



LASPNET
LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



OUR IDENTITY

Our Vision

A free and just society.

Our Mission

To provide a platform for effective networking and collaboration to enhance legal aid service delivery and access to justice for the most vulnerable and marginalized people.

Our Goal

To improve networking, collaboration and coordination among legal aid service providers in Uganda.

Mandate

To strengthen coordination and networking of LASPs, harmonization and standardization of legal aid service provision by the different service providers, lobbying and advocacy to facilitate a favorable legal and policy environment.



Legal Aid Service Providers Network

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OUR VALUES

Justice:

We believe that all human beings are entitled to equality, righteousness, equity or moral rightness.

Team work:

We promote collaboration and coordination for the delivery of legal aid services among service providers to achieve a common purpose and goal.

Commitment:

We are committed to supporting legal aid service providers and the general citizenry to access justice.

Collaboration:

The common link between LASPs is a responsibility of forming a common front in advocacy and service provision as a united entity.

Non-discrimination:

LASPNET and its members serve all irrespective of origin, sex, age, disability, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation or geographical location.

Human rights:

Our Programmes focus on the rights of human beings as provided by the UN Charter and the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACTV	African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
AFCOD	Africa Foundation for Community Development (AFCOD)
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AJB	Administration of Justice Bill
A2J	Access to Justice
CCEDU	Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda
CCG	Centre for Constitutional Governance
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEOs	Chief Executive Officers
COLAID	Community Legal Action and Integrated Development
DEI	Directorate of Ethics and Integrity
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
FHRI	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
FIDA	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers
GLISS	Great Lakes Institute for Strategic Studies
GNPF	Greater North Parliamentary Forum
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
IC	Inspectorate of Courts
ICNL	International Centre For Not for Profit Law
IG	Inspectorate of Government
JCU	Justice Centres Uganda
JLOS	Justice Law and Order Sector
JSC	Judicial Service Commission
LASPs	Legal Aid Service Providers
LDC/LAC	Law Development Centre/Legal Aid Clinic
MCJL	Muslim Centre for Justice and Law
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NETPIL	Network of Public Interest Lawyers
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NLAB	National Legal Aid Bill
NLAP/B	National Legal Aid Policy/Bill
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
OAG	Office of the Auditor General
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

PPDA	Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority
SCP	Senior Commissioner of Police
UCBA	Uganda Court Bailiffs Association
UCLF	Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity
UGANET	Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS
ULA	Uganda Land Alliance
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UPF	Uganda Police Force
UWONET	Uganda Women’s Network

1.0. FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON



“LASPNET has continued to consolidate itself at the helm of advocating for access to justice, human rights and rule of law through evidenced-based research and advocacy, networking and partnerships and institutional strengthening.”

Once again, I am glad to share with you the LASPNET Annual Report for **July 2017-June 2018** which also marks the current Board's last tenure in office. I take this opportunity to thank the membership for the opportunity you have given me to serve and steer the Network for the last four years as your chairman Board of Directors. I can thus confidently state that the outgoing Board has done a tremendous job in ensuring that LASPNET's mandate is achieved to a great extent. The Network's visibility through the media has grown to make impact at the national level which has created enormous demand for us to remain relevant and innovative to address the dynamic operating environment.

In the reporting period, LASPNET was able to retain its premier donor, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) for the next 3 years. In addition to existing partners such as ActionAid Uganda, UNDP and US Embassy,

LASPNET welcomed other development partners who include the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law to support an enabling environment for CSOs to comply with the NGO legal framework; and the Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters to support with mediation of land cases.

There were several milestones which were achieved under the reporting period. LASPNET consolidated itself at the helm of advocating for access to justice, human rights and rule of law through evidenced-based research and advocacy, partnerships and networking and institutional strengthening. Through partnership with the Greater North Parliamentary Forum, we increased advocacy efforts for the passing of the National Legal Aid Policy and Administration of the Justice Bills leading to Parliament interesting itself in tabling the Private Member's Legal Aid Bill 2018. In addition, LASPNET initiated new partnerships with its members and other strategic partners like NSSF to convene

legal aid open days as well as ASF and USAID-SAFE to improve standards and the quality of services delivered by community paralegals.

In light of improving standards in the delivery of legal aid, the Network convened the first ever Legal Aid Innovations Conference which was officiated by the Hon. Chief Justice Bart Katureebe and provided a platform for LASPs to showcase their innovations and best practices in the Legal aid service delivery. It is envisaged that the Legal Aid Innovations Conference is a step in the right direction in celebrating and recognizing innovating access to justice.

LASPNET was appointed as a member of the JLOS Sub Accountability Committee and is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy of UNDP. These new linkages have seen LASPNET work towards enhancing access to justice, human rights and Rule of Law.

The Network's membership continued to grow with two new members coming on board that is Africa Foundation for Community Development (AFCOD) and Civic Response on Environment and Development (CRED) following their approval at the 8th AGM. Despite this, a resolution was passed during the previous AGM to deregister seven (7) inactive members. We therefore believe

that LASPNET will leverage the growth in its membership to improve its advocacy efforts as well as service delivery while working with existing members to ensure that they deliver quality services to the poor and vulnerable.

I am heavily convinced that the incoming Board will build on the existing milestones to ensure that the Network increasingly prospers. On behalf of the outgoing Board, I commend the support rendered to us by our development partners namely DGF, ActionAid, US Embassy, ICNL and UNDP; the Secretariat and membership without which we could not have reached this far.



Samuel Herbert Nsubuga
Chairperson of the Board

2.0 FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear members and partners, it's my distinguished pleasure to share with you the LASPNET Annual report for the period **July 2017-June 2018**. The year 2018 has seen LASPNET grow and widen its wings as one of the best coordinated entities working in the legal aid sector. Our partnership both development and strategic has tremendously increased and our programming has been steered to another level through designing member-based interventions in a bid to enhance access to Justice for the poor and vulnerable. This report therefore provides a reflection of our milestones, challenges and opportunities as we strive towards achieving our vision of a "Free and Justice Society."

I am happy to report that through a highly competitive process, LASPNET was approved as a continuing partner of the Democratic Governance Facility Phase II (2018-2021) to implement a project titled, ***"To Strengthen Collaborative Advocacy Platforms to Enhance Rule of Law, Legal Aid and Access to Justice for the Poor, Vulnerable and Marginalized in Uganda."***

Key of the projects funded activities is whistle blowing; automation of the Pilot court; setting up a call centre; undertaking

research and developing service protocols; working with Uganda Court Bailiffs Association to support execution of court orders as well as strengthening collaboration and partnerships with both state and non-state actors.

We are grateful that under the DGF funding our office security was boosted and we will fully operationalize our organogram.

It's worthwhile to report that LASPNET is in the middle of the implementation of its Strategic Plan (2015-2020).

As reiterated by the Chairperson, we have received more Development partners that is ICNL to support CBO's compliance with the NGO legal framework.

In the reporting period, LASPNET realized several milestones which included strengthening of the whistleblowing initiative and implementation of the *"Break the Silence on Corruption"* campaign. This was complemented by the SAYITAPP which was developed with support of the US Embassy to ease reporting of corruption among the youth.

The research and knowledge management aspect was strengthened through development of the Annual access to justice trends analysis report 2017, paralegal training manual for community-based paralegals, the socio-economic drivers of corruption in JLOS, the legal aid tool kit and a Baseline study on HRDs and corporate accountability among others. All this was aimed at improving evidence-based advocacy as well as standardization of legal aid service delivery for LASPs.

LASPNET's efforts in advocating for the NLAP/B came out visibly through partnering with GNPF, putting in place a National Technical Committee and engaging the office of the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah on the need

for the Legal aid law which culminated into efforts to introduce a private Member's Bill.

To this front, we have also increased the level of media engagement through radio and television talk shows both to support popularization of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy as well as to speak out on injustices and rights violations meted on citizens and Human Rights Defenders at large.

Through leveraging partnerships, LASPNET collaborated with NSSF and conducted a legal open aid day where various LASPs offered free legal services to the indigents. ***Whereas this was a good gesture in promoting access to justice, it also demonstrated an opportunity for synergizing between LASPs and private sector to enhance access to justice for the indigents.***

We continued with our capacity building interventions which included: training on Trial Advocacy and Faculty training, Corruption monitoring and Mainstreaming Disability. All these trainings were aimed at enhancing the capacity of LASPs to offer standardized quality services.

In recognition of our networking and coordination efforts, the Network received a recognition award from one of our members, Muslim Centre for Justice and Law, in the category of "Community Excellence for coordinating and networking legal aid service providers. This recognition from members and partners gives us joy to continue serving you with outmost loyalty.

Suffice to say the reporting period was faced with enormous challenges on access to justice and abuse of rule of law such as the judicial strikes; prosecutors' strikes; constitutional amendment of Articles 26 and 102b as well as the subsequent protests and arbitrary arrests. More still, there has been a worrying trend of a deteriorating human rights situation characterized by seizures of ActionAid and GLISS, forceful intimidation, crackdown and shrinking

space for NGOs especially during the proposed constitutional amendments.

LASPNET with support from Global Rights Alert however responded and coordinated a rapid response mechanism amidst meagre resources and potential threats. I would like to extend my appreciation to LASPs and advocates that have worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights of HRDs and activists through availing themselves to provide legal rapid response.

Despite having the IIMS system geared at improving information management, we also observed that LASPs continue to register complaints of not having time to enter data into the IIMS which hampers proper analysis trends aimed at informing practice and policy change.

As I conclude, I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to our development partner the DGF who has faithfully funded LASPNET for the last 14 years, the new partners, AAU, US Embassy, ICNL and UNDP for their tremendous financial and technical support that has led the Network to register these milestones, to you the membership for which we exist, the outgoing Board of Directors for your leadership and commitment and to the staff, for your hard work towards realizing LASPNET's mandate.

I invite you to read and enjoy our annual performance.



Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa
Executive Director

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

<p>16  Radio Talk shows</p>	<p>12  Capacity Building trainings</p>
<p>5  Board meetings & 16 committee meetings</p>	<p>7  TV Talk shows</p>
<p>395  Legal aid advocates, Programme officers and Paralegals trained on Trial Advocacy, Whistleblowing, Faculty training on Trial Advocacy and Mainstreaming Disability</p>	<p>4  Cluster meetings</p>
<p>6  Press statements</p>	<p>33  Court orders executed</p>
<p>184  Networking & partnership meetings</p>	<p>6  Researches and Publications on Access to justice and rule of law</p>
<p>3  Position papers</p>	<p>45  Activists and HRDs supported with rapid response</p>
<p>6  Lobby & Advocacy meetings for the NLAB</p>	<p>59  Staff meetings</p>
<p>390  Guests received (national & international)</p>	<p>4  Quarterly Planning & Evaluation meetings</p>

PICTORIAL

1	<i>Youths in a photo with the Mr. Phil Dimon, US Embassy Spokesperson at the National Youth Advocacy training.</i>
2	<i>Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule, addressing participants at the Legal aid open day. Standing beside him is Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, ED LASPNET.</i>



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3	<i>Hon. Ogenga Latigo making his submission at the MPs Breakfast meeting on the NLAP.</i>
4	<i>Ms. Natalie Dijkman from HiL speaking at the opening of the Legal Aid Innovations Conference.</i>



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3.0. A SCAN THROUGH THE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON LASPNET PROGRAMMING

In the reporting period 1st July, 2017 to 30th June 2018, LASPNET with support of the Democratic Governance Facility continued with the implementation of a Project titled, ***“To Strengthen Capacity and Advocacy for the standardization of legal aid services in Uganda.”*** The project was geared towards promoting professional standards, collective voice to advance the Legal Aid agenda of LASPs; to strengthen coordination and synergy among LASPs; to promote research and advocacy for a harmonized legal and policy framework and to strengthen institutional development of LASPNET.

Therefore, the Network continued to position itself as a central repository on legal aid, access to justice, human rights and Rule of Law issues. This was achieved through continued lobbying and advocating for passing of the NLAB and AJB by engaging policy makers and other stakeholders; undertaking researches such as: The Annual trends analysis on Access to Justice 2017, HRD study and socio-economic drivers of corruption in the Justice system; convening the inaugural Legal Aid Innovations Conference to showcase innovations in delivery of legal aid as well as strengthening the capacity of LASPs through various thematic trainings.

The delivery on the above activities was enabled by a number of factors. In 2017, JLOS launched and embarked on implementation of its SDP IV premised on empowering the people of Uganda through upholding their rights and building trust in the justice system as well as enhancing JLOS infrastructure and access to JLOS services to promote

the observance of human rights and fight corruption. This was a positive development and throughout the course of the year, LASPNET supported JLOS to implement its broader objectives through engaging JLOS on access to justice, human rights and Rule of Law issues, documenting and submitting the Annual JLOS Performance report as well as monitoring corruption within JLOS institutions such as the UPF, ODPD and JSC intended to enhance access to justice for the indigent.

The coming on board of new partners has also been a positive factor that has facilitated the Network to implement its strategic plan. LASPNET has significantly widened on its resource mobilization capacity as evidenced by the multiple development partners it has received. The new partners in the reporting period include ICNL, US Embassy, AAU, UNDP, in addition to having DGF execute yet another partnership for the next 3 years. The Network has ably achieved this through establishing itself as a trusted and dependable actor in conducting evidence-based research, networking and coordinating LASPs in delivery of standardized legal aid services as well as lobbying and advocating for a favorable legal and policy environment.

The positive factors notwithstanding, the reporting period was characterized by continued shrinking civic space of CSOs including arbitrary sieges and closure of NGO accounts of ActionAid Uganda, GLISS, Action Alliance (former Solidarity Uganda) and Uhuru institute. This therefore created tension and self-censorship by some CSOs for fear of closure. Furthermore, although there

were a few reported incidences of NGO office break-ins, as it was the case in the previous years, one of our membership organizations known as HRAPF suffered a devastating break-in which involved theft of key documents, vandalization of property and loss of life of their security guard. Unfortunately, until now Police has never investigated such break-ins and brought the culprits to book. In addition, there were increased abuses and violations of human rights including kidnaps and murders of women; suppression of the media and beating up HRDs by security organs such as Police especially during the constitutional amendments.

To mitigate the effects of these threats towards activists, LASPNET with support from partners such as the Global Rights Alert coordinated a legal rapid response mechanism for HRDs through offering them legal advice and representation. In the reporting period, corruption continued to bedevil the justice institutions such as Police, Courts and ODPP office hence negatively affecting equitable access to justice for the indigent.

Another major constraint which was experienced during the reporting period is the reduction in the funding opportunities for many LASPs which forced some to close shop amidst the increasing demand for legal aid services.

LASPNET recognizes that access to justice can't be achieved by providing legal aid alone but rather working in collaboration through innovations, sustainable and concerted efforts to alleviate the root causes which are mainly ignorance of laws and procedures, poverty, and institutional limitations amongst government and non-state

actors.

Due to the strength of the Network and geographical spread, LASPNET embarked on addressing the supply side of justice by engaging the relevant stakeholders on the bottlenecks of access to justice. This included continuing with cost effective innovations models to service delivery such as whistleblowing and execution of court orders as ways of reducing on the effects of the operating environment.

By far and large, despite the limiting factors, we managed to thrive and achieve our set targets.

4.0. HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

LASPNET has continued to consolidate its coordination role among LASPs to deliver standardized legal aid services as well as facilitate a favorable legal aid policy environment. This section speaks to the outputs and outcomes under 3 critical aspects which include: networking and partnership building; capacity building and research and knowledge management.

4.1 Networking & Partnerships building

- LASPNET initiated new partnerships with NSSF to enhance delivery of legal aid through organizing legal open days and ensuring that LASPs remit standard contributions for their employees. In addition, the Network established partnership with ASF, JCU and USAID SAFE to improve standards among Community Paralegals.
- The Network convened the first Legal Aid Innovations Conference on 7th and 8th September 2017 at Hotel Africana that brought together state and non-state actors to showcase innovations in legal aid and access to justice.
- On 5th December 2017, LASPNET received the Community and Excellence Award: *for coordinating and networking legal aid service providers* at the first National Muslim Rights Conference organized by MCJL at Hotel Africana. This recognition award builds on previous awards received by LASPNET. from JLOS under the Partnership and Networking category.



The Hon. Chief Justice officiating at the Legal Aid Innovations conference.



LASPNET recognition award.

4.2 Lobby and Advocacy Engagements

- The Network continued with the implementation of its Advocacy Strategy (2017-2020) aimed at fast tracking the passing of the NLAB and other pro-poor laws.

- A Technical Committee comprising of experts on access to justice and legal aid service providers such as FIDA, ULS and JCU as well as MPs from GNPf was formed to support advocacy for the NLAB and the AJB. On 9th November 2017 and on 3rd May 2018 the Technical Committee presented a draft NLAB to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah.



LASPNET technical committee on the NLAP/B when it met the Deputy Speaker (middle) at Parliament.

4.3 Research and Knowledge Management

In the reporting period, LASPNET developed several key researches which include among others;

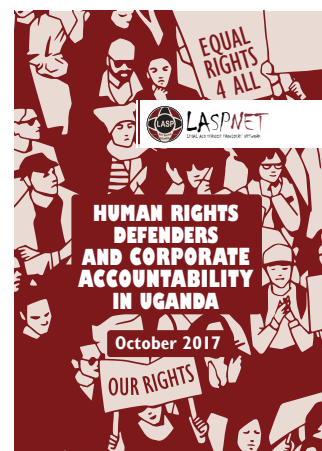
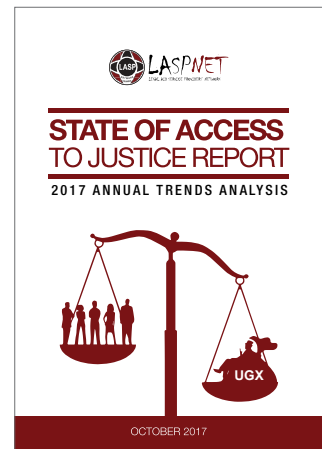
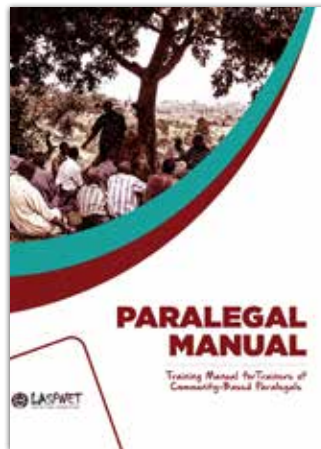
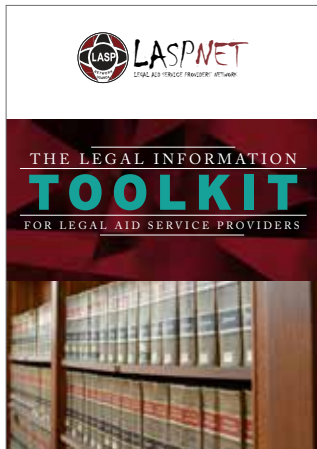
- LASPNET Whistleblower's Manual: which provides information on LASPNET's whistleblowing initiative, indicators of monitoring corruption as well as the existing legal framework on anti-corruption.
- Baseline study on Human

Rights Defenders and corporate accountability; which is purposed to influence advocacy for policy and practice change in the area of HRDs and Corporate Accountability.

- Annual Trends Analysis on Access to Justice; which documents annual human rights and access to justice issues in addition to providing recommendations to improve access to justice within the justice system.

- Socio-economic drivers of corruption on the JLOS Sector; which analyses the drivers and manifestations of corruption in JLOS from a socio-economic perspective

- Paralegal Training manual; which is a quick reference tool with information for training Community Legal Volunteers.
- Toolkit on legal aid and access to justice information; which is a reference document on various laws and procedures of handling access to justice issues.



4.4 Institutional Strengthening and development

LASPNET was able to build the capacity of its members through several trainings which included: Disability training; Trial Advocacy Training; Whistleblowers' training, among others. In terms of the Network's institutional growth there are new development partners that came on on board including; UNDP; ICNL and US Embassy.

5.0. THE YEAR IN DETAIL

5.1 STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS, THROUGH LOBBYING & ADVOCACY TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

One of the key strategic interventions anchored in the LASPNET Strategic Plan (2015-2020) is optimal utilization of partnerships with both the state and non-state actors aimed at enhancing access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. LASPNET in the year ending June 2018 continued to leverage its partnerships to lobby and advocate for policy and practice change within the realm of human rights, Rule of Law and access to justice.

For the period under review, the Network was engaged in advocacy initiatives which among others included: convening the inaugural legal aid innovations conference, Pre-AGM conference; holding of lobby and advocacy meetings.

5.1.1 LASPNET convenes inaugural Legal aid innovations conference

LASPNET in partnership with Barefoot Law, HiiL and the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) with support from the Democratic Governance Facility convened the first Legal Aid Innovations Conference at Hotel Africana which was held on 7th and 8th September 2017. The conference was officially launched by the Hon. Chief Justice of Uganda, Bart Katureebe and attended by over 300 delegates from Development partners including: His Excellency Ambassador Henk Jan Bakker, JLOS, Judiciary, CSOs,

LASPs, students and the media. Five (5) innovators who included: the African Prisons Project; National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda; Public Interest Law Clinic; Legal Aid Clinic of the Law Development Centre and Uganda Association of Women Lawyers showcased their innovations aimed at enhancing access to justice and legal aid for the indigent.

H.E Henk Jan Bakker, the Ambassador of Netherlands and Chairman DGF expressed gratitude to the organizers for convening a land mark occasion to recognize innovations in access to justice and legal aid service provision. He underlined that the conference brings to the fore the need to encourage competitiveness and dynamism in service delivery in order to improve access to justice. He also noted that government and CSOs have made great efforts to promote access to justice, however many challenges impede realization of this tenet. For instance, the shortage of judicial officers, limited LASPs to cover the country, lack of a comprehensive legal framework on legal aid provision, case backlog and long stay on remand. Therefore, with such innovations, access to justice will be observed.



H.E Henk Bakker, making his speech at the inaugural legal aid innovations conference.



“With majority of the population comprising of less privileged people, creativity is critical because it not only adds value but inspires a problem-solving culture.” H.E Henk Bakker

In his speech, the Chief Justice (CJ) accentuated that access to justice is not a matter of going to court but also involves empowering the ordinary people with knowledge and information about rights and laws. He therefore called upon LASPs to invest in innovations and utilize open court days to educate the masses about their rights. In addition, the CJ noted that currently LASPs provide bottleneck interventions due to the absence of the national legal aid scheme, thereby urging the government to expedite passing the NLAB to ensure access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized.

The Hon. Chief Justice, Bart Katureebe handing over an award certificate to Ms. Phiona Orikiriza from PILAC.



5.1.2 LASPNET launches the first A2J trends analysis research at the PRE-AGM conference

The PRE-AGM conference was held on 19th October 2017 at Hotel Africana and was attended by participants from the Judiciary, JLOS Secretariat, Police, Prisons, LASPs and the media. At the event, LASPNET launched the first Annual Access to Justice Trends Analysis report which revealed that the justice system is plagued by corruption, case backlog, limited judicial officers, limited legal representation in addition to lack of

respect for the Rule of Law. The report further made various recommendations to address some of these challenges to include: increasing the spread and number of community-based paralegals; increasing the use of ADR at all levels of the justice chain; expediting the passing of the NLAP/ Law.

In a speech read on behalf of the Chief Registrar, Her Worship Immaculate Busingye applauded LASPNET for the report mentioning that the action points made for the various JLOS institutions will help practitioners to analyse the

state of access to justice and support implementation of the proposed action points for better service delivery.”

She acknowledged that legal awareness, one of the broad themes of the report, is a key element of access to justice in particular as it empowers justice seekers to understand and claim their rights.

The participants posing in a group photo at the PRE-AGM Conference.



“The report offers deeper insights into the state of access to justice and therefore I urge the different JLOS institutions to take up the proposed recommendations to inform policy and practice change.” H/W Immaculate Busingye.

The panel that discussed the report comprised of Mr. Musa Modoi, Technical Advisor JLOS; Mr. Robert Munanura, Commissioner Prisons; SCP Henry Tukahirwa; Mr. George Musisi, Legal Aid Manager (FHRI) and moderated by Dr. Daniel Ruhweza of Makerere University School of Law.

5.1.3 Engagement with Policy makers to fast track enactment of the Legal Aid Law

Following the development of the advocacy strategy, an action plan and media campaigns to guide LASPNET’s engagement with policy makers to ensure adoption of the National Legal Aid Policy and Law ; a meeting was held with the Hon. Lyandro Komakech,

the Chairperson of Greater North Parliamentary Forum on 2nd October 2017 to explore how to work together on pro-poor policies and bills and collaborate on the NLAP/B.

Subsequently, the National Technical Committee members comprising of LASPs such as ULS, FIDA and strategic partners like JCU; experts on access to justice and legal aid held a meeting on 11th November 2017 with the Deputy

Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon Jacob Oulanyah in his chambers, where they interested the Speaker about the delay by the government to enact the National legal aid policy and law.



Selected LASPs meet with the Deputy Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah.

Furthermore, on 12th and 14th December 2017, LASPNET held two breakfast meetings at Piato restaurant which constituted of MPs from Greater North Parliamentary Forum, selected heads of LASPs, representatives from JLOS institutions and the media. These meetings enabled LASPNET to share a situational analysis on access to justice as well as experiences of providing legal aid as non-state actors. LASPNET was able to harness buy-in of MPs thereby pledging their support to introduce a private members' bill of the NLAB/P.



"LASPNET should help us [MPs] in areas of technical support so that we are able to advocate for the passing of the NLAB in Parliament." Hon Joshua Anywarach MP Padyere.



Hon. Komakech Lyandro, MP Gulu Municipality and Chairperson GNPF making his submissions at the Breakfast meeting of MPs.

5.1.4 LASPNET ignites conversation on fast tracking the Nation Legal Aid and Administration of Justice Bills

The National Legal Aid and Administration of Justice laws are core legislations towards enhancing access to justice for the poor and vulnerable as well as guaranteeing self-autonomy of the Judiciary respectively. However, legislation for both laws has dragged, for instance LASPNET together with other stakeholders in the Justice system have for the last 10 years been advocating for the adoption of a NLAP and Law which up to now is awaiting approval of the Executive. On the other hand, the Administration of Justice Bill which seeks to provide for the independence and autonomous funding of the Judiciary has stalled at the Cabinet since 2012.



A group photo of participants at the National Stakeholders conference on the NLAB.

Premising on the above, LASPNET in partnership with JCU and GNPf with support from DGF and UNDP, under the Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy programme convened a Stakeholders' meeting on 26th June 2018 at Imperial Royale Hotel. The meeting was officiated by the Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule, Court of Appeal Judge and Chairperson ULC. Other participants included development and strategic partners, MPs, LASPs, media and the public.

Mr. Wim Stoffers, the Head of Facility DGF, called upon government to step in and provide legal aid to the indigent because donor-led legal aid schemes are not sustainable. Ms. Annet Wakabi Mpabulungi, Team Leader Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy at UNDP also argued that the high cost of legal services and lack of basic knowledge of procedures for accessing justice as well as limited access to free legal services necessitate for a Legal Aid Law.



L-R: Mr. Wim Stoffers, DGF Head of Facility and Ms. Annet Wakabi Mpabulungi, UNDP, making remarks at the meeting.

Justice Kasule appreciated the role played by legal aid service providers in the delivery of legal aid to the indigent despite the absence of a National Legal Aid Scheme. He thus urged Parliamentarians to fast track passing of the legislation to provide for state funded legal aid service delivery mechanisms. Similarly, he appealed to the MPs to have a thorough and rigorous discussion on the AJB given its critical importance in guaranteeing the independence of the Judiciary.



Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule making his key note address.

The panel discussion was composed of Ms. Nabaasa Pheonah Wall (Vice President, ULS and Chairperson of ULS Legal Aid Committee); Mr. Aaron Besigye, National Coordinator, JCU; Mr. Samuel Akena, the Director of Correctional Services, UPS; Hon. Lyandro Komakech MP Gulu Municipality and Coordinator, GNPF. All the panelists agreed to the fact that passing the NLAP and AJB will enhance access to justice for the indigent as well as provide for self-autonomy of the Judiciary. It was further resolved that Hon. Lyandro Komakech will introduce a Private Members Bill of the NLAP/B.



*"If passed, the AJB will empower the Chief Justice to participate in the appointment and disciplining of judicial officers since currently such powers are vested under the Judicial Service Commission."
Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule.*

As a follow up to the Stakeholders' meeting, an inception coalition meeting was held on 30th June 2018 and was attended by LASPs, development partners and media. The key outcome of this meeting was the creation of 3 clusters i.e. the Allies cluster which will reach out to the non-traditional people out there struggling with the absence of a National Legal Aid scheme; the People-centered advocacy cluster which will support citizen action and the Duty bearers cluster which will develop strategies to influence action based on their clout.

5.1.5 Activists and HRDS supported with legal rapid response

LASPNET supported over 50 activists and HRDs under rapid response initiatives, these involved those who were arrested when resisting amendment of article 102 of the constitution such as Kyuma kyayesu who was arrested on allegations of assaulting Kasanda South MP, Hon Simeo Nsubuga, a staunch supporter of the removal of article 102b. In addition, 19 activists from Kawempe were arrested and detained in Jinja and Bugiri during the by-election. The activists were supported to access bail or police bond. Under the FGG II Project funded by ActionAid Uganda, LASPNET supported over 30 artisanal miners who were faced with land evictions in Mubende with legal representation and advice. This was done through engaging an advocate who ensured their release from prison on bail. The efforts rendered under Legal Rapid response are part of the wider lobby and advocacy for a conducive operating environment for HRDs and CSOs where rights and freedoms are respected by the state and other actors."

5.1.6 Dialogue for LASPs, HRDs and communities on Corporate Accountability

LASPNET under ActionAid Uganda funded FGGII held a dialogue for LASPs, HRDs and communities on Corporate Accountability on 6th December 2017 at PIATO Restaurant. Key recommendations included among others writing a brief report of the human rights abuses faced by the victims and submit it to the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights to have the matters on human rights violations further investigated; conduct a high level stakeholder engagement with key players in the Government, Private sector, Judiciary,

investors and multinational corporations to discuss practical solutions and advance corporate accountability as well as human rights protection. During the same dialogue MPs pledged their support towards fast tracking of the NLAP and Law.



Land actors and Human Rights Defenders in Gulu participating in a joint meeting organized by LASPNET and AAU.

5.1.7 Leveraging on Cluster meetings to support Research and Advocacy:

LASPNET leverages on its 6 thematic clusters which include: Land, Traditional/ Informal Justice Institutions, Criminal, and Social/ Cross cutting issues, Gender Justice, Juvenile/Children issues to deliberate on access to justice, human rights and rule of law issues which inform research and advocacy. In the reporting period, 4 cluster meetings were held. These were; the Child Justice cluster held on 26th June 2018; the Criminal and Gender Cluster Justice Cluster held on 27th June 2018 and the Traditional Justice cluster held on 29th June 2018. These cluster meetings were attended by 27 (13 Male: 14 Female) participants from 7 LASPs. The emerging advocacy issues arising out of the clusters meetings

included; replicating the Bataka court model by World Voices Uganda (WVU) in other regions, petitioning the Minister of Justice and Constitutional affairs to address the needs of mentally ill inmates on remand and visiting remand homes to identify justice needs of children for legal support.

5.1.8 LASPNET participates in Joint Land Actors Stakeholders' Meeting:

On 4th August 2017, LASPNET participated in a Joint Land Actors Stakeholders' meeting convened by ActionAid Uganda at Cardinal Nsubuga Leadership Training Centre to brainstorm on the looming evictions of Mubende artisanal miners. The meeting was also attended by other CSOs such as Chapter Four Uganda, Rights Trumpet, Solidarity Uganda, Singo Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners Association, Action Alliance as well as artisanal miners from Mubende. These CSOs resolved to continue supporting the poor, vulnerable and marginalized in realizing land justice.

5.1.9 Provision of mediation and legal advisory services to complainants before the Land Commission of Inquiry:

LASPNET on 20th September 2017 entered into partnership with the Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters to provide mediation and legal advisory services to victims who had lodged complaints with the Commission. The Network mobilized 23 advocates from 14 LASPs who handled 18 mediation files. This partnership created an opportunity for LASPNET to strengthen collaboration with state actors in Land Justice in support of access to justice for the poor and vulnerable.

5.1.10 Supporting execution of court orders for the poor:

LASPNET through partnership with the UCBA identified 6 regional bailiffs who received 33 cases from LASPs to support with execution of court orders and complete the Justice chain to enable the poor and vulnerable realize justice. A total of 7 cases were executed. Furthermore, on 12th September 2017, a Breakfast meeting with bailiffs and advocates was held at the Secretariat to harmonize the execution process. On 28th June 2018, a similar meeting was held at Namirembe Guest House to take stock and review the project progress. Arising out of the meeting was the need for LASPNET and UCBA to train LASPs on execution processes such as extraction of judgment decrees and taxation of Bill of costs.

5.1.11 LASPNET and NSSF convene Legal aid open day:

On 8th December 2017, LASPNET in partnership with NSSF's legal services department convened a legal aid open day at Kampala City railway grounds which was officiated by Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule, Justice of Court of Appeal and Chairperson of Uganda Law Council. The legal open day was attended by 12 LASPs including FHRI, ACTV, UGANET and PLA among others who also exhibited. At the event, Justice Kasule urged other corporate entities to emulate NSSF and support corporate social responsibility through enhancing access to justice for the indigent. Mr. Richard Wabwire, Corporation Secretary NSSF called upon LASPs to ensure that they remit standard contributions for their employees and as well pledged to continue the partnership with LASPNET.



*Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule
visiting one of the stalls.*

5.1.12 Lwengo Legal aid model restores hope for the indigent

Following the establishment of a legal aid clinic by FIDA in Lwengo under the Public Private Partnership, the people of Lwengo district were enabled to access justice nearest to their homes. The Lwengo District leadership registered their appreciation for the impact of the project in easing access to justice in the district. Accordingly, the Lwengo district council passed a resolution to provide 2 acres of land as space for Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to construct JLOS premises for the Court and Office of the Directorate of Public prosecutions. Related to the above, to ensure sustainable intervention, the district has also planned and budgeted for a legal officer in the financial year 2017/ 2018.

However, the project was affected by the abrupt withdrawal of Barefoot Law (BFL) from the partnership and delivering on commitment as per the MOU. Notwithstanding the above, LASPNET took over this challenge and partnered with MTN-U who agreed to subsidize its transaction costs on mobile money charges for users contributing to the fund and the crowd funding will be operational by the next reporting period.

In the new DGF funding, LASPNET through partnership with FIDA-U and Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA) intend to replicate the Lwengo Legal aid model in two more local governments.

5.1.13 FHRI and LASPNET petitions Constitutional court over LC I and II elections

After citing the lacunas in the highly contested LC I and II elections, FHRI and LASPNET filed a joint application asking court to nullify the elections. The petitioners argued among others that the lining up method was crude and would violate Article 68 (1) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda which provides for secret ballot as a standard for voting at elections and referenda, the petitioners further sought for both an interim and temporary injunction restraining the Attorney General and the Electoral Commission from conducting elections for Local Council Representatives I and II pending the hearing and determination of Constitutional Petition. However, the petition was never cause listed for hearing until when elections were conducted in the month of July 2018.

5.1.14 LASPNET joins whistleblowing to support the Anti-corruption efforts of JLOS

LASPNET with funding from DGF continued to support implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy through monitoring both good practices and corruption incidences within selected justice institutions. In the reporting period, LASPNET developed institutional reports highlighting good

practices and incidences of impropriety and misconduct within Police, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Judiciary. These reports were submitted to the above justice institutions including IG on 18th December 2017 to influence practice and policy change. Furthermore, the Project is implemented through the **“Break the Silence on Corruption”** campaign which featured dissemination of IEC materials, conducting radio talk shows, running jingles and DJ mentions on five radio stations i.e. CBS FM, Radio One FM, Mega FM, Open Gate FM and Crooze FM. The campaign has been instrumental in empowering the public to report corruption.

In a bid to get the buy-in of the Judiciary to this anti-corruption initiative, a delegation comprising of Mr. George Musisi, the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS; Mr. Herbert Samuel Nsubuga, Chairperson Board of Directors LASPNET, Mr. Kavuma Paul, Board member on Merit and Secretariat staff held a meeting on 17th October 2017 with the Hon. Chief Justice, Bart Katureebe, at the High Court. The Chief Justice welcomed LASPNET’s efforts to monitor corruption within the JLOS sector and noted that the vice continues to impede access to justice. He however expressed concern that most corruption reports released by CSOs tend to focus more on fault finding justice institutions through ranking them in pecking order from the most to least corrupt without analyzing the root causes and manifestations of corruption. The Chief Justice therefore advised LASPNET to depart from producing similar reports and rather consider undertaking a deeper analysis into the socio-economic drivers and manifestations of corruption within the JLOS sector to ensure proper diagnosis of the problem. Following the Chief Justice’s advice, LASPNET undertook a **comprehensive study on the socio-economic drivers of corruption** in JLOS which was disseminated on 13th December 2017 at Hotel Africana.



Hon. Chief Justice, Bart Katureebe (middle) with the LASPNET delegation at the High Court.

5.1.15 LASPNET brings together JLOS institutions to deliberate on the state of corruption in JLOS

On 13th December 2017, LASPNET convened a Dissemination workshop for its Annual Progress Corruption report titled **“Socio-Economic Drivers and Manifestations of Corruption in JLOS,”** at Hotel Africana. The workshop was attended by 46 participants from; the Judiciary, JSC, UPF, ODPP, Media and the Public. While at the workshop Mr. Wim Stoffers, Head of Facility, DGF noted that judicial corruption is increasingly becoming an obstacle on access to justice especially for the indigent. He therefore applauded LASPNET for developing the report and urged JLOS institutions to implement its recommendations. The panelists who discussed the report findings included; Mr. Julius Mwebembezi (JSC); Ms. Caroline Nabasa (ODPP); H/W Immaculate Busingye and H/W Fred Waninda (Judiciary) and SP Vicent Sekatte (PSU).



Participants posing in a group photo, standing in the middle is Mr. Wim Stoffers, Head of Facility DGF.

5.1.16 Joining efforts to commemorate the Anti-Corruption Week 2017

LASPNET was selected to join different stakeholders including IG, PPDA, OAG, DEI, JLOS and the Media to commemorate the ACW 2017, under the theme **“Restoring Integrity in Public Service; Regaining Citizen Trust in the Anti-Corruption Fight.”** There were a series of activities lined up to commemorate the ACW. Other activities included boardroom meetings and awareness sessions with both LGs and the public in Masaka, Lyantonde, Mbarara, Ibanda, Fort portal and Mubende.



L-R H.E Morgens Pedersen (Board chair DGF/Ambassador Denmark) and Mr. George Bamugemereire (Deputy IGG) inspecting the LASPNET stall at ACD.

5.1.17 US Embassy supports LASPNET to empower the youth to fight corruption

LASPNET with support from the US Embassy is implementing a Project aimed at empowering the youth to make meaningful contribution towards Transparency and Accountability through reporting corruption in the justice system. Under this project, LASPNET trained 56 youths on how to report corruption in the Justice sector and also developed a SAYIT application which is an anonymous application with an e-learning platform about corruption and downloadable via Android phones. <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.laspnet.sayitapp&hl=en>

The SAYIT application was launched on 13th December 2018 at Hotel Africana and the event was officiated by Ms. Suzan Parker Burns, Public Affairs Officer US Embassy who expressed confidence that the developed application will empower the youth to report corruption. So far, a total of 12 cases have been reported through the application, 7 of the reported cases were forwarded to the Inspectorate of Government for investigations, 4 cases were forwarded to PSU and 1 case was forwarded to the JSC for action. PSU began investigations on one of the cases reported from Lira and a file was opened under PSU/NKR/GEF/014/2018 thereafter a draft report was made to the IGP. The case was successfully investigated and the corrupt police officers were arrested and charged with abuse of office.



L-R: Ms. Suzan Parker Burns, Mr. Ephraim Kiyaga (PSU), Ms. Sylvia N Mukasa, ED LASPNET and Mr. Ojambo Martin the developer of the App at the launch of the SAYIT app launch.



SAYIT app login page and a newspaper excerpt of the case reported through the application.

The empowerment of the youth has led to **Arua Youth Replicating LASPNET's "Break the Silence on Corruption" Campaign**. This is evidenced through Drate Yasin, a youth activist in Arua Municipality and the Team Leader of 73rd Parliament (a youth-led organization). He was one of the youths trained by LASPNET during the National Advocacy Training on Transparency and Accountability held on 26th November 2017 and further the regional training held in May 2018 in Northern Uganda. Upon return to Arua, Drate mobilized fellow youth who later formed a thinktank known as "Youth Against Corruption Arua Chapter". The thinktank has been instrumental in organizing community awareness campaigns on anti-corruption through Radio talk shows and trainings as well as engaging JLOS actors to join the anti-corruption drive. Furthermore, the Thinktank's efforts have enabled the youth in Arua to regain confidence in the justice system.



Drate posing in a picture with the DPC of Arua, SP Senyonjo Abbas during the Anti-corruption campaign.

5.1.18 LASPNET scales up public awareness on anti-corruption

In addition and through partnership with the Inspectorate of Government, and the Judiciary LASPNET has continued to sensitize and empower the youth and communities to shun and report corruption. For instance, on 10th April 2018, LASPNET was invited by the IG to participate at the MUBs Expo where over 100 students were sensitized on how to "Break the Silence" on corruption through using the SAYIT application. The Minister of State for Works, Gen Katumba Wamala was the Chief Guest and he appreciated LASPNET's innovative approach of encouraging the youth to fight corruption. Further, on 25th June 2018, LASPNET was invited by the Magistrates Court of Bushenyi to participate in the Court Open Day and create public awareness on its anti-corruption initiative. The event was officiated by the Hon. Chief Justice, Bart Katureebe who inspected LASPNET's stall and commended its efforts towards enhancing access to justice for the poor through tackling bottlenecks such as corruption.



The Chief Justice visiting LASPNET's stall at the Court Open Day.

5.1.19 Enhancing Access to justice, Rule of Law and Human Rights through position papers, press conferences and the media.

Position papers:

LASPNET developed 3 position papers to inform and lobby for policy and practice change. These included: paper on Land Management and Land Justice submitted to the Land commission of inquiry on 18th July 2017. This paper was developed and reviewed by the land justice cluster on 2nd June 2017; Another position paper was developed and submitted to the Uganda Law reform Commission on 22nd December 2017 focusing on which laws require reform in Uganda while the third paper was on need for passing the NLAP/Law submitted to the Deputy Speaker of Parliament on 9th December 2017.

considering that it seeks to permit government to compulsorily acquire private property before giving prior, adequate compensation and hence inconsistent with the spirit of article 26 of the Constitution. On the presidential amendment; that it would open up the floodgates for life presidency and absolute dictatorship considering Uganda's weak and fragile state institutions.

- LASPNET participated in a joint press conference convened at FIDA Uganda offices on 18th September 2017 where women activists condemned the continued rise in the number of murdered women in Entebbe and Nansana with little or no action from relevant authorities.

Press conferences

In the reporting period LASPNET participated in 4 Press conferences convened in collaboration with other stakeholders and issued 2 statements

These included:

- A press conference held at the FHRI offices on 21st July 2017, where CSOs such as FHRI, CCEDU, CCG, FIDA and ActionAid among others urged MPs to refrain from amending Articles 26 and 102b of the Constitution. At the press conference, CSOs emphasized that Amendment of Article 26 was brought in bad faith



Ms. Lilian Adriko reading out the press statement at FIDA offices.

- The Coalition in Support of Independence of the Judiciary (CSIJ) which comprises of 7 organizations namely; Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Legal Aid Service Providers Network, Centre for Public Interest Law, Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda, Chapter Four, Association of Female Lawyers (FIDA) and the Uganda Law Society, convened a press conference on 30th August 2017 at Uganda Law Society (ULS) on the judicial strikes. In its statement, the Coalition urged government to guarantee the Judiciary full autonomy like other arms of government i.e. Executive and Parliament. The statement also urged government to ensure financial autonomy of the Judiciary so as to improve the salaries and welfare of judicial officers which prompted them to go on a sit-down strike on 25th August 2017.
- A joint press conference on empowering of rural women and girls: Opportunities and challenges convened by UWONET & FIDA at FIDA secretariat. On 8th March 2018.

Press statements:

- The Board of Directors released a press statement on 25th May 2018 condemning the increased spate of murders of women in the country. The Board therefore called upon the government to take up its responsibility of promoting security for all its citizens.
- Furthermore, on 11th June 2018 the Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS issued a press statement condemning the President's directive to establish a parallel anti-corruption unit to fight corruption. The statement stressed that the parallel structure will only lead to duplication of resources, conflicting roles in addition to undermining the powers of the Inspectorate

of Government as entrenched in **Article 225** of the 1995 Constitution.

TV talk shows:

LASPNET has continued to use and be a reference point for the media in creating awareness on legal aid, access to justice and rule of law. A total of 6 TV talk shows were held which included the following;

- On 8th August 2017, the Executive Director was hosted on Salt TV on "Amateeka Amalungi" talk show to raise awareness on the proposed amendment Article 26 about land acquisition.
- The Executive Director appeared on Delta TV on 10th August 2017 on a show titled "Amateeka naawe" to discuss human rights, rule of law and access to justice issues.
- The other one was on 5th September 2017, when Mr. George Musisi, the Advisory Committee Chairperson appeared on the "Amateeka Amalungi" talk show on Delta TV to discuss land rights and access to justice issues.
- Further on 9th November 2017, the Executive Director appeared on NTV's morning show "the big story", alongside H.E Henry Mayega, Uganda's Deputy Ambassador to China to discuss the findings of a research commissioned by LASPNET on Human Rights Defenders and Corporate Accountability in Uganda.
- Ms. Rhonah Babweteera, the then Lobby and Advocacy Officer represented LASPNET on the "Big Story" talk show on NTV alongside Mr. Chris Obore, the Communications Director of the Uganda Parliament. The duo deliberated on the invasion of Parliament by the Special Forces Command during the age limit debate that happened on 27th September 2017. In addition, she was hosted on Kingdom TV on 28th March 2017 to discuss child rights.

Radio talk shows:

There were over (10) radio talk shows which were held and attended upon invite. These included;

- On 24th July 2017 a talk show on CBS attended by the Executive Director, Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, Advisory Committee member, Ms. Suzanne Aisia Musooli and Assistant Commissioner of Police, Anatoli Muleterwa and on 10th August 2017 on Mega FM Gulu attended by Mr. Francis Odongonyoo (HURIFO) and Aswa Regional Police Spokesperson Mr. Jimmy Patrick Okema.
- On 21st September 2017, a talk show was conducted on Kaboozi ku biri and was attended by Mr. George Musisi, Advisory Chairperson/Legal Aid Manager Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) and Mr. Gerald Gwaira, an Inspectorate Officer at Inspectorate of Government.
- Following the age limit debate and spate of women murders in the country, on 18th September 2017, Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, Executive Director of LASPNET and Ms. Irene Ovonji, the FIDA Uganda Chief Executive Officer were hosted on Radio One FM 90.0. The duo urged Parliamentarians not to lift the Presidential age limit because it would culminate into self-rule and eventually infringe on Uganda's democracy.
- On 23rd September 2018, the Executive Director appeared on 93.3 KFM with Mr. Tumushabe Godber (GLiSS Associate Director and MP Margaret Muhanga to discuss the siege on ActionAid, GLiSS and Uhuru Institute.
- On 24th March 2018, the Executive Director also participated in a radio talk show on KFM together with the Inspector General of Government, Hon. Justice Irene Mulyagonja. They both discussed the current state of corruption in the public sector as well as the challenges faced with by the IG.
- Furthermore, on the 9th November 2017 a radio talk show on corporate accountability was held on Radio One FM 90.0 and was attended by the Networking, Coordination and Partnership Officer, Ms. Jamidah Namuyanja and Human Rights Lawyer Mr. Eron Kiiza.
- Three (3) radio talk shows were conducted under the Transparency and Accountability project supported by the US Embassy. These included; MEGHA FM on 25th April 2018 attended by Mr. Badru Walusansa, Research and Knowledge Officer and youths in Gulu; Open Gate FM on 10th May 2018 attended by Ms. Ajok Viola and youths in Mbale and on 8th June 2018 on Access FM Arua attended by the youths in Arua.

Having stayed relevant on access to justice, human rights and Rule of Law issues LASPNET was able to enjoy free media services on both TV and radio and as a result extended such opportunities to membership organizations like UCLF, CJAF and FHRI.



Ms. Viola Ajok (in pink) appearing on a talk show on Open Gate FM in Mbale



Ms. Sylvia N Mukasa appearing on a talk show on Salt TV.



The Executive Director stressing out her point on Delta TV.



L-R: H.E Henry Mayega, LASPNET ED, Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa and Mr. Joel Ssenyonyi (moderator).

Age limit and murder of women: Hon Irene Ovonji Odida from FIDA Uganda and Ms Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa from Laspnet. We are live on FM90 with Gabriel Iguma.



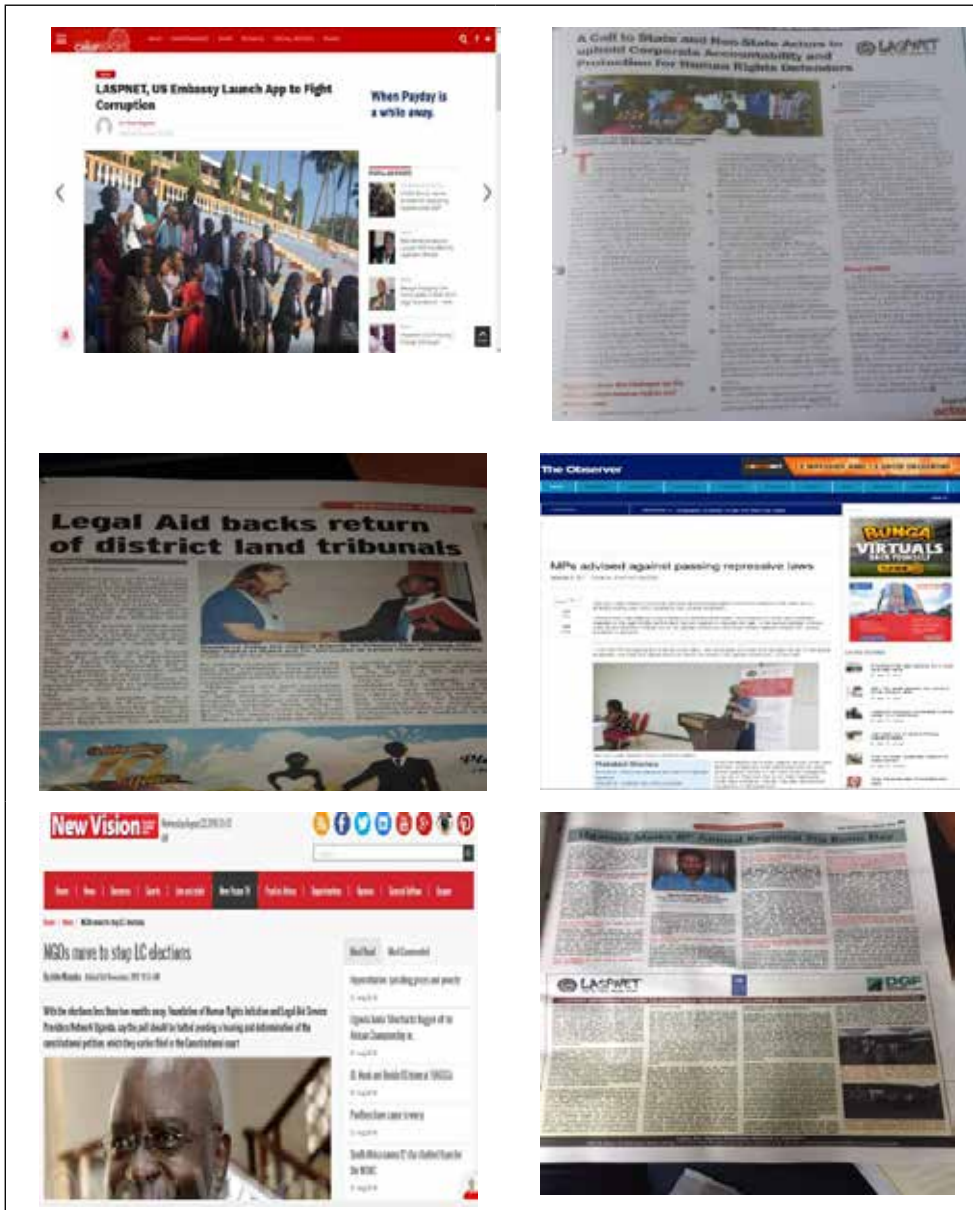
L-R: Mr. Badru Walusansa (LASPNET) and Ms. Atim Jennifer (Youth) on Megha FM.



Mr. Drate Yasin appearing on a radio talk show supported by LASPNET.

5.1.20. LASPNET in the News:

In the reporting period, LASPNET received media coverage on access to justice, legal aid and Rule of Law issues in both the local dailies and online newspapers.



5.1.21 Leveraging on partnerships and coalition building in human rights, Rule of Law and access to justice to improve service delivery

Throughout the reporting period, LASPNET was able to strengthen coalition building through networking and partnership meetings aimed at enhancing access to justice, Rule of Law and human rights. The Secretariat has participated in 184 external meetings and key among these included:

- The opening ceremony of the Annual Judges' Conference on 22nd January, 2018 convened by the Judicial Training Institute, at Commonwealth resort Hotel Munyonyo;
- The Consultation on EU – CSO Roadmap on 25th January 2018 convened by the EU Delegation in Uganda at the EU Delegation offices;
- The East Africa Regional CSO-Media Workshop on 22nd & 23rd February, 2018 Kenya convened by ICNL and the Civil Society Reference Group at Amber Hotel in Nairobi;
- The DGF LEAP Partners conference at Hotel Africana on 12th October, 2017 in which a paper on the experiences of legal aid in Uganda was shared.
- The training of MPs on CEDAW on 27th September, 2017 convened by UWOPA at Hotel Africana;
- Attending and presenting a paper on LASPNET Whistleblowing project at the JLOS Accountability Sub Committee meeting at PSU on 2nd November, 2017 as a result of which LASPNET was selected to be part of the JLOS Accountability Sub Committee.

The above highlighted meetings provided LASPNET with a platform and

opportunity to lobby for improvement of legal aid, rule of law and access to justice service delivery through attending and or making presentations.

5.1.22 New strategic collaborations and partnerships

LASPNET was able to bring on board three (3) new partners namely;

Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters

On 20th September 2017, LASPNET and the Commission of Inquiry into Land matters entered into an MOU to provide mediation and legal advisory services to persons who had lodged complaints with the Commission.

Avocats San Frontiers, JCU and USAID SAFE

LASPNET entered into a joint MOU with ASF, JCU and USAID SAFE on 24th January 2018. The partnership aimed at improving informal dispute resolution through developing a training model for non-court annexed dispute resolution. LASPNET's roles included among others was to identify trainers to train community mediators and these were pooled from LASPs such as UCLF, PILAC, JCU and ULA.

Participants who attended the Mediation Project kick off seminar on 30th January 2018 in Ntinda.



Global Rights Alert

In an effort to provide legal support and representation to activists and HRDs, LASPNET established partnership with the Global Rights Alert and an MOU was signed on 5th October 2017. Under this partnership, GRA provided direct funds to support 30 cases under Legal Aid rapid response.

Greater North Parliamentary Forum

LASPNET entered into a partnership with Greater North Parliamentary Forum (GNPF) with the aim of enhancing advocacy efforts for fast tracking the passing of the National Legal Aid Policy/Bill. Through this partnership, LASPNET has been able to garner support of Members of Parliament who will advance the legal aid agenda in Parliament. Several activities such as Breakfast meetings with MPs have been organized by LASPNET and GNPF where MPs have been sensitized about the relevancy of having a NLAP/Bill as well as the required advocacy efforts to have the Bill passed.



Hon. Lyandro Komakech, MP Gulu Municipality and Chairperson GNPF during the Advocacy meeting with MPs at Piato Restaurant.

5.1.23 Building Bridges : The new ULS Executive Council pays courtesy call to LASPNET



Ms. Sandra Oryema, Vice President LASPNET Board of Directors handing over a package to the ULS President during the visit.

LASPNET hosted the new Uganda Law Society Executive Council on 24th April, 2018 at the Secretariat. The ULS delegation was led by the President elect, Mr. Simon Peter Kinobe, Vice President, Ms. Nabaasa Pheona Wall, the ULS CEO, Ms. Joyce Nalunga

Birimumaso among others. The visit aimed at enabling the newly elected council to reach out to LASPNET and discuss possible entry points for partnership with ULS in enhancing Access to justice, Human rights and the Rule of Law.

The ULS President applauded LASPNET for its continued support towards enhancing access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. He further noted that his council will build on the previous efforts of his predecessors to enhance access justice for the indigent through working with like-minded stakeholders such as LASPNET. The partners highlighted possible areas of engagement which included; advocating for the passing of the National Legal Aid Policy/Law as well as the Administration of the Justice Bill which is currently being advocated for by the Coalition in Support of Strengthening the Independence of the Judiciary (CISIJ) where LASPNET and ULS are members. In addition, the partnership will also be extended to fighting judicial corruption among judicial officers and lawyers through whistleblowing on the ULS Toll free lines numbers that is **0800100150 and 0800100151**.

It was also agreed that LASPNET will continue to support referrals to LAP/ULS; popularize Alternative Dispute Resolution amongst private practitioners to smoothen LASPs approach to conflict resolution; develop tailor-made trainings which will attract Continuing Legal Education (CLE) points and provide ULS lawyers to support rapid legal response.

5.1.24 LASPNET welcomes new DGF Programme Learning Manager

On 19th January 2018, DGF paid a courtesy visit to LASPNET to introduce their new Programme Learning Manger, Mr. Esben Harboe who is also in charge of sphere 3 on Upholding human rights, Access to Justice and Gender Equality. The DGF team was led by Mr. Wim Stoffers, the Head of Facility and in attendance were Ms. Nanjobe Martha, the Deputy Programme Learning Manager and Ms.

Dorah Mafabi, the Programme Manager.

Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, LASPNET ED appreciated DGF for the continued partnership, having been the main funder for Network since 2004.

Mr. Wim Stoffers acknowledged the Network's efforts of enhancing access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized and also highlighted the importance of seeing partner's premises to better understand their working environment.

The incoming DGF Programme Learning Manager, Mr. Harboe expressed his pleasure to interact with the LASPNET team noting that DGF was looking at adopting a new approach that involves more engagement with its partners and that he was open to changes within the programme areas.



L-R: Mr. Esben Harboe, new DGF Programme Learning Manager, Ms. Sylvia NI Mukasa, LASPNET ED and Mr. Wim Stoffers, DGF Head of Facility.

"I am glad to be managing LASPNET within the new phase especially because they continue to do good work. However, with the increased level of responsiveness by JLOS to issues of access to justice, their work load especially in research is likely to increase," said Ms. Martha Nanjobe, DGF Deputy Program Learning Manager.

5.2 ENHANCING STANDARDS AND KNOWLEDGE THROUGH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

There was a total of 7 capacity building initiatives that were undertaken to benefit the membership whereas the Secretariat staff benefitted from 5 training opportunities. These include;

5.2.1 LASPs trained on disability mainstreaming

In order to ensure disability mainstreaming into programming, LASPNET in partnership with NUDIPU convened one thematic training on disability rights. The training was held on 6th and 7th July 2017 at the Cardinal Nsubuga Leadership Training Centre Nsambya and was attended by participants from LASPs such as FHRI, MCJL, ACTV and COLAID among others. As an outcome of this training, LASPs were equipped with skills and tools to mainstream disability issues in their day to day work.

5.2.2 Trial Advocacy Training

LASPNET continued to ensure sustainability of the TAT which has been appreciated by advocates for equipping them with practical and persuasive skills in court presentation in addition to deepening advocates' knowledge in delivering standardized legal aid services. On 28th and 29th September 2017, LASPNET through collaboration with Justice Advocacy Africa organized a training of Trainers Trial Advocacy workshop at UNAFRI.

The training was attended by 25 (11 Male: 14 Female) advocates from different LASPs such as ULA, FIDA and UCLF as well as private lawyers from Uganda Law Society.



Mr. Steve Fury taking advocates through role play during the Trial Advocacy Training.

5.2.3 Capacity of LASPs strengthened and built to monitor good practices and corruption in JLOS

Following realization that corruption is a major bottleneck to access to justice, LASPNET designed a whistleblowing initiative piloted in 3 JLOS institutions i.e. Judiciary, Police and ODPP. On 28th and 29th August 2017, LASPNET convened a training for corruption monitors at Cardinal Nsubuga Leadership Training Centre. Participants were trained on the concept of corruption and whistleblowing, legal and policy framework of corruption and utilization of investigative devices to report corruption among others. As a result, 21 of trained monitors were deployed in different implementation areas to track both good practices and corruption to inform policy and practice change.

5.2.4 Mediation training for Training of Trainers

Through partnership with ASF, JCU and USAID-SAFE, a mediation training of trainers was held on the 30th January-1st February 2018 at Hillside Plaza hotel in Ntinda. Participants were drawn from PILAC, JCU, UCLF and ULA among others. The training provided a platform to harness views and experiences of community-based mediators to improve community-based mediation and also support development of the manual to train community-based mediators. The selected trainers were further retained

by LASPNET to facilitate community mediators.

Following the Training of Trainers for community-based mediators, 3 regional capacity building trainings were held for community mediators in Hoima 12th -14th March 2018, attended by 21 participants (14 Male: 7 Female); Gulu held on 5th-7th March 2018 and Fort Portal held on 15th-17th March 2018, attended by 22 participants (13 Male: 9 Female).

More still, a two-day capacity building training for community-based paralegals was held in Hoima on 23rd- 24th April 2018 and was attended to by total 18 (11 Male 7 Female) paralegals from the Albertine Grabben working with CSOs such as Global Rights Alert, Birudo and CRED among others.

5.2.5 National Youth Advocacy training on governance and accountability

LASPNET under the Transparency and Accountability Project supported by the US Embassy convened a National youth training on governance and accountability. The training was held on the 26th February 2018 at Hotel Africana and was attended by 54 (29 Male: 25 Female) participants mainly youths from across all regions of the country.

Among the key dignitaries that attended the training included; the Spokesperson of the US Embassy, Mr. Phil Dimon, US Grants Officer, Ms. Agnes Alobo, the Grants Officer and the Acting Registrar Directorate of Planning, Inspection and Research Judicial Service Commission, His Worship Julius Mwebembezi.

The youth were trained on the concept of transparency and accountability; whistleblowing; functions of the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) institutions as well as the role of the youth in fighting corruption. Furthermore, the youth were trained on the use of the SAYIT application to report corruption.

The key outcome of this training was the

creation of youth ambassadors such as Mr. Drate Yasin in Arua and Mr. Magomu Ibrahim in Mbale among others who have spearheaded community initiatives to fight corruption.



Participants at the Youth Advocacy Training posing for a group photo with Mr. Phil Dimon, the US Embassy Spokesperson.

5.2.6 Regional-based youth dialogues and trainings on corruption

As a follow up on the National Youth Advocacy Training, LASPNET conducted two regional based youth dialogues and trainings in Gulu on 25th April 2018 at Dich Comfort Hotel and was attended by 12 (7 Male: 5 Female) participants. Whereas on 10th May 2018 another training was held in Mbale at Pretoria Hotel Mbale and was attended by 15 (11 Male: 4 Female) participants. A key outcome of these regional-based trainings was the creation of regional youth thinktanks that have provided the youth with a platform to devise strategies to fight corruption as well as engage key stakeholders to fight corruption within their communities. For instance, the “*Youth Against Corruption Arua Chapter*” is a regional youth thinktank that has effectively contributed to the LASPNET’s Break the Silence on Corruption” campaign in West Nile.



A cross-section of the youth in Gulu during the regional feedback session.

5.2.7 CBOs and FBOs training on fighting corruption

Based on LASPNET's efforts to fight corruption within the JLOS sector, it was invited by the Inspectorate of Government to facilitate two trainings on the role of CBOs and FBOs in fighting corruption. The trainings were held from 23rd-25th May 2018 in Hoima and 6th- 8th June 2018 in Fort Portal. During these trainings, over 100 youths were trained on their role to report corruption through using the SAYIT application.



Mr. Badru Walusansa, the Research and Knowledge Management Officer facilitating a training on fighting corruption organized by the IG.

5.2.8 Training opportunities availed to the Secretariat Staff

Some of the Secretariat staff were able to benefit from the following trainings;

A training on grants application held on 3rd August, 2017 at the US Embassy in Uganda. This training was attended by two staff that is the Research & Knowledge Management Officer, Ms. Violah Ajok and Project Assistant M&E, Mr. Badru Walusansa. The staffs' capacity on how apply for a US Embassy grant was built and as a result they supported the process of putting together a competitive proposal which won funding from the US Embassy.

Ms. Achen Daphine, the Project Assistant FGG attended a training on Muslim law

organized by MCJL on 15th and 16th March 2017 at Kolping Hotel, Kampala. The training covered topics such as Islamic marriage, inheritance and sharia law.

Then Research & Knowledge Management Officer, Ms. Viola Ajok benefited from a team management training conducted by the future options held on 30th August 2017 at Imperial Royale Hotel. The training built the skills of the staff on leadership, effective communication, handling conflict, the importance of delegation, working as team, managing performance.

From 9th – 13th April 2018, the Finance and Administration Officer Mr. Geoffrey Lutaaya and Ms. Babweteera Rhonah, the then Lobby and Advocacy Officer attended a training organized by UNDP under the Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy. These were trained on financial reporting as well as lobby and advocacy skills.

Furthermore, the Research & Knowledge Management Officer, Ms. Viola Ajok benefited a legal empowerment management training conducted by NAMATI at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary from 4th December - 10th December 2017. The training-built skills of the staff on organizing and using the law to enhance access to justice.

5.3 EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

5.3.1 LASPNET Commissions a Baseline study on HRDs and Corporate Accountability in Uganda

LASPNET with support from ActionAid Uganda under the FGGII project

commissioned a baseline study on Human Rights Defenders and Corporate Accountability. The purpose of the Baseline report was to ensure that communities are able to demand and become resilient in holding the state and corporations accountable for their actions in respect for protection and fulfilment of their human rights. The validation of the report was held on 28th August 2017 at the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention on Crime and Treatment of Offenders and was attended by 21 (8 Male: 13 Female) including Activists, NGOs and LASPs. The report was later launched by Ms. Sylvia Muwebwa Ntambi, the Chairperson of Equal Opportunities Commission on 10th November 2017 at Hotel Africana.

It's hoped that the above research will be used as good resources to influence advocacy for policy and practice change in the area of HRDs and Corporate Accountability.

5.3.2 Development of the Whistleblowers Manual to support Corruption Monitors

LASPNET developed a Whistleblowers Manual in order to equip corruption monitors with knowledge about corruption, it's legal and policy framework, corruption indicators as well as the JLOS handling mechanisms. The manual was validated on 13th July 2017 at Namirembe Guest House and attended by 23 (12 Male: 11 Female) participants including stakeholders from ODPP, UPF, JSC, Judiciary and LASPs.

Whistleblowers' manuals were further disseminated among the monitors during the Whistleblowers' training held from 28th-29th August 2018 at Cardinal Nsubuga Leadership Training Centre as well as all JLOS institutions including UPF, ODPP, ACD, JLOS Secretariat and

Judiciary among others.



A copy of the Whistleblowers' Manual

5.3.3. Development of a Paralegal Manual

Based on the fact that currently there are no standardized training tools for community-based paralegals in Uganda, LASPNET developed and validated a Paralegal manual on the 23rd November 2017. The manual was further published and has been disseminated among LASPs and community paralegals. Some of the content in the manual include: roles of paralegals, human rights, steps on how cases are handled, classification of cases among others.

Alongside trainings, the paralegal manual will be a good resource in strengthening the capacity of paralegals to deliver standardized mediation services.

Furthermore, LASPNET will simplify

the paralegal manual by producing a paralegal handbook under the new DGF funding.

5.3.4 Development of the Annual Trends analysis report on Access to justice

LASPNET initiated efforts to track emerging access to justice issues through using access to justice indicators developed by LASPNET in February 2017. The draft report was validated on 10th October 2017 at LASPNET Secretariat and was attended by 18 (6 Male: 12 Female). The report was further launched on 19th October 2017 during the Pre-AGM conference and attended by 59 (33Males and 26 females) participants including representatives from JLOS, media and the public.

The report was able to highlight bottlenecks of access to justice and share justice user's experiences as well as best practices for improvement of access to justice service delivery.

5.3.5 LASPNET develops report on the Socio-Economic drivers of corruption in JLOS

With support from a consultant, LASPNET developed a research on the Socio-economic drivers and manifestations of corruption in JLOS. The report formed basis of the LASPNET Annual progress report on corruption which highlighted all activities that were undertaken in the pilot project of corruption monitoring since June 2016-December 2017. The report was validated on 7th December 2017 by the Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS. On 13th December 2017, a dissemination workshop was held at

Hotel Africana where the project report was shared among key stakeholders in JLOS including Police, Judiciary, JSC, ODPP, the development partners DGF and the media.



H/W Fred Waninda, Ag. Registrar Planning & Development say about the report; "it's a unique report which needs to be disseminated widely among all JLOS institutions."

Some of the recommendations made in the report included; the need to for court automation in order to limit the human factor in the Judiciary as well as strengthening the Social Protection mechanism for civil servants (medical housing and transport allowances).



LASPNET's ED, Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa making her presentation at the launch of the corruption report.

LASPNET also developed and submitted 3 institutional reports on corruption to JLOS institutions for follow up and action. These reports were extracted from the monitors' periodic reports and focused on issues of good practices, misconduct, impropriety and corruption within the piloted JLOS institutions including: UPF; ODPP; IG and Judiciary.

5.3.6 Mapping and Needs assessment for CBOs and NGOs on their compliance with the NGO legal framework

With support from International Centre for Non-Profit Law (ICNL), LASPNET conducted a mapping and needs assessment of NGOs on their compliance with the NGO legal framework. In addition, a simplified information tool pack of laws related to NGOs was developed. A validation meeting for both the simplified information toolkit and needs assessment was held on 26th April 2018 at Piato restaurant and was attended by 35 (16 Male: 19 Female) participants including CBOs, NGOs, LASPs, CDOs and representatives from the NGO Bureau.

More importantly the Mapping and Needs Assessment report revealed that there is

limited awareness of the NGO Act 2016 and its provisions and cumbersome processes of registration which results into unnecessary bureaucracy. It further recommended building of mentorship and support programmes under which big NGOs support small NGOs to build their capacity to comply with the law, use

the report as an advocacy tool to cause amendments in some provisions of the law and produce and review the law to exempt small NGOs and CSOs with small budgets from having their finances audited because they cannot afford the associated costs.



A group photo of participants who turned up for the validation meeting of the Mapping and Needs Assessment report.

5.3.7 Development and translation of IEC materials on corruption and access to justice

LASPNET with support from the DGF and US Embassy developed IEC materials including stickers and posters on anti-corruption and access to justice. These were distributed among the youth during the National Youth Advocacy training and Regional feedback dialogue to ensure that the youth are acquainted with information on corruption as well as the complaint handling mechanism of JLOS institutions.

The access to justice posters entailed laws and procedures on areas of marriage, inheritance as well as child rights. The anti-corruption posters developed with support from DGF, were translated into four local dialects such as Luo, Luganda, Runyankore and Itesot to ensure that the anti-corruption messages are widely disseminated among the non-English speakers. These were validated from 26th-29th June 2018 and later published.



One of the sample posters of corruption translated in Luganda.

“I would like thank you for the IEC materials. We have received posters and copies of the manual-they are very well done and we thank you for the leadership over this process and deliverables. However, most important is to appreciate LASPNET contribution and partnership with JLOS in the fight against corruption in the Sector. You can count on my support to work with LAPSNET to deliver the common pursuit within the context of the national zero tolerance to corruption policy/legal regime and the JLOS anti-corruption framework”- Mr. Musa Modoi Technical Advisor Human Rights and Accountability JLOS.

5.3.8 Providing information to develop the Community-Based Mediation Training Instructor's guide

LASPNET coordinated its members including PILAC, UCLF, ULA and JCU among others to participate in the development of the Community Based Mediation Instructor's guide by ASF and USAID SAFE. The guide aimed at improving informal dispute resolution through developing a training module

for non-court annexed dispute resolution which is hoped to become the model standard for Uganda and its justice institutions. The identified LASPs provided input into the guide through Focus Group Discussions as well as took part in the testing and refining the Community Based Mediation Training Instructor's guide.

In addition, LASPNET developed a toolkit to support LASPs in their day to day work on access to justice issues including property rights, marriage, inheritance among others.

5.3.9 LASPNET provides information on Access to justice and rule of law

LASPNET has continued to consolidate itself as a reference point on access to justice, human rights and Rule of Law issues. Over 10 presentations were made at different fora which include among others: the Executive Director acting as a panelist at the DGF LEAP Partners Conference on scaling up best practices and sustainable models in the provision of legal Aid held at hotel Africana on the 12th October 2017; she also presented at the training of MPs on CEDAW on 27th September, 2017 convened by UWOPA at Hotel Africana, in addition she facilitated at the National Policy Dialogue for Judicial Officers convened by UWONET at Serena Hotel on the 7th November, 2017.



L-R LASPNET ED as a panelist at the Human Rights Convention Uganda organized by Chapter Four, ULS National forum and Land Colloquium convened by FES.

5.4. STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overtime LASPNET has continued to support and strengthen institutional development of the Secretariat and that of its member organizations.

5.4.1 CEOs meet to discuss Legal Aid and Access to Justice

LASPNET convened a CEOs meeting on 31st August 2017 at Piato Restaurant. The meeting was attended by 25 LASPs including MCJL, FIDA, LDC/LAC, COLAID and PLA among others and members discussed on a wide range of issues including Rule of Law, constitutionalism and governance.

Hon. Irene Ovonji-Odida, CEO FIDA gave a key note on “Rallying CSO Leaders to support campaign efforts on improving Access to Justice and Rule of Law.” She called upon LASPs to actively take on their thematic roles to ensure that they are at the frontline of the struggle for the socio-economic transformation.



“The ideology of NGOs claiming not to be political is misleading because politics is about controlling resources and making decisions that affect society making it become political.” Hon. Irene Ovonji.



5.4.2 IIMS upgraded to include new functionalities

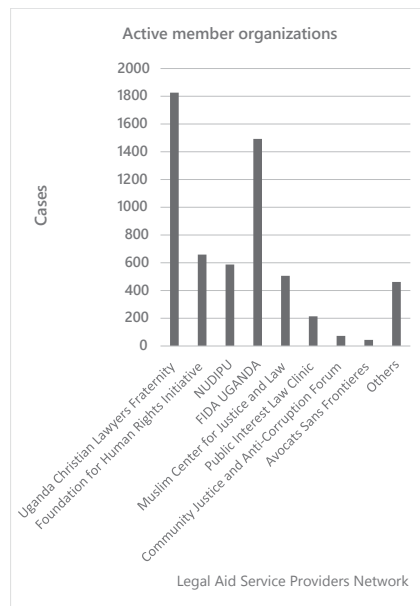
The IIMS currently has 31 organizations enrolled where 16 organizations are actively using the IIMS while 15 are inactive. A new functionality of the DGF report module was added onto the IIMS in October 2017 to help LASPs generate DGF reports. This module enables the administrator to view the reports entered by the LASPs and also has the capability of generating data graphs automatically from the data that has been entered. A new custom field's module was also added to the IIMS to help LASPs to expand the initial fields that the IIMS captures. In addition, the offline application has improved IIMS utilization because most active LASPs such as FIDA, UCLF, NUDIPU, WVU and FAPAD are using the application to enter data.

The ICT Team travelled from 6th to 16th November 2017 to trouble shoot and support LASPs with installation of IIMS updated functionalities and more than 20 LASPs were supported. One member of UCLF had this to say about the IIMS. ***"Thank you for making IIMS very easy to use in our work,"***



LASPNET IIMS consultant Mr. Ojamba Martin guiding NUDIPU's Namukoko Ruth with using case data into the IIMS.

The following graph shows the utilization of the IIMS by LASPs as of June 30th 2018:



5.4.3 Undertaking Annual Peer Learning and Evaluation visits

The Secretariat and the Board conducted Peer Learning Visits to the membership organizations across all regions of the country. The visits took place between June and September 2017 and 50 LASPs and 5 strategic partners were reached.

During the PLE visits LASPNET got the

opportunity to seek LASPs' input into the annual trends analysis on access to justice research; identify innovations and funding needs as well as challenges faced with member organizations. Inactive members were also engaged through physical visits and phone calls to establish their challenges and devise means through which they can be supported.



From L-R: Ms. Sylvia N Mukasa (ED LASPNET), Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, (ED FHRI) and FHRI during the PLE visit at FHRI.

5.4.4 Subscription to Online Law Library

Under the reporting period, LASPNET supported LASPs to access the online law library. The online law provides advocates and lawyers with a platform to access laws and regulations, case judgements and legal news among others. This therefore enabled LASPs to offer standardized service delivery.

5.4.5 LASPNET holds its 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The LASPNET 8th AGM was held on the 20th October 2017 at the LASPNET Secretariat by 27 LASPs including PILAC, WVU, FIDA and strategic partners such as JCU, ULGA and Stanbic Bank.

In his speech, the Board Chairperson, Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga decried the increased shrinking civic space for CSOs and commended LASPs that provided rapid response during the numerous arrests occasioned by events relating to the constitutional amendments.

Mr. George Mutabazi, the District Chairperson of Lwengo appreciated LASPNET for implementing the Lwengo legal aid model. He noted that the milestones brought about by the project have relieved the District of the high number of cases of injustice especially meted out on the poor like women and children.

The AGM was able to deliberate on a number of issues and resolved: to have March 30th every year as the deadline for payment of subscription after which penalties would ensue; deregistration of inactive members; sharing of the draft NLAP policy with the members and amendment of Articles 4 and 7 (2) of the LASPNET Constitution on tying of votes and ensuring of gender parity on the board respectively.



The Executive Director making her presentation at the AGM

5.4.6 End of year staff evaluation and planning retreat:

On 19th-21st December 2017, the Secretariat held its end of year retreat at Anderita Hotel in Entebbe. The purpose of the retreat was to review and evaluate the performance of the year 2017 and develop the organizational annual work plan 2018.



Staff attending the end of year evaluation and retreat at Anderita Hotel

5.4.7. Recognition of best performing staff of the year

Every end of the quarter, the Secretariat has maintained a culture of recognizing the best performing staff who are voted for by fellow staff members. The staff are voted against several indicators such as punctuality, teamwork, level of effectiveness in executing tasks among others. During one of the Board sittings, the best performing staff of the year 2017 were recognized and these included Mr. Badru Walusansa, the Research and Knowledge Management Officer and Ms. Daphine Achen, the Project Assistant Research and Knowledge. The act of recognizing the best performers has motivated staff to work their best and achieve their targets and deliverables.



L-R: LASPNET ED and the Board Chairperson, Mr. Herbert Samuel Nsubuga awarding a certificate of appreciation to the best staff of the year.

5.4.8 LASPNET Board and Committee Meetings

A total of 5 Board meetings were held against 4 planned to provide oversight and discuss policy and management of programme related issues. Further, a total of 8 committee meetings were held including: the LASPNET Advisory Committee on Monitoring Corruption in JLOS; the Planning and Programmes Committee; the Audit and Finance Committee and the Governance and Administration Committee to provide oversight to programmes, activities, finance monitoring, supervision of recruitment and attending to membership issues.

5.4.8.1 LASPNET SCORE CARD FOR THE BOARD SITTINGS FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2017-JUNE 2018

No.	Name	Designation	Number of Board meetings attended	Roles Delegated on the Board		Number of Committee meetings attended	Number of events/ meetings officiated at (Trainings, PLE visits, etc)	Average Score	Rank	Other responsibilities
				Committee member	Committee chairperson					
1	Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga	Chairperson	5	1		8	243	75.7%	3	Adhoc Member - Planning & Programmes Committee
2	Ms. Sandra Oryema	Vice Chairperson	6	1	1	6	235	89.9%	2	Chairperson - Planning & Programmes Committee
3	Ms. Lydia Namuli Lubega	General Secretary	6	2		6	111	70.0%	4	Member Planning & Programmes Committee + Audit & Finance Committee
4	Mr. Anthony Mutimba	Treasurer	4	1	1	4	105	65.8%	5	Chairperson - Audit & Finance Committee
5	Ms. Suzanne Aisia Musooli	Central Region Representative	6	1		3	86	46.0%	8	Member – Governance & Administration Committee

No.	Name	Designation	Number of Board meetings attended	Roles Delegated on the Board		Number of Committee meetings attended	Number of events/ meetings officiated at (Trainings, PLE visits, etc)	Average Score	Rank	Other responsibilities
				Committee member	Committee chairperson					
6	Mr. Francis Odongyoo	Northern Region Representative	3	1		2	26	28.7%	9	Member –Planning & Programmes Committee
7	Mr. Fred Kaahwa	Western Region Representative	6	1		4	184	57.9%	7	Member – Governance & Administration Committee
8	Mr. Joseph Mwase	Eastern Region Representative	7	2		3	106	60.5%	6	Member- Planning & Programmes Committee
9	Mr. Paul Kavuma	Member on Merit	4	2	1	7	220	97.0%	1	Chairperson- Governance & Administration Committee
	Total possible score		7	2	1	5	250	100.0%		

Key to the score colours:	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Trial
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5.4.9 BOARD PICTORIAL



Mr. Samuel Herbert
Nsubuga
Chairperson



Ms. Sandra Oryema
Vice Chairperson



Ms. Lydia Namuli Lubega
General Secretary



Mr. Anthony Mutimba
Treasurer



Ms. Suzanne Aisia
Musooli
**Central Region
Representative**



Mr. Paul Kavuma
Member on Merit



Mr. Francis Odongyoo
Northern Region



Fred Kaahwa
Western Region



Mwase Joseph
**Eastern Region
Representative**

5.4.10 LASPNET SECRETARIAT TEAM



Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa

Executive Director

She heads the Secretariat team and provides administrative and strategic leadership to the Secretariat to ensure smooth day to day running of Programmes and that the organization is financially sustainable. She is also the link between the Network, external partners and stakeholders as well as the Board.



Mr. Geoffrey Lutaaya

Finance and Administration Officer

He provides financial management and administrative support to LASPNET that includes: monitoring of funds; production of regular

management accounts and reports and preparation of budgets.



Ms. Violah Ajok

Ag. Director of Programmes

She is responsible for overall development and functioning of the Programmes. She provides technical and supervision support to the Programmes team.



Ms. Jamidah Namuyanja

Networking, Coordination and Partnership Officer

She is responsible for maintaining and developing existing memberships and partnerships through communication and information sharing.



Mr. Badru Walusansa

Research and Knowledge Management Officer

He coordinates action research in key areas vital for LASPNET interventions and Programme development. He undertakes research on behalf of the organization and disseminate the results to relevant parties.



Mr. Martin Ojambo

Information Technology Officer

He is responsible for managing and maintenance of computer systems within LASPNET. He is more specifically responsible for smooth running and functioning of Integrated Information Management System.



Ms. Achen Daphine

Project Assistant Research and Knowledge

She provides support to Programmes through providing support to the corruption monitoring and execution of court orders ongoing projects.



Mr. Barnabas Barongo

Accounts and Administration Assistant

He provides support to the Finance and Administration Officer in financial accounting and reporting standards, logistics and Administration.



Ms. Emily Nabiryo

Programme Assistant

She provides support to the programmes department, front desk management, and other administrative functions as assigned at the Secretariat.



Mr. Daniel Lubega

Project Assistant FGGII

He provides direct support to the Programmes department and is currently responsible for implementing the US Embassy and ActionAid funded FGG II Projects.



Mr. Kenneth Okao

Project Assistant Membership

He provides support to the Programmes especially managing membership records and database.



Mr. Caleb Ahabwe

Project Assistant OXFAM Project

He provides direct support to the Programmes department and is currently responsible for implementing the OXFAM project.



Mr. Leonard Kaye

Driver

He is responsible for providing reliable and safe driving services.



Mr. Egaru Ivan

Driver

He provides reliable and safe driving services.



Ms. Aketcha Esther

Welfare staff

She ensures the proper maintenance of office as well as supports with staff welfare.

INTERNS

Every year LASPNET receives interns from different universities who are coached and mentored hence building their capacity. Under the reporting period, the following interns were received; Ms. Pamela Ntale from Makerere University; Mr. Keitirima Duncan from Uganda Christian University; Ms. Kemigisha Juliet from Makerere University and Mr. Odeke Herbert from Makerere University.

VOLUNTEERS

The Secretariat currently has 3 volunteers who include;

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL WORKER

Ms. Nadhifah Muhammad



She provides support to the Programmes Department under Networking, Coordination and Partnership.

VOLUNTEER LAWYER

Ms. Martha Murungi



She provides support to the Programmes Department

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL WORKER

Ms. Gloria Ainomugisha



She provides support to the Finance Department

6.0. CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS LEARNT

During implementation we encountered a number of challenges. Some of these include:

6.1.1 Diminishing sources of funding

Due to poor governance and accountability in some LASPs as well as shifting priorities of Donors, many LASPs remain constrained with lack of resources and others have closed shop. By implication, this has created huge service gaps in the delivery of legal aid and access to justice. LASPNET will expand on its capacity intervention to include strengthening corporate governance accountability amongst LASPs and also consider initiating sub granting resources to community based LASPs on top of encouraging development of cost effective legal aid mechanisms.

LASPNET has however urged to LASPs to initiate cost-effective legal aid models and to also develop financial sustainability plans.

6.1.2 Continued shrinking space for CSOs

This was characterized by the emerging human rights and Rule of Law issues such as the proposals to Amend Articles 26 and 102b of the Constitution. This caused a priority shift with no planned resources especially that we had to diverge into advocacy and coordinating Legal Rapid response.

6.1.3 Lack of political will to pass the NLAB and AJB

Despite several engagements with government and other stakeholders, the NLAB and AJB continue to drag at the Executive and Cabinet level respectively. Without both legislations in place, the poor and vulnerable cannot easily navigate the justice system and

Judiciary's independence remains hanging in balance. To address this challenge through the GNPF, a resolution was made to consider introducing a private members bill for the NLAB as well as embarking on people centred advocacy.

6.1.5 Limited feedback on actions taken from LASPNET's reports on corruption and access to justice

LASPNET released reports on corruption and access to justice and disseminated the findings and action points to various JLOS stakeholders. However there has not been effective feedback from the JLOS institutions despite the constant follow up. As a result, this demotivates our corruption monitors who whistleblow such cases to LASPNET. In order to counter this challenge, LASPNET has continued to engage JLOS institutions in various platforms such as the Sub Accountability Committee of JLOS on issues of corruption.

6.1.6 Limited participation of regional LASPs in the Secretariat's activities

The capacity development of LASPs mainly benefited the National level staffing, leaving the staff at regional level at the peripheral due to internal LASPs selection mechanisms. LASPNET under the DGF new funding will address this challenge by engaging regional LASPs into regional based meetings and activities.

6.1.7 Slow pace of the implementation of Execution cases

The Execution of court orders was delayed due to many factors involved namely the advocates handling, the execution of police and clients who had to be first traced. This was further exacerbated by the limited knowledge by bailiffs on the processes of execution such as taxation of the bill of costs and extraction of decrees. To ensure speedy execution of court orders LASP advocates will first undergo capacity building on execution and ensure that files are completed with procedural aspect of court including taxation of bill of costs before transition to court bailiffs.

6.2 OPPORTUNITIES

6.2.1 Increased media visibility

LASPNET has increasingly consolidated its niche through coordination of LASPs to improve standards in the delivery of legal aid and access to justice. As a result, the Network has remained alive to its core mandate hence making it a reference point by the media in areas of human rights, access to justice and rule of law. In addition, LASPNET enjoys free airtime for both print and broadcast media and as well share media opportunities with the members.

6.2.2 Growing partnerships with state and non-state actors

LASPNET has continued to secure new partnerships as well as sustain the old ones. The partnership with JLOS institutions such as Judiciary, Inspectorate of Government and Police has laid fertile grounds for close collaborations between LASPNET and those institutions in enhancing access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized.

6.2.3 Widened catchment funding areas

Due to its credibility, LASPNET was successfully retained by its primary donor, DGF for the next 3 years. In addition, it boosts of other development partners including ActionAid, US Embassy, UNDP and ICNL with others such as IDLO in the offing. This has therefore enabled the Network to grow and effectively execute its mandate of coordinating LASPs to provide standardized services.

6.3 LESSONS LEARN'T

6.3.1 Building Coalitions and strengthening existing ones

The lesson learnt was that amidst shrinking space for CSOs, forming coalitions reduced vulnerability and reenergizes interventions. For instance, the pilot public private cost effective sustainable legal aid model project in Lwengo has provided an opportunity to replicate the model in other district local governments.

6.3.2 Effective implementation of the advocacy strategy

The effective implementation of the LASPNET advocacy strategy has helped galvanize, redirect and focus efforts to advance the legal aid agenda, set up a mechanism for partnership with the JLOS sector, public, key policy makers and allies as well as strengthening the information management systems to enhance case management.

6.3.3 Development of financial sustainability plans

During the reporting period, we learned that it is imperative for organizations to develop financial sustainability plans that can take them through a certain period especially after end of projects.

6.3.4 Consistent engagement and follow up on members

During the PLE visits, we learned that some of our inactive members experience challenges including lack of funds which limits their activeness to participate in the Secretariat's activities. The Secretariat intends to continue following up on all its members to ensure no one is left behind.

6.3.5 Simplification of advocacy messages and IEC materials for the public

Through our interaction with the public especially during radio talk shows and PLE visits we learned that we need to simplify our advocacy messages or IEC materials including posters on corruption and access to justice into local languages. This therefore enables our messages to reach a wider public who cannot speak English.

7.0. CONCLUSION

LASPNET has achieved several milestones in its thematic areas of research and advocacy, networks and coalition building as well as institutional development. This has propelled effective coordination of LASPs to ensure improved delivery of legal aid and access to justice. The Network therefore aspires to sustain the above achievements for the next 3 years under the DGF funded programme.

More focus will be put on building the capacity of LASPs through trainings in areas such corporate governance in order to ensure standardized services. We should however be cognizant that as the network grows, opportunism and pressure to deliver amidst shrinking civic space are some of the challenges likely to be encountered.

In conclusion, we are very grateful to all our development partners: DGF, ActionAid, US Embassy, ICNL and UNDP; the strategic partners as well as the membership with whom we continue to walk the journey.

8.0. GALLERY



One of the youth who attended the Launch of the SAYIT App making his submission.



Hon. Jacob Oluanyah, Deputy Speaker of Parliament (in grey shirt) receives the draft NLAP from Mr. Samuel Nsubuga, the Chairperson.



The LASPNET team led by the Executive Director pose in a photo with a delegation from University of Pennsylvania.



His Lordship Justice Rubby Opio Aweri (left) Head Inspectorate of Courts and Justice of the Supreme Court and Her Worship Immaculate Busingye (right) being taken through the SAY IT application by the consultant Martin Ojambo.



Mr. Felix Kyalo, the new Country Representative for IDLO (in grey suit) with the LASPNET Secretariat team after a meeting held on 19th January 2018 to discuss areas of partnership.



LASPNET staff together with the DGF delegation during the courtesy visit.



LASPNET's anti-corruption poster at Old Kampala Police Post.



Brainstorming meeting for the proposal development of one of our members organizations- UCLF.



LASPNET ED and NCPO at the ULS Awards Gala dinner.



A group photo of the participants that turned up for the 8th AGM at the Secretariat.



Participants pose for a group photo at the advocates training on the NGO legal framework.



LASPNET staff and Board member (Mr. Paul Kavuma) during the PLE visits at ULS/LAP in Western Uganda.

9.0. MEMBERSHIP FOCUS

Civic Response on Environment and Development (CRED)

Primary Interventions: CRED received a total number of 212 cases and all these were land related. There were 65 cases resolved through ADR i.e. at LC Level or office or Police etc. Whereas 2 cases were resolved through Court (including through ADR/Mediation) and 19 cases were referred to Justice Centres Uganda (12), LAP/ULS Masindi (1); Police (2) and BIRUDO (4).

Secondary Interventions: There were 12 community sensitizations held; 3 radio talk shows; 5520 spot messages; 1 National dialogue among others. There were 3347 (1274 Female: 2093 Male) participants in Kampala, Hoima, Buliisa, Kasese and Pakwach who benefited from all these interventions.

Expected Outputs of the project activity or organization. These include:

- Communities in extractives rich areas empowered to demand for transparency, accountability, equity and good governance in the management of land resources;
- Vulnerable individuals and community groups in the project districts supported to access land justice;

Outcomes realized from the project:

- The project supported the passing of the Buliisa District Land Ordinance.
- The project supported the restitution and protection of the rights of local communities that had faced unlawful evictions;
- The project created awareness for leaders in districts that are earmarked for the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline.

Challenges faced

- Rampant corruption in the judicial system which affects equitable access to justice;
- Shrinking space civil society participation in democratic governance continues i.e. POMA and NGO Act of 2016.

Lessons Leant

- Working in coalitions, in the sensitive oil and gas sector, shields HRDs from reprimand by government;
- Constructive engagement with duty bearers at all levels 'builds bridges' and enhances appreciation of alternative positions.

Recommendations

- Partnerships should be promoted as a winning strategy.
- Mediation has been identified as an important dispute resolution mechanism.

FIDA-UGANDA

Primary Interventions: FIDA received a total number of 15425 clients (12340 Female: 3085 Male). Majority of these cases were Child Neglect/Maintenance (1218); Land Disputes (688); Domestic Violence (672); Defilement (71). The least received cases included torture, assault and murder among others. There were 3597 cases resolved through ADR i.e. at LC Level or office or Police etc. Whereas 332 cases were resolved through Court (including through ADR/Mediation) and 722 cases were referred.

Secondary Interventions: There were

233 community engagements including community awareness programmes, Radio Talk shows, Press Conference, Capacity Building held conducted in Kampala, Kamuli, Mbale, Kapchorwa, Arua, Kabale, Lwago, Gulu, Kitgum, Moroto, Kabongo and Luweero.

Expected Outputs of the project activity or organization. These include:

- Holistic legal aid services provided to poor and vulnerable women, men and children;
- Community structures to provide legal assistance and protect women's rights established and/or strengthened;
- Sustainable legal aid interventions identified and piloted.

Outcomes realized from the project:

- Increased protection of women's rights (including prisoners) in the target districts.
- Enhanced gender equality through addressing the root causes of vulnerability and powerlessness of women;
- Increased protection of people's legal and human rights through innovative and sustainable frameworks to provide access to justice.

Challenges faced

- Harmful cultural practices such as forced marriages which are majorly instigated by the girl's fathers and community members who force them to get married expecting to get the dowry.
- Delayed funding which has greatly affected the numbers of people that were reached last quarter.
- Lack of security/safety for the Community Legal Volunteers as they go about their work in the communities.

Lessons Leant

- The community members still have a transport challenge to walk to town and report cases which explains the decrease in number of clients handled by the CLVS and offices.

Recommendations

- There is need to continuously engage with the Police and LCs during case mediations.
- There is need for more sensitization in the communities in these districts on issues of human rights and domestic violence.

Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU)

Primary Interventions: HRCU received a total number of 77 clients including (24 Female: 53 Male). Majority of these cases were Labour / Unlawful Dismissal (22); Land cases (10); Child Neglect/Maintenance (6). The least received cases included threatening violence (1); theft (1) and property rights (1). There were 5 cases resolved through ADR i.e. at LC Level or office or Police etc. Whereas 3 cases were resolved through Court (including through ADR/Mediation) and 69 cases were referred.

Expected Outputs of the project activity or organization

These include:

- Enhanced access to justice for both human rights defenders and other members of the community.

Outcomes realized from the project:

- Enhanced legal and emergence protection for HRDs in Uganda;
- Better networking and growth of partnerships;
- Access to emergency response and legal aid services by HRDs

- improved;
- Mobilized community members to seek their human rights;
- Support rapid response to HRDs in case of attacks on their rights and work.

Challenges faced

- Limited funding that doesn't allow us to take cases from the public to court;
- Language barrier. Some clients don't understand English and we also don't understand their mother tongues which makes communication difficult;
- Some clients are difficult to follow up with as they switch off their phones or are in areas with poor network;
- Some cases are difficult to refer as there are no organizations taking leads in particular issues for example men faced by domestic violence.

Lessons Learnt

- Most clients are not aware of their rights and they are also not aware of where to get help;
- People are scared to approach police and other government agencies for help as they worry they will either complicate the matter or charge them highly or support their alleged human right abusers;

Recommendations

- There is need for translation services in order for legal aid service providers to offer appropriate legal advice to the clients;
- Clients should be able to provide contacts of their next kin so that in case their mobile phones are off, the legal aid service providers are able to provide further

information or give advice as well as follow up on the matter;

- Encourage more participation of government in responding to challenges and educating the people of their rights.

Human Rights Focus (HURIFO)

Primary Interventions: HURIFO received a total number of 843 clients including (465 Female: 378 Male). Majority of these cases were Land cases (267); Child Neglect/Maintenance (157) and Domestic Violence (105). The least received cases included Rape (15); theft (1) and murder (18). There were 173 cases resolved through ADR i.e. at LC Level or office or Police etc. Whereas 4 cases were resolved through Court (including through ADR/Mediation) and 217 cases were referred to Police and 4 cases to ACTV.

Secondary Interventions: There were 26 radio talk shows on Radio Tembo FM in Kigum district and Ruping FM in Gulu district; 36 community human rights barazas conducted and 7 public dialogues in Palabek Gem, Paloga, Palabek Ogili, Padibe West sub counties in Lamwo district.

Expected Outputs of the project activity or organization

- 180 cultural and religious leaders trained on climate change and its effects;
- 60 clan and religious leaders trained on conflict transformation and peace building;
- 30 Mediation conducted on civil cases;
- 1000 IEC (posters) and 1000 copies of examiner (newsletter) on the rights of persons with disabilities designed, printed and distributed

Outcomes realized from the project;

- Rights holders are aware of their rights and demand when violated or abused;
- Vulnerable and indigents are accessing justice from the community-based governance structures established.

Challenges faced

- Violent land conflicts especially in Amuru and Nwoya districts which hindered implementation of some planned activities;
- Delayed court processes which discouraged some victims of human rights abuses/violations. Slow execution of court orders where judgement was passed.

Lessons Learnt

- Involving duty bearers in activities implementation which make them own the project and builds relationship;
- Empowering and involving the special interest groups in advocating for their rights.

Recommendations

- Advocating for fast disposal of cases in court
- Networking and collaboration with partners to handle serious human rights issues;
- Revise the template to capture other actions taken such as Legal Advice and Counselling.

Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities (LAPD)

Primary Interventions: LAPD received a total number of 105 cases. Majority of these cases were Land cases (31); Domestic Violence (19); Civil (12) and Child Neglect (11). The least received cases included Administrative of Estate (9); Assault (5) and Malicious damage (2).

There were 35 cases resolved through ADR i.e. at LC Level or office or Police etc. Whereas 13 cases were resolved through Court (including through ADR/ Mediation) and there were no cases referred.

Secondary Interventions: There were 3 Paralegal Trainings on the rights of PWDs held in Arua, Amuru and Lira and 102 PWDs (49 Female: 53 Male) benefited from the trainings.

Expected Outputs of the project activity or organization. These include:

- Increased awareness of rights of PWDs;
- Increased awareness of government officials at local government level on issues affecting PWDs;
- A number of paralegals trained and helping communities with simple legal matters.

Outcomes realized from the project:

- A significant number of PWDs in Uganda with legal challenges given legal aid;
- By-laws development at district level for PWDs;
- Change in attitude about disability by the public as a result of advocacy.
- A baseline report on inclusive education launched and shared with stakeholders.

Challenges faced

- High expectations by clients which many times could not match the speed at which their cases were being handled. There is more hunger for results than tolerance for the lawyers who do the work.
- There were also issues of interpreters in courts. Many of our cases were delayed as we could not find interpreters in time.

- We also had to do a lot of clerical work which largely slowed down the progress of the ongoing cases.
- Limited resources to follow up on cases especially in upcountry.

Lessons Leant

- Emphasis should be put on training paralegals across the country to handle issues of PWDs.

Recommendations

- The trained paralegals should be facilitated with transport and airtime to use in the execution of their duties;
- There's need to empower other legal aid service providers to handle disability cases. This can help us to reduce on the backlog of cases LAPD;
- The new LCs should be trained on issues concerning PWDs.

10. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Legal Aid Service Provider's Network Audited Financial Statements and Report for the period ended 30th, June 2018

3.0 MANAGEMENT ASSERTIONS ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30 2018

This section presents LASPNET management's confirmation of its statutory responsibility for information in the financial statements and information provided during the course of the audit.

LASPNET management is required according to its Constitution to prepare financial statements for each financial period that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organization as at the end of the financial period and of its income and expenditure. LASPNET management is responsible for ensuring that disbursements are utilized for the purpose of the organization. Management is also responsible for ensuring that the organization keeps proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, its financial position. Management is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organization.

Management accepts responsibility for the preparation of quarterly accountability reports submitted to the different donors, which were prepared using appropriate accounting policies and estimates in conformity with the funding guidelines. Management is of the opinion that all the accountability reports for the period ended June 30, 2018 give a true and fair view of its operations and that the regular accountability reports have been used as a basis for preparation of the income and expenditure statement for LASPNET as of June 30, 2018. LASPNET management certifies that there were no irregularities in the administration of the funds and that the financial statements of the organization for the period ended June 30, 2018 are free from material misstatements. Management further accepts responsibility for the maintenance of the accounting records that may be relied upon in the preparation of financial statements, as well as adequate systems of internal controls.

Nothing has come to the attention of management to indicate that the organization will not remain a going concern for at least twelve months from the date of this statement.

This assertion is certified by the management of LASPNET on^{19th} October 2018..... and signed on its behalf by:



Chairperson BOD



Executive Director



Treasurer BOD

JR and Associates

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Certified Public Accountants



Legal Aid Service Provider's Network Audited Financial Statements and Report for the period ended 30 June 2018

JR & ASSOCIATES

Certified Public Accountants

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4.0. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDER'S NETWORK (CONTINUED)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Legal Aid Service Provider's Network, set out on pages 01 to 16 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30th June, 2018 and a statement of profit or loss and retained earnings and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-Sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act, 2012 (Section 170).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants', Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code). We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Directors' report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

JR and Associates

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Certified Public Accountants

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDER'S NETWORK
(CONTINUED)**

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the Ugandan Companies Act, 2012 (section 170), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the company or to ease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

Auditors Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

-Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud/error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
TO THE BOARD MEMBERS OF LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDER'S NETWORK
(CONTINUED)**

-Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.

-Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.

-Conclude on the appropriateness of Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion.

Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.

-Evaluate the overall presentation; structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, in the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on other Legal and Requirements

As required by the Companies Act, 2012 (Section 170) we report to you, based on our audit, that:

- (i) we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- (ii) in our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company, so far as appears from examination of those books; and
- (iii) the company's statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account.

**Ocitti John
Managing Partner**






JR and Associates

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Certified Public Accountants

LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDER'S NETWORK			
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For The Year Ending June 30, 2018			
	Notes	30-Jun-2018 Amount	30-Jun-2017 Amount
INCOME			
Grants and Donations	7	1,648,867,528	1,183,742,690
Members' Contributions	7	6,100,000	5,576,900
Other Income	7	80,813,957	21,280,000
Total Income		1,735,781,485	1,210,599,590
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	8	526,688,883	519,440,400
Rental Expenses	9	7,500,000	39,000,000
Enhance capacity of legal aid service providers	10	111,090,456	174,898,040
Strengthen the coordination and synergies among LASPs.	11	34,090,900	23,087,000
Promote research and policy advocacy	12	64,827,200	24,858,060
Strengthen institutional Development	13	210,680,910	37,704,800
Contribution to the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy	14	110,789,900	33,175,000
US Embassy Project	15	55,847,000	-
United Nations Development Fund (UNDP)	16	11,781,800	-
The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) Project	17	48,551,600	-
Action Aid FGG II Project	19	58,763,450	59,711,200
Global Rights Alert	23	6,780,000	-
Land Commission Of Inquiry	23	30,644,000	-
ASF & USAID SAFE	23	18,000,000	-
General Administrative Expenses	20	120,010,259	49,709,788
Bank charges and commissions exp	21	4,574,963	3,131,982
Total Expenditure		1,420,601,321	964,716,270
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		315,180,164	245,883,320
	1		

LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDER'S NETWORK			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As At June 30, 2018			
	Notes	30-Jun-2018 Amount	30-Jun-2017 Amount
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1	656,309,204	302,751,058
Receivables	3	3,000,000	10,680,000
Rental Security Deposit	4	-	-
Prepayment	5	-	-
Inventory	6	-	-
Subtotal		659,309,204	313,431,058
Non-Current Assets			
Land	2	-	-
Motor Vehicles	2	-	-
Computers and Accessories	2	-	-
Office Equipment	2	-	-
Furniture and Fittings	2	-	-
Subtotal		-	-
Total Assets		659,309,204	313,431,058
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payables	27	97,952,715	49,874,400
Deferred Income	18	-	17,380,334
Total		97,952,715	67,254,734
Contributions and Reserves			
Accumulated Fund b/f	30	246,176,325	2,521,254
Prior Year Adjustment	30	-	(2,228,250)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	30	315,180,164	245,883,320
Net Worth		561,356,489	246,176,325
TOTAL (Liabilities & Net Worth)		659,309,204	313,431,059
			
Chairperson BOD	Executive Director	BOD Treasurer	



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