



**REPORT ON 2020 ELECTION OBSERVATION IN ARUSHA, MWANZA AND TANGA.**

**TANZANIA YOUTH COALITION (TYC).**



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**RE. TYC/30/11//2020/005**

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUILDING,  
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Dear Sir/Madam,

30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020



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**RE: SUBMISSION FOR VOTERS EDUCATION AND OBSERVATION REPORT  
FOR 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

Refer to the heading above, Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) is a consortium of more than 120 youth Non-governmental community-based organizations and hundreds of youth individuals countrywide, that works towards building the capacity and raising awareness of young people on sustainable development and related subjects such as poverty reduction, environment, health-HIV/AIDS and peace building. Furthermore, TYC is committed to ensuring the voice of a young person is heard at relevant national and international policy platforms.

TYC works under five program areas, which are Youth leadership and building local democracy, Youth livelihood and Employment, Youth Livelihood and Environment, Youth health and gender, Youth exchange and international partnership for sustainable development. TYC registered under the **NGO Act of 2002 no. 00NGO/1382**.

This year Tanzania was undertaking General election. The National Election Commission has mandate to oversee all matters pertaining general election in Tanzania. Therefore, National Election Commission granted permit to Tanzania Youth Coalition to conduct civic education and election observation.

The objective of the activity was to observe the participation and inclusion of youth, women and People with Disabilities in the general election and oversee democracy within the whole process of the election in 2020. We would like to express our appreciation to National Election Commission for their support and permit to conduct Voters Education and Election observation in all regions of Tanzania.

Tanzania Youth Coalition would like to submit Final Reports concerning civic education and Election Observation.

Yours sincerely,  
Lenin Kazoba

Director, Tanzania Youth Coalition

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

NEC – National Electoral Commission

TYC – Tanzania Youth Coalition

PWDs – People with Disabilities

IDIET – Increased Democracy and Inclusive Election in Tanzania

FPTP – First – Past – The – Post.

URT – United Republic of Tanzania.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Tanzania Youth Coalition extends the heartfelt gratitude to all those who made Youth for The whole process of election observation peaceful and successful for the year 2020.

Our special thanks goes to WE EFFECT for not only supporting this project IDIET, but also for their effort in supporting and enhancing democracy especially participation of young people, women and people with Disabilities (PWDs) in the democratic process during this activity on election observation in our country which was the primary focus of the project.

Also, we thank the NEC, local authorities and all other government agencies that organized and supported us during the processes of preparation and during Election Day.

Lastly, special appreciation to all TYC staffs, Supervisors and observers who made this activity a success before and after the elections.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) mobilized local election observers in Arusha, Mwanza and Tanga under the project called Increased Democracy and Inclusiveness Election in Tanzania (IDIET). The objective of the activity is to observe the participation and involvement of Youth, women and People with Disabilities in the general election and oversee democracy within the whole process of the election in 2020.

TYC conducted trainings on election observation from 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to create an understanding for observers on the role and responsibilities they hold while observing. TYC deployed 221 observers in 221 polling stations on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 who were certified by the NEC for the 2020 observation on the general elections in Tanga, Mwanza and Arusha. Tools were developed to guide observer on what information was to be documented during observation.

Findings showed that women participated more in all polling station where TYC observers were allocated on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The turnout of youth was second and People with disability was less compared to other groups.

Based on the findings and assessment on the process of observation, TYC recommends that Voters' education is needed more especially to PWDs, Election observers should be allowed to vote for presidency, NEC should instruct polling station supervisors to abide by their rules and guidelines when instructing observers, NEC should release information about the polling stations earlier, NEC guidelines, books and other documents should be written in National Language (Swahili language).

Finally, based on our observation findings Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) concluded that; 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, General Election in Tanzania was peaceful though there were few raised challenges in some polling stations however they were sorted out by leaders in charge at the polling stations. Other challenges that emerged in this election can be sorted by government, political party and CSOs to educate society on voters' education/Civic Education.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **POLITICAL BACKGROUND IN TANZANIA AND ELECTION PROCESS**

#### **MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE**

In 26<sup>th</sup> April 1964, The United Republic of Tanzania was formed. A union of two countries, Tanganyika and Zanzibar forming one country Tanzania. The Constitution of the United Republic went through various changes in between 1965- 1977. Given the further attempts of amending the Constitution, in 1977 a Union Parliament was transformed into a constituent assembly to endorse a new constitution which led to the imperial presidency and dual-government (within a single-party state) being enshrined by the law.

In 1979, based on the new Union Model, Zanzibar adopted its first permanent constitution. This constitution provided for a partially-elected House of Representative.

In the 1980s there were widespread calls for a new constitution and a national bill of rights. The party in charge then announced a series of constitutional amendments that were focused on the powers of the president, the authority and representative nature of the parliament, the consolidation of the union and the power of the people. The main issue of disagreement, as had been before was the structure of the Union.

In 1985 the amendments were enacted and this led to the introduction of two-term limits for presidents and a system of two Vice Presidents, one being the President of Zanzibar and the other the Prime minister of Tanzania. Article 47 of the constitution stipulated that the president of the United Republic and the first vice president should come from different parts of the Union.

#### **TANZANIA ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

Tanzania is a multiparty democracy under article 3 on the constitution of united republic of Tanzania (URT) and presidential republic in which the President is both the Head of State and Head of Government. The election of Members of the National Assembly for a five-year term follows the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) electoral system. Tanzania's national assembly is made up of Members of Parliament (MPs) who are directly elected to represent 264 constituencies; special seats five woman representative for each region total 110 and 10 seat members of parliament vested by the president discretion.

According to the election system of Tanzania, any party can be announced as the winner by simple majority. That means whoever receives more votes than the others would be declared winner without considering the percentage of total votes scored by the individual. Tanzania also practices proportional representation electoral system that gives the parties an opportunity to allocate special seats for women.

Due to the current governance and political structures of Tanzania, three types of elections are conducted namely;

1. The local government elections that elect village, street and hamlet leaders including member of village council;
2. The general elections that elect the President of United Republic of Tanzania (URT); the President of Zanzibar; members of parliament of Tanzania; members of Zanzibar's House of Representative; and Councilors;
3. The By-elections, which are conducted only when an elected leader dies or stop being a leader for any other reason provided under the electoral laws.

## **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Tanzania's legal framework provides for and guarantees the holding of regular elections in conformity with regional and international frameworks. There are four principal law and guidelines that guide election in Tanzania.

- (a) National Election Act CAP 343 (Principal Legislation)
- (b) The Local Authorities CAP 292 (elections) Act, (Principal Legislation)
- (c) The Local Authorities (councilors election) Act , CAP 292 Regulations, 2020.
- (d) The National Elections (Presidential and Parliamentary Elections) Regulations, 2020.
- (e) Political Parties Act (principal legislation)Cap 258
- (e) Guideline for local and international election observers, 2020.

The Constitution (URT) guarantees the fundamental human rights of freedom of information, association and assembly and right to vote under article 5 of the constitution of the united republic of Tanzania. The Constitution also provides for the establishment of the Electoral Commission as the legally mandated body responsible for the conduct of elections, the management of the voter register and delimitation of electoral districts.

The National Electoral Act sets out the Commission's mandate and makes provisions for its financing and operations. The National Elections (Presidential and Parliamentary Elections) Regulations, 2020 outline the procedures for the conduct of National Assembly and Presidential elections during all the stages of the electoral process from nomination of candidates to election petitions. The Political Parties Act CAP 258 provides for the regulation, financing and functioning and registration of political parties. The Local authorities act (elections) regulates the conduct of elections in ward councilors held every five years.

## **VOTERS REGISTRATION**

In 23th February 2015, Tanzania's Electoral Commission (NEC) introduced a National Identity Card System, which required the conduct of a mass biometric registration of citizens

aged 18 years and above. The NEC extracted information of all registered citizens who were 18 years and above to compile a National Voters' Register. At the end of the National Voter Registration exercise, there were 29,754,696 million registered voters. This Voters Register was continuously updated until on May 2019 when the process was concluded in line with the electoral calendar. According to the Commission, the register was displayed in all polling stations for a period of three weeks for verification by voters to ascertain the correctness of their particulars before its finalization. This was done from September to October 2020.

Election observation is comprised with chain of events which includes pre-election, Election Day and Post-election. Luckily, in this 2020 general election we observed tangible democratic events that enlighten the presence of good democratic election within our country. Campaign process was inclusive to all political parties on publicize their contestants at all levels. Compared to the last general elections this election comprised with a good numbers of polling stations.

### **PRE-ELECTION FINDINGS**

The 28th October 2020 General Elections were Tanzania's sixth elections since its introduction of multiparty system in 1992. Tanzania's political landscape over the last three decades has been dominated by the CHAMA CHA MAPINDUZI (CCM). The 2020 Tanzanian election had 19 registered political parties with candidates aiming for presidency, parliamentary seats and ward councilors. The campaign ended peaceful prior to the Election Day.

### **LIST OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

Tadea – Tanzania Democratic Party, SAU – Sauti ya Umma, NCCR Mageuzi – National Convention for Constitution and reform, DM – Demokrasia Makini, NRA – National Reconstruction Alliance, DP – Democratic Party, ACT-Wazalendo – Alliance for Change and Transparency, ADC – Alliance for Democratic Change, Chaumba – Chama cha Ukombozi wa Umma, UMD – Union for Multi-Party Democracy, CHADEMA - Chama Cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo, AFP – Alliance for Tanzanian Farmers Party, UPDP – United Peoples Democratic Party, CUF – Civic United Front, NLD – National League for Democracy, CCK – Chama cha kijamii, CCM – Chama Cha Mapinduzi.

### **Nomination of Candidates within Political Parties**

In Tanzania in order for a candidate to be registered for election, it's mandatory for a political party to endorse that candidate. Candidate's nomination for either the presidential or parliamentary elections is managed by the NEC. Deadlines are set, whereby candidates must submit the required documentation and fulfill the requirements stated in the electoral legislation regarding their nomination process, known as Nomination Day. The nomination day set by NEC was 25 August 2020.

The requirements for the Presidential Candidate are, one must have a running mate, a vice presidential candidate from the other part of the union, he or she must be 40 years old. The candidates must be supported in writing by not less than 200 voters from each of at least 10 regions, out of which at least two must be in Zanzibar. A deposit of Tanzania Shillings 1,000,000/= must accompany nominations.

For a person to be validly nominated as a Parliamentary candidate, he or she has to be nominated in writing by not less than 25 voters registered in the polling districts within the constituency in which the candidate is contesting. A deposit of approximately Tshs 50,000/= must be made to the Returning Officer.

In 2020 General Election involved nomination of candidates in three categories, namely Presidential, Members of Parliament and Councilors. All political parties followed the process of getting the candidates according to their internal party regulations. Some of the political parties such as CCM broadcasted the events live in various TV Stations. ACT-Wazalendo and CHADEMA are just some of the political parties that convened special national congresses to nominate a presidential candidate. CHADEMA is one of the political parties that received 7 aspirants for the Presidential nomination, the highest number between all parties. Then the party convened a general council meeting where by the members voted to choose their candidate for the presidential elections. Other political parties used different means to nominate their presidential candidates according to their internal party's regulations. But the validity of the process was not in questions since these parties have their own internal regulations.

The 2020 elections were considered the most competitive in the country's multiparty era, with the incumbent seeking another term of office together with aspirant who took nomination form on their parties at the end their names were passed by their political parties to compete for parliamentary post. Campaigns were largely peaceful and conducted within the legal framework. Two presidential candidates from CCM and CHADEMA as they dominated the headlines in media and in several constituencies.

## **STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT IN THE ELECTION PROCESS**

The involvement of stakeholders in the election process was based on observe ensuring democratic principles are held at all levels. NEC involved election stakeholders in the 2020 general election. The involvement was before, during and after the General Election.

Among the groups of stake holders that were invited by the NEC are Political parties; Religious Leaders; Civil Society Organizations; Women's Representatives; Representatives of the Youth; Editors and Journalists; Representatives of people with Disabilities; Security Organs; and Traditional leaders. Then upon the process of updating the Permanent National Voters' Register NEC accredited various institutions/ organizations to observe the exercise so as to ensure transparency. The observers were given electronic copies of the list of voters'

registration centers, a registration schedule and a list of registered political parties. They were also given copies of the National Election Act, Cap 343; and the 2015 National Elections (Presidential and Parliamentary Elections) Regulations; as well as observers' identity card.

## **ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

### **ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND**

Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) is a consortium/union of 120 youth Non-Governmental Organization, 249 Youth Enterprise groups (YEGs) and hundreds of youth individual countrywide. TYC is working towards building the capacity and raising awareness of young people on sustainable development. TYC addresses five programs areas namely 1) Youth livelihood and employment, 2) Youth leadership and building local democracy, 3) Youth health and Gender 4) Youth Livelihood and Environment 5) International Partnerships and Exchange Programs for sustainable development.

TYC is registered under the NGO Act of 2002 No. 00NGO/1382. The goal of the Organization is to ensure that the voice of young people is heard at all policy platforms at local, national and International levels. Tanzania Youth Coalition does the work of facilitating information dissemination, sharing and exchange, Policy Analysis, Youth capacity building, Lobbying and advocacy.

Under its focus area of Youth leadership and building local democracy, TYC is implementing a project called Increased Democratic and Inclusive Election in Tanzania in 2020 (IDIET). The objective of the project is to contribute to strengthened CSOs for enhanced democratic and inclusive electoral processes and more accountable leadership in Tanzania during and after the 2020 general elections. To accomplish this objective, National Election Commission (NEC) authorized Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) among other domestic election observers to monitor and watch electoral processes in Tanzania mainland.

Therefore, TYC deployed 221 observers in 221 polling stations in Tanga, Arusha and Mwanza to conduct a *thematic* observation of the October 28 general elections. The goal was to observe youth, women and people with disability involvement and participation in the general election.

### **Objectives**

- To promote inclusivity, transparency, women, youth & PWDs space in elections,
- Promoting and protecting civil and political rights of participants in elections,
- Building trust and confidence in the democratic process and enhances the legitimacy of the governments that emerge from elections.

### **Scope of the Observation**

Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) covered 3 regions which were Tanga, Arusha and Mwanza.

## **Methodology**

- Establishment of technical management team; in ensuring all information are centered and managed during the whole election process a technical management which is made up with supervisors had to develop principles that will govern the process in professional way.
- Recruiting and training of election observers. The recruitment of observers was considering experience and integrity depending on their personal information. We conducted one days training for election observers on how to behave, what to do and not to do (observer margin), how to report by using provided questionnaire.
- Pre-election polling stations visiting. A team of supervisors and observers visited all working polling stations for the sake of getting pre information of areas that will help on understanding mode of running observation.
- During Election Day we deployed a team of 221 observers and of which 32 were supervisors in Tanga, Arusha and Mwanza. (in selected constituencies of the project). TYC had to recruit some of the obervers as roving observer to supervisor observers who will be at the polling stations.

## **Roles and responsibilities of Supervisors and observers.**

### *Of Supervisors;*

- Assisting and developing the observation checklist
- Visiting of polling station assignments
- Training observers
- Receiving Feedback related to election from Observers
- Supervising as roving observer
- Serving as primary contact persons for observers
- Visiting observers in assigned polling stations
- Collecting checklists from observers
- Dispensing stipends to observers

### *Observer;*

- Visiting assigned polling station
- Attending Observers' Training
- Reporting critical incidents if any using the Critical Incident Form
- Submitting checklist to supervisor

## TRAININGS OF OBSERVERS

Trainings were conducted from 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 on the whole process of observation according to the guidance of NEC in Arusha, Tanga and Mwanza. A total of 221 observer were trained in all 3 regions to understand the objective of the observation and the rules and guidelines they should follow during observation.



*Some observers in a conference hall in Korogwe, Tanga, listening to the trainer delivering election observation guidelines held two days before the election (on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2020)*

### **a) Visiting of polling stations**

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 the supervisor and observers visited the polling station they were allocated to gained perspective of where they will observe on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## ELECTION DAY

### OBSERVATION IN ARUSHA, MWANZA AND TANGA.

TYC deployed 221 observers of which 32 were supervisors in Tanga, Arusha and Mwanza to conduct a *thematic* observation of the October 28 general elections. In Tanga observation was conducted in 4 constituencies which are Muheza, Handeni, Korogwe and Lushoto, In Arusha were 4 constituencies which are Meru, Longido, Monduli and Karatu while in Mwanza observation was conducted in 3 Constituencies which were Misungwi, Kwimba and Magu. TYC distributed in 221 polling stations in targeted areas and observing documents were provided to the selected local observers to report on the general process of voting and project goal to assess youth, Women and People with Disabilities participation in the elections.

In attempting our observation, we noted some of the things in the polling stations as follows;

- i. In each polling station there were security officer to maintain peace keeping on Election Day. The Tanzania police are responsible for security during campaigns, elections and protection of elections materials at all the Electoral Commission warehouses. The Police are also responsible for the protection of the soft and hard election material during transportation to various election centers and polling stations countrywide.
- ii.
- iii. We also had good cooperation and presence of accredited citizens on performance of our duties as observers from security officer, returning officer, election officers, polling agent, polling assistant, domestic and international observers. The polling stations were also well laid out and ballot boxes were visible.
- iv. As per the laid down procedure, voters were asked for identification and their names checked against the register before voting. Only a few were turned away due to the following reasons: they did not have the required identification, were not on the voters' register, were at the wrong polling station or were rejected by the Biometric Voter Verification Kit and the names does not respond with the voter's register. Security personnel were also present in almost all stations visited and conducted themselves professionally.

### Opening during Election Day

All supervisors and observers allocated to their polling stations during this important day. All of the polling stations were opened at **a right time with no delay around 7:00 am** and observers succeeded to attend at a right time because most of them originated from observation areas.

Observers were well welcomed by polling supervisors and received a positive cooperation. Though there were some minor incidences in some of polling station which will be

elaborated as challenges. Our observers reported before voting to start all **boxes were empty and visible** to all of people in the room. The list of voters was well **seen through Voters registration book** and before voting all voters were supposed to confirm their names showing their identification card for further voting procedures.

### **Closing, counting votes and announcing final results**

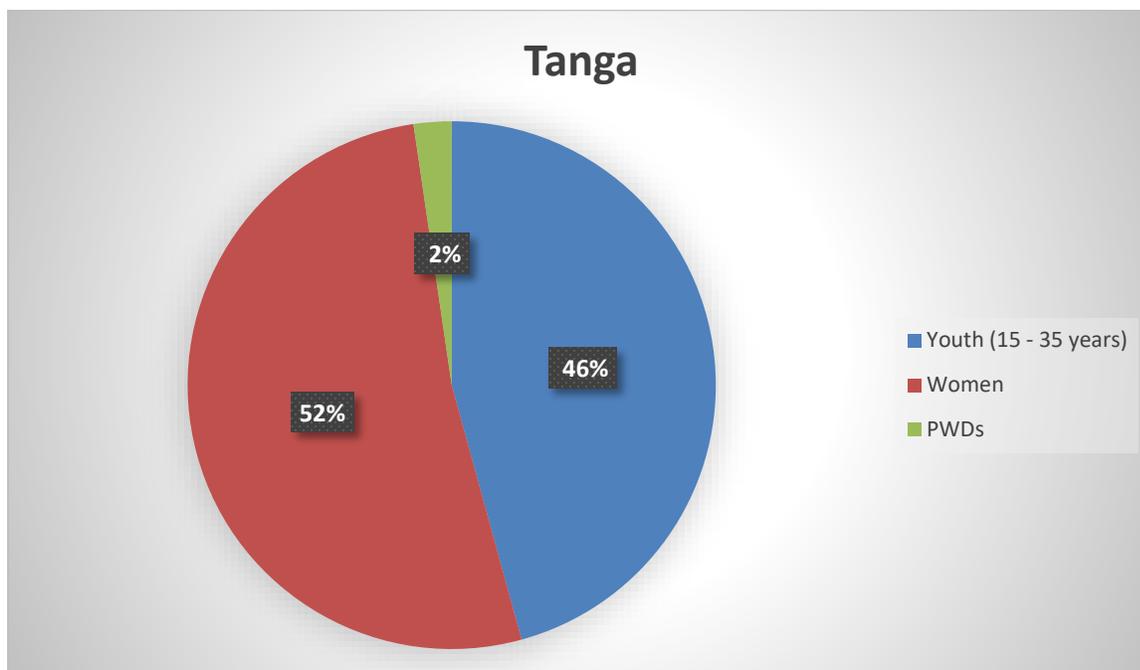
As usually the polling station closed 4:00 pm there after police officer stand as last person in the voting line to ensure there will be no one to join the line. Observers from all of the polling stations observed votes counting procedure from the beginning up to the end of counting.

The votes were counted in opening and visible to everyone in the presence of all parts agents Observes observed counting of votes and the announcing of final results in all polling stations. The announcing of final results was presented accordingly to numbers of votes gained by each contestant; whereby the winner had to gain more votes than others announced to win.

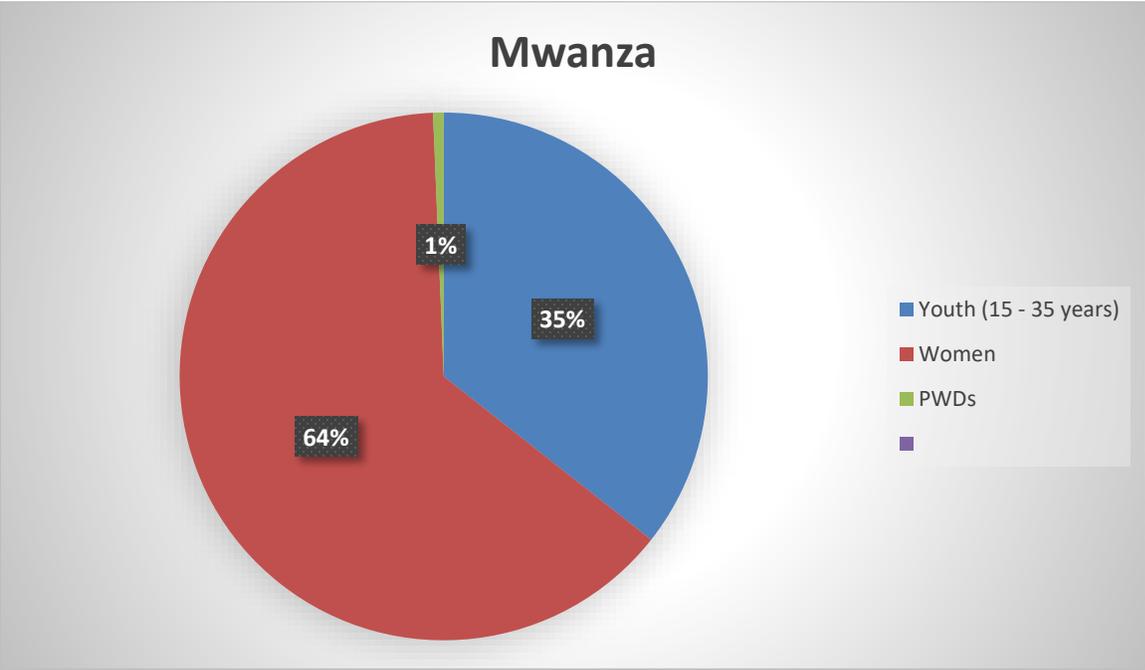
## FINDINGS

### Findings on Youth, Women and People with Disability (PWDs)

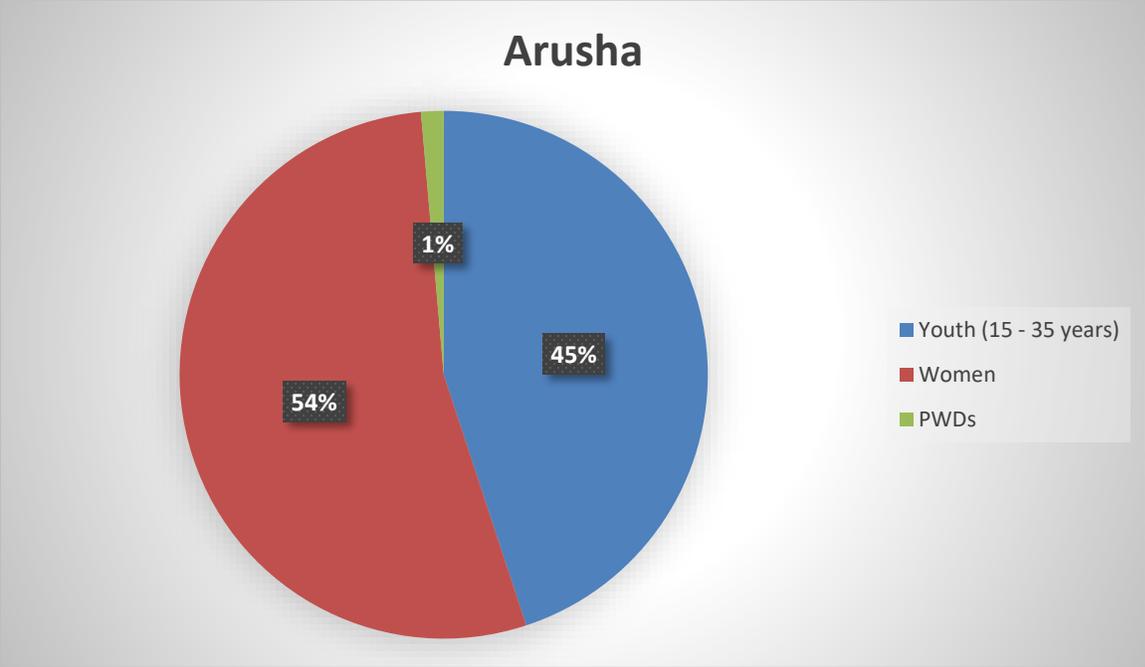
The registered youth and women voters were over 15 and 14 million respectively of the 29 million registered overall voters. This illustrated a huge turnout of new voters for 2020 elections in Tanzania for women and youth. During the election in all 3 regions there was active participation of men, women, youth, People with disability, elders and civil society organizations in the electoral process, all citizens registered voters were allowed to vote for the candidate of their choice. There was a larger number of polling stations in this year's election compared to the previous elections. There were no long queues of people who stand and wait to vote for a very long period. In some of the polling station we found no voters in the afternoon, officers were just waiting for other voters to show up.



A team of 10 supervisors and 83 observers witnessed the whole process in polling stations which includes opening of the polling stations, Voting, closing of polling station, Counting the votes and finally announcing of the results. The findings showed in 83 polling stations that Women participated more in voting compared to Youth and People with Disabilities (PWDs).



The 46 observers observed the opening, polling, closing and counting processes in a total of 46 polling stations in the 4 districts where they were deployed. In addition, the teams observed the general environment within which polling was taking place. Findings in Mwanza showed that women participated more compared to youth and People with Disabilities (PWDs).



The 12 supervisors together with 60 observers observed the opening, polling, closing and counting processes in a total of 60 polling stations in the 3 districts where they were deployed. In addition, the teams observed the general environment within which polling was

taking place. Findings in Arusha showed that that women participated in voting more compared to youth and People with Disability (PWDs) in 60 polling stations

### **OVERALL PARTICIPATION ASSESSMENT OF THE VOTERS (VOTING DAY)**

All targeted group (Women, Youth & PWD participated almost the same with exceptions PWD whereby fewer numbers of them appeared to vote, during election day we witnessed equal participation of men and women, but poor participation to people with disabilities and their poor participation in most cases were caused by

- unfriendly infrastructure, inaccessibility of some polling stations, long distance towards polling stations among others
- Lack efficient voters' education among People with Disabilities (PWDs).

Note: Elders, women with children and pregnant women were given priority to vote first.

### **CHALLENGES**

- NEC delayed to approve the number of needed observers therefore TYC presented the list of recruited observers very late and identification cards were printed out late too. Polling stations allocation by NEC was delayed too.
- All the NEC guidelines, books and other documents were written in English.
- Some observers dropped out, they neither attended training nor participated in the observation.
- Some of the observers were reallocated to very far polling stations.
- Some observers were forbidden from entering the polling stations despite wearing their uniforms, showing ID cards from NEC and letters from district director, some were allowed in but their questionnaires were taken away and later returned after the entire process had ended.
- All the observers were not allowed to vote.
- Some observers were taken out of polling stations when the counting of votes started.
- Some polling stations were too small to accommodate all the supervisors, observers and representatives during the election process.
- At the time of counting the votes some of the observers were sent to another polling stations.
- The turn -out of voters was low compared to the registered voters.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO NEC**

- NEC should release information about the polling stations earlier.
- NEC guidelines, books and other documents should be written in National Language (Swahili language).
- Voters' education is needed more.
- Rooms on the polling station should have large space to accommodate all people required.
- Election observers should be allowed to vote for presidency.
- District directors should follow NEC directives according to election guidelines and rules.
- NEC should instruct polling station supervisors to abide by their rules and guidelines when instructing observers.
- Observers should at least be provided with certificate of appreciation from NEC to recognize their roles and efforts. This is because in some polling station they blocked some observers from entering the polling stations.
- Voter's education should be provided early in order to prepare the observers and citizens at large.
- NEC should be able to prepare buril ballot papers for people with disability
- Still there is great need to provide Civic Education to communities since most of them yet do not know their basic rights this has been proved during election day where some of voters do not know the importance of voting
- Need to engage more PWD in Capacity building to enhance their inclusiveness

## **CONCLUSION**

Finally, based on our observation findings Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC) concluded that; 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, General Election in Tanzania was peaceful though there were few raised challenges in some polling stations for example intimidation and chaos. Also, NEC and all other relevant bodies should consider providing voters education need at a broader scale. The number of turnout was less compared to the registered voters, so this should be taken into account so as all registered could participate in voting in the coming elections. Challenges that emerged in this election can be sorted by NEC in cooperation with stakeholders from the government, political party, CSOs and other development stakeholders such as educating the society on voters' education/Civic Education.

## **ANNEX**

### **Annex 1: Checklist forms observers**

- Do and Don'ts for observer
- Non-partisan form for observers
- Counting form for observers
- Translated critical incident forms
- Translated checklist