

Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society



Annual Report 2015



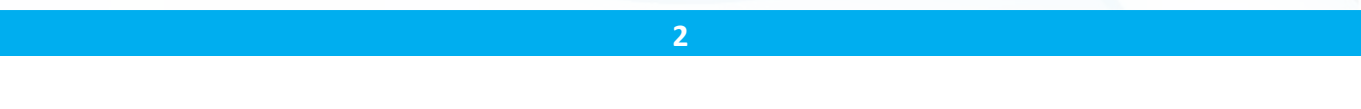


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LIST OF ACRONYMS

NGO	Non-Government Organization
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CBA	Canadian Bar Association
DANIDA	Danish Agency for International Development
JLOS	Justice Law & Order Sector
LAP	Legal Aid Project
NBA	Norwegian Bar Association
NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
SAJEA	Strengthening Access to Justice in East Africa
ULS	Uganda Law Society
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility

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.

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



FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON LAP COMMITTEE

I am privileged to present to you the report of the Legal Aid Project (LAP) of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) for the year ended 31st December 2015.

As you all know, LAP has been and remains the flagship project for the ULS. It has been running for 24 years. LAP has succeeded in achieving its objectives and become a household name in the provision of legal aid services in Uganda. Owing to the success story LAP has offered technical expertise to other countries in Africa on the subject of legal aid provision. It is also well known that since inception LAP has enjoyed the invaluable and enduring support of NORAD/NBA to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude. In the course of that time, other partners like Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) have supported various projects operated by LAP. It has also succeeded because of the dedication and hard work of a team that is extremely passionate about legal aid and is motivated by the need to excel. Over the years the leadership offered by the founding and subsequent trustees has enabled the project to grow, thrive and enjoy enduring relationships with critical partners.

As has been said before, the primary challenge we all now face is how to sustain LAP should our partners find it necessary to focus on other areas in the near future. We have developed sufficient technical competences to run the project. We have a dedicated team whose singular aim is to succeed. We have presence in various parts of the country and the need to expand to others increases every day. We enjoy good will from many quarters. To sustain the project beyond our partners, will take each one of us immersing himself /herself in this project to ensure its continuity. Each one of us must be willing to commit to the project and undertake to make a contribution. It is not in doubt that as lawyers we occupy a privileged position in society.

To extend our knowledge and skills to the most vulnerable in our society is not a privilege. It is a duty. It is our duty to ensure that justice is available to all regardless of their station in life. Continuity of the project will require that we ask ourselves difficult questions. The answers will not be easy either because they will necessarily involve personal sacrifice. Sacrifice however is the effort that ensures that by acting today, we have answers for tomorrow. Are we individually and collectively willing to fill the gap should it occur? I have no doubt that we have the capacity to fill the gap. What is necessary to settle is whether we are willing to do so.

This report gives a detailed account of the achievements, opportunities and challenges faced during the final year of implementation of the ULS/LAP Strategic Plan 2011-2015. With the increasing demand for free legal services and expansion of LAP clinics countrywide, we have been able to offer services to clients in more than 30 districts in Uganda directly and through satellite arrangements.

LAP continues to provide a diverse range of legal aid services to indigent men, women and children. These services include legal counsel, legal representation in courts of law, legal outreach and human rights awareness sessions. The community awareness programmes continue to be at the core of the project as a means of increasing people's knowledge of their legal and human rights and enhancing their capacity and willingness to demand for the observance of these rights from both the State and non state actors.

Key highlights of the achievements registered in the year under review include:-

In 2015, twelve thousand three hundred eighty seven (12,387) indigent, vulnerable and marginalized men, women, youth and children received legal aid through court representation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. The 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 12000 persons in 2015.

Among the clients served, **4,598** (37%) were female and **7,789** (63%) male. In **12,387** cases registered, **3,016** were completed (**2,251** completed in office through ADR while **765** in courts of law); **2,301** cases were still pending in office for mediation and **5,049** in courts of law still ongoing, **1,564** clients were given legal advice, **389** cases were referred to pro bono and other legal aid service providers, **68** cases were closed for lack of merit and **16** files were withdrawn on discovering that the clients were not indigent. A total of **5,276** cases were handled on land and property claims, **436** on family/divorce and separation, **493** on custody and maintenance, **1,025** on administration of estates, **73** on debt claims, **198** on employment claims, **3148** on criminal general and **981** on civil general.

The highlight of the year was the opening up of the two new Legal Aid clinics, one set up in Moroto with the financial support of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), covering the seven (7) Districts of Karamoja including Moroto , Abim, Amudat , Kaabong , Kotido , Nakapiripirit and Napak Districts. The other new clinic is in Patongo/Agago in partnership with Huddersfield Law Society to attend to Child Justice issues. These two clinics followed a needs assessment done which found out that Human welfare, living conditions and quality of life of the people in Karamoja had declined considerably due to a combination of factors such as the harsh climate, insecurity, marginalization, illiteracy, poor region health, poor infrastructure amongst others.

Community sensitization was well conducted throughout the year and a total of **38** community sensitization meetings were conducted across all clinics in the country. Clinic sensitizations were supplemented by community based paralegal sensitizations. The major topics addressed during these sessions were chosen by the community members basing on their daily experiences and legal challenges. However, issues relating to general human rights, children's rights, land rights and procedures in land transactions, criminal justice systems, marriage and divorce, the law of inheritance, the rule of law and generally basics of the law and conflict resolution remained crucial in the sensitizations as are rampant in communities. These sensitizations involved **21,200** participants who included; community legal volunteers, teachers and generally local community residents.

The above achievements were made possible by the existing partnership with and invaluable support from our major donor - NORAD/NBA for which we are most grateful. They laid strong foundation for the project and have seen it to become one of the leading legal aid service provider in the African continent. We are also grateful to DGF and JLOS for the tremendous support they have offered towards the running of the Pro Bono program, and LAP clinics in Mbarara, Arua, Soroti and now Moroto.

Although there are many positive stories, there are also recurrent challenges. For example the demand for our services is growing at a higher rate than expected yet our human and financial capacities are limited. Operating in an environment without a national legal aid policy continues to be another significant challenge which together with JLOS we are trying to address.

I extend my sincere thanks to the ULS Executive Council, the LAP Committee, Management and staff of ULS/LAP who continue to work tirelessly towards continued realization of the great vision of the project. I also extend thanks to those members of ULS who have from time to time involved themselves in the activities of legal aid and Pro Bono in order to ensure that those Ugandans most in need of legal services are reached and assisted. I wish you all a fruitful 2016 and request that you continue to participate in this project that has made ULS stand out in Uganda and in Africa.



Ernest Kalibbala
Chairperson

FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Colleagues and Partners,

The year ending presented both great opportunities and challenges in as far as legal aid is concerned. Legal Aid has a defining role in upholding access to justice in every Society or community. It has afforded many Ugandans access to justice by enabling them to defend themselves and to enforce their legal and human rights. Legal aid undeniably remains the cornerstone of any accessible, trusted, and effective justice system.

Through the year we continued to strengthen our institutional linkages with like-minded organization as well as the donor community. Our engagement with stakeholders continues to grow and yield fruitful results. We collaborated with stakeholders in the justice sector and with civil society organizations to not only provide legal services, but to also raise awareness of constitutional rights through various methods and programmes,

resulting in increased ability of the poor and vulnerable to access justice.

We remain committed to improving the lives of communities especially the rural poor by removing obstacles to access to justice through community awareness programs, sensitization on their legal and human rights, legal remedies, provision of free legal advice as well as court representation.

During the year, we received a delegation from the Burundi Bar Association who understudied and benchmarked with our Legal Aid Project with a view of replicating our legal aid clinic model in Burundi. This is an indication that our business model and experience as an organization is highly sought after both regionally and internationally.

Due to our strong financial management and governance practices, the Project was for a third year in a row been recognized and awarded the prestigious Financial Reporting Awards by the Institute of Chartered Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU). The Project was also awarded the East Africa Law Society Social Development Lawyer Award 2015 for demonstrated excellence and commitment in legal empowerment of the poor and advancing social justice.

While legal aid in Uganda is facing real challenges both in terms of increasing demand for services and the need for quality control of legal aid services, the future needs a review of these two critical issues which are paramount for a cost-effective and sustainable delivery of legal services to the needy.

Our approach to legal aid has been constructive with a sharp focus on protection of citizens rather than a privilege for lawyers. I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Committee who unreservedly committed their time and expertise to oversee legal aid provision in Uganda. I also wish to thank the Project staff who are our foot soldiers in ensuring that the indigent access justice.

The above achievements could not have been possible without the invaluable support from our Partners: Norwegian Bar Association (NBA) and NORAD, Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Huddersfield Law Society, the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) and the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) for the

enormous financial and technical support towards the implementation of LAP /ULS programs and activities.

I wish to acknowledge the continued support and cooperation received from the membership towards provision of Pro bono Legal services to the indigent and marginalized. Your expertise and commitment has made access to justice a reality for the indigent.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SO', is positioned above the printed name.

SAMUEL OLUMO
Executive Director.

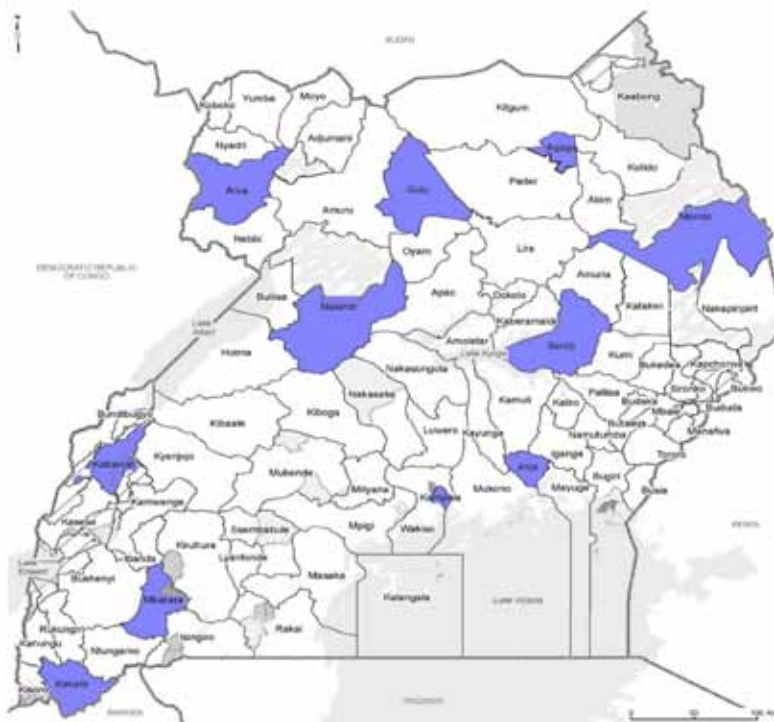
ABOUT THE LEGAL AID PROJECT.

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

LAP Strategic objectives

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

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

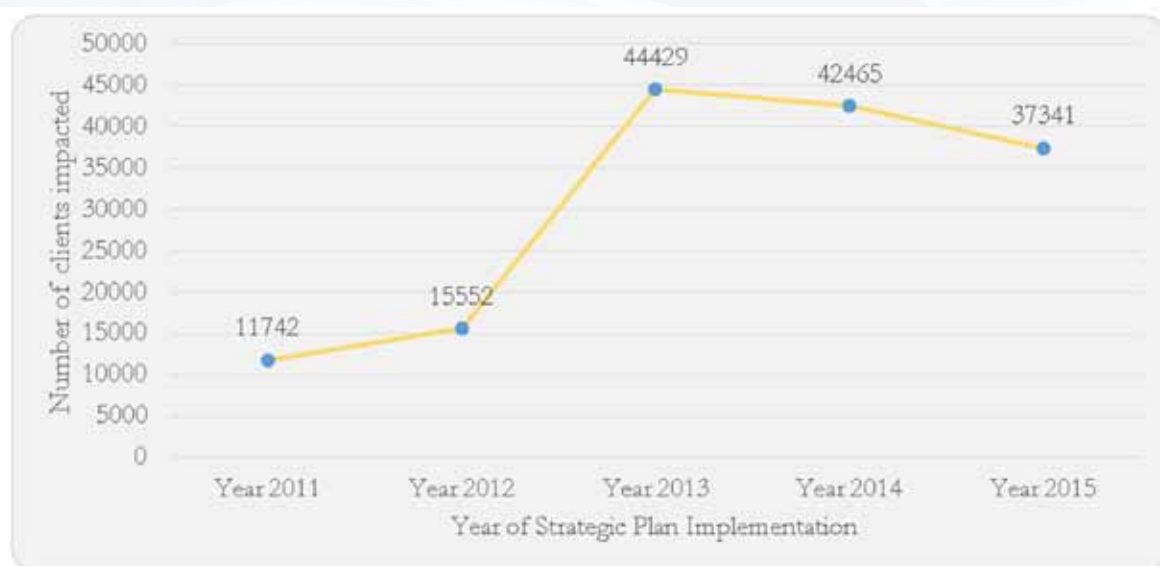


PROGRESS TOWARDS FULFILLMENT OF THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Overview of the project performance (2011-2015)

The year 2015 marked the end of the implementation of ULS/LAP strategic plan 2011-2015. This has been the guiding document from which the project got its strategic direction. It is worth noting that the project continued to perform exceedingly well and in particular in the year under review, the project reached and impacted **37,341** people in the community. Over the five years of implementation of the strategic plan, the project reached and impacted a total number of **151,529** people and below is the project trend.

Figure 1: Number of People in the Community that Benefited from the Projects Services during Each Year of the Strategic Plan Implementation



Objective 1: Legal Aid and Advisory Support Services

This objective increased access to legal services as a result of bringing legal aid service provision closer to the people. It led to increased improvement in the livelihood of the target beneficiaries as a result of improved access to justice. As a result, we have seen generalized reduction in conflicts in the communities where the project has offered services and this has increased social harmony and impacted economic development.

Legal Representation

In 2015, twelve thousand three hundred eighty seven (**12,387**) indigent, vulnerable and marginalized men, women, youth and children received legal aid through court representation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. 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 2015. Among the clients served, **4,598** (37%) were female and **7,789** (63%) male. In **12,387** cases registered, **3,000** were completed (**2,251** completed in office through ADR while **749** in courts of law); **2,301** cases were still pending in office for mediation and **5,049** in courts of law still ongoing, **1,564** clients were given legal advice, **389** cases were referred to

pro bono and other legal aid service providers, 68 cases were closed for lack of merit and 16 files were withdrawn on discovering that the clients were not indigent.

A total of **5,276** cases were handled on land and property claims, **436** on family/divorce and separation, **493** on custody and maintenance, **1,025** on administration of estates, **73** on debt claims, **198** on employment claims, **3,148** on criminal general and **981** on civil general.

Figure 2: Status of Progress of Cases Handled in 2015

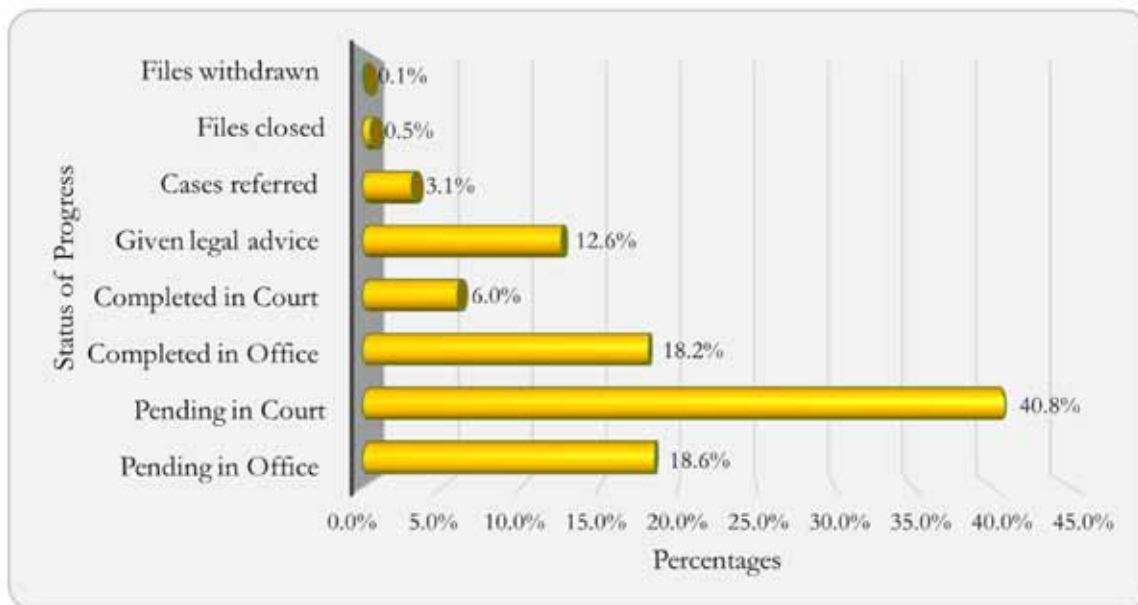


Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of Nature of Cases Handled During 2015

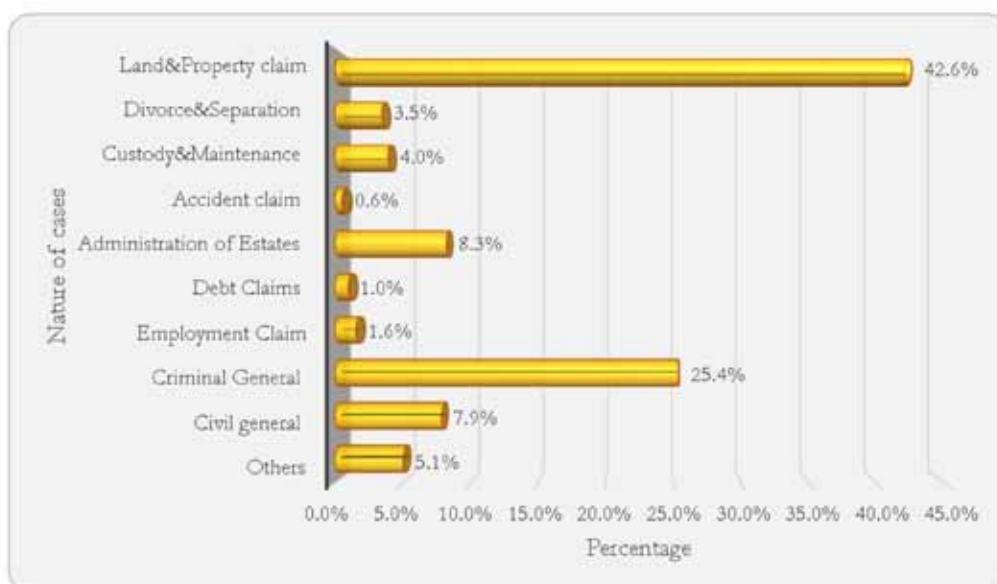


Figure 4: Number of Cases Handled Per Quarter in 2015

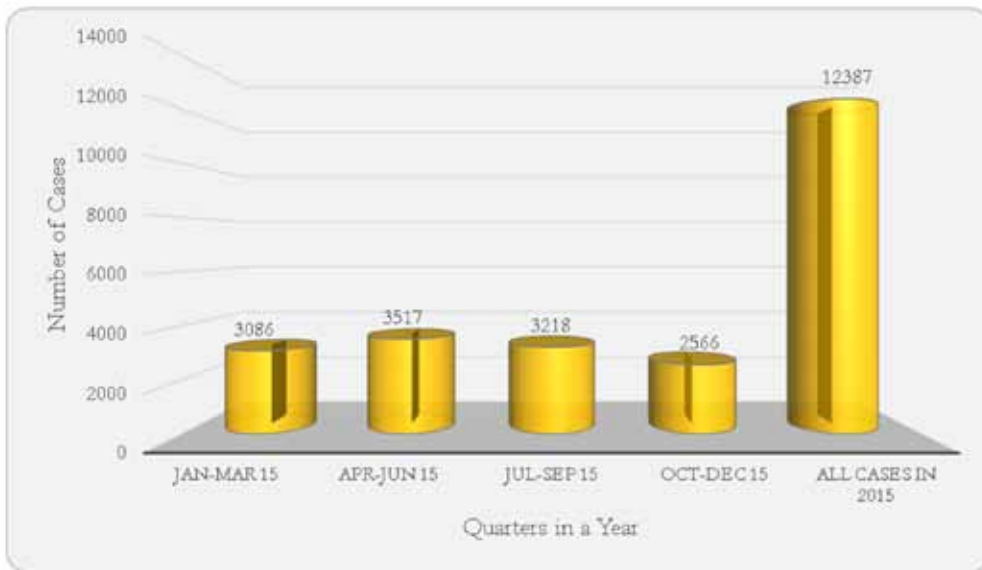


Figure 5: Quarterly Presentation of Progress of Cases handled in 2015

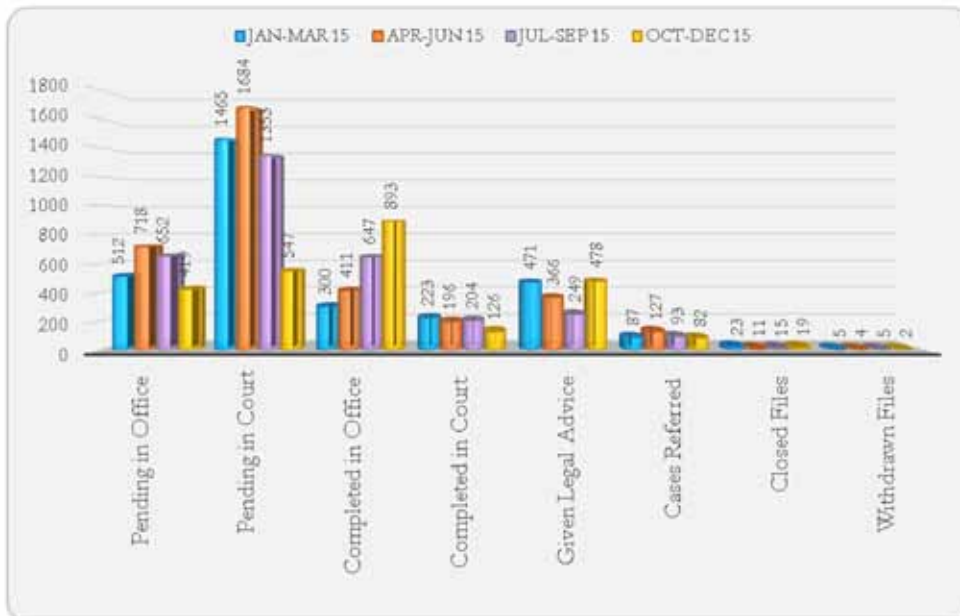
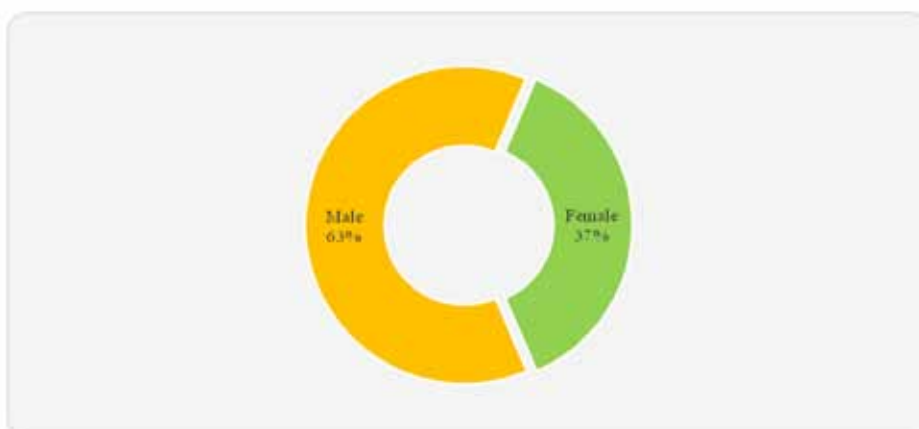


Figure 6: Quarterly Presentation of Nature of Clients Handled During 2015



Figure 7: Percentage Distribution of Legal Aid Clients by Sex in 2015



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.. In the past one year, ULS/LAP conducted **48** visits and **14,000** inmates were trained 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, **3,148** were represented in courts of law, 333 had their cases concluded and **460** released on bail.



LAP Legal Officers educating the inmates on plea taking and their right to bail in Moroto Government Prison.

Head Legal Aid and Probono Services Mr. Besigye Aaron together with the President ULS on a fact finding mission in Luzira Upper Prison at the beginning of the year



Legal Officer, Bruna conducting an interview with women inmates for subsequent legal representation.



The Pro Bono Scheme

For the last eight years, the Pro Bono scheme of the Uganda Law Society has, through members of the legal profession continued to extend free legal services to hundreds of indigent men, women and children in Uganda. The scheme has been implemented throughout the country and coordinated through the Legal Aid Project field offices that are located in every sub region of Uganda which include. Kampala, Jinja, Soroti, Gulu, Arua, Masindi, Kabarole, Mbarara, Kabale. The project portfolio steadily grew with 85 additional Advocates enrolled into the scheme in 2015, bringing its portfolio of registered Advocates to **1,395** from **1,313** in 2014.

In total **1,809** cases were handled in 2015 in which **1,121**(62%) were male clients while **688** (38%) female clients. Among these handled cases, **164** were concluded in court, **39** in office through ADR, and **694** and **818** cases pending in office and court respectively, 1 case was referred, **72** closed and **10** cases were withdrawn. The client base grew by **246** more clients from **1,563** clients served in 2014; which is a sign of the great effort put in to enroll advocates as well as the growing positive attitude towards the scheme.

Figure 8: Percentage Distribution of Nature of cases handled under the Pro Bono Scheme in 2015

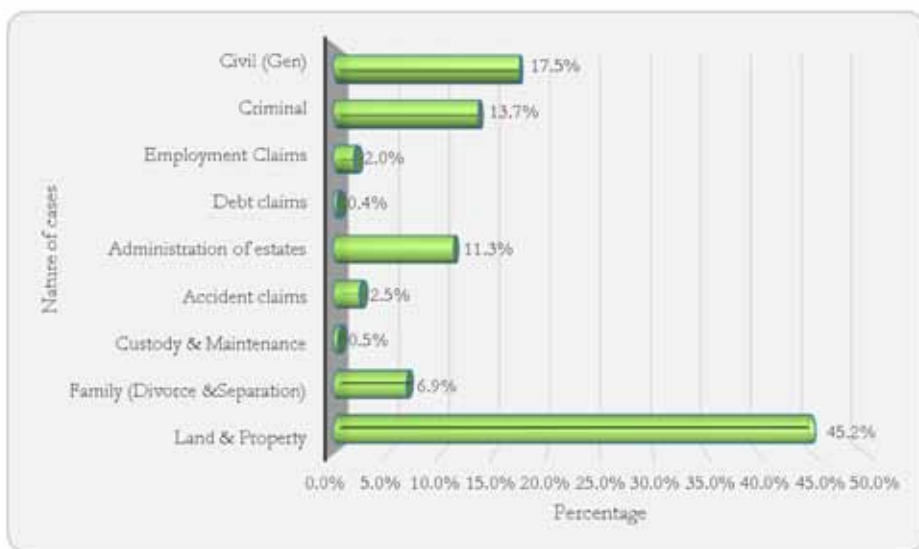


Figure 9: Status of Progress of the Cases handled under the Pro Bono Scheme in 2015

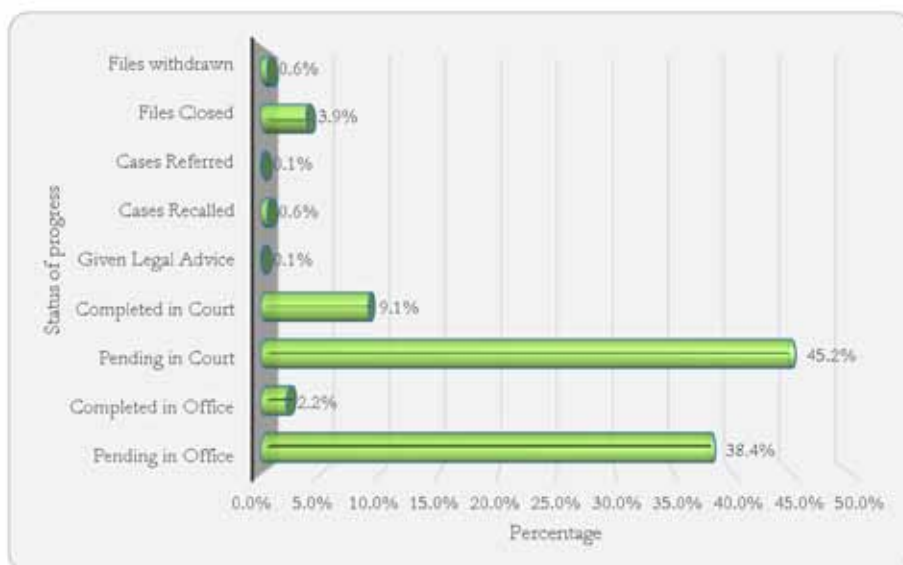
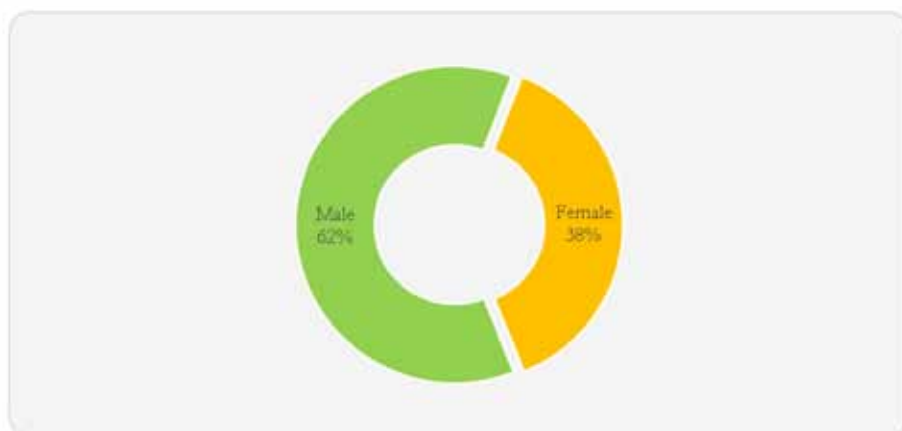


Figure 10: Percentage Distribution of cases handled under the Pro Bono Scheme in 2015 by Sex of Clients



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 4th National Pro Bono day on 27th February 2015. The day was held at the Railway grounds for Kampala; Buhinga grounds for Fort Portal; Busoga square for Jinja; Arua hill playground for Arua and; the Legal Aid offices of Mbarara, Soroti, Gulu, Masindi and Kabale. The theme for the day was ‘*Access to Justice for All Made a Reality.*’ In 2015, the project registered a turn up of **999** Advocates and **1,848** clients handled compared to **815** advocates and **1,243** clients in 2014. Of these, **1,140** were male and **652** were female.





Advocates attend to clients at the Railway Grounds in Kampala



Participants march through Kabale town



Advocates attending to clients on the Pro Bono in Mbarara



The Duty Counsel Scheme under the Pro Bono Project

As one of the pilot projects under Pro Bono scheme, the Duty Counsel program was piloted in three Magistrates Courts of; Makindye, Nakawa and Buganda Road. Duty Counsel is when an advocate is situate at a court to assist and/or represent indigent and marginalized persons who come to court with no legal Counsel. The legal assistance includes interpretation of documents, court representation, advice on and preparation for bail applications and referrals.

During 2015, 52 advocates provided duty counsel services to 2,097 clients (1,664 male and 433 female) of whom 1998 clients were advised and 99 were represented in court.

Figure 11: Gender Distribution of Clients Served under the Duty Counsel scheme at the Three Chief Magistrates' Courts during 2015

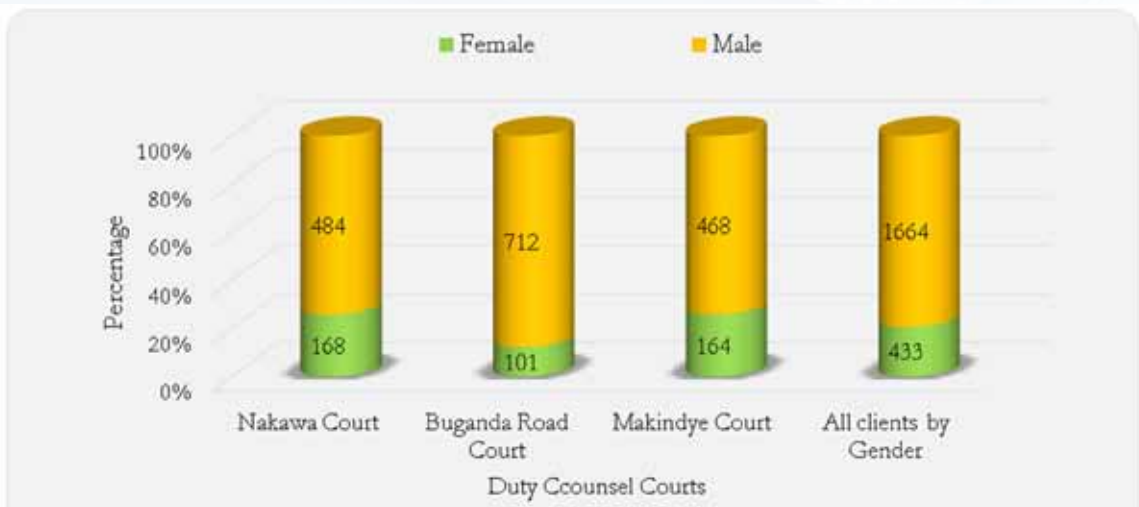


Figure 12: Distribution of Clients served by the three Magistrates' Courts under the duty Counsel Scheme



Strengthening Access to Justice for Children and Youth (SAJCEA)

The Strengthening Access to Justice for Children and Youth in East Africa (SAJCEA) Project is being funded by the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) with the purpose of promoting access to justice for Children and Youth in East African countries through stakeholder collaboration. The SAJCEA Uganda Chapter is implemented by the Uganda National Working Group (UNWG) comprised of state and non-state actors; The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs – Department of Law Council, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development- Children and Youth department, the Judiciary, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative – Paralegal Advisory Services, Legal Aid Service Providers Network, The Directorate of Public Prosecution, Justice Law and Order Sector Secretariat and the Uganda Law Society as the coordinating agency.

During the year under review, the project hosted a Regional Advisory Conference; on the theme Accessing Justice through Pro Bono. The conference was attended by **36** participants from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Canada. The relevance of the conference was for Kenya and Tanzania to benchmark best practices from Uganda and Canada on Probono services.

In order to increase awareness on children's rights, operation of Local Councils and sexual and gender based violence, the SAJCEA Project engaged a consultant to translate and print IEC materials on Local Councils, Child Sexual Abuse, and Children's Rights earlier developed by UNWG. The booklets were translated into local dialects; Lusamya, Ateso, Lugbara and Rutoro. In total **3,060** booklets were printed and disseminated to the communities in Busia, Bundibugyo and Katakwi. The booklets translated into Lugbara and Rutoro will be printed in the next project year and disseminated in Arua, Fort Portal and Bundibugyo.

The UNWG developed a Training of Trainers manual for duty bearers within the Child Justice in 2014 which was disseminated this year to **270** participants in Arua, Fort Portal, Bundibugyo, Katakwi, Soroti and Busia. The Participants were duty bearers within the Child Justice system including Police, Directorate of Public Prosecution, Probation officers, Lawyers, Chief/Grade 1 Magistrates, Prison officers and Community Volunteers to improve their knowledge and practice in handling children issues.



His Worship Faith Palodi submitting during the Child Justice training for duty bearers in Arua. His Worship Karemani making his presentation during the training in Fort portal.



The UNWG trained 78 Community volunteers/paralegals in Katakwi and Bundibugyo to address issues affecting children and youth through mediation, referrals and sensitization



Above: Mr. Samuel and Ms. Susan Okalany during the Paralegal meeting in Katakwi district.



Right: Group Photo; Some of the Paralegals in Kasitu S/C Bundibugyo district.

Local Council Training

The UNWG conducted a Local Council training for **200** Local Council leaders in Busia District in the sub-counties of Masaba and Masinya, and the purpose of the training was to continuously empower the local councils to improve their skills on handling issues affecting children and youth. There was a public outcry especially in areas without legal aid service providers as people could not easily access justice. The UNWG also realized that local council office bearers lacked basic training on their mandate. As a result the UNWG saw it fit to embark on enhancing the skills for all local councils and duty bearers on child justice in the districts of intervention (Katakwi, Bundibugyo and Busia).

Strategic Objective: Promotion of respect for rights and rule of law in Uganda

Community Empowerment Programs

This program was well conducted throughout the year and a total of **38** community sensitization meetings were conducted across all clinics in the country. Clinic sensitizations were supplemented by community based paralegal sensitizations. The major topics addressed during these sessions were chosen by the community members basing on their daily experiences and legal challenges. However, issues relating to general human rights, children's rights, land rights and procedures in land transactions, criminal justice systems, marriage and divorce, the law of inheritance, the rule of law and generally basics of the law and conflict resolution remained crucial in the sensitizations as are rampant in communities. These sensitizations involved **21200** participants who included; community legal volunteers, teachers and generally local community residents.



One of the community based paralegals (dressed in white) in a community sensitization session in Katikekile Sub County in Moroto district

Right: Counsel Acom Patricia training inmates about plea taking and its importance.



Below: The Legal Aid team in a group photo with the community members after a community sensitization in Katikekile sub county in Moroto District



Information, Education and Communication

Lack of legal literature continues to be the source of legal ignorance in Uganda. This is compounded by the fact that most of the legal literatures are so complicated to read and interpret. And following a needs assessment in the operational areas it was discovered that there were 5 key legal issues that affected the communities. These were related to land, domestic violence, succession and administration of estates, marriage and divorce, children's rights and criminal processes. To address these challenges the project embarked on simplifying laws affecting the above into simplified English and interpreting them into local languages.

This was done on the understanding that the majority of community members, were not informed about the court/judicial processes and this was greatly affecting the pursuit for their rights. To do that, the project embarked on educating the public on substantive and procedural human and legal rights issues with the intention of empowering them to demand respect for and accountability for their rights using these simplified materials. Over 30,000 booklets were printed both in the local languages and English and were distributed to communities during sensitizations and to walk in clients in offices to understand more about the crucial legal issues.

Media Campaigns

Over 96 radio talk shows were held on a number of media houses across the country. Among the media houses that hosted our programs included; UBC, Radio Maria and Radio West in Mbarara and Kabale, Pacis FM and Radio Voice of Life in Arua, Voice of Teso and Etop Radio in Soroti, Delta FM and Kiira FM in Jinja and Mega FM in Gulu. There were also 1800 radio spot messages on Radio Buddu in Masaka to serve the central region. Majority of these radio talk shows were conducted through partnership with other organizations especially other Legal Aid Service providers and facilitated by LAP staff. The talk shows basically addressed issues on; land rights, children's rights, corruption, Rule of Law, making of a Will, testate and intestate succession, domestic violence laws, the communities' prevalent legal challenges as well as LAP activities and services addressed.

Refresher Training of Community Paralegals

During the period under review, LAP trained 600 community based paralegals and helped them to form 3 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in order to address legal issues faced by their communities. The community based paralegals CBOs created are in the districts of Soroti, Mbarara and Kabarole. This has helped enhance access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized people but also empowered paralegal members to start their advocacy at the grass root level. The clinics continued to interface with them on a quarterly basis in order to assess their performance and continuously document their experiences and lessons learned.



Some of the community based paralegals in a group photo after a training in Kabarole

Development and strengthening of the LAP management systems

LAP Steering Committee

The Legal Aid Project Management Committee as of December 2015 comprised 8 people (1 woman and 7 men). The committee reports to the Executive Council of the Uganda Law Society, and oversees the development and implementation of Legal Aid Policies, procedures and programs. The committee also oversees a multi-disciplinary management and technical staff team. During the year, the committee held 4 meetings to provide strategic guidance on the implementation of project policies, procedures and programs. One committee member Ms. Grace Babihuga left and was replaced with Mr. Sam Olumo. The committee members' profiles are as follow;

Mr. Kalibbala Ernest	: Chairperson LAP Committee and ULS Vice President
Mrs. Sebatindira Ruth	: ULS President/Member-LAP
Mr. Barata Enoch	: ULS Treasurer/Member-LAP
Mr. Mudozi Musa	: Advocate and Committee Member
Mr. Kato Sekabanja	: Advocate and Committee Member
Mr. Senkezi Ssali Steven	: Advocate and Committee Member
Mr. Olumo Sam	: Executive Director-LAP/ULS
Mr. Besigye Aaron	: Head of Department-LAP/Secretary to the Committee
Ms. Caroline Muziki	: Co opted

LAP Management Committee

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

Mr. Olumo Sam	: Executive Director –LAP /ULS
Mr. Besigye Aaron	: Head of Department –LAP and Pro Bono Services
Mrs. Nsambu Christine	: Head of Finance and Administration-ULS
Ms. Kwaga S. Irene	: Head of Policy, Research and Advocacy-ULS
Mr. Kiyemba Moses	: Head of Professional Development and Member Affairs
Mrs. Caroline M. Wasige	: Manager Pro Bono–LAP/ULS
Ms. Mawaru Kyolaba Harriet	: Manager Legal Resource Centre-ULS
Mr. Herbert Byamukama	: Manager IT-ULS
Mrs. Katusime Sylvia	: Human Resource Manager-ULS
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 was the administrative / program Head of the Project. The project has also been supported in its mandate and activities by other departments. A total of **96** 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 2015.

In order to continue giving the best of its legal aid and advisory services, the LAP continued to expand its coverage in the country. In the year 2015 the project rendered its services through 12 clinics which included; Kampala, Luzira, Masindi, Gulu, Kabarole, Jinja, Kabale, Mbarara, Arua, Soroti, Moroto and Patongo in Agago district.

Staff Capacity Building

LAP staff were facilitated to attend CLE trainings throughout the year and in December 2015. Further all staff were trained on the project implementation and management, trial advocacy and ADR mechanisms.



Some of the LAP Staff during the capacity building workshop in Rider Hotel in Mukono.

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 2015, a number of monitoring and evaluation activities were conducted. These 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 Executive Council for onward transmission to the development Partners like NBA, DGF; Periodic and ad-hoc inspection visits to the clinics by the policy and management organs of the society; Client's charter was circulated within the clinics; and an internal annual project review with the program implementers, management and policy organs of ULS on the performance of the program was conducted.



Left: Management team and some staff during the monitoring and inspection of the newly opened clinic in Moroto-Karamoja.



Right: Management team and some staff during the monitoring and inspection in Masindi Clinic

SUCCESS STORIES

OKELLO ANDREW (LAP/SOR/121/2015),

Okello Andrew is LAP's client. He approached LAP Soroti clinic claiming that sometime in 2009, his very good friend was conducting a customary marriage but did not have enough cows to fulfill the function according to the Teso culture and that without paying the bride price he would never marry his long time girl friend. The friend approached Okello and requested him to give him 4 cows to conduct the function and would pay him back after the marriage. Okello gave his cows to the friend who used them to pay dowry and the function was conducted. However, the respondent failed to pay back the cows despite several demands through the LCs, Police and clan leaders and the two families started attacking each other and accusing each other of witchcraft and planned attack with intention of murder. The area local leaders intervened but failed to resolve the matter and the matter was referred to LAP for handling.

Mediation was held at Soroti offices by LAP staff and after long and protracted mediation that lasted over 4 meetings the matter was successfully resolved where the respondent paid eight cows (4 extra) as settlement for the outstanding debt and the two families are now leaving harmoniously. (Photograph -Overleaf)

AWADI NASUR VERSUS EDEKU MARTIN CIVIL APPEAL NO 38/2014(LAP/SOR/44/2012)

Mr. Edeku Martin acquired a lease offer in respect of land described as un Surveyed Plot at Kinchijaji from Soroti District Land Board in 1990 on which he had constructed his matrimonial home and had fully paid ground rent for the same. Edeku was faced with immediate eviction with his entire family of 9, yet he was already struggling with upkeep and maintenance.

He had lived and utilized his land since 1990 without any inconvenience until 2011 when a one Awadi Nasur who was financially strong and well-connected in the political circles came up claiming interest in the same land. Nasur claimed that he had acquired the land in 1970s and fled the country in 1979 during the war that overthrew Iddi Amin Dada's regime. He further alleged that our client snatched his



Okello Andrew in blue T-shirt receiving eights cows outside office premises in compensation of a debt of 4 cows, 8 cows were paid in compensation of late payment of a debt of 4 cows. (4 extra for delayed payment). Case was mediated successfully by Simon Peter Oriokot. (Legal Clerk)

wife during his absence and as a result gained access to his property inclusive of the Suit land. When we consulted our client on the allegations of the respondent, our client confirmed to us that he had fallen in love with a woman who he later got to know was the wife of the respondent however he denied having accessed the suitland through the respondent's wife as he met her while still working in Kampala and lived with her there. He maintained that he was allocated the suitland by Soroti district Land Board after he responded to their advert to sell off the suitland and that he had entered the Suit land in 1983 after verification that no one was laying claiming it.

During trial both our client and the respondent tendered in lease offers issued to them by the same issuing body though our client's lease was issued earlier than the one of the respondent.

LAPs' Intervention

The client approached LAP offices in Soroti and the matter was filed in Soroti Chief Magistrates Court. The matter was heard and the opposite counsel impeached the character of our client as a wife snatcher and land grabber and made him appear to be a wrong element before the trial magistrate. Based on those flimsy reasons the case was lost and an appeal was lodged in the High Court which overturned the earlier judgment in favor of our client. The client and his family maintained the land in question and continue cultivating it and deriving sustenance for his family.

AYESIGA PETER VS NYAMIGISA CHURCH, TADEO BARAKURAHA, ANTONIO KAGORO.

Our client who heads a family of 5 children and takes care of his biological brothers and sisters since 1993 when his late father Nyansiyo died, and left them with 5 acres of land, reported a complaint to the LAP office. He said that before his death, his grandfather –the late Alleni gave land measuring approximately 3 acres to the church, but the church had extended their boundaries and encroached on their family land.

This matter was allocated to the Pro Bono Office of Masindi and allocated to advocate Deo Kizito. Mediation was planned and held to settle issues amicably but nothing could be settled without visiting locus, the issue was the church extending boundary marks to our client's land to the extent of planting trees next to our client's house.

Counsel visited locus and over 53 people attended the meeting that was called. The church claimed they have been on the land for over 50 years, but Counsel stated that the issue in question was not ownership of the land but extension of the boundary marks. He spoke with the parties on how this disagreement



could be settled out of court and also explained the advantages of ADR and the disadvantages of litigation.

The church was asked to go back to its original boundary marks that were so evident, and known by neighbors and other old people in the village. They agreed, holes were dug in the presence of neighbors to maintain the old church boundaries.

Consequently the parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Both the church and our client Ayesiga Peter were extremely happy with the outcome of the matter and the time it took to dispose of a potential court case.

Challenges faced by the Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society

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

- The demand for legal aid is overwhelming – beyond the human and financial resources. This is amplified by the fact that there are no other advocates and other legal aid service providers other than LAP in distant districts like Karamoja while some places like Bundibugyo have only one advocate. This stretches the few resources available and therefore care needs to be taken to optimally use the few resources available.
- Case backlog which is compounded by constant transfers of Judicial Officers as well as numerous adjournments occasionally engineered by unprofessional conduct of some judicial officers and Advocates has hampered timely delivery of services. There is a lot of backlog of cases in Arua, Moroto, Kabale and Kampala Magisterial Areas. This is majorly attributed to the fewer number of judicial officers to handle the cases.

- The prison decongestion process has been hindered by the slow judicial process and no electronic database for prisoners that would ease on charge, location and status of inmates cases. Quite a number of prisoners have overstayed on remand because their cases are not cause listed for trial and neither their bail applications are fixed for hearings.
- Ignorance of the law and general lack of information on procedures makes some clients vulnerable to being misled by court support staff like clerks or community members who draft defective pleadings. It is after they are frustrated with defective court documents that the clients then seek the assistance of LAP to salvage the otherwise bad cases. They at times end up with incurably defective documents that occasion a miscarriage of justice.

Appendix 1: Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society

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

Nature of Case	Kabarole	Gulu	Jinja	Kabale	Masindi	Luzira	Arua	Mbarara	Soroti	Kampala	Moroto	Patongo	Total	%age
Land and Property claim	687	471	807	424	700	33	534	446	472	701	1	0	5276	42.6%
Divorce & Separation	81	3	41	35	16	6	18	153	13	70	0	0	436	3.5%
Custody & Maintenance	58	44	89	8	67	0	20	10	8	187	2	0	493	4%
Accident claim	5	3	18	1	9	0	1	5	0	30	1	0	73	0.6%
Administration of Estates	219	21	281	41	76	16	47	199	17	108	0	0	1025	8.3%
Debt Claims	11	18	13	0	65	0	0	1	4	17	0	0	129	1.0%
Employment Claim	8	11	107	0	9	2	26	5	4	26	0	0	198	1.6%
Criminal General	7	173	169	274	958	602	409	349	97	50	42	18	3148	25.4%
Civil general	77	8	95	100	111	2	182	167	45	192	2	0	981	7.9%
Others Execution	2	0	0	312	35	73	101	46	23	22	14	0	628	5.1%
Total	1155	752	1620	1195	2046	734	1338	1381	683	1403	62	18	12387	(100%)
Percentage (%)	9.3%	6.1%	13.1%	9.6%	16.5%	5.9%	11.1%	11.2%	5.5%	11.3%	0.5%	0.2%		

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

Progress of Case	Kabarole	Gulu	Jinja	Kabale	Masindi	Luzira	Arua	Mbarara	Soroti	Kampala	Moroto	Patongo	Total	%age
Pending in Office	440	86	367	130	158	71	291	162	261	334	1	0	2301	18.5%
Pending in Court	549	243	606	395	877	256	724	540	170	637	40	12	5049	40.8%
Completed in Office	81	176	333	216	613	18	121	381	161	149	2	0	2251	18.2%
Completed in Court	33	57	44	37	321	76	35	42	61	37	5	1	749	6.1%
Given Legal Advice	38	68	179	412	35	293	101	196	7	221	14	0	1564	12.6%
Cases Referred	4	119	82	0	29	1	62	50	23	19	0	0	389	3.1%
Closed Files	10	3	8	5	2	19	4	6	0	6	0	5	68	0.6%
Withdrawn Files	0	0	1	0	11	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	16	0.1%
Total	1155	752	1620	1195	2046	734	1338	1381	683	1403	62	18	12387	100%

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

Nature of clients	Kabarole	Gulu	Jinja	Kabale	Masindi	Luzira	Arua	Mbarara	Soroti	Kampala	Moroto	Patongo	Total	%age
Female	616	359	665	550	425	79	351	706	173	653	20	1	4598	37.1%
Male	539	393	955	645	1621	655	987	675	510	750	42	17	7789	69.9%
Total	1155	752	1620	1195	2046	734	1338	1381	683	1403	62	18	12387	100%

Table 4: Distribution of Nature of clients across Clinics

Nature of clients	Kabarole	Gulu	Jinja	Kabale	Masindi	Luzira	Arua	Mbarara	Soroti	Kampala	Moroto	Patongo	Total	%age
New	446	354	716	433	919	448	445	533	393	543	20	1	5251	42.4%
Old	709	398	904	762	1127	286	893	848	290	860	42	17	7136	57.6%
Total	1155	752	1620	1195	2046	734	1338	1381	683	1403	62	18	12387	100%

Appendix 2: Pro Bono Scheme

Table 5: Number of Files Handled under the Pro Bono Scheme by Nature of Cases across the 9 LAP Clinics

Nature of cases	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Land & Property	353	109	55	60	36	76	55	35	38	817	45.2%
Family (Divorce & Separation)	98	1	2		4	8	4		8	125	6.9%
Custody & Maintenance	4		1			1			3	9	0.5%
Accident claims	38		1	1	2	1	2		1	46	2.5%
Administration of estates	131		4	4	5	27	9	2	23	205	11.3%
Debt claims	3	2				2		1		8	0.4%
Employment Claims	32	2		1		1				36	2%
Criminal	26	25	7	56	62	17	34	8	12	247	13.7%
Civil (Gen)	205	3	9	36	7	17	12	12	15	316	17.5%
Total	890	142	79	158	116	150	116	58	100	1809	100%
%age	49.2%	7.8%	4.4%	8.7%	6.4%	8.3%	6.4%	3.2%	5.5%		

Table 6: Status of Progress of Cases handled under the Pro Bono scheme

Status of Cases	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Pending in Office	545	40	7	12	7	19	21	9	34	694	38.4%
Completed in Office	15	2	3	12	2	2	1		2	39	2.2%
Pending in Court	247	82	48	86	87	115	69	44	40	818	45.2%
Completed in Court	32	11	14	46	17	4	24	5	11	164	9.1%
Given Legal Advice	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Cases Recalled	0	0	1	1	0	8	0	0	0	10	0.6%
Cases Referred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
Files Closed	51	5	2	0	3	1	1	0	9	72	4%
Files withdrawn	0	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	3	10	0.6%
Total	890	142	79	158	116	150	116	58	100	1809	(100%)
%age	49.2%	7.8%	4.4%	8.7%	6.4%	8.3%	6.4%	3.2%	5.5%		

Table 7: Distribution of Clients handled under the Pro Bono Scheme by Gender across the 9 LAP Clinics

Nature of clients	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Males	549	99	32	115	79	92	74	44	37	1121	62%
Females	341	43	47	43	37	58	42	14	63	688	38%
Total	890	142	79	158	116	150	116	58	100	1809	100%

Table 8: Nature of clients handled under the Pro Bono scheme across Clinics

Status of clients	Kampala	Gulu	Kabale	Masindi	Kabarole	Jinja	Soroti	Arua	Mbarara	Total	%age
Old	721	86	27	90	70	55	86	45	60	1240	68.5%
New	169	56	52	68	46	95	30	13	40	569	31.5%
Total	890	142	79	158	116	150	116	58	100	1809	100%

LAP in Pictures 2015







Legal Aid Project
Audited
Financial Statements



Accountants &
business advisers

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
FUNDED BY
NORWEGIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NBA) &
NORWEGIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT (NORAD)
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

PKF Uganda
Certified Public Accountants
A member firm of PKF International

**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

1.0 MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

1.1 BACKGROUND ABOUT THE LEGAL AID PROJECT (LAP)

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

LAP is governed by the LAP Committee which is the Policy making body of the organisation. Members of the Committee are elected by the Uganda Law Society Executive Council following every Annual General Assembly. During the period of reporting, the members of the Legal Aid and Pro Bono committee were the following:

Mr Ernest Kalibbala:	Chairperson LAP Committee and ULS VP
Mr Samuel Olumo	Executive Director LAP /ULS and HPD&MA
Mrs Ruth Sebatindira:	President, ULS/LAP, Member
Mr Enoch Barata:	Treasurer, ULS/LAP, Member
Mr Musa Mudoi:	Advocate and Committee Member
Mr Kato Sekabanja:	Advocate and Committee Member
Mr Steven Senkeezi Ssali:	Advocate and Committee Member
Mr Aaron Besigye:	Head LAP and Secretary to the Committee

The Legal Aid and Pro Bono Committee reports to the Executive Council of the Uganda Law Society, and oversees a multi-disciplinary management and technical staff.

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.

**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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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
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 46 fulltime staff.

1.5 LAP Management Team

Members of the Management Committee of the legal aid and probono were;

Mr. Samuel Olumo	Executive Director LAP /ULS and HPD&MA
Mr. Besigye Aaron	Head Legal Aid and Probono Services
Mrs. Christine Nsambu	Head Finance and Administration- ULS
Ms. Irene S. Kwaga	Head Policy, Research And Advocacy-ULS
Mrs. Caroline Muziki	Manager Probono -LAP
Ms. Harriet Mwaru	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

2.0 STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

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

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

The directors are of the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Project as at 31 December 2015 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 23/03 2016 signed on its behalf by:

PRESIDENT



Date:

3.0 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society set out on pages 6 to 17 which have been prepared under the modified cash basis and the accounting policies set out there on. We obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for our audit.

Management's Responsibilities 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with international standards on auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal controls.

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept and the accompanying financial statements which are in agreement there with, give a true and fair view of the state of the financial affairs of the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society as at 31 December 2015 and its performance and cash flows for the year then ended, comply with Generally Acceptable Accounting Principles.

Report on other regulatory requirements

We report to you, based on our audit, that:

- i) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- ii) In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the project, so far as appears from our examination of those books,
- iii) The project has complied with the funding terms and conditions,
- iv) The organisation maintains adequate internal controls, and
- v) The financial statements of the project are in agreement with the books of account

PKF Uganda
Certified Public Accountants
Kampala, Uganda.
Date... *25th March 2016*


Ref: FK/L021/3154/16

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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4.0 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 UShs.	2014 UShs.
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	106,335,616	131,683,704
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and prepayments	4	4,635,171	12,047,167
Cash at Bank	5	79,252,178	21,047,143
Cash in hand	6	-	2,551,900
		<u>83,888,349</u>	<u>35,646,210</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		190,223,965	167,309,914
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
FUNDS			
Capital fund	7	106,335,616	131,663,704
General fund	7	(186,329,714)	(121,842,884)
		<u>(79,994,098)</u>	<u>9,820,820</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and accruals	8	270,218,063	157,489,094
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		190,223,965	167,309,914

The Financial Statements which appear on page 6-17 were approved by the Executive Council on 23.03.2016 and signed on its behalf by:

..... PRESIDENT

..... TREASURER

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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5.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 Actual UShs.	2015 Budget UShs.	2014 Actual UShs.
INCOME				
Grants	9	1,083,829,326	1,411,288,974	1,021,156,132
Other income	10	8,117,582	-	4,915,075
Total Income		1,091,946,908	1,411,288,974	1,026,071,207
Less: Capital Expenditure		9,285,300	4,400,000	-
Balance Available for Recurrent Expenditure		1,082,661,608	1,406,888,974	1,026,071,207
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE				
Legal education		-	33,500,000	36,780,000
Strategic planning		-	30,000,000	-
Motor vehicle running expenses		47,471,000	72,000,000	49,820,902
Office expenses		28,337,410	24,000,000	21,640,840
Stationery and printing		14,110,967	30,600,000	21,904,430
Monitoring and Evaluation		11,992,100	12,000,000	-
Repairs and maintenance		41,876,810	42,560,000	24,363,337
Branch inspection		6,632,000	6,800,000	504,000
Utilities		5,123,566	13,800,000	10,892,147
Practising certificate		10,796,800	9,900,000	8,303,800
Security		17,345,800	15,000,000	12,650,000
Publications		18,880,000	13,500,000	13,000,000
Bank charges		4,817,987	7,200,000	4,903,209
Hospitality		8,520,000	8,500,000	10,914,000
Travel Expenses		1,598,500	2,400,000	1,082,000
Insurance		4,671,755	5,390,000	4,392,009
Planning and Monitoring		-	1,600,000	-
Dues and Subscriptions		-	-	100,000
Capacity Building		9,790,000	15,000,000	5,143,000
Recruitment		250,000	1,500,000	1,250,000
Licences and permits		759,500	500,000	327,600
Sub-total		232,974,195	345,750,000	227,971,274
Local Personnel				
Salaries and wages		664,330,142	711,042,704	712,198,648
National Social Security Fund		68,313,879	71,104,270	79,379,813
Sub-total		732,644,021	782,146,974	791,578,461

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

	2015 Actual UShs.	2014 Budget UShs.	2014 Actual UShs.
Staff Meals			
Kampala	18,258,000	26,400,000	15,243,785
Gulu	6,730,000	11,088,000	7,180,000
Kabale	7,520,000	11,088,000	7,385,000
Masindi	7,460,000	11,088,000	7,695,000
Luzira	1,540,000	9,240,000	3,458,554
Kabarole	6,235,000	9,504,000	5,665,000
Jinja	7,155,000	9,504,000	5,960,000
Sub-total	54,898,000	87,912,000	52,587,339
Legal Aid			
Pro Bono Lawyers / Legal assistance	21,435,100	28,000,000	20,550,328
Filing costs, travel, fees and facilitation	9,813,500	8,000,000	3,162,400
Networking	4,394,000	5,000,000	9,443,800
Sub-total	35,642,600	41,000,000	33,156,528
Office Rent			
Gulu	13,200,000	14,520,000	13,200,000
Kabale	8,400,000	9,600,000	8,400,000
Kabarole	7,200,000	9,600,000	7,200,000
Masindi	8,400,000	8,400,000	7,200,000
Jinja	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
Sub-total	49,200,000	54,120,000	48,000,000
Communication			
Fax, postage, email	11,440,335	18,880,000	18,418,265
Kampala	2,927,478	6,000,000	4,645,823
Luzira	-	720,000	580,897
Gulu	1,084,000	720,000	630,000
Kabarole	455,000	720,000	237,000
Jinja	630,000	720,000	768,000
Kabale	905,000	720,000	320,000
Masindi	1,120,000	720,000	637,000
Sub-total	18,561,813	29,200,000	26,236,985

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5.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

	2015 Actual UShs.	2014 Budget UShs.	2014 Actual UShs.
Local Consultancy			
Audit Fees	15,400,000	15,400,000	15,400,000
Sub-total	15,400,000	15,400,000	15,400,000
Disposal	-	-	1,912,500
Total Recurrent Expenditure	1,139,320,629	1,406,888,974	1,196,843,087
Deficit before Exchange Gain	(56,659,021)	-	(170,771,880)
Exchange Gain / (Loss)	(7,827,809)	-	25,700,348
(Deficit) for the year	(64,486,830)	-	(145,071,532)

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015 Ushs.	2014 Ushs.
6.0 CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	(64,486,830)	(145,071,532)
Adjustment for:		
Capital Expenditure	9,285,300	-
Adjustment on disposal	-	3,213,168
	<u>9,285,300</u>	<u>3,213,168</u>
Changes in working capital		
Decrease / (Increase) in debtors	7,410,996	19,448,508
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	112,728,969	87,342,402
	<u>120,139,965</u>	<u>106,790,910</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>64,938,435</u>	<u>-</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of fixed assets	(9,285,300)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(9,285,300)</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase / (Decrease) in cash and cash Equivalents	<u>55,653,135</u>	<u>(35,067,454)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2015	<u>23,599,043</u>	<u>58,666,497</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December 2015	<u>79,252,178</u>	<u>23,599,043</u>
Represented by:		
Cash at Bank	79,252,178	21,047,143
Cash in Hand	-	2,551,900
	<u>-</u>	<u>2,551,900</u>
Total	<u>79,252,178</u>	<u>23,599,043</u>

**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

7.0 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

1. LEGAL STATUS

The Legal Aid Project is an activity of the Uganda Law Society. It is governed by a Board of Trustees, a corporate body registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act (Cap. 147, Laws of Uganda).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Accounting

The accounts are prepared in accordance with historical cost convention on a modified cash basis.

2.2 Property, Plant and Equipment

Depreciation

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

The annual rates used for this purpose are:

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

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

2.3 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.

2.4 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.

2.5 Cash and Cash equivalents

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

**LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

2.6 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 year end.

2.7 Payables

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

2.8 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%.

2.9 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
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 (CONTINUED)

3. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

3.1 Current Period

	Motor Vehicles UShs.	Office Furniture & Equipment UShs.	Photocopiers UShs.	Computers & Accessories UShs.	Law Literature UShs.	Generators UShs.	Motor Cycles UShs.	Total UShs.
Cost / Valuation								
At 1 January 2015	184,000,000	69,041,989	27,090,000	92,022,205	34,520,500	21,850,000	20,400,000	448,924,694
Additions	9,285,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,285,300
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 Dec 2015	193,285,300	69,041,989	27,090,000	92,022,205	34,520,500	21,850,000	20,400,000	458,209,994
Depreciation								
At 1 January 2015	108,273,438	54,553,225	25,560,030	79,248,177	32,741,745	5,462,500	11,421,875	317,260,980
Charge for the year	21,252,966	1,811,096	509,480	4,253,751	444,689	4,096,875	2,244,531	34,613,388
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 Dec 2015	129,526,404	56,364,321	26,069,510	83,501,928	33,186,434	9,559,375	13,666,406	351,874,378
Net Book Value								
At 31 Dec 2015	63,758,896	12,677,668	1,020,490	8,520,277	1,334,066	12,290,625	6,733,594	106,335,616

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 (CONTINUED)

3.2 Previous Period

	Motor Vehicles UShs.	Office Furniture & Equipment UShs.	Computers & Accessories UShs.	Photocopiers UShs.	Law Literature UShs.	Generators UShs.	Motor cycles UShs.	Total UShs.
Cost / Valuation								
At 1 January 2014	184,000,000	69,041,989	92,022,205	27,090,000	34,520,500	21,850,000	23,800,000	452,324,694
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3,400,000)	(3,400,000)
At 31 December 2014	184,000,000	69,041,989	92,022,205	27,090,000	34,520,500	21,850,000	20,400,000	448,924,694
Depreciation								
At 1 January 2014	83,031,250	52,483,401	72,870,739	24,798,192	32,148,826	-	10,412,500	275,742,908
Charge for the year	25,242,188	2,069,824	6,377,438	763,838	592,919	5,462,500	2,496,875	43,005,582
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,487,500)	(1,487,500)
At 31 December 2014	108,273,438	54,553,225	79,248,177	763,838	32,741,745	5,462,500	11,421,875	317,260,990
Net Book Value								
At 31 December 2014	75,726,562	14,488,764	12,774,028	26,326,162	1,778,755	16,387,500	8,978,125	131,663,704

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

7.0 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

Year ended 31 December 2015	Capital Fund UGX	General Fund UGX	Total Funds UGX
Balance at 01 January	131,663,704	(121,842,884)	9,820,820
Additions to fixed assets	9,285,300	-	9,285,300
Deficit for the year	-	(64,628,721)	(64,628,721)
Foreign Exchange Adjustment	-	141,891	141,891
Depreciation charge	(34,613,388)	-	(34,613,388)
Balance at 31 December 2015	106,335,616	(186,329,714)	(79,994,098)
Year ended 31 December 2014			
Balance at 01 January	176,581,786	21,316,148	197,897,934
Adjustment on Reserves (Asset disposal in 2014)	(1,912,500)	1,912,500	-
Deficit for the year	-	(145,071,532)	(145,071,532)
Depreciation charge	(43,005,582)	-	(43,005,582)
Balance at 31 December 2014	131,663,704	(121,842,884)	9,820,820

LEGAL AID PROJECT OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

	2015 Ushs	2014 Ushs
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8.0 PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS

The balance on this account is made up as follows:

Payables	254,818,063	142,089,094
Accruals	15,400,000	15,400,000
Total	270,218,063	157,489,094

9.0 GRANTS

Date		US \$	UShs.
30 th June, 2015	Transfer	165,900.96	539,178,120
16 th October 2015	Transfer	80,192.20	295,107,296
15 th December 2015	Transfer	75,050,.80	249,543,910
Total		246,093.16	1,083,829,326

10.0 OTHER INCOME

Other income includes:

Other income	8,117,582	4,898,280
Bank Interest	-	16,795
Total	8,117,582	4,915,075

11.0 EXCHANGE RATES

Exchange rates used during the period to convert transactions denominated in US Dollar into Uganda shillings ranged from **Ushs 2,645**, to **Ushs 3,680**. Foreign currency balances as at 31 December 2015 were transacted at the following exchange rates:

	2015	2014
1 US Dollar	3,140	2,645





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