



**LASPNET**  
LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK

# ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015

Supported by:



**DGF**

Democratic  
Governance Facility



**LASPNET**  
LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK

**Contact us:**

Plot 10, Block 75 Balintuma Road, Mengo.

P.O. Box 8488, Kampala - Uganda

Tel: +256(0)312513733

Fax: +256(0)414531929

Email: [secretariat@laspnet.org](mailto:secretariat@laspnet.org)

Website: [www.laspnet.org](http://www.laspnet.org)

[Facebook.com/laspnetuganda](https://www.facebook.com/laspnetuganda)

Twitter: [@LaspnetUganda](https://twitter.com/LaspnetUganda)

## **i. Table Of Contents**

FOREWORD OF CHAIRPERSON	III
1.0 Executive Summary:	I
Our Year In Numbers	4
2.0 Operating Environment and its Impact on the Project	5
3.0 Annual Achievements	8
3.1 Strategic Partnerships	9
3.2 Capacity Development	10
3.3 Policy Engagement	12
3.4 Institutional Strengthening	18
3.5 Cross-Cutting Issues	19
4.0 Challenges	22
5.0 Lessons Learned	25
6.0 Way Forward	27
7.0 OUR YEAR IN PICTURES	29
8.0 THE MEMBERSHIP IN FOCUS: HIGHLIGHTS ON MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES	32
9.0 Income And Expenditure Statements	40



## ii. List of Acronyms

<b>A2J</b>	Access to justice
<b>ACTV</b>	African Center for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
<b>ADR</b>	Alternative Dispute resolution
<b>AFOD</b>	Abantu For Development
<b>AGM</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>AHURIO</b>	Association of Human Rights Organisations
<b>ASF</b>	Avocats Sans Frontieres
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DGF</b>	Democratic Governance Facility
<b>FAO</b>	Finance and Administration Officer
<b>FAPAD</b>	Facilitation for Peace and Development
<b>FHRI</b>	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
<b>FIDA</b>	Uganda Association of Women Lawyers
<b>HRD</b>	Human rights defenders
<b>IIMS</b>	Integrated Information Management System
<b>JLOS</b>	Justice, Law and Order Sector
<b>KCCA</b>	Kampala City Council Authority
<b>LAC/LAC</b>	Legal Aid Clinic of Law Development Centre
<b>LAP</b>	Legal Aid Programme
<b>LAPD</b>	Legal Action for Persons with Disability
<b>LASPNET</b>	Legal Aid Service Providers Network
<b>LASPs</b>	Legal Aid Service Providers
<b>LEMU</b>	Land and Equity Movement of Uganda
<b>MTR</b>	Mid Term Review
<b>MUK</b>	Makerere University
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NLAP</b>	National Legal Aid Policy
<b>NLAP</b>	National Legal Aid Policy
<b>NUDIPU</b>	National Union for Disabled Persons in Uganda
<b>PILAC</b>	Public Interest and Law Clinic
<b>PLA</b>	Platform for Labour Action
<b>SAFE</b>	Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity and Peace
<b>UGANET</b>	Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS
<b>ULC</b>	Uganda Law Council
<b>ULS</b>	Uganda Law Society
<b>UPRF</b>	Uganda Public Rescue Foundation
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WVU</b>	World Voices Uganda
<b>WWC</b>	War Child Canada



## FOREWORD BY CHAIRPERSON



I am pleased to share with you our Annual report for the period July 2014 to June 2015. The report gives a recap of how much progress we have attained and the shortfalls that require redress in the period under review.

Our Corporate Strategic Plan 2010- 2015 expired with effect from 31st June 2015 calling for the development of a new one to steer the future strategic direction of the network, a process that we have just concluded with support from members and stakeholders.

We have also fast tracked our efforts towards ensuring improved service delivery in the drive for a harmonised legal aid system by building the capacity of Legal Aid Service Providers (LASPs). This was done through various trainings on areas such as, Plea Bargaining, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Trial Advocacy and Psychotherapy.

The Network in a bid to scale up information management and data collection for both the Secretariat and LASPs installed an Information Management System (IMS) with support from War Child Canada to strengthen data management for improved legal aid service provision to the indigent.

A new Executive Director, Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa was brought on board during this period, an experienced person from the Justice Sector with a passion for realising access to justice for the vulnerable. We believe that her expertise together with a skilled Secretariat, commitment of members and stakeholders will go a long way in driving the Network's mandate forward and ensure that legal aid remains a national priority in Uganda.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) for the financial support they have continued to extend to LASPNET, an indication of their commitment towards improving legal aid services and the justice sector in general. Our membership cannot go un-recognised for their role in amplifying the access to justice agenda through the Network, as well as our partners for accepting to walk the journey with us.

We look forward to an increased level of engagement, networking and collaboration as we speak for the marginalised, voiceless and poor in the New Year.

Sincerely Yours,

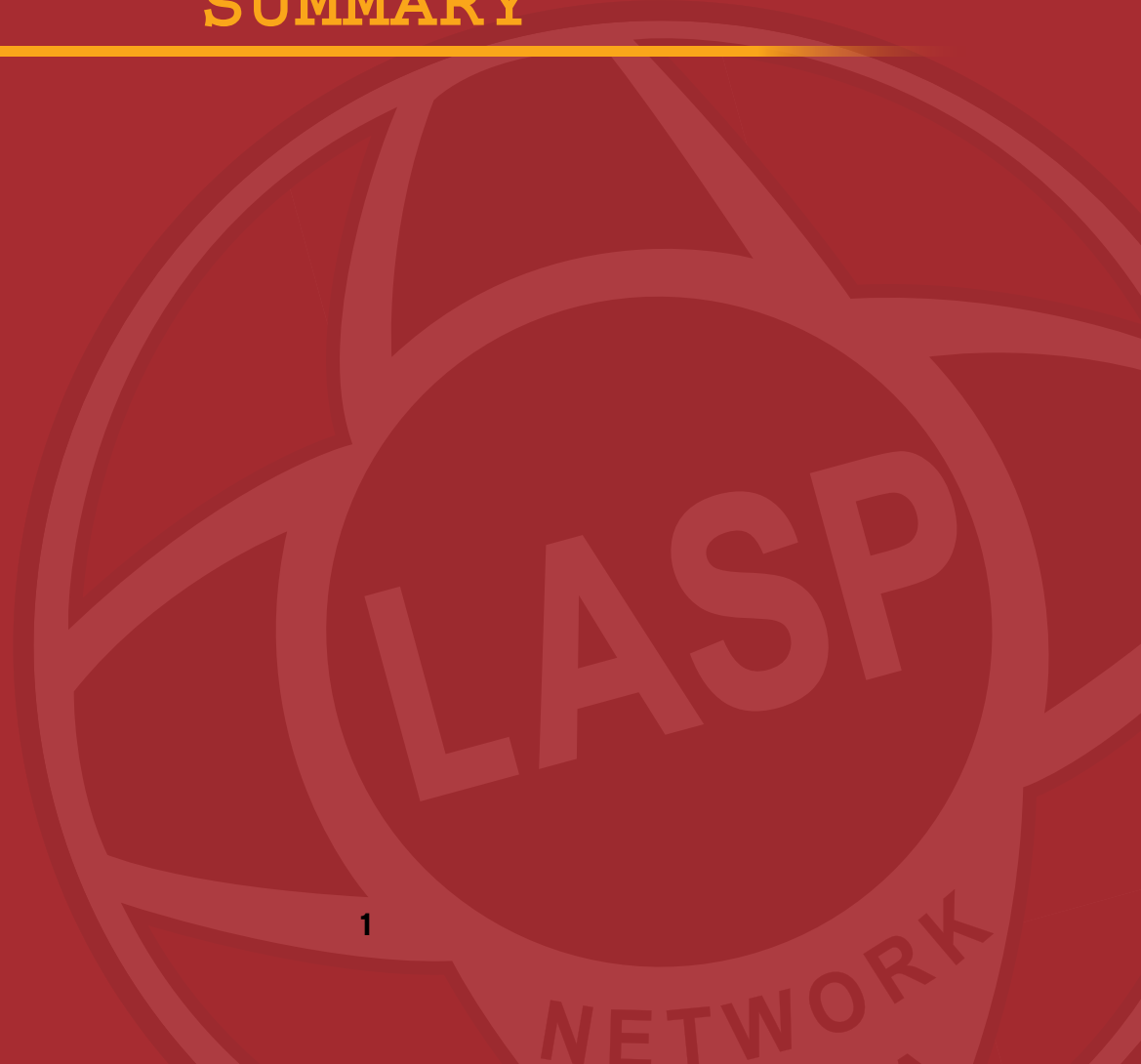
Samuel Nsubuga  
**Chairperson of the Board**

# 1.0

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---





L ASPNET is pleased to share with you its Annual Report, 2014. The key emphasis during this implementing period was on ensuring improvements in coordination structures, monitoring and evaluation initiatives, and the various strategic mechanisms for influencing the legal aid agenda. Our other key emphasis was on strengthening Networks and partnership with the membership and key policy/decision makers in the Justice Law and Order Sector. As a result, there are remarkable developments in LASPNET's like membership engagement through thematic clusters and working groups has increased acceptance of the Network's mandate in influencing the development and adoption of national policy reforms and setting the agenda for legal aid in Uganda.

To date, we have addressed the lack of accurate information on the geographical distribution and services of the legal aid providers across the country. We also now have an Information Management System under development with in partnership with War Child Canada (WCC). Currently there are 15 subscribers involving LASPs and DGF LEAP Partners. This has supported LASPs to strengthen their skills in case management and data entry as well as to harmonize systems and principles for legal aid service provision. A Directory of Non State Legal Aid Service Providers in Uganda was published to contribute to the referral pathway for LASPs.

In the course of the year differing practices and standards in provision of legal aid services were identified and joint consensus building meetings of LASPs were held in order for LASPs to agree on standardized methods for the regulation of Paralegals and LASPs. We are happy to note that these were submitted to the ULC for consideration as it develops Paralegal Regulations.

For our members, Programme and Theme-based Capacity building trainings were undertaken in several areas of the law where gaps had been identified in the Assessment. In addition, Contextual issues and general factors affecting the delivery of needed access to justice were discussed through the clustering of the membership as well as through the CEO's and Chairperson's Forums. This further strengthened the synergies among legal aid service providers.

Through Monitoring and Evaluation visits, LASPNET has addressed the lack of accurate information on legal aid service provision by geographical distribution as well as the various legal aid practices and standards. We also happily note that LASPs to date have online access to the Ugandan laws and court decisions for reference during legal aid service delivery on a daily basis.

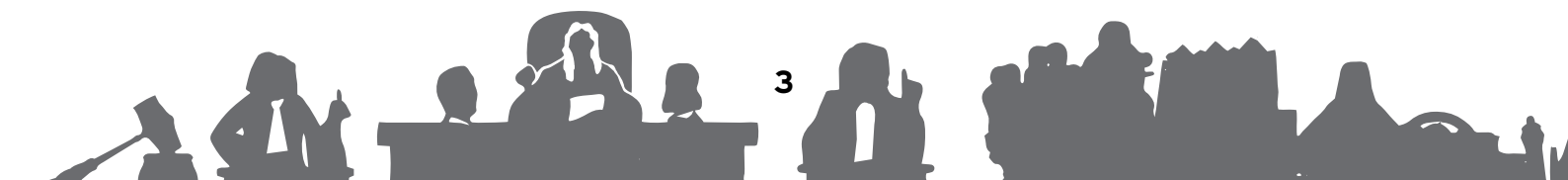
Our greatest challenges remain limited coordination among legal aid service providers and the existence of an inadequate national policy and institutional framework for guiding legal aid service provision in Uganda. To avert this, Joint position statements were developed and presented to the ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Speaker of Parliament calling for the adoption of a NLAP and Law. We

also submitted our proposals on the Constitutional Amendment to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee which is responsible for the constitutional reforms.

With those milestones and achievements we take this opportunity to register our appreciation to the membership for your continued support and believe in a unified cause for access to justice for the needy and vulnerable; our stakeholders in the justice sector who have believed and supported and facilitated in various ways the cause of serving the most disadvantaged of our society, our development partners for the immeasurable financial and technical support ; the Board of directors for their continued guidance and oversight and the secretariat team for the tireless efforts that brought the network thus far.

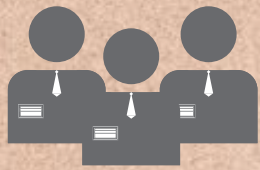
We wish you good reading.

Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa  
**Executive Director**





# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



156

**Community Members Supported** through the legal aid open weeks

30

**Legal Aid Cases Concluded** during the legal aid open week



25

**Cases Referred to other LASPs** in the targeted districts, 12 cases placed for mediation and 89 referred to JLOS institutions and traditional institutions for further action.

40

**LASPs subscribed** to the Online Uganda Law Library.



112

**legal aid lawyers', Paralegals, Programme Officers, Law Students, Psychosocial workers capacities strengthened** in Trial advocacy, alternative dispute resolution, psychotherapy and Gender Analysis. **Of these 61 were female and 51 male.**



7

**Radio Talk Shows were held** during the months of February and March 2015 on Bukedde FM, Arua FM, Etop Radio and Radio Rupiny.

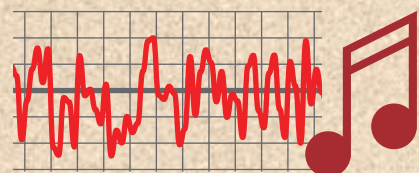


3

**policy reform meetings processes engaged** in National Legal aid Policy and the Constitutional Amendment Reforms.

378

**jingles produced and ran** on several radio stations in the country



# 2.0

## OPERATING ENVIRONMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON LASPNET

**L**ASPNET operates within a very dynamic organisational setting and this is further influenced by developments in the Justice Law and Order Sector. There is however growing demand for its role towards complementing the anticipated national policy, legal, and institutional framework for guiding and being at the forefront of setting the legal aid agenda in Uganda. This pressing need has steered LASPNET with support of its membership to achieve on a number of set targets geared at influencing the legal aid agenda and operating environment. This has been done through joint position meetings with Human rights defenders and legal aid service providers, causing LASPS have a common position to approach issues of collective concern including up scaling resource mobilization to support the HRD work in Uganda especially in the growing restrictive operating environment and fragile election period.

The network has also utilised public spaces to rally support on issues of social justice such as a public dialogue which was conducted on the right to education by the urban poor in commemoration of the World Day of Social Justice. This platform enabled policy makers such as Parliamentarians, and Ministry of Education officials, to demand explanation on grabbing of land from public schools.

In pursuit of changing the legal aid policy and legal framework, several meetings were held to push for enactment of the Legal aid policy and Law. Such meetings included one held with the Hon Speaker of Parliament and the Chairperson of the Parliamentary and Legal Affairs on the adoption of a NLAP and Law in addition to proposals that were made by LASPNET for inclusion into the Constitutional Amendment Bill the right to legal aid. Although this remains work in progress there promising outcomes including political buy in such as the current political leadership recognition of the need for such laws at the recent National legal Aid conference.

### **The progress above has been facilitated both by external and internal factors**

**Externally** the key contextual developments in the sector such as the Justice Law and Order Strategic Investment Plan III 2012/13-2016/17 placed emphasis on bringing the services closer to the ordinary citizen through several mechanisms. This has been evidenced through setting up justice centers at district levels, participation of Non State Actors in the planning and monitoring of government priorities through the working group mechanism as well as review of the JLOS Annual Performance Reports. This hared platforms and information has enabled the network and its membership to add their voice and contribute to improvement in access to justice for the most disadvantaged.

Internally the election of the new board of Directors at LASPNET's 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21st Nov 2014 has continued to strengthen the governance of the Network. The team was strengthened in cooperate governance through an orientation meeting which was organized 16th-17th January 2015 at Country Lake Resort, Garuga.



There has been change of leadership at the Secretariat with Mr. Richard Muganzi who had been at the helm of steering this network since its inception leaving and a new Executive Director Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa coming on board. While the efforts of Richard in bringing the network to its current levels are highly applauded, the coming on board of a new manager also has provided for an opportunity for change, new ideas and thinking. The Executive Director continues to be the major link between LASPNET and all its partnerships and stakeholders and has embarked on taking identifying new partnerships to ensure the longevity and improvement of the organization's undertakings. The change of leadership offers LASPNET a new lease to rethink its strategy in terms of delivering to the expectations of its membership and stakeholder.

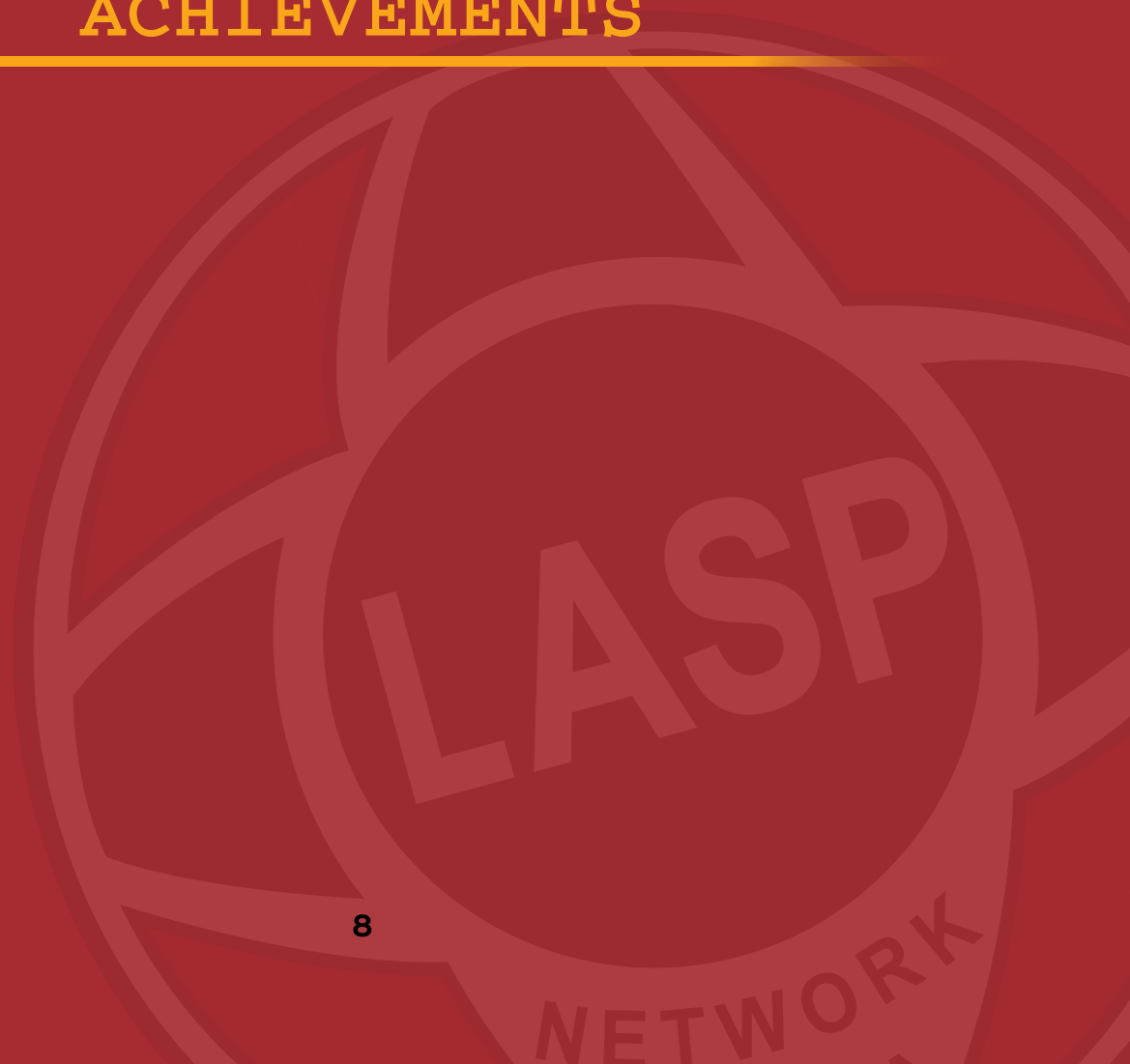
The above notwithstanding, it is also imperative to note that there were lessons learnt and opportunities lost by LASPS to cause change. LASPs noted several policymaking and law reform processes in which the membership would have made a contribution as a Network but the opportunities were not exploited for example failure to accomplish development of the paralegal regulations. Such challenges remain and the task at hand remains that we need to scale up our coordination, networking and supportive mechanism to ensure we use all available avenues to amplify our voices and make more remarkable contributions to the legal aid sector.

# 3.0

---

## ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

---



**A** number of achievements have been realized by LASPNET during the year which enabled the network to improve its institutional frameworks and operational capacity. LASPNET actions ensured data sharing on the activities, capacity, and enhancement of geographical coverage of legal aid service providers; harmonized systems and principles for legal aid service delivery through better coordination among service providers; addressing various contextual issues and general factors affecting the delivery of needed access to justice outcomes; close the gaps in monitoring and evaluating the nature of legal aid services delivered; as well as contribute to the national policy, legal, regulatory, and institutional framework for legal aid in Uganda. Below are some of the major achievements registered in four thematic areas of strategic partnerships, policy engagement, capacity development and institutional strengthening in the period under review:

### **3.1 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:**

In order to promote equitable participation of member organizations to influence shared positions across the JLOS structures, a number of initiatives were engaged. Specifically the following achievements were realized:

#### **3.1.1 Building consensus on the organizational structure and LASPNET**

**Strategic Plan:** LASPNET organized a Chairpersons and Directors' forum on 14th October 2014 to build consensus on the organizational structure and key result areas for the next strategic plan. In addition, on 6th May 2015 another Chairpersons and Directors' forum was organized to dialogue on contextual issues influencing national legal aid agenda. The forum provided an update on the status of the inaugural CEOs and Chairperson's meeting recommendations; created awareness on the National Legal Aid Policy and LASPNET used it to rally support and cohesion for adoption of the National Legal Aid Policy.

Through this, we managed to build a strong think-tank within the Network that provides strategic and other needed guidance for an effective way of engaging policymakers on legal aid and access to justice issues as well as share the latest good practices in evidence based advocacy from different organizations. A key outcome of these engagements is that a National Advocacy Road map for the adoption of the NLAP which was adopted at the meeting which has guided our advocacy.

**3.1.2 Holding Cluster and working group meetings:** In total 19 clusters and 6 working group meetings were organized in the reporting period. The most common issues that emerged from the discussions included the urge for LASPNET to develop a fundraising strategy in order to support advocacy efforts in access to justice; increase the visibility of members through presentation of positions developed in the Clusters during the JLOS working groups; as well as programme based and skills based

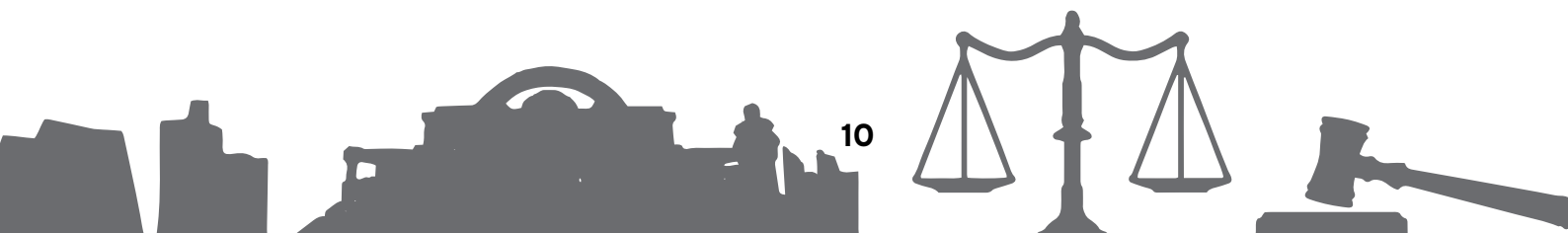
capacity trainings. The partnership and linkages with JLOS and its secretariat offered technical assistance during the period on issues regarding sector-wide collaboration and dialogue in order to influence the legal aid agenda in Uganda.

This resulted into LASPNET acquiring funds from DGF under a project titled **“To Strengthen Capacity, Coordination and advocacy for legal aid service provision in Uganda”** which enabled LASPNET to further engage key policy makers such as JLOS, on access to justice issues through presentation of policy statements on the case backlog reduction strategy, incorporation of legal aid as a human rights in the National Human Rights Action Plan and the Constitutional Amendment process. Through this project, LASPNET registered a number of milestones key which included: Supporting LASPNET to develop an internal policy framework; position statements addressing systemic and technical bottlenecks hindering the provision of quality legal aid services by LASPs and their ability to meet the legal/regulatory requirements; It also provided a sustained approach to building the capacity and skills of member organisations to effectively provide legal aid to the poor, marginalised and Vulnerable citizens in Uganda as well as improving their access to online legal information in form of Acts and regulations, decided cases and other relevant information/knowledge resources; it constructed a strengthened platform for working with other relevant actors to promote a common position on contextual and thematic issues in ways that will contribute to developments in the legal aid sub-sector; provided an environment for a coordinated effort of engagement among members through implementation of collective field-based activities, sharing lessons and best practices with target audiences and retaining an effective staff; fulfilling the various regulatory/statutory obligations, and meeting the different operational needs of the organization.

While there is noted progress in service delivery by the LASPS The quality of services delivered and uniformity of standards in legal aid service provision still require a combined effort from the major actors within the Justice, Law and Order Sector. There are still delays in accreditation and inspections of LASPS and this call for more engagement with the regulator ULC.

### **3.2 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**The Capacity development outcome was to enhance membership development and strengthen the capacity of LASPS to deliver on their mandate.** With support from the DGF LASPNET made it a priority area to enhance knowledge and skills of LASPNET members to effectively provide legal aid the to the poor, marginalized and vulnerable Ugandans, LASPNET strengthened the capacity of 93 legal aid lawyers’ in Trial advocacy and alternative dispute resolution and psychotherapy. Of these trained 44 were male and 49 females These trainings enhanced the skills and competencies of the legal staff of various LASPS and abridged the delays in case



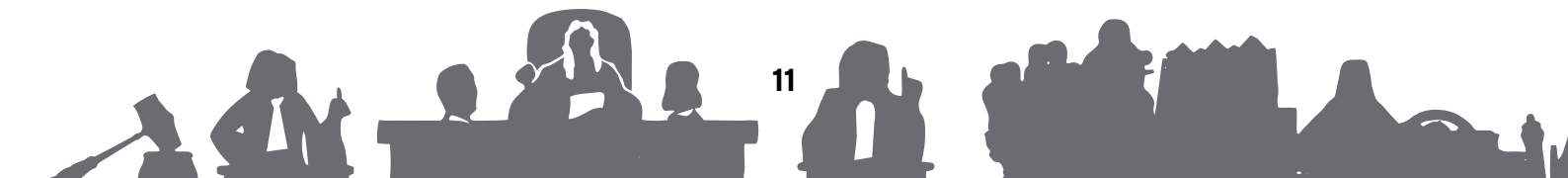
management as now more LASPs use mediation as a form of quick dispute resolution. Below are the key achievements:

**3.2.1 Training Advocates on Trial Advocacy:** In 2015, LASPNET trained 32 lawyers 10 male and 22 female from among the member organizations in 2015. It was a productive exercise of intensive work on the trial skills of trainees conducted at Esella Country Hotel by the training faculty of Justice Advocacy Africa. The Trial Advocacy Training used the instructional method pioneered by the national institute of Trial Advocacy called “*learning by doing*,” that is, performing and practicing trial skills. This is based on the rationale that you can acquire the necessary skills to be an effective advocate through focused practice by which you demonstrate your achievement. Just as a professional athlete cannot acquire the necessary accomplishment of the sport by listening to another talk about the game, trial lawyers cannot learn how to stand up in court, conduct examination in chief, undertake cross examination, and argue to the court without actually doing these tasks.

The training faculty was comprised of Steve Fury, Mark Wagner, John Chigiti, Linda Alinda-Ikanza, Julius Ojok, David Kaggwa, Alex Matovu, and Emmanuel Emoru. These are experienced advocates with vast knowledge in trying cases before judges and juries, both criminal and civil in nature. They brought a new approach to learning which enabled every trainee to gain as much practical skills as the effort each put into the programme. In each breakout session the trainees were called upon to stand up and conduct portions of a courtroom presentation just as you would do so in court. Following each of the presentations, the training faculty members provided feedback, including suggestions as to how the performance might be improved next time. This was a hands one and very useful training methodology in ensuring that the trainees learnt new skills by doing, by listening to the feedback for their own performance (which was also videotaped), and from to the performances of and feedback given to their colleagues.

After completion of the training many testimonies were given by the trainees on how the training was beneficial and relevant to their work. They were invigorated and willing to take personal risks. They showed enthusiasm to exploit their abilities so as to effectively communicate in the courtroom. Most of them expressed self-confidence after the training, increased the tools in their advocate’s toolbox and are now able to adjust any courtroom presentation to meet the needs of the moment. In the end, it was notable that the trainees mostly appreciated the exercises that enabled them to demonstrate effective *Opening Statement Skills* so as to explain a clear theory of the case and showing how the facts fit into the law so that their win their client case .

**3.2.2 Training on Alternative Dispute Resolution and psychotherapy:** From the 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 LASPNET in partnership with Public Interest and Law Clinic (PILAC) held training on alternative dispute resolution and psychotherapy. The





training was attended by 34 males and 27 females 16 of whom were students of the Faculty of Law at Makerere University. LASPNET had planned a comprehensive training for LASPs on mediation however agreed to merge with PILAC after realizing that both trainings were similar targeting LASPs funded by DGF.

Equipping Lawyers, Paralegals and psycho social experts with these skills enabled legal aid staff to handle cases in a professional and timely manner. These key skills have been aligned to the LASPNET Annual work plan to ensure professionalism in legal aid service delivery by LASPs.

**3.2.3. Gender mainstreaming:** As part of mainstreaming gender in legal aid service provision, LASPNET conducted a gender audit of LASPs in 2012. The gender audit drew attention to several gaps. One of the included the capacity gap of members and lawyers on matters of gender and legal aid, and as a result LASPNET embarked on a number of capacity strengthening initiatives which among others include: Gender analysis training on LASPNET members conducted on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2014. Through this training, they gained the knowledge and skills on mainstreaming key gender-based measures within their organizations.

### **3.3 RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT:**

In order to influence the national legal aid agenda, LASPNET built collaborative linkages between LASPs, government, and key stakeholders. Altogether LASPNET engaged in 7 collaborative and networking engagements. Specifically, Joint position meetings such as one on Human rights defenders enabled the LASPs to have a common position on the collective concerns including up scaling resource mobilization to support the HRD work in Uganda especially as we near the fragile election period.

**3.3.1 Adding LASPNET voice to protest demolition of Nabagereka Primary School<sup>1</sup>:** A public dialogue was conducted on the right to education by the urban poor, which was held in commemoration of the World Day of Social Justice. This enabled LASPNET to add its voice to those of other well-wishers against the demolition of Nabagereka Primary School. The advocacy dialogue targeted pupils, parents, teachers, and staff. Others invited included the media, social workers, the Government (Ministry of Education), legal aid service providers, especially those dealing with children and youth affairs, development partners, KCCA officials and other opinion leaders. As a key positive outcome of this engagement the Parliamentary Select Committee inquiring into illegal school land giveaways directed the Ministry of Education to urgently reconstruct Nabagereka Primary School before the opening of the then new term.

**3.3.2 Advocating for passing of the National Legal Aid Policy:** LASPNET was involved in processes calling for the enactments of the National Legal Aid Policy,

<sup>1</sup> This school had demolished in order to erect investment buildings.



several meetings were held in pursuit of enactment of the Legal aid policy and Law. For example, In partnership with Justice Centres Uganda, LASPNET met with the Honorable Speaker of Parliament and Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee to discuss the cost benefits of a National Legal Aid Policy as well as the proposed National Advocacy Road map which was developed in October 2014. This meeting culminated into a lobby meeting with the Speaker of Parliament and the Chairperson Legal Affairs, which was held in March 2015 to discuss the adoption of the NLAP and Law. Discussions majorly centered on the development processes and the support required from Parliament in this process. We specifically held a Press conference on 26<sup>th</sup> April at Hotel Africana to further lobby Government to adopt the National Legal Aid Policy as a means to sustainable development. To date we are still pushing for enactment of NLAP.

In order to further strengthen the advocacy efforts in the adoption of a NLAP, LASPNET has commissioned two Consultancies to establish the Cost Benefit of establishment of legal aid as well as a research on Poverty, Marginalization and vulnerability in access to justice in Uganda. We hope that the findings will enhance the evidence based policy advocacy for the network.

**3.3.3 Shaping the Constitutional Amendments:** To complement the initial efforts by the Parliamentary Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, LASPNET in Partnership with FIDA Uganda presented its proposals, to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee for inclusion into the Constitutional Amendment Bill on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This is still work in progress but with promising outcomes with continued lobby of policy influencers. The two main LASPNET proposals made to the Committee were on the inclusion of the right to legal aid and the establishment of an independent legal aid body to administer the national legal aid scheme whose composition and functions should be prescribed by an Act of Parliament. LASPNET was also part of the CSOs campaign spear headed by the Uganda NGO Forum protesting the NGO bill that sought to curtail and restrict the operations and activities of the CSOs. LASPNET actively participated in the consultative process and made a legal analysis contribution to the position paper that was presented in advocacy forums intended to have the draconian provision removed from the bill

Furthermore, LASPNET drafted a position paper that presents the official viewpoint and recommendations of members regarding professional categorization, educational certification, periodic accreditation, work supervision as well as the centralized registration of paralegals in Uganda. These were shared for further action with the then State Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Honorable Fredrick Ruhindi, the Justice Law and Order Sector Secretariat as well as Uganda Law Council who are mandated to develop Regulations for Paralegals in Uganda.

**Increased access to Justice Interventions through legal aid open week and other service delivery models by LASPS:** As part of LASPNET's agenda for

reducing case backlog and delayed disposal of hearings cases, and bringing justice nearer to the people, LASPNET organized the legal aid open week under the Theme **“Access to Land Justice is Human Right”** from 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014 up to 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2014 in two districts of Amuru and Pader. We note that through this open week, a total of 156 Community members benefited from this intervention with 30 cases concluded, 25 referred to other LASPs in the targeted districts, 12 cases were placed for mediation and 89 referred to JLOS institutions and traditional institutions for further action. In addition to these efforts LASPS continue to deliver legal aid services to the poor, vulnerable and marginalized through various models. Through our membership a **total of 27,695** people have received Primary legal aid for the period June 2014 – July 2015 in the form of legal advice and representation as per the breakdown below: This enabled them to access justice and have their rights protected. We have provided more information under the section profiling our membership achievements



**PRIMARY LEGAL AID SERVICES/ CASE HANDLING**

	ACTY	ASF	FHRI	FIDA	LAPD	LAC/LDC	LEMU	MIFUMI	NUDIPU	PILAC	PLA	WVU	UPRF	UGANET	TOTALS
Land Disputes		119	595	260			233	23	22			165	7	189	1299
Domestic/Family Relations			259	87								25	18		253
Defilement/Rape								57	5	52			43		157
Criminal Cases	103	14	198	80				87	14			39	51	89	1146
Civil			219	2								20			145
Commercial			78	18								14	2		78
Child Neglect / Maintenance				542		221		76	11			50	2	68	970
Domestic Violence				48				255	23					115	441
Labour / Unlawful Dismissal									10				2		13
Economic Abuse								198				30			228
Bail Applications													4		4
Administration of Estate				17						70				108	125
Property Rights				121											121
Reconciliation						775									775
Diversion						832									882
Bride Price case								3				10			13
Stigmatization														29	29
Cases not categorized but registered					70	4325		3182	85	61	8909	3671		83	11477
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1349</b>	<b>1175</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5,932</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>3881</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>9751</b>	<b>4024</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>27695</b>

## Membership Service delivery models and geographical coverage profiled

ORGANISATION		TARGET BENEFICIARIES		TARGETED REGIONS / DISTRICTS	
African Center for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)	Survivors and victims of Torture	National			
Avocats Sans Frontiers ASF	Women, Men, Children and Prisoners	Buseruka sub-county, Kyangwali sub-county in Hoima District.			
Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)	Victims of Human rights abuse such as Women, Men, Children and Prisoners	Kampala, Masaka, Jinja, Kiboga and Kalangala			
Uganda Association of Women Lawyers(FIDA Uganda)	Women, men, children and community Legal Volunteers	<b>Kabale</b> , Kisoro, Bushenyi, Mbararar, Isingiro, Ntungamo and Kanungu; <b>Arua</b> , Nebbi, Maracha, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Ajumani; <b>Mbale</b> , Palisa, Busembatya, Bukedea, Kumi, Tororo, Budaka and Kibuku; <b>Kapchorwa</b> , Kween, Bulambuli, Bududa, Sironko; <b>KAMULI</b> , Iganga, Buyende and Jinja.			
Legal Action for Persons with Disability (LAPD)	Persons with Disabilities	Masindi, Mityana, Lira, Gulu, Amuru, Kampala			
Legal Aid Clinic of Law Development Centre (LAC/LAC)	Children in conflict with the law and petty adult offenders	Masindi, Kabarole, Kibaale, Wakiso, Kampala, Ibanda, Kamwenge, Lira, Mbarara, Kamuli Jinja, Gulu, and Iganga			
Land and Equity Movement of Uganda (LEMU)	Women, Men and Children, customary land management structures (Clans)	Apac, Soroti and Lira			
MIFUMI	Women and Children	Bukedea, Masaka, Mbarara, Moroto, Tororo.			
National Union for Disabled Persons in Uganda (NUDIPU)	Persons with Disabilities	Kampala, Gomba, Iganga, Namutumba, Lira and Dokolo districts			
Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC)	Law Students	Kampala			
Platform for Labour Action (PLA)	Children in exploitative forms of work, Children at risk of exploitation, Vulnerable and Marginalized Workers infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, women, youth, low income earners (UGX. below 300,000).	Uganda, Kampala, Lira, Dokolo, Amolatar, Iganga, Bugiri and Kaliro.			
World Voices Uganda	Women, men, children and Youth, Inmates and Bataka Courts	Hoima, Kibaale			
Uganda Public Rescue Foundation	Women, Men and Inmates.	Wakiso, Kampala Masaka, in kigo, Kauga, Masaka, Luzira, Mubende, Jinja, Kabasanda, and kitarya prisons			
Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)	Persons Living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, Women men and Children	Masindi – Kiryadongo, Kampala-Mukono, Ntungamo - Rukungiri, Lira - Oyam, Namutumba - Pallisa			

**3.1.4 Media campaigns and press releases:** LASPNET engaged the media as part of increasing debate and discussion on the right to access justice through legal aid, right to education as well as the Industrial action of Teachers. LASPNET held 12 Radio Talk shows on Voice of Kigezi, Simba FM, Voice of Tooro and Nenah FM (Moroto), FM, Bukedde FM, Arua FM, Etop Radio, Radio Rupiny and Radio West. These were held in the months of August and November 2014, February, March and May 2015.

In addition, a total of 605 Jingles ran on the same radios for the reporting period and the message focused on the definition of legal aid services and the how to access the services. In addition through media, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 World Voices Uganda (WVU) and Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD)<sup>2</sup> published an article on the plight of Bataka Courts and the death of two suspects while in Police custody. While from LASPNET Secretariat produced two Articles on the Right to Education and the Plight of Refugees in Uganda were published in the papers on 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 respectively.

Press Conferences were held in commemoration of the International Human Rights Day, The increase of Mob Justice in Uganda (Unlawful Killing of David Ojok by MUK Students) which lead to MUK putting in place 24 hour surveillance cameras and beefing up security at student residence halls; and to further lobby government to adopt the National Legal Aid Policy as a means to sustainable development during the CSO Fair on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April respectively.

To address the continuing abuses and lack of respect for the rule of law by the populace and specifically following the brutal murder of a former Makerere student Ojok Patrick, LASPNET issues a press statement on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and called upon the student community in higher institutions of learning and the public not to take the law in their hands. The act was condemned and the network called for the management of higher institutions of learning to put in place measures to address security gaps. The network also showed up in court in solidarity demanding justice to prevail for those responsible for causing the death of Ojok. As an outcome, Makerere University issued a regret statement and also had to install the security surveillance around the university which has minimized occurrence of similar incidents

Other actions engaged in include the a Parallel session convened by LASPNET during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National CSO Fair under the Theme A National legal aid framework that promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Furthermore, LASPNET presented a position Statements on JLOS semi-annual performance report which was shared with stakeholders at the review meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

In partnership with FIDA, LASPNET presented recommendations to the Parliamentary

<sup>2</sup> These two organisations are LASPNET Members

and Legal Affairs Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015, calling for inclusion of the “right to Legal aid in the proposed amendments to the constitution”. During the national consultations of the development of the National Human Rights Actions Plan, LASPNET submitted its views during the Uganda Human Rights Commission Meeting with Stakeholders on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

The network also contributed to the ongoing process of developing a national action plan for Human rights spearheaded by the Uganda Human rights commission. A position paper highlighting the need to have legal aid recognized under the civil and political rights was shared at one of the stakeholders meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Kabira Country club. It is hoped the final action plan will have that among the pointed out result actions.

### **3.4 INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & STRENGTHENING**

LASPNET worked to enhance its institutional capacity to address the systemic and technical bottlenecks hindering provision of quality legal aid services. Below are the key achievement registered:

**3.4.1 Monitoring and support supervision of LASPNET Members:** Through Monitoring and Evaluation visits, LASPNET has addressed the lack of accurate information on legal aid service provision by geographical distribution as well as the various legal aid practices and standards. This was through the field visits undertaken by LASPNET for 8 LASPs and Justice Centers to assess the quality and standard of legal aid service provided by LASPNET members. The field visits to LASPNET members helped in assessing the equity, quality and standards of legal aid service provision. This enabled LASPNET to strengthen linkage and collaboration with its membership in addition to documenting their challenges for more effective engagement for practice change and reforms in the justice sector.

**3.4.2 Standardization of Legal aid service providers:** LASPNET members partnered with the Uganda Law council, and the Uganda Law society to prepare and submit a report to JLOS which among other things contained proposals relating to categorization, certification, periodic accreditation, work supervision, and centralization of paralegal registration. Although there is still uncertainty to the progress made towards this action, LASPNET has already gone ahead to start preparations for a consensus building meeting in the next financial year, to engage the JLOS Leadership and the Uganda Law Council on the plight of LASPs in the delivery of legal aid in Uganda as well as set standards for the regulation of Paralegals in Uganda respectively.

**3.4.3 Internal policy framework developed;** Development of position statements addressing systemic and technical bottlenecks hindering the provision of quality legal



aid services by LASPs and their ability to meet the legal/regulatory requirements; It also provided a sustained approach to building the capacity and skills of member organisations to effectively provide legal aid to the poor, marginalised and Vulnerable citizens in Uganda as well as improving their access to online legal information in form of Acts and regulations, decided cases and other relevant information/knowledge resources; it constructed a strengthened platform for working with other relevant actors to promote a common position on contextual and thematic issues in ways that will contribute to developments in the legal aid sub-sector; provided an environment for a coordinated effort of engagement among members through implementation of collective field-based activities, sharing lessons and best practices with target audiences and retaining an effective staff; fulfilling the various regulatory/statutory obligations, and meeting the different operational needs of the organisation through submission of semi-annual case management reports,

**3.4.4 Online Uganda Law Library Established:** We also happily note that LASPs to date have online access to the Ugandan laws and court decisions for reference during legal aid service delivery on a daily basis. Currently 40 LASPs have been subscribed to the online Uganda Law Library. This has enabled LASPs to conduct effective research and ably represent their clients in courts of law.

**3.4.5 Integrated and Electronic Information Management System Rolled Out:** LASPNET installed and Information Management System which generates reports from a consolidated data source providing reliable information that contributes to transparency and accountability, and allows for lessons to be shared more easily. Phase I of this project was implemented under War Child Canada in 2014 This served to capacitate 5 LASPs with skills in case management and data entry as well as to harmonize systems and principles for legal aid service provision . Under phase II which is on going The IMS project Phase two is being implemented by LASPNET key activities include the roll out, implementation. Currently has 15 subscribers involving LASPs and DGF LEAP Partners. The second phase is ending March 2016. So far 15 LASPs and LEAP Partners are on board with remaining others being targeted and encouraged to enroll.

### **3.5 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

LASPNET has 7 thematic clusters focusing on Land, Traditional/Informal Institutions, Criminal, Social/ cross cutting issues, Gender Justice, Juvenile/Children issues, Transitional Justice. This is an emerging arrangement for enabling the members to provide technical input into identified areas of contextual relevance and thematic interest. This arrangement is complemented by the working groups that set priorities to advance provision of legal aid services to traditionally excluded groups, ensuring an effective and professional legal system that is accountable, affordable, sustainable, and accessible as well as promoting needed capacity and harmonized standards while relying on high-level political support and the participation of all key stakeholders



on a sustainable basis. We are happy to note that we made significant contributions through the following clusters in which the members were engaged.

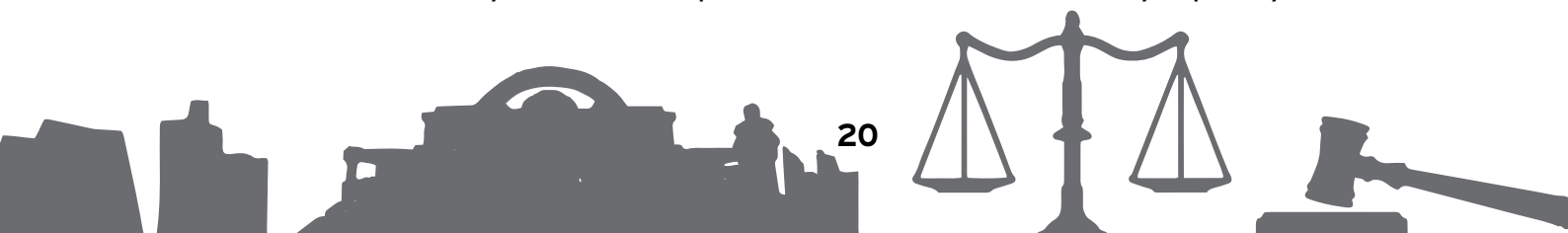
**Pre-trial Justice:** As part of LASPNET's agenda for promoting appropriate alternatives to excessive and arbitrary incarceration of suspects, 3 meetings were held by the LASPNET cluster on Pre-Trial Justice. From these meetings, recommendation regarding case backlog reduction strategy and delayed disposal of hearings cases were made. To date these recommendations have been shared with the Criminal Justice Working Group and they were also used to inform the implementation of Legal Aid Open Weeks.

**Traditional / Informal Justice:** LASPNET engaged on the role of customary governance in enhancing access to justice. And 3 Traditional Justice Cluster meetings were held where recommendation were made regarding the need for JLOS to formalize the informal justice mechanisms. LASPNET incorporated this particular recommendation into the LASPNET Position Statement to Uganda Law Council as well as the one on regulation and monitoring of Paralegals. In addition, Feature stories such as on Bataka court in order to create more awareness on Informal justice mechanisms and their role in the enhancing access to justice by the indigent, marginalized and most vulnerable were generated and published.

**Children/Juvenile Justice:** In an effort to engage on policy, systems, structures and legislation for delinquency among young people. The LASPNET cluster on Juvenile Justice held three meetings. Proposals from these meetings including the state of remand homes and handling juveniles shaped our debate in the JLOS Working group on Family Justice and access to justice. One of the meetings was used to develop proposals on the case backlog strategy that was being developed by JLOS Criminal justice WG. To increase awareness on plight or remand homes, an article was produced and published in the LASPNET Newsletter on the state of remand homes; the plight of the Street Child and the support required. In addition, one cluster member participated in the amendment of the Children's Act.

**Gender Justice:** The Cluster held 4 cluster meetings and we note that the cluster made significant contribution to the development of policy proposals to the Marriage and Divorce Bill through one of the members. The Cluster also made proposals that arose from the Gender audit which later informed the curriculum for the Gender Analysis training for LASPs.

**Land Justice:** LASPNET members under the Land Justice cluster held 3 meetings and posed to the Steering Committee of Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development on the development of the National Land Policy 2013. They also made proposals to the advocacy strategy in relation to fast tracking the operationalization of LC courts as they form the first point of contact for the community especially on



land matters.

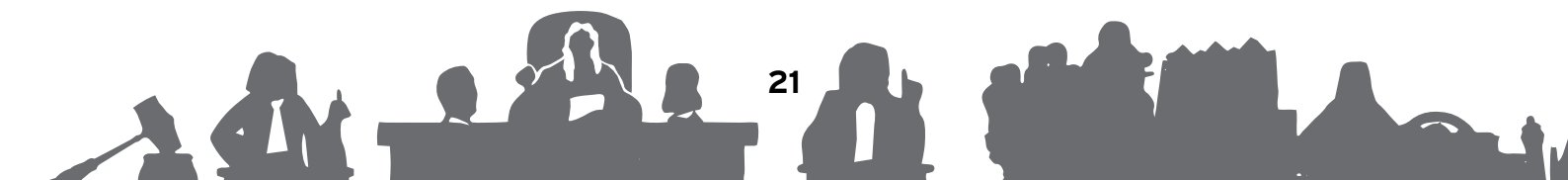
**Social Justice:** The Cluster held 3 meetings on various cross cutting issues including making proposals to strengthening the impact of interventions for promoting equal access to opportunities and rights, fair system of law and due process, recognition of human value and wellbeing, as well as legal support and protection of key targeted groups/persons who are underprivileged, marginalized or vulnerable.

### **Membership Development and Collaboration**

LASPNET conducts annual peer review and monitoring visits to its members to strengthen the partnership between LASPNET and its member organizations, as well as its stakeholders at regional and district levels, to share lessons learnt and best practices that members have adopted within their areas of operation; establish the status quo of the organization and progress made in legal aid service provision since the last visits; identify bottlenecks in access to justice in that district/ region. A total of 8 LASPs and 1 Partner were visited during the reporting period. Muslim Centre for Justice and Law on 28<sup>th</sup> April, Uganda Land Alliance (30<sup>th</sup> April) FIDA (8<sup>th</sup> May), FHRI (11<sup>th</sup> May) and Defence for Children International (21<sup>st</sup> May), UCLF (17<sup>th</sup> June), Avocats sans Frontiers (13<sup>th</sup> July 2015).

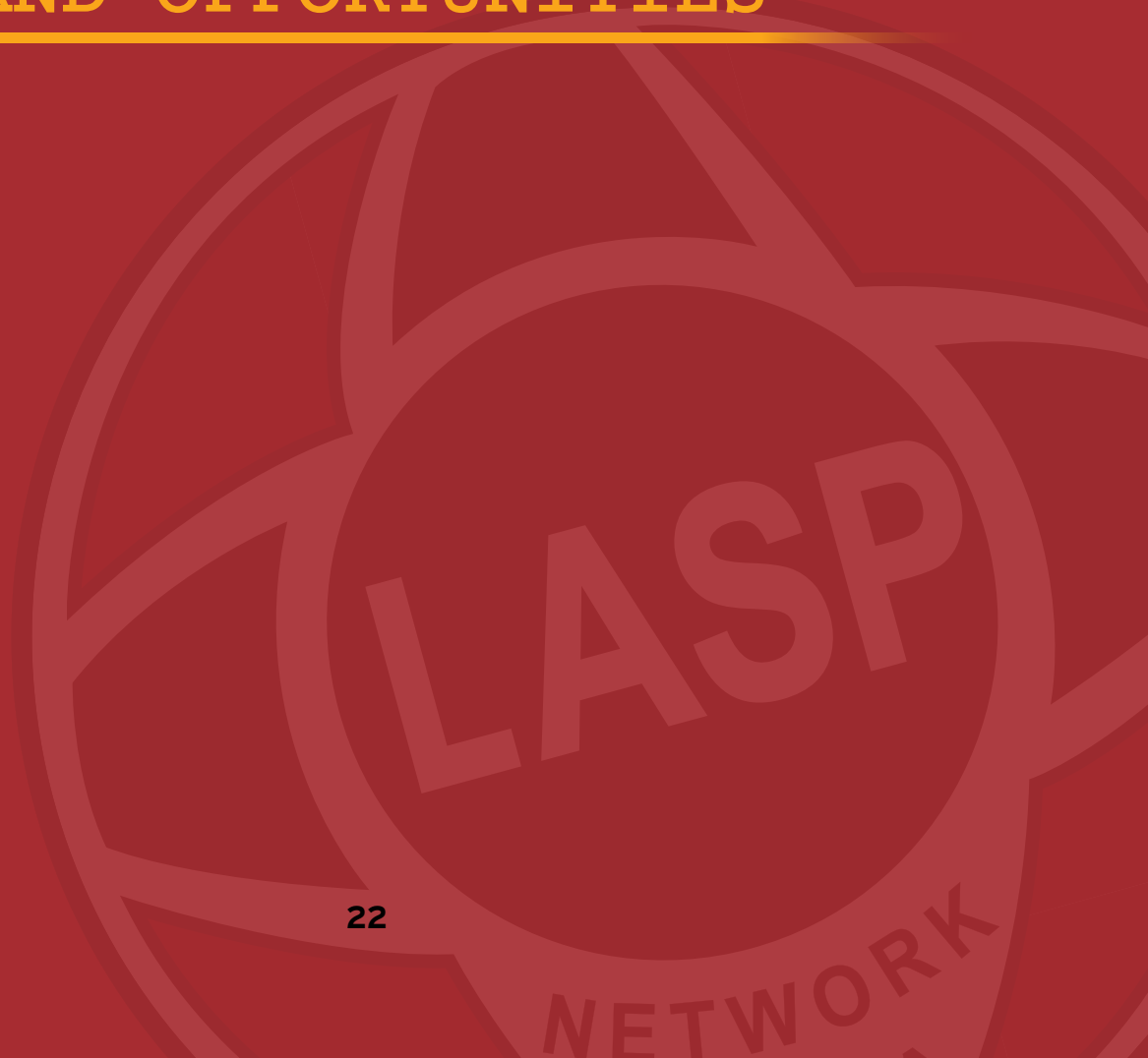
During the period 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June Visits were conducted in the Districts of Masindi, Lira and Mbale districts to the following LASPs including: Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society (Masindi) on 8<sup>th</sup> June, Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD) Lira on 10<sup>th</sup> June, Justice Centers Uganda (Lira 11<sup>th</sup> June. The following likeminded organizations were engaged during the same period and these included Kijura Disabled Women Association (8<sup>th</sup> June) Midwestern Region Center for Democracy and Human Rights (MICOD), Masindi District Person with Disabilities Union (MADIPU), Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization (CEDO) in Masindi District. In Lira District, the team visited Community Plan for Empowerment Initiative (COPEI), and Concerned Children and Youth Association (CCYA) while in Mbale the team visited Child Restoration Outreach (CRO).

As a result of the visits, 8 organizations expressed interest in joining the network these include: Uganda Public Rescue Foundation (UPRF), Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization, Human Rights Focus (Gulu) as well as Ashah Razyn Foundation (ARF), Youth Legal Relief, Midwestern Region Centre for Democracy and Human Rights and Concerned Children and Youth Association.



# 4.0

## LESSONS LEARNT, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



**L**ASPNET operates within a very dynamic organisational setting and this is further influenced by developments in the Justice Law and Order Sector. There is however growing demand for its role towards complementing the anticipated national policy, legal, and institutional framework for guiding of legal aid in Uganda. Below we share the significant challenges faced in such an operating environment:

**Competing priorities:** In the period under review, LASPs noted several policymaking and law reform processes in which the network membership would have made a contribution. However due to the competing priorities of our members and the existing red tapes in focal institutions and amongst decision makers, these opportunities were not fully exploited. However efforts were undertaken to get buy-in from policy makers on key concerns. For example, we invited key policy makers to LASPs events such the National Legal Aid Conference and this contributed to the progress so far registered of having the National Legal aid draft discussed at cabinet.

**Lack of reliable legal aid service provision data:** One of the greatest challenges that the network continues to grapple with is the lack of latest national baseline on legal aid service to provide reliable information regarding developments or changes in legal aid service provision and how these have a bearing on access to justice. The new designed Information Management System is intended to bridge this gap, in addition to the various studies such as the recent capacity assessment which has identified information and other training needs of our membership. This will go a long way in improving data shared and utilized for decision making.

**Institutional capacity gaps for our membership:** Majority of members do not have up-to-date institutional policies and procedures to support the process of collection, manipulation, storage, distribution and utilization of their organization's information resources. The training on results management, accountability and governance conducted was intended to address some of these gaps.

In addition, the information management systems among LASPs are continually assessed to be weak in terms of willingness to embrace the technology to address their daily undertakings in case management, monitoring & evaluation of client satisfaction. The support embryonic organizations with PCs and servers will also guide the organization in those weak areas of processes.

**Membership Participation Apathy:** There is still a gap in ensuring equitable participation of member organizations in the undertakings of the Network in order to have shared position in setting the legal aid agenda. An advocacy Road map has been developed and shared with the membership in order to avail them with up to date advocacy actions on for instance the NLAP and Law as well as utilization of members in the activities of the network such as radio talk shows. Efforts are geared into engaging the membership in designing the activities and also getting them involved

to endear them into appreciation of strengthened coordination and networking as key to strengthening the role for which the network was established. In addition the capacity assessment study recently undertaken has provided for a capacity development strategy which awaits validation. All this is geared at strengthening the membership efficiency and effectiveness in engaging in issues that concerns standards and service delivery incidental to legal service provision in Uganda.

**Non institutionalized collaboration with government:** The working modality between the LASPs, government, and key stakeholders are still very informal and there is need to establish deeper collaborative linkages through building strategic partnerships especially with Law Council which is a critical stakeholder in the legal Aid service sector. This has been addressed through regular engagement with key policy makers in joint position meetings as well as attendance of the working group meetings. LASPNET has also been actively engaged in the reviewing the JLOS semi Annual Performance as well as initiatives such as development of a National human rights action Plan.



# 5.0

---

## LESSONS LEARNED

---

**T**here are several lessons learnt during the reporting period that have informed some “best practices” for future projects.

**Continued support and commitment of members:** There has been active participation of the member organizations in the activities of LASPNET even with their concurrently running activities in their organizations has enabled effective coordination team work and implementation of the programme work of LASPNET.

**Board Oversight function:** The LASPNET Board of Directors especially from the outgoing Board provided strategic leadership, ownership direction and managerial supervision to the secretariat during implementation of the project action. The new board has taken on the mantle and continues to steer and provide oversight

**Partnerships and Linkages:** The partnership and linkages with JLOS and its secretariat offered technical assistance during the period on issues regarding sector-wide collaboration and dialogue in order to influence the legal aid agenda in Uganda. LASPNET activities have been mainly implemented due to the Financial and regular technical assistance provided by DGF.

In addition LASPNET expanded her strategic partners and linkages in which we have undertaken more collaborative efforts in different spaces to move the legal aid and access to justice agenda forward. Such as e participation in the annual CSO Fair organized by the Uganda National NGO forum in the months of June 2015 Action Aid to organize a legal aid open week in the districts of Pader and Amuru in the months of 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014 up to 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2014, partnered with Justice Centres to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legal Aid conference which was held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and A joint position meeting was held with Human Rights Defenders on 6<sup>th</sup> February to establish the nature of HRDs in Uganda.

Efforts are underway to endear more development partners to support the initiatives of the network. And with a new strategic plan in place efforts will be doubled and geared towards ensuring increased funding and sustainability of the network.

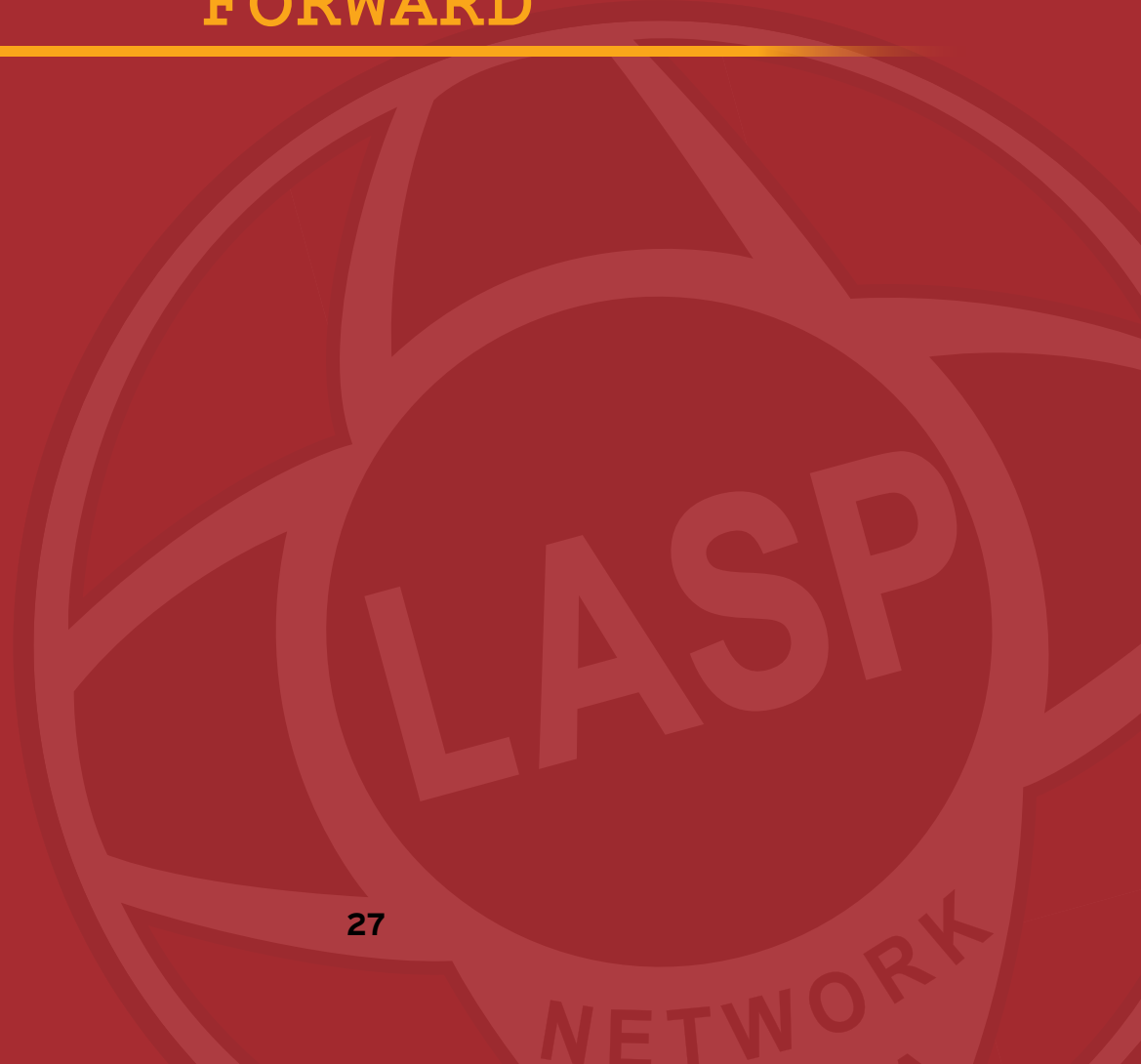


# 6.0

---

WAY  
FORWARD

---





**L**ASPNET Intends to pick from lessons learnt and opportunities to galvanize efforts that will ensure effective research and advocacy intervention to inform and justify the policy proposals such as the adoption of a National Legal Aid Policy by the State. This will be undertaken in a participatory, coordinated and corroborative manner in a way that builds synergies and cooperation amongst the members and key stakeholders

The sustainability and full realization of LASPNET mandate is still hampered with limited resources. Building on support being received from The Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) LASPNET intends to intensify the advocacy efforts towards having the legal aid policy in place and an implementation framework that recognizes LASPS as key government partners. In addition efforts will gear to mobilize resources from likeminded development partners to buttress the resource gaps of the network to enable realize its full mandate.

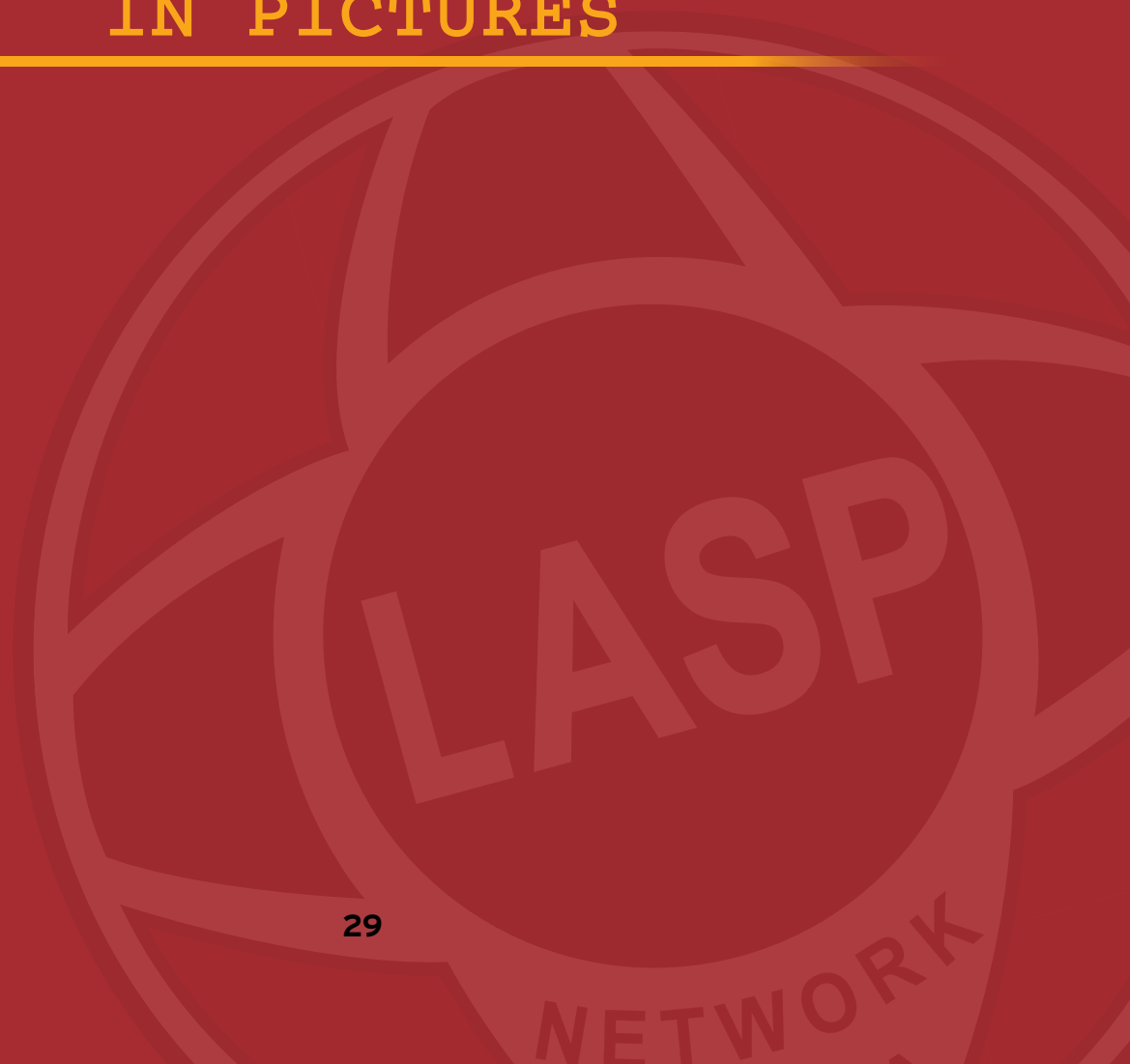


# 7.0

---

OUR YEAR  
IN PICTURES

---





Clients waiting to be attended to at the Legal Aid Project of ULS Soroti Branch.



Justice Centres Uganda Staff at the Jinja Service Centre.



Former Chairperson at 2014 AGM.



Kamuli Community Based Paralegals Team during a Monitoring Visit.



Members attending to the deliberations during the 5th AGM at Protea.



Members Listening to FIDA CEO during CEOs and Chairpersons Meeting.



Participants during the World Day of Social Justice Creating a commitment Chain.



LEFT: Pralegal Advisory Services Staff Soroti Prison.

RIGHT: Representatives from The Ministry of Education KCCA, Police and LASPNET Forming a Chain to stop School Demolitions.



Trial Advocacy Faculty with LASPNET Staff



Trial Advocacy Participants with the Faculty.

# 8.0

---

## THE MEMBERSHIP IN FOCUS: HIGHLIGHTS ON MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

---

## 8.1 Foundation for Human rights Initiative (FHRI)

In May 2015, Dr. Livingstone Ssewanyana, the FHRI Executive Director did Human Rights Defenders proud when he beat 49 other contenders to win the European Union Human Rights Defenders Award in Uganda which was presented to him by the Belgian Ambassador to Uganda, Mr. Alain Hanssen. He received the award in recognition of his commitment to promotion & protection of democratic rights, good governance, civil and political rights, women's rights, access to justice and the rule of law.

### FHRI'S legal aid clinic's outputs at a glance august 2014 – July 2015

The Legal Aid Programme (LAP) of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) seeks to promote and to enhance the protection of rights of vulnerable and poor persons through provision of pro-bono legal assistance. The program is currently supported with funding from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity and Peace (SAFE) program. The USAID funded activities are implemented in the districts of Masaka and Jinja.

In a bid to help indigent persons obtain redress for their human rights violations, the LAP of FHRI provides legal assistance to indigent persons through holding mobile legal camps, attending to clients who walk into FHRI office seeking for legal assistance (walk in clients); empowering people through legal rights awareness sessions, trainings for local leaders on legal rights and radio talk shows among other activities. The division assists the clients by: providing legal advice, legal representation, drafting documents, mediations, referrals as well as follow ups to ensure that clients obtain justice for human rights abuses. The division also engages in legislative advocacy.

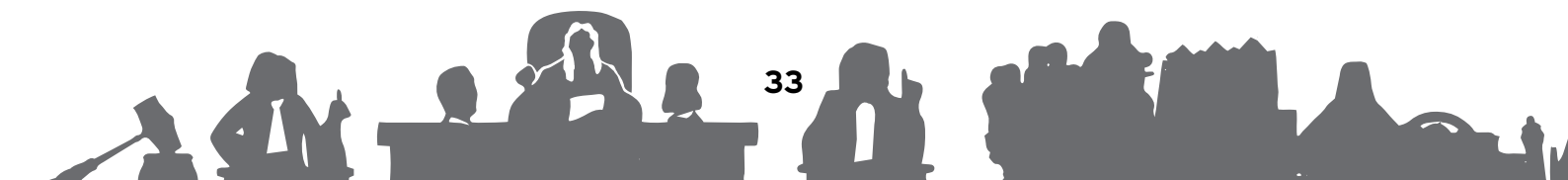
**New clients registered and attended to: 1,308 clients.**

#### Disaggregated

Type	Males	Females	Total
Walk ins	293	294	587
Camps	413	308	721
<b>Total</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>1,308</b>

In addition the programmes reached out to empower the community through holding districts camps and rights awareness sessions that were held in Kibaale, Kalangala, Masaka, Jinja, Kiboga and Kampala.

Over **4,417 people** were sensitized on various laws especially land, family and



succession. (2,623 males and 1,794 females).

In addition rights awareness was done on radio. They project aired **10 radio talk shows** on Buddu FM, Masaka FM, Basoga Baino FM, NBS Kody'eyo FM, Word of Life Radio FM, Buladde FM; Kira Radio, Basoga Baino, Radio Ssesse, and Kiboga FM.

To ensure sustainability of the interventions trainings for local leaders of about – **216 local leaders** was undertaken in Masaka and Jinja on land laws (147 males and 69 females). Trainees included; included Local council chairpersons, leaders of special interest groups like persons with disabilities, members of the Area Land Committees, youth councilors, religious leaders, cultural leaders and women councilors.

### **8.2 AFOD Uganda Activities 2015/2016**

The organization has been engaged in the following program activities some of which are still ongoing:

**Legal and Advisory support Programmes** .As it prepares to recruit staff advocates the organization continue to hire private practitioners who render their services to the indigent persons in our geographical area. They also continue to provide legal and advisory support services through outreach to detention centres and communities. The organization is running HRC campaigns that are intended to sensitize the community. In this programme, community members are expected to understand human rights as they are stipulated in the constitution of the republic of Uganda, but also have the opportunity to enjoy them as required by the law.

**The organization has piloted a Programme on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms** using the Bataka model. This was intended to resolve minor cases, or conflicts amongst the indigents. This has yielded results because these cases don't need to go to courts of laws, and therefore easing the operation of courts.

### **8.3 African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)**

The organisation provides services to survivors and victims of torture in Uganda managed to reach a total of 5,286 victims in the year 2015 surpassing its target of 5000 set out in their 2011-2015 strategic plan. Out of those, 1,694 received rehabilitation, 463 received physiotherapy, 422 psychotherapy and 322, legal advice and support. Other 324 clients got psycho-social support while 158 were referrals, representing a good year for ACTV.

### **8.4 Association of Human Rights Organisations (AHURIO)**

AHURIO convened a stakeholders meeting in March 2015 to fast track the passing of the draft national legal aid policy. The event which was held in Fort Portal aimed at increasing stakeholder awareness, advocacy and participation in the call for the



adoption of the proposed National Legal Aid Policy (NALP) at regional level.

Some of the issues raised that needed clarity during the policy debate process include; the definition of an indigent and vulnerable person ,sustainability of the proposed legal aid fund ,gender mainstreaming, integration of traditional conflict management systems and protocols into the policy as well as simplifying the legal language in the existing legal books beginning with the constitution, among others.

And on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 AHURIO marked the UN the Anti- torture day by organizing a regional dialogue and a peaceful march through Fort portal town . The dialogue took stalk of the progress in implementation of the Anti- torture Act. LASPNET was represented at the workshop by the Executive Director who moderated in one of the sessions.

### **8.5 Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF)**

In June 2015, ASF partnered with the East African Law Society and other partners to launch the African Great Lakes Human Rights Defenders Protection Fund, a financial mechanism designed to protect the rights and freedoms of human rights defenders in the region. Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are the countries benefitting from this fund.

In partnership with the NGO Global Rights Alert, ASF also began a pilot project in Hoima district in August 2014, to support the active participation of citizens in the management of their territory, to promote access to justice, and to promote the empowerment of communities affected by industrial projects. The project aims to promote the participation of citizens in social empowerment and development processes in the oil sector in Uganda. This stemmed from the discovery of oil in the area in 2006 which saw a rise in human rights violations in relation to oil refinery and future industrial activities. For instance, more than 7,000 people were forced to leave their property, sometimes without replacement housing or compensation.

ASF hosted H.E Alain Hanssen, the Belgian ambassador in March 2015 who supported and encouraged community members in Hoima to continue their efforts with ASF through the project.

### **8.6 Uganda Public Rescue Foundation (UPRF)**

UPRF resolved 55 cases out of 129 cases through mediation and ADR, held a number of legal empowerment session including community awareness in partnership with Foundation for Human Rights Initiatives. The legal awareness sessions took place in Wakiso, Kampala and Masaka districts and they mainly focused on Land Matters, Administration of Estates and Criminal matters in the area of criminal justice. Talk shows on a number of Radio stations were also conducted on Kaboozi Radio, Suubi



Radio, Prime Radio and Kingdom FM concerning issues of Land and Administration of Estates. A press conference was also held at Buganda Road primary school to forge a way forward on how to give legal aid to Ugandans from Southern Sudan that were affected by the South Sudanese Civil War.

### **8.7 LASPNET Board and its committees in Focus**

During the LASPNET 5th General Assembly on 21st November 2014, a new Board of Directors was elected. These were 8 men and woman. The Board is full aware of the gender imbalances on its committee and has made efforts to draw more ladies to represent it to other external committee for example Ms Lillian Adriko was nominated to represent LASPNET to the PAS Committee , Ms Laura Nyirikindi continue to represent LASPNET at the LDC Legal Aid Clinic Advisory Committee under the Human Resource Committee, Ms Berna Bakidde represents LASPNET at the Justice Centre Steering committee and Ms Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa was nominated to represent LASPNET at the newly inaugurated Access to Land Justice Committee of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

The board has been able to hold 3 Board meetings as well as 4 Committee meetings for the year under reporting. Several committee meetings were held to handle emerging issues that required urgent board considerations.

#### **Pictorial of the Board**



**Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga**  
**Chairperson**



**Mr. Gard Benda**  
**Vice Chairperson**



**Mr. Fredrick Walulya**  
**General Secretary**





**Mr. Anthony Mutimba**  
**Treasurer**



**Mr. Paul Kavumo**  
**Central Region Rep.**



**Mr. Samuel Baker Odong**  
**Northern Region Rep.**



**Mr. Fred Kaahwa**  
**Western Region Rep.**



**Mr. Phillious Karibwije**  
**Eastern Region Rep.**



**Ms. Dora Kiconco**  
**Member**

## 8 LASPNET Staff in focus

### **Executive Director – Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa**

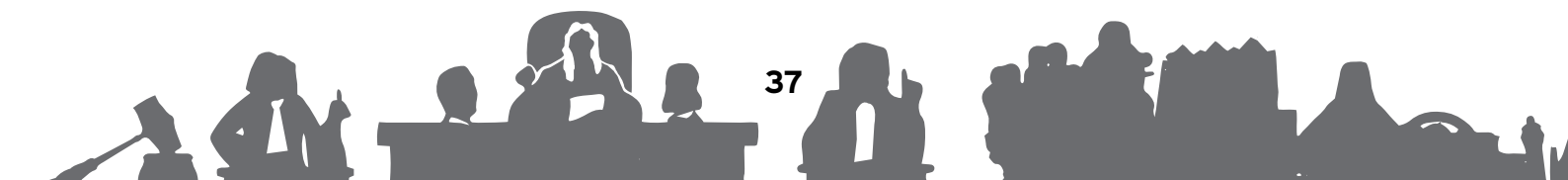
She heads and provided strategic and technical leadership to the Secretariat and ensure smooth administration and day today running of the secretariat she is also the link of the network with its external partners and stakeholders.



### **Finance and Administration Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Lutaaya**

He is a member of the Management Team and functions to support LASPNET in strategic, operational planning and budgeting, ensuring that there are sufficient resources to accomplish its goals.

He is responsible for the following core functions of LASPNET: Accounting and reporting, Human Resources Administration, Administration, Procurement, Stores and Inventory Management.



**Programmes Manager,  
Mrs. Berna Bakkidde Kiberu**

She is responsible for the design, management, monitoring and review of capacity building programmes for LASPNET; entrenchment of gender parity issues within the LASPNET agenda, maintaining collaborative linkages between LASPNET members and all other critical stakeholders right into the delivery of legal aid services to the final beneficiaries; management of the daily operations of the programmes throughout the programme lifecycle; planning the overall programme and monitoring the progress; as well as coordinating the projects and their interdependencies.



**Information, Communication and Documentation  
Officer – Ms. Jamidah Namuyanja**

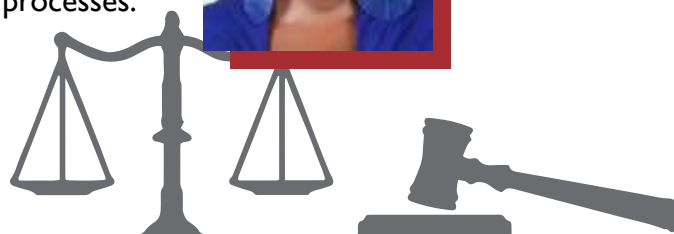
The primary purpose of the position is to enable LASPNET maintain an effective well-crafted message and presence in the minds of all the critical stakeholders and especially the media, the academia, on the World Wide Web and many others key partners.

Key responsibilities include: Developing a documentation system and controls, that provide the necessary feedback and amplify the voice on key issues regarding access to justice/legal aid at national level; developing a communication strategy for LASPNET and communication guidelines; writing and producing high quality communication materials including media reports, annual reports, LASPNET performance reports, website content, other reports and case studies etc. in order to maintain an effective national presence for LASPNET; quality assurance of all communication and documentation processes to consistently meet the highest standards as well as liaise with the website developer and IT support for the Secretariat as needed.

Others include; Developing and maintaining good linkages with the media and other key stakeholders and partners, ensure timely and effective dissemination of information to the stakeholders, support management in communication, advocacy and representation needs as required and organize public relations or media events as required.

**Research and Advocacy Officer - Ms. Violah Ajok**

The position seeks to provide high-quality research for the purpose of creating and maintaining baseline data and for the provision of relevant data and information to feed into the management decision making processes, facilitate policy reviews and changes and also feed into the M & E reporting processes.



The key responsibilities are; To identify advocacy issues and implement the advocacy plan and strategies, to establish and maintain network linkages and partnerships with internal and external stakeholders (i.e. government, ministries and development agencies, member-organizations and other partner organizations), to take a lead role in the legislative lobbying function , to conduct researches on identified critical issues for LASPNET, including the development of research design and gathering of accurate and up-to date information (legislative and policy developments) ,and ,to plan and implement project activities related to research activities and the research agenda .

### **Administrative and Accounts Assistant**

The position provides support to the Finance and Administration Manager in the core function of financial accounting and reporting standards as well as the administration and logistical aspects.

He or she performs all duties in compliance with the financial accounting policy of LASPNET, contributes to the preparation of the monthly financial returns and statements receives and enters requisitions in to accounting system for all expenses ensuring that invoices are covered by Purchase Orders, staff expense claims and other requests for cheque payments are all authorized and have proper supporting documents attached.



### **Driver – Mr. Leonard Kaye**

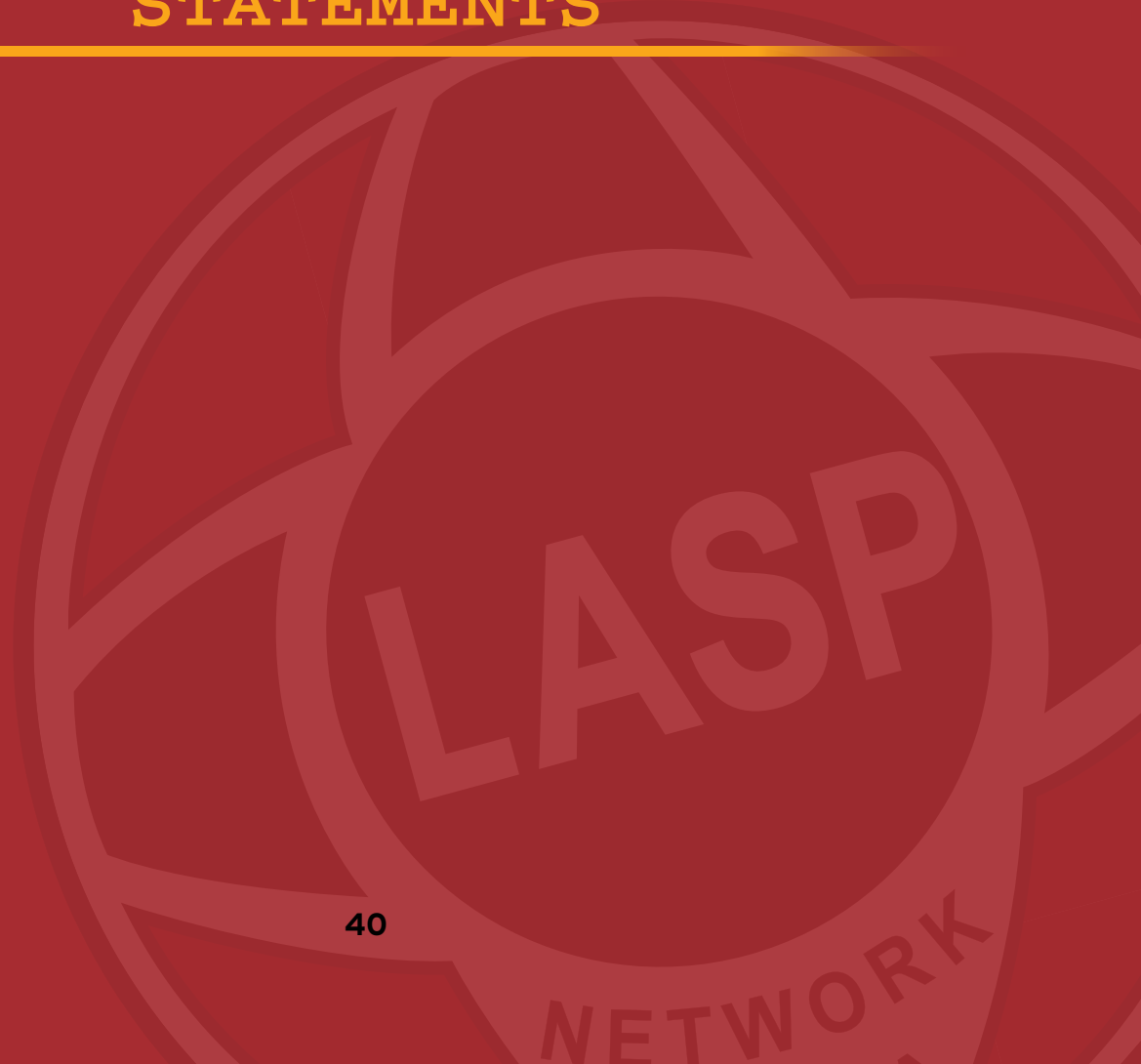
The Driver/Messenger is responsible for providing reliable and safe driving services ensuring high accuracy of work. He is in charge of maintaining the assigned vehicle(s) in excellent working conditions, logging mileage and keeping track of fuel consumption and vehicle servicing.

# 9.0

---

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS

---





# JR & ASSOCIATES

## Certified Public Accountants

P.O.Box 6161,  
Kampala - Uganda

Plot No. 96B Bukoto Street - Kamwokya

Tel: 0200 902244  
Mob:0782 725 587

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

#### TO THE MEMBERS OF LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK (LASPNET) IN RESPECT TO THE FUND ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH-JUNE-2015 .

We have audited the fund accountability statement of Legal Aid Service Providers' Network (LASPNET) for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the Fund Accountability Statement, which gives a true and fair view of the funds in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and the obligations in the partnership agreements made with the development partners. This responsibility includes, to ensure that the organization maintains proper accounting records, designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Fund Accountability Statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

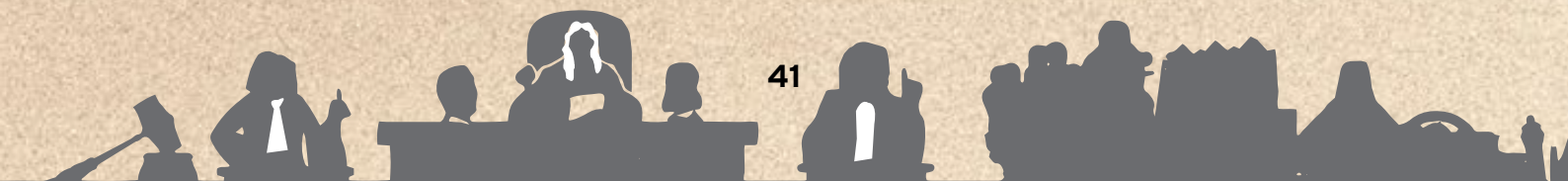
#### Auditor's Responsibility.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund Accountability Statement based on our audit and to report our opinion to you. We conducted our audit of the Fund Accountability Statement in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the fund accountability statement is free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing the procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including assessment of risk and material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments; the auditor considers internal controls relevant to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstance.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Fund Accountability Statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.





Legal Aid Service Providers' Network  
Fund Accountability Statement  
For the year ended 30th-June-2015

**Basis of preparation of the Fund Accountability Statement:**

The organization's policy is to prepare the accompanying statements on a cash receipts and disbursement basis. On this basis, the organization receipts are recognised when received rather than when earned and expenses recognised when paid rather than when incurred.

**Opinion:**

In our opinion, the Fund Accountability Statement set on page 09 to 16 and notes thereon give a true and fair view of the Funds received and Expenditure incurred by Legal Aid Service Provider's Network (LASPNET) as at 30th June 2015 and complies with the basis of accounting described above.

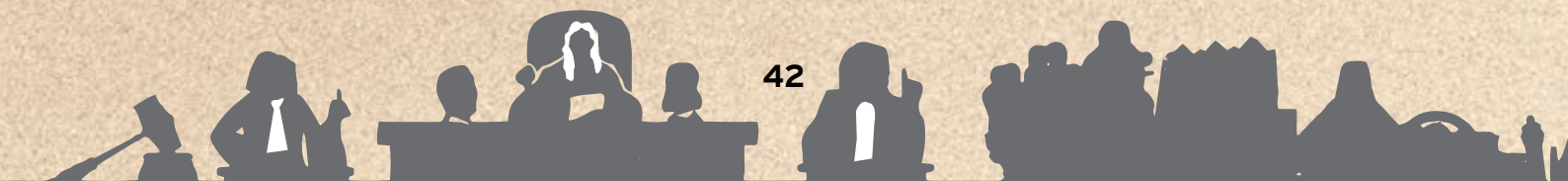
**Report on Other Legal Requirements**

As required by the Companies Act 2012, we report to you based on our audit that;

1. We obtained all the information and explanations which were necessary for the purpose of the audit.
2. In our opinion, proper books of accounts have been kept by the organization, in so far as appears from our examination of those books and;
3. The organization's Fund Accountability Statement is in agreement with the books of accounts.



JR & ASSOCIATES  
Certified Public Accountants





Legal Aid Service Providers' Network  
Fund Accountability Statement  
For the year ended 30th-June-2015

**FUND ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2014- JUNE 2015**

	Notes	Actual 2014/15 UGX	Budgeted 2014/15 UGX	% Utilisation 2014/15	Actual 2013/14 UGX
<b>Fund Source</b>					
<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>					
Membership Fees		1,244,505.0	-	-	1,069,505.0
DGF Funds		96,149,700.0			21,088,965.0
Plan Uganda funds		-	-	-	868,850.0
		<b>97,394,205.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,027,320.0</b>
Income (Membership Receipts)	1.5	7,400,000.0	-	-	2,200,000.0
<b>Funding</b>	1.6	<b>1,208,531,320.0</b>			<b>1,050,188,700.0</b>
Other incomes	1.7	445,500.0	-	-	357,150.0
<b>Total Funding</b>		<b>1,313,771,025.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,075,773,170.0</b>
Fund reimbursement to DGF		44,725,068.2	-	-	-
<b>Total available funds</b>		<b>1,269,045,956.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,075,773,170.0</b>
<b>Fund Application</b>					
<b>Programme costs under objective 1</b>					
Field visits to member organisations		20,273,500.0	21,135,000.0	96%	17,462,500.0
Baseline survey of existing LASPs		1,410,000.0	1,410,000.0	100%	-
Provide IMS Servers to the LASPs		-	20,000,000.0	-	-
Provide External HDD to LASPs		-	2,500,000.0	-	-
Validate the field visit report		-	-	-	16,120,000.0
Meeting on paralegal regulations		-	-	-	10,347,500.0
Review progress on paralegal regulations		-	-	-	8,925,000.0
<b>Programme costs under objective 2</b>					
Undertake consultancies		15,080,000.0	93,067,500.0	16%	95,423,600.0
Acquire quick bird imagery		-	6,510,000.0	0%	-
Capacity building for clusters		20,128,000.0	18,368,000.0	110%	18,822,500.0
Capacity building for members		11,151,300.0	11,442,000.0	97%	5,847,500.0
Capacity building in ESCRS		-	-	-	2,360,000.0
Gender Mainstreaming Audit		-	-	-	20,250,000.0
Validate the gender audit findings		-	-	-	3,995,000.0
Meeting with board and staff		976,600.0	976,600.0	100%	-
Uganda Law Library online access		5,400,000.0	5,400,000.0	100%	5,400,000.0







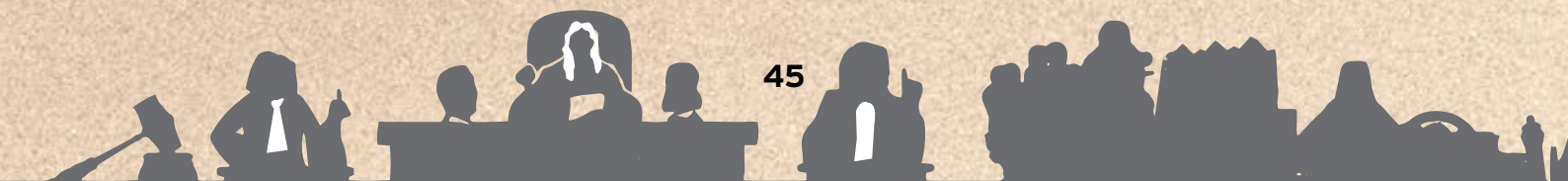
Legal Aid Service Providers' Network  
Fund Accountability Statement  
For the year ended 30th-June-2015

<u>Notes</u>	<u>Actual 2014/15 UGX</u>	<u>Budgeted 2014/15 UGX</u>	<u>% Utilisation 2014/15</u>	<u>Actual 2013/14 UGX</u>
<b>Programme costs under objective 3</b>				
Meetings with legal fraternity	4,738,250.0	7,280,000.0	65%	-
Engage with the ULC and JLOS	4,795,000.0	11,690,000.0	41%	5,412,500.0
Meetings with Uganda Law Society	-	-	-	5,570,000.0
Support members to with Law Books	-	2,933,600.0	0%	-
Hold joint position building meetings	11,309,800.0	24,996,000.0	45%	-
Publicity actions on emerging issues	15,460,000.0	16,680,000.0	93%	-
National Stakeholders Forum	1,448,900.0	1,621,400.0	89%	14,463,500.0
Conduct Cost benefit analysis	-	27,287,500.0	0%	-
Research on who a poor person is	-	27,287,500.0	0%	-
Access to justice mechanisms	-	19,287,500.0	0%	-
Periodic research on access to justice	300,000.0	2,357,500.0	13%	-
Position building with LASPs	3,719,000.0	3,719,000.0	100%	-
Press conference on topical issues	1,481,000.0	2,250,000.0	66%	-
Breakfast and lunch meetings	-	2,000,000.0	0%	-
News paper feature stories	-	1,200,000.0	0%	-
<b>Programme costs under objective 4</b>				
Hold the chairs and director's forum	5,994,000.0	6,880,000.0	87%	-
Like-minded organisations & academia	-	-	-	6,370,000.0
<b>Utilise electronic media</b>				
Production & Running of jingles	28,800,000.0	28,800,000.0	100%	35,280,000.0
Conduct regional talk shows	7,100,000.0	7,200,000.0	99%	5,400,000.0
<b>Carry out legal aid open weeks</b>				
Legal Aid Open week in Kamuli	-	-	-	19,928,100.0
Legal Aid Open week Kagadi	-	-	-	20,286,050.0
Legal Aid Open week Moroto	-	-	-	21,350,150.0
<b>Develop and publish IEC materials</b>				
Develop LASPNET tear-drop banners	1,960,000.0	2,000,000.0	98%	4,000,000.0
Develop LASPNET pull-up banners	1,920,000.0	2,000,000.0	96%	2,000,000.0
Publish members' information sheet	-	-	-	25,000,000.0
Publish posters/charts	15,000,000.0	15,000,000.0	100%	-
<b>Hold regular meetings with members</b>				
Hold the working group meetings	2,100,000.0	2,100,000.0	100%	1,900,000.0
Hold theme based cluster meetings	8,000,000.0	8,000,000.0	100%	5,900,000.0



Legal Aid Service Providers' Network  
Fund Accountability Statement  
For the year ended 30th-June-2015

<u>Notes</u>	<u>Actual 2014/15 UGX</u>	<u>Budgeted 2014/15 UGX</u>	<u>% Utilisation 2014/15</u>	<u>Actual 2013/14 UGX</u>
<b>Programme costs under objective 5</b>				
Meeting to input into proposal to DGF	4,510,200.0	4,801,000.0	94%	-
Orientation for the new board members	14,566,210.0	12,720,000.0	115%	-
Adopt an ICT manual	-	-	-	3,700,000.0
Validate the reviewed strategy	-	-	-	3,627,500.0
Redefine the strategic plan framework	-	-	-	30,000,000.0
Validate the reviewed strategy	-	-	-	3,795,000.0
Review of the constitution	-	-	-	9,666,000.0
Facilitate for board meetings	8,682,500.0	9,100,000.0	95%	5,490,000.0
Hold Annual General Meeting	15,030,240.0	13,660,000.0	110%	18,210,000.0
Hold a staff retreat	3,990,000.0	4,116,000.0	97%	5,924,000.0
Develop IEC materials at the Secretariat	12,854,000.0	16,600,000.0	77%	14,800,000.0
Procure project equipment and services	6,591,000.0	8,450,000.0	78%	8,981,000.0
LASPNET Secretariat staff training	6,750,000.0	21,000,000.0	32%	17,000,000.0
Meet staff salaries and benefits	352,885,500.0	356,469,000.0	99%	359,852,000.0
NSSF employer's contribution 10%	35,286,800.0	35,646,900.0	99%	35,985,200.0
Staff medical scheme	23,960,095.0	23,151,600.0	103%	34,727,400.0
Operations and Administrative Costs	51,683,336.8	36,908,798.0	140%	45,811,965.0
Membership fund Application	8,504,412.2	-	-	2,025,000.0
Plan Uganda Projects	-	-	-	970,000.0
<b>Total Fund Application</b>	<b>733,839,644.0</b>	<b>946,002,398.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>978,378,965.0</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>535,206,312.8</b>			<b>97,394,205.0</b>




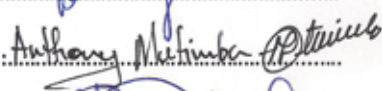


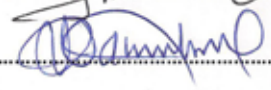
Legal Aid Service Providers' Network  
Fund Accountability Statement  
For the year ended 30th-June-2015

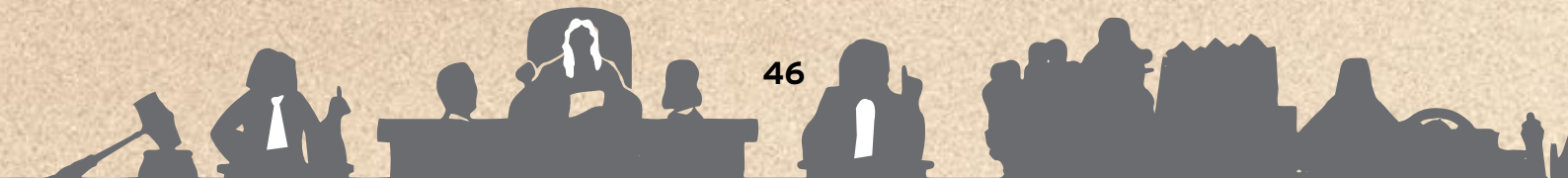
Surplus Reconciled

	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2013/14</u>
DGF Funds	535,066,220.0	96,149,700.0
Plan Uganda	-	-
Membership fees	140,092.8	1,244,505.0
	<u>535,206,312.8</u>	<u>97,394,205.0</u>

Chairperson :  Date: 21/10/2015

Treasurer :  Date: 21/10/2015

Executive Director :  Date: 21/10/2015





Plot 10, Block 75 Balintuma Road, Mengo.  
P.O. Box 8488, Kampala-Uganda  
Tel: +256(0)312513733 | Fax: +256(0)414531929  
Email: [secretariat@laspnet.org](mailto:secretariat@laspnet.org) | [www.laspnet.org](http://www.laspnet.org)