



*Annual Impact Report 2024*

*"Committed to. Evidence, Focused on Impact"*



*Governance Links Tanzania*

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## **From the Executive Director**



*As we reflect on the year 2024, we find ourselves facing an unprecedented convergence of challenges – multiple crises that threaten communities and organizations, a climate crisis that endangers our shared future and the deepening fragmentation of societies. These crises test our resolve, but they also reaffirm the urgent need for rigorous participatory co-creation of solutions with stakeholders, dialogue and collective action.*

*At Governance Links, we remain steadfast in our mission to foster understanding, bridge divides and cultivate sustainable solutions. Through our work, we have witnessed firsthand the power of communities coming together – whether climate-affected regions adapting with resilience or divided societies finding paths to solidarity.*

*This Annual Report highlights our progress, the voices of those impacted and the road ahead. In 2024, we achieved great impacts in advancing our Strategy 2030- **"Scaling up Impact on Sustainability and Resilience"**, with efforts focused on five specific actions: Research, Advocacy and strategic service delivery and convening for brokering knowledge. During 2024 we worked extensively in regions of Lake zone, while collaborating through networks at national level and beyond. In these uncertain times, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who walk this path with us – partners, supporters and courageous individuals who believe in the possibility of a better world. Together, we carry forward the commitment to effectively addressing marginalization, exclusion and inequality. Since 2020, we've been actively extending our systems thinking, partnerships, and work beyond the narrow confines of the key themes of Health, Trade and Natural Resources. In practice, it means actively reaching out and engaging with new partners and sectors. Guided by our strategy 2030, we are doing this at all levels of governance from local to national levels and collaborating with like-minded organizations globally. Our foundational belief remains unchanged: change will only come when especially duty bearers commit to it. Under this discourse, Governance remains overarching and critical.*

*Governance Links Tanzania, like so many of our peers, is navigating an unprecedented and turbulent operating environment. We have seen massive funding reductions from major donors in our sector, backsliding on social inclusion and gender equality and misinformation. We cannot and will not compromise on our work. We continue to do what we do best: take complex research questions on issues that affect marginalized and underserved populations and produce data and evidence that communities and policymakers can use to confront poverty, contributing to promote participatory governance and improve wellbeing. We believe we are on the right track to remain relevant in a changing world and to the needs of our friends and partners in the communities where we work. Thank you to all our staff, partners, and funders for your hard work and support during 2024. We look forward to continuing to deliver real change that improves lives in 2025.*

*Donald Malambo Kasongi*

**Executive Director**

## **1.0 About Governance Links Tanzania**

*Governance Links Tanzania is a Research, Policy analysis and Capacity strengthening Non-Governmental Organization registered in Tanzania and working with collaborators at national regional and global levels to promote participatory governance and combat poverty. At Governance Links Tanzania, we seek to deepen understanding of governance through the pillars of our work, digging deep into policies, institutions and people. We do this through knowledge brokering, evidence generation and collaborative interventions for reducing poverty through improving governance. By building a wealth of knowledge in approachable formats, we aim to empower individuals, communities and institutions with the vital information needed to navigate the complexities of contemporary governance issues.*

### ***Our vision***

***Our vision is of a society committed to social, economic and environmental sustainability through participatory governance***

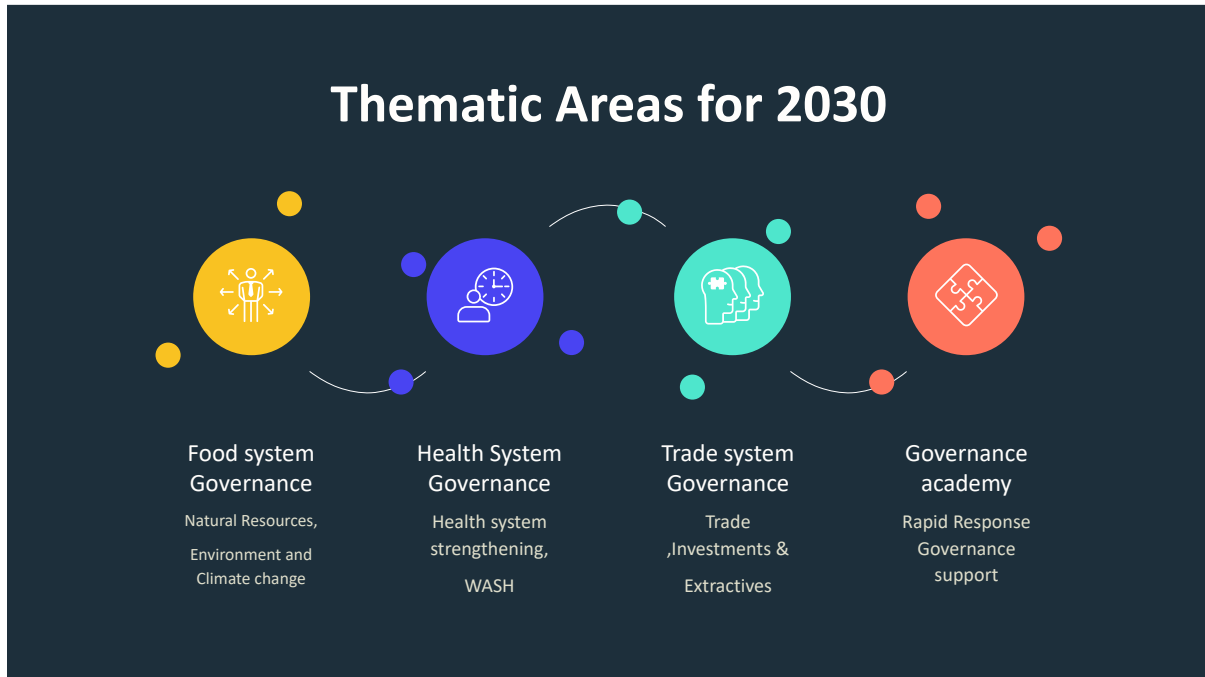
### ***Our mission***

***To improve the quality of life of marginalised communities through promotion of effective governance and ensuring social, economic and environmental sustainability. We are a team dedicated to rapid response research, targeted capacity strengthening and engagement in dialogues for promoting promising sustainable solutions, while helping the development and sharing of promising practices***

### ***Our core values:***

- *We believe in people-owned development*
- *We believe in sustainability of the environment as a basis for development*
- *We believe in Equity as a way of achieving equality*
- *We believe in inclusiveness*

## 2.0 Our Programming alignment



## 3.0 Where we work:

While we engage with partners and collaborators at national level, field interventions during 2024 were concentrated in the Lake Victoria zone of Tanzania



#### ***4.0 What changed for marginalised communities in 2024- Our impact in depth***

##### ***4.1 Strategic service delivery for marginalised communities***

###### *Protection of traditional water sources*

-800 people depending on two traditional water sources of Lyang'ombe and Masasi benefited following the fencing around the springs and tree planting within the catchments. The protected sources are now the surrounding households with clean water free of pollution and interference by wild animals. Women and children fetching water from the wells express empowerment being assured of clean water from the nearby sources.



The protection of traditional water sources was adopted by Magu District Council as a cost-effective approach for reducing water quality risks in remote rural communities without formal water supply services

##### ***4.2 CAPACITY STRENGTHENING***

###### *Training of Village Water Committees*

- 60 members of three Village Water committees were trained on water sources, protection, rural sanitation and maintenance of the wells. The trained committee members are now visiting and guiding households on sanitation and hygiene, meeting monthly to review progress on interventions
- Two Village Environmental Committees were trained on catchment management, leadership, promotion of affordable sanitation and hygiene in two villages. Training strengthened Community-based management through watershed protection and improved sanitation practices around water sources



#### Promotion of rainwater harvesting

*50 households with iron roofs were provided with gutters for rainwater harvesting directly serving 300 people in Salama and Bugatu villages. Households harvesting water from the gutters are keeping the water for drinking, reported of reduced water related illnesses from their family members*

#### Promotion of drought resistant food crop seed bank

*100 smallholder farmers in Salama and Bugatu villages of Ng'haya ward, received 300 Kilogrammes of traditional maize seeds, 200 Kilogrammes of sorghum and cassava cuttings enabling them to cope with the rains within the planting season and able to save seeds for the next planting season. The supported households reported 150-200 increase in harvests , sufficient quantities of cereals and keeping seeds to be shared with other households over the next planting season . Two village Community seedbanks were established to reserve seeds for the next planting season in September 2025*



Establishment of a Community Based Information System-

-40 youth (20 females and 20 males ) provided with android mobile phones (volunteers in Ng'haya Ward. The youth regularly receive weather updates from the District Early Warning System and share the information with neighbours through Short Message Services. The volunteers have become a major source of weather updates, health alerts on disease outbreaks and scheduling of community meetings.

**A case study from the voices of our target groups:**

*Wiluhya Sahani ,34 years old, a female head of a smallholder farming household and mother of two children in Salama village, provided this feedback regarding the project:*

*"I received 10 Kilograms of maize seeds, 5 Kilograms of Sorghum seeds from the project. With the seeds available at the beginning of the farming season, I was able to plant the crops in time to adapt to changing weather patterns. I have now harvested 15 bags of maize and 86bags of sorghum. My household is now food secure and have reserved 40 kilogrammes of various crops for the next planting season and sharing with my neighbour who is caring for older parents." This support has made a huge difference in my family as we are now food secure and not worried about buying seeds from commercial outlets" .I have a stock of maize seeds enough for the next season and I have contributed 20 kilogrammes of maize and 5 kilogrammes of sorghum to the Community seed Bank so that others in need can be supported"*

## 4.3 Advocacy

### 4.3.1 District level Climate change Budget analysis in Magu District

*The budget analysis necessitated multiple meetings with districts officers from the economics department in order to get the relevant information. These meetings provided ample opportunities for communicating the community priorities, which led to their integration in the Annual Development Plan for the financial year 2025/26, which is an important first step for integration in the budget too.*



### 4.3.2 Duty bearers knowledge and skills to develop and implement climate change adaptation plans, policies, and budgets.

*Governance Links conducted three activities with a total of 85 participants (18 elected and 53 individual technical officers) to identify challenges to the development and implementation of climate change adaptation in local plans and policies. For example, Governance Links facilitated a policy review workshop with technical officers, community representatives and local CSO-representatives, where it was found that sectors had no national-level climate change policy guidance, leading to piecemeal rather than purposeful adaptation interventions. The workshop prompted sector staff to consult National Climate Change Response Strategy to ensure more systematic approaches while developing sector-specific climate change adaptation policies.*



#### 4.3.3 District Climate Financial Reviews in Magu District

*Under the Decentralization and Climate change Programme, Governance Links facilitated quarterly climate finance tracking tool is under development. It will take the shape of sector budget reports related to climate change. This will be the basis for follow-up meetings with relevant local government authorities throughout the year.*



#### **4.3.4 Improved Social Accountability of duty bearers on community climate change adaptation interventions .**

*Governance links engagement with duty bearers around the budget analyses and climate tracking demonstrated a need and a demand for a climate finance tracking tool. A contextualised climate tracking tool will provide structured and concentrated information that will improve community's ability to hold duty bearers accountable on community climate change adaptation interventions. A quarterly climate finance tracking tool is under development. It will take the shape of sector budget reports related to climate change.*



#### **5.0 Research and Publication**

*Governance Links Tanzania's extensive research program through innovative discovery, research, and design initiatives to better understand essential service delivery in complex, low-resource rural and urban communities. In 2024, Governance Links conducted study on Building Collective Resilience to Climate change through Social Accountability amongst peripheral communities in East Africa: Lessons from NW Tanzania. The publication is under peer review*

## 5.0 Networking, Connecting and Convening

### 5.1 Network memberships

- *Governance Links provided methodological policy support to Tanzania Water and Sanitation (TAWASANET for review of National Water Policy, Strategic Planning for HakiRasilimali and Tanzania Trade and investment (TATIC)*
- *Governance Links continued to host the Tanzania chapter of Nile Basin Discourse (NBD)*

### 5.2 Thematic webinars

Governance Links organized three webinars during 2024, with attendance of 250 participants (160 males and 90 females ) on :

- Climate change and food security among rural communities in areas Tanzania
- Water and Sanitation challenges around Lake Victoria
- Extractive sector investments and sustainable local development in Geita Region -Tanzania

### 5.3 Policy, Impact & Dialogue

*Governance Links convenes and contributes to high-profile discussions at the national, subnational and local levels to share data, recommend evidence-based solutions, and drive policy impact.*



## 6.0 Organizational effectiveness and Strengthening

In today's challenging and rapidly changing environment, Governance Links must continuously adapt and strengthen internal capacity to remain resilient and effective. We seek to continue investing in capacity-strengthening within us and to our field partners. Investment in Organizational Development has proven to be an invaluable tool for us and many of our partner organizations, enabling them to enhance their operations and achieve long-term sustainability.

## 7.0 Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning

Governance Links work is more important than ever. In more turbulent times, all communities need the tools to monitor progress, design and implement evidence-based policies, and to correct course where needed. Together, under Governance Links we are creating a network that exchanges global knowledge and experience about excellence in evaluation, promotes learning from others about what works, and that ensures better data is not only collected, but is also used to address today's problems and shape tomorrow's solutions.

## 8.0 Governance Links Tanzania staff team

*At the heart of Governance Links Tanzania success are its staff members who embody passion, resilience, and expertise and who carry out our mission with great pride and love for Haiti. Our team in Mwanza is directly responsible for keeping the day-to-day operations of our service running smoothly, despite working in a highly-complex and fast changing environment. We often describe them as "our heroes" because of their tireless commitment to ensure that we reach vulnerable communities each and every day. The importance of our staff lies not just in providing immediate services for our target groups, but in filling a critical gap left by inadequate infrastructure and financing in working to build sustainable, resilient communities for the future. We honor these dedicated individuals who prove that even in the most challenging contexts through hard work and innovations.*



**9.0 With thanks to our donors**

*Governance Links Tanzania fosters a multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral, and collaborative culture to promote learning, apply research results, and achieve impact. CISU through Sustainable Energy, Nile Basin Discourse, Hilden Charity Fund (UK)*

## 10.0 Financials for 2024

At Governance Links Tanzania, we closely monitor our financial status and hold ourselves accountable for maintaining the fiscal discipline necessary

### FINANCIALS FOR 2024

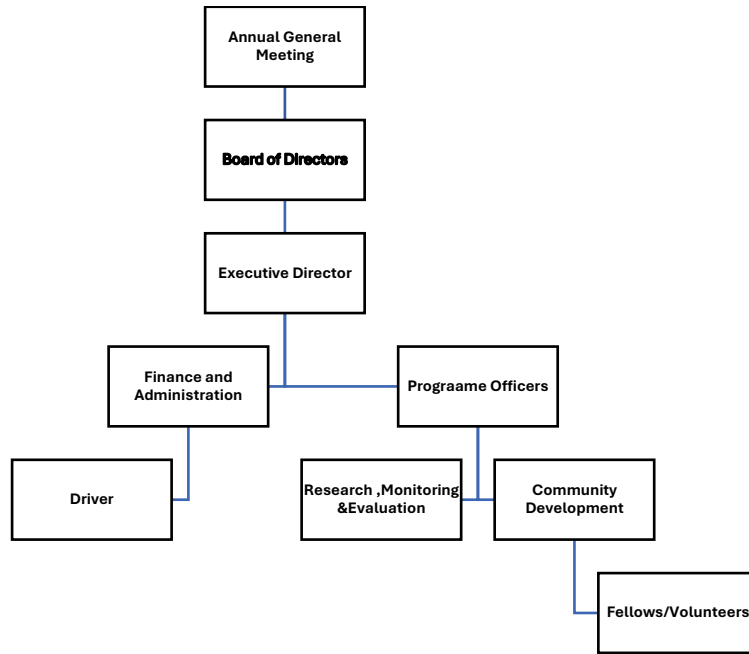
INCOME	Tshs.147,344,888.40
EXPENDITURE	Tshs. 143,109,887.00
BALANCE	Tshs. 4,235,001.4

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**Email: govern.linkstz@gmail.com**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

	NOTES	31ST.DEC 2024 TZS
<b>INCOME</b>		
Balance B/F from 2023		11,404,668.90
Own Source		-
<b>Grants:</b>		
Grant fro SE		132,871,333.00
Other Income (Gain on Ex-Rate)		3,068,886.50
Revenue GL 2023		-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>147,344,888.40</b>
<b>LESS: EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Programme Activities:</b>		
Activity Costs		67,787,500.00
Programme Evaluation-Internal Mid Term Review		672,719.50
Staff Compensation Costs		52,500,000.00
<b>Sub Total Programme Activities:</b>		<b>120,960,219.50</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses:</b>		
Office Rent		7,680,000.00
Groceries, Internet nad Stationeries		3,065,000.00
<b>Sub Total Administrative Expenses</b>		<b>10,745,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE.</b>		<b>131,705,219.50</b>
<b>NET MARGIN/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR WITH CARRY OVERS</b>		<b>15,639,668.90</b>
Less Balance b/f from 2023 (Carry Overs)		11,404,668.90
<b>NET MARGIN/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR (2024)</b>		<b>4,235,000.00</b>

## Annex 1: Organisational structure of Governance Links Tanzania



## Annex 2: Our Board of Directors

### *Our board of Directors*

James Njelwa- Joyce Mfinanga-Phillipo Baluhi-Member-Pantaleon Shoki-Conengunda Ngeleja