



LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY



Mediation session by Legal Aid Project staff in Paicho sub county, Gulu District

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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LIST OF ACCRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ASF	Advocats Sans Frontiers'
CBA	Canadian Bar Association
CBO	Community Based Organization
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CLE	Continuing Legal Education
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 & Order Sector
LAP	Legal Aid Project
LAPSNET	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 AND VICE PRESIDENT ULS

Dear Reader,

As Chair of the Legal Aid & Pro bono Committee of the Uganda Law Society, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2017 Annual Report of the Legal Aid and Pro bono Projects (LAP). In executing the oversight role handed over to us by the Executive Council, the LAP Committee oversees all matters to do with the Society's Access to justice initiatives.

2017 marked 25 years of Legal Aid Project's service provision in Uganda. This report highlights key achievements, opportunities and challenges during the first year of implementing the ULS Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021. LAP falls directly under strategic objective no. 2; to promote access to justice for indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons.

Legal Aid Project continued operations in its 12 offices to wit; Gulu, Kabarole, Jinja, Kampala, Kabale, Masindi, Luzira, Arua, Soroti, Mbarara, Patongo (Satellite) and Moroto. The project provided legal advisory, legal representation in courts and through Alternative dispute Resolution, Legal and human rights awareness programs, prison decongestion and Pro Bono service provision.

It is worth noting that the project continued to perform exceedingly well during 2017 as it reached out and impacted 52,992(32052M, 20940F) beneficiaries across different regions of the country and indirectly reached out to over 7,000,000 persons through the media. In the last five years of implementation of the project, a total number of 216,637 people have directly benefitted from legal aid and Pro bono services from 2013 to 2017.

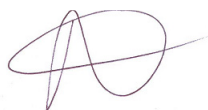
In 2017, through Legal Aid and Pro bono 20,589 clients received legal aid through court representation, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms and legal advice services. This performance was over and above the planned target of reaching out to at least 12,500 persons in 2017. Among the clients served, 13,077 (64%) were male and 7,512(36%) female. 1,882 (9%) had their cases completed (675 through ADR while 1,207 in courts; 4,658 cases were pending mediation and 8,933 ongoing in courts; 4,367 clients were given legal advice, 548 clients released on bail, 393 cases were referred to other legal aid service providers, 454 cases were closed for lack of merit, 62 files were withdrawn and 12 recalled on discovering that the clients were not indigent. A total of 9,836 cases were handled on land and property claims, 429 on family/divorce and separation, 883 on custody and maintenance, 2,008 on administration of estates, 214 on debt claims, 259 on employment claims, 4,863 on criminal general, and 1,625 on civil general. This number does not include the clients reached out through community sensitizations. 60,000 simplified legal materials on different topical issues were translated into different local languages to empower local communities with regard to their human and legal rights.

Even with the successes earlier mentioned, LAP has had and continues to be bogged by a number of challenges majorly of which is limited funding, case backlog, an overstretched work force to mention but a few.

LAP deeply appreciates its various development partners who include; the Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD) through the Norwegian Bar Association who have to date been the principle financiers of LAP in the seven clinics of Kampala, Luzira, Kabale, Kabarole, Masindi, Gulu and Jinja; the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) who remain the sole funders of the 4 LAP clinics of Mbarara, Arua, Soroti and Moroto, as well as Pro bono, Huddersfield Law Society in England who fund the Patong clinic; JLOS who fund various LAP initiatives, UN Women, UNHCR and the Canadian Bar Association (CBA).

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the management and staff of the Legal Aid Project whose tireless efforts have ensured that LAP continues to stand in the access to justice arena in Uganda.

Enjoy your reading.



Alice Namuli
Vice-President ULS

WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

This report highlights key achievements by Legal Aid Project provision of its services to the people who need them most through 2017. This report highlights LAP access to justice initiatives and various interventions made through the 12 Legal Aid Clinics. 2017 marked 25 years of Legal Aid Project service provision and impact touching lives and transforming communities through our varied Legal Aid Project clinics. This would not have been possible without the enormous support of the Norwegian Bar Association and NORAD who have tirelessly supported the Uganda Law Society / Legal Aid Project to deliver on their access to justice mandate.

We thank NORAD/NBA for over 25 years legal support for LAP whose mile stones are the cornerstone through which different development partners are making interventions for various access to justice needs in different parts of the country.

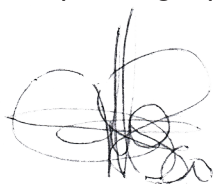
It is my pleasure on behalf of Management, Staff and the Executive Council of the Legal Aid Project to present the 2017 Annual Report. We have had a significant increase in the number of clients assisted, over 52,992 people benefited from our services. We continue to work with various JLOS institutions, Legal Aid Service Providers, community structures, local governments the Judiciary and key duty bearers to respond to justice needs especially for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized throughout the country. Legal Aid Project still remains the biggest Legal Aid service provider in Uganda.

LAP's overall performance is attributed to the committed workforce, policy guidance from the LAP Committee, technical and financial support from other partners. We are forever grateful to the Democratic Governance Facility(DGF), the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), UN Women, Canadian Bar Association (CBA), UNHCR for the support rendered.

The demand for LAP services still outweighs the supply of both human and financial capacity as well as operating without a substantive legal and policy framework. Other challenges include case backlog hindering the disposal of cases in courts of law, clients who still love to litigate as opposed to settling their cases through available remedies and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Amongst its challenges Legal Aid Project has and continues to touch lives, impact households as well as transform communities. We pledge to continue to build on our strong foundation to grow from strength to strength enabling thousands access justice and realize tremendous results.

I am indebted to the Staff, Management and Executive Council who serve in a committed manner to ensure the vulnerable and marginalized attain justice. To our clients who have trusted LAP to handle their legal needs we pledge to continue providing a quality service to make a difference in your lives.



Joyce Nalunga Birimumaaso

Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT THE LEGAL AID PROJECT

The Legal Aid Project is a Non-Government Organization which was established by the Uganda Law Society in 1992 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.

In 2017 Uganda Law Society developed a new strategic plan for 2017 – 2021 with long term goals the vision of the Uganda Law Society was recast as follows: To be a Proficient Bar Association in fostering Access to Justice, the Rule of Law and Good governance in Uganda.

The Legal Aid Project falls directly under ULS Strategic objective no. 2 To promote Access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized persons in Uganda. During the Strategic period ULS will realize strategic outcomes that will contribute to national efforts towards access to justice by Uganda's indigent persons. ULS will continue with the ongoing Legal Aid Project and Pro bono scheme.

The Legal Aid Project in 2017 achieved various interventions mainly through;

1. Provision of high quality legal aid and advisory support services to indigent marginalized and vulnerable persons
2. Promotion of respect for Human Rights and Rule of law in Uganda

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 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.

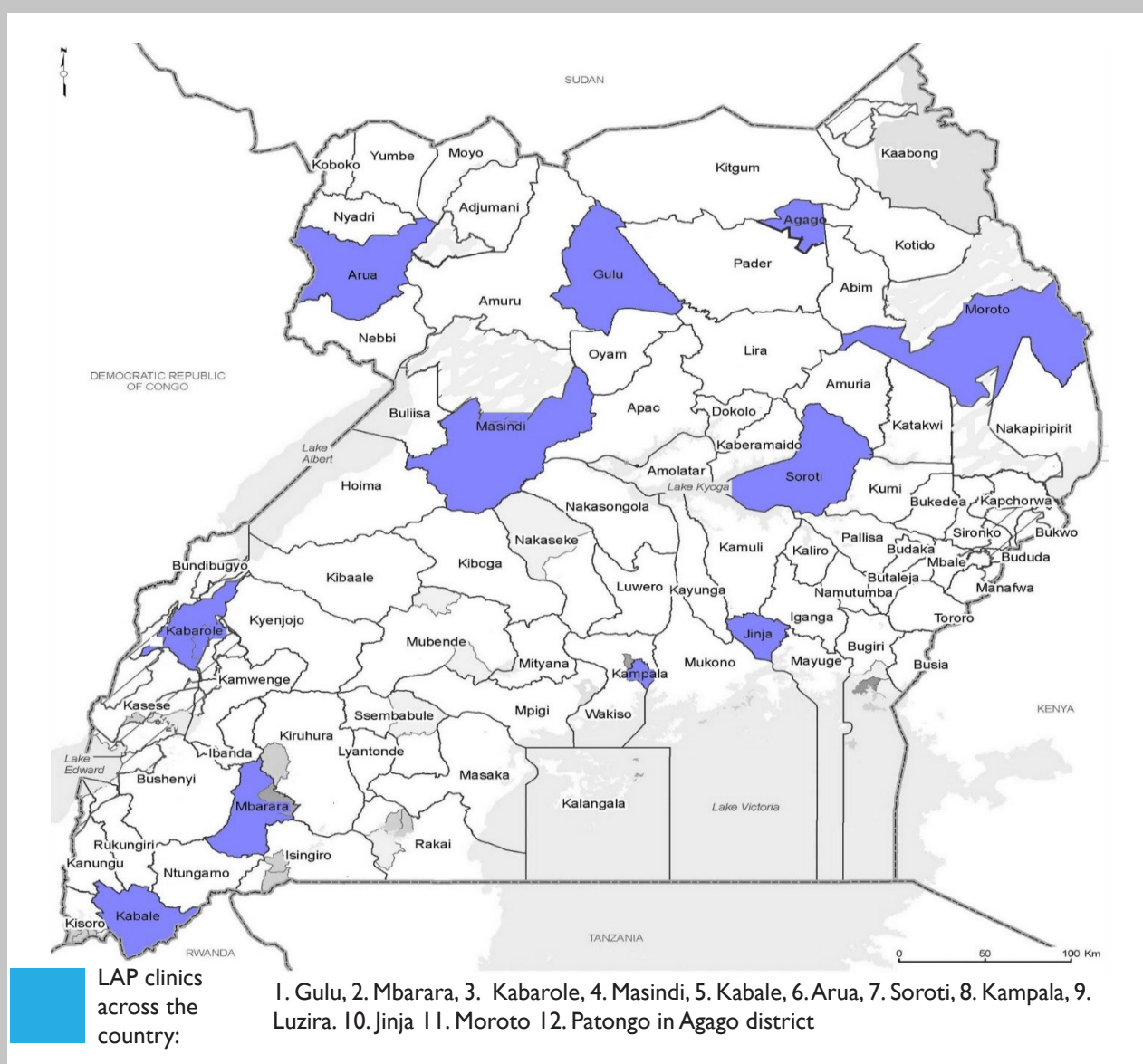
LAP Goal

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

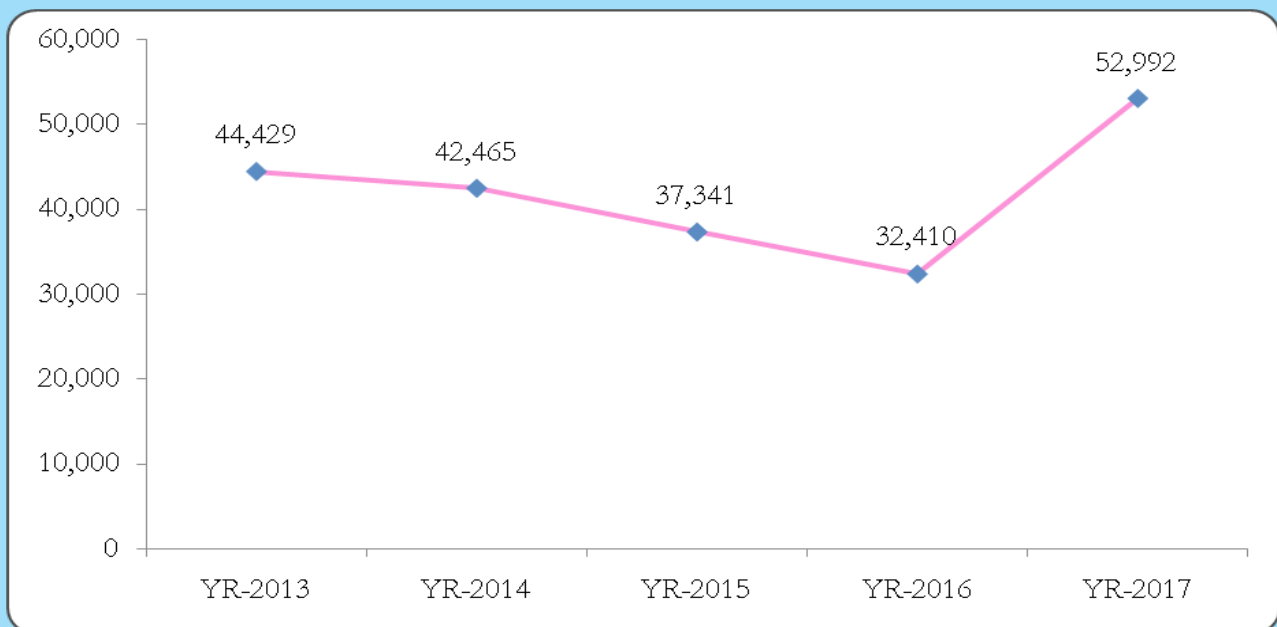
Map of Uganda showing the distribution of Legal Aid Project Clinics of Uganda Law Society



OVERVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LEGAL AID PROJECT DURING 2017

It is worth noting that the project continued to perform exceedingly well during 2017 as it reached out and impacted **52,992 (32052M, 20940F)** beneficiaries across different regions of the country and indirectly through the media over **7,000,000** persons in general. The project reached the 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 **216,637** people have directly benefitted from legal aid and Pro bono services and below is the project trend from 2013 to 2017.

Figure 1: Number of Community members who Benefited from Legal Aid Services 2013- 2017



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE : TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR INDIGENT, VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED PERSONS

Strategic Intervention I: Provision of High Quality Legal Aid and Advisory Support Services to Indigent Marginalized and Vulnerable Persons

This intervention increased access to legal services leading to improvement in the livelihood of the target beneficiaries as a result of improved access to justice. 2017 realised reduction in conflicts in the communities where the project has offered services and this has reduced levels of marginalisation, empowered communities and led to peaceful co existence.

I.1: Legal Representation and advisory support through Legal Aid Clinics

In 2017, 17,904 indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons received legal aid through court representation, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms and legal advice services. The Legal Aid project (LAP) 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 2017. Among the clients served, 11,471 (64%) were male and 6,433 (36%) female. In 17,904 clients registered and served, 1,635 (9%) had their cases completed (536 completed through ADR while 1099 in courts of law); 3,801 cases were still pending for mediation and 7,541 still ongoing in courts of law, 4,346 clients were given legal advice, 548 clients given bail, 384 cases were referred to pro bono and other legal aid service providers, 318 cases were closed for lack of merit and 51 files were withdrawn on discovering that the clients were not indigent.

A total of **8,733** cases were handled on land and property claims, **280** on family/divorce and separation, **820** on custody and maintenance, **1,727** on administration of estates, **187** on debt claims, **158** on employment claims, **4,355** on criminal general, and **1,229** on civil general.

Figure I: Number and Nature of Cases Handled by Legal Aid Project During 2017

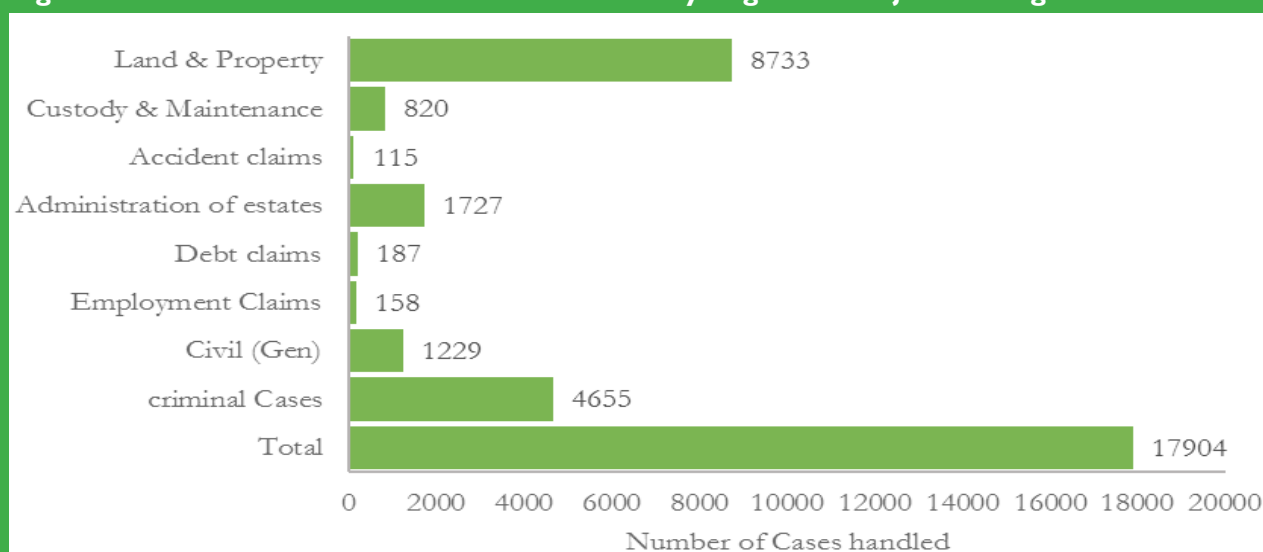
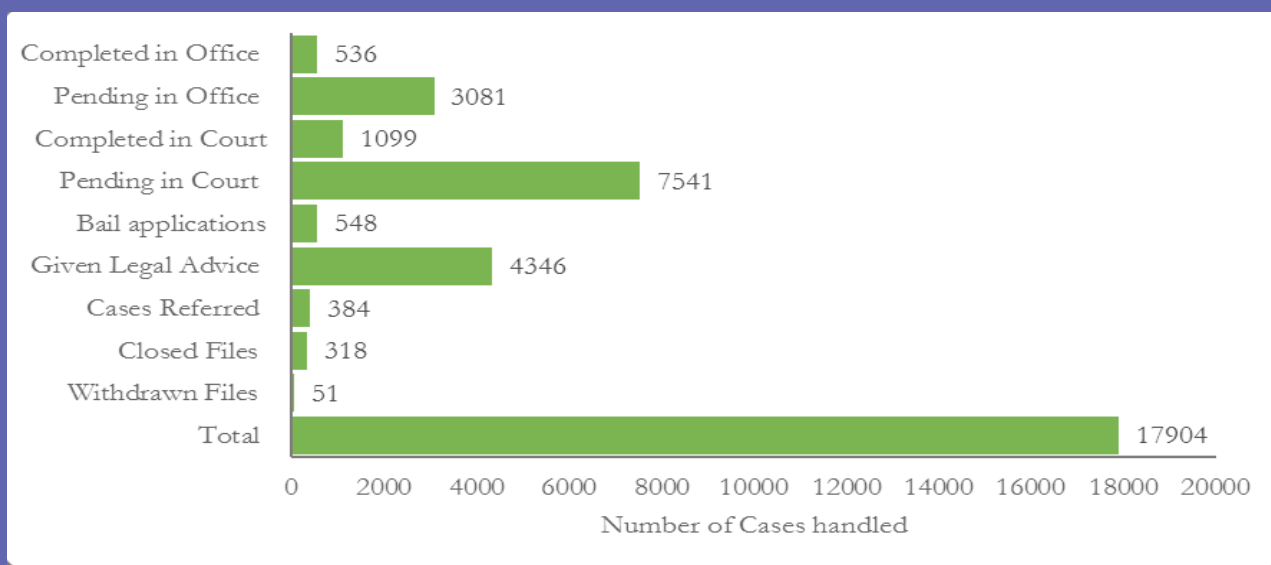
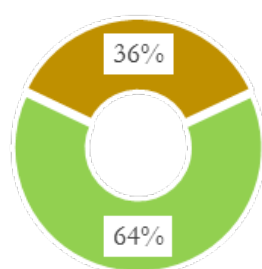


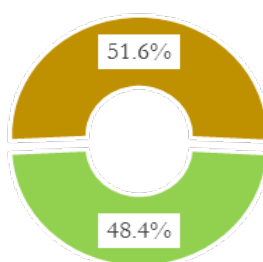
Figure 2: Number and Status of Progress of Cases Handled by Legal Aid Project During 2017



Sex of clients



Status of Cases



Male Female

New cases Old cases

Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Legal Aid Clients by Sex and Status of their Cases in 2017

1.2: Legal Aid through the Pro Bono Scheme

For the last 10 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 Kampala, Jinja, Soroti, Gulu, Arua, Masindi, Kabarole, Mbarara and Kabale. The project portfolio steadily grew with **101** additional Advocates enrolled into the scheme in **2017**, bringing its portfolio of registered Advocates to **1,524**.

1.2.1: Legal Representation through Pro Bono Scheme

In total **3231** cases were handled in 2017 in which **1,939** (60%) were male clients while **1,292** (40%) were female clients. Among these handled cases, **247** were concluded in court and through ADR, and **857** and **1392** cases pending in office and court respectively, **9** case was referred, **136** closed and **11** cases were withdrawn. Overall the

client base grew by 546 more clients from 6663 clients served in 2016; which is a sign of the great effort put in to enroll advocates as well as the growing positive attitude towards the scheme.

Figure 4: Number and Nature of Cases Identified & Allocated to Advocates for Pro Bono Handling in 2017

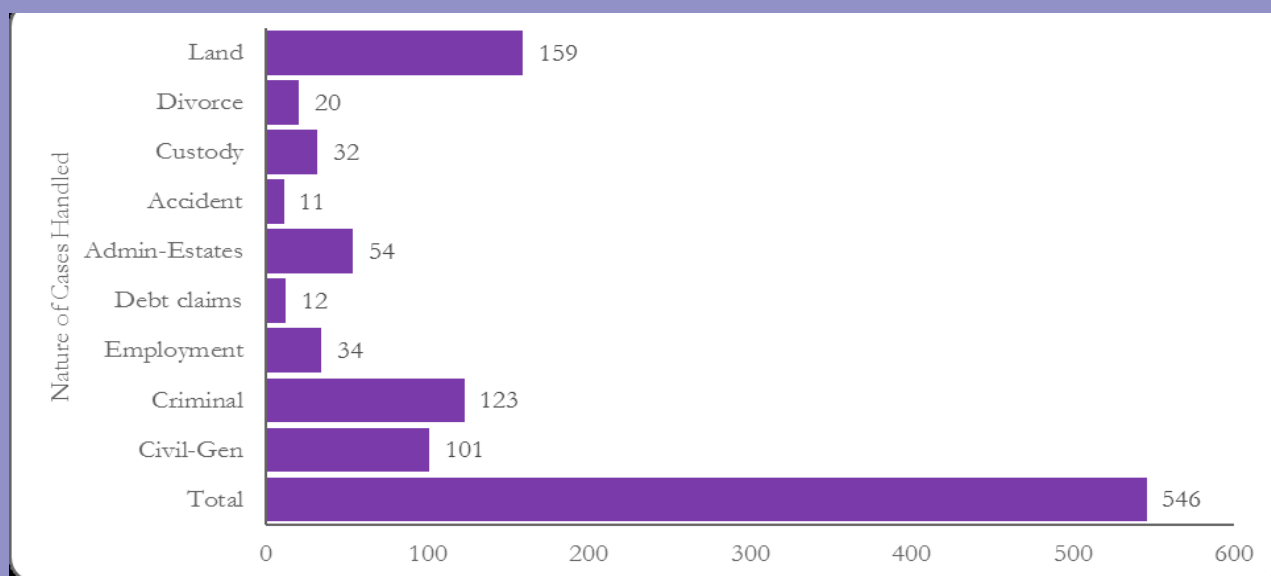


Figure 5: Number & Nature of Cases Followed up under Pro Bono Handling During 2017

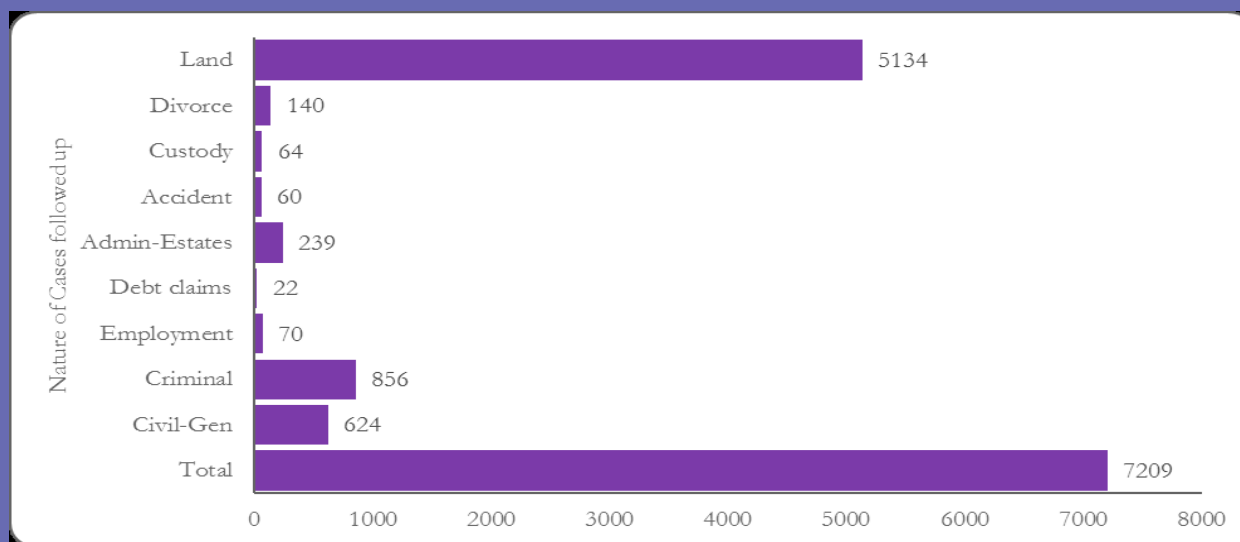
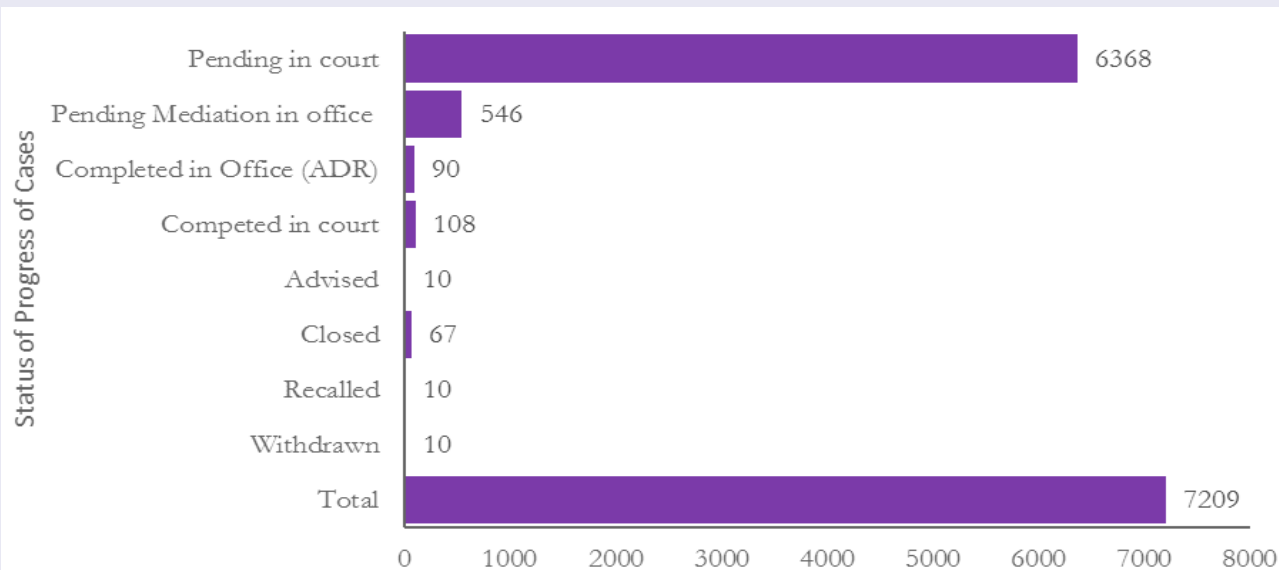


Figure 6: Status of Progress of the Cases handled under the Pro Bono Scheme in 2017



1.2.2: National Pro Bono day celebrations

As corporate responsibility of 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 annual sixth National pro Bono day on the 24th February 2017. The Pro Bono day was organized under the theme '*Access to Justice for All*'. A total of 2748 (1089M and 1659F) clients received on-spot legal advice from 1087 Advocates during the Day across the 9 regions of ULS/LAP operation across the country. The venues of celebrations of the day included; The Railway grounds for Kampala, Boma Grounds for Fort Portal, Busoga Square for Jinja, Nebbi Mayors Gardens for Arua and the Legal Aid Project Offices for Soroti, Mbarara, Gulu, Masindi and Kabale.



Annual Pro bono day: Advocates advising clients at the Railway grounds in Kampala on 24/2/2017



The resident Judges Jinja Court - His Lordship Michael Erubu and Her Lordship Eva Luswata matching during the Pro bono day in Jinja.

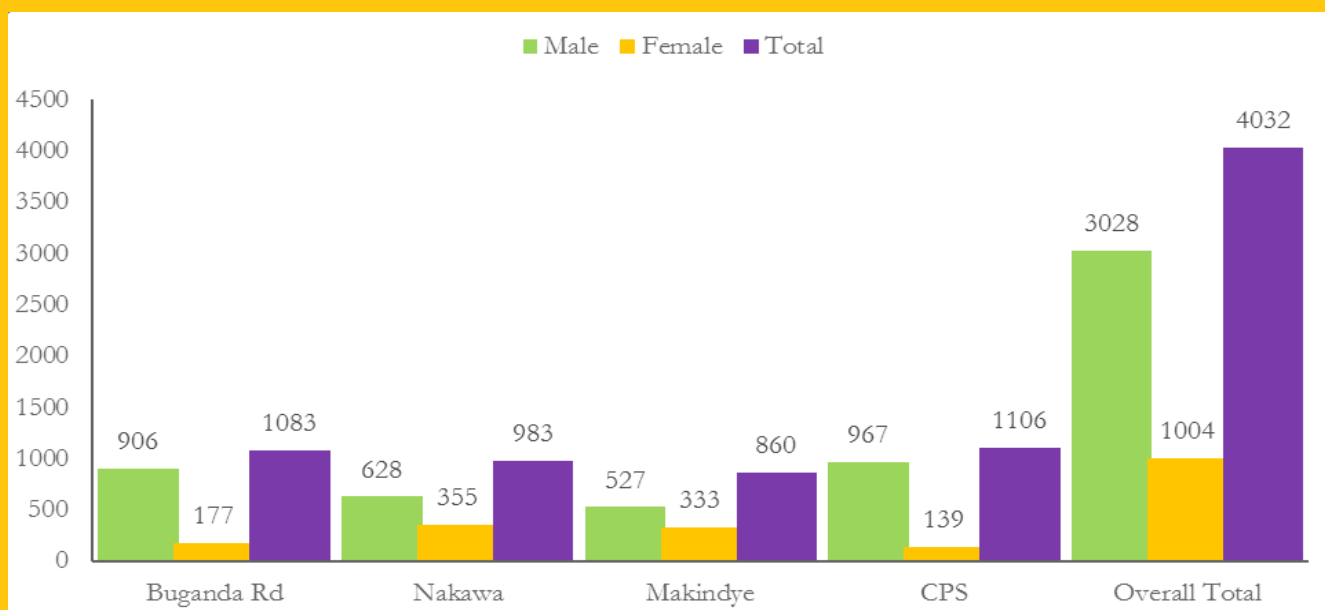


Advocates in Jinja offering legal advise to clients at the Pro bono day

1.2.3: The Duty Counsel under the Pro Bono Scheme

During 2017 the Duty Counsel scheme under the pro bono project was extended to operate in 4 duty stations which included the three Magistrate courts of; Makindye, Nakawa, 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. During 2017, **33** advocates provided Duty Counsel services to **4,032 (3028M, 1004F)** clients

Figure 7: Distribution of Clients served by the four duty Counsel Stations under the Duty Counsel Scheme during 2017



1.3: Legal Aid through UN Women Project

The ULS-LAP in partnership with UN Women is implementing a 27 months' project entitled "Enhancing Access to Justice for Women and Girls who experience violence" through legal aid and referral services in the districts of; Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Kamuli. The Project is aimed at providing legal aid services to enable vulnerable women and girls in the four districts to access justice from both formal and informal justice system. The goal of the project is to ensure that women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence access justice through legal aid services such as legal representation, legal advice, mediation, legal counseling, legal and human rights awareness. These services are particularly aimed at dealing with cases on sexual violence, domestic violence and violations of the right to land and property, as well as the various forms of gender-based violence.

The activities of the project are coordinated through 3 legal aid clinics of; Jinja, Gulu and Patongo serving people in those areas as well as in Kitgum and Kamuli districts. In 2017, a total of 3970 (1272M, 2698F) indigent persons, mostly women and girls were directly assisted through both the formal and informal justice systems. The clients were assisted through legal representation, legal advice, mediation and legal counseling by both lawyers and community-

based paralegals/volunteers. In 3,970 clients registered and served, 1575 (40%) were directly served by the Legal Aid lawyers among which 462 had their cases completed (338 completed through mediation while 124 in courts of law); 246 cases were still pending for mediation and 129 still ongoing in courts of law, and 738 clients were given legal advice.

A total of 621 cases were conflicts related to land, 209 on physical violence, 206 on denial of access to resources, 188 on failure to provide for children, child care/abuse, 140 on defilement, 133 on rape and 78 on psychological abuse

Figure 8: Number and Nature of Cases under EAWG project handled by ULS-LAP Lawyers in 2017

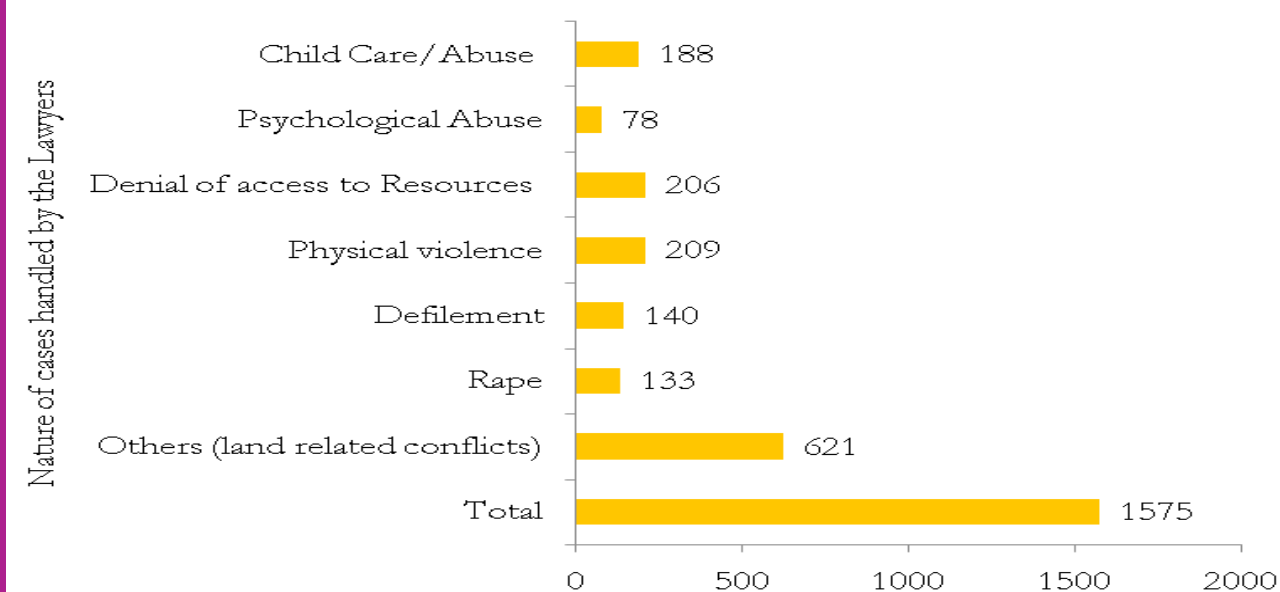
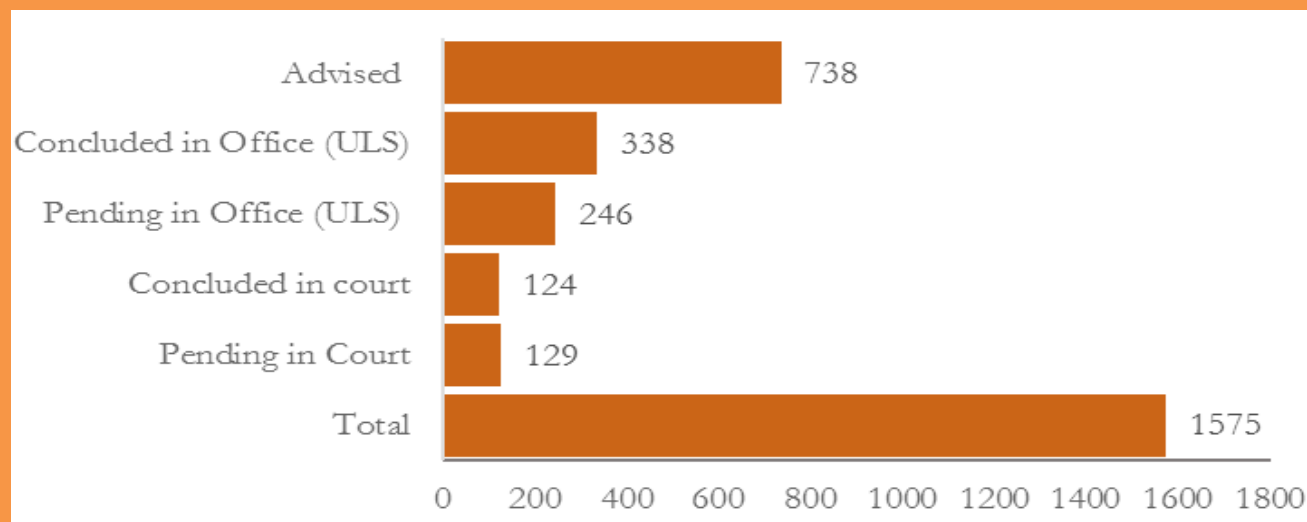


Figure 9: Status of Progress of the Cases handled by ULS-LAP Lawyers under EAWG Project during 2017

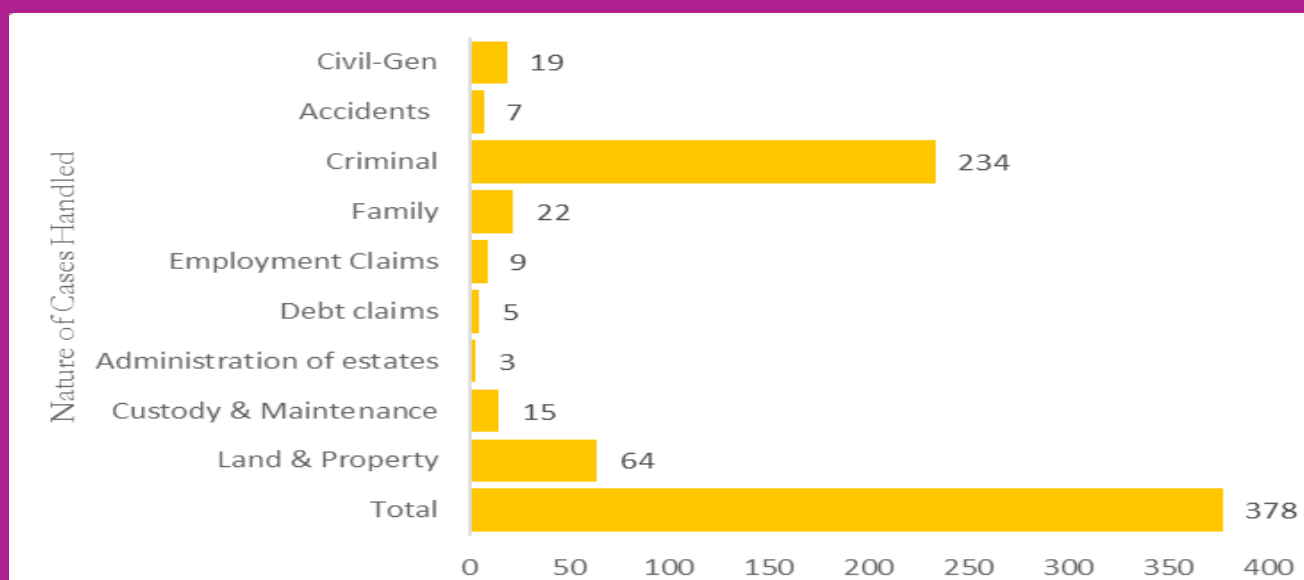


1.4: Legal Aid through the Oil & Gas Project in Buliisa and Hoima

The Oil & gas project was initiated in 2016 to contribute to enhanced peaceful co-existence among the people in the Albertine region, through improved land governance and management practice and policies has continued to provide free legal services to the poor and marginalized people in the districts of Buliisa and Hoima.

In 2017, **378** indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons received legal aid through court representation, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms and legal aid services. Among these clients, **259** were male and **119** female. Overall, **125** cases were completed among which **115** were through court and 10 through ADR; **17** cases were still pending for mediation and **236** still ongoing in courts of law

Figure 8: Number and Nature of Cases handled under the Oil and Gas project in the Albertine region during 2017



1.5: Legal Aid for the Refugees in West Nile Region

ULS in partnership with UNHCR is currently implementing a project entitled “Enhancing Access to Justice for the Indigent, Vulnerable and Marginalised Refugee Communities in West Nile-Uganda” through legal aid and referral services in settlement areas of; Rhino, Bidibidi, Imvepi and Lobule Refugee Camps / Settlements. The program is expected to contribute to the enhancement of access to justice for the refugee communities who are indigent, vulnerable and marginalized.

During 2017 ULS provided Legal representation in courts of Law and other fora to **75(71M,4F)** refugees. among these clients 13 had their cases completed in court while **62** are still being pursued in court.

1.6: Prison Decongestion Program

Prisoners are a vulnerable and deserving group for legal aid but who 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 including Koboko, Yumbe for purpose of refugees. In the past one year, ULS/LAP was in contact with **6,850** 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, **6295** were male and **555** female; **4563** were sensitized, **2287** were represented in courts of law and **705** had their cases concluded and **1582** released on bail.

1.7: Legal Aid through Community Based Paralegals

By the end of 2017, ULS-LAP had built a manpower capacity of **838** community based paralegal/volunteers through which the project served those that were unable to reach our offices or were not able to get justice under the normal process. The **838** community members have been trained on Land Rights, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Marriage and Divorce, Succession/Administration of Estates, Children's rights, the Criminal Justice System, Refugee Rights and Obligations. Among these, **239** and **299** were trained with support from UN-women in Gulu, Kamuli, Pader, Kitgum and UNHCR in Arua. **300** Community Paralegals undertook refresher trainings with JLOS actors and through reflective meetings in Soroti, Moroto, Arua and Mbarara with DGF's support.

During 2017, a total of **7,425** community members benefitted from the services provided by the community based paralegals/volunteers. Among these, **3,143** were male and **4,282** were female of which **1,998** had their cases resolved through ADR and **5,427** received advice.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TWO: PROMOTION OF RESPECT FOR RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW IN UGANDA

2.1: Community Sensitizations

UULS/LAP continued to empower the community during the year 2017 and a total of **174** community outreaches were conducted across all clinics in the country. In total **14,650(7785 M, 6865F)** people were reached and enlightened on their Legal and human rights, key justice actors where they can seek redress especially through JLOS and community platforms. The major topics addressed during these sessions were chosen by the community members basing on their daily experiences and legal challenges with major focus on Land and Property rights, the Criminal Justice system emphasis laid on how to apply for bail, Family/succession disputes.

The LAP Clinics of Jinja, Kabarole, Kabale conducted community rights awareness reaching out to **4323** people specifically sensitizing the public on land rights, Sexual and Gender based violence and Succession. Sensitization on legal and human rights enhances the community's level of awareness as to how they can defend their legal and human rights in cases of abuse.

A total of **3315** women, girls and men were sensitized under the UN women project on enhancing access to justice for women and girls who experience violence. Legal awareness sessions in Kamuli, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader aimed at equipping women and girls with knowledge and skills on preventing and responding to VAWG. Key areas of presentation included; Domestic Violence, Succession, Marriage and Divorce, Land and Property rights.

Under Oil and Gas project in Masindi, sensitizations were conducted in the districts of Bulisa and Hoima. The sensitizations were conducted in the areas most affected by land grabbing, famine and issues of compensation.

These areas include, Waki in Kigorobya Hoima district, Kasenyi in Ngwedo sub county Bulisa District, Kichoke and Bugana in Bulisa sub county. The total number of participants were **1,435** community members were involved and key topics of sensitization included; land laws and rights, compensation, human rights issues, Domestic relations for instance, GBV and family.

Under the UNHCR project for Refugees in West Nile Region, the legal aid team reached out to **2,401** refugees in four settlement camps of; Rhino, Imvepi, Lobule and Bidibidi who were sensitized on their legal and human rights. The sensitization topics included Refugee rights and obligations, Children's rights, Succession and the relevance of making a WILL, detailed analysis of the criminal justice system and how to apply for bail, Domestic violence as well as Sexual and gender based violence offences, land rights user and how to protect one's interest in land as well as where to seek for redress. Emphasis during sensitization was also on dangers of early marriages for girls.

In the districts of Moroto, Soroti, Arua, and Mbarara, **3,176** community members were sensitized by the community based paralegals/volunteers.



Community Rights
Awareness in Kamuli
District

Photo: Female participants
asking questions during the
mobile legal aid clinic at
Latanya sub county





Sensitizations in Bidibidi settlement in Yumbe District



Community Rights
Awareness in Kabale

2.2: Information, Education and Communication

ULS-LAP developed and disseminated Information Education Communication materials in the various communities the project areas of operation. **50,000** Simplified booklets on different topics based on the level of need in the given community were developed and disseminated.

18,000 booklets were distributed in the Refugee camps in West Nile. The booklets had been translated into English, Arabic, Kakwa and Lugbara to suit the needs of the Refugees and host Communities. The booklets were on different topics which included; Refugee rights and obligations, Succession, Marriage and Divorce, Domestic violence, Children's rights, the Criminal Justice System and how to apply for bail.

In the four districts of Gulu, Kamuli, Kitgum and Pader where ULS –LAP is implementing Enhancing Access to Justice for Women and Girls who experience violence project, **13,454** VAWG-related IEC materials were printed and distributed covering keys topics which included; Domestic violence, Succession, Land Rights, Marriage and Divorce, Children's rights.



Photo: LAP-ULS Gulu Legal officer hands IEC Materials to the Chief Justice, His Lordship Hon. Justice Bart Katureebe during the court open day in Gulu on 15th June 2017



The Probono coordinator LAP Kabale in Blue tshirt handing over law handbooks to the OC Station Kamuganguzi Sub County Police Post in Kabale

2.3: Media Campaigns

During 2017, a total of 106 radio talk shows were held on a number of media houses across the country. Among 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, Baaba FM in Jinja, KBS FM in Kamuli, Mega FM, Rupinyi FM, LUO FM, Grace Radio, Voice of life fm, voice of Teso, Delta fm, Etop radio, Arua one Kings radio, NEENA FM in Moroto, BISO FM in Bulisa and SPICE FM in Hoima. There were also **660** radio spot messages on Radios were aired out. It's estimated that these benefited over **7,000,000** people. Majority of these radio talk shows were conducted through partnership with other organizations especially other Legal Aid Service providers and facilitated by LAP staffs. Six Tv talk shows were held on Bukedde TV, UBC TV, NBS TV, NTV. 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 and JLOS actors services and access points where people can seek redress. .

NETWORKING AND CREATION OF LINKAGES

TLegal Aid Project profile has grown among the public and stakeholders in the justice sector. This is evidenced by the numerous meetings and workshops to which the Project staff are invited or delegated by the management to represent the institution. 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 meetings and workshops attended were on promotion of Human Rights, Access to Justice and Rule of Law. Among the key stakeholders were the Legal Aid Service Providers under their umbrella body LASPNET, JLOS, HURINET, Community Based Organisations, Judiciary, Police, Prisons, University Bodies, Local Government Institutions, and the Media. We continued to play an important role in the JLOS sector as a key member of the District Chain linked Committees in all regions of our operation, working closely with local Development Partners.

The linkages created have enhanced referrals ensuring that people's access to justice needs are met by the right duty bearers. Strong partnerships and joint collaboration on delivery of services have enriched the Legal Aid Project service interventions.

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 2017 comprised 10 people (2 Females, 8 Male). 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. Below are the members of the LAP committee;

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1) Ms. Alice Namuli | ULSVP & Chairperson LAP Committee |
| 2) Hon. Nobert Mao | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 3) Hon. Raphael Obudra Baku | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 4) Mr. Stephen Tumwesigye | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 5) Mr. Kahungu Tibeyeita | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 6) Ms. Nuru Nambirige | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 7) Mr. Kagarura Dickens | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 8) Ms. Fatumah Omar | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 9) Mr. Steven Tumwesigye | Advocate and Committee Member |
| 10) Mr. Olumo Sam | Executive Director-LAP/ULS |
| 11) Mr. Besigye Aaron | Head of Department-LAP/Secretary to the Committee |

3.2: LAP Management Committee

The Management team is tasked with day to day 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. Olumo Sam | : Executive Director – LAP /ULS |
| 2) Mr. Besigye Aaron | : Head of Department – LAP and Pro Bono Services |
| 3) Mrs. Nsambu Christine | : Head of Finance and Administration-ULS |
| 4) Ms. Kwaga S. Irene | : Head of Policy, Research and Advocacy-ULS |
| 5) Mr. Kiyemba Moses | : Head of Professional Development and Member Affairs |
| 6) Ms. Deborah Gasana | : Manager Pro Bono – LAP |
| 7) Ms. Mawaru Kyolaba Harriet | : Manager Legal Resource Centre-ULS |
| 8) Mr. Herbert Byamukama | : Manager IT-ULS |
| 9) Mr. Mutalya Paul | : Human Resource Manager-ULS |
| 10) Mr. Kalungu Michael | : 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. The project has also been supported in its mandate and activities by other departments. A total of 95 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 2017.

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 and staff to attend continuous legal education throughout the year. Trainings held were on gender based violence and Human rights funded by UN Women and OHCHR respectively. The Legal Aid team was also offered trainings on Results Based Management Reporting, Customer care and Child Justice with support from JLOS. Legal staff in Arua clinic participated in a 2 days training conducted to enhance their knowledge on Refugee rights and obligation, human rights principles, property and dispute resolution, domestic violence, handling mediations and community dialogue

3.4: 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 best the services have been delivered to them, and to ensure conformity of the project activities with its strategic objectives.

During 2017, a number of monitoring and evaluation activities were conducted which among others included: Preparation and submission of monthly and quarterly progress reports by the implementing staff to management and from management to the Legal Aid and Pro-bono Committee of the Uganda Law Society and to the Executive Council for onward transmission to the development Partners DGF, NBA, UN Women and UNHCR; Periodic and ad-hoc inspection visits were undertaken to the clinics by the policy and management organs of the society; clients' satisfaction surveys conducted among the different segments of clients served, the 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

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

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

Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)

In addition to their continued funding of the ULS Pro Bono project, DGF supported LAP to establish and funded 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 single legal aid service providers.

Canadian Bar Association (CBA)

Supporting Inclusive Resource Development in East Africa (SIRD) is a five year project that commenced in Uganda June 2017. It is being implemented by the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) in the East Africa region, with a focus on Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, working closely with the law societies in those countries inclusive of the East African Law Society at the Regional level, to increase sustainable economic growth for East Africans, in particular, women and vulnerable groups affected by Extractive Industries as its overall goal with financial support from Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

The Project Purpose

To support initiatives that improve the education, understanding and training on laws and legal rights and how these affect women; empowerment of communities, especially women to increase their ability to engage in decisions that impact their rights; and enhanced collaboration among stakeholders on gender-sensitive initiatives that contribute to improving the quality and administration of the regulatory frameworks supporting the Extractive Industries.

SIRD Objectives and Outcomes

The Project's ultimate objective is to increase sustainable economic growth for East Africans, in particular women and vulnerable groups, affected by extractive industries. Recognizing that equitable treatment and equal opportunities for women and girls are fundamental prerequisites for sustainable development, SIRD will integrate gender equality into all programming and apply a gender transformative approach to the implementation of activities. The SIRD theory of change is based on the assumption that to achieve the ultimate outcome, a number of intermediate and immediate outcomes must be reached in order to increase sustainable economic growth for East Africans, especially women.

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. It has hence enhancing access to justice for poor, vulnerable and marginalized. ULA/LAP provided Legal facilities and support through Patongo Youth Centre which is dedicated to helping former child soldiers, former abductees and other disadvantaged young people and their families in that sub region. ULS is grateful for the new partnerships that continue to create enormous contributions to the Justice Sector but also to open up further funding opportunities from other sister bar organizations.

UN WOMEN

Uganda Law Society through its Legal Aid Project implements the program on enhancing Access to justice for Women and Girls who experience violence through Legal aid and referral services in Pader, Kitgum, Kamuli and Gulu.

The ULS and UN Women intervention has led to increased awareness and an empowered community especially women and girls with the ability to demand and defend their legal and human rights aided by the improved legal knowledge of the trained community based volunteers/paralegals who continue to work with the communities to give on spot legal advice, counselling and referrals. The increase in the clientele is telling of the fact that women and girls are increasingly becoming aware of their rights and the need to enforce them.

ULS implements the program through availability of quality essential services for women and girls who experience violence, Increased access to high quality legal aid, advisory and referral services for indigent, marginalized and vulnerable women and girls in targeted districts; Providing legal aid services, Organizing mobile legal aid clinics in Pader district, Kamuli, Gulu districts, Training and supervising paralegals and volunteer lawyers in counselling and referring women and girls who experienced violence, Increased awareness of women's legal rights, and the rule of law among women, girls and communities in target districts, Organize legal awareness sessions at community level, Broadcast VAWG spot messages in target, Broadcast radio talk shows and dissemination of VAG – related IEC Materials.

The LAP in partnership with UNHCR in September 2017 initiated a project entitled “Enhancing Access to Justice for the Indigent, Vulnerable and Marginalised Refugees Communities in West Nile-Uganda” through legal aid and referral services in settlement areas of; Rhino, Bidibidi, Imvepi and Lobule Camp Settlement. The program is expected to contribute to the enhancement of access to justice for the refugee communities who are indigent, vulnerable and marginalized.

Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS)

JLOS in line with vision of ensuring that people in Uganda live in a safe and just society assuring them justice for all, supported the Legal Aid Project to enhance its performance through trainings for Advocates and staff to provide quality legal advisory and support services, Increase creation of legal and human rights to the public through legal information sessions, child justice initiatives to represent children in courts of law and training of key duty bearers on child justice.

ULS / LAP is grateful for the new partnerships that continue to impact lives and transform communities as well as open up further opportunities from various partners to initiate interventions that fulfill access to justice initiatives in Uganda.

SUCCESS STORIES

LAKER JOSEPHINE LAP/GUL/038/2016

“Without Legal Aid I would not have settled on my land”



72 year old Josephine settled on her land 1962. She gave birth to 4 boys and 3 girls, but only 2 girls survived. She is now a widow, living with her two daughters. A while ago she was chased away from her precious land by relatives to her late husband. They claimed it was their land, since she didn't have any men in the household. *“They told me I'm just a woman and has no right”*, Josephine says. Through LAP a mediation session was held with the relatives and eventually they agreed Josephine could stay on the land.

LAPK/153/ 2017, NYAMAHUNGE KOTIDA



Testimony from LAP Client

"My name is Nyamahunge Kotida. I am 42 years, a peasant and a resident of Kyabagonya Village, Hapuuyo Sub-county in Kyegegwa District. I am the 4th born in the family of 8 children.

I am a daughter to the late Nantale Regina who died testate in 2005, living behind land measuring approximately 4 acres situate at Kyabagonya LCI, Kijuma parish, Hapuuyo Sub-county in Kyegegwa District. The said land was given to my mother by his father (grandfather) Eriya Aligaba in 1975.

Upon the death of my mother and around 2009, my brother Rubanga Stephen sold the said land to one Akugizibwe Francis without our consent. This land used to cater for me and all my other siblings, the last born being aged 13 years at the time of sale.

Prior to the said transaction, I was tipped off by my neighbor that our brother wanted to dispose off our land. However, by the time I arrived at the scene, money was exchanging hands. I tried to object to the sale, but my brother went on to receive the purchase price which prompted me to file a suit against him and the buyer before the LC III court for recovery of our land vide Case No 27 OF 2009. Though I received judgment in favour, the buyer refused to vacate our land and when I applied to the Chief Magistrates' court of Fort Portal vide FPT-00-CV-MC-072 OF 2011 to execute the said judgment against the buyer, it was instead quashed, and we were advised to file another suit in the court of competent jurisdiction.

Being left with no option, around 2013, I on behalf of my other 6 (Six) siblings, filed another suit in Chief Magistrates' court of Fort Portal at Kyegegwa vide FPT-008-CV-Id-32 OF 2013 which was again determined in my favour on 13th May 2015.

In order to delay justice, the more and having knowledge of my incapacity to continue with litigation, my brother and the buyer appealed to the High Court of Fort Portal.

I was served with memorandum of appeal filed by Counsel Ahabwe. When I appeared before the judge on the 21/3/17, he advised me to seek the services of a lawyer since my brother and the buyer were being represented.

Because I had no money to pay for a lawyer, court referred me to Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society.

I and my husband went to Legal Aid Project, met Counsel Kizito Deo and explained to him our problem. He asked us to avail him with all the necessary documents which we did. I together with my counsel appeared in court, and he was asked to make submissions which he did. On the 22/9/17, I again got judgment in my favour.

I thank Legal Aid Project for the efforts they put in my case because I only appeared 3 times in High court. In fact, the 3rd time judgment was entered in my favour.

Counsel Deo helped us recover our land in a very short time, yet we had been in court for over 9(Nine) years.

This piece of land was our only means of survival because our mother had bananas on it from which she used to make local brew to raise money to look after us but now this was no more, and my siblings had to drop out of school.

I Thank Legal Aid for the good work they did for me and my family.



FOREVER GRATEFUL TO LAP WHO HELP ME RECOVER MY LAND AFTER A BATTLE OF 15 YEARS

“ Testimony from OMUJAL JOSEPH A RESIDENT IN KUMI

Joseph is an old man aged 72 years. He approached LAP in Soroti to assist him secure his land which was grabbed. Joseph's claim was that his land approximately 5 acres was forcefully taken by Kanyum Catholic Church in Kumi District in 2013. The office tried to mediate the matter but no settlement was reached. A case was filed in Kumi court on behalf of the client, court ordered mediation which also failed as the church was not willing to surrender the client's land. The church members were continuously cultivating and utilizing the client's land to his detriment. The case was fixed in court for hearing, LAP represented the client in court proceedings till its final conclusion. Court visited locus and Judgment was entered in favour of the client who recovered his 5 acres of land worth 35,000,000/=. Joseph was also awarded general damages for non use of his land and costs of the suit.

The Client was so excited and is forever grateful to the project for the help rendered to him. This was a land problem which had taken the client over 12 years without a solution but when LAP intervened, it took the client only 3 years to recover his land.



**Mzee Omuja Joseph
receiving a copy of the
judgment from the Legal
Officer LAP Soroti and
appreciating the project for
the assistance rendered**

ULS/PB-K/049/2017

Florence Basigirenda

Testimony from Florence Basigirenda



My name is Florence Basigirenda. I am a widow and I am 79 years old. I am a resident of Kihembo village, Kidukulu, Kihembo parish, Karambe Sub-county, Kabarole district.

I was legally married to the Late Alozio Bitamazire and with whom we have several children. My late husband died testate and in his will, he bequeathed land situate at Kihembo village, Kidukulu, Kihembo parish, Karambe Sub-county, Kabarole district to me and my daughter Kyakyo Rose.

The said property comprises of structures 8 (Eight) rooms which are supposed to be shared equally among the two of us.

At the time of husband's death, my daughter was only 7 years old but when she became 20, she connived with other step- daughters with the intent of throwing me out of the side property.

This is because I have other children who are not fathered by my late husband and therefore according to her, if I died, these children should not benefit from my share.

I reported the matter to the LC. I Chairperson with the sole purpose of claiming my share however we failed to settle the matter. The L.C. I Chairperson referred me to Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society Kabarole.

I went to the Legal Aid Project and explained my problem. A file was opened, and I and my daughter were invited for mediation on the 12th /04/2017.

We all turned up on the mediation day however mediation

failed because my daughter thought that if I am given a share, I will give it to my other children who are not her biological brothers/sisters.

Upon the failed mediation, our lawyer at the Legal Aid Project filed a suit in court for orders that the estate of my late husband be shared between me and my daughter. When we appeared in court on the 17th /10/2017, the matter was referred to a court mediator for mediation who scheduled the same for the 8/11/2017.

When we appeared before the mediator, my daughter still refused to agree to the sharing and I left. However, after a few days I was called by my lawyer to go to the mediator's office and sign the consent judgment. I did not believe until when I reached the office and found when my daughter had already signed her part.

I am so happy since from the beginning, I was not comfortable with the issue of mediation as the whole issue rotated around my own daughter.

We later appeared in court and the file was formally closed. We have also set a date in early January 2018 for sharing of the said land.

I therefore thank the Legal Aid Project for having helped me recover a share of the land, as a poor widow the land was my only means of survival.

I am also thankful to the mediator who mediated the matter and yielded a lot of success without us going through the court process. There has also been reconciliation between me and my daughter.

Criminal Matter “ Set free from Prison”

OLUPOT JOHN FRANCIS was indicted with the offence of aggravated defilement and remanded in September, 2012. It was alleged that in September 2012 the client defiled a girl aged 11 years. Olupot was arrested and taken to court where he pleaded not guilty to the charge and was remanded in Soroti government prison. Olupot was on remand for over 4 years without trial. When a High court session was organized, Olupot's case was cause listed and his file allocated to LAP on state brief. The LAP Lawyer in Soroti went to prison and interviewed the client and later prepared his defence. At the trial Prosecution produced evidence from 4 witnesses including the medical doctor. It was alleged that the defilement had occurred 2 weeks before client was arrested but the medical evidence adduced indicated that the defilement was only 2 days old. The LAP Lawyer cross-examined prosecution witnesses but the Judge put our client on defence. Evidence for our client was led in court and final submissions made. At the end of trial, the Judge agreed with our submissions and Olupot (client) was acquitted. After four years in prison, the client could not believe he was free. He was overjoyed and could not even know what to do next. His relatives were equally overjoyed and left the court celebrating. LAP efforts as defence counsel were appreciated.

A case of Mandela Justus.

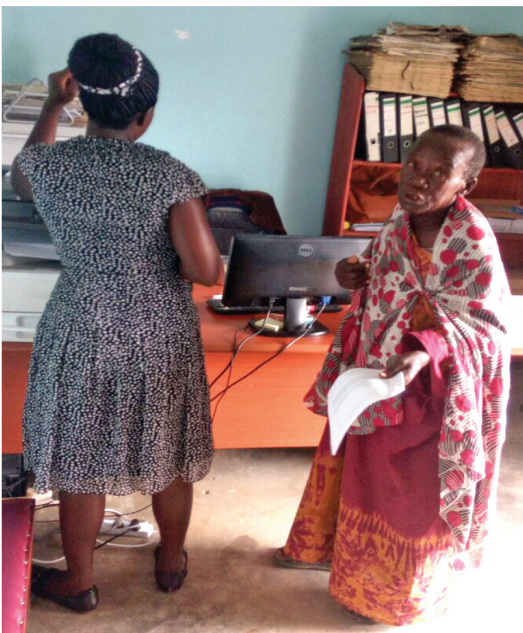
Mandela is a male juvenile aged 12 who was charged with the offence of murder whose penalty is death. Having interviewed this juvenile and discovering that he actually committed the offence, LAP advised him to plead guilty and have his sentence mitigated, which he reluctantly accepted.

Mandela's sentence was eventually mitigated to a bond over order under the supervision of a community Development officer and the Probation and social welfare officer.

This Juvenile was resettled by the Legal Aid Project reintegrated into the community and he is happily living with his family and has had an opportunity to go back to school.

Mandela's story is considered a success because LAP was able to secure a non-custodial sentence and enable the juvenile be re integrated into the community and go back to school.

A ray of hope restored for Hope Kobusingye in Masindi



Faith receiving a copy of her judgement at office.

Kobusingye Hope aged 75 approached the Legal Aid Project to assist her recover her land. The case was already filed in court with Kobusingye being accused of trespass on her own land. The land was measuring 6 acres. Kobusingye came to our offices in Masindi when she was very helpless, had been chased away from her land and didn't have where to stay. We represented Kobusingye in Court and helped her recover her land.



Major Challenges faced by the project and way forward

- 1) The Legal Aid Project continues to receive overwhelming number of people in need of legal aid services which stretches the human and financial resources to meet the demands of the clients. Legal Aid Service providers are not spread through out the country to assist the majority poor and vulnerable.
- 2) Clients report cases worthy of being assisted but fail to follow up these cases due to lack of transport. Some clients also lack permanent addresses, telephone contacts making it hard to trace them in abid to update and resolve their cases.
- 3) LAP interventions are majorly funded by Donors with very little support from the State which is a great threat to sustainability. We continue to lobby Government to enact a Legal Aid bill and Policy as we resource mobilize to serve the vulnerable and marginalized people in Uganda.
- 4) Trial of cases in courts of law is delayed due to few judicial officers and State Attorneys to handle cases causing delayed justice and case backlog in courts of law. During the year there were strikes by the State Prosecutors and the Judicial officers to improve their conditions at work this hampered quick resolution of cases and mistrust by the public in the judicial system, increased suspects at police perpetrating corruption for those who had to pay their way out to get police bond. Some clients prefer litigation as opposed to resolving their cases through alternative dispute mechanisms.

The Legal Aid Project will continue to conduct sensitizations to the public to enrich their legal and human rights, promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution to change mindsets and equip communities with knowledge and advantages of amicably resolving their disputes, Embracing the gender needs and roles of people we serve has helped us make timely and relevant interventions suitable to their needs. Collaboration with JLOS actors, local government, CSOs, the Judiciary, Police has enhanced and strengthened interventions on access to justice made by the Legal Aid Project.

Appendix 1: Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society

Table 1: Number of Files Handled by Nature of Cases across the 12 LAP Clinics during 2017

Nature of cases	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Kabale	Kabalore	Mbarara	Luzira	Masindi	Gulu	Moroti	Kampala	Patongo	Total	%age
Land & Property	1426	1261	702	705	776	423	63	523	945	1552	327	30	8733	48.7%
Divorce & Separation	32	45	23	27	3	84	13	11	4	7	31	0	280	1.6%
Custody & Maintenance	217	33	25	59	117	72	16	96	51	56	76	2	820	4.6%
Accident claims	34	15	11	0	5	4	0	2	2	17	25	0	115	0.6%
Administration of estates	473	42	62	110	309	179	4	92	32	360	61	3	1727	9.6%
Debt claims	53	12	17	8	12	0	2	35	15	17	14	2	187	1.0%
Employment Claims	33	16	27	5	13	2	0	21	8	20	13	0	158	0.9%
Civil-Gen	347	153	113	137	110	112	7	120	17	100	5	8	1229	6.9%
Criminal	639	133	66	672	250	235	1046	872	124	564	54	0	4655	26%
Total	3254	1710	1046	1723	1595	1111	1151	1772	1198	2693	606	45	17904	100%

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

Status	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Kabale	Kabarole	Mbarara	Luzira	Masindi	Gulu	Moroto	Kampala	Patongo	Total	%age
Completed in Office	21	23	56	20	111	43	8	79	79	70	16	10	536	3.0%
Pending in Office	997	210	288	296	432	10	22	136	72	356	253	9	3081	17.2%
Completed in Court	55	66	23	24	141	65	180	373	46	119	6	1	1099	6.1%
Pending in Court	1865	1143	491	1092	813	532	135	842	58	328	227	15	7541	42.1%
Bail applications	1	9	0	74	8	371	0	69	12	4	0	0	548	3.0%
Given Legal Advice	172	173	146	184	5	87	792	78	863	1776	62	8	4346	24.3%
Cases Referred	6	68	35	20	29	0	3	164	33	4	22	0	384	2.1%
Closed Files	134	10	6	9	49	3	11	24	14	36	20	2	318	1.8%
Withdrawn Files	3	8	1	4	7	0	0	7	21	0	0	0	51	0.3%
Total	3254	1710	1046	1723	1595	1111	1151	1772	1,198	2693	606	45	17904	100%

Table 3: Distribution of Clients by Gender across the 12 ULS-LAP Clinics during 2017

Gender	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Kabale	Kabarole	Mbarara	Luzira	Masindi	Gulu	Moroti	Kampala	Patongo	Total	%age
Male	2102	1106	795	973	911	452	953	1437	650	1670	393	29	11471	64%
Female	1152	604	251	750	684	659	198	335	548	1023	213	16	6433	36%

Files Closed	36	13	1	0	0	3	10	0	4	67	0.9%
Files recalled	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	0	2	10	0.1%
Files Withdrawn	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	3	10	0.1%
Total	5281	318	159	368	243	362	177	120	181	7209	100%

Total	3254	1710	1046	1723	1595	1111	1151	1772	1198	2693	606	45	17904	100%
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Table 4: Distribution of Nature of clients across the 12 ULS-LAP Clinics during 2017

Nature	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Kabale	Kabalore	Mbarara	Luzira	Masindi	Gulu	Moroti	Kampala	Patongo	Total	%age
New	642	579	352	529	647	671	1067	889	934	2110	216	35	8671	48.4%
Old	2612	1131	694	1194	948	440	84	883	264	583	390	10	9233	51.6%
Total	3254	1710	1046	1723	1595	1111	1151	1772	1198	2693	606	45	17904	100%

Appendix 2: Pro Bono Scheme

Table 5: Nature and Number of Cases Identified and Allocated to Advocates for Probono Service during 2017

Nature of Case	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Land and Property claim	48	33	13	12	10	30	10	3	0	159	29.1%
Family/Divorce & Separation	15	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	20	3.7%
Custody & Maintenance	13	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	32	5.9%
Accident claim	8	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	2%
Administration of Estates	15	2	5	5	6	14	2	2	3	54	10%
Debt Claims	1	4	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	12	2.2%
Employment Claim	17	2	1	3	4	6	0	1	0	34	6.2%
Criminal-General	17	3	7	44	28	18	4	0	2	123	22.5%
Civil-General	24	12	6	3	5	0	5	7	39	101	18.5%
Total	158	60	36	73	56	75	24	15	49	546	100%

Table6: Nature and Number of Cases on Pro Bono Service followed Up During 2017

Nature of Case	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Land & Property claim	4328	205	79	100	56	175	82	49	60	5134	77.2%
Divorce & Separation	98	6	6	2	3	7	6	2	10	140	2%
Custody & Maintenance	20	6	3	6	6	10	5	2	6	64	0.9%
Accident claim	30	5	2	8	2	10	2	0	1	60	0.8%
Administration of Estates	130	4	6	15	11	36	9	3	25	239	3.3%
Debt Claims	1	5	0	5	2	7	1	1	0	22	0.3%
Employment Claim	34	4	0	14	0	17	0	1	0	70	1%
Criminal General	243	60	30	137	100	56	70	40	120	856	11.8%
Civil General	402	14	9	67	15	30	40	17	30	624	8.7%
Total	5286	309	135	354	195	348	215	115	252	7209	100%

Table 7: 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	158	60	36	73	56	75	24	15	49	546	7.5%
Completed in Office/Chambers	39	4	2	13	14	10	2	0	6	90	1.2%
Pending in Court	484	101	56	160	122	160	63	48	55	1249	17.3%
Completed in Court	33	12	2	19	9	14	10	3	6	108	1.5%
Given Legal Advice	4531	125	56	100	40	100	67	54	56	5129	71.1%
Cases Referred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%

Table 8: Sex of clients served under the pro bono scheme during 2017

Sex	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Female	1130	82	50	102	60	102	81	41	115	2895	40%
Male	4156	227	85	252	135	246	134	74	137	4314	60%
Total	5286	309	135	354	195	348	215	115	252	7209	100%

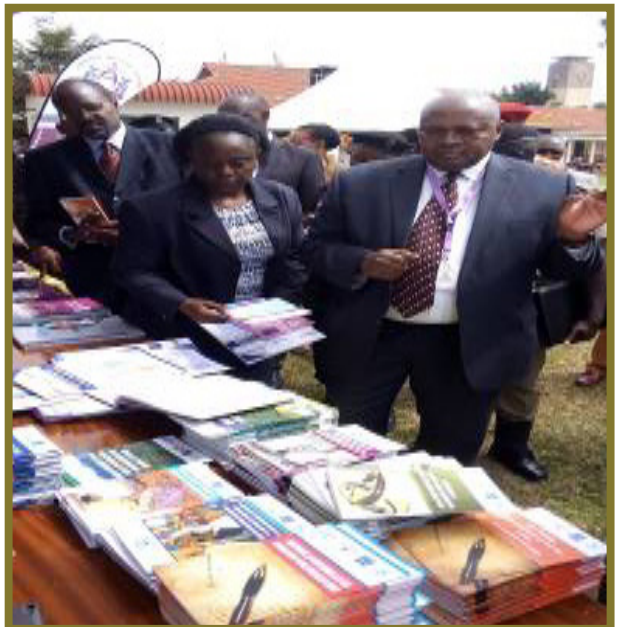
Table 9: Showing the Nature of cases handled under the pro bono scheme during 2017

Status	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
New Client	158	60	36	73	56	75	24	15	49	546	8%
Old Client	5128	249	99	281	139	273	191	100	203	6663	92%
Total	5286	309	135	354	195	348	215	115	252	7209	100%

LEGAL AID PROJECT PICTORIAL 2017



ULS STAFF TRAINING ON CHILD JUSTICE AND CUSTOMER CARE IN DECEMBER 2017



The principle Judge, Hon. Yorokamu Bamwiine, the resident Judges Hon. Justice Eva K. Luswata and Hon. Justice Michael Erubu inspecting the ULS/LAP desk during the Jinja High Court open day on 20th July 2017.



Photo: Sensitization in Layima- Amuru on land rights. Gulu team share IEC Materials with UPDF Officers



Photo: Caroline Jean Adyero of LAP-ULS Gulu advising a client during the Mobile legal aid clinic at Layima, Amuru District.



Community rights Sensitizations in Kabale on the Left and in Amuru on the right



The Legal officer and Asst. Legal officer Jinja LAP Clinic conducting a locus visit at Wankole kamuli District trying to settle a boundary dispute.



Assistant Legal officer Kasagga Shadiah giving Legal Advice to a bed ridden KalooriTibakuno(patient lying on the bed) at his home



Asst. Legal Officer Kasagga Shadiah giving Legal advice clients at their home in Jinja

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 2017

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**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

1.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1.1 BACKGROUND ABOUT THE LEGAL AID PROJECT (LAP)

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.

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 probono were;

Mr. Moses Kiyemba	Ag. Executive Officer LAP /ULS
Ms. Deborah Gasana	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. Nalugwa Evah Kabanda	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. Lillian Agwang Emiru	Ag. HR Manager - ULS
Ms. Mable Nimwesiga	Internal Auditor - ULS

**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 The society 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;

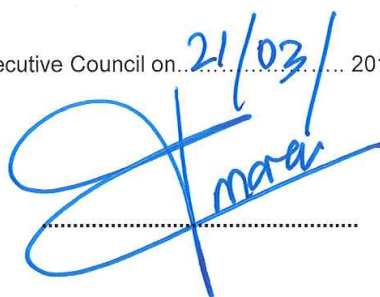
- i. designing, implementing and maintaining such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- ii. selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies;
- iii. making accounting estimates 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 2017 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 21/03/ 2018 signed on its behalf by:

PRESIDENT


.....

Date:

21/03/2018

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 2017, 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 31 December 2017, 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 project'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 expenditures [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.

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.

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Plot 1B, Kira Road | P.O.Box 24544, Kampala | Uganda

Partners: Charles Oguttu*, Frederick Kibbedi*, Alpesh Vadher**, Piyush Shah**, Sumesh D'Cruz**, Ketan Shah*** (*Ugandan, ** Kenyan, *** British)

PKF International Limited administers a family of legally independent firms and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the actions or inactions of any individual member or correspondent firm or firms.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the audit of financial statements (continued).

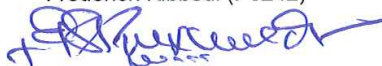
events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures 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.

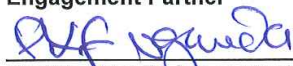
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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

Frederick Kibbedi (P0242)



Frederick Kibbedi
Engagement Partner



Certified Public Accountants
Kampala

Date: 
Ref: FK/L021/051/18



LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

4.0 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 UGX	2016 UGX
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	3	67,304,263	89,118,639
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors & Prepayments	4	7,862,000	16,184,412
Cash at Bank	5	49,942,622	65,651,225
		57,804,622	81,835,637
TOTAL ASSETS		125,108,885	170,954,276
FUNDS & LIABILITIES			
FUNDS			
Capital Fund		67,304,263	89,118,639
General Fund		(287,751,206)	(462,705,107)
		(220,446,943)	(373,586,468)
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors & Accruals	6	345,555,828	544,540,744
TOTAL FUNDS & LIABILITIES		125,108,885	170,954,276

The Financial Statements which appear on page 4-12 were approved by the Executive Council on and signed on its behalf by:

..... PRESIDENT

..... TREASURER

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

5.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	2017 Actual UGX	2017 Budget UGX	2016 Actual UGX
INCOME				
Grants (LAP Main)	7	1,210,145,540	1,478,979,702	968,751,418
Grant- Masindi Oil Project	7	236,012,656	147,200,000	75,247,620
Total Income		1,446,158,196	1,626,179,702	1,043,999,038
Less: Capital Expenditure		-	-	12,309,000
Balance Available for Recurrent Expenditure		1,446,158,196	1,626,179,702	1,031,690,038
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE				
Strategic planning		-	66,100,000	11,555,940
Motor vehicle (Auto mobile) running expenses		977,000	5,404,000	520,700
Office expenses		26,282,050	29,000,000	28,821,450
Stationery and printing		1,772,500	35,000,000	15,672,550
Monitoring and evaluation workshop		-	27,500,000	25,045,741
Repairs and maintenance		48,245,950	48,300,000	34,657,818
Branch inspection (Managers and Council)		760,900	14,680,000	6,257,400
Utilities		8,865,179	14,700,000	14,045,588
Practising certificate		10,219,000	10,800,000	5,423,600
Security		14,166,000	24,000,000	18,844,000
Publications		7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
Bank charges		7,775,533	9,600,000	5,950,021
Hospitality		13,001,900	15,000,000	10,463,000
Travel Expenses		1,686,900	9,600,000	2,588,300
Insurance		2,208,546	3,500,000	5,495,068
Planning and Monitoring		208,000	1,800,000	-
Dues and Subscriptions		200,000	-	200,000
Capacity Building		-	20,000,000	19,098,640
Recruitment		1,750,000	3,000,000	2,750,000
Licences and permits		384,400	1,330,000	572,200
Sub-total		146,003,858	346,450,000	215,462,016
Local Personnel				
Salaries and wages		676,075,963	744,437,910	715,721,422
National Social Security Fund		68,280,906	74,443,792	73,310,499
Sub-total		744,356,869	818,881,702	789,031,921

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

5.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

	2017 Actual UGX	2017 Budget UGX	2016 Actual UGX
Staff Meals			
Kampala	23,164,000	29,568,000	28,613,100
Gulu	9,212,000	11,088,000	7,739,000
Kabale	9,604,000	12,936,000	9,314,500
Masindi	9,436,000	12,936,000	7,369,000
Luzira	4,333,000	9,240,000	3,416,000
Kabarole	7,926,000	9,240,000	7,054,000
Jinja	12,691,000	9,240,000	10,217,000
Sub-total	76,366,000	94,248,000	73,722,600
Legal Aid			
Pro Bono Lawyers / Legal assistance	38,675,500	77,600,000	63,728,500
Filing costs, travel, fees and facilitation	9,269,900	19,200,000	8,584,200
Networking	-	10,000,000	5,534,000
Sub-total	47,945,400	106,800,000	77,846,700
Office Rent			
Gulu	17,200,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
Kabale	10,200,000	9,600,000	8,400,000
Kabarole	13,200,000	12,000,000	7,200,000
Masindi	14,400,000	9,600,000	9,600,000
Jinja	12,600,000	13,200,000	13,200,000
Sub-total	67,600,000	62,400,000	56,400,000
Communication			
Fax, postage, email	7,831,850	25,000,000	14,812,630
Kampala	2,944,300	900,000	3,688,985
Luzira	-	300,000	200,000
Gulu	460,000	1,800,000	1,210,000
Kabarole	950,000	1,800,000	930,000
Jinja	1,040,000	1,800,000	2,207,000
Kabale	925,000	1,800,000	1,300,000
Masindi	552,000	1,800,000	1,530,000
Sub-total	14,703,150	35,200,000	25,878,615

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

5.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

	2017 Actual UGX	2017 Budget UGX	2016 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	140,371,486	147,200,000	64,463,620
Sub-total	140,371,486	147,200,000	64,463,620
Total Recurrent Expenditure	1,252,746,763	1,626,179,702	1,318,205,472
Deficit before Exchange Gain	193,411,433	-	(286,515,434)
Exchange (Loss) / Gain	(18,457,532)	-	10,140,041
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	174,953,901	-	(276,375,393)

**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

6.0 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

Year ended 31 December 2017	Capital Fund UGX	General Fund UGX	Total UGX
Balance at 1 January	89,118,639	(462,705,107)	(373,586,468)
Surplus for the year	-	174,953,901	174,953,901
Depreciation charge for the year	<u>(21,814,376)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,814,376)</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2017	<u>67,304,263</u>	<u>(287,751,206)</u>	<u>(220,446,943)</u>

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)
Depreciation charge for the year	<u>(29,525,977)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(29,525,977)</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2016	<u>89,118,639</u>	<u>(462,705,107)</u>	<u>(373,586,468)</u>

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

7.0 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2017 UGX	2016 UGX
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	174,953,901	(276,375,393)
Adjustment for capital expenditure	-	12,309,000
	174,953,901	(264,066,393)
Changes in working capital		
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	8,322,412	(11,548,241)
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	(198,984,916)	274,322,681
Net cash from operating activities	(15,708,603)	(1,291,953)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of fixed assets	-	(12,309,000)
Net movements in cash and cash equivalents during the year	(15,708,603)	(13,600,953)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2017	65,651,225	79,252,178
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December 2017	49,942,622	65,651,225
Represented by:		
Cash at Bank	49,942,622	65,651,225

**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

8.0 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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 project is set out in the report of the Executive Council and in the statement of comprehensive income. The financial position of the project 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 project 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
Generators	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.

**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

1.6 Cash and Cash equivalents

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

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 2017

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017 (CONTINUED)

3. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

3.1 2017

	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 2017	193,285,300	70,791,989	31,210,000	98,461,205	34,520,500	21,850,000	20,400,000	470,518,994
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2017	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 2017	145,466,128	58,167,780	27,781,293	88,483,367	33,519,951	12,632,031	15,349,805	381,400,355
Charge for the year	11,954,793	1,578,026	1,141,759	3,322,620	250,137	2,304,492	1,262,549	21,814,376
At 31 December 2017	157,420,921	59,745,806	28,923,052	91,805,987	33,770,088	14,936,523	16,612,354	403,214,731
Net Book Value								
At 31 December 2017	35,864,379	11,046,183	2,286,948	6,655,218	750,412	6,913,477	3,787,646	67,304,263

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

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

3.2 2016

	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	351,874,378
Charge for the year	15,939,724	1,803,459	1,711,783	4,981,439	333,517	3,072,656	1,683,399	29,525,976
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	12,624,210	3,428,707	9,977,838	1,000,550	9,217,969	5,050,196	89,118,639

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

4. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

The balance on this account is made up as follows:

	2017 UGX	2016 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	-	1,707,467
Orange Internet	-	500,000
Chamber Inspection	1,062,000	706,200
Security	6,800,000	1,026,000
Subtotal	7,862,000	3,939,676

5. CASH AT BANK

The balance on this account is made up as follows:

Barclays Bank		
USD Account (USD 2,488.88)	2,916,789	8,250,089
UGX Account (Operating a/c)	42,669,333	52,884,336
UGX Account (Client a/c)	4,356,500	4,516,800
Subtotal	49,942,622	65,651,225

6. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

ULS-LAP Salaries	316,250,278	434,540,088
Other LAP Payables	1,250,000	1,250,000
Client Funds	3,526,000	3,526,000
Deferred Income	-	88,812,656
Staff Meals	-	1,012,000
Repairs & Maintenance	9,129,550	-
Accruals	15,400,000	15,400,000
Subtotal	345,555,828	544,540,744

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

7. GRANTS

Grant income received for NORAD is made up of the general LAP project funding whose goal is that of contributing to the rule of law and good governance and the specific funding for the Masindi Oil Project analysed as follows:

Date		US \$	UGX
Masindi Oil Project			
01 st January, 2017	Grant received in 2016 (Deferred income)	-	88,812,656
12 th May, 2017	Grant for Masindi Oil Project	40,537.01	147,200,000
Sub-total		40,537.01	236,012,656
General project funding			
12 th May, 2017	Transfer	143,709.88	521,846,519
22 nd December 2017	Transfer	190,453.52	688,299,021
Sub-total		334,163.40	1,210,145,540
TOTAL GRANT		374,700.41	1,446,158,196

8. EXCHANGE RATES

Exchange rates used during the period to convert transactions denominated in US Dollar into Uganda shillings ranged from UGX 3,397, to UGX 3,680. Foreign currency balances as at 31 December 2017 were transacted at the following exchange rates:

	2017	2016
1 US Dollar	3,614	3,581

