General Project Information

**Project Title:** Women’s Property and Inheritance Rights in the Context of HIV and AIDS  
**Organization:** House of Peace (HOP), Tanzania  
**Implemented in:** Dar es Salaam Region, Tanzania  
**Total Grant Approved:** $74,787

**Context**

HIV and AIDS, gender-based violence (GBV), and the denial of women’s property and inheritance rights are interrelated issues in Tanzania. House of Peace stands as one of Tanzania’s few safe houses for women and children affected by GBV and HIV, serving more than 2,000 clients annually. While several civil laws affirm women’s rights to own and inherit property, customary and Islamic law reinforce gender inequalities by preventing women’s access to their rightful assets. House of Peace clients increasingly are women and girls who have suffered violence and property dispossession as a result of having their HIV status discovered by a spouse or family member.

**Objectives**

House of Peace sought to address the intersections between HIV and AIDS, GBV, and property and inheritance rights through specialized legal services for women and girls.

**Key results**

- Enhanced knowledge and awareness of more than 200 local authorities, including local government leaders, ward tribunal members, and police officers, and 550 community members of their obligations to protect women’s property and inheritance rights in the context of HIV and AIDS. Some local government authorities and ward tribunal members have initiated quarterly meetings with community members to promote further education on women’s property and inheritance rights.
- Increased legal literacy and awareness of 50 women living with HIV and AIDS about their property and inheritance rights. Soon after the training, some women started legal procedures to assert their property and inheritance rights.
- Enhanced knowledge and skills of 17 legal service providers and 35 paralegals to support women’s access to property and inheritance rights in the context of HIV and AIDS. Paralegal units have been established to advocate on women’s rights.
- Focus groups were especially useful in data collection during the baseline survey. In particular, mixing people of different professions and socioeconomic levels in the focus groups yielded insightful information about the barriers to women’s property and inheritance rights in the context of HIV and AIDS.

**Lessons Learned**

- Additional outreach to rural areas is needed, where traditional and religious beliefs regarding women’s rights remain strong.