



# LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK



## ANNUAL REPORT

Jul, 2010 – Jun, 2011

**SETTING LEGAL AID AGENDA IN UGANDA  
THROUGH UTILISING SYNERGIES OF THE  
LASPNET MEMBERSHIP**

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## Table of Contents

1. Acknowledgement.....	3
2. Acronyms.....	4
3. Our Identity.....	5
Mandate.....	5
Vision .....	5
Mission .....	5
Objectives .....	5
Core Values .....	6
4. The Membership .....	6
5. Foreword.....	7
6. The Secretariat.....	8
7. The national context.....	9
8. Programme activities .....	11
a) Coordination of Research and Advocacy .....	11
b) Human and Institutional Capacity Building.....	11
c) Membership and Programme Support.....	12
d) Sector-wide Collaboration and Networking.....	12
9. Risk Analysis .....	13
a) Operational.....	13
b) Reputational.....	13
c) Procedural .....	13
d) Managerial .....	14
e) Financial .....	14
f) Technical.....	14
10. Challenges faced.....	14
11. Measures taken.....	16
12. Recommendations from lessons learnt.....	17
a) Establishing major functions for LASPNET .....	17
b) Strengthening the LASPNET Secretariat.....	17
c) Improving on the logical framework matrix.....	17
d) Soliciting for diverse funding opportunities.....	18
e) Diversifying options for fundraising .....	18
f) Establishing collaborative advocacy campaigns .....	18
g) Managing project funds more proactively.....	18
h) Reconciling the suspense payments made .....	18
i) Providing support to the Secretariat staff .....	18
j) Addressing the current budgetary deficits .....	18
k) Engaging members in collective activities .....	19
l) Establishing a viable institutional frame.....	19
13. Financial Report:.....	19
a) Revenue: .....	19
b) Expenditure:.....	20
14. Appendix.....	21



## 1. Acknowledgement

The Legal Aid Service Providers Network-Uganda acknowledges the contribution made by different member organisations, individuals, and stakeholders to promote effective coordination of legal aid service providers in the efforts to enhance access to justice.

We are grateful for the financial and technical support provided by the Legal Aid Basket Fund as well as particular institutions in the Justice, Law and Order Sector whose contribution had tremendous impact on the achievements of the Network.

We pledge our commitment to promoting the legal aid cause in Uganda and eagerly look forward to a good working relationship and development partnership with the Democratic Governance Facility in the coming future.



## 2. Acronyms

CCEDU:	Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda
CSO:	Civil Society Organisation
DGF:	Democratic Governance Facility
ICT:	Information Communication Technology
IDF:	International Development Fund
JCs:	Justice Centres
JLOS:	Justice, Law and Order Sector
LABF:	Legal Aid Basket Fund
LASPNET:	Legal Aid Service Providers Network
LASPs:	Legal Aid Service Providers
LDC:	Law Development Centre
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSSF:	National Social Security Fund
ODS:	Organisation Development Strategy
PAS:	Paralegal Advisory Services
PAYE:	Pay As You Earn
QuAM:	Quality Assessment Mechanism
SAJEA:	Strengthening Access to Justice in Eastern Africa
TIN:	Tax Identification Number
UCRNN:	Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
ULS:	Uganda Law Society
UNICEF:	United Nations Children Fund
UNNGOF:	Uganda National NGO Forum

## 3. Our Identity

### **Mandate**

To coordinate and harmonise/standardise legal aid services provided by the different service providers.

### **Vision**

An effective and professional legal aid system that is accountable, sustainable and accessible.

### **Mission**

To strengthen the network through utilising the synergies of its membership

### **Objectives**

LASPNET strengthens technical competencies of the members to deliver quality legal aid services to vulnerable people in Uganda to meet the following objectives:

- a) To mobilise various resources to facilitate common objectives of the legal aid service providers
- b) To build and strengthen institutional and human resource capacity of legal aid providers
- c) To improve on cost effectiveness and geographical coverage of legal aid service provision
- d) To facilitate the development, use and monitoring of common standards to eliminate overlaps
- e) To lobby and advocate for issues that are relevant and appropriate to the promotion of access to justice for all
- f) To research, document and disseminate information on best practices in enforcement of human rights
- g) To research, document and disseminate information on best practices in the provision of legal aid

### **Core Values**

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Cooperation
- Team work
- Quality

## 4. The Membership

The membership to LASPNET was 33 organisations at close of June 2010, including:

- i. LDC Legal Aid Clinic (LAC);
- ii. Public Defender Association of Uganda (PDAU);
- iii. Uganda Gender Resource Centre (UGRC);
- iv. Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI);
- v. Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society (LAP);
- vi. Refugee Law Project (RLP);
- vii. Federacion Internacionale de Abogadas (FIDA).
- viii. Platform for Labour Action (PLA);
- ix. Uganda Land Alliance (ULA);
- x. Uganda Network on Law, Ethics, and HIV/AIDS (UGANET);
- xi. Uganda Christian Lawyers' Fraternity (UCLF);
- xii. Alliance for Integrated Development & Empowerment (AIDE);
- xiii. Inter-religious Council of Uganda (IRCU);
- xiv. Right to Improved Child Health (RICH Consult);
- xv. Teso Legal Aid Project (TLAP);
- xvi. MIFUMI Uganda Limited (MIFUMI);
- xvii. Defence for Children International (DCI);
- xviii. Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD);
- xix. Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL);
- xx. Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF);
- xxi. Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities (LAPD);
- xxii. Youth Justice Support, Uganda (YJSU);
- xxiii. World Voices Uganda (WVU);
- xxiv. Justice and Rights Associates (JURIA);
- xxv. Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF);
- xxvi. Centre for Public Interest Law (CEPIL);
- xxvii. Action for Poverty Reduction & Livestock Modernisation in Karamoja (ARELIMOK);
- xxviii. Action Against Violence (AAV);
- xxix. Kamuli Community Based Paralegals Association (KCOBPA);
- xxx. Kawempe Division Legal Rights Initiative (KDLRI);
- xxxi. Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC);
- xxxii. Acid Survivors Foundation of Uganda (ASFU); and
- xxxiii. Omaniman Community Development Initiative (OCODI);

During the reporting period, the following organisations applied to join the Network:

- i. Land and Equity Movement in Uganda (LEMU);
- ii. Micro Justice Uganda (MJU);
- iii. Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL); and
- iv. Abantu for Development (AFOD).

LASPNET has steadily grown and the Secretariat is working on improving supportive mechanisms as well as coordination structures to strengthen the capacity of members. The Network is part of the Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU), the Uganda National Working Group for the programme on Strengthening Access to Justice in East Africa (SAJEA), the Northern Uganda Land Platform, as well as the JLOS National Legal Aid Task Force.

## 5. Foreword



Dear Reader,

It is said that growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together.

Since its inception in 2000, LASPNET was operating as a loose network until 2010 when the LASPNET membership elected into office a Steering Committee during the first Annual General Meeting held at Nile Resort Hotel in Jinja. The elected Steering Committee is composed of; the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Four Regional Representatives and one member on merit.

This was such a remarkable stride in the history of the network because for the first time, the network, through its general assembly created a forum where their membership was able to participate in the governance activities of LASPNET. This period has seen LASPNET concentrate more on defining its internal management structures, policy framework, working tools and processes.

We believe that with continued institutional development, the network's capacity will be strengthened to enable the participation of its member organizations and major stakeholders; make sufficient stakeholder partnerships; improve on member relations and diversify its sources of funding so as to facilitate future growth and sustainability.

As John F. Kennedy rightfully said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future". LASPNET is on its road to being a very vibrant network that strives to utilize the synergies of its membership and therefore needs the collective effort of the secretariat, the Steering Committee, its Membership and the development partners to nurture its growth.

For great steps taken by the LASPNET, I salute the Secretariat for its continued effort in coordinating the network and offering support to the various Legal Aid Service Providers, to our membership for your continued support to the network, to the Justice Law and Order Sector for your continued engagement with the LASPNET

To the members of the Steering Committee, thank you for sharing and offering your technical skills and guidance to the secretariat. And finally to our development partners the Legal Aid Basket Fund (now the Democratic Governance Facility), thank you for your technical and financial support to the Network.

As Avocats Sans Frontières we are pleased to serve you in the position of the Vice Chairperson for the period beginning April 2010 and ending June 2012.

Thank You



Nambi Barbara Bunya  
**For God and my Country**









































