

KITUO CHA SHERIA LAUNCHES ITS STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2024



Kituo cha Sheria Board of Directors members with invited guests at the launch

Kituo Cha Sheria on 21st December 2020 launched its Strategic Plan at the head office grounds. The new plan is themed ‘Realizing Sustainable Development: Strengthening Access to Justice and Promoting Human Rights’ and will run from the year 2020 to 2024. This new roadmap seeks greater realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 on access to justice at national, regional, and international levels.

The plan has four main strategic and four enabling objectives that will contribute towards the achievement of our organizational vision and mission.

The ceremony was officially opened by Kituo Cha Sheria’s Board of Directors chairperson, Mr. Justus Muniyithia who appreciated the secretariat and the Board for working closely to develop a simple, concise, and very achievable strategy for Kituo. “With the last strategic period having ended in 2019, the Board began developing a new strategy in 2020 and undertaking an organizational capacity assessment. The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and its implementation matrix is now ready for adoption by Members. A lot of work, consultation and thought has been put towards the development of the Strategic Plan” Said Mr. Justus.

In her welcoming remarks, Kituo’s Executive Director Dr. Annette Mbogo stated that the implementation matrix that accompanies the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan provides guidelines that

will enable the organization achieve the strategic stated objectives. “With strict compliance, KITUO can only set itself on an upwards trajectory.” Added Dr. Annette while taking the attendees through the four main strategic and enabling objectives and Kituo’s work. Due to Covid 19 restrictions on gathering the event was also beamed live to accommodate all our guests. Most of the guests congratulated Kituo for the strides made and expressed optimism that with the new Strategic Plan, Kituo would greatly enhance access to justice in the country.

Among the guests who attended the launch physically and virtually included; Aimee Ongeso, a representative from Namati, Samwel Olando-Pamoja Trust, Tom Were- ACT, Clifford Msiska- (PASI), Dr. Ruth Aura Odhiambo-FOLLAP, Sebastian Weber/ Schmidt - GIZ-MHPSS, Dr. Wambua Kituku-UNDP-AMKENI WAKENYA, Faith Alubbe - Kenya Land Alliance, Gitahi Githuku-AJWS



Participants follow proceedings from Live coverage monitors during the launch of the Strategic plan

KITUO trains persons with disability as paralegals in Kwale County



Brenda Dosio and Alice from Kenya National Commission of Human Rights addressing the paralegals.

Kituo Cha Sheria trained persons with disability as paralegals in Kwale County. 15 paralegals living with disabilities benefitted from the one-week training conducted by Kituo Cha Sheria in partnership with The Outstanding Abilities Kenya. Madam Grace Okumu, a Board of Directors member officially opened the training that took place at the Mtakuja Adult Centre in Kwale County from 14th December 2020 to 18th December 2020.

The aim of the activity was to enlighten the paralegals in matters concerning law such as Constitutional Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Criminal Law, and Human Right. The event was also attended by Hon Joe Omido (the Senior Resident Magistrate-Kwale County), and Brenda Dosio from the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights (KNCHR) among others.

KITUO staff in YOGA training for mental health improvement



Kituo Staff during the YOGA session at the Head Office

Kituo Cha Sheria’s Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team conducted Staff care YOGA session to the Head Office staff at the Kituo gardens.

This is a monthly session that is alternated by staff debrief sessions. The session was conducted by a yoga trainer supported by MHPSS team.

The session served to energize the staff and helped to release built up tensions.

KITUO conducts free legal aid clinic in Nyahururu, Laikipia County



Kituo advocates attending to clients during the legal aid clinic held at Nyahururu town

Kituo Cha Sheria staff at the Legal Aid and Education Programme Tracy Wanjiku Wachira and Cyprine Momanyi conducted a free legal aid clinic on 30th November 2020 in Nyahururu. KITUO was able to screen 16 Clients on 30th November 2020. Kituo staff and volunteer advocates screened the clients. The nature of

the cases noted were diverse but mostly land cases and succession issues.

The large number of clients with land issues is attributed to the fact that land is a critical issue in Laikipia County with most of the residents in Nyahururu practicing subsistence and commercial farming.

KITUO hosts Webinar



Kituo Cha Sheria hosted a webinar to discuss inclusivity for persons with disabilities. This was in line with 2020's theme:

“Building back better: towards an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world by, for and with persons with disabilities”.

The webinar included interactive discussions on the importance of fostering an inclusive culture and responding to the urgent needs of people with disabilities in all aspects of society, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

KITUO Visits Kamiti Prison Justice Centre



Kituo staffs Tobias Mwadime,(left) Jairo Sila and John Mwariri (in suit) together with the Sauti East Africa team comprising of Edith Aoko and Sylvia Kitua

Kituo Cha Sheria on 3rd December 2020 received a courtesy call from the Sauti East Africa Limited (Sauti). The courtesy call was a follow up to discuss a memorandum of understanding that Kituo had signed with Sauti.

The partnership will see Kituo provide Sauti with legal and human rights information (Legal Content Support) through Sauti's digital platforms, which will in turn help traders, farmers, and businesses across East Africa that Sauti works

with. This will increase access to justice for women and participation of women in economic activities, with tailor-made and representative legal and human rights information that considers women's issues in business and other areas of their lives.

The Sauti team comprised of Edith Aoko a project assistant and Sylvia Kitua the business operations manager while Kituo was represented by Tobias Mwadime and John Mwariri

KITUO holds annual paralegal learning forum in Nakuru County



Michael Odhiambo, paralegal and the coordinator Korogocho justice centre contributing to the discussion during the paralegal summit.

Kituo Cha Sheria organised the inaugural annual paralegal learning forum at Pelican Lodge, Nakuru County from 10th to 12th December 2020.

The three-day forum provided an opportunity for paralegals from across the country to come together to exchange experiences, successes, and discuss strategies for addressing some of the challenges they face in executing their programs. The highly interactive forum provided a platform for collaboration with expert-led discussions to help identify and expose different views, peer-to-peer learning and exchange of best practices.

The summit included Presentations on the emerging legal issues; Legal Aid Act, e-filing, PASUNE and justice issues arising from Covid -19 pandemic. The discussions revolved around the need to recognize the role of paralegals in promoting access to justice in local communities, the issue of accreditation under the Legal Aid Act, strengthening the capacity of existing paralegal support networks at both national and regional levels, Sustainability of justice centres, and strengthening the linkages between formal and alternative justice systems

in promoting equal access to justice.

Speaking during the opening ceremony, Kituo Executive Director, Dr. Annette Mbogoh acknowledged the Paralegals as critical pillar in enhancing access to justice through public education and free legal services in remote and marginalized areas.

While giving his keynote address, Okiya Omtatah an activist and human rights defender encouraged the paralegals to teach communities about the law since this was a key tool in the fight against human rights violations. He advised the participants to always use avenues that are likely to deliver results. “As paralegals you should have tools of documentation to record injustices. Never be afraid of doing the right thing, choose your fights carefully, be diplomatic and create connections. Most important equip yourselves with knowledge.” Said Omtatah.



Kituo Staff and Paralegals who attended pose for a group photo after the Summit

MHAKI “Haki Mkononi”

KITUO clients and members of the public can access legal advice and information simply by sending an SMS to 0700777333. Send your legal question and include your name and location.

KITUO holds free legal aid clinic



Kituo staff register clients as they come to the free legal aid clinic at Kituo Head office

Kituo Cha Sheria held a one-day free legal aid clinic on 10th December 2020 at the Kituo Cha Sheria Gardens to commemorate the International Day of Human Rights.

The event enabled KITUO's beneficiaries to present their legal issues to KITUO's advocates, volunteer advocates, and paralegals and receive assistance. The Clinic assisted a total of 71 beneficiaries, 29 being women and 41 being men. The legal issues ranged from labour, housing, land, succession, constitutional and criminal matters

Following the success of the events carried out during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, partnerships were strengthened towards ensuring access to justice for the poor and marginalized.

Furthermore, KITUO increased awareness of its beneficiaries on various human rights issues. Clients who attended the legal aid clinic and needed to institute legal proceedings were issued appointments to be attended to by KITUO advocates.



Clients waiting to be attended to by kituo advocates, paralegals and Volunteer advocates



Kituo advocates attend to clients during the legal aid clinic held at kituo grounds

KITUO participates in the 2nd Kenya School of Law Annual Conference 2020



Kituo Cha Sheria at the 2nd Kenya School of Law Annual Conference 2020

Date: 23rd - 24th November 2020 | Venue: KSL Karen campus, Nairobi Kenya

Hosted by  Kenya School of Law

Kituo Cha Sheria took part in the 2nd Kenya School of Law Annual Conference 2020. The two days conference with the theme "lawyers, constitutionalism & globalization" took place on 23rd and 24th November 2020 at KSL Karen campus, Nairobi Kenya.

Kituo was represented by Yunia Ndhine, the Coordinator, Forced Migration Programme who presented an abstract for Panel on examination of the challenges faced by the poor and marginalized in access to justice in the digital age.

KITUO hosts Webinar commemorating World Aids Day

CELEBRATING THE 32ND EDITION OF WORLD AIDS DAY WEBINAR

KITUO CHA SHERIA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HIV TRIBUNAL AND NATIONAL NETWORK OF PLHAS IN KENYA (NEPHA) WILL HOST A WEBINAR COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS DAY ON 1ST DEC. 2020 FROM 2 - 3 PM (EAT)

PANELISTS



Helen Namisi
Chair of the HIV & AIDS Tribunal, Advocate, Lecturer, Professional Mediator & Certified Secretary.



John Mwariri
Advocate, Coordinator legal Aid & Education Program, Kituo Cha Sheria.



Jacqueline Wambui
Activist, Leads the CHAI-UniAid Optimal ARV Project Community Advisory Board, of the Atracob Treatment Access Partnership.



SESSION MODERATOR
Diana Righa
Programme Officer Kituo Cha Sheria

JOIN THE WEBINAR ON THE LINK
<https://bit.ly/36nKYxG>

Meeting ID: 847 6033 4186
Passcode: 206254

TUESDAY
1ST DECEMBER
2PM - 3PM



Kituo Cha Sheria in Collaboration with the HIV Tribunal and National Network of PLHAS in Kenya (NEPHA) hosted a webinar to commemorate the world Aids Day celebrated on 1st Dec. 2020 every year.

The theme was; "Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility". This theme emphasized the importance of individuals, countries and the global community uniting in taking responsibility to address HIV/ AIDS amidst the growing list of challenges derailing ongoing global efforts today including the COVID-19 pandemic.

In their discussions, the panelist examined the effect that covid-19 has had on the HIV/ AIDS response in the Country and discussed innovative ways of combating the two pandemics while ensuring the gains made against HIV/AIDS are safeguarded.

Helen Namisi, Chair of the HIV & AIDS Tribunal expressed her concern on how the world has shifted its focus to COVID-19 and information concerning the pandemic. "Many news channels have reduced sharing

of information about HIV/ AIDs prevention, testing, and treatment. There is also a reduced number of HIV related information, education and communication (ICE) material being distributed. HIV should always remain a public health concern." Said Namisi.

Recently the Ministry of Health in Kenya indicated a significant drop in the number of people seeking medication at health facilities. This suggests that PLHIV may be avoiding health facilities and clinics in fear of how the country has responded to COVID-19.

John Mwariri, Advocate, Coordinator legal Aid & Education Program, Kituo Cha Sheria noted that there has also been a rise of Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases during the Pandemic.

"Gender Based Violence is associated with the increased risk of STI and HIV through a number of indirect pathways. This risk occurs both through direct infection as a result of rape and coerced sex and indirectly as a result of women's inability to protect themselves, seek health care and increased risky behavior and substance abuse." Said Jacqueline Wambui.

KITUO Annual Paralegal Awards (KAPA)



Jamia Abdulrahim (left) receiving an award from Dr. Annette Mbogo the Executive Director Kituo Cha Sheria

The Kituo Cha Sheria annual paralegal summit culminated in a glamorous gala dinner at the Pelican Hotel in Nakuru county.

The summit was aimed at celebrating the achievements of Paralegals from across Kenya. This was the first ceremony of its kind in Kenya which focused on rewarding paralegals for the good work that they do in the community justice centres across the country.

The paralegal of the year award was presented to Madam Jamia Abdulrahim Mustafa from Kibra Community Justice Centre for consistently demonstrating professionalism and dedication to enhancing access to justice for community members throughout the year. She went beyond paralegalism and demonstrated selflessness and efficiency.

Madam Jamia particularly was instrumental in the filing of the police brutality case where victims of excessive and unwarranted force by police are seeking compensation from the government.

The event was graced by the Chair of the Kituo Board of Directors, Mr. Justus Muniyithia who recognized the role of paralegals in promoting access to justice in local communities.

Kituo's Executive Director Dr. Annette Mbogoh pledged Kituo's support to promote and enhance paralegals' capacity to help the most vulnerable and marginalized

groups in local communities to access justice.

Other Guests included, Madam Mercy Wambua, a Board member and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Law Society of Kenya and Dr. Dan Juma, representative from UNDP-Amkeni.

The event was organized by Kituo Cha Sheria under the Advocacy governance and community partnerships program supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands and Mott Foundation under a joint objective to promote access to justice for the poor and marginalized.



Jamia Abdulrahim (left) receiving an award from Mr. Justus Muniyithya, Chair of the Kituo BOD



Mr. Ojuni Ojalla, Kituo staff (in suit) awards Turkana justice centre.

KITUO conducts free legal aid clinic in Kittingela, Kajiado County



A client receiving legal assist from volunteer advocate during a legal aid clinic in Kittingela Kajiado

Kituo Cha Sheria staff at the Legal Aid and Education Programme John Mwariri and Tracy Wanjiku Wachira conducted a volunteer advocate recruitment drive 16th November 2020 and thereafter proceeded to conduct a legal aid clinic on 17th November 2020 in Kajiado County. Our recruitment drive and training session took place on 16th November 2020 at Galaxy Resort in Kittingela. In attendance were representatives from the HIV/AIDS Tribunal who gave their presentation outlining the work they do and the nature of the clients they assist and their special vulnerabilities. We were successful in training and recruiting 16 advocates during the event and several others including the LSK Chair, Kajiado Chapter took with them forms that they promised to share with their colleagues and submit to us through our work email addresses. The nature of areas of practice of the advocates we recruited diverse and we were able to recruit Advocates who specialize in conveyancing and criminal cases, areas that we solely do referrals on. This good number of mostly young advocates was promising as they expressed great interest in giving back to society as they had recently started up their law firms. They were very receptive of the work that we do and were eager to join the scheme. KITUO was able to screen 26 Clients at the Maasai Town

Hall on 17th November 2020. Most of the clients we attended to and screened learnt of our free legal aid services from posters that had been circulated in Kittingela town. Some of them had been invited by advocates who we had recruited on 16th November 2020. We assisted the volunteer advocates in attendance screen the clients in filling our standard screening form. Notably, we did not receive any clients that were persons living with disabilities, a target group for Kituo Cha Sheria. The nature of the cases we noted upon screening the clients was diverse. We received mostly land cases and succession issues. This is because land is a critical issue in Kajiado County because most of the residents are pastoralists and practice agriculture. We also received clients with labour issues, one client with a criminal claim and 3 with commercial disputes. We were also able to share details on the M-Haki platform that we shared with our clients and explained how they could receive legal services through the free text message platform without having to travel long distances to get assistance



Volunteer advocates who participated in the training in Kajiado

KITUO too part in the 16 days of activism campaign



Janet Kosgei, a Kituo advocate writing her message on SGBV on a mood board.

November, 25, 2020 marked the beginning of 16-days of activism which culminated on December 10 2020 the International Human Rights Day. The theme was “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!” Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a manifestation of the existing power inequalities between women and men, girls and boys and encompasses a wide array of human rights violations. Violence against women has long been recognized as a global epidemic, and the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly escalated threats to women’s safety, security and access to justice. The devastating ripple effects of the virus such as overburdened health systems, the global economic downturn, school closures and national lockdowns have created a “shadow pandemic” of gender-based violence (GBV). Under lockdown and other physical distancing measures to curb the spread of the virus,

women around the world have been confined to their homes, many out of reach of service providers and some trapped in quarantine with their abusers. In addition, rising stress levels, strains on economic resources and isolation from support networks further contribute to the increased risks of GBV during COVID-19. Lockdowns have limited access to essential services for survivors of GBV, such as health facilities, police stations and courts. As in the previous years, Kituo joined the world, campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women. Kituo conducted a number of webinars that called for global action to increase worldwide awareness and create opportunities for discussion about challenges and solutions. Kituo through its social media platforms engaged the world and called for global action and participation at whatever level to appreciate and acknowledge survivors of sexual gender based violence (SGBV).

KITUO Holds 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Kituo Cha Sheria held its 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21st December, 2020, at the Head office. The annual event brought together Members to receive program and financial reports and the financial audit of the previous year.

Led by the Board of Directors chair, Mr. Justus Maithya Muniyithya, the Members were taken through programmatic as well as financial reports. They lauded the effort put in by Kituo members of staff and the Board of Directors throughout the year in pursuit of access to justice for the poor and marginalized people in society. The Executive Director (ED), Dr. Annette Mbogoh presented to the members the Secretariat’s progress report as well during the AGM.

KITUO conducts legal aid clinic and volunteer advocates recruitment drive in Kitale



Volunteer Advocates during Volunteer Recruitment and Training Workshop

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Legal Aid and Education Programme (LAEP) conducted a legal aid clinic and volunteer advocates recruitment drive in Kitale, Trans Nzoia County. The LAEP team in conjunction with the recruited volunteer advocates and the Catholic Kitale branch conducted a free legal aid clinic at the Kitale Catholic Church. 20 community members presented their legal

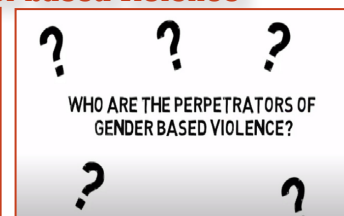
issues to advocates and received legal assistance.

Fifteen (15) Advocates from Kitale attended the meeting. The meeting began with opening remarks from Ms. Diana Righa followed by a presentation on Kituo Cha Sheria’s history by Mr. Nathan Kivungi. To conclude the meeting, LSK Vice Chairperson Mr. Aggrey Karani gave a vote of thanks.

KITUO Produces Video Logs (VLOGS) on Human Rights and Sexual Gender based violence



KITUO CHA SHERIA - Human Rights Part 1



KITUO CHA SHERIA - Human Rights Part 2



KITUO CHA SHERIA - SGBV Part 1



KITUO CHA SHERIA - Human Rights Part 2

Kituo Kituo cha Sheria through the support of GIZ produced four Video Logs (VLOGS) on human rights and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. The videos were developed and disseminated on KITUO’s social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube.

The Vlogs are simplified messaging on steps to take for victims of violence either domestic violence or sexual gender-based violence. The VLOG scripts were prepared and voiced by both Martha Ogutu and Janet Kosgei.

The link to the videos are as follows:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGn4py_B8KM&t=52s
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7tjQm28LNU&t=9s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRMA6Xk1M7A&t=11s>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckjcELE_4-E&t=1s