

Kituo Cha Sheria-Introduction

Kituo Cha Sheria is the premier pro-human rights non-governmental organization in Kenya. It was founded in 1973 as Kituo Cha Mashauri by advocates who were committed to helping the disadvantaged and poor people who could not afford the cost of legal services. In 1989, the name was changed to Kituo Cha Sheria (Legal Advice Centre) and a secretariat was established with full time legal staff

Kituo has mapped out core areas in which its mandate extends. These areas are: Land, housing, labour, succession and forced migration.

The services are provided to the indigent and the vulnerable through: legal advice, legal representation, legal education, legal empowerment, advocacy and lobbying.

Kituo Cha Sheria has over the years assisted thousands of vulnerable people in Kenya access justice. Kituo also gets support from an active network of over 500 volunteer lawyers in terms of their professional services across the country.

The Forced Migration Programme

The Forced Migration Program along Jogoo Road is a branch office of Kituo Cha Sheria specifically devoted to the welfare of urban refugees in Kenya.

Forced Migration Program was incepted in 2007 when Kituo found itself unable to turn away refugees and asylum seekers, who frequented the office in search for justice and legal representation on various Human Right abuses in their country of asylum.

Thus the Forced Migration program was established at 2008 in Eastleigh. The location of the centre was imperative to ensure accessibility, because the bulk of the target group resides at Eastleigh.

As the clientele, grew there was need to relocate to a different location to reach most of the people. In 2013, the office therefore moved to Jogoo Road. The office acts as the people's watchdog over the implementation of the Refugee Act of 2006, the Constitution and other International instruments in ensuring refugees' rights are realized.

The Forced Migration Programme Mombasa Regional Office

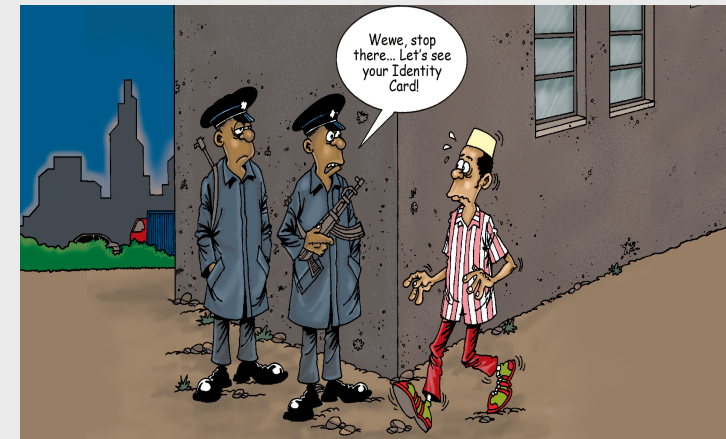
As watchdogs of refugees and asylum seekers in the urban centre, a need analysis exercise was carried out in Mombasa Kwale, Malindi, Voi, Wundanyi, and other towns of the Coast. The coastal region was identified as one of the major urban centres hosting refugees and asylum seekers.

In 2011, with the support of UNHCR the Mombasa FMP office was launched.



Services at Forced Migration Program

- Legal advice
- Legal representation
- Public Interest Litigation
- Detention monitoring
- Mobile legal aid clinics
- Assisting Refugees in obtaining legal documents
- Advocacy and lobbying on Human Rights violations
- Research and Training on Human rights and Refugee Law,
- Referral services to other partners



Issues of Concern for Urban Refugees

- Registration documentation
- Police harassment
- Education
- Lack of knowledge on laws governing refugees
- Encampment and relocation