

KITUO Attends the East African Legal Aid Networks Conference in Nairobi



Appellate Judge Phillip Waki speaks at the conference of the East African Legal Aid Networks in Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria attended the conference of the East African Legal Aid Networks, organized by International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the East Africa Community (EAC) Secretariat and the National Legal Aid Service (NLAS). The Conference was held at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya from the 5th to 8th November 2018. IDLO (through its Africa Initiative Program) in collaboration with the National Legal Aid Service (NLAS), the Paralegal Support Network (PASUNE) and the East African Committee on Judicial Education (EAJEC) under the auspices of the East Africa Community (EAC) Secretariat supported this inaugural East African legal aid regional network meeting. The Conference was held under the theme-“Promoting Access to Justice through state-funded legal aid schemes: Building platforms for the engagement of legal aid networks and the formal justice systems”. Hon. Justice Paul Kihara Kariuki the Attorney General of Kenya gave the key note address during the opening of the conference and said that it is in defence of public interest that access to justice remains a fundamental priority. The Conference provided a platform for experience sharing by legal aid organizations from the East Africa Region; including lessons learnt, challenges and good practices. Participants were in agreement that the right of access to justice guaranteed under Constitution is illusory without legal aid. Kituo’s Executive Director Gertrude Angote was a panelist in discussions around

innovations on various approaches to legal aid delivery and sustainability during the 4-days conference. The conference brought together about 50 participants drawn from a pool of policy makers, legal aid practitioners including representatives of the respective Ministries of Justice, the Judiciary Training Institutes in the region, the secretariat of the EAC, regional Bar Associations, Offices of Public Prosecution, pro bono lawyers, the East Africa Law Society, relevant UN agencies and other development partners, Paralegal support networks, members of the Civil Society, law schools in Universities that operate legal aid clinics, Faith Based Organizations and Community Based Organizations from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan.

In addition, various experts experienced in the establishment and administration of legal aid schemes were in attendance to share their experiences. The conference ultimately sought to enhance established links between civil society legal aid providers, including paralegals, NGOs and state justice actors in the East Africa region.



Participants pose for a group photo after the first day of the East African Legal Aid Networks at the Safari Park Hotel

KITUO Conducts Plea Bargaining Training for Advocates & Paralegals



Kituo Program Officer Zedekiah Adika conducts one of the training sessions

Kituo Cha Sheria in collaboration with the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG), Haki Africa and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) conducted plea bargaining training for advocates and paralegals in Mombasa County at the Royal Court Hotel on 20th November 2018. The training benefiting 25 participants was facilitated by Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP). The activity was undertaken towards implementation of the Mombasa Action Plan, a policy document agreed upon among key stakeholders in Mombasa. The document is geared towards Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism in the County. Kituo was represented by Zedekiah Adika, a Programme officer at the coast regional office.

KITUO Conducts a Training on Refugee Law to Police Officers



An Expert during a session of the Police Training on Refugee Law

Kituo Cha Sheria’s Forced Migration Programme (FMP) conducted Police Training on Refugee Law at The Pride Inn Hotel-Westlands, Nairobi. The 2-day training took place on the 22nd and 23rd November, 2018 and saw over 60 police officers drawn from various stations around the Nairobi metropolitan area trained on relevant aspects of refugee’s rights under the Refugees Act of 2006. Supported by UNHCR-Kenya Kituo through FMP assists in coordination and training of officers involved in protection and targeted assistance programmes for refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya. Refugees fleeing war or persecution are often in a very vulnerable situation. They have been deprived of the protection from their own state. The Forced Migration Programme (FMP) delivers a whole range of protection services to persons of concern.

KITUO Conducts Refresher Training for Community Paralegals in Mombasa



Community paralegals pose with their certificates after graduation at the White Rhino Hotel, Tudor- Mombasa County; joined by Dr. Annette Mbogoh (seated third from left) and Kituo AGM member Grace Okumu

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted refresher training for 35 community paralegals in Mombasa County. The activity which took place at the White Rhino Hotel, Tudor- Mombasa County; going on for 4 days, brought together community legal volunteers and human rights defenders from the Kisauni (KICODI) Community Justice Centre in Mombasa.

Day 1 of the training covered introduction to paralegalism including qualities and skills of a community paralegal and Sexual and Gender Based Violence. The training was conducted by legal officers from Kituo's Coast regional office, volunteer advocates and other partners took place from the 14th-20th November 2018. The Kisauni (KICODI) community paralegals were also taken through Alternative Dispute Resolution methods in Kenya i.e. Mediation,

Negotiation, Arbitration and Conciliation. ADR and Traditional Dispute Resolution Methods (TDRM) processes contribute to enhanced access to justice by all, and in particular among the poor people; enhanced access to justice also strengthens the rule of law.

Another session undertaken was on land and environmental law with participants being taken through the new land laws, types of ownership in land, and an overview on the National Land Commission. Discussions were also on the Environment and Land Court and the procedures therein. The graduating community paralegals were presented with certificates during a ceremony officiated by the Regional office coordinator Dr. Annette Mbogoh and Kituo AGM member Grace Okumu.

KITUO hosts a team from PILPG Kenya Office at the Head Office



Kituo staff and visitors from the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) Kenya office at the Head Office in Nairobi

Kituo cha Sheria on 22nd November 2018 hosted a team from the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) Kenya office at

the Head Office in Nairobi. The team was on a regular project monitoring visit focusing on access to justice and protecting the rights of the poor and marginalized. Kituo remains a leader in the human rights sector in Kenya with over 45 years of experience serving the poor and marginalized while PILPG is a global pro bono law firm providing free legal assistance to parties involved in peace negotiations, drafting post-conflict constitutions, and war crimes prosecution/transitional justice.

Key Upcoming Activities Jan - Feb 2019

1. Program and Organizational Workplans for the year 2019- Jan
2. Client legal advice and representation Jan - Feb
3. Legal aid clinics within Nairobi and Mombasa Jan - Feb
4. Radio Talk show in Kisumu - Feb
5. Legal advice to clients through the M-Haki platform
6. M-Haki Regional conference on "The Use of ICT in Making Access to Justice a Reality"- Feb
7. Imarisha Haki project trainings in Isiolo, Nairobi and Kwale Jan - Feb
8. Meru prison paralegal refresher training, access to justice day celebrations and documentation of successes- Jan
9. Nyeri prison paralegal refresher training, access to justice day celebration and documentation of successes - Jan
10. Legal Aid clinics with the Refugee Community in urban settlements - Nairobi and Mombasa-Jan - Feb

KITUO Conducts training with CUC members in Malindi, Kilifi County



Kituo's Philip Musamia leads a training session with Court Users Committee (CUC) members in Malindi

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) conducted a 2 days training session with Court Users Committee (CUC) members on the 7th-8th November, 2018 in Malindi. The Malindi CUC training attracted participants from major stakeholders in the management of refugees including the Kenya Police, Prison constables, Immigration, the Judiciary, Probation office and the Children's Department. The CUC members were enlightened on basic refugee law; legal framework, relevant refugee institutions/organizations, registration processes and documents for refugees. The CUC trainings are

useful as refugees and asylum seekers have constant interaction with courts mainly on issues of unlawful presence within the country and residing outside designated areas.

The FMP officers visit detention centres (police cells and prisons) in order to ascertain whether any asylum-seeker or refugee is detained. They also follow-up on detention cases already known and intervene in case of detention on charges of unlawful presence or for residing outside the refugee camps. The training was spearheaded by Kituo officers Maureen Elavisa and Philip Musamia together with other partners in the refugee protection sector.

KITUO's Annual General Meeting 2018



Members of Kituo's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in a group photo at the Best Western-Meridian Hotel, Nairobi after the annual meeting

Kituo Cha Sheria (Kituo) held its 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 7th December, 2018, at the Best Western-Meridian Hotel, Nairobi. The annual event brought together Members of the Kituo AGM including the Board of Directors, Program heads and representative of staff to receive program and financial reports and the financial audit of the previous year.

Led by the Board of Directors chair, Mr. Anthony Mulekyo, the Members were taken through programmatic as well as financial reports. The financial Audit of the previous year was also presented to the members. 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), Gertrude Angote presented to the members an award from members of the Alternative Justice System (AJS) Baraza La Uwiano (Maridhiano),

Nzoia Chapter. The AJS Nzoia Chapter members awarded Kituo for the great work done in 2018 in promoting access to justice using alternative community based approaches. The meeting ended at around 3.00pm with lunch being served at the Hotel and each member carrying home a gift voucher as a way of thanking them for their dedication in service. Kituo wishes to thank its development partners notably, Misereor, UNHCR, GIZ/CPS, Commonwealth-Redress, American Jewish World Service, and the Royal Dutch Embassy for providing financial and technical assistance towards the implementation of our various programmes/projects in an eventful 2018. Kituo also extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Kenya for providing a conducive environment for our operations and for the collaborations that Kituo has enjoyed through the various Ministries and government agencies.

KITUO Conducts a training workshop for Refugee Leaders in Nairobi County



Refugee leaders follow proceedings during their training organized in Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria in conjunction with UNHCR-Kenya, Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) and RefuSHE conducted a two-day training workshop for newly elected refugee leaders from Nairobi. The training that took place on 15th and 16th November 2018 at

Amnesty International Offices in Nairobi aimed at equipping the refugee leaders with aid mechanisms to address the refugees' problems. The training saw a total of 20 refugee leaders from Nairobi trained on how to go about their work; instructed on their duties and responsibilities as leaders, educated on the various agencies involved in refugee matters, refugee rights and duties. The training also provided a chance for the leaders to commit to the duties they will have been trained on and receive their badges as a sign of the said commitment.

Success Story from Kamukunji Community Justice Centre - Joseph Onyango



Kituo legal officers and community paralegals in a group photo at the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre, Nairobi

Joseph Onyango approached the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre (KCJC) seeking legal advice and possible representation regarding a succession matter in his rural home in Siaya County. Mr. Onyango was a founding member of KCBONET, a local Community Based Organization which is the host entity of the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre. He was therefore not new to the work undertaken by the centre. He sought legal assistance on a succession matter undertaken in 2013.

As a resident of Majengo, Nairobi, Mr. Onyango was not aware of the process of succession that was initiated and completed illegally by a member of his family of seven brothers. The area land registrar undertook subdivision without consultation and disinherited some members of the estate. In December 2016, with assistance from the justice centre coordinator Mr.

Ezekiel Njenga; Mr. Onyango started the journey of correcting an injustice. They revived and followed up the case at the Siaya and Kisumu Law Courts, for three years they together uncovered a lot of misinformation, lies and forgeries in the succession documents used including fake names and signatures.

Their hard work paid off when the Confirmation of Grant was issued by the Court sitting in Kisumu for the Estate of Mzee Obaki to be re-distributed correctly and involve all members of the Estate. The Court issued orders for the title deeds to be surrendered to the land registrar. The succession process will kick-off on the 31st of January, 2019.

Mr. Onyango says he's been helped a lot by the community justice paralegals and while the process has been long the family has got another opportunity to do the right thing and be mindful of all family members.

MHAKI "Haki Mkononi"

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KITUO Concludes the 16 Days of Activism - "Hear Me Too"



Kituo's Executive Director, Gertrude Angote receives a memorabilia from victims during the 'Hear Me Too' campaign memorial lunch in Nairobi

On 7th December 2018, Kituo Cha Sheria held a 'Hear Me Too' campaign memorial lunch with Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) survivors. The event held at the Best Western-Meridian Hotel, Nairobi; was part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an international campaign running from November 25 (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), to December 10 (Human Rights Day).

The classy afternoon event brought together members of the civil society, Kituo Annual General Meeting members, gender champions and community members.

This was the closing event of the 16 Days of Activism campaign and was held under

the theme of 'Unpacking the Reparations Agenda in Kenya'. Participants went through the Kenya Reparation Bill, 2017 which seeks to create an agency that will receive, probe, evaluate and process applications for reparation claims. Other activities conducted in the afternoon included a river-of-life exercise, a body mapping exercise and a meditation session. Kituo Cha Sheria partnered with Grace Agenda in undertaking the event supported by the Royal Dutch Embassy and shall continue to honor the lives lost to gender based violence in Kenya; preach messages of hope to survivors and pursue various strategies needed to curb SGBV and empower survivors.



Jackline Mutere of Grace Agenda leads an exercise during the 'Hear Me Too' campaign memorial lunch

KITUO Holds an End of Year Legal Aid Clinic



Kituo Cha Sheria clients, community paralegals and staff joined by Andreas Kahler from Misereor for a group photo during the end of year legal aid clinic day

On the International Human Rights Day -10 December –and as the World marked the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Kituo Cha Sheria held a one day FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC at the Head Office in Nairobi. The day's event was the last legal clinic for the year 2018 and presented an opportunity to interact with the public Kituo serves. Kituo continues to provide legal empowerment to the poor and marginalized.

Kituo also hosted Mr. Andreas Kahler from Misereor during the day's event who was on a visit to Kenyan Misereor partners as well as relevant civil society actors in Nairobi. The much awaited endeavor attracted clients from all over Kenya who thronged Kituo's head office as early as 6.30 am.

Clients were given legal assistance free of charge with people coming from as far as Kajiado, Bungoma, Laikipia, Machakos, Meru and Nyandarua. The annual end-of-year event is normally dedicated to giving a chance to the large number of clients that Kituo may not be able to accommodate in its daily busy schedule. During such events Kituo welcomes volunteer advocates and various practicing lawyers as well as University of Nairobi's Student's Association for Legal Aid and Research (SALAR) to convene so as to offer Legal Aid services to various clients who otherwise find it very expensive to engage a lawyer in their quest for justice. The lawyers interview the clients and offer appropriate advice. If need be a follow up process is initiated through appointments.



Kituo's legal officer Samantha Oswago screens clients during the legal aid clinic

Success Story from Kamukunji Community Justice Centre - Vincent Onano Ondego



Mr. Vincent Onano Ondego (white shoe soles in hand) with Kituo staff and community paralegals at the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre

Vincent Onano Ondego approached the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre (KCJC) seeking legal advice and possible representation regarding a dispute with his landlord. Vincent Onano Ondego, a humble, middle-aged man with a family of seven children approached the justice centre in 2018, seven years since he'd heard about the services offered by the justice centre.

Sometime in 2011, a friend living with Onano in Nairobi's Majengo neighborhood had informed him of legal assistance he got from the justice centre in a dispute with his tenant. Mr. Onano had worked as a night guard for much of his adult life struggling with raising his family when he unexpectedly lost his job in 2015. Even with this setback, life had to move on and Onano set up a makeshift 'kibanda' on an open space adjacent to his house to start a shoe-making and repair business. Mr. Onano, the cobbler thrived in this area and worked at his station until sometime in August 2018 when he served his landlord with notice to move house. The landlord turned hostile and claimed ownership of the business operation space as part of his property. Onano could not fathom this claim as he had painstakingly built up his premises over time and it was the only source of livelihood for his family.

Afterwards the landlord locked his work station illegally, Onano visited the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre to get assistance. He was directed to the assistant chief who offered authorization for Onano

to continue with his work as the kibanda was on a road reserve and not on the landlord's property. The justice centre also wrote a letter to the landlord asking him to cease the illegal eviction. Armed with the two letters, Mr. Onano went back to continue with his work, however, the wealthy landlord co-opted other local administration officials and police officers to disregard this legal position. Guided by the community paralegals, Onano approached the rent restriction tribunal and filed a claim. The tribunal is established under Section 4 of the Rent Restriction Act, Cap 296, Laws of Kenya and is mandated to determine disputes between landlords and tenants of protected tenancies, which are residential buildings whose rent does not exceed Ksh. 2500.

On 26th November, 2018 the hearing was conducted and Mr. Onano got orders protecting him from eviction even as he self-represented himself with the guidance of the community paralegals. The orders were served to the area police division head for enforcement and after a tedious process of follow-up process, the business premises were opened and Mr. Onano was back in operation. Mr. Onano was very grateful to the Kamukunji Community Justice centre and the community paralegals for walking the long journey with him to protect his rights. A lot of time was lost when his kibanda was illegally closed but now Mr. Onano is a happy cobbler fending for his family and serving the community.

KITUO Trains Court Users Committee members in Mwingi, Kitui County



Some of the Court Users Committee (CUC) members in Mwingi during the training at the Summer Spring Hotel, Mwingi

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme conducted a 2 days (29th-30th November, 2018) training session with Court Users Committee (CUC) members in Mwingi, Kitui County.

The Mwingi CUC training took place at the Summer Spring Hotel, Mwingi and attracted participants from major stakeholders in the management of refugees including the Kenya Police, Prison constables, Immigration, the Judiciary, Probation office and the Children's Department. The OCPD, Mwingi and the OCS-Ukasi Police Station were part of the 20 participants in attendance. The CUC members were all enlightened on basic refugee law; legal framework, relevant refugee institutions/organizations, registration processes and documents

for refugees. CUC trainings are useful as refugees and asylum seekers have constant interaction with Courts mainly on issues of unlawful presence within the country and residing outside designated areas. As part of activities in Mwingi the FMP team also conducted a border monitoring mission in conjunction with the Refugees Affairs Secretariat and UNHCR-Kenya.

The border monitoring exercises seek out persons of concern who require legal assistance and protection by visiting police stations and Courts of Law. The team undertook the monitoring in Thika, Kithimani, Matuu and Mwingi. The activities in Mwingi were spearheaded by Kituo officers Yunia Atieno, Sahara Dahir and Jared Nyakundi together with other partners in the refugee protection sector.



Kituo's FMP legal officer, Ms. Yunia Atieno takes participants through a training session in Mwingi, Kitui County

Head Office - Ole Odume Rd, Off Argwings Kodhek Rd, P.O. Box 7483 - 00300, Nairobi, Kenya. 254-020-3874220, 387419, 3876290, Mobile: 0734874221, 0727773991, E-mail: info@kituochasheria.or.ke

Branch Office - Nairobi, Forced Migration Program (FMP), Pangani - KCDF House, 4 th Floor on Chai/ Pamba Road, Off Juja Road, Nairobi, Tel: 202451631, 0736867241, 0720806531 E-mail: fmp@kituochasheria.or.ke

Regional Office - Mombasa, Kulyani Hatimy Road, Opposite Mombasa Law Courts, Mombasa P. O. Box 89065, Mombasa, Kenya. Tel. : 254-041-2230282, 0731129739, 0700638379, E-mail: msa@kituochasheria.or.ke