriers women face in navigating the complexities of the current system</p>		<p>-Number of community meetings held</p> <p><i>-WOFAD would first like to discuss with community leaders what they feel are advocacy priorities. As a result, advocacy strategies are TBD</i></p>

## Women for Fair Development: Position Paper on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Women Living with HIV and AIDS

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Women for Fair Development (WOFAD) acknowledges that Malawi has made significant strides in addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and operationalizing regional commitments like the Maputo Plan of Action. With the Protection against Domestic Violence Act 2006, National Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Policy 2009 and the Gender Equality Act 2013, Malawi is making substantial progress in promoting and protecting the SRHR of all its citizens. However, despite such successes, the SRHR of women continue to be violated.

WOFAD and the Coalition of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (COWLHA), in collaboration with the World University Service of Canada-Malawi and with funding from the Tilitonse Fund, interviewed a total of 715 individuals to assess the state of SRHR among WLHIV in the districts of Blantyre (T/A Kuntaja, Kunthembwe and Machinjiri) and Nkhosha (T/A Kanyenda, Malengachanzi and Mwadzama). From December 2012 to February 2013, 665 WLHIV, 29 traditional community leaders, 15 health care workers and 7 police officials were interviewed. Overall, it was found that SRHR violations, stigma and discrimination continue at persistently high levels where 38% of respondents reported having faced one or more SRHR violations. Furthermore, 49% of respondents admitted they would not know where to go for redress if they were faced with an SRHR violation.

In response to these findings, WOFAD is making a commitment to ensuring the SRHR of WLHIV are respected, protected and upheld. As an organization, we are committed to raising awareness on SRHR, relevant laws and policies and systems for redress following a SRHR violation. Throughout T/A Kuntaja, Kunthembwe and Machinjiri, WOFAD will be holding community awareness campaigns, lobbying meetings and training SRHR promoters and peer educators. Moreover, WOFAD is working towards securing funds to establish resource centres and one-stop centres to improve access to health, legal and social services among women in need of assistance.

Currently, women face immense social, economic and legal barriers to seeking redress following an SRHR violation. Our findings revealed that only 35% of WLHIV who faced a violation sought redress. Among these women, 72% were not satisfied with the assistance they received. Many women remain unaware of the laws and services in place to protect them. In light of these issues, WOFAD is demanding that:

1. **National legislation such as the 2006 Domestic Violence Act and the 2013 Gender Equality Act become popularized, especially among rural communities.** It is crucial that women become aware of the laws intended to protect them and learn how to use these pieces of legislation for their protection.
2. **Barriers to accessing the court system are reduced.** The Police Victim Support Unit and District Social Welfare Offices need to be adequately resourced in order to strengthen their services and relationship with civil society. The availability of pro-bono lawyers must also increase, so that their services are made accessible to marginalized members of society, such as WLHIV in the rural regions of the country.
3. **SRHR violations by health care workers are addressed.** Findings from our baseline revealed that 28% of respondents reported having faced a SRHR violation committed by a health care worker. In

light of this, we are asking the government to commission a study to determine the underlying causes and effects of these violations and develop mechanisms that will effectively address these issues in the health care setting.

4. ***Additional One-Stop Centres are developed to reduce barriers to accessing social, health and legal services.*** We applaud the government for having established the One Stop Centre for women facing Gender Based Violence February 2013 in Blantyre City. However, there is an immense need for such centres to be established in areas more accessible to rural women, where poverty, GBV and SRHR violations are especially rampant.

## Photos from the SRHR and Advocacy Training



Figure 1 Linnah Matanya, WOFAD's Executive Director discussing SRHR issues.



Figure 2 Kristina Hunter explaining key laws and policies relevant to SRHR



**Figure 3** Chripine Kasiya explaining his group's findings following a Political Economy Analysis



**Figure 4** Jacob Mapemba reviewing key SRHR concepts on Day 2 of training.



**Figure 5 Richard Muluzi from WOLREC explaining the legal system for redress following an SRHR violation.**



**Figure 6 Believe Dhiwayo explaining effective communication skills for engaging community members in SRHR activities and advocacy.**



**Figure 7 Emma Pote receiving a certificate from Jacob Mapemba for completing the SRHR and advocacy training**