

KITUO Marks World Refugee Day 2016



Kituo Forced Migration programme staff pose outside Kituo Cha Sheria stand during the World Refugee day celebrations

The World Refugee Day is marked on 20th June and this year 2016 Kituo through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) in Nairobi and Mombasa joined refugees, UNHCR, partner agencies and host communities in commemorating the day whose theme was; 'Get to Know Refugees-People Like You and Me'. The celebrations were held to commemorate the strength, courage, and resilience of millions of refugees around the world with 600,000 of the refugees and asylum seekers being in Kenya.

In Nairobi, the day was celebrated at the National Museum of Kenya where refugees showcased their talents and ability through amazing performances involving music, dances, poetrys, dramas and puppetries.

Most of the shows and performances from refugee groups were focused on the recent announcement from the Government of Kenya to close the Dadaab camp and repatriate Somali refugees.

The Mombasa Forced Migration team on the other hand celebrated the day by holding a talk show on Baraka FM to raise awareness on the plight of refugees-people like you and me-with discussions around the day's theme led by Kituo officers Mary Kitoo and Osborn Kitonga.

The Mombasa team later held an exhibition commemorating the strength and courage of refugees at the Tononoka Grounds in Mombasa where they joined refugees, partner agencies and host communities in celebrating the day.

Kituo at the Pre-World Refugee Day breakfast meeting

Kituo Cha Sheria joined the UNHCR-Kenya and partner agencies on 19th June 2016 for the pre-World Refugee Day media breakfast meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel Nairobi.

The breakfast meeting is an annual event bringing together agencies working around forced migration and refugee rights organizations such as UNHCR Kenya, HIAS, Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), Amnesty International, Kenya; Danish Refugee Council-Kenya Programme, Jesuit Refugee Service - JRS, National Council of Churches of Kenya and the media.

The media breakfast meeting aims at highlighting the theme for world Refugee Day with the 2016 theme being 'Get to Know Refugees-People Like You and Me'. Kituo officers Victor Ondieki and Ferd Moyomba attended the meeting.



Mary Kitoo of Kituo Cha Sheria Mombasa office during the morning talk show at Baraka FM studios

KITUO Trains Dhobi Women on Labour Rights



Dhobi women network participants during the training at Kileleshwa Covenant Community Church

Kituo cha Sheria in conjunction with the Dhobi Women Network carried out a two day labour rights training on 26th-27th May, 2016 at the Kileleshwa Covenant Community Church. The training was geared towards introducing the women to employment and labour relations and especially to give the Dhobi women as domestic workers an overview of labour legislations relevant to their work. 25 women attended the two-day training conducted by Kituo officers Rhodah Maina and Faith Ochien'g.

The Dhobi Women Network is a group of women who carry out day-to-day domestic chores in homes within Nairobi. While the contribution of these domestic workers may go unnoticed, Kituo recognizes their role and seeks to protect their rights to a dignified life by informing them on their basic human rights.

Our quest is to see a society of Justice and equity for all!

KITUO in Court over decision to close Refugee camps



Kituo Lawyer Victor Ondieki (L) after giving an analysis of the refugee situation on KTN News

Kituo cha Sheria Expresses Disapproval of the Government's Decision to Close down refugee camps and the Department of Refugee Affairs Friday 3rd June, 2016 Kituo's Victor Ondieki was in the news after he obtained orders from the High Court summoning Interior PS Karanja Kibicho to appear in court over the closure of the Dadaab Refugee Camp and the department of Refugee Affairs. This followed the communication by the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government on May, 6th 2016, to close down the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps and the Department of Refugee Affairs and to repatriate refugees back to their country, Kituo cha Sheria considers this decision as both misguided and poorly timed. This matter is due for further hearing on July 27th 2016.

KITUO trains Refugee Community Paralegals



Kituo Staff and the trained paralegals pose for a photo after the graduation ceremony

Kituo Cha Sheria in conjunction with UNHCR KENYA and International Rescue Committee successfully empowered 40 community members. 30 of these were awarded certificates because they successfully completed the training. The colorful ceremony was presided over by UNHCR representatives Agnes Mutele and Sophie Mbui, Kituo's Executive Director Gertrude N Angote and representative from various partners.

The training dubbed Community Based Protection Paralegal Training which commenced on Tuesday, May, 3, 2016 took place at the Nomad Palace Hotel, Eastleigh, Nairobi. It was geared towards empowering community leaders and representatives to assist the larger community in addressing certain challenges they face in their quest to access justice. The community leaders comprised of urban refugees from various countries and Kenyans. The rigorous training captured: Basics of Human Rights; Overview of Paralegalism (Legal Aid Act, 2016); Introduction to Civil, Criminal and Evidence

Law; Human Trafficking and Smuggling; Structure and Jurisdiction of Courts in Kenya & the Trial Process; Child Based Protection; Durable Solutions; Introduction to Forced Migration; Refugee Act, 2006; Refugee Rights, Duties and Offences; Legal framework on Refugee Law; Refugee Status Determination; Refugee Identification Documents; National security vis-à-vis Refugee Rights and Categories at Risk in the Refugee Context.

It was a great undertaking as representatives from UNHCR KENYA, International Rescue Committee, REFUGEE CONSORTIUM OF KENYA (RCK), Heshima Kenya, HIAS Africa; Department of Refugee Affairs - DRA, Kenya, among other peer organisations embarked upon various topics within their mandate and experience with the refugees' community. "With the knowledge we have gained, we commit to serve and change our communities through peaceful and cohesive existence," assured the trained paralegals. Together we celebrate the paralegals



The Executive Director Ms. Angote Gerude presents a certificate to one of the participants while Clara Barasa looks on

Key Upcoming Activities JULY - AUG 2016

1. Kituo Birthday celebration July 9
2. Annual Land Symposium in Mombasa July 12-14
3. Community Sensitization Forum July 25th -29th
4. Voluntary Repatriation Forum July 25th – 29th
5. Coastal Urban Refugee Protection Network 28th July
6. Resettlement Training at the UNHCR hub, 14th – 15th July
7. Paralegal training in Mareneni, Malindi Kilifi County Aug
8. Dialogues between government and beneficiaries Aug
9. Quarterly meeting with CLNSA Aug
10. Question and answers ferry experience Aug
11. Market pep talks and merry go rounds
12. Launch of a Justice centre at Malindi rights forum Aug

Kituo's Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting at the Forced Migration Offices



New Kituo staff introduce themselves during the meeting

Kituo cha Sheria held its Bi-monthly programmes meeting for the Nairobi offices at the Forced Migration offices in Jogoo road.

Before the main agenda of the meeting staff took time to discuss the upcoming Kituo birthday on 9th July. An organising committee led by Nathan Kivungi was formed. They were requested to move with speed and invite guests in good time. Staff also discussed the Staff welfare and recommended several changes to its operations. Three new staff members were also introduced to the rest of the staff.

As for the main agenda the Coordinators of Forced Migration Programme (FMP), Legal Aid and Education programme, Advocacy, Governance and Community Partnership, the Finance and Administration Department and Research, Communication and Knowledge Management presented their reports against

set targets, challenges, recommendations and the upcoming activities. The ED together with other members of staff scrutinized each report presented raising issues with a view to improve on delivery for greater impact.

In her closing remarks the ED urged every staff to internalize the Kituo's core values and serve the poor diligently. She reminded them that it was the main reason that Kituo hired them. She congratulated all the programmes for the good work that they were doing and encouraged them to do even better.



Attentive members of staff at the meeting

KITUO Conducts M-HAKI Market Research and Training in Nairobi



Participants pose for a photo after the training

Starting on the 8th June 2016 at the Korogocho Community Justice Centre; 10th June 2016 at the Kibera Community Justice Centre and on 15th June 2016 at the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre, Kituo has been carrying out M-Haki market research and training for community members within where our justice centers are based.

M-Haki-‘Haki Mkononi’ is the use of SMS technology to disseminate legal information to clients and Kituo is currently in the first phase of a three phase implementation process where we’re conducting market research primarily to find out what people are willing to pay for the service.

In addition, Kituo is collecting and analysing data and experiences needed to engage Kituo stakeholders including volunteer advocates, paralegals and community members. This phase is ongoing ahead of the launch of the M-Haki platform and the corresponding advocacy activities. The three Market research and training activities involved around 100 participants representing different groups from within the communities. The

training and research activities were spear-headed by Kituo legal officers Ashioya Biko and Maureen Thuo assisted by the respective community justice centre coordinators.

M-Haki is an innovative and reliable technology developed by Kituo Cha Sheria intended to lessen the costs of accessing justice. To make use of this technology, Kituo has a dedicated mobile number – 0700777333 where the public can text legal questions at a small fee to be answered by Kituo lawyers and volunteer advocates. Questions are gathered from anyone and anywhere and this will save persons the trouble of using commuter fare to come to Kituo’s offices. In other words legal advice is just a click away... Haki Mkononi.

M-Haki follows the idea of delivering basic justice/legal advice to people even for those who use quite basic mobile phones. The platform also serves as an advocacy tool to be used by Kituo paralegals from the community justice centres to build their personal capacity on legal issues and create awareness among the general public on how to access the service directly.



Kituo staff, Maureen Thuo conducts a training to participants



Grace Omuyaku receives her cheque from Kituo lawyer John Mwariri and Boniface Muinde

Grace Omuyaku worked for Telecom Kenya as a personal secretary for over 20 years until 2006 when she and other employees approaching 50 years of age were retrenched. In December the same year, she was paid a lump sum amount of Ksh. 800,000 by the company (Telecom).

After consultation, Grace sought to invest the money in a Nairobi based company called NOSKCID (AFRICA) ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED. According to the agreement, she was supposed to be receiving Ksh. 20,000 per month as interest from her investment for six month then she renews the investment upon wish.

“That only worked for a period of the first six month, then the first four months of the renewed investment, though through struggle,” she recalls. Thereafter, the company went silent, never to deposit any more money to her account or even notify her of anything. It was during this ordeal, in 2009 when a friend of hers (Teresa, former client at Kituo) referred her to Kituo cha Sheria for legal assistance.

She remembers Kituo receiving her warmly and the first step was writing to the company requesting to solve the matter out of court. These efforts proved futile as the company ignored the letter and the matter proceeded to court.

Since Grace could not afford raising court and related fees, Kituo helped her draft a pauper application which succeeded. After going through the long court process the court ruled that Grace be paid a decree of

Ksh. 879,852. The company did not honor this ruling either, to their shock, Grace and Kituo found out that the company had transferred all its assets to an unknown location. This meant that even auctioneering the company’s property was not a possibility. In 2015, the high court ordered that the directors of the company be summoned and when they appeared their lawyers claimed that the company had wound up. Instead the directors proposed to be paying Grace Ksh.50, 000 per month, beginning May the same year only to do it for only one month and stopped.

March 2016, Kituo filed an application to the magistrate for notice to show cause why the director cannot be committed to civil jail or pay the amount and in June 15th, 2016, the court issued a warrant of arrest for the directors risking commitment to civil jail.

This signaled to the defendant (Director) that things were getting worse and so a day later, on 20th June, 2016 he gave out a cheque of Ksh. 100,000 which Kituo lawyer, John Mwariri handed over to Grace Omuyaku, in the presence of another Kituo Officer Boniface Muinde at Kituo cha Sheria gardens. The defendant has further proposed with permission of court to be paying in installments until the whole amount now standing at Ksh. 1.6M is settled.

This development gives Grace lots of hope and a smile on her face. She gave a big thank you to Kituo cha Sheria for walking with her this long journey to see to it that justice prevails and human rights are upheld.

KITUO HOLDS VIDEO SCREENING IN TAITA TAVETA AND KILIFI COUNTIES



Pwani University student leader (lady standing) at Kilifi; explaining the need for tolerance towards 2017 elections

Access to information and public participation in governance went a notch higher courtesy of Kituo Cha Sheria's Mombasa regional office who in conjunction with other partners held a video screening session in Kilifi and Taita Taveta Counties.

The event which took place in June saw various youth from the counties attend where a video is screened to the participants directing their focus to issues of devolution, peaceful elections and peaceful resolution of land matters and discussions held thereafter. These activities took place in Local Video Shops where Kituo Cha Sheria with the support of USAID catered for the participants' viewing fees and the cost of the hall for the time of the screening.

During the period, a number of issues were discussed where recommendations were made, challenges cited and also successes appreciated. Among the issues included; next year's general elections, budget making and corruption in county governments.

Youth, mainly University students from Pwani University expressed their views in the budget making process. The officials present from the Counties informed youth on the opportunities that were available for them within the fiscal year 2016/2017. Being aware that Kenya will hold a general election 8th August next year, matters concerning effective, accountable and transparent electoral system were raised. This was led by call from politicians (especially in the opposition) for reforms in the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) which they cited that there was massive corruption in the commission and that it was working in favour of one side of the political divide. Government officials however said they are not opposed to

reforms in the electoral body but only that such reforms should be in line with the constitution. There was condemnation about the police who were brutally handling demonstrators to the extent of shooting some whose lives were terminated by bullets from their own government. They called upon the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) to help at least bring sanity, responsibility, reason and humanity to the police force.

A majority of the youth also raised concerns over massive corruption and public looting in the counties. They said this was stalling development in the region. For example, the youth cited a case in Taita Taveta County where it was alleged that stalls of the County Government for business people were irregularly awarded. The same story was reported in Kilifi, Mazaras Ward, where the police were reportedly soliciting bribes from young youths who owned video halls. Concerned about these cases, the authorities forwarded the cases to the regional Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission offices where they are still under investigation.

The forum recommended for; more awareness on devolution, need to engage the County Government on the thematic areas where they need to improve on and need for dialogue between the County leadership and their people to improve devolution.



Participants in Wundanyi, Taita-taveta county during the Video Screening Process

KITUO conducts free Legal aid Clinic at the Head office



A Kituo volunteer lawyer attends to one of the clients during the Free Legal Aid clinic

Kituo Cha Sheria (Kituo) on Thursday, 5, 2016 held a one day FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC at the head office. The objective was to reach out to many poor Kenyans with legal problems but can not afford the high fees charged by legal professionals.

The noble endeavor presented an opportunity to interact with poor and deserving Kenyans who find justice expensive to attain. The event also created a platform for Kituo advocates, volunteer advocates and lawyers to celebrate Labour Day, celebrated every first of May, in a unique way, offering Legal advice to the poor common mwananchi on pro-bono basis. This day is also special to Kituo cause labour rights is one of the core mandate areas. Others being land, Refugee and housing rights.

This venture attracted clients from all over Kenya who thronged Kituo's head office as early as 6.30 am. Many clients with diverse legal problems were given legal assistance free of charge. The event is normally dedicated to giving a chance to the large number of clients that Kituo may not be able to accommodate in our daily busy schedule.

During such events Kituo welcomes its volunteer advocates and Students Association for Legal Aid and Research (SALAR) from Nairobi University for assistance. The lawyers interview the clients and offer appropriate advice. If need be a follow up process is initiated through appointments.

The Clinic assisted 44 men and 23 women clients. Of these 23 had labour related matters, 2 had housing related matters, 18 land and succession and 19 had Legal issues on human rights violations. 9 group clients were also assisted.

We continue to provide legal empowerment to the poor and marginalized to realize our vision of a society of Justice and equity for all.



Kituo lawyers Rhoda maina and Maureen Thuo attend to clients during the Clinic