



**LASPNET**  
LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK

ANNUAL  
REPORT

**2018**





**LASPNET**  
LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK

# Annual Report 2018





## OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS 2018



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*





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## 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.

## 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.



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

A2J	Access to Justice
ACP	Assistant Commissioner of Police
AGM	Annual General Meeting
CEOs	Chief Executive Officers
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
HRs	Human Rights
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders
ICNL	International Centre for Not For Profit Law
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IDLO	International Law Development Organization
IIMS	Intergrated Information Management System
LASPNET	Legal Aid Service Providers Network
LASP	Legal Aid Service Provider
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NLAP	National Legal Aid Policy
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
ULC	Uganda Law Council
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme



## FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON

It's my distinguished honor to share with you the LASPNET Annual Report for the period July 2018 to June 2019. This Annual General Meeting marks exactly one year since the membership ushered us in as the new Board of Directors.

I am glad to note that our first year in leadership coincides with LASPNET celebrations of 15 years while coordinating legal aid service delivery in Uganda. We therefore ought to celebrate the milestones as we ponder on the challenges, lessons learnt and opportunities that lay ahead of us.

Reflecting on our journey in the last fifteen years, it is no doubt we achieved tremendous progress towards ensuring a *"Harmonized legal and policy framework for providing access to justice."* We have done this on many fronts through advocating for the enactment of the Children Amendment Act (2016). More importantly, we have also had a protracted advocacy for the enactment of the National Legal Aid Law and Judiciary Administration Bill. We firmly believe that our policy makers will soon enact the above laws in order to enhance realization of access justice for the indigent as well as strengthening the independence of the Judiciary as the third arm of Government.

Despite the sustainability challenges, LASPNET has significantly grown from initially a loose coalition of 6 members in 2001 to 54 Legal Aid Service Providers spread in more than 70 districts in Uganda.

Overtime, LASPNET has positioned itself as a trustable research hub in the area of access to justice and rule of law. Further, we have grown to be trusted with strategic partnerships on which we continuously build synergies and leverage to deliver on our mandate. We could not have achieved all the above milestones without the immense support from our esteemed development partners more especially our institutional donor, the Democratic Governance Facility.

***"As we beam into the future, LASPNET should focus more on extending its frontiers at the Regional level and beyond."***

I wish to purposely appreciate DGF for incubating us since 2008 and has continued to support the Network for now over 12 years. We are also grateful to our additional development partners that is UNDP, OXFAM-Voice, ICNL, USA and ActionAid. We would like to appreciate all our strategic partners with whom we have moved this journey including JLOS and all its



institutions; ULS, NSSF, ASF, ULS, Lwengo Local Government, ULGA, GNPf, EOC, Media and many others. Your support and trust in our cause has made us grow to greater heights.

Having raised the bar a notch higher, the Network should aim at consolidating its achievements and strive to remain afloat in the ever-changing NGO landscape.

Our call to LASPs in the next 15 years is that we need to move by the trends and embrace innovations in the delivery of access to justice and legal aid. We further encourage more capacity building for community-led initiatives so that access to justice is brought closer to the people. At the sector level, we need to prioritize transparency and accountability through strengthening both internal governance systems and structures aimed at ensuring proper management of donor resources.

On behalf of myself and fellow Board members, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate LASPNET for making 15 years and wish the Network a vibrant future. We would not have achieved the above successes without the invaluable support of Secretariat team under the able leadership of the Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa. I thank you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Oryema".

.....  
**Sandra Oryema**  
Chairperson Board of Directors





## REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With sincere gratitude, I wish to extend my greetings to our dear partners and members especially those who have trekked with us the 15 years' journey. On that note I convey special appreciation to our founding member organizations whose ideas led to the birth of LASPNET. These include; Law Development Centre-Legal Aid Clinic (LAC), Public Defender Association of Uganda (PDAU), the Uganda Gender Resource Center (UGRC), Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society (LAP), and the Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA). We are indebted to the first LASPNET Development partners, DGF the then Legal Aid Basket Fund for supporting the first activities in 2008. "We are because you believed in LASPNET as a baby organization and you have continuously nurtured it as its institutional donor."

In the reporting period July 2018-June 2019, LASPNET has continued to make significant strides in promoting A2J through coordinating Legal Aid Service provision. This has been anchored through its thematic areas of Networking, Coordination and Partnership; Research and Knowledge Management; Lobby and Advocacy as well institutional capacity building.

As a Center of Legal Aid excellence in Uganda, one of LASPNET's strategic focus in 2019 was to expand its level of influence to the regional level. I am happy to inform you that on March 6th 2019, LASPNET was able to join the East African Legal Aid Network. I hope this platform will increase LASPNET's relevancy and visibility through enhance knowledge sharing and best practices in the provision of legal aid and access to justice across the region.

Under Research and Knowledge Management: we were able to undertake and launch 4 groundbreaking researches which include; the *Assessment report on Rule of Law, Access to Justice and Security Needs of Refugees and Host Communities in Arua and Isingiro*; *Situational Analysis on Compulsory Land Acquisition and Assessment report on Implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy (2012)*. Our publications continue to shape policy formulation and reforms and as such have been highly utilized by various JLOS institutions, development partners, media among others.

Further, during the reporting period, we observed increased support for the enactment of the Legal Aid law by MPs. As a matter of fact, MPs now prioritize the discourse to enact the Legal Aid law than ever before building on support of our partners GNPF.

**“We keep our fingers crossed and hope that the Legal Aid law will finally be enacted before we close off 2019.”**

Another piece of legislation we have continuously advocated for is the Judiciary Administration Bill 2012 which aspires to guarantee independence of the Judiciary as a self-accounting body. As a result of our advocacy efforts around that Bill, LASPNET was nominated on the technical Committee for the Coalition in Support of the Independence of the Judiciary. We are still optimistic that the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee will have this Bill back in parliament so that it is passed before we close off 2019. We continue to support the implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy 2012, and through this we have seen remarkable impact made in making the public report incidences of corruption and holding system actors to accountable under our *“Break the Silence on Corruption Campaign.”*

Using media remains core to our work of advocating for Legal aid, A2J and human rights, therefore in the reporting period we embarked on mobilising media to strengthen on impact reporting. This was done through training journalists and media practitioners on human rights and A2J issues. Our conviction is that this intervention will create for us head-ways to utilize media in advancing our agenda. To support the journalists to effectively undertake their work, LASPNET in partnership with Chapter Four and Freedom of Expression Hub with support from ICNL is implementing the *“Just Speech”* project geared at promoting Freedom of Speech and Access to Information for journalists as well as providing them with legal support.

The Network has continued to maintain its current development partners (DGF, UNDP and ActionAid). We have also been able to implement new projects with support from OXFAM through hosting and coordinating a Voice grant and ICNL as earlier alluded to. We are therefore grateful to our development partners for the continued support and generosity towards promoting A2J.

In order to continue promoting human rights and rule of law and enabling the LASPs and HRDs to fearlessly undertake their mandate, LASPNET under the Legal Aid Rapid Response has engaged Advocates to offer legal aid to victims of human rights violations including, activists, journalists and HRDs. More still, to address issues of accountability and good governance which are continuously affecting our sustainability and existence, we have maximized the CEO’s and regional meetings to call upon heads of institution and managers to uphold transparency and accountability in the execution of their work. This is in addition to continuously building capacity of our members both at individual and institutional level.



**“Our central focus in the next 15 years should be on sustainability of LASPNET. We must explore strategies on how the members can sustain the Network’s work through regional expansion as well as initiate plans to establish a LASPNET Home.”**

The last 15 years have been very humbling, encompassed with milestones, challenges and opportunities some of which we highlight in this 2018 Annual report. We hope to leverage on that foundation to inform the future of the Network. Allow me therefore to sincerely appreciate whoever has been a part of our journey including the Membership and the Board of Directors at your respective levels of service; our strategic partners without mentioning each one of you lest I leave out some; our Development partners; the Media and the Secretariat team. My four years of service at LASPNET so far have been such a learning and humbling journey with you all by my side.

Our resolve and commitment therefore is to continue advocating for a strong and vibrant Network that is alive to social justice and above all the beacon of Legal Aid Service provision at both national and regional level.

Congratulations LASPNET @ 15!!!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sylvia", written over a horizontal dotted line.

**Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa**  
Executive Director

## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



**15** Radio Talk shows



**10** Capacity Building trainings



**4** Board meetings & **8** committee meetings



**4** TV Talk shows

**115** Legal aid advocates and Journalists trained



**5** Cluster meetings



**4** Press statements released



**6** Court orders executed

**119** Networking & partnership meetings

**6** Researches and Publications on Access to justice and rule of law

**5** Presentations made in different fora

**40** LASPs visited and reached during PLE visits

**7** Lobby meetings held

**5000** IEC materials delivered

## PICTORIAL



- 1&2 L-R A boy Child signs against the dummy report during the launch of the Crowd funding Software in Lwengo. It was launched by the Hon. Dr. Winfred Nabisinde, the Resident Judge of Masaka.
3. Some of the Journalists and Editors trained on A2J and Human rights reporting by LASPNET.
4. Mr. Martin Ojambo, the ICTO takes Mr. Isaac Bwalhuma, Legal Officer UCLF (Kasese) through the IIMS on 18th June 2018.
5. The Executive Director attends to a client during the Legal Aid Open Day in Jinja (Amber Court) on 15th March 2019.
6. A group photo of participants at the PRE-AGM A2J held on 24th October 2018.

## **A SCAN THROUGH THE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON LASPNET'S PROGRAMMING**

In the reporting period, LASPNET embarked on implementation of its new DGF funded 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."* The project implementation period is three years (April 2018-April 2021) during which LASPNET intends to contribute towards strengthened governance processes that respond to and protect citizens' rights; as well as increased protection and fulfillment of legal and human rights for poor, vulnerable and marginalized persons.

On the positive end, we observed that the coverage of Legal Aid has widened at the regional level. A Mapping study conducted by IDLO in 2018 revealed that 11 of the identified Legal Aid Service Providers had a national coverage, with their work spreading to all the regions of the country. The remaining 34 LASPs cover 96 districts in the country, with 19 districts from central region, 24 districts from Eastern region, 26 from the Northern Region and 27 from Southwestern region. The analysis shows that the Northern and Western regions have the biggest coverage of legal aid. In addition, with funding from UN Women different LASPs especially ULS/LAP, FIDA-U and Justice Centres Uganda were able to expand their reach to upcountry districts through opening up new Legal aid clinics districts in a bid to widen the reach of Legal aid services. For instance; FIDA in Kotido, Kaabong, Nabiratuk and Napak; JCU in Kasese and Bundibugyo; ULS in Kitgum, Pader and Kaberamaido and RLP in Lamwo district among others. This a step in the right direction in fulfilling LASPNET's mandate of coordination and ensuring that services are taken closer to the people.

Despite the above progress, the need for legal aid remains daunting because while new LASPs opened up in new districts we continuously see legal aid offices closing due to lack of funding and limited human resources among others. This affects the intended service delivery especially in areas where the services are supposed to be taking root. We therefore continue through our Lobby and Advocacy Strategy (2017-2020) to lobby and advocate for the enactment of the National Legal Aid law and Judiciary Administration Bill. More importantly, the Network's advocacy efforts have led to increased vibrancy and demand for the enactment of this Legal Aid law. The Chief Justice, Hon. Bart Katureebe, while presiding over the Annual Plea-Bargaining Conference held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019, remarked that the Legal Aid law is long overdue and that it's one of those pieces of legislation that need to be fast tracked. We hope that the Chief Justice's call in addition to many other, will catalyse the discussions at the National level to finally enact the Legal Aid law.

Whereas on the other hand, the Judiciary Administration Bill which is intended to guarantee the independence of the Judiciary as the third arm of Government was presented in Parliament. It was however referred back to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee for more consultation with stakeholders especially the Judiciary on two contentious clauses including the retirement benefits of Judges and Judiciary Administration Body.



That aside, due to the Network's continued advocacy on the JAB, it was nominated to the Technical Committee for the Coalition in Support of Judicial Independence (CISJI). The Committee will among others continue to advocate for the independence of the Judiciary as well as lobby policy makers to fast track the enactment of the Judiciary Administration Bill.

Further to note is the fact that in the reporting period, Parliament passed the Human Rights Enforcement (Act), 2019 whose main objective is to effect Art 50 (4) of the 1995 Constitution on enforcement of human rights. The salient features of this Act include among others; holding public officers personally liable for human rights violations. The enforcement of this Act is timely and will respond positively on the work of protecting and promoting rights of Human Rights Defenders through public and strategic litigation.

Another long overdue key policy passed by the Government is the National Transitional Justice Policy which seeks to address gaps in the formal justice system for post conflict situations. The policy is aimed at formalizing the use of the traditional justice mechanisms in post conflict situations as well as facilitating reparation processes to the victims. The effective implementation of this policy will contribute to enhancement of access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities hence complementing the Network's overall mandate.

In addition, through a public interest case by NEPTIL (Muhindo & 3 Ors Vs Attorney General (MISCELLANEOUS CAUSE No.127 OF 2016) [2019] UGHCCD 2 (25 January 2019), a landmark judgement was passed by the High Court on 25th January 2019, in which the Government of Uganda was directed to develop comprehensive guidelines to govern land evictions. These guidelines will ensure the protection and promotion of various individual rights especially for the poor and marginalized as owners or occupiers with a legally protected interest before, during and after the evictions.

**“The above positive developments notwithstanding LASPNET takes note of the increasing restrictions by government on Freedom of Expression which includes gagging of media houses; threats to suspend journalists and brutal arrests of activists.”**

We commend the Uganda Police Force for establishing Human Rights Desks. This is great achievement towards ensuring protection of Human Rights by Police. However on the other hand, we have observed almost a failure on the part of Police to produce conclusive reports of office break-ins. This has continuously sustained fear and anxiety among many NGOs especially those involved in elections and human rights. Also, we have increasingly noted that security threats against NGOs have shifted from merely break-ins or sieges to online or cyber threats not to mention the tedious process of registration and validation to which NGOs are continuously subjected to.



Furthermore, we have continued to observe more unexplained murders of civilians which has created tension among Ugandans. Many people are kidnapped and killed in cold blood yet investigations and prosecutions take ages and often not conclusive.

Additionally, several CSOs especially in the Legal aid sector faced transparency and accountability challenges leading to loss of funding. The challenges not only taint the image of the sector but also affect legal aid service delivery. As a Network, LASPNET has continuously leveraged on its advocacy mandate to respond to the concerns through press statements calling upon CSOs to uphold Transparency and Accountability.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In a bid to fulfil its mandate, LASPNET continues to strengthen coordination and networking of LASPs to ensure harmonization and standardization of legal aid service provision. This section therefore provides key achievements under LASPNET’s thematic areas which include; Networking and Partnerships; Lobby and Advocacy and Research and Knowledge management.

### 6.1 NETWORKING , COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS

- LASPNET entered into partnership with Voice OXFAM to coordinate a fund for 33 Voice grantees implementing Linking and Learning activities.
- Through funding support from ICNL, LASPNET in partnership with Freedom of Expression Hub and Chapter 4 are implementing a new project titled **“Just Speech,”** intended to support freedom of speech and protection of Journalists.
- LASPNET participated in the International Working Group meeting on the contribution to Transitional Justice to the Sustainable Development Goal organized by International Center for Transitional Justice in Brussels, Belgium on 6th June 2019.
- LASPNET joined the East African Legal Aid Network, which is a collective platform that coordinates all Legal Aid Service Providers at the regional level. This platform will therefore help to increase the Network’s visibility as well as provide benchmarking opportunities for improving Legal Aid Service delivery in Uganda.

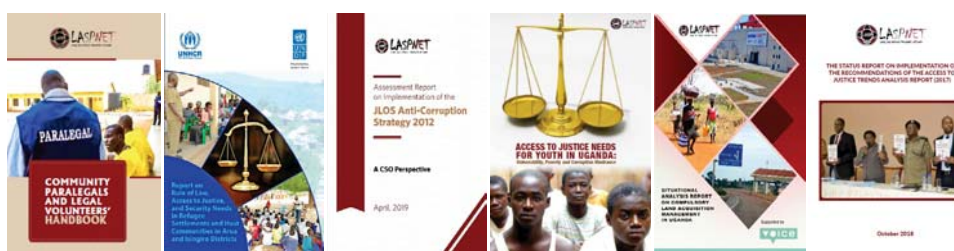


Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, the Executive Director LASPNET signing an MOU on behalf of Uganda.

### 6.2 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

LASPNET undertook key researches to inform policy and advocacy change and these include;

- Community Paralegals and Legal Volunteers’ Handbook;
- Report on Rule of Law; Access to Justice and Security Needs in Refugees settlements and Host Communities in Arua and Isingiro Districts;
- Situational Analysis Report on Land Acquisition Management in Uganda;
- Assessment Report on Implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy 2012;
- Status Report on implementation of the recommendations of the Access to Justice Trends Analysis Report 2017.



### 6.3 Institutional Strengthening and development

The Network conducted several capacity building interventions including training of LASPs and Lawyers on Business and Human rights; media training for journalists and editors and IIMS utilization.



## 1. THE YEAR IN DETAIL

### 1.1 NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

In a bid to fulfil its mandate, LASPNET has continued to harness its partnerships with both state and non-state actors to enhance Rule of Law, Access to Justice and Human rights especially for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. In the reporting period, LASPNET undertook the following Networking and Partnerships activities:

#### 1.1.1 LASPNET partners with Lwengo Local Government to launch the Crowd funding software

The Lwengo Crowd funding software is an online platform developed by LASPNET which is used to contribute funds towards the provision of Legal Aid to the indigent by the Lwengo Local Government. Following its development, it was later launched by LASPNET in partnership with PILAC and FIDA on 29th August 2018. The launch was officiated by Her Lordship Dr. Winifred Nabisinde and attended by over 200 participants including District Councilors, religious leaders, justice system actors, media practitioners, police representatives and residents of Lwengo.

Justice Nabisinde called on residents to be part of their own transformation in access to justice by helping the very poor in the community. She alluded to the Islamic faith where muslims pay alms the form of zakat to help the needy; and also quoted the Bible in proverbs 19:17 which states that:

**“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”**

She further noted that although government has the responsibility to provide legal services to all citizens, the legal aid law has not been in place hence the need for a tentative measure as a pathway for access to justice.

Mr. George Mutabaazi, the LC5 Chairperson of Lwengo applauded the project partners for the initiative that had over the last two years reduced pressure on the police, done away with brokers who were conning residents and shortened the long distances that many had to travel to seek justice



**Her Lordship Dr. Nabisinde launching the Crown Funding Software as Mr. Mutabaazi the LCS Chairperson of Lwengo looks on.**

Contribution to the Lwengo Crowd funding software can be done on MTN by typing \*165# 4 - Payments 4- goods and services, merchant code: lwengo-Reference code: donation- amount- pin number – send.

Direct deposits through the bank and credit cards can be done through Finance Trust Bank on account number: 21625300024 whereas those contributing online can use this link: [crowdfunding.laspnet.org](http://crowdfunding.laspnet.org).

Still in the reporting period, LASPNET in partnership with ULGA issued a call seeking possible partners to replicate the Lwengo Legal Aid Model. Out of the 5 LASPs that responded to the call, 3 were selected including FHRI, MCJL and UCLF. This was followed by introductory visits to three local governments i.e. Kayunga on 9th May 2019; Omoro on 16th May 2019 for Omoro 2019 and Kalangala on 23rd May 2019. These visits were intended to ensure project buy-in and as such all the three districts were able to embrace the project.

### **1.1.2 LASPNET and NSSF Legal Aid Open Days in Northern and Eastern Regions**

On 7th December 2018, LASPNET in partnership with NSSF conducted a Legal Aid Open Day in Gulu. This was attended by over 10 LASPs including LAP/ULS, ACTV, WCC and UCLF among others and 223 participants of which 76 clients received legal aid. HW Isaac Kintu Chief Magistrate Gulu, presided over the event and emphasized the need for legal education since majority of the population especially in the rural areas are ignorant about laws and rights. Other notable guests and speakers included Hon. Lyandro Komakech, MP Gulu Municipality and Chairperson Greater North Parliamentary Forum; Mr. Francis Odongyoo, Board Representative Northern Region and Mr. Phillip Oryonga and the NSSF Regional Manager.

Relatedly, on 15th March 2019, LASPNET in partnership and support from NSSF and DGF organised the Eastern Region Legal Aid Open day at the Amber Court Market Grounds in Jinja. The Legal Aid Open day was aimed at providing on spot legal aid

and Pro-bono services to the poor and vulnerable and creating awareness of NSSF services and compliance.

Hon. Lady Justice Eva Luswata, the Senior Resident Judge Jinja who officiated the event commended DGF, NSSF and LASPNET for bringing justice closer to the people and further highlighted the benefits of legal aid such as quick disposal of cases and the ability to promote access to justice for the poor and vulnerable. In her remarks, Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa underscored the need to enact the Legal Aid law because there is currently no National Legal Aid Scheme yet the number of LASPs is still low compared to the demand for free legal services.

Whereas on the other hand, Ms. Faith Kimuli, the NSSF Legal Counsel for Compliance and Litigation who spoke on behalf of the Corporation Secretary thanked LASPNET for creating such platforms that enable partners to interface with the people and teach them about their rights and compliance.



**LASP Advocates, Legal Aid Managers and Bailiffs during the reflective meeting on execution of court orders.**

### **1.1.3 Ongoing Execution of Court Orders Project Bailiffs**

LASPNET in partnership with the Uganda Court Bailiffs Association (UCBA) continued to implement the Execution of Court Orders Project aimed at supporting the poor and vulnerable to complete the justice chain through enjoying the fruits of their judgements. In the reporting period, LASPNET received 13 cases from LASPs such as Justice Centres Uganda, FIDA and UCLF. So far, 6 cases have been executed. Furthermore, a quarterly reflective meeting for bailiffs, LASP advocates and Legal Aid Managers was organized on the 26th February 2019 at Fairway Hotel in Kampala.

The meeting was aimed at providing updates on ongoing execution cases, assess progress of the project, share lessons as well as make practical recommendations to ensure timely execution of court orders. It was also used to introduce and orient new bailiffs that were engaged on the execution project. It was at this meeting that Mr. Paul Baingana, the General Secretary of UCBA urged fellow Bailiffs to be empathetic while executing cases for the poor and vulnerable.

He further noted that there is still a knowledge gap on the processes of execution amongst LASPs advocates and the public hence proposing that LASPNET should



consider developing a Manual on Execution to ensure appreciation of the execution processes by the different stakeholders. Ms. Francis Apolot, Legal Officer at FIDA commended LASNET for its Execution Project which has enhanced access to justice for the indigent.



**Hon. Justice Eva Luswata (seated in grey) with LASPs, NSSF staff, residents and market vendors at Amber Court Market grounds in Jinja during the legal aid open day.**

**1.1.4 LASPNET joins the East African Legal Aid Network**

East African institutions providing legal aid with support from the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) signed an MOU bringing together state and non-state actors to collaborate and cooperate in legal aid service provision.

The regional platform is aimed to strengthen coordination, cooperation and collaboration in delivery of legal id services in the region. This will be undertaken through shared advocacy initiatives for improving access to Justice in the region; sharing of good practices, undertaking research to inform practice changes, convening regional dialogues on legal aid and access to Justice among others.



**A group photo of participants during the East African Regional Legal Aid Networking Meeting.**

The signing of the MOU took place during the East African Dialogue organized from 5th to 8th March 2019 at the Kunduchi Beach Hotel and Resort in Dar es Salaam in



Tanzania. The event was presided over by Hon. Augustine Philip Mahiga, the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs. LASPNET was represented by its Executive Director Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, the Executive Director.

### 1.1.5 Enhancing Collaborations and Partnerships to influence Access to Justice, Rule of Law and Human Rights

Collaborations and Partnerships is core to LASPNET's mandate and as such the Network has strived to ensure that it contributes towards this aspect through, participating in various engagements organized by its partners, both state and non-state. A total of 119 meetings were attended by the Secretariat staff and key among these included the following;

- The second East African Regional Network for Legal Aid Service Providers meeting convened by IDLO from 5th to 8th March 2019 at Kunduchi Beach Hotel, Dar el Salaam – Tanzania.
- The Executive Director presented a paper on *"The role of the various duty bearers in promoting judicial ethics, integrity, accountability and crime prevention,"* at the Judges Conference held on 30th January 2019 at Serena Hotel.
- Participated in a consultation meeting on 13th May 2019 with a team from World Bank Mission led by Ms. Deborah Isser, the Lead Governance Specialist African Region.
- Attended a training for the Fifth Annual Plea-Bargaining Conference on 26th June 2019 at Imperial Royale Hotel convened by the Judiciary in partnership with Pepperdine University (USA).
- Participated as a panelist at the International Day in support of torture victims organized on 25th June 2019 by ACTV at Hotel Africana.

### 1.1.6 Strengthening ongoing collaborations and welcoming new strategic partners

LASPNET works through collaborations, networking and partnerships with both state and non-state actors to enhance Access to Justice, Rule of Law and Human Rights for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized. In the reporting period, the Network was able to consolidate its current partners including NSSF, EOC and UCBA. In addition, it also welcomed new partners on board as highlighted below;

#### OXFAM-Linking and Learning

Building on its previous project implemented in partnership with ActionAid and PELUM with funding from OXFAM Voice, LASPNET executed a new a partnership agreement with OXFAM on 21st May 2019 to host funds for the Voice Linking and Learning Project for a period of 6 months (April to September 2019). The project is facilitated by an external Consultant known as Strategic Link and aims at using innovative practices to linking and learning. It further focuses on amplifying voices of the marginalized groups as well building capacity of different grantees. Under this project, LASPNET coordinated an Outcome Harvesting training at the Pearl of the Nile Hotel, Jinja on 16th to 17th April 2019. The training aimed at building the capacity



of Voice grantees in recording and reporting of outcomes in their respective projects.

### 1.1.7 Impact reporting training for Voice Grantees

#### International Centre for Not for Profit Law (ICNL)

In December 2018, LASPNET with support from ICNL initiated a project titled “*Just speech,*” aimed at promoting Freedom of Expression and Access to Information for journalists and paralegal networks. The project is implemented with other partners namely; Chapter Four and Freedom of Expression Hub. The key activities include: Training of Advocates and Journalists on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information; Publishing of commentaries on media freedom in local dailies; coordination of rapid response for journalists; coordination of the East African Regional Stakeholders Dialogue and development of IEC materials including pocket handbook, car stickers and wrist bands on Freedom of Expression.



A car sticker developed under ICNL Just Speech Project

The Secretariat held several engagement meetings with strategic partners to discuss possible areas of partnership in advancing access to justice and human rights. These included; a meeting with a team from UK together with H/W Daniel Bwambale to discuss the Research Survey into African Legal Information Institute in operation and uses of online portals and resources; a courtesy visit by the USAID team in led by Dr. Donald Rukare to introduce Ms. Joy Searcie, the new Head of USAID Democracy, Rights and Governance and a pre-grant assessment meeting with the IDLO team on the prospective Community Justice Project and a meeting with Mr. Micheal Warren, Justice and Security Expert from Cordaid to inquire into the state of the legal aid and access to justice sector as a prospect into future engagements or partnerships.



LASPNET staff posing with development partners.

## 1.2 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

In the reporting period, LASPNET developed several researches which have increasingly been sought by key stakeholders in JLOS, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Academia, Development partners, media and the public. Some of the researches include;

### 1.2.1 Paralegal Handbook

LASPNET developed a Paralegal Handbook which is a simplified tool with basic information on how paralegals should execute their work in the communities. The Handbook covers issues such as Communication skills, Human Rights, Land and Property Law among others.

### 1.2.2 LASPNET launches Annual A2J report at the PRE-AGM Conference

On 25th October 2018, the Network held its 4th Annual Access to Justice Conference under the theme: ***“Tracking implementation of SDG16 on peaceful, inclusive and sustainable development through enhancing access to justice for the most poor and vulnerable,”*** at Hotel Africana. The event was officiated by the Principal Judge, the Hon. Dr. Yorokamu Bamwine and attended by 124 participants (71 Male: 53 Female) including JLOS institutions, Development partners, media among others.

In his key note address, the PJ highlighted a number of reforms being implemented by the Judiciary to realize SDG16, some of which include: a comprehensive case backlog reduction strategy where judges with pending judgments have been asked to take time to dispose them off; use of ADR mechanisms, plea bargaining, small claims to

expedite case disposal; use of specialized courts to handle Sexual Gender based cases and adoption of the Judiciary Electronic Case Management Information Management System to capture, track and file cases. The increased use of ICT in the Judiciary will go along with hastening services as well as minimizing opportunistic corruption in the Courts of Law.



**The Hon. Principal Judge giving the key note address at the PRE-AGM A2J Conference.**

Mr. Wim Stoffers, the DGF Head of Facility in his remarks commended LASPNET and its members for conducting evidence-based research on issues such as corruption, prison de-congestion and the rule of law. He called on government to show more commitment to address some of the access to justice issues including protecting human rights and bringing perpetrators of torture to account; enactment of the Judiciary Administration Bill; fast-tracking the passing of the National Legal Aid law; implementing the JLOS Anti-corruption strategy and strengthening institutions such as the Inspectorate of Government and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to execute their mandate among others.

The Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa noted in her presentation that as a practice LASPNET tracks access to justice trends on annual basis. She highlighted that in the reporting period July-June 2018, there were several milestones achieved by the Network and these include among others; increased engagements with policy makers to enact the Legal Aid law and establishment of partnerships with corporate bodies such as NSSF to conduct legal aid open days. However, on the other hand, she stated that the research findings revealed persistent barriers of access to justice such as uneven geographical distribution of JLOS institutions since they remain urban-based with limited local presence; high costs, technical language; corruption; poor staffing and remuneration among others.



L-R: Mr. Wim Stoffers, Head of Facility DGF and Dr. Sylvia N Mukasa, ED LASPNET and making their remarks.

The report findings were later discussed by five panelists who included; H/W Fred Waninda, Registrar Planning and Development of Judiciary; ACP Kusemererwa James, Head of department of Human Rights of Uganda Police Force; Micheal W. Wamasebu Ag. Principle Assistant ODPP and Head Inspection & Quality Assurance; Ms. Sandra Oryema, Head Legal Aid of PILAC and LASPNET Board Chairperson; Mr. Francis Barekensi, Legal Officer of ULS, Mbarara; Mr. Ibrahim Rukundo, Legal Officer, Uganda Prison Services and moderated by Dr. Daniel Ruhweza, Lecturer School of Law Makerere University and President UCLF.



The panelists were drawn from Judiciary, ODPP, Prisons, LASPs and Prisons.

Some of the key actions that arose from this conference include; the need to strengthen capacity building for Judicial and Police officers as well as LCCs to ensure improved service delivery; encouraging private advocates to embrace pro-bono, ADR and Plea-bargaining and supporting efforts to reduce on the number of children in adult prisons through age determination.

### 1.2.3 The Youth Justice Needs Report titled “Access to Justice Needs for the Youth in Uganda: Vulnerability, Poverty and Corruption Tendencies”

LASPNET undertook an in-depth study on the youth justice needs with an intention of profiling youth justice needs; assess youth vulnerability in the justice system and

propose key policy recommendations for streamlining justice needs for the youth as a vulnerable group of the population. This research was developed by Associate Professor Christopher Mbazira, the Principal School of Law, Makerere University on behalf of LASPNET.

The research findings revealed that majority of the youth are unemployed and therefore cannot afford costs of engaging a Lawyer; 45 % of the youths preferred the LC system compared to 17% who preferred the Court system to resolve disputes; youths believe that formal courts are marred by corruption and a lot of technicalities hence not being youth friendly and that female youths, are the biggest victims of crimes related to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SBGV). The report further notes that approximately 63% of the prison population is made up of youths who are often charged with vagabond and idle and disorderly.

The report was validated on 8th November 2018 at Grand Imperial Hotel and attended by 26 participants (14 Male: 12 Female). It was further launched on 19th December 2018 by Mr. Pius Bigirimana, the then Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and attended by 74 participants (42 Male: 32 Female) including representatives from JLOS institutions, Government MDAs, youth and media.



**A group photo of the participants holding a copy of the launched report seated in the middle is PS Pius Bigirimana.**

Mr. Bigirimana appreciated LASPNET for the informative study and appealed to the youth to remain vigilant and desist from acts of corruption. A panel composed of H/W Daniel Bwambale (Judiciary), Mr. Musa Modoi (JLOS Secretariat), ACP. James Kushemererwa (Uganda Police Force) and Mr. Ibrahim Rukundo (Uganda Prison Services), moderated by the Ms. Violah Kiwuka (Youth Legal Relief) dissected the research findings. The panel agreed to the research findings and urged JLOS institutions to internalize the report findings and simplify their procedures to cater for the needs of the youth.

It was during the same event that the Permanent Secretary recognized and awarded 3 outstanding youths with plaques for their effective participation in the US funded



**“Youth Against Corruption project.”** These included Mr. Drate Yasin from Arua who played a critical role in establishing a Youth Against Corruption Arua Chapter; Ms. Naggayi Noeline a youth Advocate from Refugee Law Project who was recognized for sensitizing refugees and host communities in Nakivale on where to report acts of corruption and Mr. Magomu Ibrahim from Bugisu NGO Forum who was appreciated for petitioning the authorities over a corrupt DPC who was later transferred from Mbale. The initiative to award these youths was a clear demonstration that LASPNET believes in youth as active agents of change in their communities.



L-R: The PS handing over a plaque to Mr. Drate Yassin from Arua and on the right to Ms. Naggayi Noeline as the ED LASPNET looks on.

#### 1.2.4 LASPNET develops and launches a Report on the Situational Analysis on Compulsory Land Acquisition Management in Uganda

LASPNET with support from OXFAM developed the “Situational Analysis report on Compulsory Land Acquisition Management in Uganda.” The report was validated on 28th February 2019 at Imperial Royale Hotel and attended by 52 participants (29 Male and 23 Female) including Development partners (OXFAM), Consortium members (ActionAid and PELUM), MDAs and LASPs. The launch was held on 10th April, 2019 at Sheraton Hotel and officiated by the Hon. Justice Catherine Bamugemereire, Chairperson of the Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters and Justice of the Court of Appeal of Uganda. It was attended by 119 participants (45 Female and 74 Male) including key policy makers, Members of Parliament and representatives.



Lady Justice Catherine Bamugemereire making her key note address.

This research was commissioned in November 2018 by the Consortium led by LASPNET to establish government’s assertion that land acquisition processes are delayed by Project Affected Persons. It further aimed at assessing the available and operational legal and policy frameworks governing Compulsory Land Acquisition (CLA) and inquire into the availability and effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms on CLA disputes and properties.

At the launch, Justice Bamugemereire called for the amendment of the Land Acquisition Act (1965) to comprehensively address key issues in land ownership. She suggested that the law must define who has powers to acquire land compulsorily, and also explain what public interest is, to avoid conflict when land is compulsorily acquired. She also added that this research was timely and would inform the work of the Commission.

One key outcomes of the report and launch was an open invitation by Justice Bamugemereire to LASPNET to present the report findings before the Commission of Inquiry on Land Administration and Management. In addition, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development has indicated that the report findings will be used to inform the development of Land eviction guidelines.



**A group photo of participants who attended the launch of the Situational Analysis Report on Compulsory Land Acquisition Management in Uganda.**

### **1.2.5 Report on Access to Justice, Rule of Law and Security needs of refugees and host communities.**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in pursuit of strengthening the nexus between the development and humanitarian support to refugees and host communities commissioned a study on Rule of Law, Access to Justice and Security needs in refugee settlements and Host Communities in Arua and Isingiro districts.

The study which is anchored on the “*Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy Programme*” of JLOS was undertaken by LASPNET on behalf of UNDP and UNHCR and commenced in August 2018. The Network assembled a team of multi-disciplinary researchers led by Associate Professor Christopher Mbazira and Rtd Hon. Justice Elizabeth Nahamya.

The study findings acknowledged Uganda's progressive development frameworks which makes Uganda the largest refugee hosting country in Africa currently hosting approximately 1.2 million refugees from mainly South Sudan, Rwanda, DRC and Somalia among others.

They further highlighted the positive developments that have been undertaken by the JLOS such as mainstreaming refugee issues in the sector's SDPIV, rolling out mobile courts, training of interpreters to address the challenge of language barrier. However, the report highlighted glaring gaps such as human resource deficits among judicial and security personnel, limited facilities at police and prisons, cases of SGBV, corruption and internal and external security threats towards refugees.

The above findings were validated on 11th December 2018 at Hotel Africana by key stakeholders including JLOS institutions, MDAs, refugees, host communities and LASPs. Following the validation, a launch was convened on 5th March 2019 at Sheraton Hotel and attended by 113 participants including Development partners, MDAs, MPs, LASPs and Media. The high-level event was officiated by the Hon. (Rtd) Maj Gen Kahinda Otafire, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Hon. Hillary Onek, Minister in Charge of refugees.

Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, the Executive Director of LASPNET appreciated UNDP and UNCHR for trusting LASPNET to steer the research. Whereas Ms. Almaz Gebru the UNDP Agency Resident Representative in her remarks implored the government of Uganda to adopt the report recommendations into the development frameworks such as the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

Relatedly, Mr. Joel Boutroue, the UNHCR Agency Resident Representative thanked LASPNET for steering and coordinating the research and urged that the findings of the report should guide the road map in the next stage of interventions to enhance rule of law, access to justice and security needs in refugee settlements and host communities.



**Rtd Maj General Kahinda Otafire launching the Assessment report as he receives cheers from Ms. Almaz Gibru (UNDP), Hon Jovah Kamateeka, Dr. Sylvia N Mukasa (LASPNET) and Mr. Joel Boutroue (UNHCR).**



Gen. Otafire noted that the lack of resources in the refugee response is not due to lack of political will from the state but due to the resource constraints and lack of manpower affecting Uganda generally as a developing country. He stated that the Ministry of Justice is working with the Principle Judge to dispense justice in the refugee communities. He further called upon different actors in the justice system to implement its recommendations.

A panel comprising of Ms. Oyella Vivian (OPM); Hon. Justice Duncan Gaswaga (Judiciary); Commissioner of Police Namutebi Hadijah; Professor Augustus Nuwagaba and Ms. Margaret Atieno (UNHCR digested the findings and made several additions and or conclusion. Key of the issues emphasized by the panel included increasing on the deployment of judicial and police officers; boosting economic empowerment programmes for refugees and host communities; scaling up mobile courts, training of judicial and policers officers on refugee issues as well as supporting peace building initiatives among refugees and host communities.

**“We need more capacity building initiatives to sensitize refugees on Ugandan laws. Further to that, refugees should be supported with to legal aid in light of their vulnerability.”**

Hon. Hillary Onek, Minister in Charge of Refugees.

Furthermore and in abid to disseminate the research findings widely, two regional workshops were held in Mbarara and Arua from 25th to 28th May 2019. The workshop in Mbarara was presided over by the Resident Judge, Hon Justice, Dr. Flavian Zeija whereas Mr. Sam Wadri, the District Chairperson officiated the one in Arua. Other key institutions that participated in these workshops included; OPM, UNDP, UNHCR, UHRC, Prisons among others. Later, two radio talk shows on Crooze FM (Mbarara) and Radio One FM (Arua) and respectively.



**A group photo of participants at the regional dissemination workshop in Arua.**

### 1.2.6 The IGG launches LASPNET Assessment Report on Implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy 2012

LASPNET undertook an assessment research to establish the progress, challenges and opportunities underlying the implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy 2012. The report was validated on 26th February 2018 at Fairway Hotel and attended by 26 participants (14 Male: 12 Female), including stakeholders from JLOS institutions who included: Police, Inspectorate of Courts, Judiciary, UHRC and LASPs. Whereas the launch was held on 17th April 2019 at Hotel Africana. It was officiated by the IGG, Hon. Irene Mulyagonja and attended by participants (40 Male: 35 Female) including Development partners and representatives from JLOS institutions.

The report findings were presented by Dr . Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa who noted that only 3 out of the 18 JLOS institutions had domesticated the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy by 2018. These include the Judiciary, Uganda Police Force and Uganda Human Rights Commission; Judiciary established the Anti-Corruption Division of the High Court and Customer Care Desks, Call center and Toll-Free lines and the adoption of automation systems by JLOS institutions.

The findings further also revealed the increased use of automation systems among JLOS institutions such as Electronic Court Case Management Information System (ECMIS) and virtual screens in Courts; Prosecutors Case Management System (PROCAMIS) in ODP and the SUMA App in Police.

In her key note address the IGG appreciated LASPNET for conducting the Assessment and noted that it will help JLOS institutions to reflect on their progress in the fight against corruption. She emphasized that improved service delivery should be hinged on efficiency and effectiveness and therefore called on all institutions to have internal strategies to root out corruption before fighting it in other institutions.



**The IGG launching the Assessment report as H/W Fred Waninda (Judiciary), Ms. Sylvia N Mukasa (LASPNET), Mr. Shem Byakagaba (SUGAR-TAF) and Mr. Esben Harboe (DGF) look on.**

The report findings were later discussed by three panelists who included H/W Flavia Nassuna Matovu, Inspector of Courts, ACP Anatoli Muleterwa, Uganda Police Force,

Ms. Harriet Angom, Senior State Attorney and Ms. Noeline Naggayi, Legal Officer RLP.

Ms. Racheal Odoi-Musoke, the Senior Technical Advisor of JLOS, while closing the launch, appreciated LASPNET for its outstanding partnership with the JLOS Secretariat through supporting the implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy 2012. She also added that the report findings will be leveraged on by the Sector to inform policy and practice change.

### **1.2.7 LASPNET contributes to the discourse on Access to Justice and Rule of Law**

In the reporting period, LASPNET made more than 10 presentations relating to access to justice in several fora. These include;

- Presentation of a paper on the planned reform of article 26 and related land law at the symposium on land rights and natural resources management convened by ASF and PROTOS, and held on 30th November 2018.
- A presentation was made at the Breakfast meeting for editors on “Access to land justice through Local Council Courts: How effective are they?” convened by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on Friday, 2nd of November 2018 at Serena Hotel.
- A presentation on effective Resolution of Land Disputes through mediation: A Legal Aid Service Providers perspective was made at the JLOS ADR awareness meeting for key actors in land justice convened by Judicial Training Institute, on 5th December 2018.
- The Executive Director made presentation on the International and National Laws that prevent and prohibit torture prepared and used as reference by the Executive Director at the Public Dialogue to Commemorate the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Hotel Executive Director at the Public Dialogue to Commemorate the Anti-Torture Day.
- A paper on the role of the various duty bearers in promoting judicial ethics, integrity, accountability and crime prevention was prepared and presented by the Executive Director at the Judges Conference held on 30th January 2019 at Serena Hotel.
- A presentation on the status of access to justice by vulnerable groups and presented by the Executive Director at the Public Dialogue during the launch of PI-LAC’s research on the Role of University Clinics in Enhancing Access to Justice held on 14th February 2019 at SOL MUK.



Right-The Executive Director of LASPNET at the FES Breakfast meeting on Land Justice, Ms. Rose Gamweya (ULGA) and on the extreme left is Mr. Patrick Tumwine

### 1.3 LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

LASPNET has increasingly strengthened its Lobby and Advocacy arm through undertaking several initiatives including continuous advocacy for the Legal Aid law and Judiciary Administration Bill; utilizing media to sensitize the public about laws and implementation of the Break the Silence on Corruption campaign.

#### 1.3.1 Progress on advocacy for enactment of the National Legal Aid Law and Judiciary Administration Bill

During the reporting period, LASPNET held 10 Strategic meetings to fast track the enactment of the Legal Aid law. Key amongst these meetings included *a status update breakfast meeting with Members of Parliament held on 9th November 2019 at the LASPNET Secretariat; A residential meeting on the Legal Aid law was convened from 11th to 14th December 2018 at Imperial Resort Hotel; on 6th February 2019 with the Principal Planning Officer of Corporate planning and Strategy Parliament; two technical meetings were held on 8th and 15th April 2019. On June 21st June 2019, a Pre-legislative scrutiny meeting of the Legal Aid law was held at Ridar Hotel. LASPNET in partnership with GNPf conducted 4 regional public consultation meetings in Mbarara, Mbale, Gulu and Kampala from 17th to 24th June 2019.*

**The above meetings provided stakeholders such as policy makers, drafts team, MoJCA, development partners and LASPs an opportunity to review, refine and input into the draft Legal Aid law before awaiting to be presented in Parliament for its first reading.**

Relatedly, LASPNET continued to collect signatures from tertiary institutions such as Makerere University, Nkumba, Muteesa One Royale University and Mbarara University in order to enlist citizen's demand for the Legal Aid law. In the reporting, a total of 94,646 signatures were collected out of the overall 1 million. Furthermore,

86 fact sheets on the were disseminated at the different fora including conferences, launches and legal aid open days.



**A group photo of participants at the Pre-Legislative scrutiny meeting. Hon. Komakech Lyandro (in the middle), on the left is Ms. Dorah Caroline Mafabi, Programme Manager DGF and (on the right) Ms. Annet Mpabulungi, Team Leader Rule of Law, UNDP.**

With regards to the Judiciary Administration Bill, LASPNET was represented in the Parliamentary session held on 9th January 2019 as they introduced the Judiciary Administration Bill on the floor of Parliament for the second reading. Prior to that, LASPNET had participated and contributed to the preparation of the second position paper providing a comparative study on the Judiciary Administration Bill which was submitted to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee by the Coalition In Support of Judicial Independence on 30th November 2018.

The Judiciary Administration Bill has since been referred back to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee for more consultations especially on two clauses namely; the retirement benefits for Judges and the Judiciary Administration Body. However, the Chairperson of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Hon. Okoth Oboth-Oboth noted that the NRM Caucus who mainly opposed the Bill need for more awareness about its intentions before its enacted.

### **1.3.2 LASPs convened through the Cluster Model to initiate and support the Networks advocacy work**

During the reporting period a total of 8 cluster meetings were held as follows:

#### **1.3.2.1 Combined cluster meetings held to discuss plans for 2019**

On the 30th January 2019, LASPNET convened a combined cluster meeting which was attended by several LASPs including FHRI, AHURIO, AAV, KCOPBA and IWILAP. The meeting was aimed at deliberating on key emerging access on justice issues as well as plan cluster annual activities. Dr. Sylvia Namubiru, the Executive Director informed members that clusters are think tanks and therefore should provide practical advocacy strategies for improving access to justice.



### 1.3.2.2 Gender and social justice cluster meeting

Another combined Gender and Social cluster meeting was held on 24th May 2019 at the LASPNET Secretariat. This meeting was attended by several LASPs such as FIDA, PILAC, NUDIPU and PLA which deliberated on the deteriorating violations against women specifically Ms. Nana Mwafrika. The cluster members resolved to write a press statement condemning the cruel and inhumane degrading treatment meted out to Nana. Following that resolution, the Network led by the Board Chairperson paid a courtesy visit to Ms. Nana and read out the statement to the media condemning the spate of human rights violations subjected to HRDs.

Some of the recommendations highlighted in the statement included: Urging Police to implement the provisions of the Human Rights Enforcement Act which provides for individual liability of public officers who are found culpable in violation of a person's rights and freedoms; advocating for the enactment of human rights defender's bills passed into law to protect HRDs in the course of their work as well as CSO continuing to undertake strategic litigation to ensure protection of Nana's rights. Ms. Nana also called upon Police to investigate and speed up hearing of her case in a quest to achieve justice.



The LASPNET team headed by the Board Chairperson handing over a package to Ms. Nana Mwafrika.

### 1.3.3 Utilizing media platforms and other forums to enhance Access to Justice, Rule of Law and Human Rights

LASPNET has continuously utilized various media platforms including: Newspapers; Radio and TV to advocate for Access to Justice; Rule of Law and Human Rights especially for the poor and vulnerable. Platforms. The media engagements include the following;

### Newspapers

A total of 3 commentaries on freedom of expression and access to information were published on 2nd; 3rd and 5th May 2019 in the Daily Monitor. The topics focused on included: the love-hate relationship between media and Police; how state laws, officials are stifling media freedoms and MPs drag UCC to courts of law. These were authored by Mr. Wesaka Anthony, a journalist with Daily Monitor and one of the participants in the LASPNET training on Freedom of Expression and Access to information that happened on 21st and 22nd March 2019.

### Statements

LASPNET together with Chapter Four and Freedom of Expression Hub issued a joint statement on 2nd May 2019, calling upon Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) to desist from its illegitimate restrictions on Freedom of Expression and its imperious calls to suspend 39 journalists on grounds of failure to adhere to the Minimum Broadcasting Standards. The statement further urged the Executive Director of UCC to immediately withdraw his orders to all the affected media houses. Later on, Lady Justice Lydia Mugambe, halted UCC's directive and ruled that it was illegal since it contravened with Art 29 of the 1995 Constitution which guarantees Freedom of Speech and Expression.

### Radio Talk shows

A total of 15 Radio talks shows were held as follows:

- On 8th February 2019, Mr. Vincent Mutonerwa, the Vice Chairperson of LASPNET together with Ms. Namuyanja Jamidah, the Networking Coordination and Partnerships Officer appeared on CBS to discuss the rationale of a National Legal Aid Scheme.
- Preceding the celebration of the International Women's Day, the Executive Director was hosted on KFM alongside Professor Maggie Kigozi and Mr. Joel Muhumuza of Financial Sector Deepening Uganda to discuss the concept of Women Empowerment in the lens of economic, political and social welfare.
- On 13th March 2019, Mr. Mwase Joseph, the Executive Director of Kamuli Community Based Paralegals/Board Representative of Eastern region and Ms. Stella Rukundo, Senior Relationship Manager, NSSF Jinja Branch were hosted on NBS Radio in Jinja to rally the public to participate in the Legal Aid Open Day.
- The Executive Director, together with the Retired Major Rubaramira Ruranga were hosted on KFM on 28th March 2019, to discuss the events leading to extra judicial Killing of a none Ronald Ssebulime who was allegedly murdered by police as well as the implications it has on law and order.
- The Executive Director was also hosted on Radio One Spectrum talk show on 10th April 2019 to discuss the findings of LASPNET
- research on "Situational Analysis on Compulsory Land Acquisition Management in Uganda."



- On 10th June 2019, the Executive Director along other panelists i.e. Mr. Xavier Ejoyi, Country Director Action Aid Uganda and Mr. Steven Okello, Ag. Executive Director NGO Bureau, appeared on a Hot Seat (KFM). The panelists deliberated on the issue of accountability in the NGO sector.
- The Executive Director appeared on Impact FM on 3rd May 2019 by to discuss the findings of the Assessment report on implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy.

### TV Talk shows

- Following the launch of report on the Access to Justice Needs for Youth in Uganda on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018, the Executive Director and Youth Activist Mr. Yassin Drate appeared on NTV to share findings of the report; efforts made to engage youth in fighting corruption and popularizing of the SAYITAPP.

Two launches were broadcasted live on NBS TV. These were on Situational Analysis on Compulsory Land Acquisition Management in Uganda held on 10th April, 2019 at Sheraton Hotel and launch of the Assessment report on Implementation of the JLOS held on 17th April 2017 at Hotel Africana.

Finally, as a way of strengthening its relationship with the media, LASPNET has trained over 50 journalists and editors on reporting impact stories in the area of A2J; Rule of Law and Human rights.



Mr. Charles Ssenkubuge moderating a talk show on SALT TV sponsored by LASPNET.

### 1.3.4 A Flash of LASPNET in the media



### 1.3.5 Break the Silence on Corruption Campaign

The Break the Silence on Corruption campaign seeks to empower the public to report corruption within justice institutions such as Police, ODPP and Judiciary. Further the campaign is anchored in the Corruption Monitoring Project funded by DGF aimed at supporting the implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy (2012). In the reporting period, LASPNET renewed its partnership with 5 radio stations i.e. CBS, Radio One, MEGA FM, Open Gate and Crooze FM. An additional radio station that is Impact FM was also included on the list. A total of 6 radio talk shows; 200 Jingles and 350 DJ mentions were played in addition, to dissemination of more than 5,000 during key events such as Legal Aid Open day; AGM and monitoring visits. Furthermore, through the reallocation budget of DGF, the campaign has been cascaded to Lango and Karamajong sub regions which are often marginalized in service extension.

From 3rd to 11th December 2018, the Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS conducted 4 regional monitoring visits in Northern, Western, Central and Eastern Uganda. The findings from those visits indicated that Police bond is still sold especially in Northern Uganda; court clerks continue to solicit money from litigants who are also made to pay costs for mediation and visiting locus. These regional visits provided platform to interact with the Monitors purposely to find out the progress of the corruption monitoring process, challenges and lessons to guide interventions in the implementation of and incidences of corruption within JLOS

In order to influence practice and policy change, the Advisory Committee has shared 9 institutional reports with different Institutional Heads including Police, Judiciary and ODPP. These reports have highlighted both incidences of good practices and

corruption incidences among justice institutions. The institutional reports have received positive appraisals from the Chief Justice; Principal Judge; Director of Public Prosecutions and Chairperson Judicial Service Commission although more response is expected in terms of actual changes and or reprimands taken in regard to incidences of unprofessionalism contiously cited in the reports.

## 1.4 STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LASPNET throughout the reporting period supported institutional development for both its members and the Secretariat.

### 1.4.1 LASPNET convenes 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CEO's Forum

The 3<sup>rd</sup> LASPNET Annual CEO's Forum was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Fair way Hotel. The meeting was attended by 47 LASPs and Development partners. The Key note address was delivered by Counsel Robert Kirunda, Lecturer School of Law, Makerere University who stressed that NGOs need to form coalitions and speak one voice in order to safeguard against attacks meted out to them in form repressive laws such as the NGO Act. He further, recommended that LASPs need to pursue diplomacy amidst confrontation by external factors such as security agencies as well as interest themselves with public interest litigation.

### 1.4.2 Conducting Annual Peer Learning and Evaluation Visits

The Board and Secretariat staff conducted PLE visits to different regions from 22<sup>nd</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018, where more than 40 LASPs were visited and later engaged into regional membership meetings. During the engagement meetings, LASPs were able to share their experiences, challenges and also contribute information for the Access to Justice Trends analysis report.

### 1.4.3 New Board members ushered in at the 9<sup>th</sup> LASPNET AGM

On 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018, LASPNET members convened at Hotel Africana for the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly (AGM). This was an electoral AGM that saw a new Board of Directors ushered in to serve for the next two years (2018-2020). The elected members include;

S/N	Name	Position on Board	Organization
1.	Ms. Sandra Oryema	Chairperson	PILAC
2.	Mr. Vicent Mutonerwa	Vice Chairperson	UCLF
3.	Ms. Sheila Muwanga	General Secretary	FHRI
4.	Mr. Anthony Mutimba	Treasurer	HRAPF
5.	Ms. Sharon Twikirize	Central Representative	APP
6.	Mr. Francis Odongyoo	Northern Representative	HURIFO
7.	Mr. Franco Barenkensi	Western Representative	ULS
8.	Dr . Sylvia N. Mukasa	Ex-Officio	LASPNET

In her inaugural speech, Ms. Sandra Oryema, the new Board Chairperson appreciated the membership having deemed her fit for the position of Chairperson. She pledged to consolidate the gains of her predecessors and ensure that the Network thrives to greater heights.

The AGM further provided an opportunity to LASPNET to honor the outgoing Board of Directors with plaques for their distinguished service for the period 2016 to 2018. In a bid to motivate members that actively engage in the Network activities, FIDA-U was awarded with a plaque of appreciation as the most outstanding member to participate in LASPNET programmes while UCLF was awarded as the best at utilizing the IIMS.

The Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule, Court of Appeal Judge and Honorary member of LASPNET in his remarks appreciated the membership for its democratic gesture of transition through electing a new leadership to the Board. He also urged the new leadership to always seek guidance from the outgoing Board

Further, two new organizations including Human Rights Center Uganda (HRCU) and the African Prisons Project (APP) were confirmed as members. Whereas, on the other hand, the Hon. Justice Duncan Gaswaga, Head of the Execution Division of the High Court, Mr. Aaron Besigye, National Coordinator Justice Centers Uganda and Mr. George Mutabaazi, President Uganda Local Governments Association and LCV Chairperson Lwengo district.



**The new incoming Board of Directors pose for a group picture at the 9th AGM.**

The AGM also appointed Osillo & Co Certified Public Accountants as the new institutional Auditors.





The outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Samuel H. Nsubuga (middle) handing over a certificate of confirmation to Ms. Margaret Sekaggya, ED HRCU as the Executive Director of LASPNET looks on.

“HRCU is extremely grateful having been confirmed and accepted to join the Network. This presents us an opportunity to work closely with other Legal Aid Service Providers to advance access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized.”

**Ms. Margaret Sekaggya, Executive Director HRCU**



The Executive Director making opening remarks at the Board handover ceremony.

#### **1.4.4 Orientation and Management training for New Board members**

The Executive Director making opening remarks at the Board handover ceremony.

Following their election, the new Board was oriented and trained on board management and corporate governance. The orientation was held from 22nd – 23rd November 2018 at Country Lake Resort Hotel Garuga Entebbe. The training was facilitated by Promise Consult International Limited. Further, a handover ceremony was held on 23rd November 2018 to usher in the new board and was presided over by Justice Remmy Kasule and attended by staff, strategic partners and Honorary members.



**The Incoming Board Members at Orientation Training in Garuga.**

#### **1.4.5 LASPNET hold Extra Annual AGM to elect Board Treasurer**

On 12th April 2019, LASPNET held an Extra Annual General Meeting to elect the Treasurer and recognize 2 LASPNET founders who included included Ms. Ann Kampire (FIDA) and Hon. Flavia Munaba (PDAU). The meeting was attended by 39 participants (17 Male: 22 Female) including LASPs such as RLP, PLA, FHRI, LEMU, ASF, CRED among others. During this meeting, Ms. Nakulira Grace from Refugee Law Project was elected as the new LASPNET Treasurer while Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, the Executive Director was given a recognition award for her relentless support towards the growth of the Network.

#### **1.4.6 Staff Capacity Development**

The staff were supported with a total of 2 capacity development opportunities. These included:

A Staff Orientation, Continuous Induction and Training for LASPNET Staff was held at Garuga Resort Beach Hotel from 11th -17th November, 2018. The staff were trained on Organizational behavior; team building; Financial Management; Management and Leadership; Communication and Stakeholder Engagement; Stress Management and Staff motivation; Project evaluation & Work plan Development, Research, Lobby and Advocacy Skills among others.



#### 1.4.6.1 Increasing efficiency and team work at the Secretariat through capacity development

LASPNET engaged a consultant on Organizational Psychology known as Mr. Khamis Musanje from Makerere University, for a period of 3 months to support the HR functions. This was intended to enhance employee engagement and team work which are a cornerstone for individual and organizational growth and performance.

The staff training enhanced the level of knowledge and skills to efficiently and effectively execute of respective activities towards attainment of organizational objectives. The training also provided staff an opportunity to interact and get to know each other irrespective of their portfolio hence promoting team spirit amongst staff. Out of the organizational capacity intervention, the Secretariat earmarked Friday evenings for “Social Hour,” during which staff engage in various social activities including singing, games and team building.

Other trainings extended to staff included Financial Literacy by Stanbic Bank and Target Plan Investment by AUP insurance.

The Lobby and Advocacy Officer, Ms. Cathie Nyanzi, Lobby and Advocacy Officer and the Director of Finance, Ms. Christine Nsambu participated in a Transformational Development Approach (TDA) training on Social Change towards Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy convened by UNDP from 2nd-5th December 2018 at Bestie Western Hotel.

The Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa and the Research and Knowledge Management Officer, Mr. Badru Walusansa attended a Plea-Bargaining training organized by the Judiciary and Perpedine University (USA) on 26th June 2019 at Imperial Royale Hotel.



Staff posing for a group photo during the Capacity development.



**Staff breaking loose after their longweek duties during the Friday Social Hour.**

The Executive Assistant, Ms. Nadhifah Muhammad participated in a Masterclass training on Executive Behavior and Advancement Boss Management from 19th to 26th January 2019 at Forest Mall Lugogo.

#### **1.4.7 Membership capacity development and training**

LASPNET was able to facilitated 4 capacity building trainings for its members as highlighted below;

##### **1.4.7.1 Refugees trained on laws and their rights**

LASPNET facilitated conducted a community based paralegal training for refugees within the refugee settlements organized by Uganda Law Society and facilitated by LASPNET in Bidi Bidi, Omugo and Imvepi settlements Arua. This training was conducted on the 29th-31st October 2018.

##### **1.4.7.2 LASPNET partners Advocats Sans Frontiers to Train Legal Aid Lawyers on Business, Human Rights and Corporate Accountability**

On the 30th and 31st January 2019, Avocats Sans Frontiers in partnership with LASPNET convened a training for Legal Aid Service Provider advocates on business, human rights and corporate accountability at Esella Country Hotel. The training was aimed at building the capacity of lawyers to not only provide adequate legal representation to persons whose rights have be violated as a consequence of the exploitation of natural resources, but also to navigate the security risks faced during their service delivery. The areas covered during the two days training included; Legal and policy framework on natural resources and their impacts on human rights; Principles of business and human rights in the International and Ugandan contexts; Enforcement mechanisms and Litigation in natural resource management.

##### **1.4.7.3 Advocates, Journalists Trained on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information**

LASPNET with funding support from ICNL conducted a training on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information for Journalists and Advocates. The meeting

which took place from 21st to 22nd March 2019 aimed at equipping Journalists and Advocates with skills and knowledge on freedom of expression and access to information and how to respond to violations meted out to them in their day to day work.



**Participants pose for a group photo at the HRs Training.**

The training was facilitated by experts on media freedom who included: Senior Counsel James Nangwala, of Nangwala & Reizida Co. Advocates, Dr. Wakabi Wairagala, Executive Director of Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA), Ms. Catherine Anite of Freedom of Expression Hub Counsel. Robert Kirunda of Kirunda & Wasige Co. Advocates, Mr. John Baptist Wasswa of Makerere University and Mr. Peter Okello, a Journalist and Advocate with Okua & Associated Advocates.

The areas covered during the two days training included; concepts of freedom of expression and access to information, overview of international, regional and national legal and policy frameworks, role of journalism in advancing human rights and democracy and guidelines for journalists covering demonstrations and protests. Case studies and scenarios on practical application of the legal framework were also presented as well as discussions on shrinking space for online communication, threats and challenges.

On 16th to 17th April 2019, LASPNET with support from Voice coordinated an Outcome Harvesting training at the Pearl on the Nile Hotel, Jinja. The training aimed at building the capacity of Voice grantees in recording and reporting of outcomes in their respective projects.

#### **1.4.8 LASPs supported on IIMS utilization**

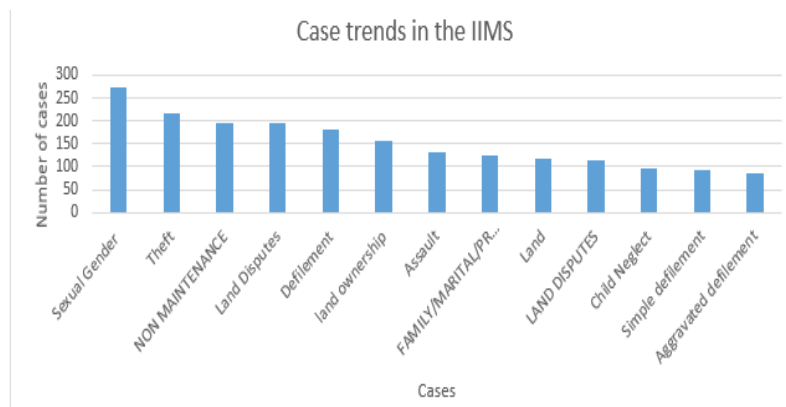
Currently IIMS has a total of 32 organizations enrolled although 21 organizations are active and using the system. In abid to improve usability, users have been from time to time contacted by phone and social media platforms like WhatsApp to assess their utilization of the IIMS and also troubleshoot any issues arising from the IIMS.



Participants including journalists and LASPs at the media training.

In the reporting period, LASPNET recorded 8793 cases on the IIMS majority of them being civil at 5747 and criminal cases at 3046. IIMS visits were also conducted from 10th June 2019 to 23 September 2019. The visits revealed that the biggest challenge is the staff turnover in LASPs since most trained IIMS focal persons vacate hence leaving behind a skills gap. Similarly, a number of field offices upcountry have few staff with some having only a driver and one legal officer. Given the magnitude of their work, there is no or less time accorded to the IIMS hence the system ending up not being utilized.

The following graph shows cases handled received on the IIMS



#### 1.4.9. Staff motivation through rewarding best performing staff of the year

On annual basis, the Secretariat rewards the best performing staff of the year. This gesture or practice acts as both a motivation and retention strategy to staff. The voting is done by staff and usually whoever emerges as the best staff must have aggregated the highest results from 4 quarters. The criteria used in voting includes:



Efficiency; Teamwork; Diligence and Punctuality. This year, Mr. Ojambo Martin was voted as the best staff of the year and awarded with a plaque and monetary gift. The second runners up was Ms. Nabiryo Emily, the Programme Assistant.



The Board Chairperson awarding the Best staff of the year as the Executive Director looks on.

### 1.4.10 LASPNET Board and Committee meetings

A total of 4 Board meetings were held in the reporting period to discuss policy and provide oversight function to the Network's affairs. Further a total of 8 committee meetings were held including the Planning and Programmes Committee; Audit and Finance Committee; Governance and Administration Committee and Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS. Below is the LASPNET Board and Committee Meeting Score Card for the period July 2018-June 2019.

LASPNET SCORECARD FOR BOARD MEMBERS: 29TH OCTOBER 2018 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019										
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	Ms. Sandra Oryema	Chairperson	2	1		5	4	61.3%	2	Adhoc Member-Planning & Programmes Committee
2	Mr. Mutonerwa Vicent	Vice Chairperson	3	1	1	3	2	76.0%	1	Chairperson - Planning & Programmes Committee
3	Ms. Sheila Muwanga	General Secretary	3	1		1	2	48.0%	5	Member Planning & Programmes Committee + Audit & Finance Committee
4	Ms. Grace Nakulira	Treasurer	1	1	1	2	0	54.7%	3	Chairperson-Audit & Finance Committee
5	Ms. Sharon Twikirize	Central Region Representative	1	1		1	0	30.7%	8	Member –Governance &Administration Committee
6	Mr. Francis Odongyoo	Northern Region Representative	1	1			0	26.7%	9	Member –Planning & Programmes Committee
7	Mr. Barekensi Franco	Western Region Representative	2	1		1	1	39.3%	6	Member –Governance & Administration Committee
8	Mr. Joseph Mwase	Eastern Region Representative	3	1		2	2	52.0%	4	Member- Planning & Programmes Committee
9	Mr. Anthony Mutimba	Member on Merit	2	1		1	1	39.3%	6	Member- Audit & Finance Committee
Total possible score			3	1	1	5	10	100.0%		
Advisory Committee On Monitoring Corruption In Justice Law And Order Sector										
	Name	Designation	Number of committee meetings attended	Committee roles		Number of Committee meetings attended	Number of events/ meetings officiated at (Trainings, PLE visits, etc)	Score	Rank	
				Committee member	Committee chairperson					
1	Mr.George Musisi	Chairperson	3	1				43.8%	1	
2	Ms.Cissy Kagaba	Member	0	1				25.0%	4	
3	Ms.Suzanne Aisia Musooli	Member	2	1				37.5%	2	
4	Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga	Member	1	1				31.3%	3	
5	Mr. Shem Byakagaba	Member	0	1				25.0%	4	
Total possible score			4	1	1	5		100.0%		
Key to the score colours:										
		Excellent		Very Good		Good		Trial		





1.4.11 Membership Participation Score Card

LASPNET on annual basis prepares a Membership Score Card which highlights the participation of LASPs in the activities of the Network. Below is the matrix assessing the participation of LASPs based on their support towards the Network’s events through making presentations, being a panelist, discussant, trainer or trainee or attending events on behalf of the Network. The categories assessed include: 1) General participation in LASPNET activities 2) Utilisation of the IIMS.

No.	LASP	Provision of Legal Rapid Response	Capacity building events (Training)	PLE Visits	Youth Justice needs research	Research on Rule of Law and Security needs	Extra Ordinary AGM	Pre-AGM Conference	Preparation of the Paralegals handbook	CEOs meeting	Cluster meetings	Last AGM	IIMS	Payment of membership subscription	Moderating events and or presenters	TOTAL	Rank
1	AFOD						1			1	1		1			4	
2	AAW							1				1	1	1		4	
3	ACTV				1	1	1	1				1		1	1	7	
4	AFCOD				1			1					2			5	
5	AHUKIO		1		1		1			1	1	1	1	1		8	
6	APP				1		1			1	1	1	1	1	1	7	
7	ARELLMOK															0	
8	ASF				1			1		1		1	1	1	1	8	
9	ASF												2			2	
10	CEDO		1					1					1			3	
11	CEPIL				1		1	1		1			1	1	1	6	
12	CIAP	1		1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1			9	10
13	CLA									1		1				2	
14	COLAID			1				1		1	1	1	2	1		8	
15	CRED						1		1	1					1	4	
16	CRB										1					2	
17	DCJ															0	
18	FAPAD		1	1			1			1			2		1	7	
19	FHRI	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	6	2
20	FIDA		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2.5	1	1	12.5	5
21	HRAPP						1					1	1			6	
22	HRUO				1		1	1					2		1	2	
23	HRUO						1						1			2	
24	IWLAP						1	1					1			3	
25	JURIA			1									2			3	
26	KCORPA		1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		9	10
27	LAC/LDC		1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	1	10	8
28	LAP/ULS	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	6
29	LAPD												1			2	
30	LEMU				1				1				1	1	1	5	
31	MCJL	1	1	1	1			1	1		1	1	1.5	1	1	14.5	3
32	MIFUMI		1							1			1			3	
33	MJU															0	
34	NLDIPU				1				1	1			1	1	1	7	
35	PAS								1				1			2	
36	PIDAU						1									1	
37	PILAC				1	1	1	1		1		1	3	1	1	11	6
38	PLA		1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	10	8
39	RETRAK				1	1					1			1	1	5	
40	RLP			1	1	1	1		1			1	1	1	1	9	10
41	SODMANN												1			3	
42	STREET LAW									1						2	
43	TLAP															0	
44	UCLF	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	6	1
45	UGANET	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	1		6	
46	ULA												1			2	
47	UMSC					1										1	
48	UPBU				1	1						1	1	1		5	
49	UYDEL				1	1						1				3	
50	WCC			1	1	1	1			1			1	1		7	
51	WVU		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1		14	4
52	YRL						1			1			1	1		4	

Key to the score colours: Excellent Very Good Good Total

Guiding notes:  
 \*Active Participation means being a participant, trainer, presenter, discussant, undertaking research, volunteering to attend meetings on behalf of or serving as a member of the board of directors  
 \*Feedback means providing timely responses to requests for information and involvement or participation, sharing ideas on how to improve legal aid service provision and the network in particular  
 \*A=Attendance (1 mark) \*Y=Yes (1 mark)  
 The highest possible score for General participation in LASPNET activities is 1 for each activity and for IIMS is 5  
 Highest Scores:  
 1) General participation in LASPNET activities: 1.UCLF - 16pts 2.FHRI - 15pts 3.MCJL - 14.5pts 4.WVU - 14pts 5.FIDA - 12.5pts  
 2) Utilization of the IIMS: 1. MCJL - 4.5pts 2. UCLF - 4.0pts 3. FHRI - 3.0pts 3. WVU - 3.0pts 3. PILAC - 3.0pts

**1.4.12 BOARD PICTORIAL**



**Ms. Sandra Oryema**  
Chairperson



**Mr. Vicent Mutonerwa**  
Vice Chairperson



**Ms. Sheila Nabacwa Muwanga**  
General Secretary



**Ms. Grace Nakulira**  
Treasurer



**Ms. Sharon Twikirize**  
Central Region Representative



**Mr. Anthony Mutimba**  
Member on Merit



**Mr. Franco Barekensi**  
Western Region Representative



**Mr. Mwase Joseph**  
Eastern Region Representative



**Mr. Francis Odongyoo**  
Northern Region Representative

**1.4.13 SECRETARIAT STAFF FOR JULY 2018 TO JUNE 2019**



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Dr. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa**

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 of the Network to external partners and stakeholders and the Board.



**DIRECTOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Ms. Christine Nsamu**

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



**AG. DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMES**

**Ms. Violah Ajok**

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



**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

**Ms. Nadhifah Muhammad**

She provides administration support to the office of the Executive Director and to the Secretariat



**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICER**

**Mr. Geoffrey Lutaaya**

He provides financial management and administrative support to LASPNET.



**LOBBY AND ADVOCACY OFFICER**

**Ms. Cathie A. Nanyanzi**

She provides support in coordinating Lobby and Advocacy activities of the Network.



**NETWORKING, PARTNERSHIP AND  
COORDINATION OFFICER**

**Ms. Jamidah Namuyanja**

She is responsible for maintaining and developing existing memberships and partnerships through communication and information sharing; plays a leading role in capacity development of membership as well as liaising with partners.



**RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE  
MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

**Mr. Badru Walusansa**

He coordinates action research in key areas vital for LASPNET interventions and Programme development. He also takes the lead in implementing the organization's Knowledge Management Strategy.



**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER**

**Mr. Martin Ojambo**

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 of LASPNET (IIMS).



**MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER**

**Mr. Richard Katende**

He supports functioning of M&E tools and frameworks, results monitoring, planning, reporting, supporting project evaluations, quality improvement initiatives, data use, data quality assessments, capacity building and feedback for program improvement, among other duties.



**ACCOUNTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**Mr. Barnabas Barongo**

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



**PROJECT ASSISTANT RESEARCH AND  
KNOWLEDGE**

**Ms. Achen Daphine**

She is responsible for the corruption monitoring and execution of court orders ongoing projects.



**PROJECT ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP**

**Mr. Kenneth Okao**

He provides support to the Programmes especially managing membership records and database. He further maintains the documentation and archiving system of the Network.



**PROGRAM ASSISTANT**

**Ms. Emily Nabiryo**

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



**PROJECT ASSISTANT LAO**

**Ms. Nakawombe Olivia**

She provides support to the programmes department in the docket of Lobby and Advocacy.



**PROJECT ASSISTANT VOICE, LINKING AND LEARNING**

**Ms. Lynn Atugonza**

She provides support to the Voive Linking and Learning project.



**PROJECT ASSISTANT-ICNL**

**Ms. Ruth Kwagala**

She provides support to the ICNL project.



**PROJECT ACCOUNTANT, LINKING AND LEARNING**

**Ms. Ndagire Jane**

She provides support to the Finance and Administration Department.

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**DRIVER**

**Mr. Eguru Ivan**

He provides reliable and safe driving services.



**DRIVER/MESSENGER**

**Mr. Leonard Kaye**

He provides reliable and safe driving services.



**VOLUNTEER ICT**

**Mr. Namwoyo Arnold**

He provides ICT support



**VOLUNTEER RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE**

**Mr. Saturday Chrispo**

He provides support to the Programmes Department.



**VOLUNTEER LAWYER**

**Ms. Martha Murungi**

She provides support to the Programmes Department under the OXFAM Project.



**VOLUNTEER SOCIAL WORKER**

**Ms. Gloria Ainomugisha**

She provides support to the Finance Department

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**VOLUNTEER LOBBY AND ADVOCACY OFFICE**

**Mr. Keitirima Duncan**

He provides support to the Programmes Department.



**VOLUNTEER FAIR GREEN & GLOBAL II**

**Ms. Latifa Namutebi**

She provides a supportive function to the FGG II Project



**VOLUNTEER FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Ms. Nalwiiga Scovia**

She provides support to the Finance Department



**VOLUNTEER EXECUTION PROJECT**

**Ms. Nakabuye Sumaiyah**

She provides support to the programmes department

**INTERNS**

LASPNET received 3 interns i.e. Ms. Charity Amoiti; Ms. Mbegbu Precious and Mr. Bulungu Davis.

**WELFARE STAFF**

Ms. Aketcha Esther provides welfare support at the Secretariat.

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## **2. CHALLENGES, RECOMMENDATIONS, LESSONS LEARNT AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **2.1.1 Gaps in adherence to internal transparency and accountability best practices.**

Many LASPs lack functional boards; sound financial systems and structures to minimize opportunity for fraud or misappropriation of resources. Due to this challenge some CSOs have been had to go through forensic audits, increasing numbers of qualified audits and with some CSOs losing funding. This has a multiplier effects of reduced service delivery.

### **2.1.2 Continued shrinking civic space for Freedom of Expression and Assembly.**

The operating environment is characterised with suspicion between CSOs and security agencies. In that case, many activists and HRDS have been brutally assaulted to the extent of violating their right to Freedom of Expression and Access to Information. For example, Nana Mwafirika a renowned HRD was beaten and eventually lost her uterus. Others have faced arrests and smear campaigns.

### **2.1.3 Continued delays in remittance of Subscription fees by the members.**

Payment of subscription is still not being effected in time by some LASPs. So far only 20 out of the 54 LASPs had cleared their dues as of 30th June 2019. This also leaves the Network dependant on development partners which is not a sustainable status in the long run.

### **2.1.4 LASPs still reluctant to engage in legal aid rapid response provision.**

This remains a challenge to some extent however the Network remain grateful to the LASPs that have signed up to our rapid response scheme and these include: LAP-ULS, MCJL, UCLF and NETPIL. In addition Legal Rapid reponse doesnt make provision for incidental legal costs such as bail money. Sometimes even when suspects are released if their relatives or friends don't mobilise resources they remain incarcerated due to failure to meet court terms.

### **2.1.5 Poor ethics and professional standards in service delivery by some LASPs**

During project implementation, we have realized that some that LASPs Lawyers have been alleged to ask for money from the indigent while some do not provide the quality services they are expected to. This information is shared with the network in most cases by the clients who fail to get the required service or even through feedback from radio talk shows. This leaves clients frustrated and leads to loss of trust amongst LASPs.

### **2.1.6 Geographical disparities in operations of LASPs.**

LASPs have continuously set up their offices in urban areas leading to concentration of legal services in the cities and towns hence leaving the rural areas neglected and in dire need.



### **2.1.7 Lack of a regulatory framework for Community paralegals.**

Community paralegals despite the tremendous work they do remain unrecognized due to lack of standardization and regulatory framework. It is important that the ULC brings into its ambit of regulation of CLVs because they play an important role in the provision of legal aid.

## **2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.2.1** LASPs should strengthen their internal systems to ensure transparency and accountability. Corporate governance should be incorporated, internal control mechanisms and monitoring as well as board oversight roles should be enhanced.

**2.2.1** There is need to implement the Human Rights Enforcement Act so that errant Public officers are held accountable for their actions of violations against civilians.

**2.2.2** LASPs need to enroll on the LASPNET rapid response scheme as well as embrace public litigation in advocating for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs).

**2.2.3** ULC should ensure timely inspection and feedback to LASPs to enable them fast track needed requirements to ease operations as well as bring into their regulatory framework the Community Based Paralegals.

**2.2.4** Government should pass the NLAP to ensure access to justice for all and LASPs should further intensify lobby and advocacy efforts towards the same

**2.2.5** LASPs and development partners should consider establishing clinics in hard to reach areas with no LASP available to widen the reach of legal aid services and provide for longer periods of funding rather than one offs.

## **2.3 LESSONS LEARNT**

### **2.3.1 Continous capacity building for LASPs on Corporate Governance and Accountability**

We have learnt that it is critical to continuously train LASPs on the concepts of Transparency and Accountability in order to ensure sound financial management and prudent systems that can minimize on opportunity for fraud.

### **2.3.2 Utilization of a hybrid team of Consultants**

During the UNDP and UNCHR funded research on Rule of Law, Access to Justice Needs and Security Needs of Refugees that was undertaken by LASPNET, we learnt that relying on a hybrid team of researchers from different disciplines is a good strategy to have credible and acceptable results.



### 3. OPPORTUNITIES

**3.1.1** Availability of funding opportunities for LASPs to expand their reach in far to reach districts as well as implement community justice initiatives. These include UN Women and IDLO.

**3.1.2** Increased support of MPs towards advocacy of enactment of the long over due National Legal Aid Law. This has been achieved with support of the Greater North Parliamentary Forum (GNPF).

### 4. CONCLUSION

LASPNET has been able to consolidate its niche as a coordinating entity of all LASPs in Uganda for the last 15 years. As detailed in this report, the Network remains alive to issues of access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized through contributing to 3 critical aspects of Research and Knowledge Management; Networking and Partnerships and Lobby and Advocacy.

Since this year LASPNET is celebrating its 15th birthday, it's the most befitting time for the Network to refocus on new innovations or approaches in which it will execute its mandate.

Above all, we are gratefully to our development partners, including DGF, UNDP, OXFAM, ICNL and ActionAid. We are further dignified by our strategic partners, both state and non state as well as the membership who have enabled us trek thus far.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES IN FOCUS

Under this part of the report we share with you key milestones of activities undertaken by some of our members as well as issues emerging for attention by responsible stakeholders. The information shared is for only organisations that shared their information during the reporting period. The rest of the cases handled have been reflected above under our IIMS system.

### Muslim Centre for Justice and Law

Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL) provides legal aid through legal and advisory support services, as well as undertaking outreach activities. During the reporting period, July 2018-June 2019, MCJL implemented various activities that impacted on 2974 Female, 4428 Male, 2481 children and youth and 10 PWDs from Kampala, Mpigi, Butambala, Mayuge and Bugiri who benefited from these interventions.

The Expected outputs of their interventions included;

- Improved access to justice of citizens within the targeted communities;
- Improved capacity of key actors to handle Muslim related access to justice issues and
- Human rights Awareness enhanced.

Below are some of the cases handled:

S/N	Type of cases handled	No. of cases
1.	Land	2179
2.	Marriage	628
3.	Child custody	453
4.	Defamation	9
5.	Pension claim	4
6.	Tenancy Agreement	4
7.	Child Trafficking	4
8.	Reckless Driving	4
9.	Pension claim	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,828</b>

Some of the Secondary Interventions implemented by MCJL:

S/N	Type of intervention	No. of interventions
1.	Sensitization by paralegals	3545
2.	Community outreaches	784
3.	Prison outreaches	284
4.	TV talk shows	9
5.	Social media	1729

Accordingly the organisation has been able to realize the following Outcomes Access to Justice Enhanced for poor and vulnerable citizens in the target communities.

- Duty Bearers trained on Gender and Human Rights Standards.
- Human Rights of all citizens are upheld.

### They faced the following Challenges

- Most of the respondents undermine court annexed mediations.
- Sometimes summons and hearing notices take long to be signed.

Unnecessary adjournment of cases and long hours of waiting at court premises. Their Lessons Learnt include

- Increased collaboration between state actors and LASPs reduces duplication of efforts and promotes efficient resource allocation.
- Increased knowledge and skills especially on legal and human rights has promoted the quality of service delivery to the poor and marginalized beneficiaries.
- Project interventions are based on emerging community needs and this has guided the implementation and has helped to address social legal problems in a timely manner.

### Recommendations

- Advocate for development of Guidelines for mediations conducted at legal aid clinics, law firms before a civil suit is filed so that the consents entered into are enforceable without filing a civil suit.

### Retrak-HFJ Uganda

Retrak delivers tailored awareness messages and provides legal support to children on the streets. It also influences policy and practice through strategic government and other stakeholder engagements. During the reporting period, July 2018-June 2019, Retrak implemented various activities that impacted on 2238 Female and 2744 Male from Wakiso and Kampala.



### The Expected outputs of their interventions included:

- Increased availability of community protection and justice (gate keeping mechanism) to vulnerable households.
- Increased capacity of vulnerable women and children to access, acquire and provide critical services.

Below are some of the cases handled:

S/N	Type of cases handled	No. of cases
1.	Child Neglect/Maintenance	133
2.	Defilement/Rape	28
3.	Theft	33
4.	Child Trafficking	32
5.	Labour/Unlawful Dismissal	8
6.	Idle and disorderly	69
7.	Physical abuse	62
<b>Total</b>		<b>376</b>

Some of the Secondary Interventions implemented by Retrak:

S/N	Type of intervention	No. of interventions
1.	Children Awareness campaigns	648
2.	Community education workshops	192
3.	Peer education	851

Accordingly the organisation has been able to realize the following Outcomes Increased number of children having access to justice information on the streets of Kampala.

- Increased awareness on child protection.

### They faced the following Challenges

- The frequent transfers of Police officers with adequate knowledge on childrens' rights.
- Limited space to shelter children who are victims of tracking.

### Their Lessons Learnt include

- Partnership with stakeholders such as Police and KCCA has improved the quality of service accorded to children who get in contact with the law.
- Strengthening community gate keeping mechanism increases protection and care of vulnerable children and households.

### Recommendations

- Deliberate efforts should be made to streamline communication between CFPU and CID about child offenders.
- Deployment to CFPU should be based on interest to work with children and families.

### World Voices Uganda (WVU)

World Voices Uganda supports grassroots communities through empowering them to seek for their rights. Their interventions are also aimed at promoting community based justice mechanisms.

#### The Expected outputs of their interventions included:

- Increased access to legal redress by victims of injustice and Human rights violations in five Albertine and Rwenzori Districts.
- Increased legal empowerment for poor and most vulnerable communities.

**Below are some of the cases handled:**

S/N	Type of cases handled	No. of cases
1.	Land	349
2.	Domestic violence	56
3.	Commercial	16
4.	Torture	1
5.	Unlawful dismissal	1
6.	Assault	1
7.	Unlawful dismissal	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>463</b>

**Some of the Secondary Interventions implemented by Retrak:**

S/N	Type of intervention	No. of interventions
1.	Radio talk shows	48
2.	Community outreaches	30

Accordingly the organisation has been able to realize the following Outcomes Increased collaboration and coordination between the different stakeholders in human rights promotion and access to justice.

- Strengthened Community driven models such as Bataka courts and Community Based Human Rights Defenders (CBHRDs). They faced the following Challenges
- Delay to formalize our operationalization within some jurisdictions by government institutions such as OPM, Police and Prisons.
- Limited responsiveness by government agencies and the project implementers to the concerns of the project affected people remains a challenge.

#### Their Lessons Learnt include

- Local community participation is necessary for promoting ownership and successful activity implementation.
- Stakeholder ownership is critical in effective implementation of the project.



## 6. LASPNET@15 AT A GLANCE

### Celebration of the 15 year's milestone

This year 2019, LASPNET celebrates 15 years of its existence as a Network providing strategic linkages and a collaborative platform for Legal Aid Service Providers (LASPs), also maintaining a common front to interface with the Justice Law and Order Sector and other like-minded stakeholders on issues of Access to Justice and the Rule of Law. The 15-year Celebration is marked under the theme: ***“Celebrating Legal Aid Service Delivery in Uganda, Consolidating Gains, Drawing on Lessons and Opportunities for Improved Access to Justice for all.”***

### Inception of the Network

LASPNET was conceived in early 2001 as a loose coalition to steer involvement of private sector players in addressing the issues directly affecting the poor and their access to justice. The Network was then composed of six legal aid service providers who included; the LDC-Legal Aid Clinic (LAC), Public Defender Association of Uganda (PDAU), the Uganda Gender Resource Center (UGRC), Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society (LAP), and the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA).

LASPNET was then registered and formalized its status in April 2004 as a company limited by guarantee to promote Access to Justice in close working relationship with the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS). Later in 2008 the Network was registered as an NGO and has since executed its mandate for now 15 years.

### Founding Directors

LASPNET was founded by 3 individual directors selected from the founding member organizations served in at the time;

- Ms. Theo Webale - LDC-Legal Aid Clinic (LAC),
- Hon. Flavia Munaaba - Public Defenders Association of Uganda (PDAU), and
- Ms. Ann Kampire - Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA).



**First Coordinator of the Network**

**Mr. Richard N. Muganzi** was the first steward of the Network. He currently works at HiiL as the Programme Manager.

**Why LASPNET was formed?**

LASPNET was established to enhance member ownership and participation in collective programmes as well as offer a platform of opportunities for development partnerships and strategic networking with all the relevant actors in the Justice, Law and Order Sector.

**The Network's growth**

Over the years, the Network as a platform for promoting Legal aid and Access to Justice has made notable achievements through coordination, Research & Knowledge Management; Networking, Lobby and Advocacy among others. For instance:

The Network has grown over the years from being hosted by one of its members Law Development Centre (LDC) to having its own Secretariat; from a membership of 6 organizations to 54 organizations and 7 honorary members of good standing who include Judges, founding members and strategic partners. Since 2008, the Network received its first funding from the then Legal Aid Basket Fund in 2008 which has now transitioned into the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF). This institutional funding relationship is now over 12 years. Since then LASPNET has gained trust of other Development Partners who fund targeted projects. These include: UNDP, OXFAM, ICNL, ActionAid; US Embassy as well as strategic partners such as Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), Greater North Parliamentary Forum (GNPF); National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA) among others. In addition to its collaborative platform, LASPNET has a continuously grown its catalogue of strategic partners.

To this end and given its experience in access to justice and advocacy for rule of Law, LASPNET has been recognized as formidable civil society organization in the area of partnership and collaboration as evidenced with the recent Annual recognition award from the JLOS sector on "Partnership and Corroboration Award 2016." Similarly, in 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 Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL).

**STEERING COMMITTEE TEAM 2010 – 2011**

 <p><b>Ms. Hilda Akabwai (Chairperson)</b></p>	 <p><b>Mrs. Barbara Nambi Bunya (Vice Chairperson)</b></p>
 <p><b>Ms. Cynthia Mukasa (Hon. Secretary)</b></p>	 <p><b>Ms. Laura Kanushu (Treasurer)</b></p>
 <p><b>Mr. John Isingoma (Western Region Representative)</b></p>	 <p><b>Mr. Jude Ogik (Northern Region Representative)</b></p>
 <p><b>Mr. Aaron Besigye (Central Region Representative)</b></p>	 <p><b>Mr. Adrian Jjuuko (Member on Merit)</b></p>
 <p><b>Ms. Berna Bakkidde (Eastern Region Representative)</b></p>	



**LASPNET Recognition Award from MCJL in 2017**

To celebrate this milestone, the Network intends to hold a series of activities including a commemorative dinner; bringing together various partners, friends and stakeholders that have made a contribution to the growth of the Network; publishing a LASPNET Magazine; giving back to society through undertaking community legal awareness outreaches at Nakawa Market and Luzira Prisons; among others.

The Corporate dinner to be held on 25th October 2019 will be attended by key stakeholders including: Founder members, Membership; development partners; Strategic partners and Justice Law and Order Sector actors, among others that have played various roles in the establishment of the Network and steering it to its current position.

LASPNET would like to extend its sincere appreciation for the singular efforts of its Founder Directors, the Board of Directors, Legal Aid Service Providers, Stakeholders, Development Partners for their contribution in the growth of the Network for the past 15 years in Legal Aid Service Delivery for the poor and vulnerable in Uganda.





## 7. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Page : 6

**LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK  
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019**

**MANAGEMENT ASSERTION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.**

This section represents 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 assurance 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 year ended on June 30, 2019 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, 2019. LASPNET management certifies that there were no irregularities in the administration of the funds and that the financial statements of the organization for the year ended June 30, 2019 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 24/10/2019 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman 

Treasurer 

Executive Director 

Date 24/10/2019

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT****To the Members of Legal Aid Service Provider's Network (LASPNET)****Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements****Opinion**

We have audited the Financial statements of Legal Aid Service Providers Network set out on pages 1 to 26 which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position as at 30th June 2019, statement of changes in accumulated fund, statement of cash flows and the notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Legal Aid Service Providers Network as at 30th June 2019 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the requirements of the Ugandan NGO Act.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and Guidelines issued by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU). 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 Legal Aid Service Providers Network in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Responsibilities of the Management and Those Charged with Governance of the Financial Statements.**

The Management is responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements in accordance with the IFRSs And for such internal control as the management determines is necessary to enable preparation of the Financial Statement that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial statements as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of 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 material if, individually or in aggregate they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the 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 fund accountability statement, whether due to fraud or 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.



# Osillo & Co

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT.....contd

- > 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 Organization's internal control.
- > Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- > Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events and conditions that may cast doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw your attention in our auditor's 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 the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- > Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether 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.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may be reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

### Key Audit Matters

There were no key Audit matters to be reported under Audit during the year.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should be communicated in our report because of the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the NGO Act 2017, Sec 30(4) we report to you based on our audit, that:

1. We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit;
2. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the NGO so far as appears from our examination of those books; and
3. The NGO's statement of financial position and statement of comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is CPA Justin Keith Osillo - P.0147

  
CPA Justin Keith Osillo  
Osillo & Co

Date: 24 October 2018

**LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK  
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019**

	Notes	2019 Actual Ushs.	2018 Actual Ushs.
<b>Incomes</b>			
Grants.	3	3 998 487 360	1 648 867 528
Member's Contributions.		6 450 000	6 100 000
Other income	3	129 814 157	80 813 957
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>4 134 751 517</b>	<b>1 735 781 485</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Collaborative, Advocacy platforms to enhance rule of law, legal aid and access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised in Uganda			
salaries,wages & Benefits - DGF	4	999 554 880	526 688 883
Rental Expenses - DGF	5	29 000 000	7 500 000
Enhance Capacity of Legal aid service providers - DGF	6	238 316 030	111 090 456
strengthen the coordination and synergies among LASPs - DGF	7		
To promote research and policy advocacy - DGF	8	3 826 500	34 090 900
Strengthen the institutional Development - DGF	9	91 291 300	64 827 200
contribution to the JLOS Anti -corruption strategy - DGF	10	168 933 830	210 680 910
US Embassy project	11	110 506 800	110 789 900
United Nation Development fund (UNDP)	12	7 860 000	55 847 000
The International Centre for Not -for -Profit Law (ICNL) project	13	470 882 065	11 781 800
Action Aid FGG II Project	14	59 320 719	48 551 600
Oxfam Linking and learning	15	12 389 434	58 763 450
Oxfam- Voice	22	77 437 078	-
Other expenses ( partnerships)	23	657 008 050	-
General Administrative Expenses	17	74 768 792	55 404 000
Bank charges and commissions expenses	15	98 323 929	120 010 259
	16	15 561 364	4 574 963
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>3 114 980 771</b>	<b>1 420 601 321</b>
<b>Surplus/ Deficit for the year</b>		<b>1 019 770 746</b>	<b>315 180 164</b>

The surplus represents continuous projects





**LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK  
REGISTRATION NUMBER  
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2019**

	Notes	2019 Ushs.	2018 Ushs.
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment		-	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Bank balance	2	1 634 353 387	656 309 204
Trade Receivables & Other receivables		-	3 000 000
		<u>1 634 353 387</u>	<u>659 309 204</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u><b>1 634 353 387</b></u>	<u><b>659 309 204</b></u>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Capital Fund b/f	26	561 356 489	246 176 325
Surplus for the year		1 019 770 746	315 180 164
		<u>1 581 127 235</u>	<u>561 356 489</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable		53 226 152	97 952 715
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<u><b>1 634 353 387</b></u>	<u><b>659 309 204</b></u>

The report of the Auditors is on Page 6

The notes on Pages 15 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The accounts were approved by the board on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2019

..... Chairperson

..... Executive Director

..... BOD Treasurer



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