

Kituo Trains Shimo la Tewa Maximum Security Women Prison paralegals



Group photo of the participants with their certificates after the graduation ceremony

Kituo Cha Sheria was at the Shimo La Tewa Maximum Security Prison for prison paralegals training. The training was taking place at the Women's section which currently holds 250 women prison and 30 children. Majority of these prisoners are remandees awaiting conclusion of their cases both at trial or appeal level with most being indigent and cannot afford legal representation.

The training was conducted for five days beginning Monday 4th September 2017 to Friday 8th September 2017 and culminated in a graduation ceremony and awarding of certificates to the paralegals.

Guests who graced the occasion included Kituo Board member Dr. Linda Musumba, Kituo's Coast Regional Coordinator Ms. Annette Mbogoh, a representative from the Mombasa Law Society and the Officer-In Charge of the Prison.

The chief guest was Ms. Stijn Janssen the first secretary in the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nairobi.

Kituo has an established prison justice centre within the facility and has previously conducted a similar paralegal training in June 2016 where 30 paralegals were trained in the women's prison. However, of the last batch trained only 3 prison paralegals remained hence the overwhelming need for a training of paralegals.

The prison justice centers have been a source of hope for many and it has helped even its own members to be released on appeal and Power of Mercy based on their conduct while serving sentences.

Because of this mass release and transfers, the Prison justice center had remained desolate. This gap is attributed to prison transfers, acquittals and release on power of mercy while others have served their sentence.

The prison Justice program is one of Kituo's successes in ensuring that justice is attained to all and through this initiative, Kituo has established a relationship with the prison administration and the Judiciary that has borne a lot of fruits.

One of the goals of Kituo's prison paralegal trainings remains to decongest correctional facilities by empowering the prisoners and remandees on self-representation in court, how to adduce evidence if any, how to cross examine witnesses, how to write their submissions, how to make mitigation statements, how to make interim applications such as those for bond, bail and making applications for Community Service Order. The following topics were covered; Basics of Paralegalism, Introduction to Human Rights, Bill of Rights (Chapter 4 of Constitution), Criminal Procedure Code Chapter 75 Laws of Kenya, Powers of Court, Provisions relating to all Criminal investigations, Mode of taking and recording Evidence in Trials, Procedures in Trials before a Subordinate Court and High Court, Sentences and Executions, Appeals, Self-representation (Criminal Approach), Power of Mercy Act, The Prisons Act and Community Service Order. The training was conducted by Kituo officers Valarie Ang'awa and Kibibi Chai together with Kituo Volunteer Advocates based in Mombasa. The training culminated in a colourful graduation

ceremony witnessed by representatives from partner organizations and agencies including the Kenya Prisons Service and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR).

A total of 32 participants were trained, 27 of whom were inmates and 5 prison constables. The inmates comprised of those on long sentences, pre-trial detainees charged with capital offences as well as the condemned. Guests present urged the trained paralegals to work hard and use skills they have acquired to benefit themselves and fellow inmates.



One of the paralegals receiving her certificate from Ms. Stijn Janssen of Netherlands Embassy. Ms. Annette Mbogoh of Kituo looks on.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Workshop among Human rights Organizations in Mombasa



Mental Health and Psycho-social support working group facilitator leading a discussion

The psychosocial support team of Kituo's Forced Migration Programme Nairobi on 16th and 17th of October 2017 organized and facilitated a workshop on Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Mombasa. Together with staff from different human rights organizations they discussed aspects of stress & trauma among their clients, difficulties in offering holistic services and the question of how to take care of oneself in a challenging working environment.

The CSO network in Mombasa laments a lack of mental health practitioners at the Coast and are looking for creative ways to overcome that gap. Therefore, the Kituo team hopes that the workshop stimulated a discussion on how to bridge the gap between human rights work and mental health and psychosocial support services in Mombasa.



KITUO Implements Uchaguzi wa Usawa na Uwazi ahead of the repeat Poll



Zadeckia Adika Kituo programme Officer, facilitating Neighborhood Conversation forum with the residents of Kisumu Central Sub-County majority who bore the brunt of police actions in the post August 8 elections

Kituo Cha Sheria Mombasa Office has implemented the third and final phase of Uchaguzi wa Amani, Usawa na Uwazi project focusing on managing the post-election pitfalls and conflicts that emanated after the 8th August 2017 General Elections.

The project that is supported by Swiss Embassy in Nairobi has been implemented in Kisumu and Kakamega Counties reaching over 317 participants through conducted 8 Neighbourhood conversations and 4 Video Screening activities.

Close to 4 Million persons were reached through Radio Talk shows that were carried out in local and national radio stations with the overall aim of promoting peaceful resolution of election disputes, coexistence and provision of civic and voter education for the repeat presidential poll.

The Neighbourhood Conversation

Kituo attends the Habitat International Coalition Meeting

fora provided a platform for ventilation of issues of concern in the society with members chatting on ways of ensuring peaceful coexistence of communities in the respective counties. The participants were also engaged on matters of accountability of their new elected leadership and the importance of engaging in the public participation processes especially in the County Government.

Kituo brought on board different stakeholders including the IECB to provide a brief explanation on their work as a way of engaging to improve on their services for the repeat presidential election, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government officers to provide a brief on their strategies for improving cohesion between security organs and the community among others.

of human rights related to housing and land in both rural and urban areas are reflected in the daily work of HIC Members in Africa.

Forced evictions are a gross violation of human rights. According to international standards and commitments, national and local governments are asked to take preventive measures; ensure sufficient protection; and guarantee that safeguards are taken prior, during and after evictions. Forced evictions are a threat to a peaceful and decent life. Forced evictions cause terror and suffering for the most disadvantaged, with devastating consequences for children and women.

The HIC General Assembly, held on October 10, 2017 was attended by 51 participants from 36 organizations and 23 countries and was preceded by the regional event in Africa and the HIC Human Rights Habitat Observatory workshop held on 9th October 2017.



Kituo was represented at the Global Platform for the Right to the City members, friends and allies from all around the world, gathered in Nairobi to make a global call for the right to the city, and the universal opposition to forced evictions and displacements. Kituo as a member of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) was represented at the meeting from the 9th-14th October, 2017 by legal Officer Allan Nyange in meetings that took place at the AAC Desmond Tutu Conference Centre in Nairobi. HIC's global struggles for social justice, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, and the defence, promotion and realization

Key Upcoming Activities Nov - Dec 2017

1. Makueni legal aid clinic and Volunteer advocate recruitment and caucus 14-17 November 2017.
2. End year legal aid clinic 28th November 2017
3. Access to justice and human rights radio talk shows -Turkana
4. 16 Days of Activism activities - November 25th - 10th Dec
5. Access to justice day event-Kakamega Prison
6. Kamiti, Langata and Kodiaga Prison paralegal refresher training
7. Community Paralegal training in Nairobi and Vihiga
8. International Human Rights Day; 16 Days of Activism Candlelit Dinner - Dec
9. Kituo Cha Sheria Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Dec
10. Kituo end of year meeting- Dec 2017

KITUO Conducts Peace Dialogue forums in Kitale, Trans Nzoia County



One of the participants making his contribution during the peace dialogue forum that was held in Kitale Catholic Diocese hall

Kituo Cha Sheria in collaboration with GIZ held peace dialogue forums on the 27th and 28th September 2017 at the Kitale Catholic Diocese hall.

On 27th September, the dialogue forum was between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Bonde Suwerwa camp and the host community from Bond area.

On 28th September, the dialogue forum was between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Gatatha and Camp Matonye and the (host) community from Tobo, Gatatha, and Salama.

Each of the dialogue forums had 55 participants and the discussion points centred on what are the challenges that strain the peaceful coexistence between the IDPs and the (host) community and the mitigating factors that can be instituted to correct the challenges straining peaceful coexistence between the IDPs and the (host) community.

The expected output from these dialogue forums included establishment of a platform where the IDPs and the (host) community are sensitized on the need to embrace peaceful mechanisms of solving their disputes and IDPs and the (host) community are encouraged to participate in the Alternative Justice Systems project.

The overriding challenge from both the two forums was the land problem where there exists a tussle between IDPs, (host) community and the government over land titles.

This activity is under the piloting programme of the Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) project implemented by Kituo Cha Sheria in collaboration with the GIZ organization.

The 'Uchaguzi wa Amani na Uwazi' campaign by Kituo continues in the counties of Kakamega and Kisumu with radio talk shows and Neighbourhood Conversation sessions taking place in various wards.

ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE SYSTEMS (AJS) PILOTING IN ENDEBESS



The AJS piloting team during a visit to one of the camps in Endebess

Since 2015, KITUO has been leading conversations with the 317 survivors across the 13 regions throughout Kenya, of the 2007-2008 Post Election Violence with the aim of offering redress to crime against property ownership. The consultations were conducted with the support of 26 Community-based Organizations (CBO) who identified the respondents in their areas of operation. However, the conversations with the survivors and offenders of the Post Election Violence of 2007-2008 have pointed to the need of systems that is responsible to the quest for forgiveness, justice and reconciliation.

Kituo cha Sheria was in Endebess, Trans-Nzoia County in September 2017 to meet with the survivors and offenders while piloting AJS with a holistic approach.

Alternative Justice Systems are mechanisms of solving disputes or/and conflicts between parties without recourse to the courts. The methods used in the AJS processes include mediation, negotiation and where ever possible reconciliation. Through AJS, the conflicting parties are brought together to dialogue and agree on

a voluntary basis in order to forge a way forward. The focus of AJS mechanisms is for now primarily on civil cases.

Endebess was one of the heavily affected areas by the 2007-2008 Post Election Violence. Ethnic squabbles between Bukusu, the majority and Sabaot, the minority, have led to increasing tensions and violence during post elections period, leading to deaths, destruction of property and a considerable number of IDPs. Areas affected by violence in Endebess division include Kwanza District, Koibe location, specifically Kimondo, Katatha and Salama.

The affected population in Endebess can be divided into two groups; the first group are the IDPs who are now settled in camps. Most of IDPs came from Salama, Katatha and to a less extent Endebess Schemes, Kimondo and Chapturagai. The second group is the host community, which originates from the Endebess area.

Implementing officers of the project included Barbara Weghofer- CPS Peace Building Advisor; Martha Ogutu- Legal Officer and Jack Odiwa as the Local Expert.

Mr. Brian Kagoro visits Kamukunji Community Justice Centre



On 12th October, 2017 Kituo cha Sheria hosted Mr. Brian Kagoro at the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre. This marked day One of Mr. Kagoro's visit as he conducted a multi-country research on access to justice with a focus on paralegal organization. In Kamukunji, the community justice Centre

coordinator, Mr. Ezekiel Njenga welcomed the guests and introduced his team and gave a brief overview of the work done at the Centre including the challenges faced and successes achieved.

Day Two of the working tour sees Mr. Kagoro hosted for stakeholder's conversation at the Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi on 13th of October 2017 bringing together partner organizations working with paralegals in Kenya. Shareholders will share their perspectives on the operational environment for Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Legal Aid Organizations and the relevant laws and policies

KITUO commemorates Access to Justice day at Meru Main Prison



Male prisoners presenting a moot court skit/ debate session to showcase their learning and understanding of bail and bond, community service order, legal representation and other judicial procedures, as tutored by the prison paralegals

On Monday, 25th September, 2017 Kituo cha Sheria commemorated the Access to Justice Day at the Meru Main Prison in Meru County.

The day was celebrated to acknowledge the contributions of the prison paralegals as they play a big role in educating inmates about their legal rights to appeal for justice.

There were many activities organized by the prison inmates to celebrate the achievements of Kituo's paralegals at the prison justice centre. The day started-off with a tree planting ceremony followed by a colorful cultural program of song, dance and poetry.

There was an enjoyable moot court skit/debate session presented by the male prisoners which showcased their learning and understanding of bail and bond, community service order, legal representation and other judicial procedures, as tutored by the prison paralegals.

The Meru Resident Magistrate Lucy Ambasi was the Chief Guest. Also present was Mr. Edwin Mulochi the Meru High Court Prosecutor, Officers from the Probation Office Mr. Nicholas Mugambi and Winrose Gaceri. Kituo Volunteer Advocates Victor Mutuerandu and Kaumbi Kioga were among other guests present.

Kituo Cha Sheria was represented by programme manager Faith Ochieng', Mandira Gupta, Samantha Oswago and Anthony Kinyua.

The Officer-in-Charge (OIC);

Meru Main Prison - ACP, Benson Mbogori and the Meru prison human rights officer, Mr. Joel Katorima welcomed the day's visitors with great warmth and happiness to a brilliant celebration of Access to Justice Day at the prison Justice Centre.

Guests visited the prisoners' workshops after the cultural show to appreciate their handiwork and also purchased a few items from there to boost the prisoners' self-confidence and self-esteem. The Workshops were very impressive as there were professional trainers training the inmates on carpentry, carving and other skills.

The Meru prison justice center, launched on 10th August, 2016 together with other prison centers have contributed in a big way to the decongestion of prisons and at the same time made justice accessible to those who could not afford the services of an advocate.

Giving the keynote address, the Resident Magistrate Ms. Ambasi appreciated the work of the Paralegals and expressed her satisfaction in seeing prisoners being able to self-represent and access justice within the prison. The prison justice centre representative presented challenges faced by the inmates as well the major milestones achieved including successful appeals and the prisoners' right to vote.

Kituo Cha Sheria remains a constant friend of the poor and the marginalized helping them to access free legal aid to ultimately achieve justice.

KITUO and Other partners join the world in celebrating World Mental Health Day



Emma Nguli of Kituo Facilitating a workshop on Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in Mombasa.

Nairobi - Kayole

The 10th of October 2017 marked this year's World Mental Health Day. Kituo cha Sheria's Forced Migration Programme (FMP) in collaboration with the Mental Health and Psycho-social support working group (MHPSWG) conducted celebrations in Kayole, Nairobi at the Kayole Social hall to commemorate this day.

The celebrations begun with a skit which articulated on the importance of counseling followed by interactive discussion about counseling and its importance, the signs and symptoms of depression and finally discussing on how to handle people suffering from depression as well as how to take care of oneself.

The World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues and mobilizing efforts in support of better mental health.

This year's theme is "Mental Health Matters, Joint efforts to end the stigma of Psychological suffering", the Mental Health and Psycho-social support working group comprising of ICAS Kenya, Refugee Consortium of Kenya, HIAS, UNHCR, CVT, Heshima Kenya, NCKK, Refuge point, DRC all pulled together and organized an activity that particularly focused on refugees and raising awareness among them on issues of counseling, depression, dealing with depression among family and friends and self-care.

According to the mental health foundation depression is now the leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide. Refugees are prone to depression because of the challenges they encounter pre-migration, during migration and

post migration. Consequently, the urban refugee Mental Health and Psychosocial Support working group felt it was important to raise awareness among the refugees.

Nakuru

Kituo joined the world to celebrate World Mental Health Day with activities at the Nakuru GK Prisons - Women's and Men's Prisons under the theme - Improving Mental Health through Access to Justice. Kituo teamed up with Psychiatric Disability Organization (PDO), a Nakuru based charity to provide free legal advice to inmates at the Nakuru Prisons. Legal challenges are a contributor to the psychological stress that inmates go through and Kituo advocates were at hand to offer free legal aid to the prisons community. Lack of awareness on their legal rights as remandees or prisoners could lead to poor outcomes of their court cases or make them unknowingly forfeit their human rights. The legal aid clinics therefore went a long way in enhancing the inmate's psychological well-being hence improving their confidence in court and ensure better outcomes for their cases. The activities involved Kituo officers, volunteer advocates, psychologists and officers from the probation office who all had a role to play in the day's success



Inmates and facilitators during the session

Mental Health and Psychosocial support joint staff well-being event



A group photo of the participants from agencies working in the Refugee sector

Kituo cha Sheria's Forced Migration Programme (FMP) in collaboration with the Urban refugee Mental Health and Psychosocial support working group organized and facilitated a one day event for agencies working in the refugees sector on 15th September, 2017 at Amnesty International offices in Nairobi.

Different facilitators including Catherine Mwaniki from UNHCR-Kenya presented on effects of the work officers in the field go through such

as vicarious traumatization, compassion fatigue and burn out. Other presentations covered stressors and risk factors in the working environment of refugee agencies and also included a panel discussion on organizational staff-care with ICAS, UNHCR, RAS and CVT.

Agencies participating in the event were the members of the MHPSS working group: CVT, Heshima Kenya, RAS, CVT, NCKK, MSF, RCK, UNHCR, Kituo, Refugee point, HIAS and the DRC

Kituo cha Sheria hosted Mr. Brian Kagoro for a research reconnaissance



Group photo of Mr. Brian Kagoro, Getrude Angote Kituo Executive Director and Kituo staff after a breakfast meeting at the Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi

On 3th October, 2017 Kituo cha Sheria hosted Mr. Brian Kagoro, a renowned advocate from Zimbabwe for a breakfast meeting at the Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi. The meeting brought together stakeholders from partner organizations working with paralegals to converse on the operational environment for Civil Society Organization (CSOs), Legal Aid Organizations and the

various laws and policies.

Participants included community paralegals, various CSOs, members of the donor community and representatives from the probation office and the Kenya Prisons Service. Mr. Kagoro purposely visited Kenya to conduct a multi-country research on access to justice with a focus on paralegal organization across Africa

KITUO Attends the Hiil Innovating Justice Nairobi Boost Camp SUCCESS STORY of Mary Nduku Mutisya



The audience follow the presentations made during the Innovating Justice Challenge 2017 semi-finals that took place at iHub, Nairobi

Kituo cha Sheria's M-Haki-'Haki Mkononi' innovation was presented to the world at the Hiil Innovating Justice Nairobi BoostCamp. The BoostCamp took place at the iHub, Nairobi and saw pitches by 8 Justice Innovations from Kenya and Rwanda shortlisted for the Innovating Justice Challenge 2017 semi-finals.

M-Haki had been chosen from a group of over 600 candidates because of the platform's potential for scalability, sustainability, impact, and uniqueness. The Hiil justice accelerator team found Kituo's idea and concept inspiring to invite us to pitch.

The Hiil Innovating Justice Challenge is organized annually by the Innovating Justice Accelerator to seek out the best justice entrepreneurs in the world. Hiil Justice Accelerator supports hundreds of practical justice solutions every year that make a difference in people's lives.

In 2017, Kituo Cha Sheria's innovation- M-Haki-'Haki Mkononi' made an application for the first time and made it to the Semi-final

round of the Hiil Innovating Justice Awards 2017 finishing as the runners-up. Other innovations at the Nairobi Innovating Justice BoostCamp 2017 included Smart Shamba, Tambua, M-Sheria, Mulika Hongo, Usalama, Gerayo and SocialWell.

M-Haki as an innovation seeks to bridge gaps around accessibility to justice as enshrined in the Kenyan constitution Article 48, affordable access to justice and finally timely justice as the answers are relayed within 48 hours.

Present to witness the event were Kituo's Board Member Prof. Saad Yahya, the Executive Director, Ms. Gertrude Angote, Kituo members of staff and community paralegals as well as other friends of Kituo.



Kituo's Faith Ochieng with other presentors during the event

KITUO participates in the LSK Legal awareness week



Kituo advocates attend to clients during the Law Society of Kenya Annual Legal Awareness Week at Milimani Law Courts in Nairobi

Kituo cha sharia participated at the Law Society of Kenya Annual Legal Awareness Week that took place from 25th to 29th of September 2017. The theme for this year was "Safeguarding Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms through Improved Law Enforcement." The event that saw the members of the public receiving free legal advice on Land cases, Human Rights Violation, Employment among other legal issues took place at the Milimani Law Courts in Nairobi and the Mombasa Law Courts in Mombasa.



John Mwariri Kituo advocate handing over the Court judgement to Mary Nduku

Mary Nduku Mutisia has a reason to smile again after receiving a positive judgment from the high court of Kenya Family Division in Nairobi directing her to return back to her house where she was forcefully evicted and that the OCPD and Chief Kajiado to provide her with the necessary security.

The 63 year old widow and mother of 5 was assaulted and forcefully evicted from her 14.9 acres land that they purchased together with her late son at Ole - pelelengo village, Erankau Sublocation, Ilmungush Kajiado county.

After the death of her son in November 2012, Sarah Beth purported that she was married to Mary's son under the Kamba customary law and thereafter proceeded to Court to claim the deceased properties. Sarah together with her agents carried and sold the deceased properties rendering Mary destitute and homeless even before the Court ruling.

According to Marry, Sarah Beth did not get married to her son and that she was a total stranger not only to her but also to her entire family and relatives. She only recognized his son's fiancée whom he had introduced to the family.

Marry encounter with Kituo

In her quest for justice, Mary frequently visited the High Court of Kenya to get assistance on her case even before her scheduled dates for hearings. She went to the Courts without a lawyer and written documents since she could not afford to pay for these legal services.

This made it hard for the judges to understand her case. She was then specifically referred to Kituo Cha Sheria by Justice Lydia A. Achode who is well informed about Kituo.

John Mwariri, Kituo advocate represented Mary until the Court's decision that was ruled in her favor based on lack of proof to show that Sarah was the real wife to Mary's son.

KITUO on KBC Radio Taifa



The morning radio talkshow came at the close of the project focusing on managing the post-election pitfalls and conflicts that emanated after the 8th August 2017 General Elections. The project was supported by the Swiss Embassy in Nairobi.

On 3rd October, 2017 Kituo cha Sheria officers Faith Ochien'g and Zedekiah Adika presented the findings of the Uchaguzi Wa Amani, Uwazi Na Usawa project that was implemented in Kisumu and Kakamega Counties at KBC Radio Taifa.