

NEWSLETTER

Q3

**JULY-SEPTEMBER
2025**



Human Rights Defenders in Action

WORD FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to another quarter of ensuring the working environment for human rights defenders is improved.

Our Coalition's commitment to human rights is deeply rooted in our **Strategic Plan 2023-2027**, which emphasizes strengthening civic space, empowering human rights defenders, and fostering collaboration between state and non-state actors. During this quarter, these commitments have translated into tangible actions, **defenders trained, journalists supported, policies influenced, and civic awareness expanded.**

As Tanzania moves closer to the **2025 General Elections**, our democracy stands at a defining moment, one that calls for commitment, vigilance,



and collective responsibility. At the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), we recognize that this period demands not just preparation, but partnership, not just advocacy, but accountability.

This third quarter of 2025 has been both *dynamic and defining for our coalition*. Through diverse engagements, from capacity-building workshops and stakeholder dialogues to advocacy meetings and media programs, we have positioned THRDC as a leading voice for a **safe space for human rights defenders** in Tanzania.

35 THRDC members have now received election observation and education permits, and 10 of them have already rolled out community-level voter and civic education programs across multiple regions. These efforts are not isolated activities; they are a coordinated push toward ensuring that citizens understand their rights, participate meaningfully, and contribute to national stability.

Equally remarkable has been our engagement with the **media**, which remains a crucial partner in shaping public dialogue and

countering misinformation during the electoral process. Throughout the months of July – September 2025, **THRDC facilitated 17 media programs**, reaching **1.1 million people through YouTube and Instagram**, and an estimated **12 million listeners through national radio station**.

These programs, aligned with our Strategic Plan's pillar *on enhancing public awareness and communication for human rights protection*, have amplified voices for inclusion, accountability, and nonviolence ahead of the elections.

Our message remains clear: *Human rights defenders are better alive than dead*. They are the link between democracy and dignity, between the people and their power.

As we head into the final quarter before elections, I urge all Tanzanians to uphold our shared responsibility: **to safeguard peace, protect rights, and preserve our nation's unity**.

Adv. Onesmo Olengurumwa

National Coordinator, Tanzania

Quarter Three (3) Success Highlights



Performance Tracking Table

Impact/Outcome	Key Indicator	Q3 2025 Achievement
Strengthened participation of THRDC members in the democratic process	35 THRDC Member Organizations Accredited	THRDC members are officially permitted to conduct election observation and voter education.
Enhanced citizen understanding of electoral rights	10 CSOs Supported in Voter Education	Conducted civic and voter education in 10 regions
Strengthened collaboration between CSOs, police, and judiciary	8 High-Level Dialogues and Trainings	Covered topics on rule of law, civic space, UPR, and disability inclusion
Safer, informed, and more resilient civic actors	500+ Defenders & Journalists Trained	On media safety, legal frameworks, and digital rights
Demonstrated evidence-based impact of THRDC training	73% Post-Training Knowledge Increase	Measured through evaluation surveys
Broadened public awareness and participation	17 Media Programs Conducted	Reached 1.1M (online) and 12M (radio) audiences
Strengthened international collaboration and solidarity	12 Strategic Partnerships & Courtesy Visits	With EISA, COMSOL, German Embassy, and PALU
Unified civil society voice in national and global advocacy	200+ CSOs Engaged in National Consultations	Participated in US aid suspension impact review and UPR preparations

Quoter Three (3) Elaborated Succes:

1: BUILDING STRONGER NETWORKS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

This quarter marked an era of **renewed collaboration and engagement** across Tanzania's human rights landscape. THRDC brought together civil society, state institutions, and international partners to discuss the rule of law, civic space, and electoral integrity.

In July, we hosted a **review meeting** on the Impact of USAID Grant Suspension to CSOs in Tanzania, which engaged over several National NGOs, International NGOs, and the National Council of NGOs. The findings of this report shaped advocacy conversations on sustainability and self-reliance among local NGOs which is a key step toward resilient civil society action. The report shall be published later in October 2025.

In August, THRDC partnered with **the Tanganyika Law Society,**

East Africa Law Society, and Pan African Lawyers Union to strengthen advocacy, litigation, and engagement skills. This two-day training in Dodoma gathered over 70 participants and reaffirmed the importance of collaboration between legal professionals and human rights defenders in safeguarding democracy and access to justice.

2: ADVANCING INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

THRDC's commitment to inclusion continued to shine this quarter through activities led by the **Defenders with Disabilities Initiative (DDI).**

In partnership with COMSOL (Italy), we donated laptops to organizations advocating for the rights of women and children with disabilities, enabling them to document cases, engage online, and conduct evidence-based advocacy.

3: ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF NGOs IN TAPPING TO REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL H.R MECHANISMS

Additionally, our **Child Rights Defenders' training on international mechanisms** brought together 40 participants (28 women, 12 men, including one with disability). Knowledge among participants increased from 40% to 73%, showing a great measurable learning impact.

The session concluded with an action plan focusing on:
Refresher training on advocacy strategies.

Planning on engaging in UNCRC and UPR international mechanisms as defenders defending children's rights in Tanzania.

Development of monitoring tools to track government accountability on child rights.

4: THE ROLE OF MEDIA AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN PROMOTING PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

In collaboration with **UTPC, IMS, TAMWA, and UNESCO**, THRDC convened a **National Dialogue on Rule of Law and Safety of Journalists** at the UN House in Dar es Salaam. The dialogue featured presentations by senior representatives from the **Police Force, TAMWA, and THRDC**, highlighting the importance of collaboration in promoting freedom of expression and ensuring journalist safety during elections.

Participants' knowledge improved from **37% to 79%** after the dialogue which is a measurable testament to THRDC's effective knowledge-building approach.

A key resolution was the adoption of **Safety and Gender Policies in media houses**, and the agreement for **UTPC and the Police Force to institutionalize protection mechanisms** ahead of the general elections.

This activity aligns directly with our **Strategic Plan's Outcome 2**, which focuses on ensuring that media, HRDs, and CSOs operate in a safe and enabling environment.

5: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Throughout Q3, THRDC hosted **several strategic courtesy visits**, each contributing to stronger international collaboration and resource mobilization.

We welcomed delegations from the **German Embassy**, **COMSOL**, and **EISA**, as well as senior representatives from the **PALU**. These engagements emphasized partnership in promoting civic space, democracy, and the rule of law.

Such interactions reflect our shared belief that protecting human rights is not a solo mission, but a global commitment built on **trust, solidarity, and shared vision**.

6: MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND NETWORK STRENGTHENING

The quarter also witnessed the **14th Annual General Meeting of THRDC Members**, held on 10th August 2025.

Members discussed strategies to enhance coordination, strengthen governance structures, and increase participation in national and regional advocacy platforms.

Additionally, **new members** such as the Tanzania Women Ex-Prisoners Care Organization (TWEKO) began their onboarding process, expanding the diversity and strength of our network.

Our coalition now stands as **one of the largest and most active human rights networks in Tanzania**, with over 250 active members working across all thematic areas.

7: MEDIA VISIBILITY AND OUTREACH IMPACT

During Quarter 3, THRDC made exceptional progress in media engagement and public visibility. Through **17 media programs**, the Coalition reached:

1.1 million online viewers (via YouTube and Instagram live sessions), and

Over 12 million radio listeners across the country.

The content ranged from election education, freedom of expression, civic participation, and safety of journalists, to digital rights and data protection.

These programs were instrumental in implementing **Strategic Objective 3** of our plan: to enhance information dissemination, awareness, and visibility of human rights work in Tanzania.

The online discussions received strong engagement from youth, journalists, and activists, reinforcing the message that civic awareness and digital participation are vital components of modern

democracy.

8: TOWARD A PEACEFUL, FREE AND FAIR ELECTION

As the general elections draw near, THRDC continues to emphasize one message above all: **peace is everyone's responsibility.**

Through our partnerships with the police, electoral bodies, CSOs, and the media, we continue to advocate for **a safe, transparent, and inclusive electoral process.**

We encourage all citizens to:

Participate peacefully,

Respect different opinions and political choices,

Report any violations or hate speech through existing legal channels, and

Uphold unity as a foundation of democracy.

We urge the government and security agencies to create a safe environment for citizens' participation in structuring the future of the nation. A free, fair, and peaceful election is not just a national goal, it reflects

our collective maturity and respect for human rights and democracy.

What Should You Expect to See Us Do in Quarter 4?

✚ To be in a frontline to defend human rights defenders.

✚ Publish the report on The Impact of United States Funding Changes on Tanzania Civil Society Organizations.

✚ Conducting Media Programs to induce further knowledge about the 2024/2025 CSOs Election Manifesto.

✚ Continue to engage human rights stakeholders through meetings and dialogues to ensure the working environment of human rights defenders is improved.

✚ Capacitating NGOs in Tanzania on several topics that strengthen their organizations.

values. The progress showcased in this quarter proves that when we work together, we create a wider civic space and more resilient human rights defenders.

As we approach the election period, let us deepen collaboration, uphold professionalism, and champion inclusive participation for all.

Conclusively, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners, members, and supporters who continue to stand with THRDC in advancing human rights and democratic












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