

2016 Annual Report



LASPNET
LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK

www.laspnet.org

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.



ACRONYMS

ACCU	Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda
ACTV	African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
AGM	Annual General Meeting
CEPIL	Centre for Public Interest Law
CISJI	Coalition In Support of Judicial Independence
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
EOC	Equal Opportunities Commission
FHRI	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
FIDA	Uganda Association of Women Lawyers
GIS	Geographical Information System
HRDS	Human Rights Defenders
IGG	Inspectorate General of Government
IIMS	Integrated Information Management System
JLOS	Justice Law and Order Sector
LASPNET	Legal Aid Service Providers Network
LASPS	Legal Aid Service Providers
MMT	Means and Merit Test
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
NUDIPU	National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda
PAS	Paralegal Advisory Services
POMA	Public Order Management Act
PILAC	Public Interest Law Clinic
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
UCBA	Uganda Court Bailiffs Association
UCLF	Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity
ULGA	Uganda Local Governments Association

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1.0 FOREWORD BY CHAIRPERSON



I am profoundly honored to share with you LASPNET's Annual report for the period **July 2016 to June 2017**. This is our first year of the Board as elected on 28th October 2016. This report details some of our milestones as we undertook to fulfill our commitment of promoting access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized as well as improving service standards in the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS). We celebrate the new partners that have come on Board such as ActionAid Uganda to support the protection of human rights defenders and activists; US Embassy to support accountability and transparency and UNDP which has provided us with the opportunity to support the Justice Law and Order Sector in the country programme titled "Rule of Law and Constitutional Democracy".

The Network has also managed to establish new partnerships with different

state and non-state actors such as the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), Uganda Court Bailiffs Association (UCBA), Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA) and the Coalition In Support of Judicial Independence (CISJI). To my strong conviction, with such partners on board, LASPNET will widen on its operationalization to reach out to the indigent.

This year, LASPNET has been able to consolidate itself as a central influencer on issues of access to justice and rule of law. In its second year into the implementation of its strategic plan (2015-2020), LASPNET received the JLOS recognition award, under Partnerships and Collaboration.

LASPNET has also joined efforts to support the implementation of the JLOS anti-corruption strategy, 2012 through monitoring of corruption in the justice sector as whistle blowers. We hope that such efforts will contribute to the national policy of zero tolerance to corruption. We are spearheading initiatives like corruption monitoring, analysis of access to justice trends, among others.

Through lobbying and advocacy, LASPNET has made great strides in engaging policy makers and civil society actors on consensus building and policy reform especially on matters of social justice, gender, land and human rights.

With a revitalized IIMS, the membership can now leverage the new functionalities of the IIMS which include the Means & Merit Test (MMT), Geographical Information System (GIS), Mobile and Web Social Application and the Off-line. We are therefore responding to the new era of using information technology to reach out easily to our users.

As the Network continues to execute its mandate, I would like to appreciate all those that have journeyed with us, especially the Development partners, the Board, the membership, stakeholders and the Secretariat.

Yours Sincerely,



Samuel H. Nsubuga
Chairperson of the Board

2.0 FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LASPNET is delighted to share with you the 2016-2017 annual report. It's now over two years and 8 months of serving as the Executive Director, providing leadership in implementing our strategic plan since its inception in October 2015. For the reporting period of July 2016 to June 2017, LASPNET has maintained a central role of coordinating, lobbying and advocating, strengthening collaboration and partnerships as well as innovating new ways to ensure access to Justice for the poor and vulnerable.

Building on the DGF supported project intended to Strengthen Capacity and Advocacy for the Standardization of Legal Aid Services in Uganda through improving efficiency, effectiveness, Standards and Sustainability of Legal Aid through Research, Advocacy and Innovation, we have registered a number of mile stones.

With the continued support from the DGF, we have continued to implement our capacity development strategy with institutionalization of trainings like Trial Advocacy, Monitoring and Evaluation, among others; we have voiced out issues affecting access to justice and human rights using lobbying and multimedia strategies. LASPNET has continued to spearhead efforts aimed at lobbying for policy makers and government to commit to passing of the National Legal Aid Policy and Bill. To effectuate the above, an Advocacy Strategy was developed to provide a road map on how LASPNET and other stakeholders can achieve on this key policy. Our media engagement has been robust and we have periodically featured in print, audio, TV and social media. The media space provided has made us a trusted, credible source of information on issues on access to justice, rule of law and human rights with several platforms provided for free even during prime time. This way we have greatly contributed to influencing the needed change on critical issues of governance in our country. Further, LASPNET has embarked on documenting emerging issues on access

to justice which will be disseminated at the Annual State of Access to Justice Conference in October 2017; we have increased our collaboration with the Justice, Law and Order Sector in supporting the implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy through piloting a campaign to *break the silence on corruption*. In addition the network has extended its networking and partnerships to institutions like the Equal Opportunities Commission to popularize the commission's work, National Social Security Fund to make our members understand and adhere to the social sector legal regime; Uganda Court Bailiffs Association to complete the chain of justice through execution of court orders , Lwengo District Local government for cost effective legal aid and the Coalition in Support of Judicial Independence as well as the Civil Society Coalition in Defense of the Constitution, with key focus on sustainability, leveraging comparative advantages, and increasing legal awareness. Furthermore, we have tested new innovations with our partners through the inauguration of the Innovations Conference where we have showcased innovations and best

practices in access to justice which are replicable to other service providers.

Our IIMS has had an upgrade to facilitate case referral, standards and an opportunity for LASPs without regular access to internet to enhance data management. This enables us to receive and analyze trends in legal aid service provision and share our policy recommendations with the JLOS and other targeted Partners.

Due to the shrinking funding space for development work, we have widened our catchment funding areas to extend to other partners. I am happy to share that in the reporting period we have brought on board new partners like ActionAid Uganda who have supported the Fair Green and Global project II aimed at promoting and respecting human rights as well as providing legal aid to human rights defenders, activists and communities faced with land evictions and other rights violations; US Embassy on Transparency and Accountability where we are going to use a youth focus approach to whistle blowing in JLOS; the UNDP – Government of Uganda partnership led initiative which is on “The Rule of Law and Constitutional Amendment.” We are also working hard to ensure reduction on donor dependency through a robust sustainability plan, a provisional strategy was approved by the Board and we shall embark on its implementation in the year ahead.

Suffice to note that the year has also not been one without challenges. The continued lack of government commitment to pass the NLAP amidst overwhelming rights violations such as the land evictions affects many in failing to access justice; the shrinking space for engagement and emerging new governance challenges such as the proposed amendments to the constitution (Article 26 on land and

Article 102(b) on the age limit call for LASPNET to engage at a more strategic level and collaboration as well as proper organization amidst limited resources both human and financial.

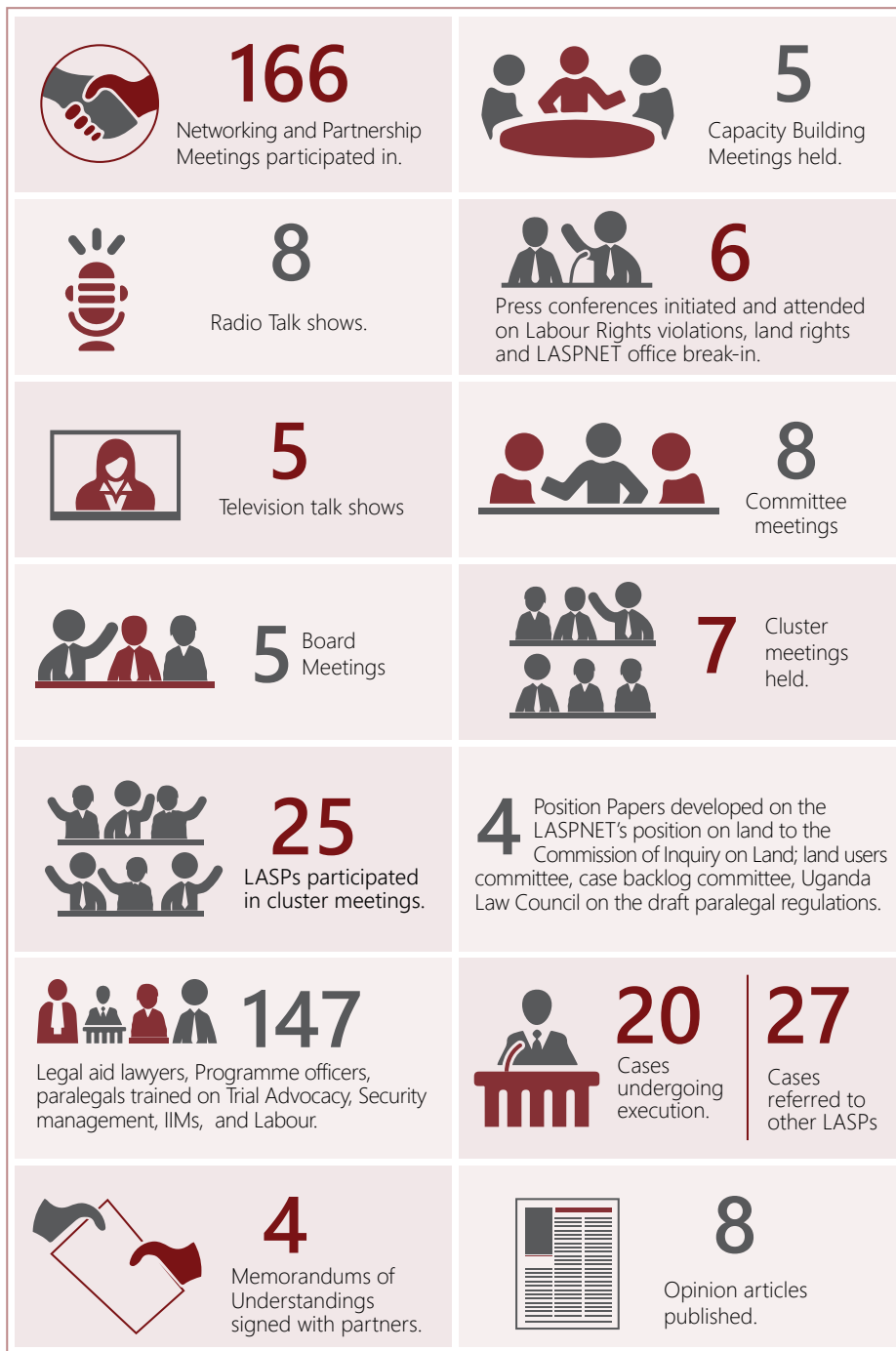
Sadly, the continued harassment of CSOs through raids and break-ins by unknown thugs did not spare us. This year, the LASPNET Secretariat joined the long list of NGOs and CSOs that were broken into. Though shaken, the Secretariat emerged from this setback stronger and has since instigated improved risk management strategies. We are grateful to all the CSOs and NGOs that supported and stood in with us.

I wish to thank all our partners who have provided financial and technical support, our governing Board for strategic oversight and guidance of our membership and stakeholders as well as the LASPNET Secretariat team for all the hard work and support that has seen us achieve milestones. With your support, we have become and remain steadfast in advocating for and advancing access to justice and rule of law.

We thank you and look forward to soaring even higher in the New Year.

Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa
Executive Director

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



3.0 OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Over the course of the reporting period, LASPNET with support from the Democratic Governance Facility has implemented the project, “To Strengthen Capacity and Advocacy for the standardization of legal aid services in Uganda”. The key objectives were to promote professional standards, collective voice and advance the Legal Aid agenda; to strengthen Coordination and Synergy among LASPs; to promote Research and Advocacy for a Harmonized Legal and Policy Framework and to strengthen Institutional Development of LASPNET.

LASPNET continued to implement the Fair Green and Global II (FGGII) which seeks to build community resilience to hold the state, business firms and corporations accountable to ensuring respect for the rights and dignity of vulnerable groups and communities in Uganda.

LASPNET's increasing role and relevance has been recognized through the JLOs award and where LASPNET was recognized for its distinctive collaboration with JLOS especially in the Cost Benefit Analysis Research for the National Legal Aid Policy and other access to justice related interventions. Amidst the increasing restrictive operating environment of constitutional amendments and implementation of the new NGO Act, LASPNET has remained focused towards achieving its core mandate that entails influencing the legal aid and access to justice agenda in Uganda. This has been evidenced by its continuous engagement and contribution to the contextual developments in the sector. This has been achieved through, being part of coalition building ; working committees; contributing to ongoing sector reforms through work with JLOS working groups which include among

others, the contribution to the case back log reduction strategy with the criminal Justice working group; being part of the Justice for Children Steering Committee and contributing to the development of the Child Justice Strategy as well as making a contribution through position paper(s) and review of JLOS Performance reports. LASPNET has also been approached to join coalitions and provide strategic interventions in areas such as anti-corruption; human rights violations; rapid legal response, advocating for judicial independence and defending the Constitution. While this is commendable on one hand, on the other hand it exerts pressure on the Network in view of limited resources both human and financial which sometimes scales down institutional performance.

The increasing insecurity and gender based violence, the proposed amendments to our constitution and new emerging human rights violations and rule of law issues that call for immediate responses from LASPs to advocate and provide rapid legal interventions but with no matching resources.

This coupled with external factors especially those that are systemic in nature, the impunity within institutions and some errant government officials, have increasingly obstructed access to justice. The reporting period was shaped by several incidences that resulted into miscarriage of justice and undermining the independence of the judiciary. Some of these include; the deliberate refusal of the Inspector General of Police to respect court summons and other due processes; the case of 80 poisoned flower farm workers and the subsequent attacks leveled against human rights defenders by the Minister of Trade, Industry and

Cooperatives, the Kasese clashes where innocent civilians were killed by the state apparatus -at least 55 people were killed and others held incommunicado without charges made against them and children of suspects were incarcerated for a period of one month.

The operating environment is also still constrained by laxity and general lack of political will to fast track the National Legal Aid Policy (NLAP). Further discussions to pass the NLAP have been slowed down by the newly appointed Attorney General who was previously not part and parcel of the engagement process on the policy and law. The lead responsibility to push for the NLAP delegated to Uganda Law Council which is an added responsibility amidst its already constrained structure. This has therefore stalled its fast tracking and further curtailed the advocacy efforts of the Network. Alternatively, LASPNET has embarked on a process to galvanize advocacy efforts through development of an advocacy strategy aimed at informing new interventions for an effective legal aid framework.

The operating environment under which HRDs are operating is shrinking and increasingly becoming volatile. Generally, the work of CSOs and CBOs is constrained by the new legislations such as the Public Order Management Act (POMA) 2013 and the NGO Act 2016 and its regulations. The selective application of POMA by the Uganda Police Force has continuously raised a lot of speculation as to whether the Act was established to curtail both civic and political spaces that allow activism take course. Also, the unprofessional and violent manner in which the Uganda Police Force has responded to these incidences and conducted itself during

the investigations has raised concern. In addition, the recurrent CSOs and NGOs office break-ins, risks and threats to HRDs have also created fear and tension in the work of CSOs, activists and HRDs especially that the Uganda police has outrightly failed to release a report to provide leads on the possible perpetrators of this unabated crime.

The external and internal operating limitations notwithstanding, we continue to soar and provide the best we can which has culminated into special recognition. LASPNET is a proud recipient of the JLOS partnership and collaboration award 2016, which was handed over to us by the Hon Chief Justice and Minister for Constitutional Affairs on 27th October 2016. This was an energizer that has propelled us to continue our work with passion and commitment, knowing and assured that small steps and success matter in our interventions and service delivery.

4.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

LASPNET has leveraged its niche of being at the forefront of developing and disseminating evidence based information on issues of legal aid and access to justice. It has continued to achieve this through media platforms, advocacy and lobby meetings, and reviews of JLOS reports among others.

4.1 Key achievements

Through partnership and collaboration LASPNET has continued to register milestones as evidenced in some of the recognitions from our partners.

Networking & Partnerships

As a critical influencer on issues related to access to justice and legal aid, LASPNET achieved a recognition award for its contribution under the 'Partnership and Networking category' by the Justice, Law and Order Sector. This was during the JLOS annual sector performance review held at the Speke Resort in Munyonyo on 27th October 2016. The Executive Director, Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa received the award on behalf of the Network.



▲ Certificate of appreciation to LASPNET from WAR CHILD CANADA for supporting legal aid in Uganda.

L-R Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, the ED LASPNET with Hon. Bart Katureebe, the Chief Justice and Hon. Kahinda Otafiire, the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs after receiving the JLOS award.

▼



Furthermore, LASPNET has entered into four significant partnerships with the National Social Security Fund, Equal Opportunities Commission, Coalition In Support of Judicial Independence and Uganda Court Bailiffs Association. Through these partnerships, access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized will be enhanced.

Lobbying and Advocacy

On this front we achieved on the following

- Establishing an Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS to oversee the monitoring corruption project.
- LASPNET with the members of the Coalition In Support of Judicial Independence (CISJI) engaged the

Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee to advocate for more funding to the Judiciary.

- LASPNET provided legal representation to renowned activist and academician Dr. Stella Nyanzi whose right to freedom of expression was being infringed on. The Network also intervened in the ongoing Chewente case in Apac district where over 130 families were displaced from their land by a microfinance institution.

Research & Knowledge Management

We have developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Trainer of Trainers Manual and conducted trainings on Security management and Corporate Accountability.

5.0 ANNUAL PROGRESS IN DETAIL

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

A key strategic objective of LASPNET is to influence steady reforms in the Justice Law and Order Sector that promote the right to access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized." LASPNET engaged in a number of advocacy initiatives as shared below:

5.1.1 Disability Actors meet Chief Justice on Mental Health Concerns



▲ Hon. Bart Katureebe (in purple tie) with Disability actors, JLOS staff and Legal Aid Service Providers after the meeting held at the High Court on 7th/07/2016.

Disability stakeholders including LASPNET and led by the National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda (NUDIPU) convened at the High Court on Thursday 7th July 2016 for a meeting with Hon. Bart Katureebe, the Chief Justice of Uganda. They presented a memorandum on inclusion of persons with mental illness in access to justice. This followed a petition filed by Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) and Yiga Daniel in partnership with NUDIPU suing the Attorney General and challenging the use of derogatory language in Uganda's criminal laws as well as the criminal procedures followed in case an accused person is found to be mentally ill. This petition followed an earlier ruling in *Bushoborozi Eric Vs Uganda*

where his Lordship Batema David declared that the autonomy of the Judiciary should not be usurped by the Executive in the administration of justice for persons with disability. The Hon. Chief Justice in the meeting reiterated his commitment to use his position to ensure reforms that support inclusion and mainstreaming rights and services for all disabled persons. He specifically committed that the Judiciary would work with those responsible for different buildings where courts are located to ensure that PWDs have access and are therefore not inconvenienced. Also, the draft judicial rules on accommodation of persons with disabilities in the justice system is already in place. These rules will be used to guide the judicial officers and private practitioners on how to handle disability cases.



▲ R-L: Mr. Ms. Rachel Odoi Musoke, Senior Technical Advisor, JLOS, Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, Executive Director LASPNET and Mr. Edson Ngirabakunzi, Executive Director NUDIPU chatting after the meeting at the High Court.

5.1.2 LASPNET begins the Conversation on the Compulsory Land Acquisition by Government at The Pre-AGM Conference



▲ Seated L-R: Hon. Lady Justice Damalie Lwanga, Ms. Theodora Webale, Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga, Hon. Betty Amongi, Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa and other delegates who attended the Conference on Land Justice, in a group photo.

During my short tenure in this Ministry, I have come to realize that land is the bedrock of our economy. The elite class prefers not to bank their money but to invest it in land, even proceeds from corruption end up invested in land and property.” Hon Betty Amongi-Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

The above words formed part of the opening statement by Hon. Betty Amongi, the Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, who officially opened the LASPNET Pre-AGM Conference on Land Justice for the Poor and Vulnerable. The Conference was held on

28th October 2016 at Hotel Africana prior to the Annual General Meeting held on same date and same venue.

In her speech, she underscored the importance of Area Land Committees, District Land Boards and Surveyors in ensuring transparency in land governance so that the poor and vulnerable are not let to suffer at the hands of the wealthy. On the proposed amendment of the law on land acquisition, Hon. Amongi explained that the focus was on amending Article 26 of the Constitution to add a third clause to anchor the principle that when government is interested

in land for development purposes or public good. At the end of the Conference the Honorable Minister committed to being an ambassador of the National Legal Aid Policy and Bill. Despite the engagement of the Minister, the amendment to the Constitution was none the less introduced in Parliament but through various platforms like the Coalition in defense of Constitution and the media, LASPNET vehemently sensitized and resisted the amendment and contributed to knowledge sharing of why it is not necessary leading to its being withdrawn from the agenda of parliament for now.

5.1.3 LASPNET continued to advocate for protection of rights of Human Rights Defenders, Activists and Communities

Through support from ActionAid Uganda, LASPNET was able to provide legal representation to the Chewente community in Apac where over 130 victims (26 females and 105 males) faced unlawful land eviction by a corporate body. Action Aid Uganda organized a partner's visit to Chewente community on 10th-13th April 2017 to establish facts and document human rights violations.

Chemical poisoning from a flower farm: On 20th December 2016, over 80 workers faced chemical poisoning at a flower farm run by Royal Van Zhanten (RVZ). LASPNET in collaboration with FIDA-Uganda, Akina Mama Wa Afrika, Action Aid Uganda; Solidarity Uganda; Uganda Horticulture Industrial Service Providers and Allied Workers Union (UHISPAWU), and SEATINI, undertook various lobby and advocacy initiatives to address the labour rights violations. This was done through engaging NTV and Monitor newspaper to conduct an investigative piece on the labour conditions in flower farms; make a formal communication to the Director of Labour

requesting for the report on the RVZ incident; meet the terminated sprayers to acquire information on the chemicals used to spray the flower farms; request for a dialogue between National Organisation of Trade Union and CSOs; organise a meeting with the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Finance and identify members of parliament to raise concerns of the investment code and policy; conduct a training for all actors on macro - economics and investment issues that manifest as labour rights amongst others.

Kajumba Gorretti's case: Gorretti a 36 year old, who gave birth to a baby by caesarean section on 3rd December 2014, lost her baby under mysterious circumstances at Mulago Hospital. She was informed that her baby had died but the hospital couldn't present a death certificate to the claim. Although she was able to get legal representation with KMT advocates, they lost interest in the case before she could get justice thus fell destitute. This case was brought to LASPNET's attention through a radio talk show on Namirembe FM. LASPNET took on her case in November 2016 on account of failed corporate accountability by Mulago

hospital. It was able to contact the legal team from Centre for Human Rights and Development to handle the case on behalf of Gorretti. The hearing was held on 13th July 2017 and postponed to 2nd November 2017.

Provision of legal representation to Dr. Stella Nyanzi:

Dr Nyanzi was arrested on the 23rd March 2017 and charged with the offences of cyber harassment and offensive communication contrary to the Computer Misuse Act 2011. She appeared in court on the 10th April 2017 to take plea and was ambushed with a "pre-plea taking" application to compel her to undergo compulsory medical examination for possible involuntary confinement and mental treatment under the Mental Treatment Act 1964. The application was heard on the 8th June 2017 and ruling delivered on the 20th June 2017. LASPNET made a contribution through provision of a pro bono Lawyer to defend her in the criminal aspects such as stalling the malicious mental soundness proceedings preferred by the State.

Further and with support from ActionAid, LASPNET

undertook a training of human rights defenders on space, human rights and corporate accountability. The training was held for one day on the 28th November at Piato Restaurant Kampala. The training was attended by 26 (14 female; 12 male) human rights defenders, advocates, paralegals and human resource from various legal aid service providers and human rights institutions.

LASPNET mobilized its membership to provide rapid legal response to the victims of the Kasese clashes in detention facilities. Although impromptu visits were made to detention facilities in Jinja, Mbarara, Masaka and Kasese the persons arrested were not found due to their being held incommunicado and their constantly being moved from one detention facility to another.

▼ *UCLF lawyer interviewing a prisoner at Bugungu prisons.*

Participating in Legal Aid Camps:

LASPNET mobilized 5 LASPs that is Platform for Labour Action, Uganda Law Society-Legal Aid Project, and Muslim Centre for Justice and Law, and Foundation for Human Rights Initiative to participate in a legal aid outreach convened by the International Justice Mission on 24th November 2016 at Mukono RDC grounds.

5.1.4. Cluster Meetings

LASPNET works through 6 thematic clusters focusing on Land, Traditional/ Informal Justice Institutions, Criminal, and Social/ Cross cutting issues, Gender Justice, Juvenile/Children issues. This is an emerging arrangement for enabling the members provide technical input into identified areas of contextual relevance and thematic interest.

The 6 LASPNET clusters held their meetings from October to December 2016 at the various LASP offices as was decided by the cluster members. The Social Justice and Land Justice clusters held their meetings at the Secretariat, the Traditional cluster held their meeting



at Piato Restaurant, while the Gender cluster meeting was held at FIDA offices. The Criminal Justice cluster was held at UCLF offices and Child Justice Cluster held its meeting at Law Development Centre-Legal Aid Clinic offices. The six cluster meetings held in this period were attended by 36 (20 female and 16 male) from 25 LASPs. In June 2017, another Land Justice cluster meeting was held on 2nd June 2017.

The information gathered during the cluster meetings formed part of the discussion agenda to support advocacy. For example; the Petition to the Dutch Ambassador to Uganda concerning the behavior of Royal Van Zanten in the poisoned flower farm workers case; land

rights protection following emerging issues on the way cases are handled in court and also submitted a position paper on land management and justice to the Commission of Inquiry on Land ; Advocated for the implementation of section 99(2) of the Children’s Act to help reduce case backlog at remand homes; Engaged the National Planning Authority on the issue of minimum wage; Advocated for guidelines of community paralegals; With support from World Voices Uganda and other members convened the Informal Justice Conference.

▼ *Members of the Social Justice Cluster during the meeting.*



5.1.5. Addressing Access to Justice Challenges through dissemination of Position Papers to Policy makers

LASPNET has engaged several policy makers through various advocacy platforms and tools. Some of these engagements include:

5.1.5.1. Funding to the Judiciary increased due to efforts of the Coalition in support of the Independence of the Judiciary launched

In an effort to address emerging issues under rule of law particularly on the role of the Judiciary with other arms of government, a meeting, to form a coalition to support the independence of the Judiciary was held at the Uganda Law Society Secretariat on November 11, 2016. The coalition comprises LASPNET and six other organizations which include: Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Center for Public Interest

Law (CEPIL), Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Chapter Four Uganda, the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda) and Uganda Law society (ULS). The coalition was officially launched on 26th April 2017 at Sheraton hotel where an MoU was signed by all coalition members and witnessed by His Worship Paul Gadenya, the Chief Registrar-Courts of Judicature. The coalition will among other things do the following: watch the appointment process of the Judiciary through regular engagement with the Judicial Service Commission to highlighted the need to discipline errant Judicial Officers; ensure Judicial accountability; support combat Judicial corruption; advocate and advise on the necessary policy and legal reforms in the Judiciary; lobby for increased resourcing of the Judiciary as a third arm of government.

On 27th April 2017 LASPNET together with the other coalition members made a case for increased funding of the judiciary to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of Parliament. This engagement contributed to the voice that caused increased budget for the judiciary to support automation of court services as well as handle case backlog. This is evidenced by the allocation provided to support case backlog in the budget of 2017/18.

In the justice system 98% of infrastructure to be built under the Justice Sector Strategic Plan have been completed and will be commissioned by December 2017. In addition, access to justice for juveniles has improved with juvenile cases being fast-tracked and 71% receiving non-custodial sentences. In the next year, 120,000 cases are targeted for disposal for which 18 billion has been allocated. Under the case backlog reduction strategy, 28,000 backlog cases will be disposed of in the next 3 years, for which shs. 9 billion has been provided. An

automated Case Management system will be designed and developed to enhance efficiency in case management. Four (4) Justice Law and Order Service points One-Stop centers (covering Court, DPP, Police and Prisons services) will be constructed in Buhweju, Nakaseke, Mayuge and Butambala. Construction of the Kitalya Prison will also be fast-tracked. I have provided 12 billion for this construction.”

Extracted from the Budget Speech of Hon Matia Kasaija Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development delivered on 8th June 2017.



▲ L-R Members of the Coalition for the Independence of the Judiciary outside parliament.



▲ Coalition submitting to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee.

5.1.5.2. LASPNET comments on the paralegal regulations

LASPNET on 4th April 2017 submitted its comments on the Advocates (training, registration and regulation of paralegals) regulations, 2016 to the Uganda Law Council. They included; The need for the regulations to clearly define a paralegal and indigent ;course content for their training and qualifications; calling for inclusion of LASPNET on the board of trustees; include the members who make up the management team to supervise pro-bono ; and enforcement of regulations among others.

5.1.5.3. Proposals on improving land justice to the Land users committee

LASPNET made a submission to the Land Users Committee of the Land division on the 19th June 2017 at the High Court Land Division. In its submission, LASPNET provided emerging issues for consideration of the Court and some of these included: hearing and disposal of main suits takes so long especially where a party obtains interim reliefs, unnecessary adjournments from either party to the suit which leads to delayed judgment; challenges with execution processes; backlog of cases; absenteeism and corrupt judicial officers; among others. A key outcome from the meeting resulted in Police suspending clearing orders to enable the land protection department to internally re-organize.

5.1.5.4. Position paper to the Commission of Inquiry on Land

LASPNET's position paper on land justice and management developed and reviewed by the land justice cluster on 2nd June 2017 was submitted to the Commission on 18th July 2017. In its position paper LASPNET called on government to strengthen the various dispute resolution mechanisms through capacity building, setting up a mediation fund; strengthening

supervision of the land boards; hearing and disposal of land matters within prescribed time limits ,introducing a complaint handling mechanism at the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development ; a it was also our recommendation to rejuvenate judicial powers of LCs to adjudicate land matters relating to customary land, boundary demarcations and to train and equip them with the necessary skills to determine such matters. Establishment of a specialized body of legal experts from court, police and bailiffs to handle execution of court orders; Strengthening and implementing of penalties for forceful or wrongful evictions; Regional land division offices should be established at least at every high court circuit to support disposal of cases nationwide. Subsequently LASPNET has entered into a partnership to support the mediation of deserving cases arising out its inquiry process.

5.1.5.6. Submission made to the Judiciary Case backlog Committee meeting

LASPNET developed a position paper which was submitted to the Judiciary Case backlog Committee meeting held on 21st November 2016 at the High Court. The Secretariat also coordinated other LASPs such as African Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV), Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS), Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC), Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity (UCLF) to submit challenges and recommendations on case backlog to the Judiciary Case backlog Committee. Dr. Ssewanyana Livingstone of FHRI and Ms Sandra Oryema of PILAC who is also the Vice Chairperson of the Board adequately presented on behalf of LASPNET. Their presentation proposed the following recommendations to reduce corruption: on the need for judiciary to consider doing away with the court sessions and only utilize specialized court sessions; support

an effective legal aid system ; support e-filing ; encourage mediation at all levels; judiciary should consider designating one officer to handle bail applications; allow witness statements instead of oral testimony to help fast track cases ;consider introducing mobile courts in hard to reach areas; and set a time limit to when a trial starts once a case is committed to the High Court.

5.1.6 LASPNET together with the NGO Forum convened an NGO Regulations consultative meeting

With support from ActionAid Uganda, LASPNET with the NGO Forum and Uganda Women's Network organized a Busoga regional consultative meeting on the NGO regulations held on 30th November 2016 at Ntinda Valley Resort, Iganga district. It was attended by 87 (46 male, 41 women) participants from police, LASPs, Local government and CBOs. . LASPs were able to input into the development of the NGO regulations which have now been adopted.

5.1.7 Supporting the A2J & Rule of Law through providing legal rapid response during and after the 2016 Election process

A meeting was held with the Chairperson and Spokesperson of the Electoral Commission on 16th August 2016 at the Electoral Commission headquarters to submit the LASPNET Election observation and Legal Aid Rapid Response Report as well as lobby for operationalization of elections of local council courts. The report contained findings and experiences encountered by LASPs during provision of legal aid rapid response especially on instances of abuse of rule of law and constitutional rights as well as access to Justice related matters during the 2016 General Elections. The issues which were pointed out in summary included, calling upon the Electoral Commission to uphold its roles in organizing and managing credible elections and avoidance of interference from other institutions of government such as Police and Uganda Communication Commission which respectively committed a lot of rights violations and shut down social media on election day. The Electoral Commission was engaged on the need to hold local council elections. As result of LASPNET's contribution

to the advocacy efforts, Local Council elections are scheduled for 21st November 2017.

5.1.8 Supporting the completion of the chain of justice through partnership with the Uganda Court Bailiffs Association

In an effort to take forward agreed action points from the National Dialogue on Court Orders held in May 2016; an engagement meeting was held with the Uganda Court Bailiffs association (UCBA) on 18th November 2016 at the Secretariat. In order to effect the partnership, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to execute pro bono cases for the poor was signed on 21st January 2017 and a meeting was convened on 6th March 2017 at the Secretariat. The purpose of the meeting was to orient them on the modalities and LASPNET's expectations during the execution of court orders. The meeting was attended by representatives from the UCBA Secretariat, identified regional bailiffs and LASPNET Secretariat. 23 Cases have so far been identified by LASPs and forwarded for execution which is ongoing.

5.1.9 Championing Women's Right to Land Justice

LASPNET in partnership with Women Land Rights Movement hosted by LANDNET Uganda convened a parallel session on "Women's Right to Land Justice" at the 2nd National Women's Land Rights Conference in Uganda on 7th-9th December 2016 at Hotel Africana. The conference was held under the theme *the Right to Land for Women in Uganda -Attaining 30% Registration of Land in the name of Women By 2025*. The conference was attended by over 400 women from all regions across the country.



▲ *The Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS during their first meeting held on 31st March 2017.*

5.1.10 Making a contribution to the JLOS -Anti- Corruption strategy.

LASPNET with support from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) joined efforts to fight corruption in the justice system particularly by supporting implementation of the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy through whistle-blowing incidents of corruption as well as popularizing it. The pilot project focuses not only on putting out flaws and abuse but seeks to pick good practices and also identify individuals doing their best to deliver service. Implementation has been done through establishing and holding quarterly meetings of the LASPNET Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS that comprises of an Anti-Corruption expert Ms. Cissy Kagaba; Mr. Shem Byakagaba, M&E Expert Advisor; Board Chairperson Mr. Samuel Nsubuga; Ms. Susan Aisia Musooli from the Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity; and Mr. George Musisi (who is the Chairperson of the Committee) from the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative who are representatives from the LASPs. This Committee provides oversight to the implementation of the monitoring corruption project to ensure standards as well as safeguards of institutional values.

Furthermore, introductory meetings with key heads of the selected institutions and actors at National level were held by the Advisory Committee with institutions such as Judicial Service Commission (JSC), Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP), Police and Inspectorate of Government (IG). The meeting with the DPP was held on 11th May 2017, 12th May meeting with the JSC, meeting with the IG and Police on 7th June 2017. A meeting with the Chief Registrar was held in August 2017. Through the meetings with the heads of national level institutions, LASPNET was able to secure buy-in into the Monitoring of Corruption project. All institutions committed to participating in project activities particularly the radio talk shows. In addition, a number of whistle blowers were enrolled, trained and deployed in August-September 2017.



▲ *Representatives from the Advisory Committee on Governance and Monitoring Corruption in JLOS after the meeting with the staff of the Judicial Service Commission.*



▲ L-R Hon. Justice Mike Chibita the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Shem Byakagaba (middle) and Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga during one of the introductory visits.

Also forming part of the corruption monitoring project is the media campaign dubbed “*Break the Silence on Corruption.*” The campaign is implemented through running and conducting radio jingles, DJ mentions and radio talk shows. These contribute to empowerment of the public with information on fighting corruption as well as encouraging reporting the vice particularly in three JLOS institutions of the Uganda Police Force, Office of the Director Public Prosecutions and Judiciary. A total of 6 regional radio stations such as CBS FM (Kampala), Radio One (Kampala), Kaboozi FM (Kampala), Crooze FM (Mbarara), Mega FM (Gulu) and Open Gate FM (Mbale) are currently involved in the campaign that started in July 2017.

BREAK THE SILENCE ON CORRUPTION!

Judicial officers should be independent and not compromised!

Report any such cases of corruption by calling the Judicial Service Commission Toll free on 0800-100-322 or by calling the Inspectorate of Courts on 0414-347-312

JLOS LASPNET DGF

Other activities undertaken under the project include: development of a whistleblowers manual; training, equipping whistleblowers (monitors) to undertake monitoring of corruption in selected areas to report and share information with relevant stakeholders amongst others.

Further still, in an effort to raise concerns on the Inspectorate General of Government (IGG)'s decision not to persecute ‘small money bribes’, a letter protesting IGG’s position on selective prosecution of corruption cases was drafted and shared with the IGG and other key stakeholders on 5th May 2017. The letter led to rethink of the decision of the IGG.

5.1.11 Lwengo Legal Aid Project restores trust in the Justice System. A model for Public /Private Collaboration for improved service delivery

LASPNET together with its partners FIDA, PILAC and Barefoot Law commissioned a pilot project known as “**The Lwengo Legal Aid Project**” aimed at Promoting a Sustainable and Cost-effective legal aid service delivery model through Public/Private partnership with Lwengo District Local Government.

On 16th September, 2016 the project was officially launched at Lwengo district headquarters with the Resident Judge of Masaka His Lordship Flavian Zeijja as the guest of honor. The launch was attended by over 600 people including the project Implementing partners, DGF, members from the local community, JLOS representatives at the District, Secretary General of Local Government Association and district councilors.

Following the launch, FIDA deployed two legal aid lawyers at the district headquarters and the district has provided them with office space as agreed in the memorandum of understanding. The legal aid clinic set up by FIDA-Uganda at the district offices in October 2016 has

so far registered 124 cases and reached over 300 clients through locus visits, community based dialogues and mobile clinics in various sub-counties.

A follow up meeting was held on 21st February 2017 between the project partners and the Resident Judge Masaka High Court, Justice John Eudes Keitirima at his chambers. The Lwengo district Chairperson, Mr. George Mutabaazi acknowledged the positive changes that have been realized since the launch of the project noting an increase in trust in the justice system by the citizens in Lwengo. The extension of legal aid to the district has proved that a public-private partnership can go a long way to improve service delivery. For instance, the district team was able to deliver a petition to Justice Keitirima which he in turn handed over the Chief Justice upon his visit to Masaka court on 22nd February 2017 during a monitoring visit. The project has also seen

one of the corrupt magistrates transferred to another district and decongestion in prisons.

Lwengo local government council has gone ahead to earmark funds for the project in their annual budget to support sustainability of the project after donor support comes to an end. In addition the district offered to be part of the public constituency leading advocacy efforts for legal aid. The strides under the Lwengo pilot indicate that justice in Lwengo and anywhere else can be a reality with the right ingredients in place. There's currently an ongoing development of a crowd sourcing software that will ensure sustained intervention driven by the local governments such that the people of Lwengo continue to receive legal aid whenever they need it.



▲ Justice Keitirima (wearing spectacles) with some of the project partners after a Meeting on Progress of the Lwengo Project Model.

5.1.12. LASPNET develops an Advocacy Road Map to support enactment of the National Legal Aid Policy & Bill

LASPNET developed an Advocacy Strategy to provide a road map as it engages policy makers to commit resources to implement a state funded National Legal Aid Scheme. The LASPNET Advocacy Strategy with a campaign plan for the National Legal Aid Policy implementation was validated on 23rd February 2017 at Piato and was attended by 23 (17 females and 6 males) participants.



▲ Ms. Charity Ahumuza from Refugee Law Project making a point during the validation of the Advocacy Strategy.

5.1.13. LASPNET Continues to leverage on Media Partnerships to advance Access to Justice & Rule of Law

LASPNET has leveraged its relationship with the media to advance issues of access to justice and rule of law. It has released press statements, held and or participated in radio talk shows either on invitation or through planned activities and written a number opinion as below:

Press statements and Press conferences:

On 11th August 2016, LASPNET in partnership with its members held a Press Conference and issued a press statement on the Makindye Court siege to show solidarity with the Lawyers, Court and reiterate commitment to the Rule of Law. LASPNET called upon government to commit to the principles of justice, rule of law and ensure that lawyers perform

all their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or interference.

LASPNET held a press conference on labour rights on 9th November 2016 at the Secretariat calling for protection of workers and human rights defenders from intimidation.



▲ The LASPNET Board reading the press statement at the press conference on labour rights violations.

LASPNET released a press statement to the media on 3rd February 2017 at the Secretariat concerning its office break in. The statement called on the police and security companies to enhance the vetting procedures and supervision of their guards on duty to minimize security risks to their clients who are mainly civil society and private sector.

LASPNET on 22nd February 2017 joined ACCU to lobby government to increase funding to the Judiciary to reduce Corruption. The press conference which was held at the ACCU Secretariat also called for the immediate passing of the Administration of Justice Bill by the Executive and Parliament and guaranteeing full autonomy to Judiciary as the other arm of government.



▲ Ms. Sylvia Namubiru, Executive Director LASPNET and Ms. Cissy Kagaba, Executive Director, ACCU during the press conference.

LASPNET also joined other civil society organizations that convened a press conference at the Human Rights House on 19th April 2017 to condemn the ill treatment of Ugandans by foreign investors in solidarity for rights abuse victims. This followed the case of Jamilah Opondo, the alleged victim who was due to receive help from Hon. Kabafunzaki, the State Minister for Labour who was later arrested amidst bribery allegations on the same case.

On 15th June 2017 LASPNET participated in a press conference at the ActionAid Uganda offices to condemn the numerous incidents of land conflicts and called on government to end impunity for land conflicts and grabbing in Uganda, specifically the violent clashes that broke out between the communities of Aapa in Amuru and Adjumani Districts as witnessed on Wednesday 7th of June 2017.

TV talks shows: The Executive Director was hosted on NBS TV lunch time's news on 28th October 2016 to discuss proposed constitutional amendment to land on the same day LASPNET convened the Pre-AGM conference on land.



▲ ED LASPNET hosted on NBS TV Lunch times News on 28 October 16.

The LASPNET Executive Director was also hosted on BBS TV on 9th November 2017 to share her views on the flower farm case and emerging labour rights violations.

The Executive Director was among the legal experts interviewed by NTV for their news bulletin of 24th February 2017 to comment on the tough bail conditions set for Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere, the traditional king of Rwenzururu king on treason, murder and terrorism charges following the clashes in the district between government forces and the king's royal guards. On 28th March 2017, the Executive Director gave commentary on land rights particularly the proposed constitutional amendment of Article 26 .

Also on the 28th May 2017, the Executive Director appeared on the NTV Uganda show "Perspectives" hosted by Josephine Karungi to discuss the rights of workers in Uganda.



▲ The Executive Director (in green) on the NTV Uganda show "Perspectives" hosted by Josephine Karungi.

Further on 21st June 2017 on a segment called "Ekijja Omanyi" on Kingdom TV, the Executive Director was hosted to give legal advice regarding the entitlement of widows who are not legally married at the time of their husbands' passing.



▲ The ED on Kingdom TV.



▲ LASPNET Executive Director sharing her views on the flower farm case on BBSTV.

Radio talk shows: On 11th August 2016, the Executive Director was hosted on two radio talk shows (Radio One Spectrum and Akaboozi ku Bbiri) on the Makindye court siege.

She also participated in two radio talk shows; one was held on 8th May 2017 on KFM's "Hot Seat" to discuss the burden of case backlog and how to minimize it. Chapter Four's Executive Director Mr. Nicholas Opiyo and the Registrar, Research and Training at the Judicial Studies Institute H.W Elias Kisawuzi were also panelists on the show. Another talk show was held on 16th May 2017 on CBS's "Kiriza oba gaana" evening show to discuss the case backlog reduction directive of the Chief Justice as well as the torture allegations against security agencies meted on suspects while in detention.

The Executive Director further represented the Network on 93.3 KFM to discuss corruption in the Judiciary and the significance of cancelling the interim orders by court, which had been passed by the Deputy Chief Justice. The talk was held on 25th February 2017 and she appeared alongside the Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago. On 26th May 2017 she participated in a radio talk show to discuss labour rights.

Opinion articles: Several opinion articles on access to justice, rule of law and need for legal aid were developed and published in media. One of the articles was commending the government for establishment of new magisterial areas and calling upon increase in the funding. This was published in the Observer on 20th February 2017. In another Opinion on corporal punishment, LASPNET was able to advocate and bring to the fore issues of impunity, corruption tendencies in administration of justice in Uganda as well violence especially against the children in schools. Another one on the

challenges that the Judiciary had faced since the year began reiterated the need to uphold the rule of law in order for the country to achieve vision 2040. It was published in the New Vision on 3rd March 2017, in the Daily Monitor on 27th March 2017 and in the Observer on April 3rd 2017; the New vision and Observer on 22nd May published one condemning torture; While another one condemning the immoral actions of the abuse of children by the late Professor Mukiibi run in both New Vision and the Observer; on 21st June 2017 Daily Monitor published an opinion calling for the reinforcement of corporate accountability applauding Justice Lydia Mugambe for her landmark ruling in the Civil suit concerning a couple that lost their second baby due to negligence of the staff at Mulago National Referral hospital. The opinion highlighted the judgement as a positive development in regard to gender and women's rights as well as ensuring corporate accountability.



▲ The opinion on corporal punishment in schools at the hands of prefects which was published in both New Vision and Daily Monitor.



▲ Opinion Article on torture published in the New Vision and the observer.



▲ Commentary on the pre-AGM conference on land.



▲ Opinion highlighting justice Lydia Mugambe's judgement as a positive development in regard to gender and women's rights as well as ensuring corporate accountability.



▲ Opinion Article on Labour rights violations.

As a result of the visibility arising from the media engagements, LASPNET has received appreciation both verbally and documented as shown below:

I thoroughly enjoy your presentation whenever on air. Your delivery is so engaging that you are a very effective speaker and educator. Thanks for expressing examples that are mentioned whenever you are talking about a certain subject being features on "Manya Edembe Iyo." Your talk gives me a great boost to my efforts to reduce fright

amongst youth towards the government sectors mostly the Police and Court.” Kato Sadic a listener on CBS FM.

5.1.15 Leveraging on Partnership building & coalitions for sustainability through synergies to impact service delivery

During this reporting period, LASPNET has increased its coalition building through networking and partnership meetings in a bid to enhance service delivery in the justice sector. The Secretariat has participated in over 166 meetings key among which were: the Land Users Committee of the Land Division where LASPNET is now a member; the inaugural technical working group of Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC) where LASPNET will work with the ULRC on formulation of a policy for child grooming for sexual exploitation following a desk research conducted; in collaboration with the Coalition for the Independence of the Judiciary LASPNET made a presentation to the Legal Parliamentary Affairs Committee on 27th April 2017 to advocate for an increase in the Judiciary budget allocation at Parliament. As a result of this, more funds are allocated to the Judiciary to help computerization their operations and case backlog reduction; LASPNET was also able to make recommendations to the JLOS sector structures on interventions concerning torture allegations against sector institutions categorically the Uganda Police Force at the Joint JLOS meeting on 30th May 2017 at LDC Auditorium of the combined JLOS Human Rights and Accountability and Criminal working groups; met with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) to discuss collaboration on advocacy for the National Legal Aid Policy (NLAP) on the 10th April 2017. As a result LWF and LASPNET agreed to collaborate on advocacy efforts to pass the National Legal Aid Policy; presented and attended a meeting to discuss access to Land Justice by Court Users organized by Land Division

on the 19th June, 2017 at Protea Hotel. As result of the meeting, there has been a suspension of clearance of court orders by the Uganda Police. Therefore, the highlighted meetings provide LASPNET with a platform and opportunities for lobbying for improvement in service delivery in access to justice interventions and for the adoption of the NLAP.

In addition LASPNET has entered into concrete coalitions and partnerships for various purposes as enumerated below:

5.1.16 New strategic collaborations and partnerships on board

5.1.16.1 National Social Security Fund (NSSF)

On 24th April 2017, LASPNET and the Legal Department of the National Social Security Fund entered into a memorandum of understanding and agreed to jointly conduct a number of activities including referrals, Legal aid open days, legal advice and counselling, joint sensitization meetings as well as compliance with statutory obligations under the social security law.

5.1.16.2 Uganda Court Bailiffs Association (UCBA)

Following the National Dialogue on Execution of Court Order convened with the Uganda Court Bailiffs Association in 26 May 2016 to address challenges to the execution process, a follow up a meeting was held on 21st November 2016 at the Secretariat with the Uganda Court Bailiffs Association in an effort to follow recommendations and actions points. As a result, on 21st January 2017, LASPNET executed the MoU with the UCBA to support execution of cases for the vulnerable and poor persons. Service contracts were also signed with individual identified regional bailiffs to support executions. 23 cases forwarded by the LASPs for execution are currently undergoing execution.

5.1.16.3 Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) reached out to LASPNET to form a partnership to consolidate efforts towards strengthening access to justice and elimination of all forms of discrimination and marginalization against the vulnerable segments of society. An initial inception meeting was held on 21st October 2016 at the Secretariat to discuss possible areas of cooperation, harmonization and synergies. The meeting was attended by 13(6 Male and 7 female) representatives from the EOC, LASPNET Board organizations and regionally based LASPs.

On 25th April 2015, LASPNET signed a memorandum of understanding with the Equal Opportunities Commission to advance social justice for marginalized Ugandans through legal aid service provision. The MOU prompts both institutions to jointly conduct activities aimed at furthering the fulfillment of each other's mandates. Such activities include; legal awareness and sensitization, popularizing the mandates of both institutions, case referrals, representing applicants at EOC tribunal sessions, joint lobbying and advocacy for improved legal and policy framework, among others.

5.1.16.4 Uganda Local Governments' Association (ULGA)

A similar inception meeting was held with the Uganda Local Governments' Association (ULGA) on 4th October 2016 to amongst others bring on board local governments participation in advocacy on legal aid framework and commence efforts on cost effective sustainable legal aid service delivery. Follow up with partners to actualize the above engagements is under way.

5.1.16.5 Coalition In Support of Judicial Independence (CISJI)

LASPNET together with six other organizations which included; Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Center for Public Interest Law(CEPIL), Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Chapter Four Uganda, the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda) and Uganda Law society (ULS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to mark the launch of the Coalition in Support of Judicial Independence (CISJI). The coalition hosted and conceived by the Uganda Law Society was launched on 26th April 2017 and witnessed by the Chief Registrar, Courts of Judicature H.W Paul Gadenya at a breakfast meeting that was convened at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala.

The coalition among others watches the appointment process of the Judiciary through regular engagement with the Judicial Service Commission to highlight the need to discipline errant Judicial Officers; Ensure Judicial Accountability; Combat Judicial Corruption; Advocate and advise on the necessary policy and legal reforms in the Judiciary; lobbies for increased resourcing of the Judiciary as a third arm of government.



▲ H.W Paul Gadenya displays the signed MOU as Coalition Members look on.



▲ Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa signs on behalf of LASPNET as Mr. Francis Gimara looks on.



▲ Members of LASPNET and Equal Opportunities Commission after an inception meeting on proposed partnerships to improve access to justice held at the LASPNET secretariat on 21st October 2016.

5.1.16.6 Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Furthermore, efforts are underway to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding between Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and LASPNET aimed at getting both parties to jointly work together to develop strategies for advocating for sustainable access to justice for the poor and advocacy on the National Legal Aid Policy. We hope to finalize this before the end of 2017.

5.2. ENHANCING STANDARDS AND KNOWLEDGE THROUGH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

5.2.1 LASPS empowered to handle Labour matters

In an effort to increase the number of LASPs skilled in labour matters, LASPNET in collaboration with Platform for Labour Action conducted a training from 19th – 21st September 2016 at Cardinal Nsubuga Leadership Training Centre 2016. The training sought to address the issue of LASPs inability to handle labour related cases rather than referring them to Platform Labour Action (PLA). The training focused on labour dispute resolution mechanisms to equip LASPs on the various labour laws, employment relations and the jurisdiction of the Industrial Court. It benefited 35 participants (advocates, paralegals and human resource from various legal aid service providers) with many appreciative of the increased knowledge on labour matters.

5.1.2 Trial Advocacy Training

The Trial Advocacy Training (TAT) is an annual programme organized in collaboration with Justice Advocacy Africa (JAA). It is geared towards deepening the skills of advocates in legal aid so they can be better lawyers, give better services and build a better judicial system. The annual Trial Advocacy Training of LASPs was held at UNAFRI, Nakawa from 23rd to 27th January 2017 that benefited 29 LASPs. It was facilitated by Senior Practitioners from Justice Advocacy Africa and our local faculty. The advocates were equipped with practical skills in court presentation. It was highly rated by many of the LASPs advocates that have benefited. The Secretariat is in discussion with Uganda Law Council to have LASPNET accredited though the process still in its initial stages.

5.2.3 IIMS training on practical knowledge and skills of LASPS

An IIMS training of 39 LASPs (18 female and 21 male) was conducted on 15th & 16th June 2017 at Piato Restaurant. The hands on training equipped them with practical skills in utilizing the upgraded modules; web and mobile social application; offline application; means and merit test; referral and outreach module. Some of these included; War Child Canada, Foundation For Human Rights Initiative, Uganda Association Of Women Lawyers, Muslim Centre for Justice and Law, Islamic Women's Initiative for Justice, Law and Peace, Public Interest Law Clinic, National Union Of Disabled Persons of Uganda, Platform For Labour Action, Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law society, Uganda Christian lawyers Fraternity, Refugee Law Project and Community Legal Action for Integrated Development.

▼ *Participants during the Trial Advocacy Training examining the facts of the case before embarking on the mock sessions.*



5.2.4 Human Rights Defenders and LASPS trained on Corporate Accountability

In a bid to enhance business corporate responsibility and minimize human rights abuses, LASPNET conducted a one day training for human rights defenders on the 28th November 2016 at the PIATO Restaurant. 26 (14 female and 12 male) LASPs, activists and Human Rights Defenders) attended the training.

5.2.5 Security Management Training for Human Rights Defenders



▲ *Mr. Yona Wanjala, DPI leads the training.*

In light of the increasing security threats faced by LASPs and Human Rights Defenders, LASPNET with support from ActionAid Uganda (AAU) under the Fair Green and Global II (FGG II) project organized a training on risk assessment and security management for human rights defenders who include LASPs, on 18th May 2017 at UNAFRI in Kampala. The training attended by over 32 HRDs equipped them with measures for improved security and protection for both individuals and their organizations. They were thus equipped with skills to draw up and implement a comprehensive personal and organizational security plan. The training was facilitated by the Defenders Protection Initiative (DPI).



▲ *HRDs who participated in the security training at UNAFRI.*

The training equipped Human Rights defenders, LASPs with skills and tools to mainstream security management in their day to day activities.

5.2.6 Training on upgraded IIMS to enhance utilization of data, client referral and overall service delivery

This reporting period has focused on development of the new software components to the IIMS to make it more functional to enhance service delivery. The new functionalities include MMT, Referral using GIS functionalities, mobile and web social application, outreach, off-line modules. The Web and mobile Social Application enables users of the IIMS and clients to converse and connect with one another through their mobile phone/tablet, this is intended to create a virtual environment that will give IIMS users instant and real-time sharing and access to legal aid information. The MMT facilitates and helps to assess the eligibility and credibility of the individual seeking Legal Aid. Furthermore, the referral module has been upgraded to extend the functionalities of the existing client's referral module to include other Partner Organizations, Uganda Police, and Prisons, Justice Law and Order Sector institutions and the identification of Local Council Courts (LCCs) all intended to support community referral pathways.

One of the most salient components of the IIMS upgrade was the development of an offline IIMS. The application enables offline data entry and then synchronizes data to the online application when an internet connection is detected on the computer where the application is installed. This offline application will aid data entry in areas with slow or intermittent internet connectivity.

After the development and IIMS incubation period, LASPS were trained on the new functionalities of the IIMS. The training was held at Piato restaurant on 15th and 16th June 2017. The training was attended by 39 participants (18 females and 21 Males). The overall goal of the training was to install and avail hands on technical capacity of utilizing

the new functionalities of the IIMS to the participants. The training was practical and interactive to allow open discussions, installation and configuration of the new functionalities on the participants' laptops.



▲ IIMS Consultant, guiding participant at the IIMS training held at Piato restaurant on 15th and 16th June 2017, on how to install the offline IIMS.

5.2.7 Training opportunities availed to the Secretariat Staff

The Secretariat staff benefitted from a number of trainings, some of these include:

The Executive Director and Volunteer Lawyer Ms. Daphine Achen benefitted from a training on Public interest litigation to realize the right to education held on 23rd -24th May 2017 at Hotel Africana. This was organized by Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) in conjunction with Legal Resource Centre (LRC), Legal Brains Trust (LBT). The training equipped the two staff on skills on litigation as a core strategy for advocacy.

The Research and Knowledge Management Officer Violah Ajok benefitted from a training conducted by UWONET on Advocacy and International Treaty reporting mechanisms and processes for gender accountability held on 21st and 22nd February 2017 at Eureka Hotel.

The project assistant FGG II Ms. Daphine Achen benefitted from a training on Muslim family law organized by Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL) held

on 15th -16th March Kolping hotel.

The Executive Director and Research & Knowledge Management officer Violah Ajok benefited from a training conducted by the Judiciary in partnership with the Human Trafficking Institute on 13th June, 2017 at Sheraton Hotel at the prevention of trafficking in persons conference. The training built skills of LASPNET and its members on the emerging trends on human trafficking and supported staff to understand concepts and legal framework on human trafficking & referral pathway.

The Executive Director benefited from the legal empowerment leadership course convened by NAMATI and Global Policy Academy SSP, supported by the Open Society Foundation. The training was held on 10th -14th October 2016 at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary.

▼ *The Executive Director of LASPNET participating in the training on legal empowerment in Budapest Hungary.*



5.3 EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

As key influence on issues of access to justice, LASPNET with support of an external facilitator, developed indicators that will guide the documentation of trends on access to justice to be shared at the annual access to justice conference. The indicators to monitor the state of access justice system were validated on the 28th February 2017 at Piato restaurant and was attended by 24 (16 females and 8 males) persons. Survey tools were developed based on the indicators and disseminated during the annual peer learning visits to members. The report is under development and will be disseminated during the pre AGM conference.



▲ *Ms. Dorah Mafabi, the DGF Programme Manager Access to Justice asking a question during the*



validation.



▲ Other participants at the validation access to justice indicators.

21participants (15 females and 6 males).



▲ Some of the participants at the validation of corruption indicators.

5.3.1 Tracking of impact of LASPS interventions enhanced through development of the Monitoring & Evaluation Manual

In an effort to ensure sustainability and enhance tracking and reporting of activities by LASPS, a Training of Trainers Monitoring and Evaluation Manual was developed with support from a consultant and validated by the LASPs on 24th March 2017 at the LASPNET Secretariat. The validation meeting was attended by 25 participants (13 female and 12 male). This manual will be a reference tool to be utilized by trained LASPs in the subsequent trainings of LASPS on M&E as well as other trainings.

5.3.2 Validation of Corruption Indicators to Support Implementation of the JLOS Anti- Corruption Strategy

LASPNET is supporting JLOS to implement the JLOS anti- corruption strategy through training and deploying whistleblowers in selected JLOS institutions. LASPNET with the help of a facilitator developed benchmark indicators to help guide interventions in the implementation of activities to monitor corruption in the JLOS. On 27th February 2017, LASPNET convened a validation meeting on monitoring corruption in the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) at Piato restaurant and was attended by

LASPNET has developed a reference paralegal training manual to support community based paralegals as they undertake their work. This manual will be validated and disseminated at the end of the year.

Three surveys on the state of access to justice and on supporting the development of the paralegal manual have been developed and disseminated.

5.3.3 LASPNET conducts Annual learning visits to members

LASPNET in strengthening institutional capacity of its members continuously holds its annual peer review visits, by interacting with members to identify capacity gaps and challenges to address them but also pick good practices that can be replicated within the wider fraternity. In addition this year's periodic peer review visits with LASPs sought the member's input into the ongoing programme activities and ongoing researches which include: access to justice research; development of the paralegal training manual; installation of the upgraded IIMS; informing the LASPs about inaugural Legal Aid Innovations conference that was due in September 2017 and encouraging LASPS to submit innovative cases in legal aid & access to justice for showcasing. These visits were conducted in the week 24th -30th June

2017 .The research on the paralegal manual will be used to develop the paralegal manual, the research on the IIMS will be used to inform strategies to enhance IIMS utilization while the research on the funding needs will be used to provide what is required to set up a legal aid clinic. The learning visits covered the Western, Eastern and Northern regions to 35 LASPs branch offices and partners. These visits comprised of two teams who included LASPNET staff and regional representatives as well as representatives from the Governance and Administration Board committee.



▲ L-R Jackie Katuramu Volunteer lawyer LASPNET, Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa -Executive Director LASPNET , Jane Namutebi - MIFUMI, Sylvia Kyampaire MIFUMI Masaka, Paul Kavuma-Board Member on Merit LASPNET and Ajok Violah -LASPNET at MIFUMI office in Masaka during the Peer Learning Evaluations visits on 29th June 2017.

Compilation of access to justice issues was developed under 5 broad themes of administration of Justice; land justice; child rights; Marriage and Divorce; Succession law and Labour Law. The incorporation of these thematic areas into a draft is ongoing and the validation of the Draft IECs is planned at the end of 2017.

5.3.4 LASPNET provides information on A2J & rule of law

LASPNET is increasingly being called on to share information on access to justice and rule of law. Over 12 presentations were made at various fora which include:

Presentation on women's right to land justice at the revival of the National Level Women's Land Rights Movement meeting held on 23rd November 2016; the case backlog committee of the Judiciary at the public hearing at the High Court of Uganda held on 21st November 2016; Youth dialogue convened by ACCU on 3 May 2017 ; Access to Justice Women's Conference convened in partnership with LANDNET on 7th -9th December 2016; Diversion guidelines at the SAJCA convened by Uganda Law Society on 5th August 2016; Presentation on child justice at the Magistrates induction trainings; a presentation on Human trafficking at the Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity (ULCF) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 24th September 2016; Panel discussant at the ACCU dialogue on errant judicial officers held on 25th of October 2016; A presentation on Access to Land Justice-A gender perspective was made by the Executive Director at the National Dialogue on Equitable and Gender Sensitive Access to land and housing for urban poor on 13th April 2017 at Hotel Africana with support from Fredrich Ebert Stiftung; a presentation on operationalizing the provisions of the Children's Act 2016 at the meeting on informing members of Parliament on the rights of children in Uganda convened by Uganda Child Rights NGO Network on 2nd June 2017 at Speke Resort Munyonyo; presentation on access to land justice by court users organized by Land Division on the 19th June, 2017 at Protea Hotel. As a result of this meeting, there has been suspension of clearance of court orders by the Uganda Police; presentation on sexual and reproductive health rights was made by the Executive Director at the training of senior civil servants and Judiciary on CEDAW and on the Training of Parliamentarians on CEDAW. The meeting was convened on 31st March 2017 at Hotel Africana by UWOPA. Recommendations were also made to the JLOS sector structures on interventions

concerning torture allegations against sector institutions categorically the Uganda Police Force. This was at the Joint JLOS meeting held on 30th May 2017 at the LDC Auditorium under the JLOS Human Rights and Accountability and Criminal working group.

5.3.5 Research Study on Human Rights Defenders and Corporate Accountability in Uganda

LASPNET with support from Action Aid Uganda is finalizing research on the situation of Human rights defenders and corporate accountability in Uganda. This research examines the issue of corporate accountability and the risks and challenges human rights defenders encounter as they exercise their legitimate mandate in working to hold both the Ugandan government and non-state entities accountable for corporate abuses and violations of human rights. The report will be finalized and launched before the end of the year.

recommendations were effected and there after the modules incubated. Users were given a period of one month to test the IIMS and determine if all their recommendations had been effected.



▲ Mr. Martin Ojambo, the IIMS consultant installing the upgraded IIMS at UCLF offices in Kasese during the peer learning visits.

5.4 STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LASPNET has consolidated efforts on ensuring institutional growth of the Secretariat and its members. Below is progress on what has been achieved in the reporting period:

5.4.1 IIMS revamped with new functionalities to enhance service delivery and data utilization

To improve the utilization of the IIMS for ease of access to justice by the most vulnerable new functionalities were developed and validated on 5th April 2017 at Piato restaurant. This meeting was attended by representatives from 25 LASPs with a total of 35 participants (18 females & 17males).

After the validation meeting, the user's

The new functionalities include Means and Merit Test (MMT), referral using Geographical Information System (GIS) functionalities, mobile and web social application, outreach, and off-line modules.

The Web and mobile Social application enables users of the IIMS and clients to converse and connect with one another through their mobile phone/tablet, this is intended to create a virtual environment that will give IIMS users instant and real-time sharing and access to legal aid information.

The MMT facilitates and helps to assess the eligibility and credibility of the individual seeking Legal Aid. Furthermore, the referral module has been upgraded to extend the functionalities of the existing client's referral module to include other partner organizations, Uganda Police, and Prisons, Justice Law and order sector

institutions and the identification of Local Council Courts (LCCs) all intended to support community referral pathways.

The module uses Geocoding Location services incorporated in the GIS module to locate the nearest referral point. The referral module also extends the features of the current module and helps in data capture from different activities carried out by LASPS.

The upgraded outreach module captures data linked to an activity that covers disaggregated data.

The IIMS offline application enables offline data entry and then synchronizes data to the online application when an internet connection is detected on the computer where the application is installed. This offline application will aid data entry in areas with slow or intermittent internet connectivity. It is hoped that the newly developed offline version of the IIMS will help increase entering of data.

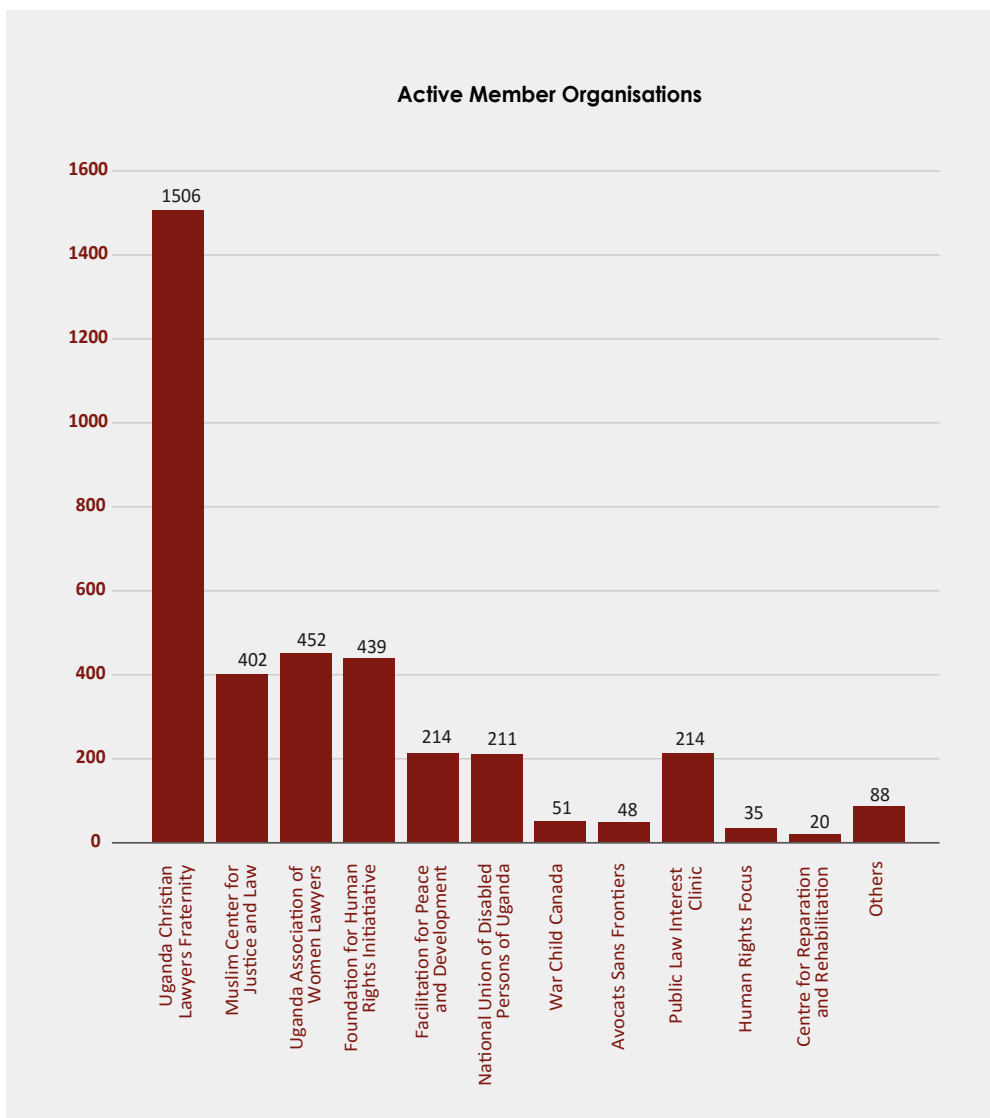
Also, a DGF reporting template has also been included into the IIMS. This will facilitate the users in developing more informative and donor response and purposeful reporting.

5.4.2. Increasing use of IIMS for Sustainability

LASPNET continues to improve the new functionalities in the IIMS and to support the users to ensure its functionality. Currently the IIMS has a total of 34 organizations enrolled with 13 organizations actively using the system, 10 logging though not actively entering data and about 11 having never entered any data. As a way of supporting members, onsite organizational visits are conducted to troubleshoot emerging issues during utilization and train users on how to use the IIMS. This was complemented by support offered through WhatsApp, email and telephone. As a way of supporting

and equipping our member organizations to use the IIMS, LASPNET gave out 10 Mini Servers and 20 hard disks to member organizations that needed IT support services at the AGM held in October 2016.

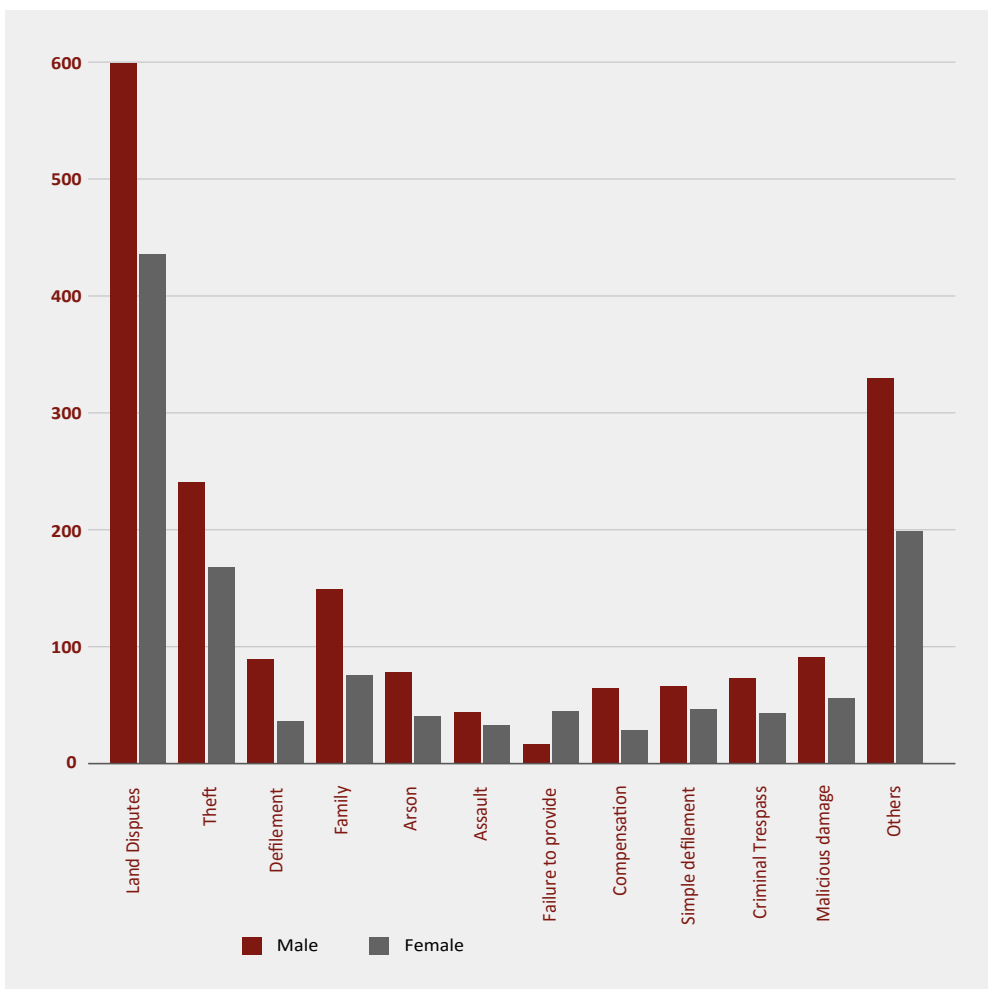
LASPNET continues to provide administration and oversight function over utilization of the IIMS and the following graphs and chart demonstrate utilization as of June 30th 2017:



5.4.3 Monitoring and Support of the Secretariat to Members

The Secretariat undertook its annual peer review, learning and monitoring visits to member branches conducted by two teams from the Secretariat who included LASPNET staff and regional representatives as well as representatives from the Governance and Administration Board committee. The visits covered the Western, Eastern and Northern regions to 35 LASPs branch offices and partners; visits were conducted on 24th June to 30th

June 2017. This year's periodic peer review visits with LASPs sought membership input into the ongoing programme activities and ongoing researches which include: access to justice research; development of the paralegal training manual; installation of the upgraded IIMS; informing the LASPs about inaugural Legal Aid innovations conference that was due in September 2017 and encourage them to submit innovative cases in legal aid & access to justice for showcasing.



Regular communication has been maintained with the members through email, phone contacts and this helped to strengthen the network. Also information on membership activities has been compiled in a Newsletter. The two issues were combined and 100 copies were published and disseminated. An e-copy was also shared via email and uploaded onto the website plus shared on LASPNET social media pages.

5.4.4 Subscription to Online Library

In an effort to help members access case law, laws and regulations and other legal information as they undertake to provide legal representation and advice follow

up was made to the service provider to ensure that LASPs were accessing the service for the period July 2016 to June 2017.

5.4.5 Secretariat Capacity enhanced

5.4.5.1 End of year staff evaluation and planning retreat:

The Secretariat held its end of year retreat to review and evaluate the performance of the year 2016 and come up with a consolidated annual work plan for 2017 that was conducted from 21st to 22nd December 2016 at the Sanctum Apartments Entebbe, attended by all LASPNET Staff, 6 Female and 7 Males. These include managers, officers

and volunteers. In addition, the staff hold quarter evaluation meetings where the best performing staff is voted and recognized.. Mr Barongo Barnabas, the Accounts and Administrative Assistant, Mr Leonard Kaye Driver; Ms Daphine Acen Project Assistant FGG and Mr. Badru Walusansa Project assistant M&E have all emerged as staff of the quarter in the different quarters.



▲ *Mr. Kaaya Expedite, former lecturer at LDC and Board Chairperson of the Uganda Land Alliance speaking on motivating employees.*

5.4.5.2 Motivating the Secretariat after the office break in

All staff benefitted from a motivation and spiritual session and experience by Apostle John Osapiri of UCLF on 20th March 2017 at the LASPNET Secretariat after the office break in. His message focused on need for the Secretariat to be strong and courageous amidst trials like Joshua of the Bible.



▲ *Motivating Session with Apostle John Osapiri and member of the Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity.*

5.4.6 New Board elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), Admits Honorary Members and Hands over IIMs Servers

The Network also convened its 7th Annual General Meeting on the 28th October 2016 to discuss the annual progress report of the organization and to elect a new Board of Directors.

The progress report highlighted the increased participation of members in the Network's events, new projects, the various capacity building opportunities for the members, lobbying and advocacy interventions, many of which had generated improved visibility for LASPNET, like the media campaign calling on government to fast track the enactment of the National Legal Aid Policy, key researches, legal rapid response during the 2016 national elections and the peer exchange visits to members, among others.

Members appreciated the outgoing Board and the Secretariat team for steering the Network to a more accountable and visible entity and for implementing the recommendations of the previous Board.

At the AGM deliberations it was proposed that trainings should use locally trained lawyers from within the membership during annual events like the Trial Advocacy training so as to reduce on the cost of external facilitators, discussed issues of gender representation on the Board and most members agreed that representation should be based on skills and ability to serve regardless of one's gender. The AGM also approved as honorary members: Justice Remmy Kasule, the Chairperson of the Uganda Law Council, Ms. Theo Webale, the Access to Justice Advisor, USAID/SAFE and Mr. Musa Modoi, the Advisor Human Rights and Accountability at JLOS.

LASPs like Uganda Christian Lawyers' Fraternity, War Child Canada, Foundation

for Human Rights Initiative and Platform for Labour Action were awarded certificates of recognition for their outstanding contribution to the Network in areas like utilization and development of the IIMS as well as consistency in attendance, participation, timely feedback and support. Over 10 LASPS were also approved to receive mini servers while 20 of them were to receive backups to facilitate their utilization of the IIMS.



▲ Board chairperson, Mr. Samuel Nsubuga, handing over the IIMS Server to Uganda Public Rescue Foundation.

The AGM was crowned off with the democratic election of new Board members reflective of a more gender dynamic organ. Below is the list of the new Board representatives:

Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga of African Centre for Chairperson, ACTV; Sandra Oryema, Vice Chairperson, PILAC; Lydia Namuli Lubega; General Secretary, FIDA-Uganda; Anthony Mutimba, Treasurer, HRAPF; Suzanne Aisia Musooli, Central Region Representative UCLF; Francis Odongyoo, Northern Region Rep; HURIFO; Fred Kaahwa; Western Region Representative AHURIO; Joseph Mwase; Eastern Region Rep; KCOBPA; Paul Kavuma Member on Merit; COLAID.



▲ Mr Aaron Besigye (National coordinator Justice centres Uganda) then the head of the legal aid project of the Uganda Law Society making his submission at the PRE-AGM conference.

5.4.6.1 LASPNET Board and Committees

The new Board of 6 male and 3 female conducted 3 Board meetings against the 3 planned to discuss policy and management of programme related issues during the period under reporting. And a total of 8 committee meetings have been held to provide oversight to programmes, activities, finance monitoring, and supervision of recruitment, attending to membership issues as they emerge and provide oversight to the monitoring corruption project.

5.4.7 BOARD PICTORIAL



Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga
Chairperson



Ms. Sandra Oryema
Vice Chairperson



Ms. Lydia Namuli Lubega
General Secretary



Mr. Anthony Mutimba
Treasurer



Ms. Suzanne Aisia Musooli
Central Region Rep



Mr. Paul Kavuma
Member on Merit



Francis Odongyoo
Northern Region
Representative



Fred Kaahwa
Western Region
Representative



Mwasse Joseph
Eastern Regional
Representative

5.4.8 LASPNET Secretariat Team

Executive Director
Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa



She heads the Secretariat team and provides Administrative and strategic leadership to the Secretariat to ensure smooth day today running of Programme and that the organization is financially sustainable. She is also the link of the Network to external partners and stakeholders and the Board

Finance and Administration Officer
Mr. Geoffrey Lutaaya



He provides financial management and administrative support to LASPNET that includes: monitoring of funds; production of regular management accounts and reports; preparation of budget annual and quarterly budgets, management of income and expenditure; maintenance of financial systems and procedures and support for strategic improvement.

Director of Programmes
Ms. Joy Katoono Kasinga



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

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 and members to develop, deliver and evaluate network's needs, supports the development and validation of progress reports and plans along with Programme implementation, coordination, documentation and multi-channelled communication.

Lobby and Advocacy officer
Ms. Rhonah Babweteera



She is responsible for identifying advocacy issues and lobbying for more conducive access to justice and human rights protection space including removal of barriers and unfavorable policies and practices.

Research and Knowledge Management Officer
Ms. Violah Ajok



She coordinates action research in key areas vital for LASPNET interventions and Programme development. She undertakes research on behalf of the organization and disseminate the results to relevant parties. She also takes the lead in implementing the organization's Knowledge Management Strategy within the employed structure and advises the Network on research, knowledge management and information systems.

Information Technology Officer
Mr. Godfrey Baluku



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), oversee its installation, ensure back-up systems operate effectively, take lead in the purchase Computer hardware and software, provide ICT technology infrastructures for LASPNET and Contribute to organizational policy regarding quality standards and strategic planning.

Accounts and Administration Assistant
Mr. Barnabas Barongo



He provides support to the Finance and Administration Officer in financial accounting and reporting standards, logistics and Administration. He therefore assists the Finance and Administration Officer in making timely payment of all accounts including supplier invoices, re-imbusement to staff, bank transfers, and payroll liabilities in line with LASPNET policies, procedures and authorizations. Maintain petty cash and proper filing system for all transactions, within assigned responsibilities, for audit and accounting purposes

Driver /Messenger
Mr. Leonard Kaye



He is responsible for providing reliable and safe driving services. He is also in-charge of maintaining the assigned vehicle(s) in excellent working condition, logging, and mileage and keep track of fuel consumption and vehicle servicing.

Driver
Mr. Paul Mukasa



He is responsible for providing reliable and safe driving services. He is also in-charge of maintaining the assigned vehicle(s) in excellent working condition, logging, and mileage and keep track of fuel consumption and vehicle servicing.

Mr. Badru Walusansa



Mr. Badru Walusansa is a Project Assistant M&E providing support to the corruption monitoring and execution of court orders ongoing projects.

Program Assistant
Ms. Asasira Rachel



Ms. Asasira provides support to the programmes department, front desk management, and other administrative functions as assigned at the Secretariat. She holds bachelor's degree in Development Studies from Uganda Christian University Mukono.

**Project Assistant FGGII
Ms. Achen Daphine**



She provides direct support to the Programmes department and is currently responsible for implementing the Action Aid funded FGG II Project.

**Project Assistant Transparency and
Accountability
Ms. Nadhifah Muhammed**



Nadhifah Muhammad is a Project Assistant for the Transparency and Accountability project funded by USA Embassy. The Project aims at strengthening youth participation in promoting transparency and accountability.

Interns

The Network builds capacity of student interns and in the reporting year hosted 5 interns who included: Marungi Martha from the Uganda Christian University; Nadifah Muhammed from Islamic University; Abunia Godwin Toko and Ahabwe Caleb from Makerere University; Ms. Nankayi from Makerere University Business School.

Volunteers

The Secretariat currently has 3volunteers who include

Mr. Kenneth Okao



Mr. Okao provides support to the ICTO department and other logistical support.

**Lubega Daniel
Volunteer Lawyer**



He provides support to the Programmes Department.

**AinoMugisha Gloria
Volunteer Social worker**



She is providing support to programmes as she is being coached and mentored

6.0 LESSONS LEARNT, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 Challenges

The reporting period July 2016 to June 2017 has offered exciting opportunities to build more networks to advance access to justice, provided many lessons, however some challenges have been encountered. Some of them include:

Break into LASPNET premises: LASPNET Secretariat office premises were broken into and a number of items particularly laptops and cash stolen leaving the staff traumatized. The Secretariat undertook a series of post break-in risk management which slowed down the implementation of some activities. A number of security management measures have since been implemented.

Shrinking space on independence of the Judiciary : There is increasing political pressure on the justice system which is hampering efforts to enhance rule of law and efforts enhance access to justice for example LASPs denied access to suspects of Kasese clashes. The strategy has been to use hard and soft approaches and use of champions within the system.

Also the emerging access to justice and rule of law issues such as the Amuru-Apaa land conflict; torture, corruption challenges in the judiciary amongst others making it difficult for the Secretariat to adequately follow through all these issues to their logical conclusion in addition to project implementation. The Secretariat is also using coalitions such as the one on the Independence of the Constitution and the Coalition in Support of Judicial Independence.

Narrowing space: Because of the narrowing CSO space, we have seen many cases of human rights violations such as the recent women activists who challenged removal of age limits in the constitution. The effect of this has been reluctance of LASPs to engage in such struggles as legal service providers. This leaves a gap in provision of legal representation in struggles for rule of law. We continue to be involved coalitions and group advocacy to minimize risk involved with individual advocacy.

Increasing demand: With increasing visibility and relevance of LASPNET, there was pressing demand for LASPNET to participate in various forums and other stakeholders' activities. This is evidenced by the new coalitions and partnerships which have resulted in an increase in the workload. This is exacerbated by the fact that the demand is not commensurate with available staff at the Secretariat.

LASPNET presence at the regional level not being felt: LASPNET conducted peer learning and evaluation visits to member organizations. The visits revealed limited engagement by regional members with board representatives; some headquarters do not relay information to branches; Inspection by the Uganda Law Council delays despite LASPs fulfilling the requirements and security threats to LASPs that engage in human rights protection amongst others.

6.2 LESSONS LEARNED

Collaborations and Partnerships: The members are willing and able to garner support in LASPNET engagements when relevantly approached, we are seeing increased organizational leadership support in the advocacy and policy engagements, research and documentation processes among others. Working in partnership with other CSOs and coalitions helps with impact especially in intractable and wide spread problems such as land. This was a lesson learnt in the advocacy on protection of labour rights and the Lwengo project.

Strategic engagement with JLOS institutions: Addressing bottlenecks on issues of corruption and broader access to justice requires engagement with institutional heads which is key to having impact as seen under the monitoring corruption in the justice system.

7.0 CONCLUSION

LASPNET will focus on the consolidation of the gains under the research and advocacy efforts, and follow up to ensure that the upgrades to the IIMS are rolled out to partners and utilised to ensure effective service delivery as well as analysing trends and inform interventions.

In order to support the development of an effective and elaborate advocacy strategy to take forward the NLAP, LASPNET is in the process of costing the advocacy strategy and begin implementation of the roadmap that will focus on beneficiary centred advocacy to justice and creating synergies and coalitions.

In an effort to address bottlenecks in the justice system, LASPNET will work towards increasing public participation in holding duty bearers accountable.

8.0 LASPNET IN PICTURES



◀ Peer Learning Visit at Avocats sans Frontiers.



▲ Partners sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Lwengo Legal Aid Pilot project after the inception meeting held on 17th/08/16 at the Lwengo District headquarters.



◀ Girl guides visit Secretariat.

▼ Mr Badru Walusansa, Conducting a survey with the court users at Uganda Law Society offices in Moroto.



◀ Criminal cluster meeting at UCLF offices.

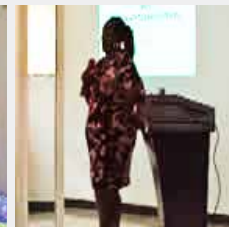
▼ Ms. Tina Ntulo opening her presentation at the validation of the advocacy strategy.



▲ The Staff retreat held on 21st to 22nd December 2016 at Sanctum hotel.



▲ The best staff of the quarter being recognized with an award while on the right is the Executive Director of LASPNET Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa.





◀ Coalition members after signing the MOU for the Coalition in Support of the Judiciary.

▶ The Technical Advisor Human Rights and Accountability making his comments during the validation of indicators to monitor corruption held at Piato restaurant on 27th February 2017.



▼ Participants at the validation of the Access to justice indicators held at Piato restaurant.



9.0 MEMBERSHIP FOCUS

9.1 AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF TORTURE VICTIMS (ACTV)

Legal Advisory & Support: Through external lawyers ACTV has been able to fund and prosecute 5 cases on the violation of the right to freedom from torture which are still pending in Court. ACTV has received 36 summons of cases referred to UHRC by ACTV; One (1) case was referred to the probation Officer Luweero district for assistance. This is a case of child abuse by a crime preventer; two incidences referred to the professional standards unit; twenty seven (27) cases referred to other partner organizations.

Capacity building: In addition 3 trainings on torture and the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act were held which benefited 160 officers from security agencies. 4 security awareness sessions were conducted in the districts of Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Kitgum and Oyam. Through these sessions, 151 (77 in Rwenzori, 74 in Northern Uganda) 151 of those were Police officers while 52 were soldiers of UPDF.

Community sensitization and outreach: ACTV conducted several campaigns on torture in electronic and print media. Over 40 media engagements on various platforms were used to air messages on torture through radio spot messages, documentaries on radio and TV. Some of these include Kiira radio in Jinja district; on Simba 97.3. FM radio, BBS terefayina TV, NBS, and Bukedde televisions; voice of Africa radio, 92.3 FM. In Butambala, Gombe, Gomba, and Kibuli Step Fm radio 99.8 FM in Mbale, Impact Radio, Rupinyi radio in Gulu, Radio One; Akaboozi Ku Biri 87.9 FM hosted on “ebiffa Mugwanga”

show Hits Fm and KRC radio in Rwenzori region.

08 community outreaches were conducted in Bondeko, Bwaise, Karamoja and Nakasero and the number of people who benefitted from this activity were 61. Eight (08) prisons were visited: Kigo, Mbarara, Ruimi, Gulu central prison, Jinja remand, Jinja Kirinya prison, Lira central prison, Patongo prison among others. From these visits, more than 536 inmates (survivors of torture) benefited from ACTV holistic care services.

One dialogue was held at Mbale Lions Children’s Park which was attended by 100 (72 male, 28 female). Two dialogues were held Paicho sub county in Gulu district where 86 (33 Male, 53 Female) people attended and the other at Elegu village in Amuru district in which 92 (71 Male, 21 Female) attended. Community awareness about torture and the law was held in Jinja remand prison. Over 1,000 male inmates were sensitized. As a result 73 inmates alleged torture, 56 were screened, 46 qualified to receive treatment and rehabilitation services by ACTV.

Advocacy efforts: 2 newspaper supplements (quarter page) were published. One condemning the torture acts of the Uganda Police and the other regarding the International peace day. At 26th Universal Periodic Review in Geneva, Switzerland, ACTV presented a report on its torture findings, trends and recommendations. Among the many, ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) by Uganda was cited. This was followed up with a meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights in November 2016. The ratification of the OPCAT was the issue and a report justifying the cause was submitted to the Committee on Human Rights by 30th November 2016.

9.2. CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST PUBLIC LAW (CEPIL)

Legal Advisory & Support: Thirteen (13) Cases were handled in the reporting period, that is 7 Constitutional Petitions, 5 civil matters. The mainly focused on the long illegal pre-trial detention after committal, the legality of the Sub-judice Rule; Media Freedom, Access to Information, whether criminal defamation should be a crime, land rights in Uganda and issues of police brutality against journalists.

Community Sensitization: The Centre has engaged in action oriented research and analysis and the reports from this research have formed the basis for key stakeholder engagements such as public discussions, informative radio and TV talk shows as well as other informal social media platforms at the disposal of the organization. One of the key research reports was the state of the judiciary report launched by the organization during the month of August 2016. We have engaged 10 public dialogues and 10 radio talk shows on advancing Press freedom and Media independence as well as the independence of the judiciary.

9.3. FIDA (UGANDA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS)

Under its Legal Advisory & Support: FIDA supported total of 3267 (females 2676 and 591 male. 14 were resolved at court, 1308 by ADR, 155 were referred and 509 are still pending.

Community Sensitisation: 20 dialogues were held in Lwengo, Kabale, Wakiso, Arua, Kamuli, Kapchorwa, Mbale, Moroto and Kabongo on land rights, children rights, parental responsibility, domestic violence, succession act, marriage, separation and divorce that were able to reach a total 14,058 (6357 male and 7701 female).

In addition, 32 radio talk shows on were held on GBV, HIV, VAWG, Smart choice campaign, Trafficking in persons, Children's rights, Parental responsibility, Domestic violence, Succession act, Marriage, Divorce and separation.

Capacity Building: 7 capacity building were held on Violence against women and Girls (VAWG), Child trafficking, HIV, GBV, CLVs training.

Advocacy: FIDA convened and participated in 7 press conferences on Land rights, Labor rights, National women's conference, Launch of the election report, NGO Act and regulations; golden hand shake scandal.

9.4. LEGAL AID CLINIC OF THE LAW DEVELOPMENT CENTER (LAC-LDC)

Legal Advisory & Support: LAC-LDC provided legal advice to 918 clients (478 youth, 440 adults); 814 (cases were mediated upon, and 723 were completed with 91 still pending, 653 (208 females and 345 males) cases were handled through reconciliation. Also 430 (344 males and 86 females) child related cases were diverted out of the formal justice system.

Community Sensitisation: 430 (232 females and 208 males) were reached out to in 3 Sub County Community Legal Aid Service Days to 3 Sub-County Community Legal Aid Service days conducted in Adjumani, Kabarole, Masindi. 10 School Outreach Programs to be conducted to Adjumani, Kabarole, Masindi, Kibaale and Kagadi leading to reach 2208 (1,453 females and 755 males). Mobile legal aid camps were conducted in Adjumani, Kibaale and Kagadi from which 1682 (695 females and 987 males). 19 radio talk shows were conducted in Jinja (Baba FM) Mbarara (Radio Endigito FM), Gulu (Mega FM), Kampala (Kaboozi Kubiri, Masindi

(Bunyoro Broadcasting Services FM) and Kibaale (KKRC FM).

Capacity building: Several capacity building initiatives were undertaken, some of these include: identification and training of fit persons in 3 new districts on the use of diversion in handling children in contact with the Law/ Juvenile Offenders in Adjumani, Soroti, Kyenjojo that benefitted 100 clients(45 female and 55 males).243(100 feamles,143 males) fit persons benefited from Refresher trainings conducted for fit persons in Kamuli, Ibanda, Mbarara, Jinja, Kibaale, Kagadi, Masindi, Kabarole.

Training of Social Workers and JLOs Stakeholders in Kampala, Soroti that 80 (29 females and 51 males benefited from).

478 (183 females and 295 males) duty bearers and community leaders were trained in legal aid for indigents and vulnerable persons, duty bearers to be trained Katakwi, Bududa, Amuru, Gulu, Bugiri, Mayuge.

9.5 MUSLIM CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND LAW (MCJL)

Legal aid support: A total of 1,731 cases (896 Males and 935 Females) were handled. 951 cases were resolved at Police, LC and office, 387 were resolved at court through mediation, and 381 pending at office and 12 cases were referred.

There is increased knowledge on legal issues through community legal education and community sensitizations on rights of bibaanja owners, will making, marriage, and birth and death registration. A total of 747 of which 301 were males and 446 were females among those reached.

Community sensitization: Enhanced understanding of human rights by rights holders and duty bearers. Since January

to end of March 2017, 183 people (61 males and 122 females) were reached with human rights education through edutainment and about 82% estimate of knowledge was gained (Pre and Post assessments). 240 (83Men and 157 females) were reached with basic human rights education through edutainment in property inheritance, marriage, writing of wills and land registration. There is improved access to legal information through the use of ICT platforms by SmS and elaw Uganda. 639 people accessed legal and human rights information, the vital role of ICT in advancing judicial reforms has been expanded and is increasingly recognized. 263 people accessed information through the SmS ICT platform and 376 people accessed information through the elaw Uganda ICT platform.

Capacity building: The capacity in the use of Muslim Personal Law among JLOS duty bearers in police and prisons has improved. There is increased awareness about the use of Muslim personal law especially while handling cases of Islamic marriages, divorce, guardianship and on the other hand promoted demand for human rights approaches within the Muslim communities of Butambala, Mpigi and Kampala districts.

Muslim Centre for Justice and Law in collaboration with Livelihood service providers conducted livelihood training on the 29th of March, 2017 at Nkozi prison. The trainings were attended by the prison warders, police officers and vulnerable community members from Mpigi and Butambala Districts. This initiative has equipped participants with skills to improve their livelihood. During the training it was unveiled that 46% (45 out of 98 inmates) in Nkozi Government Prison subscribe to the Islamic faith.

9.7 NATIONAL UNION OF DISABLED PERSONS IN UGANDA (NUDIPU)

Legal Advisory and Support: Two Legal aid clinics Gomba & Dokolo provided legal advice to 138(32 women, 56 disabled, 22 men and 26 youth)

Community sensitization: 13 radio talk shows and 240 spot messages were on radios in Kampala, Iganga and Lira on right of children with disabilities

Capacity building: 6 Economic empowerment sessions on saving and credit were held in Gomba from which 206(42 women, 90 disabled, 48 men and 26 youth) people.

9.8 PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CLINIC, MAKERE (PILAC)

Legal Advisory and Support: A total of 337 clients were received in the period of involving land disputes, domestic cases, bail applications and criminal cases. Through mediation 10 cases were resolved, 2 cases concluded in court, 1 referred to DPP and 4 to other LASPs.

Community sensitization: PILAC carried out 24 community outreaches in Kivulu, Kikoni, Katanga and Kikubamutwe, 3 outreaches in Lwengo district and 1 legal literacy session in Tororo. As well 12 prison visits were carried out in Mubende, Muinaina, Kaweeri and Kitala(Wakiso)

1293(566 women and Land rights, succession laws, right to a clean and healthy environment, explanation of the tier 4 Act and rights within and outside marriage were held in Lwengo, Tororo(Osukuru and Rubongi), Katanga, Kivulu, Kikubamutwe, Kikoni.

9.10 REFUGEE LAW PROJECT (RLP)

Legal Advisory and Support: RLP provided legal representation and advice to 520 (70 women and 364 men). 208 cases were concluded, 38 are pending at office and 4 were referred to the Office of the Prime Minister. 266 cases were settled through ADR (208 under refugee welfare council in settlement, 26 in court, 19 police and 7 in RLP offices).

Furthermore, RLP conducted 12 detention monitoring visits Hoima prison, Masindi Prison, Maiha prison, Ihungu prison, Igayaza prison, Buseruka prison, Mbarara main prison and Isimba Prison where legal interventions and psychosocial support was given to the persons. A total of 1019 refugees (529m&493f) benefited from psychosocial support through; counseling, Psychotherapy and Psycho education (83 Torture survivors, 185 SGBV Survivors, 71 PWDs, 58 youth).

Community sensitization: 23 Community Policing's were organized and sessions were held in Kyaka II refugee settlement (Zones of Bwiriza, Sweswe-reception centre & Byabakora), Kyangwali refugee settlement (villages of Kasonga, Musisa A& B, Nyampindu, Mukunyu A& B), Oruchinga refugee settlement (Michinga I, II and III, Busheka villages), Nakivale refugee settlement (Kiretwe village). RLP partnered with MIFUMI, HIJRA, Justice Centres and Women refugee leaders and conducted 2 Radio talk shows on 103.6VCC FM in Kiryandongo plus Radio West 100.2FM and 1 TV talk show on TV West (9:30-10:30).

Capacity building: 2 Community Paralegals Trainings on Basic law and how to apply it, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Advocacy strategies, Psycho-social wellbeing approaches.

In the same way WCC established a mobile one –stop shop protection unit that serves a total of 6,103 (3,404 Females: 2,699 Males) survivors/ Persons of concern seeking various protection services ranging from legal advice and counseling, psychosocial support ,referrals, mediations and free legal information from the legal awareness sessions.

Capacity building: WCC conducted 2 Protection Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) trainings, 4 Mediation Skills training, 5 Court support workers and interpreters training on gender Based laws and Gender equity, Communication skills and GBV principles in the districts of Adjumani and Arua. Furthermore conducted 3 Protection Mainstreaming Trainings in the districts of Kiryandongo, Rwamanja and Koboko.

9.13 UGANDA NETWORK ON LAW, ETHICS AND HIV/AIDS (UGANET)

Legal Advisory and support: UGANET supported 657 persons, 480 females and 117 males. Out of the registered cases 607 were handled in ADR, 27 in the courts and 65 referred. 335 were land disputes, 106 domestic violence, 135 property rights & inheritance cases and 92 child abuse cases.

Community sensitization: 144 Community Awareness Programmes on gender based violence, human rights land, property and inheritance rights, succession planning Legal aspects of palliative care in Health centers and prisons with 4091 participants.

9.14 WORLD VOICES UGANDA (WVU)

Legal Advisory and support: received 525 cases 137 resolved through ADR, 24

through the Courts of Law, 76 resolved through the Bataka Court System, 33 referred and 31 pending. These cases involved land disputes, domestic violence, defilement, assault, theft, child abuse, human trafficking, commercial among others.

Community sensitization: 39 radio programs were conducted and 180 spot messages aired on radios KKCR 91.7 fm & KBS 93.0 fm. As a result, there has been increase in human rights awareness and access to justice. This has as well led to an increase in the number of clients in WVU. 3 Quarterly Justice Joint Monitoring Visits were conducted by the Justice Joint Monitoring Forum and District Chain Linked Committee members to police, prisons, and Locus for disturbing cases and these visits were carried out in Mambugu government prison/police cells Kagadi district.

Capacity Building: WVU conducted a training of CBHRDs on the basic human rights laws, procedures of attaining justice, case reporting and follow-up at the WVU offices in Kagadi with the attendance of 21 youth.

Other key activities: A strategic plan 2017-2022 document for the organization was produced and operationalized. Conducted a study on informal justice systems in Uganda and a profile of informal justice models and their contribution in place and disseminated to relevant policy makers with the intention of establishing a policy framework on Informal justice and as well published the WVU newsletter. A one day national symposium/conference on traditional/informal justice was held at Piato restaurant with 81 participants.

10 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Legal Aid Service Provider's Network Audited Financial Statements and Report for the period ended 30th, June 2017

3.0 MANAGEMENT ASSERTIONS ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30 2017

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

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

Management accepts responsibility for the preparation of quarterly accountability reports submitted to the different donors, which were prepared using appropriate accounting policies and estimates in conformity with the funding guidelines. Management is of the opinion that all the accountability reports for the period ended June 30, 2017 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, 2017. LASPNET management certifies that there were no irregularities in the administration of the funds and that the financial statements of the organization for the period ended June 30, 2017 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 16th October 2017 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Chairperson BOD


.....
Executive Director


.....
Treasurer BOD

JR and Associates

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Certified Public Accountants



Legal Aid Service Provider's Network Audited Financial Statements and Report for the period ended 30th June 2017

JR & ASSOCIATES

Certified Public Accountants

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4.0. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Legal Aid Service Provider's Network, set out on pages 01 to 15 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30th June, 2017 and a statement of profit or loss and retained earnings and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

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

Basis for Opinion

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

Other Information

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

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

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

JR and Associates

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Certified Public Accountants

OCITTI JOHN - UGANDAN

Email:jocitti2001@yahoo.com

KAYITA ROGERS - UGANDAN

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

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

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

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements.

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

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

Auditors Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Report on other Legal and Requirements

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

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



**Ocitti John
Managing Partner**



JR and Associates

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Certified Public Accountants




LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDER'S NETWORK
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For The Year Ending June 30, 2017

	Notes	30-Jun-2017 Amount	30-Jun-2016 Amount
INCOME			
Grants and Donations	7	1,183,742,690	869,925,336
Members' Contributions	7	5,576,900	2,997,500
Other Income	7	21,280,000	-
Total Income		1,210,599,590	872,922,836
			0
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	8	519,440,400	478,179,437
Rental Expenses	9	39,000,000	22,014,100
Enhance capacity of legal aid service providers	10	174,898,040	306,992,344
Strengthen the coordination and synergies among LASPs.	11	23,087,000	87,376,600
Promote research and policy advocacy	12	24,858,060	36,017,800
Strengthen institutional Development	13	37,704,800	312,687,080
Contribution to the JLOS Anti-Corruption Strategy	14	33,175,000	-
Influence pro-poor policy reform & standards in access to justice	15	-	96,337,800
Holding the National Child Justice Convetion	16	-	23,700,000
Action Aid FGG II Project	17	59,711,200	-
General Administrative Expenses	18	49,709,788	40,673,600
Bank charges and commissions exp	19	3,131,982	1,629,134
Total Expenditure		964,716,270	1,405,607,895
Surplus/(Deficit)		245,883,320	(532,685,059)
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LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDER'S NETWORK
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As At June 30, 2017

	Notes	30-Jun-2017 Amount	30-Jun-2016 Amount
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1	302,751,058	2,521,254
Receivables	3	10,680,000	-
Rental Security Deposit	4	-	-
Prepayment	5	-	-
Inventory	6	-	-
Subtotal		313,431,058	2,521,254
Non-Current Assets			
Land	2	-	-
Motor Vehicles	2	-	-
Computers and Accessories	2	-	-
Office Equipment	2	-	-
Furniture and Fittings	2	-	-
Subtotal		-	-
Total Assets		313,431,058	2,521,254
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payables	26	49,874,400	-
Deferred Income	17	17,380,334	-
Total		67,254,734	-
Contributions and Reserves			
Accumulated Fund b/f	29	2,521,254	535,206,313
Prior Year Adjustment	29	(2,228,250)	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	29	245,883,320	(532,685,059)
Net Worth		246,176,325	2,521,254
TOTAL (Liabilities & Net Worth)		313,431,059	2,521,254
			
Chairperson BOD	Executive Director	BOD Treasurer	
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JR and Associates

Certified Public Accountants

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