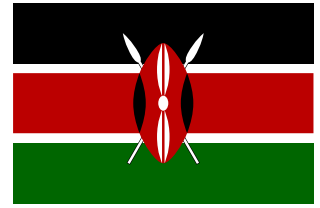


# The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement



## Spring 2024 Professional Fellow



### Clara Peter Maliwa

**Project Officer, and Diversity,  
Equity, and Inclusion Lead  
Young & Alive Initiative**

*“In this Fellowship, I expect to actively engage in discussions and hands-on experiences, learning new knowledge and insights on disability civic engagement, especially for those with overlapping forms of vulnerability. Connecting with peers, mentors, and industry professionals is also a key expectation for me, and I’m excited about the opportunity to share my own culture and experiences on disability civic engagement.”*

Clara is a Project Officer and the Lead for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at [Young & Alive Initiative](#), a non-profit organization in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, focused on sexual and reproductive health. In this role, she guides inclusive programs for marginalized communities, particularly those aimed at people with disabilities. Clara provides advocacy, knowledge management, and capacity-building for adolescents, young people, women, and individuals with disabilities on inclusive sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and gender-based violence (GBV).

Clara also hosts a podcast to raise awareness and advocate for SRHR and GBV for women with disabilities. With over 11 years of advocacy experience, Clara has been recognized as a champion of human rights and credited with shaping Young and Alive’s inclusive ideology.

She holds a master’s degree in project planning and management from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Clara’s follow-on project, “My Story, My Life,” aims to empower women with disabilities in Tanzania to realize their rights and make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive well-being. She plans to achieve this by leveraging a podcast platform to share women’s real-life stories and disseminate accurate SRHR information.

Clara will work with 15 women with disabilities, representing various compounding vulnerabilities, including those living in rural areas, to discuss and document their experiences, successes, and challenges in accessing SRHR services and information. Drawing from her own experience as a person with albinism in Tanzania, Clara believes these personal narratives will drive advocacy efforts that push for responsive laws and policies addressing the sexual health needs of people with disabilities.

