



**LEGAL AID PROJECT
of the
UGANDA LAW SOCIETY**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2016**



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ASF	Advocats Sans Frontières
CBA	Canadian Bar Association
CBO	Community Based Organization
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CLE	Continuing Legal Education
DCC	District Coordination Committees
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
DPP	Director of Public Prosecution
FHRI	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
FIDA-U	Federation of Women Lawyers in Uganda
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
JLOS	Justice, Law and Order Sector
LAP	Legal Aid Project
LASPNET	Legal Aid Service Provider's Network
NBA	Norwegian Bar Association
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
NWG	National Working Group
O.C	Officer in Charge
PAS	Paralegal Advisory Services
RAG	Regional Advisory Group
UBC	Uganda Broadcasting Corporation
ULS	Uganda Law Society
UNWG	Uganda National Working Group
UPDF	Uganda Peoples Defence Forces
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission

FOREWORD BY CHAIRPERSON LAP COMMITTEE

Dear Reader,

As Chair of the **Legal Aid & Pro bono Committee** of the Uganda Law Society, it gives me much pleasure to present to you the **2016 Annual Report** of the **Legal Aid Project (LAP)** and generally to brief you on the *Access to Justice* efforts of the Society. In executing the oversight role handed over to us by Council, my Committee, - which oversees all matters to do with the Society's involvement in Access to justice.

This Report therefore, gives an insight into the core activities of LAP as undertaken in the year 2016 but also contains the progress so far made in implementing the **Pro bono Scheme** which is a supplementary initiative of the National Bar that directly involve its membership in the provision of legal aid with support from the donors.

It is worth noting that the project continued to perform exceedingly well during 2016 as it reached out directly to **39,410** people and indirectly over **6,000,000** beneficiaries. The project reached the indigents, marginalized, and vulnerable persons who are its target beneficiaries through; community sensitizations-through mobile clinics, radio programs and spot messages, prison visits, duty counsel scheme, pro Bono services and legal aid representation and advice. In the last five years of implementation of the project, a total number of **172,197 direct beneficiaries** from legal aid and pro Bono services.

In terms of individual cases alone, (**13,879**) cases of indigent, vulnerable and marginalized men, women, youth and children were handled through Court representation, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms and legal aids services.

The Legal Aid project (LAP) served the above number of clients through its **12** clinics across the country. This performance was over and above the planned target of reaching out to at least **10,000** persons in 2016. Among the clients served, **9,206** (66.3%) were male and **4,673** (33.7%) female. In **13,879** clients registered and served, **3,939** (28.4%) had their cases completed (**1,229** completed through ADR while **2,710** in courts of law); **1,959** cases were still pending in office for mediation and **5,834** in courts of law still ongoing, **1,516** clients were given legal advice, **125** clients given bail, **212** cases were referred to pro bono and other legal aid service providers, **271** cases were closed for lack of merit and **23** files were withdrawn on discovering that the clients were not indigent. A total of **6,386** cases were handled on land and property claims, **280** on family/divorce and separation, **559** on custody and maintenance, **889** on administration of estates, **157** on debt claims, **211** on employment claims, **3,718** on criminal general, and **1,578** were other civil matters.

It is worth mentioning that the above figures do not include the number of people who take part in our community outreach programmes through radio, workshops and seminars where participation is by the wider listen-ship as well as by groups and other individual participants at community based gatherings where rights' awareness and sensitization campaigns are conducted. To this end LAP published and disseminated **50,000** simplified legal materials on different topical issues in local languages meant to empower local communities with regard to their human and legal rights. On the whole, these community based outreach programmes have greatly benefited individuals and small organised groups in matters of human and legal rights awareness, as well as in equipping local leaders with basic legal principles necessary for good governance and for fair dispensation of justice thus enabling local authorities in handling matters in a more judicious manner.

The activities and programmes of the LAP have since inception been dependent upon the good will and financial support we derive from the networking efforts and partnerships established with various partners. Though the Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD) through the Norwegian Bar Association, have to date been the principle partner and financiers of LAP activities in the seven clinics of Kampala, Luzira, Kabale, Kabarole, Masindi, Gulu and Jinja while the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) remain the sole funders of the 4 clinics of Mbarara, Arua, Moroti and Moroto. The Patong clinics has and is solely supported by the Huddersfield Law Society in England through the partnership with the ULS remains open to other overtures of good will in this regard.



On behalf of the Committee and indeed of the entire Law Society, I take this opportunity to thank all the partners we have worked with in the area of access to justice and who through their various ways of contributions, financially and through moral support and cooperation, have made it possible for us to achieve what we have in this area. We remain eternally grateful and indebted to NORAD/NBA, DGF, JLOS, UN Women and Huddersfield Law Society for their committed and unwavering financial and technical support which has seen the Project grow through the 25 years existence of the Legal Aid project.

Even with the successes earlier mentioned, LAP has had and continues to be bogged by a number of challenges. This is largely because the activities undertaken by LAP have over the years significantly increased yet our main funding basket has remained more or less the same for the ever increasing needs in legal aid provision. In effect LAP is overstretched for its present capacity in relation to a much bigger number of clients to attend to and a much wider territorial jurisdiction being covered than before. Office equipment, motor vehicles and such other facilities have since all grown old and prone to constant breakdowns, - which limits the effectiveness of staff to reach out to the people who need legal services. This situation has put a strain on the available resources and as a result, compromises the quality as well as the impact of the services we provide.

On the whole, the capacity of our current legal aid clinics as well as our overall preparedness to take on new grounds, all need to be reviewed in relation to requirements of the Project operations, especially with regard to manpower staffing, equipment and other logistics necessary to facilitate the provision of legal aid to the various communities where we operate or intend to operate. It is quite evident that LAP is now in dire need of more legal personnel and a fresh injection of better equipment and or more modern logistical provisions if we are to remain relevant to the magnitude and scope of the legal aid needs we are pitted against.

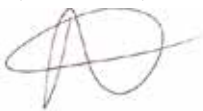
The ULS LAP Committee and Management have set up an Endowment fund as a sustainability mechanism of the legal aid project pending the passing of the national legal aid bill and policy;

The ULS Endowment Fund will attract donations from all lawyers, LAP Alumni or beneficiaries of LAP, the Government of Uganda, local and foreign donors, corporate entities and any well-wishers.

The Fund will offer a recognition structure that will focus on four donor types: individual, law Firm, corporate and legacy contributors. Legacy contributor would mean planned giving, which will involve providing a future contribution through individual financial and estate plans, such as making a bequest to LAP, in form of cash, land (lease or mailo), buildings etc All individual members, law firms and companies that will make donations will receive a lapel pin and engraved plaque.

Finally but by no means the least, I take this opportunity to thank all the management and staff of the Legal Aid Project their tireless efforts in ensuring that LAP stands high as well as, the leadership, Secretariat and the entire membership of the Uganda Law Society for spearheading the *Access to Justice Efforts* of the Society and indeed, to all the numerous stakeholders either as our Clients, partner CSOs or in the Justice Law & Order sector who have in one way or the other encouraged and supported us. And once again, special compliments go to the various development partners who have and or continue to extend numerous forms of support both financial and technical, to the Project and all of whom have ensured that we are able to achieve the objectives for which the Legal Aid project was set-up and guarantee the progress we have made in that regard.

To you all I say Thank you.



Alice Namuli
Vice-President ULS
Chairman, Legal Aid & Pro-bono Committee



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Dear Member and Partner,

It is a great pleasure to share with you a review of the activities of the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) for the year ended 2016. It marked, the final year of the implementation of the ULS/LAP Strategic Plan and development of the new Strategy 2017 – 2021.

We continued, with assurance and focus to provide a myriad of high quality legal aid and advisory services to indigent men, women/girls and children mainly through legal advice, legal representation in courts of law, legal and human rights awareness programmes. Because we believe in knowledge for empowerment, deliberate energy and attention was given to community sensitization programmes which have greatly increased the citizens knowledge of their legal and human rights as well as and propelling their ability to demand for and enforce their legal and human rights.

For a fourth year in a row, the Project was recognized and awarded the prestigious Financial Reporting Awards by the Institute of Chartered Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU) due to strong financial management and governance practices.

Despite the resourcing challenge faced by the Project in terms of personnel and finance, the project clientele continuously and steadily grows making it a victim of its own success. During the year under review, the Project reached out directly to a total of 39,410 people and indirectly over 6,000,000 beneficiaries.

We sincerely applaud the unwavering technical and financial support from our Partners: Norwegian Bar Association (NBA) and NORAD, Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Huddersfield Law Society, the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) and UN Women through whose continued support Access to Justice Programs for the indigent, marginalized and vulnerable persons would not have been effectively and efficiently executed without their assurance of support and commitment.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Legal Aid and Pro bono Committee and Project staff for the commitment to in ensuring that access justice is a reality for the indigent.

We applaud the tremendous support and cooperation received from the legal practitioners towards provision of Pro bono Legal services to the indigent and marginalized. Your continued partnership keeps a smile on the faces of the indigent and marginalized and demystifies the notion of Justice, for the rich.

Samuel Olumo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

THE LEGAL AID PROJECT STRATEGY

ABOUT THE LEGAL AID PROJECT

The Legal Aid Project is a Non-Government Organization which was established in 1992 by the Uganda Law Society under the Trustee Incorporation Act and Non-Government Organization Act. The Project aspires to see a Ugandan society where all human rights are respected, promoted and defended to ensure that access to justice for all is a reality irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, religion or social-economic status. It endures to fulfill its mandate through its strategic objectives.

LAP Strategic objectives

- To provide high quality legal aid services to indigent men, women and children
- To promote the respect for rights and the rule of law in Uganda
- To lobby and advocate for legislation and policies which act in favour of the poor at national, district and lower levels.
- To develop and strengthen management systems as well as the general organizational development of LAP
- To strengthen the governance of LAP in order to ensure good strategic leadership and direction by the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Project
- To build mechanisms and aggressively mobilize resources to ensure financial sustainability of Legal Aid services in Uganda

LAP Vision

The project aspires to see a Ugandan society where all human rights are respected, promoted and defended to ensure that access to justice is a reality for all irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status.

LAP Mission

To become a leading provider of legal services of choice in order to ensure access to justice for the poor and vulnerable people so as to promote the socio-economic development of Uganda.

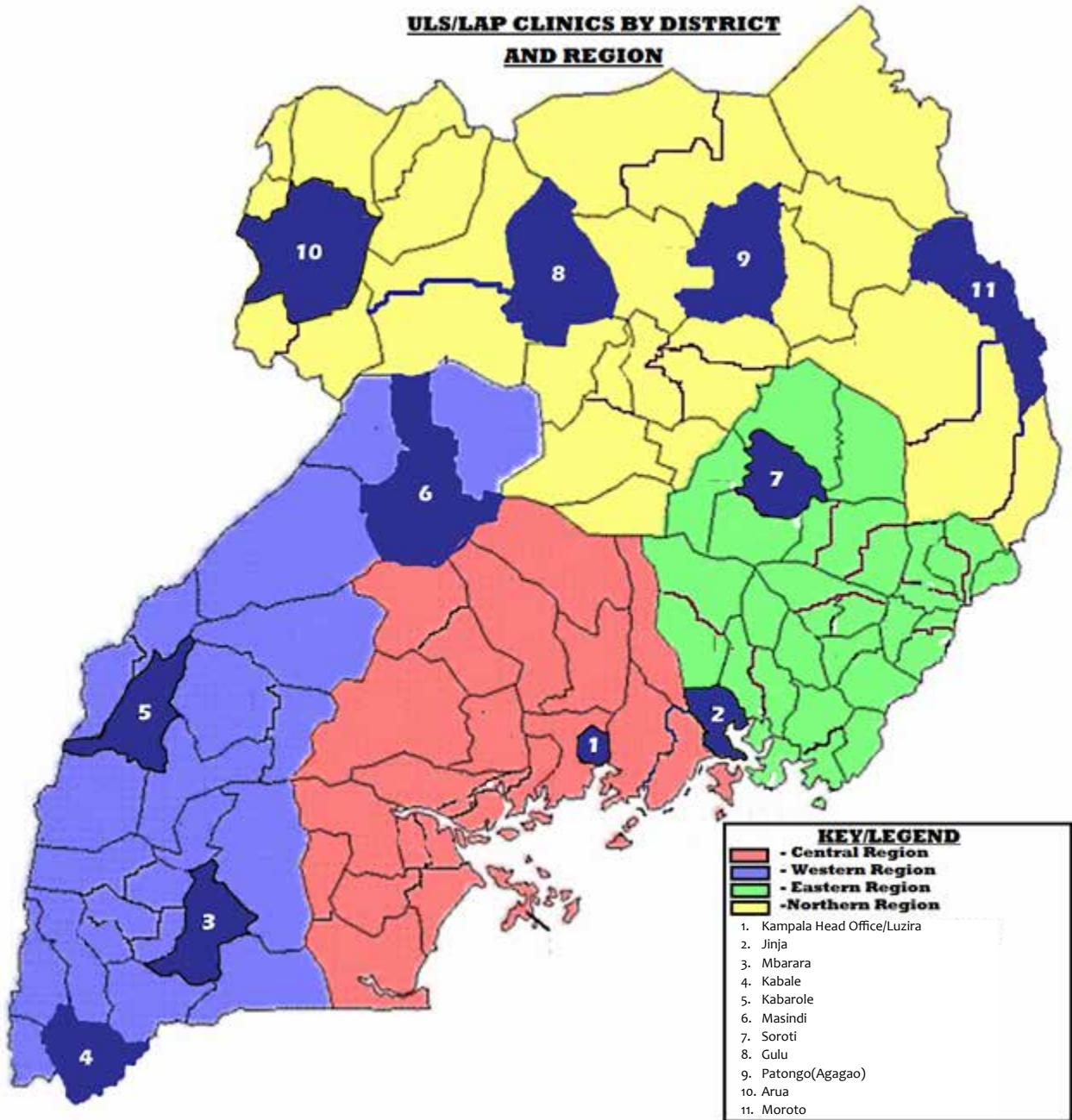
LAP Goal

To contribute to the rule of law and good governance in order to achieve social development.

LAP Values

- Equality of all persons before the law
- Passion for justice
- Respect for human dignity
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Service excellence
- Efficiency and effectiveness

Map of Uganda showing the distribution of Legal Aid Project Clinics of the Uganda Law Society

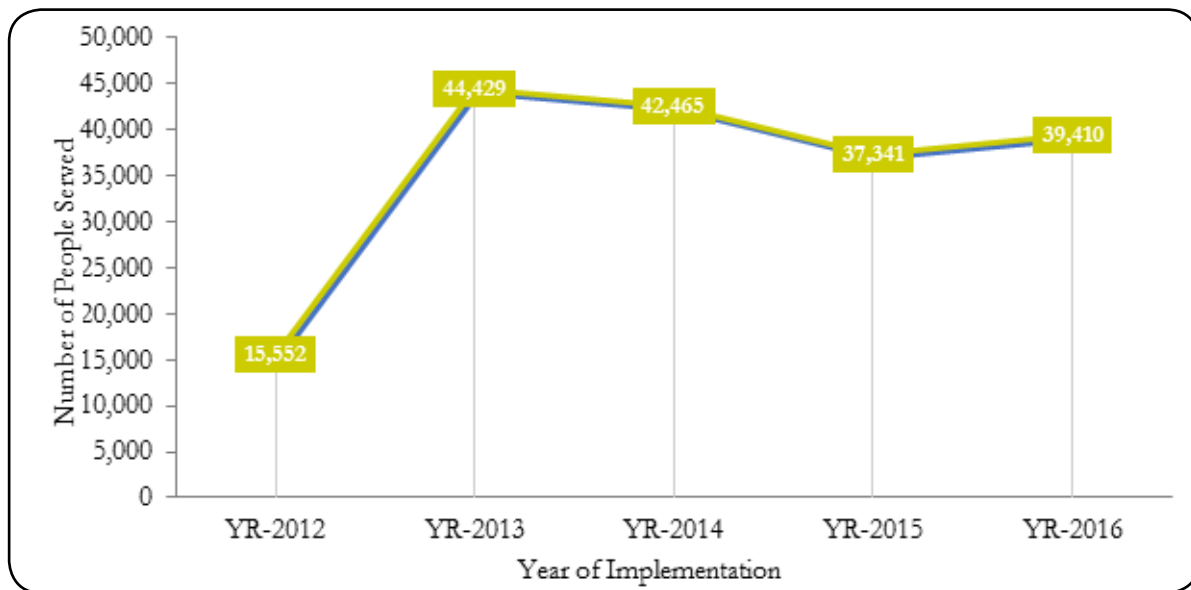


PROGRESS TOWARDS FULFILLMENT OF THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Overview of the Legal Aid Project Performance in 2016

In the reporting period the project continued to perform exceedingly well as it reached out and directly impacted **39,410** people in the community and over 6,000,000 beneficiaries indirectly. The project reached indigent, marginalized, and vulnerable persons who are its target beneficiaries through; community sensitizations, prison visits, duty counsel scheme, pro bono services and legal aid representation and advice. In the last five years of implementation of the project, a total number of **172,197** people have benefitted from legal aid and pro bono services and below is the project trend from 2012 to 2016.

Figure 1: Number of Community members who benefited from the Project Services during 2012-2016



Strategic Objective 1: Legal Aid and Advisory Support Services

The project operations are informed by strategic objective 1 of the Strategic Plan. The project is purposed to bring legal aid services provision closer to the people. The projects operations in the review period led to improved access to justice; leading to improvement in the livelihoods of the beneficiaries. As a result, we have seen generalized reduction in conflicts in the communities where the project has offered services and this has increased social harmony and impacted economic development.

1.1: Legal Representation and advisory support through legal aid clinics

In 2016, thirteen thousand eight hundred seventy-nine (**13,879**) indigent, vulnerable and marginalized men, women, youth and children received legal aid through court representation, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms and legal aid services. The project served the above number of clients through its various clinics across the country. This performance was over and above the planned target of reaching out to at least **12,000** persons in 2016. Among the clients served, **9,206** (66.3%) were male and **4,673** (33.7%) female. In **13,879** clients registered and served, **3,939** (28.4%) had their cases completed (**1,229** completed through ADR while **2,710** in courts of law); **1,959** cases were still pending in office for mediation and **5834** in courts of law, **1,516** clients were given legal advice, **125** clients given bail, **212** cases were referred to the ULS pro bono scheme and other legal aid service providers, **271** cases were closed for lack of merit and **23** files were withdrawn on discovering that the clients were not indigent.

A total of **6,386** cases were handled on land and property claims, **280** on family/divorce and separation, **559** on custody and maintenance, **889** on administration of estates, **157** on debt claims, **211** on employment claims, **3718** on criminal general, and **1578** on civil general.

Figure 2: Number and Status of Progress of Cases Handled by Legal Aid Project During 2016

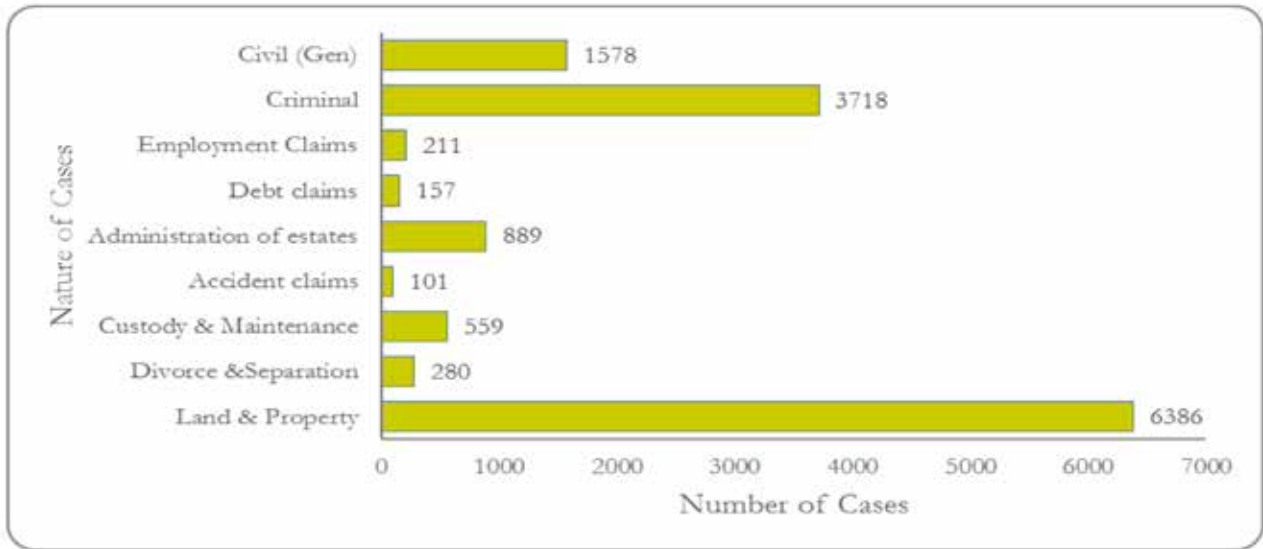


Figure 3: Number and Nature of Cases Handled by Legal Aid Project During 2016

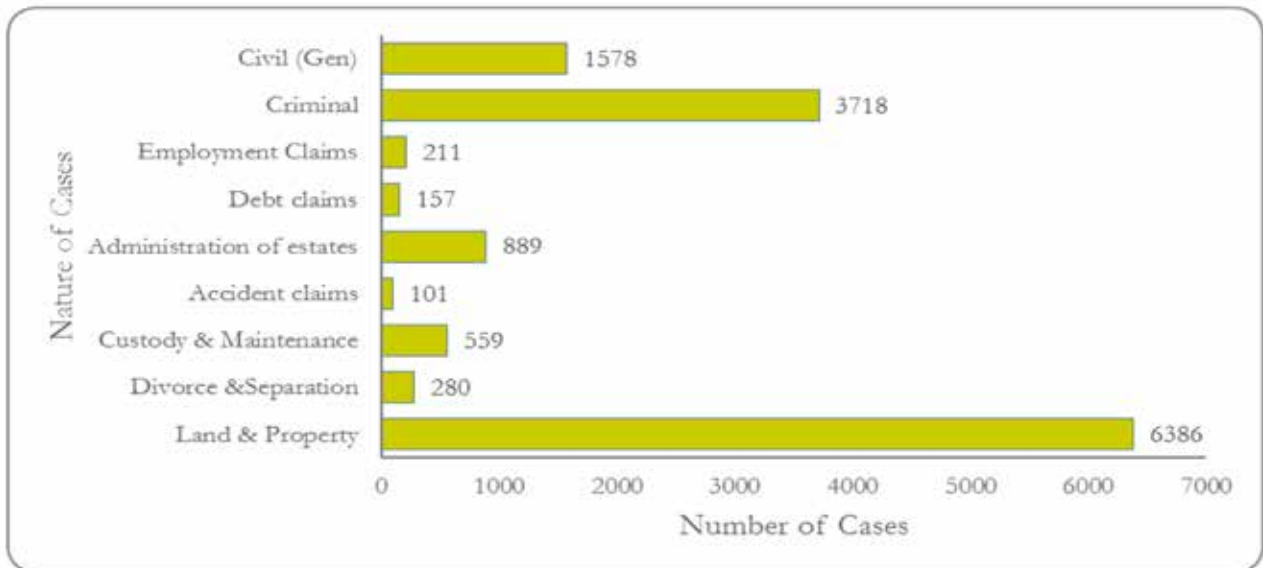


Figure 7: Percentage Distribution of Legal Aid Clients by Sex and Status of their Cases in 2016

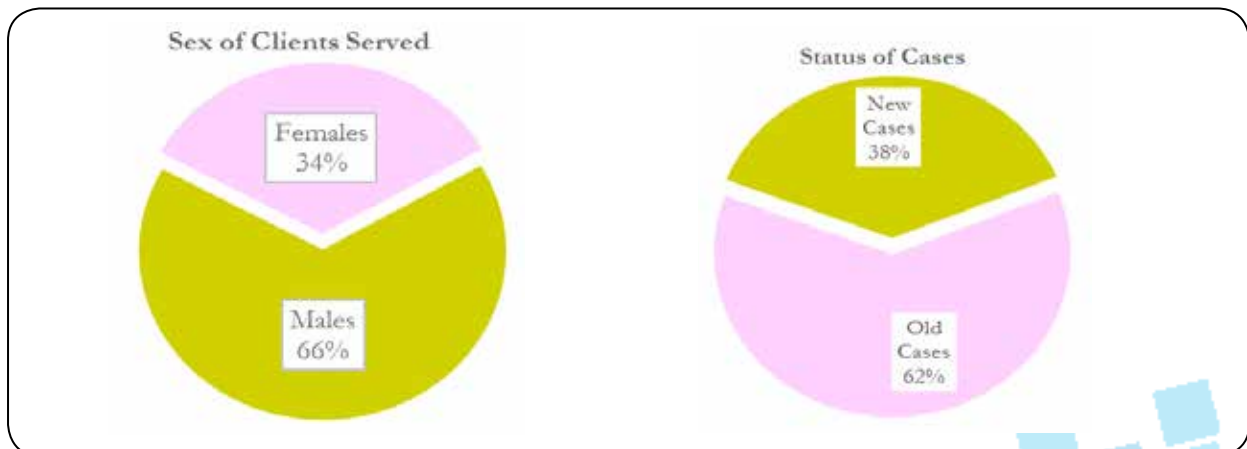




Photo showing the Legal Officer Ms. Acam Bruna and Asst. Legal Officer Ms. Patricia Acom conducting a locus mediation in Katanga, Moroto District



The Legal Officer Kabarole clinic Counsel Deo Kizito and the Law Clerk in Blue T-shirts while conducting locus at Rugarama 11 cell, Rugarama parish in Kamwenge district. The widow was returned to her land which had been taken by her inlaws.

1.2: Prison Decongestion Program

Prisoners are a vulnerable and deserving group for legal aid but are not physically well placed to seek the services of the project. ULS/LAP through its prisons’ decongestion programme visits and trains inmates in main government prisons in Uganda especially; Kabale, Kakyeka, Masindi, Katojo, Arua, Soroti, Moroto, Kirinya, Kigo and Luzira. In the past one year, ULS/LAP reached out to **5,308** inmates who benefited from LAP services through sensitization and training on their legal rights and criminal trial processes as well as offering legal representation services for those that were arraigned before courts of law. Among these inmates, **1590** were sensitized, **3,718** were represented in courts of law and **527** had their cases concluded and **325** released on bail.



Counsel Opolot and Patricia Acom training inmates in Amita Prison, Abim District on self representation, bail and plea bargains.



The Legal Officer, Counsel Bruna Acam training inmates in Moroto Government prisons on self representation.



Ass. Legal Officer Irene Twesiime & Nicholas Kisaale a Para-legal sensitizing inmates at Masindi Government prison on plea-bargain and Bail applications.

1.3: Legal Aid through Community Based Paralegals

In four of the 12 legal aid clinics across the country; we have built capacity among the community based paralegals to resolve issues at community level, sensitize the public about legal matters affecting the community and give advice where necessary. During the reporting period, a total of **1,054** community members benefitted from these services. Among these, **636** had their cases resolved through ADR and **418** received legal advice.



Some of the paralegals trained in Kamuli district after the training.



These were paralegals trained in Gulu district.



Sensitizing the community and the parents at High Way Primary School in Mbarara by one of the formerly trained community paralegals Ms Nagomba Asia

1.4: Legal Aid through the Pro Bono Scheme

For the last eight years, the pro bono scheme of the Uganda Law Society has, through members of the legal profession continued to extend free legal services to hundreds of indigent men, women and children in Uganda. The scheme has been implemented throughout the country and coordinated through the Legal Aid field offices that are located in areas in every sub region of Uganda which include: Kampala, Jinja, Soroti, Gulu, Arua, Masindi, Kabarole, Mbarara, Kabale and Moroto which is the newest. The project portfolio steadily grew with **166** additional Advocates enrolled into the scheme in 2016, bringing its portfolio of registered Advocates to **1,589**.

1.4.1: Legal Representation through the Pro Bono Scheme

In total 2,143 cases were handled in 2016 among which 1,313 (61%) were initiated by male clients and 830 (39%) by female clients. Among these cases, 164 were concluded in court, 39 in office through ADR, and 694 and 818 cases pending in office and court respectively, 1 case was referred, 72 closed and 10 cases were withdrawn. The overall client base grew by 334 more clients from 1809 clients served in 2015; which is a sign of the great effort put in to enroll advocates as well as the growing positive attitude towards the scheme.

Figure 8: Number and Nature of Cases Identified & Allocated to Advocates for Pro Bono Handling in 2016

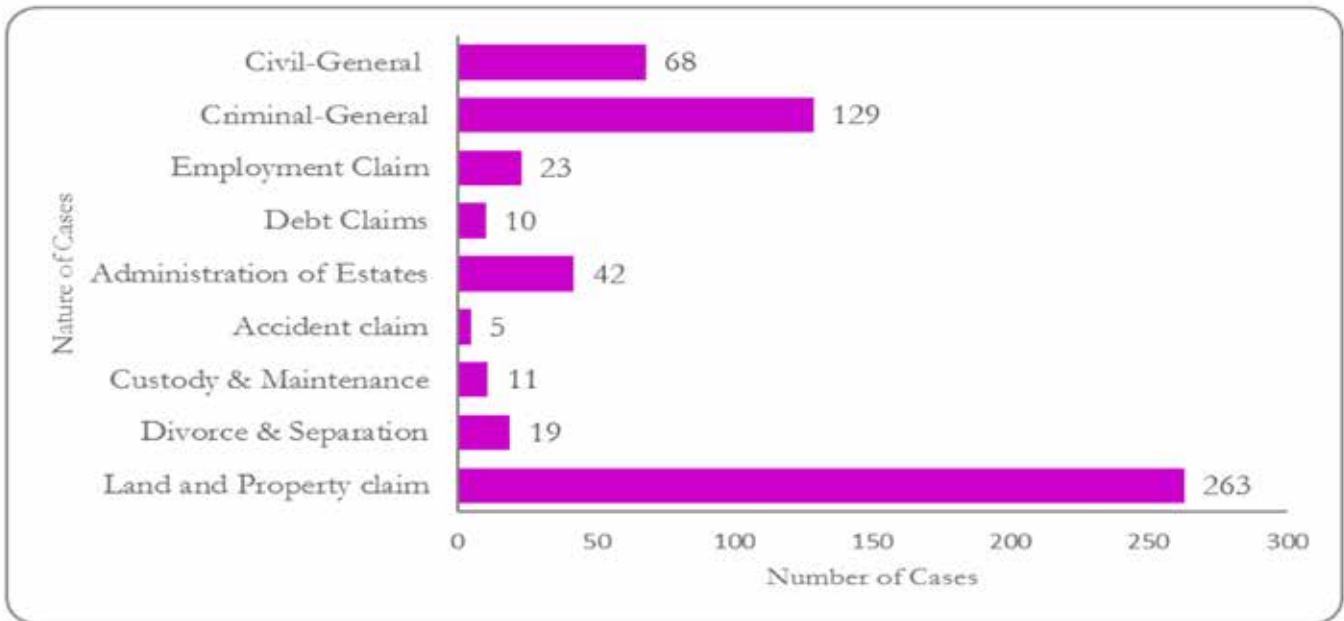


Figure 9: Number & Nature of Cases Followed up under Pro Bono Handling During 2016

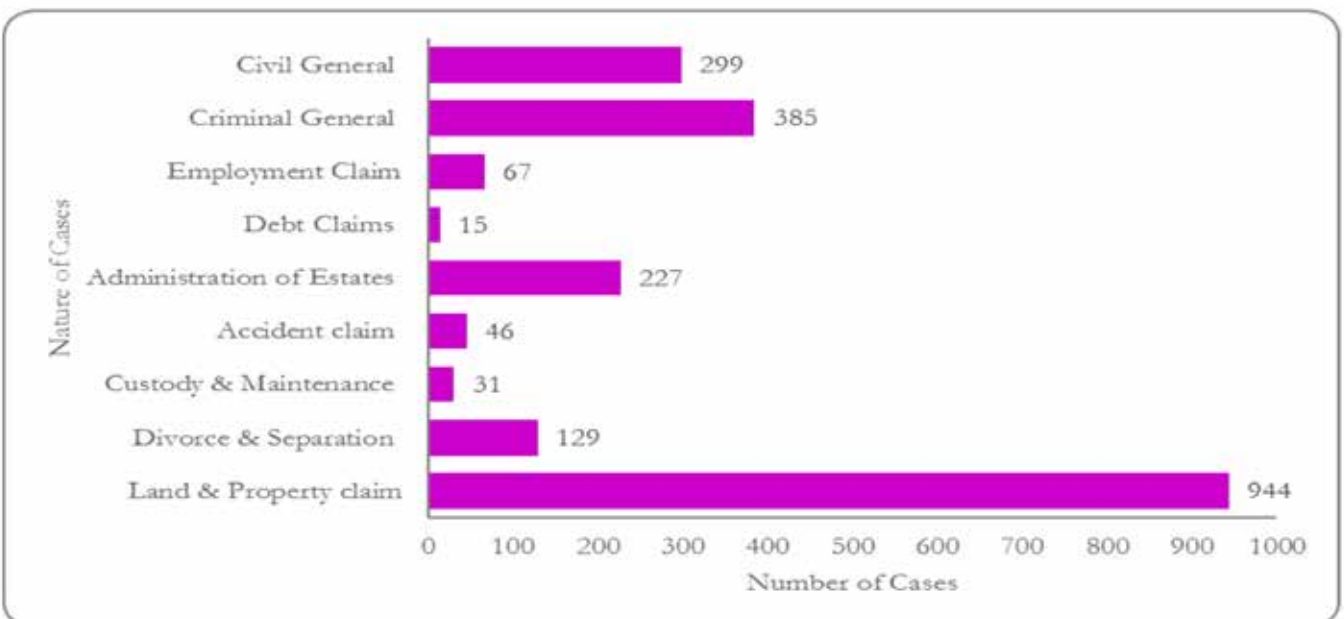


Figure 10: Status of Progress of the Cases handled under the Pro Bono Scheme in 2016

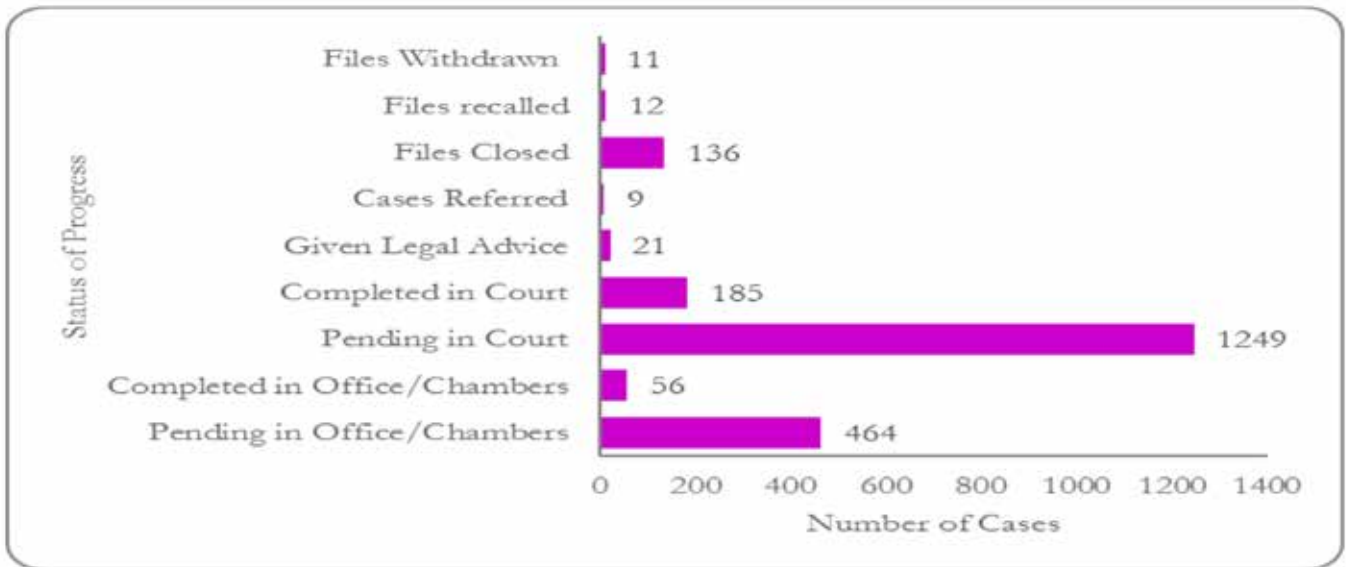
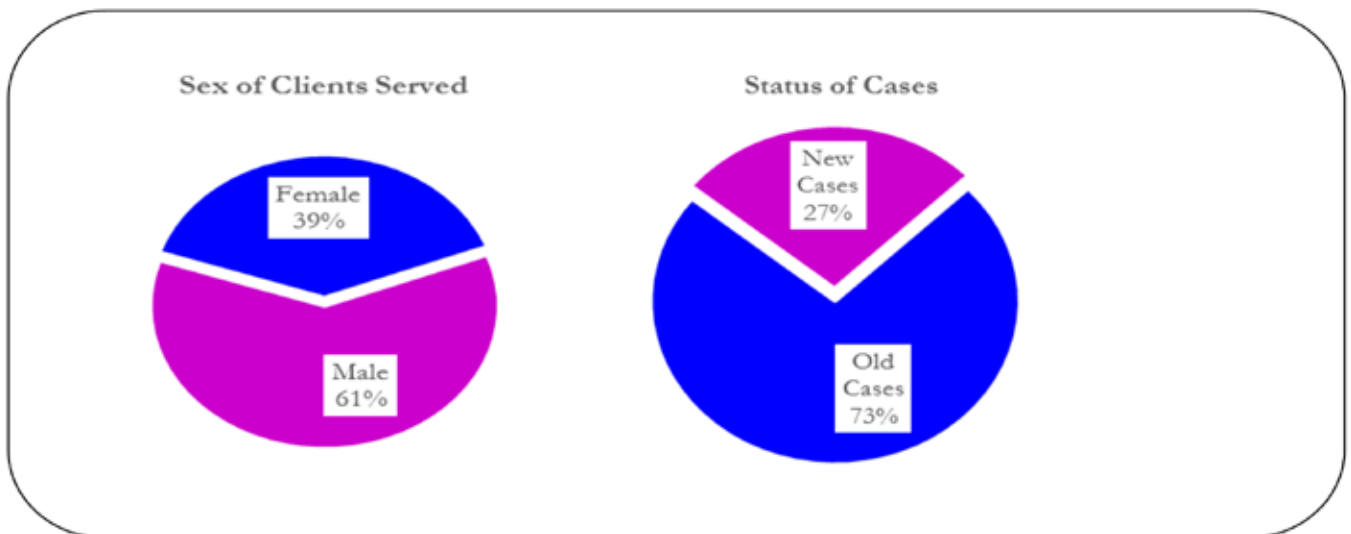


Figure 11: Percentage Distribution of Clients Served under the Pro Bono Scheme by Sex and Status of their Cases in 2016



1.4.2: National Pro Bono day celebrations

As a form of corporate responsibility by members of the legal profession and in a bid to enhance access to justice and create awareness of access to justice initiatives by ULS/LAP, the Pro Bono Scheme held its 5th annual National Pro Bono day on the 18th March 2016. This event was organized under the theme ‘Access to Justice for Children.’ A total of 1614 (1031 male and 583 female) clients received on-spot legal advice from 1087 Advocates on this day across the 9 regions of ULS/LAP operation across the country. The celebration venues included; The Railway grounds in Kampala, Boma Grounds in Fort Portal, Busoga Square in Jinja, Nebbi Mayors Gardens in Arua and the Legal Aid Project Offices in Soroti, Mbarara, Gulu, Masindi and Kabale.



Above: Advocates marching from the High Court to the Railway grounds in the city centre on the Pro Bono day on 18th March 2016

Right: The chief guest, EU Ambassador Mr. Christian Schimdt (centre) with advocates and community members who turned up for the Pro Bono day

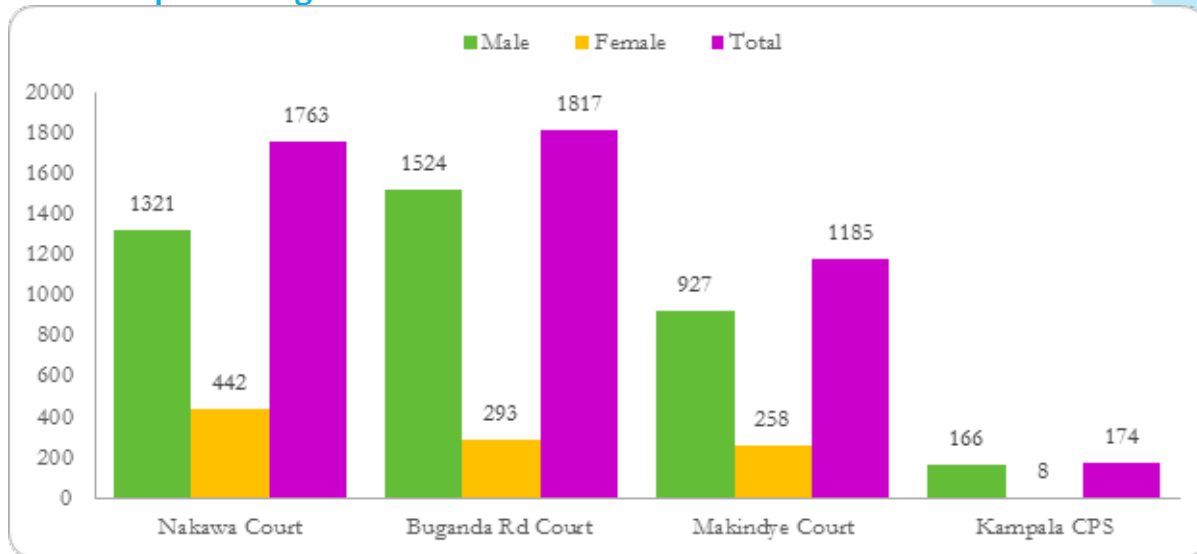


1.4.3: The Duty Counsel under the Pro Bono Scheme

During the year in review the Duty Counsel scheme of the Pro Bono project was extended to operate in 4 duty stations which included the three Magistrate Courts of; Makindye, Nakawa and Buganda Road and Kampala Central Police station as the latest station opened in November 2016. Duty Counsel is when an advocate goes court or police station to assist and/or represent indigent and marginalized persons who come to court with no legal Counsel free of charge. The legal assistance includes interpretation of documents, court representation, advice on and preparation for bail applications and referrals.

In 2016, **29** advocates provided duty counsel services to **4,939** clients (**3,938** male and **1,001** female) of whom 4472 Clients were advised and 467 were represented in court.

Figure 11: Gender Distribution of Clients Served under the Duty Counsel Scheme at Four Service Stations in Kampala During 2016



Strategic Objective Two: Promotion of Respect for Rights and Rule of Law in Uganda

2.1: Community Sensitizations

The ULS/LAP continued to empower the community in 2016 and a total of **47** community sensitization meetings were conducted across all clinics in the country. Community sensitizations meetings were supplemented by over 41 locus visits to sites which were preceded by enlightening the communities about the law and other legal matters affecting the community before divulging into the real matter for the visit. The major topics addressed during these sessions were chosen by the community members basing on their daily experiences and legal challenges. However, issues relating to general human rights, children's rights, land rights and procedures in land transactions, criminal justice systems, marriage and divorce, the law of inheritance, the rule of law and generally basics of the law and conflict resolution remained crucial in the sensitizations as are rampant in communities. These sensitizations involved **3,473 (2,400 male and 1073 female)** participants who included; community legal volunteers, teachers and generally local community residents.



The Legal Officer Moroto Clinic Ms. Bruna Acam holding mediation on land matters in Nadungeti



Community sensitization at Nakiloro Village, Rupa s/county Moroto.



Mobile Legal Aid Clinics

During the year we continued to engage the communities especially those still living in far to reach areas by having legal aid camps various communities around Gulu district and these communities included Koch Ongako and Lakwana Subcounty, Kamuli, Jinja, Arua, Mbarara, Moroto and soroti. Our target was to sensitize the persons in those communities about various aspects of the law which among included land matters, human rights, domestic violence, family law and inheritance and access to justice in those communities and especially those who we would not have reached using the conventional methods of legal aid service provision. We reached 2247(920 female and 1327 males) people.

Pictures of the Mobile Clinic in Paicho Subcounty Gulu District.



These elders were invited to attend the mobile clinic as an a venue to foster appreciation of women and girl rights and they greatly appreciated the sensitization and there after women and girls who had personal issues were attended to on one on one basis.



IEC Materials were disseminated to the participants who were explained to them the contents.

2.2: Information, Education and Communication

Lack of legal literature continues to be the cause of legal ignorance in Uganda. This is compounded by the fact that most of the legal literature is so complicated to read and interpret. And following a needs assessment in the operational areas, the project team discovered that there were 6 key legal issues that affected the communities. These were in relation to land, domestic violence, succession and administration of estates, marriage and divorce, children's rights and criminal processes. To address these challenges the project embarked on simplifying laws relevant to the above issues and interpreting them into local languages. **50,000** booklets

and posters were printed both in the local languages and English and were distributed to communities during sensitizations and to *walk in* clients at our offices to understand more about the crucial legal issues. We believed that an empowered community is an engine to realization and enforcement of rights.

2.3: Media Campaigns

During 2016, over **137** radio talk shows were held on a number of media houses across the country. The media houses that hosted our programs included; Voice of Kigezi, Radio Maria, Hope radio and Radio West in Mbarara and Kabale, Radio Delta in Soroti, Jinja FM in Jinja, Grace Radio, Voice of life fm, voice of Teso, Delta fm, Etop radio, Arua one Kings radio and NEENA FM in Moroto. There were also **1560** radio spot messages on Radios. It's estimated that these benefited over **6000000** people. Majority of these radio talk shows were conducted in partnership with other organizations especially other Legal Aid Service providers and facilitated by LAP staffs. Seven Tv talk shows were held on Bukedde Tv, UBC TV, NBS TV and BBC-Buganda Broadcasting Center. The talk shows basically addressed issues on; land rights, children's rights, corruption, Rule of Law, making of a Will, testate and intestate succession, domestic violence laws, the communities' prevalent legal challenges as well as LAP activities and services and addressed.



Left: Okullu Francis (Legal Officer) Patongo- Left listens attentively during a talk show.

Below: The Legal Officer listening attentively to the callers during the radio talk show (Photo taken by Kilega Bondry-Luo fm Presenter/ Moderator)



Above: Pro Bono Manager Deborah Gasana in black and Fatumah Omar LAP Committee member doing legal aid and ProBono sensitization on Bukedde TV

Right: Besigye Aaron- Head legal aid and Pro Bono services holding a talk show on access to justice for all on UBC Tv.





Pro Bono Manager Deborah Gasana and Head LAP during a talk show.

Supporting Access to Justice for Children and Youth in East Africa Project (SAJCEA)

The SAJCEA Uganda Chapter funded by Global Affairs Canada through the Canadian Bar Association was implemented by the Uganda National Working Group (UNWG). This UNWG comprised of state and non-state actors including: The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs – Department of Law Council, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development-Children and Youth department, the Judiciary, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative – Paralegal Advisory Services, Legal Aid Service Providers Network, The Directorate of Public Prosecution, Justice Law and Order Sector Secretariat and the Uganda Law Society as the coordinating agency.

During the Project phase 2013-2016, the Project team worked to strengthen Stakeholder collaboration, Institutional development and capacities sharing amongst the Justice, Law and Order sector Institutions enhancing access to justice for children amongst the communities in Busia, Bundibugyo and Katakwi as well as amongst justice institutions and key agencies in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Canada.

117 community paralegals in Bundibugyo and Katakwi were trained to increase awareness on children's rights, operation of local councils and sexual and Gender based violence. The UNWG helped Community Paralegals / volunteers to transform and register as Community Based Organisations in Bundibugyo and Katakwi, and continued to serve as key mediators, conduct sensitization with support from the Legal Aid Project Advocates and JLOS actors in the communities without legal presence to act as referees for cases that cannot be mediated.

The UNWG developed IEC Materials on operation of Local Councils, Child Sexual Abuse, Children's Rights translated into local dialects Rusomya, Ateso, Lugbara and Rutoro 3060 booklets were printed and disseminated to the communities in Busia, Bundibugyo and Katakwi. The UNWG also developed a Training of Trainers manual on Child justice in 2014 which was disseminated to 270 participants in Arua, Fort portal, Bundibugyo, Katakwi, Soroti and Busia. The Participants were duty bearers within the Child Justice system including Police, Directorate of Public Prosecution, Probation officers, Lawyers, Chief/Grade 1 Magistrates, Prison officers and Community volunteers to improve their knowledge and practice in handling children issues.

The UNWG trained 200 Local Council leaders in Busia District to effectively handle child and youth related issues as part of their mandate.

150 stakeholders including Judges, Magistrates, Lawyers, Probation officers, Prosecutors, Paralegals were trained and equipped with adult training skills on handling cases involving children and the law.

As a result of the interventions under the SAJCEA Project there has been a great reduction in the number of defilement cases negotiated in communities; cases are now reported at Police and perpetrators are tried in courts of law. Stakeholders within the Child justice system are now able to address the gaps in child protection and juvenile justice framework which has led to increased availability, awareness and demand for quality legal services for children and youth in Uganda.



2.4: Community Empowerment Programs

The Moroto Legal Aid clinic set a target to have 100 paralegals trained in basic legal aspects and this activity was successfully conducted. 100 community members were identified from the areas of Nakapiripirit and



Mr. Okullu Francis displays a set of victim medical examination forms to the participants at the mobile legal aid clinic

Amudat and equipped with basic knowledge and skills on different legal topics such as land rights, succession law, children rights, marriage and divorce and domestic violence. The activity was beneficial to the community members as per the feedback received from the different persons trained. 32 Of the paralegals trained were female, and 68 were males.

The Oil & Gas Project in Masindi

The Oil and Gas Project is a new initiative that was set up to serve three areas in the Albertine Region namely; The project is just limited and its catchment areas of operation was in the three Albertines; Hoima, Buliisa and Kibaale. This project which was initiated and implemented in the last quarter of 2016 commenced with a stakeholders meeting at Hoima Resort. The meeting was held to discuss the objectives, expected outputs and outcomes of the project as well as to secure stakeholder buy in and political will for this project.



The stakeholders meeting on Oil & Gas at Hoima Resort.

“Awareness and knowledge of Land Rights leading to access to Justice for the vulnerable and marginalized people amidst Assumption of Profits Accumulating from Oil - exploration”. This was intended to introduce the project to the key stakeholders to secure their support and meaningful participation in implementation of this project.

The meeting targeted key District stakeholders like LCVs, Resident District Commissioners, District Internal Security Officers, Mayors, Religious Leaders, and Judicial Officers, Advocates, Local Authorities, Civil Society and private sector actors from Hoima, Buliisa and Kibaale with a wide range of knowledge, skills and experience in land rights at community, national, regional and international levels. It is intended that their guidance and recommendations shall be sought for necessary action. These were leaders from the areas of the huge reserves of oil discovered in the Albertine region. A total of 48 participants (3 female and 45 male) attended this meeting.

Community Awareness on Oil & Gas

The discoveries of oil and gas have heightened tensions and land conflicts in the area. The LAP has registered a number of new cases pertaining to land adjacent to oil wells during this phase. There are also cases of relatives bickering over land, human rights violations, especially regarding the right to land, compensation, right to access to information, right to livelihood, domestic violence to mention but a few. The project with funding from NOARD/NBA has started to sensitize the people on their land rights and to ease the processes of acquiring land titles, especially by lobbying the government to reduce the associated costs including money and time.

We have also witnessed an increase in cases of domestic violence and other related cases whose origin leads

directly to land wrangles in this area. We established that family disputes and domestic violence were on the rise as women battled their spouses for a share of the money from compensation received and the sale of murram for the construction/upgrading of access roads to the oil exploration and refinery areas. The boom in the money available for men was making their wives and children vulnerable as they would be sidelined on decisions regarding its expenditure.

During the sensitization, women raised issues concerning male dominance during compensation with regard to family land. It was established that only men were signing on compensation forms yet it was a requirement that both husband and wife should be signatories on the forms. They expressed fears of being sidelined by their husbands when compensation money finally comes through. In one case in Hoima, a widow complained about being disenfranchised since she could not sign the compensation agreement as the owner of the property that was due for compensation. Instead her father in law had signed as the rightful owner of the property of his deceased son. The widow wondered what her fate and that of her six orphaned children would be since they had not been consulted.

Sensitisation at Kakindo Bullisa

A sensitization session was carried out at Kakindo Town Council in Bullisa District on the 17th of November 2016 with the intention of creating public awareness of the implementation of the Oil & Gas project in the Albertine



regions. The session targeted the general community men, women, youths and local authorities within the town council.

A total of 62 participants attended this session 22 of whom were female and 40 male.

Sensitization at Ngwedo, Bullisa District

This took place at the village of Kaswiyi parish Nile just a few kilometers from the Oil field. The sensitization targeted the entire community,(women, men and youth) including the area authorities like local leaders, Land Committee Members. The turn up for sensitization was good and about 164 participants attended of whom 67 were male and 79 female as well as 18 children of whom 10 were boys and 8 girls; all aged 15 and below.

The team basically introduced and shared about the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society, the new project on Oil & Gas as well as the free services rendered which include:- Mediation, court representation among others which prompted the participants to ask a lot of questions.



Counsel Kabigumiira (Left) and Harriet Ajok (below) at Ngwedo in Bullisa during oil and gas community outreach.



Below: Counsel Irene at a sensitization at Ngwedo Bullisa



Networking and Creation of Linkages

The profile of the ULS and its Legal Aid Project has grown within the public and stakeholders in the justice sector. This is evidenced by the numerous meetings and workshops to which Project staff are invited or delegated to attend by management. In the year under review, a total of 76 strategic meetings and workshops were attended by staff at regional, international and national level. The majority of workshops attended were on promotion of Human Rights and Constitutionalism, Access to Justice and Rule of Law. Among the key stakeholders were; Legal Aid Service Providers under their umbrella body LASPNET, JLOS, HURINET, CBOs, Judiciary, Police, Prisons, University Bodies, Local Government Institutions, and the Media. The project team continued to play an important role in the JLOS sector and we have become a key member of the District Coordination Committees in all areas of our operation.

Courts Open day in Arua

The function was organised by the Nebbi District Chain Linked Coordination Committee under the auspices of JLOS and UNICEF. The other stakeholders present at this function were; members of the Judiciary (court), Advocates, Nebbi District leaders, Religious leaders, local/cultural leaders, Police, Prisons, Prison Inmates and the local community members of Nebbi District. The Guest of Honour at the Function was the Resident Judge of Arua High Court Circuit, His Lordship Stephen Mubiru.



The Resident Judge Arua His Lordship Stephen Mubiru Inspecting LAP exhibition Stall



The Chief Guest inspects the LAP exhibition stall

Strategic Objective 3: Development and Strengthening of the LAP Management Systems

3.1: LAP Management Committee

The Legal Aid Project Management Committee as of December 2016 comprised 14 people (5 women and 9 men). The committee reports to the Executive Council of the Uganda Law Society, and oversees the development and implementation of LAP policies, procedures and programs. The committee also oversees a multi-disciplinary management and technical staff team. During the year, the committee held four meetings to provide strategic guidance on the implementation of project policies, procedures and programs. The committee members' profiles are as follows;

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 1) | Ms. Alice Namuli Blazevic | ULS VP & Chairperson LAP Committee |
| 2) | Hon. Nobert Mao | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 3) | Hon. Raphael Obudra Baku | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 4) | Ms. Esther Kisembo | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 5) | Mr. Quirinus Oyugi Onono | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 6) | Mr. Jonathan Ochom | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 7) | Mr. Kahungu Tibeyeita | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 8) | Ms. Nuru Nambirige | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 9) | Ms. Proscovia Nakabugo | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 10) | Mr. Dickens Kagarura | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 11) | Ms. Fatumah Omar | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 12) | Mr. Steven Tumwesigye | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 13) | Mr. Samuel Olumo | Executive Director-LAP/ULS |
| 14) | Mr. Aaron Besigye | Head of Department-LAP/Secretary to the Committee |

3.2: LAP Management Committee

The management team is tasked for the implementation of the day to day running of the project and reports to the Legal Aid and pro Bono Committee. Members of the Management Committee of the Legal Aid and pro Bono were;

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| 1) | Mr. Samuel Olumo | Executive Director –LAP /ULS |
| 2) | Mr. Aaron Besigye | Head of Department –LAP and Pro Bono Services |
| 3) | Mrs. Christine Nsambu | Head of Finance and Administration-ULS |
| 4) | Ms. Irene S. Kwaga | Head of Policy, Research and Advocacy-ULS |
| 5) | Mr. Moses Kiyemba | Head of Professional Development and Member Affairs |
| 6) | Mrs. Deborah Gasana | Manager Pro Bono –LAP |
| 7) | Ms. Harriet Mawaru Kyolaba | Manager Legal Resource Centre-ULS |
| 8) | Mr. Herbert Byamukama | Manager IT-ULS |
| 9) | Mr. Paul Mutalya | Human Resource Manager-ULS |
| 10) | Mr. Michael Kalungu | Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist |

The overall direction and management of the Project was provided by the Executive Director, and the Head Legal Aid & Pro-bono Services was the administrative / program Head of the Project. The project has also been supported in its mandate and activities by other departments. The project has a total of 87 staff comprising of Advocates, paralegals, Law clerks, Accounts, administrative assistants and Project drivers constituted the wonderful team involved in the implementation of project activities during 2016.

In order to continue giving the best of its legal aid and advisory services, the LAP continued to provide its services through its 12 clinics across the country which included; Kampala, Luzira, Masindi, Gulu, Kabarole, Jinja, Kabale, Mbarara, Arua, Soroti, Moroto and Patongo in Agago district.

3.3: Staff Capacity Building

We continued facilitating our Advocates to attend continuous legal education throughout the year and 81 project staff received training in office management and use of the database system, impact reporting, effective leadership and strategies of extra ordinary performance.



Legal Aid Project staff members at the one of the training sessions at Paradise on the Nile in Jinja

Monitoring and Evaluation

The role of monitoring and evaluation is to ensure; efficient and effective service delivery, interfacing with the end users of LAP services to appreciate their perceptions on how well the services have been delivered to them, and to ensure conformity of the project activities with its strategic objectives.

During 2016, a number of monitoring and evaluation activities were conducted as follows; Preparation and submission of monthly and quarterly progress reports by the implementing staff to management. The same were thereafter sent from management to the Legal Aid and Pro-Bono Committee of the Uganda Law Society for onward transmission to the development Partners like NBA and DGF. The project team conducted periodic and ad-hoc inspection visits to the clinics by the policy and management organs of the society; client's charter was circulated within the clinics; and an internal annual project review with the program implementers, management and policy organs of ULS on the performance of the program was conducted.



ULS/LAP Management team with staff at Moroto clinic Karamoja region during monitoring and inspection of the activities being undertaken.



Probono team following a consultative meeting with advocates in Kabarole district. Seated is His Lordship Hon. Justice Oyuko Anthony Ojok the resident High Court judge Kabarole Circuit.

Development Partners

The Norwegian Bar Association/Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NBA/NORAD)

The project has continued to enjoy a committed partnership with the Norwegian Bar Association through funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. This support has enabled thousands of Ugandans to enjoy and enforce their legal and human rights in the absence of a government policy on legal aid service provision.



The NBA delegation during a visit with the Chief Magistrate. **Right:** NBA delegates pause with some of the management team at ULS Secretariat



LAP and ULS staff together with the NBA delegates following the staff meeting at ULS secretariat.

Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)

In addition to their continued funding of the ULS Pro Bono project, DGF supported the project to establish and operate four clinics in Mbarara, Arua, Moroto and Soroti. Furthermore, DGF has also supported the extension of pro bono services in these new areas. With this support, the project has been in position to roll out legal and advisory services to the communities where there were no legal aid service providers.

Canadian Bar Association (CBA)

In addition to offering support to the Professional Development and Members Affairs Department of the ULS for the last seven years, CBA supported a project titled *Strengthening Access to Justice for Youth and Children in East Africa (SAJCEA)*. The programme in Uganda was housed and coordinated by the ULS under the Legal Aid Project and was concluded in June 2016.

Huddersfields Law Society

Uganda Law Society with the support of The Huddersfield Law Society and the Law Society of England and Wales funded the Legal Aid Clinic in Patongo which has been handling issues to do with children and other vulnerable groups in the areas of Patongo, the clinic which started operation in 2015 is housed by passion for children (P4C) a local government organization that deals with rehabilitation of children affected by war. It provided office space other support services. This has gone a long way to extend and open up service points of legal aid in the areas of Kitgum, Pader, Agago and Patongo.

Success Stories of the Project

ASIIMWE BRIAN: LAP/MSD/219/2016

The client had been charged with theft of a bicycle worth Ug Shs. 300,000/= of one Kashaija Anderea. The Assistant Legal Officer approached the accused at court, explained to him the nature of the offence and how there were exhibits to that effect and advised him to plead guilty but the accused told her that “even if I plead guilty, court cannot be lenient to me because I have appeared before this court several times” but counsel Irene assured him that if he pleads guilty not to waste court’s time and assures court never to commit the offence, shows remorse, his sentence will be mitigated upon, for him to receive a lesser sentence compared to when he goes through the whole process. The accused admitted to have committed the offence without any coercion/duress.

The accused appeared in court and pleaded guilty, Counsel Irene proceeded with the mitigation procedure where she prayed to court that since, the accused did not waste court’s time, he should be cautioned or alternatively be sentenced to community service; and if given lenient sentence, it may act as a turning point in his life.

To the client’s surprise, the court cautioned him and sentenced him to a fine of Ug shs. 50,000/= for expenses spent to recover the bicycle, It was also ordered by court, that the bicycle be handed back to the complainant. The accused person was so surprised and was all full of smiles, how a habitual offender would be sentenced to a caution, Client was so appreciative that he thanked counsel continuously, stated that, it’s one of his turning points, it’s now better to turn back to God.

ADEMUN HELLEN – LAP/SOR/

“Thank you Legal Aid I am relieved”, a statement by the client upon receiving a judgment from Court.

Ademun Hellen got married to Ebetu John Henry in 1993 under customary marriage and together they have (4) children, two of whom are still

I have become an authority on the village everyone is referring to me. Who I am I to win this case? Ademun Hellen at LAP Soroti office thanking the staff



minors. The client and her husband Ebetu John Henry jointly acquired property which comprises of a plot of land and a house situate at Oderai Trading centre in Soroti district.

The client and her family occupied part of the said house while part of it was rented out for purposes of raising income to sustain the family with basic needs like feeding, medical, clothing and school fees for the children. In 2012 client's husband without seeking any consent from client sold off the house to one Eripu Sam, who is nephew to the client's husband who lived with client's family, with full knowledge of a subsisting marriage between the client and Ebetu John Henry. Client protested the sale but the two went ahead and transacted. Client reported the matter to Uganda Human Rights Commission and husband agreed not to sell the land. However client's husband went ahead and stealthily sold off the houses to the Eripu Sam.

LAP'S INTERVENTION

The client was referred to the LAP by the UHRC; a Complaint was drafted and filed in court. The client was fully represented and on the 11th of May, judgment was passed in her favour; granting her vacant possession of the house and declaring the sale null and void. The defendant was ordered to vacate the land with immediate effect. The client was delighted and is forever thankful to LAP and the staff.

LAPK/065/2005

This is one of the oldest cases that were pending in office and court. The case started in R.C Courts in 1997 between our client and the applicants, immediately after the death of the respondent's father. Their mother has also since died though she was one of the respondents.

The history of the case is so surprising in that we again started as the plaintiff's counsel in 2002. The defendants at the time were being represented by counsel Nyamutale. When the then legal officer left, he went with the file and then in 2005, the defendant also abandoned her lawyer and came to Legal Aid. Around 14th March 2006, Judgment was entered in the plaintiff's favor whereupon we appealed in the High Court. The High Court entered judgment in favor of the appellant on 17th May 2012.

In 2016, when we were about to execute, the applicants filed an application for review which was again dismissed on the 22nd June 2016 on grounds they would have made an application for leave to appeal out of time other than review. The applicants then filed 2 applications for stay of execution and application for leave to appeal out of time.

Upon critical analysis of the whole case, it was realized that we had a very bad appeal if we went to the Court of Appeal. Our client is an aunt to the applicants and is now 97 years, extremely elderly and bed ridden. In fact she stopped attending any court hearing since 8 years ago. That the applicants have developed the suit land with permanent structures and were ready to fight to the end. We all agreed that litigation must come to an end. We therefore decided to mediate the matter and luckily enough we entered a consent judgment whereupon the applicants surrendered a portion of the suit land to our client.

Success

Both parties came out happy since it was a win-win situation. The case had lasted for over 18 years but finally came to an end. Our client stated that she can now rest from the stress of the said case and concentrate on her old age and illness. The applicants were also happy in that they can develop their portion without out interference. Being members of one family, that bond was created again through the conclusion of the case.

LAP/JJA/188/2015 MPAGI GEORGE WILLIAM

The client was a primary 6 student in Mityaana and had come to Mukono for second term holidays in 2012 when he was arrested on allegations of defilement upon demanding for his pay from the person he was working for during holidays to get school fees. He was 14 years of age at the time and he was arrested, spent about 3 weeks in police custody, produced in court, charged and committed to the High Court.

He was remanded to Luzira prison and later transferred to Nakasongola remand home. We applied for his bail in August 2015 and the same was fixed for hearing in November 2015 but was referred to a session in April 2016 and again it was not heard.

We pushed for it to be fixed for hearing through the office of the Deputy registrar and ensured that he was transferred from Nakasongola to Kirinya prison, and it was fixed for hearing on the 30th of August 2016 when it was heard and the client was granted bail. We consider this a success story because the client had spent over 4 years on remand yet he was taken into custody when he was still a minor and the fact that out of the 26 bail applications handled during that session by the trial Judge, he was among the two people who were granted bail.

OKODEL GEORGE – LAP/SOR/284/13

In 1994 our client acquired land measuring about Five (5) gardens by way of purchase from the late Tedelo Ejoru and the said land is located at Omiito village, Agule Parish, Kapir Sub County in the present Ngora District. Pursuant to the above, a sale agreement dated 01/05/1994 was executed between the client and the late Tedelo Ejoru in the presence of several people some of which witnessed to the said agreement.

After the execution of the said agreement of purchase, the client took possession of the said land upon which he constructed his home on a part of it while using the rest for agricultural purposes. The client's stay in and utilization of the land was peaceful throughout the years until 2010 when the Odeke Keneth and Okello Martin came jointly and forcefully prevented the client from accessing the disputed land and the said persons forcefully entered and started utilizing the said land to the detriment of the client leaving him with only his compound. The client tried to settle the matter amicably through clan and L.Cs but all was in vain. In 2013, our client approached LAP for legal assistance, whereby LAP initiated mediation proceedings but never yielded any results since the Respondents were not willing to settle that matter amicably. A suit was then filed in Ngora Court with assistance from LAP, and the Advocates managed to represent client throughout the trial. A locus visit was conducted and on the 29/09/2016, judgment was delivered in favour of our client and he has been given back his 5 gardens. Client was excited and could not believe what Legal Aid Project had done for him. He could not believe a person winning a case with the help of an Advocate at no cost. The client carried chicken and brought for the staff to celebrate his success as a sign of expressing his gratitude. A Picture of was of poor quality and it was discarded.

AGWANG MARY: LAP/SOR/337/13

Agwang Mary in 2013 approached LAP for legal assistance because her clan brother **Omiat Silver** and his sons **James Omoding, Okanya Zekeri,** and **Odong Cosmas** had grabbed her land approximately 4 acres locally known as gardens located at Katilekori Parish, Kanyumu, S/c in Kumi district. She informed the advocates that it was in 2004 upon death of her mother, when the clan brother Omiat Silver, evicted her from her ancestral land being the only surviving child of her parents. The client's marriage failed and returned to her parents' home to settle with her two sons. The clan-mates felt insecure with Agwang returning home with her male children who do not belong to her clan. The entire clan ganged against our client with a view of grabbing her land.

In 2004 when Omiat Silver wanted to grab the land and evicted her with her children from her parents land, she reported the matter to the clan, local authorities but were all against her and gave the land to Omiat Silver. Our client remained helpless and continued seeking assistance to no avail. In 2013 when she approached LAP, office mediation was initiated but the Respondents refused to turn up for amicable settlement. Through LAP, a civil suit was filed, client was represented throughout the trial, the Defendants were cross examined and on the 29th day of September, 2016 judgment was passed in favour of client. In the Judgment, costs were awarded and eviction order to that effect. We now need to assist client to execute the decree from the judgment.

The client is very excited and can't believe a battle she fought alone for more than 10 years without hope has successfully ended in 3 years of LAP's indulgence

“Am very excited and I can't imagine that this battle is finally over. I can't imagine that I would ever get help or that

“there are people out there who still have a good heart to help a poor woman like me without paying anything” the client lamented.

She is forever grateful to the Project’s service in the community and prays that God rewards to continue bringing life to the community. Unfortunately her picture was taken but we will reconstruct the story in the subsequent reporting.

Major Challenges faced by the Project and the Way Forward

In all the above achievements, the project has had challenges, notably the following;

- 1) The major challenge facing legal aid program is on its future. Legal aid is and remains largely funded by Donors with little support from the state. The sustainability of these established efforts will continue to be at the center stage of legal aid until the national legal aid policy and bill is approved and enforced by the state. We must appreciate the efforts from both Donor community and NGOs. We need to increase cohesion between our efforts to take them forward. We need to create a broader catchment area for the stakeholders, engage policymakers and finally the constitutional impetus to clarify to the government itself the kind of role it can play within this collaborative regime.
- 2) The ULS LAP Committee and Management have proposed the establishment of the Endowment fund as a mechanism of sustaining the legal aid project as we wait for the passing of the national legal aid bill and policy; An **endowment fund** is an investment **fund** established by a foundation or an organization that makes consistent withdrawals from invested capital. An *endowment* is a *fund* that is restricted. Only the interest from the *fund* can be spent, not the principal that anchors the *endowment*. Usually, only a portion of the interest or earnings from the *endowment* can be spent annually to make sure that the original *funds* grow over time. This will in one way or the other lead to the sustainability of the legal aid initiatives.

Many sources of funding for legal aid, including Donor funding and foundation support can be unpredictable and have never been sufficient to meet the legal needs the Ugandan poor. The Campaign for Equal Justice for all has long asserted that low-income earners, vulnerable and marginalized persons should be entitled to the full spectrum of legal services available to individuals who can pay for services and that our legal aid programs are in the best position to assess the legal needs of the poor through community based priority setting. The Endowment there fore will provide a long term stable source of funding for legal aid programs, by directing annual distributions to legal aid.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society

Table 1: Number of Files Handled by Nature of Cases across the 12 LAP Clinics

Nature of Cases	Kabarole	Kabale	Luzira	Gulu	Masindi	Kampala	Jinja	Soroti	Mbarara	Arua	Moroto	Patongo	Total	%age
Land & Property	668	527	86	640	488	461	924	1505	387	557	143	1	6386	46%
Divorce & Separation	27	18	9	12	4	21	28	58	69	34	0	0	280	2%
Custody & Maintenance	83	40	33	19	93	59	94	24	18	17	79	6	559	4%
Accident claims	4	0	4	12	9	25	14	16	0	13	4	0	101	1%
Administration of estates	152	70	8	17	61	50	271	60	152	33	15	0	889	6%
Debt claims	3	0	2	30	69	7	11	11	4	4	16	0	157	1%
Employment Claims	8	4	3	40	12	17	50	25	2	41	9	0	211	2%
Criminal	212	324	626	218	699	121	365	230	245	118	560	55	3718	27%
Civil (Gen)	94	287	55	45	195	68	254	142	138	110	190	1	1578	11%
TOTAL	1251	1270	826	1033	1630	829	2011	2071	1015	927	1016	63	13879	100%

Table 2: Status of Progress of Cases across the LAP Clinics

Status of Cases	Kabarole	Kabale	Luzira	Gulu	Masindi	Kampala	Jinja	Soroti	Mbarara	Arua	Moroto	Patongo	Total	%age
Pending in Office	239	86	46	187	114	166	312	313	164	176	156	10	1959	14%
Completed in Office	175	177	31	86	159	108	170	94	75	80	74	11	1229	9%
Pending in Court	520	460	196	351	759	412	888	932	544	398	374	18	5834	42%
Completed in Court	263	228	143	173	474	91	419	488	144	124	163	13	2710	20%
Given bail	6	3	12	1	49	0	1	13	26	4	10	0	125	1%
Given Legal Advice	11	292	389	58	40	35	145	177	45	107	217	4	1516	11%
Cases Referred	8	17	0	31	13	6	44	41	13	36	3	0	212	2%
Files Closed	27	7	9	144	16	11	29	6	2	2	18	7	271	2%
Files withdrawn	2	0	0	2	6	0	3	7	2	0	1	0	23	0.20%
TOTAL	1251	1270	826	1033	1630	829	2011	2071	1015	927	1016	63	13879	100%

Table 3: Distribution of Clients by Gender across the LAP Clinics

Nature of clients	Kabarole	Kabale	Luzira	Gulu	Masindi	Kampala	Jinja	Soroti	Mbarara	Arua	Moroto	Patongo	Total	%age
Males	684	642	678	755	1240	492	1310	1490	569	688	658	48	9206	66.3%
Females	567	628	148	278	390	337	701	581	446	239	358	15	4673	33.7%
Total	1251	1270	826	1033	1630	829	2011	2071	1015	927	1016	63	13879	100%

Table 4: Distribution of Nature of clients across Clinics

Clients by Gender	Kabarole	Kabale	Luzira	Gulu	Masindi	Kampala	Jinja	Soroti	Mbarara	Arua	Moroto	Patongo	Total	%age
Old	814	654	236	717	869	656	1354	1400	765	636	464	10	8565	62%
New	437	616	590	316	761	173	657	671	250	291	552	53	5314	38%
Total	1251	1270	826	1033	1630	829	2011	2071	1015	927	1016	63	13879	100%

Appendix 2: Pro Bono Scheme

Table 5: Nature and Number of Cases Identified and Allocated to Advocates for Probono Service during 2016

Nature of Case	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Land and Property claim	55	67	24	11	16	57	30	3	0	263	46%
Family/Divorce & Separation	18	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	19	3%
Custody & Maintenance	2	0	2	2	0	2	1	2	0	11	2%
Accident claim	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	5	1%
Administration of Estates	13	0	4	5	4	13	2	1	0	42	7%
Debt Claims	1	4	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	10	2%
Employment Claim/Labour	10	0	1	2	0	9	0	1	0	23	4%
Criminal-General	19	3	7	48	28	18	4	0	2	129	23%
Civil-General	14	0	5	2	1	0	5	4	37	68	12%
Total	133	74	44	72	50	105	42	11	39	570	100%

Nature and Number of Cases on Pro Bono Service followed Up During 2016

Nature of Case	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age46
Land & Property claim	327	159	68	85	47	110	71	43	34	944	44%
Divorce & Separation	97	1	2	2	3	7	6	1	10	129	6%
Custody & Maintenance	20	0	2	0	0	4	0	2	3	31	1%
Accident claim	30	0	2	3	2	6	2	0	1	46	2%
Administration of Estates	128	0	6	11	11	36	9	3	23	227	11%
Debt Claims	1	3	0	5	1	4	0	1	0	15	1%
Employment Claim	34	3	0	13	0	16	0	1	0	67	3%
Criminal General	47	37	7	114	87	32	40	10	11	385	18%
Civil General	186	4	9	27	10	17	17	17	12	299	14%
Total	870	207	96	260	161	232	145	78	94	2143	100%

Status of Progress of Cases under Pro Bono Service during 2016 Across the 9 Clinics

Status of Cases	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Pending in Office/Chambers	283	41	26	13	10	32	23	18	18	464	22%
Completed in Office/Chambers	18	0	1	11	14	9	0	0	3	56	3%
Pending in Court	488	97	57	161	120	160	63	49	54	1249	58%
Completed in Court	15	29	2	51	9	19	43	11	6	185	9%
Given Legal Advice	0	0	0	17	0	1	1	0	2	21	1%
Cases Referred	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	0	0	9	0.4%
Files Closed	66	40	1	0	0	9	13	0	7	136	6%
Files recalled	0	0	4	6	1	0	1	0	0	12	0.5%
Files Withdrawn	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	4	11	0.5%
Total	870	207	96	260	161	232	145	78	94	2143	100%

Sex	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Female	354	80	53	58	60	86	61	21	57	830	39%
Male	516	127	43	202	101	146	84	57	37	1313	61%
Total	870	207	96	260	161	232	145	63	94	2143	100%

Status	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
New Client	133	74	44	72	50	105	42	11	39	570	27%
Old Client	737	133	52	188	111	127	103	67	55	1573	73%
Total	870	207	96	260	161	232	145	78	94	2143	100%



Accountants &
business advisers

LEGAL AID PROJECT
OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
FUNDED BY
NORWEGIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT (NORAD)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

PKF Uganda

Certified Public Accountants

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**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

1.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

1.1 BACKGROUND ABOUT THE LEGAL AID PROJECT (LAP)

The Legal Aid Project (LAP) is a Non-Government Organisation which was established in 1992 by the Uganda Law Society. It is a leading Legal Aid service provider in Uganda with 10 regional presences. It operates regional offices of Kampala, Luzira, Kabaale, Kabarole, Masindi, Jinja, Gulu, Soroti, Arua Mbarara and Moroto.

1.2 LAP Vision

The project aspires to see a Ugandan society where all human rights are respected, promoted and defended to ensure that access to justice for all is a reality irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, religion or socio-economic status.

1.2.1 LAP Mission

To become a leading provider of legal services of choice in order to ensure access to justice for the poor and vulnerable people so as to promote the socio-economic development of Uganda.

1.2.2 LAP Goal

To contribute to the rule of law and good governance, in order to achieve social development.

1.2.3 LAP Values

- Equality of all persons before the law
- Passion for justice
- Respect for human dignity
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Service excellence
- Efficiency and effectiveness

1.3 LAP Strategic objectives

1. To provide high quality legal aid services to indigent men, women and children
2. To promote the respect for rights and the rule of law in Uganda
3. To lobby and advocate for legislation and policies which act in favour of the poor at national, district and lower levels.
4. To develop and strengthen management systems as well as the general organizational development of LAP
5. To strengthen the governance of LAP in order to ensure good strategic leadership and direction by the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Project

**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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6. To build mechanisms and aggressively mobilize resources to ensure financial sustainability of Legal Aid services in Uganda

The Legal Aid and Pro bono Committee report to the Executive Council of the Uganda Law Society, and oversees a multi-disciplinary management and technical staff numbering 49 fulltime staff.

1.4 LAP Management Team

Members of the Management Committee of the legal aid and pro bono were;

Mr. Samuel Olumo	Executive Director LAP /ULS
Mr. Besigye Aaron	Head Legal Aid and Probono Services
Mrs. Christine Nsambu	Head Finance and Administration- ULS
Ms. Irene S. Kwaga	Head Policy, Research and Advocacy-ULS
Mr. Kiyemba Moses	Head Professional Development & Members Affairs
Ms. Deborah Gasana	Manager Probono -LAP
Ms. Harriet Mawaru	Manager Legal Resource Centre- ULS
Mr. Herbert Byamukama	Manager IT-ULS
Ms. Rachel Kyomuhendo	AG. Administrative Secretary-ULS
Mr. Micheal Kalungu	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
Mr. Paul Mutalya	HR Manager

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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2.0 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Uganda Law Society Act [CAP.276] requires that the Executive Council prepares financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Legal Aid Project as at the end of the financial year and of its statement of comprehensive income for that year. It also requires the Executive Council to ensure that the Project maintains proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the society. The Executive Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society.

The Executive Council accept responsibility for the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements whether due to fraud or error. They also accept responsibility for;

- i. Designing, implementing and maintaining such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- ii. Selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies;
- iii. Making accounting estimates and judgements that are responsible in the circumstances;

The Council is of the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Project as at 31 December 2016 and of the Project's financial performance and cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the International Generally Acceptable Accounting Principles and the requirements of Uganda Law Society Act.

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

Approved by the Executive Council on 25/Mar/17 2017 signed on its behalf by:

PRESIDENT



Date:

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3.0 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society on pages 9 – 14, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society as at 31 December 2016, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 15 – 16 and the requirements of the donors.

Basis of 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 Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society in accordance with the international Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with ethical requirements that are relevant to audit of financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to the accounting policy no.1 of the financial statements which describes the basis of preparation. The financial statements are prepared to assist Council to report to the donors on the organisation's financial performance and status.

Other Information

The management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the report of The Executive Council, the schedule of other operating expenditure [and any other reports that comprise the Annual report] but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's 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.

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Partners: Charles Ogutu****, Frederick Kibbed****, Apeesh Vadher*, Piyush Shahi* (*Kenyan, **** Ugandan)

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

The management of the project is responsible for the preparation of Financial Statements in accordance with Generally Acceptable Accounting Principles and for such internal controls as the Committee Members determine are necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of 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 to issue an auditor's report that Includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

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

- ii. Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control.
- iii. Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- iv. Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- v. Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting to this report of the independent auditor is

Frederick Kibbedi (P0242)



PKF Uganda
Certified Public Accountants

Date: 28th March 2017

Ref: FK/L021/063/17



LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

4.0 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	2016 UGX	2015 UGX
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	3	89,118,639	106,335,616
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors & Prepayments	4	16,184,412	4,636,171
Cash at Bank	5	65,651,225	79,252,178
		<u>81,835,637</u>	<u>83,888,349</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>170,954,276</u>	<u>190,223,965</u>
FUNDS & LIABILITIES			
FUNDS			
Capital Fund	7	89,118,639	106,335,616
General Fund	7	(462,705,107)	(186,329,714)
		<u>(373,586,468)</u>	<u>(79,994,098)</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & Accruals	6	544,540,744	270,218,063
TOTAL FUNDS & LIABILITIES		<u>170,954,276</u>	<u>190,223,965</u>

The Financial Statements which appear on page 6-14 were approved by the Executive Council on 25/03/2017 and signed on its behalf by:


..... PRESIDENT


..... TREASURER

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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5.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	2016 Actual UGX	2016 Budget UGX	2015 Actual UGX
INCOME				
Grants(LAP Main)	10	968,751,418	1,553,523,550	1,083,829,326
Other income	11	-	-	8,117,582
Grant- Masindi Oil Project		75,247,620	75,247,620	
Total Income		1,043,999,038	1,628,771,170	1,026,071,207
Less: Capital Expenditure		12,309,000	26,420,000	9,285,300
Balance Available for Recurrent Expenditure		1,031,690,038	1,602,351,170	1,082,661,608
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE				
Legal education		-	6,800,000	-
Strategic planning		11,555,940	25,000,000	-
Motor vehicle(Auto mobile)running expenses		520,700	5,404,000	47,471,000
Office expenses		28,821,450	29,000,000	28,337,410
Stationery and printing		15,672,550	35,000,000	14,110,967
Monitoring and evaluation workshop		25,045,741	29,500,000	14,110,967
Repairs and maintenance		34,657,818	50,800,000	41,876,810
Branch inspection (Managers and Council)		6,257,400	7,940,000	6,632,000
Utilities		14,045,588	22,800,000	5,123,566
Practising certificate		5,423,600	10,800,000	10,796,800
Security		18,844,000	24,000,000	17,345,800
Publications		7,500,000	7,500,000	18,880,000
Bank charges		5,950,021	9,600,000	4,817,987
Hospitality		10,463,000	15,000,000	8,520,000
Travel Expenses		2,588,300	9,600,000	1,598,500
Insurance		5,495,068	3,500,000	4,671,755
Planning and Monitoring		-	1,800,000	-
Dues and Subscriptions		200,000	-	-
Capacity Building		19,098,640	20,000,000	9,790,000
Recruitment		2,750,000	3,000,000	250,000
Licences and permits		572,200	1,330,000	759,500
Sub-total		215,462,016	318,374,000	232,974,195
Local Personnel				
Salaries and wages		715,721,422	811,514,136	664,330,142
National Social Security Fund		73,310,499	81,151,414	68,313,879
Sub-total		789,031,921	892,665,550	732,644,021

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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5.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

	2016 Actual UGX	2015 Budget UGX	2015 Actual UGX
Staff Meals			
Kampala	28,613,100	29,566,000	18,258,000
Gulu	7,739,000	11,088,000	6,730,000
Kabale	9,314,500	12,936,000	7,520,000
Masindi	7,369,000	12,936,000	7,460,000
Luzira	3,416,000	9,240,000	1,540,000
Kabarole	7,054,000	9,240,000	6,235,000
Jinja	10,217,000	9,240,000	7,155,000
Sub-total	73,722,600	94,248,000	54,898,000
Legal Aid			
Pro Bono Lawyers / Legal assistance	63,728,500	73,600,000	21,435,100
Filing costs, travel, fees and facilitation	8,584,200	19,200,000	9,813,500
Networking	5,534,000	10,000,000	4,394,000
Sub-total	77,846,700	102,800,000	35,642,600
Office Rent			
Gulu	18,000,000	18,000,000	13,200,000
Kabale	8,400,000	9,600,000	8,400,000
Kabarole	7,200,000	12,000,000	7,200,000
Masindi	9,600,000	9,600,000	8,400,000
Jinja	13,200,000	13,200,000	12,000,000
Sub-total	56,400,000	62,400,000	49,200,000
Communication			
Fax, postage, email	14,812,630	38,000,000	11,440,335
Kampala	3,688,985	4,800,000	2,927,478
Luzira	200,000	600,000	-
Gulu	1,210,000	1,800,000	1,084,000
Kabarole	930,000	1,800,000	455,000
Jinja	2,207,000	1,800,000	630,000
Kabale	1,300,000	1,800,000	905,000
Masindi	1,530,000	1,800,000	1,120,000
Sub-total	26,878,615	52,400,000	18,561,813

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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5.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

	2016 Actual UGX	2016 Budget UGX	2015 Actual UGX
Local Consultancy			
Audit Fees	15,400,000	15,000,000	15,400,000
Sub-total	15,400,000	15,000,000	15,400,000
Masindi Oil Project			
Sub-total	64,463,620	64,463,620	-
Total Recurrent Expenditure	1,318,205,472	1,602,351,670	1,139,320,629
Deficit before Exchange Gain	(286,515,434)	-	(56,629,021)
Exchange Gain / (Loss)	10,140,041	-	(7,627,809)
(Deficit) for the year	(276,375,393)	-	(64,628,721)

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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6.0 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

Year ended 31 December 2016	Capital Fund UGX	General Fund UGX	Total UGX
Balance at 1 January	106,335,616	(186,329,714)	(79,994,098)
Additions to fixed assets	12,309,000	-	12,309,000
Deficit for the year	-	(276,375,393)	(276,375,393)
Foreign Exchange Adjustment	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	(29,525,977)	-	(29,525,977)
Balance as at 31 December 2016	89,118,639	(462,705,107)	(373,586,468)

Year ended 31 December 2015	Capital Fund UGX	General Fund UGX	Total UGX
Balance at 1 January	131,663,704	(121,842,884)	9,820,820
Additions to fixed assets	9,285,300	-	9,285,300
Deficit for the year	-	(64,628,721)	(64,628,721)
Foreign Exchange Adjustment	-	141,891	141,891
Depreciation charge for the year	(34,613,388)	-	(34,613,388)
Balance as at 31 December 2015	106,335,616	(186,329,714)	(79,994,098)

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016 UGX	2015 UGX
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	(276,375,393)	(64,486,830)
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	(11,548,241)	7,410,996
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	274,322,681	112,728,969
Capital Expenditure	12,309,000	9,285,300
Net cash from operating activities	(1,291,953)	64,938,435
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of fixed assets	(12,309,000)	(9,285,300)
Net movements in cash and cash equivalents during the year	(13,600,953)	55,653,135
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2016	79,252,178	23,599,043
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December 2016	65,651,225	79,252,178
Represented by:		
Cash at Bank	65,651,225	79,252,178
Total	65,651,225	79,252,178

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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7.0 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The accounts are prepared in accordance with historical cost convention on an accrual basis.

1.2 Going Concern

The financial performance of the society is set out in the council report and in the statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income. The financial position of the society is set out in the Statement of Financial Position.

Based on the financial performance and position of the Legal Aid Project and its risk management policies, the members are of the opinion that the society is well placed to continue in business for the foreseeable future and as a result the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Property, Plant and Equipment

Depreciation

Fixed assets are depreciated over their expected useful lives, using the reducing balance method.

The annual rates used for this purpose are:

Photocopier	33.3% per annum
Computer System	33.3% per annum
Law Literature	25% per annum
Motor vehicles and Cycles	25% per annum
Office furniture and Equipment	12.5% per annum

A Capital Fund is maintained, equal to the value of fixed assets. Depreciation is charged to this fund, and not to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

1.4 Transaction of Foreign Currencies

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies during the accounting period (including grants and other donations) are converted to Uganda shillings at market rates ruling at the time of the transaction. Foreign currency account balances are translated into Uganda shillings at the closing rate of exchange.

1.5 General Fund

Revenue grants and other income are recognised as income during the period in which they are received. Income not spent at the end of each period is added to the General Fund and carried forward to the next period.

1.6 Cash and Cash equivalents

For purposes of cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise balances with less than 90 days to maturity including cash and bank balances.

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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1.7 Receivables

Receivables are carried at the expected realisable value. An estimate is made for doubtful receivables based on a review of all outstanding amounts at the yearend.

1.8 Payables

Payables are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are obligations on the basis of normal credit terms and do not bear interest.

1.9 Staff Benefits (NSSF)

The Legal Aid Project operates a defined contribution scheme registered under the National Social Security Fund Act. The statutory obligation under this scheme is limited to monthly contributions of a specific percentage of employees' monthly gross salaries, currently at 10%.

1.10 Comparatives

Where necessary comparative figures are adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

3. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

3.1 Current Period

	Motor Vehicles	Office Furniture & Equipment	Photocopiers	Computers & Accessories	Law Literature	Generators	Motor Cycles	Total
	UGX	UGX	UGX	UGX	UGX	UGX	UGX	UGX
Cost / Valuation								
At 1 January 2016	193,285,300	69,041,989	27,090,000	92,022,205	34,520,500	21,850,000	20,400,000	458,209,994
Additions	-	1,750,000	4,120,000	6,439,000	-	-	-	12,309,000
At 31 December 2016	193,285,300	70,791,989	31,210,000	98,461,205	34,520,500	21,850,000	20,400,000	470,518,994
Depreciation								
At 1 January 2016	129,526,404	56,364,321	26,069,510	83,501,928	33,186,434	9,559,375	13,666,406	351,874,303
Charge for the year	15,939,724	1,803,459	1,711,783	4,981,439	333,517	3,072,656	1,683,399	29,525,977
At 31 December 2016	145,466,128	58,167,780	27,781,293	88,483,367	33,519,951	12,632,031	15,349,805	381,400,354
Net Book Value								
At 31 December 2016	47,819,172	12,624,209	3,428,707	9,977,838	1,000,550	9,217,969	5,050,196	89,118,639

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016 (CONTINUED)

3.2 Previous Period

	Motor Vehicles	Office Furniture & Equipment	Photocopiers	Computers & Accessories	Law Literature	Generators	Motor cycles	Total
	UGX.	UGX	UGX	UGX	UGX	UGX.	UGX	UGX.
Cost / Valuation								
At 1 January 2015	184,000,000	69,041,989	27,090,000	92,022,205	34,520,500	21,850,000	20,400,000	448,924,694
Additions	9,285,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,285,300
At 31 December 2015	193,285,300	69,041,989	27,090,000	92,022,205	34,520,500	21,850,000	20,400,000	458,209,994
Depreciation								
At 1 January 2015	108,273,438	54,553,225	25,560,030	79,248,177	32,741,745	5,462,500	11,421,875	317,260,990
Charge for the year	21,252,966	1,811,096	509,480	4,253,751	444,689	4,096,875	2,244,531	34,613,313
At 31 December 2015	129,526,404	56,364,321	26,069,510	83,501,928	33,186,434	9,559,375	13,666,406	351,874,303
Net Book Value								
At 31 December 2015	63,758,896	12,677,669	1,020,490	8,520,277	1,334,066	12,290,625	6,733,594	106,335,616

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

4. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

The balance on this account is made up as follows:

	2016 UGX	2015 UGX
Non-trade debtors		
ULS Imprest	124,000	-
Fuel (ULS Motorcycles / Cars)	5,250,000	-
ULS Other Expenses	5,330,400	-
Staff Salary Advances	1,540,336	-
Subtotal	12,244,736	-
Prepayments		
Motor vehicle insurance	1,707,476	2,124,771
Orange Internet	500,000	1,000,000
Chamber Inspection	706,200	449,400
Security	1,026,000	1,062,000
Subtotal	3,939,676	4,636,171

5. CASH AT BANK

The balance on this account is made up as follows:

Barclays Bank		
USD Account (USD 2,488.88)	8,250,089	8,417,417
UGX Account (Operating a/c)	52,884,336	66,017,961
UGX Account (Client a/c)	4,516,800	4,816,800
Subtotal	65,651,225	79,252,178

CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

LAP Salaries	434,540,088	235,600,553
Other LAP Payables	1,250,000	1,427,000
Client Funs	3,526,000	3,826,000
Deferred Income	88,812,656	-
Staff Meals	1,012,000	-
Repairs & Maintenance	-	13,964,510
Accruals	15,400,000	15,400,000
Subtotal	544,540,744	270,218,063

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

10. GRANTS
LAP (MAIN)

Date		US \$	UGX
13 th June, 2016	Transfer	166,591	556,414,556
12 th December 2016	Transfer	118,148	412,336,862
13 th June 2016 (Masindi Oil project)	Transfer	22,529	75,247,620
Total		307,268	1,043,999,038

11. OTHER INCOME

Other income was received as follows:

	2016 UGX	2015 UGX
Other Income	-	8,117,582.00
Total	-	8,117,582.00

12. EXCHANGE RATES

Exchange rates used during the period to convert transactions denominated in US Dollar into Uganda shillings ranged from UGX 2,645, to UGX 3,680. Foreign currency balances as at 31 December 2016 were transacted at the following exchange rates:

	2016	2015
1 US Dollar	3,581	3,140

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