

KITUO Holds Legal Aid Clinics in Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu Counties



Kituo's legal officer Rhoda Maina (standing in striped coat) talks to participants during a community legal forum in Kambi-Suwerwa, Trans-Nzoia County

Kituo Cha Sheria from the 20th-27th May, 2018 conducted a series of legal aid clinics in Kitale, Endebess, Kambi-Suwerwa and Eldoret in Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu Counties.

The activities were undertaken by legal officers from Kituo in partnership with local Volunteer Advocates based in the 2 Counties for the empowerment and building of capacity of indigent clients through provision of legal aid services. Kituo further partnered with the Volunteer Advocates in identifying and formulating other legal issues in the areas for future action through strategic litigation and other means of intervention.

Kituo has also been involved in Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) activities within Endebess and the surrounding areas with an aim of providing a safe space in order to address the past, the present and possible future conflicts through a participatory approach that incorporates dialogue, builds trust as well as capacity building. This process has helped the IDPs, victims, stakeholders and host communities to identify their strengths as well as their capacity to transform into a stage of self-mobilization. This component was also incorporated in the activities that took place in Endebess and Kambi-Suwerwa.

Kituo has noted that more often clients from fur-flung areas of the country travel to our Nairobi offices seeking legal services. It is for this reason that Kituo sought to revamp and energize the Volunteer Advocates' scheme in the Counties of Trans-Nzoia and Uasin Gishu in order to ensure better access to justice by residents.

Kituo continues to engage and recruit volunteer advocates in almost all the 47 counties in Kenya to assist the organization reach its clientele from

these far-flung areas. The activities were led by the legal team of Rhoda Maina and Ephraim Kayere.

KITUO conducts a Free Legal aid clinic at the Head office



John Mwariri, Kituo legal officer attends to a client during the legal aid clinic held at Kituo Head Office

Kituo Cha Sheria on Friday, 4th May, 2018 held a successful FREE legal aid clinic at Kituo Head Office. The clinic attracted clients from all over Kenya who thronged Kituo's head office as early as 6.30 am. A total of 129 clients with diverse legal problems were given legal assistance free of charge.

This is an annual activity carried out to correspond with Labour Day celebrations and dedicated to giving a chance to the large number of clients with labour, land, housing and human rights' legal issues among others that Kituo may not be able to accommodate in its daily busy schedule where only a limited number of clients are seen.

Kituo Trains Mombasa County Enforcement Officers



Group Photo of Mombasa Law enforcement officer (show casing their awarded certificates) and Kituo Cha Sheria officers after the training

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Coast Regional Office-Mombasa held a collaborative training on various laws for Mombasa County Government officers in Mombasa. The training held from 30th April to 4th May, 2018 was meant for officers charged with the responsibility of law enforcement. The officers were drawn mainly from the Inspectorate, Transport and Infrastructural departments of the County.

The training covered; introduction to law: sources of law, crime and criminal law, gender based violence, leadership and integrity, land and environment law, administrative law and human rights.

This training was one of the areas of cooperation between State and Non-State actors geared towards enhancing capacity of staff of the county government for better delivery of service. County government officers and the Coast regional office coordinator Ms. Annette Mbogoh graced the closing ceremony.

Baraka FM (95.5 FM Mombasa) Hosts Kituo



Zedekiah Adika, lawyer and Kituo Assistant Program Officer from Mombasa regional office, during the radio talk show on Baraka FM

Baraka FM (95.5 Mombasa) hosted Kituo Cha Sheria officer; Zedekiah Adika, a lawyer and Assistant Program Officer, Advocacy Governance and Community Partnership, from Mombasa regional office, who led a discussion on security Institution and how they relate to people in the current framework of the Mombasa County Action Plan (MCAP). The one hour show also covered the legal policy aspect of the Mombasa County Action Plan for preventing and countering Violent Extremism (MCAP-PCVE), which is one of the nine Pillars of MCAP-PCVE.

Kituo Celebrates World Refugee Day 2018



A group photo of Kituo's Forced Migration Program (FMP) team taken during the World Refugee Day 2018 celebrations at the University of Nairobi grounds

Kituo Cha Sheria joined the World in commemorating the World Refugee Day marked every year on 20th June. The day that was celebrated at the University of Nairobi grounds brought together global citizens from all walks of life including refugees, refugee partner organizations, Government representatives and other non-state actors. They came together with refugees to pay tribute to the courage, strength, optimism, and resilience of women, girls, men and boys who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict, and violence.

The groups represented during the celebration also committed to this year's theme "Include All, Empower All" with each speaker promising to stand together with refugees and work in solidarity to end the refugee crisis and find homes for displaced peoples worldwide.

Speaking during the event, Maj. (Gen) Dr. Gordon Kihalagwa, the Principal Secretary State Department

of Immigration and Citizen Services emphasized the government's commitment to finding durable solutions for refugees including voluntary repatriation to their country of origin in safety and dignity; resettlement to a third country and local integration in the country of asylum.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Kenya Mr. Raouf Mazou, thanked the government of Kenya for being an outstanding example to other countries by hosting a high number of refugees for over two decades.

Also present in the event were various artists including famous Kenyan gospel artist Mercy Masika who is currently the UNHCR High profile supporter, the Ag. Commissioner for Refugee Affairs Secretariat; Mr. Kodeck Mokori among others.

The entire Forced Migration Program (FMP) team from Kituo led by the program manager Ms. Clara Barasa attended the event.

Kituo Hosts Mott Foundation Visitors



The Kituo cha Sheria team led by the acting Executive Director Annette Mbogoh (left, in blue coat) pose for a photo with the visitors from the Mott Foundation at the Head Office

Kituo Cha Sheria on Wednesday, 27th June 2018 hosted visitors from the Mott Foundation at the Kituo Head office in Nairobi. The three guests were led by Ms. Shannon L. Lawder, program director and programme officers Lorenzo M. Wakefield and Mamotshidisi Mohapi. The three from the Foundation's Access to Justice Program were received at Kituo by the acting Executive

Director, Ms. Annette Mbogoh. The visit was an opportunity for Kituo to showcase Kituo's programmatic work in promoting access to justice, explore potential areas of partnership and share experiences. The Mott Foundation has worked in empowering partners whose activities contribute to increased civic involvement by populations and strengthening communities around the world for over 90 years.

Key Upcoming Activities Jul - Aug 2018

1. Kituo Cha Sheria 45th Anniversary Celebration and FREE legal aid clinic- July
2. Vihiga Community paralegals refresher training-August
3. Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) Adjudicators and commissioners hand-over in Eldoret and Kisumu- July-August
4. NITA Advocates' Training-July-August
5. Imarisha Haki project implementation and prisons training-July-August Legal Aid clinics with community justice centers in informal settlements - August
6. Kitui paralegal refresher training, radio talk show, legal aid clinic and documentation of successes-July
7. Turkana paralegal refresher training, radio talk show, legal aid clinics and documentation of successes - July
8. Meru prison paralegal refresher training, access to justice day celebration and documentation of successes -July
9. Conducting of mobile legal aid clinics in 10 counties - Nyahururu, Kitale, Makueni, Kerugoya, Kitui, Isiolo, Narok, Kajado, Nyeri, Busia - July-August.
10. Phase 2 implementation of Alternative Justice Systems Project in Trans Nzoia, Kisumu and Eldoret - July-August
11. Nyeri prison paralegal refresher training, access to justice day celebration and documentation of successes - July
12. Marereni (Kilifi) paralegal refresher training, legal aid clinic and documentation of successes-July
13. Court Users' Committee (CUC) meeting for Milimani, Makadara and Kibera Law Courts -July
14. Forced Migration Program (FMP) community legal aid clinic in Ruiru -July
15. Forced Migration Program (FMP) staff team-building activity in Nairobi -July

Kituo Staff attend a Mental Health Workshop



Kituo staff during the mental health workshop at the Head Office

On 22nd June 2018 the psycho-social assistance project team, comprising of Heide Rieder, Emmah Nguli and Julietann Muchangi, carried out a one-day workshop on psychosocial wellbeing to the Kituo Head Office team.

The day-long event brought together staff from the various programs based at the Head Office as they discussed stress, its various causes, management and coping strategies for ultimate psychosocial wellbeing and good mental health.

The staff were taken through emotional awareness and ways of determining stress, the various stressors, stress response curve, stress relievers and steps to follow to in order to cope and remain of good mental health.

Finally the staff were taken through the process of creating a personal self care plan to manage themselves from stress since it is part of their life.

The Kituo head office team gave thanks to the Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team for the workshop and hopes that this will help them manage their mental health better and possibly that of their clients as they continue with their human rights work.



Julietanne Muchangi, a Psychosocial Volunteer at FMP leads a session at the mental health workshop

Success Story - Mary Runyangi Muchafu



Mary Runyangi Muchafu (centre) receives her cheque from Kituo's advocate Ephraim Kayere at the Head Office as Jairo Sila looks on

Mary Runyangi Muchafu is a middle-aged Kenyan woman who came to Nairobi over a decade in pursuit of gainful employment. Mary is an honest and hardworking Kenyan who worked as a domestic worker in the leafy suburb of Lavington, Nairobi while living in Kawangware.

The mother of five (5) was contracted on the 22nd November, 2016 and performed her duties with loyalty and diligence until 6th December, 2017 when her employer; one Mariama Sieh unfairly fired her. Mary was dismissed in the most unfair manner without any notice being given to her or receiving her terminal dues. Lost and confused on how to handle this most unfair predicament; Mary was contemplating taking her school going children back to their rural home as her prospects of supporting them in her current state looked grim.

Fortunately, when she narrated her story to a friend in the neighbourhood who also works as a security guard in the suburbs of Nairobi; there was a glimmer of hope. The friend happened to have received pro bono legal representation from Kituo Cha Sheria in a similar matter previously. Mary had worked for the entire duration of her employment without leave including during public holidays and was instead met with threats of dismissal any time she requested a day off. Mary instead toiled in the Mariama household taking care of 4 children until the day she was dismissed and now was presenting her matter to a Kituo legal officer.

Once her case was reviewed and deemed meritorious; a demand letter was immediately served to her former employer clearly

stating the employer's unjustified actions in four points- salary in lieu of notice; annual leave; service pay and compensation for unfair termination according to Kenya's labour laws.

The employer did not respond to the demand within the stipulated time and instead rubbished Mary's claim with more threats and scare tactics that she'd instead end up paying the employer.

Kituo's legal officers acting on mandatory instructions to institute legal proceedings from the client were ready to proceed to court and had duly served the employer when through their legal counsel they offered to settle the claim out of Court.

The offer being acceptable to our client- Mary Runyangi received a full and final settlement of Ksh. 32,000 in April, 2018.

A very thankful Mary who has since found employment elsewhere was grateful to all Kituo officers who assisted her in her pursuit of justice saying, "Nimesaidika! Asanteni sana", she said.

MHAKI "haki mkononi"



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Kituo and Partners train Nairobi County Law Enforcement Officers on Refugee Protection



Nairobi County law enforcement officers during the training by the Forced Migration Program (FMP) officers

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Office in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS) conducted training for Government Officials mainly charged with the responsibility of law enforcement on protection of refugees. The two days training took place at the Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi from the 26th-27th June, 2018. Among those taking part in the training are various government administration officers including assistant county commissioners, chiefs and assistant chiefs being trained on protection of refugees. The enthralling

refugee law workshop with the government officials was particularly meant to sensitize them on refugee protection. The officers constructively exchanged ideas and views which can hopefully address relevant issues especially at the refugee camp level.

The workshop mainly aimed at strengthening knowledge and further awareness on the fundamentals of refugee protection, documentation issued to asylum-seekers/refugees, detention, Court practices in Kenya and others which impact the lives of refugees in the country. Kituo Cha Sheria thanks to our partners IRC, RAS and UNHCR-Kenya for their partnership in the training.

Kituo Conducts Legal Aid Clinic in Kayole, Nairobi



Joan Nyongesa, Kituo advocate attending to a group of clients during the legal aid clinic held in Kayole, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) on 16th of May 2018 held a Legal Aid Clinic at the Universal Pentecostal Church Mission in Kayole targeting the refugee community living around the estate.

The objectives of the clinic were to inform participants on the role of Kituo Cha Sheria in protection and promotion of refugee rights in the country, sensitize clients

on by – laws, upcoming World Refugee Day in June, educate refugees on work and business permits and how to obtain them, screen clients as well as listening to individual legal issues at the end of the session.

These efforts were premised on the obligation to protect refugees in the country, in addition to alleviating their plight. A total of 86 clients with various legal issues were attended to.

Kituo attends the International Refugee Congress 2018



Participants of the International Refugee Congress, 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey

Kituo Cha Sheria attended the International Refugee Congress, 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey. The International Refugee Congress took place from the 10th-11th May 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey and brought together organizations that are working on refugee issues around the world. Kituo Cha Sheria was represented at the Congress by the Forced Migration Program (FMP) coordinator, Ms. Clara Barasa.

The congress aimed to develop joint policy positions on issues pertaining to refugees such as access to basic services, legal rights and sustainable solutions. It also facilitated a platform whereby policy recommendations that have so far been jointly explored and discussed by refugee-led and host community organizations through an extensive consultation process were shared, discussed and finalized. The congress resulted in a communiqué, which represented the shared views of all participants on policy options that could potentially address issues of concern for refugees and host communities. The communiqué also supported civil society efforts to influence policy and program decisions for the benefit of refugees and the communities that host them.

The priority issues, as identified through the consultation process, are not domestic issues only relevant for refugees in a particular

country. Although many of them might need solutions that are specific to a particular context, these priorities and needs are global in scope and scale, and thus require collective global responsibility and action. For that reason, the International Refugee Congress aimed to create policy options and recommendations in an inclusive manner with participation from a variety of regions, countries, and organizations. Kituo Cha Sheria's FMP coordinator had the opportunity to discuss, share Kituo's program and influencing experiences, compare program approaches and strategies; and learn from other Congress participants.



A panel discussion on issues of concern for refugees and host communities during the International Refugee Congress



A presentation is made during the International Refugee Congress

Shauri Moyo and Starehe Housing Case Ruling



John Mwariri, Kituo Advocate addressing residents of Shauri Moyo and Starehe Estates shortly after the ruling

Kituo Cha Sheria on 28th May, 2018 attended the judgment in Petition 584 of 2014 *Justus Mathumbi and 357 others V Attorney General and 2 others*. KITUO represented the petitioners, who are low grade civil servants and residents of Shauri Moyo and Starehe Estates from eminent evictions. The ruling was issued in the High Court of Kenya at Milimani, Nairobi - Judicial Review Division by the Hon. Justice J. M. Mativo. The constitutional

petition was filed in 2014 whereby Kituo Cha Sheria has been representing over 3,000 households who are now facing imminent eviction from their houses in the two Nairobi estates - Shauri Moyo and Starehe.

The petitioners who are mainly low grade civil servants (Job Groups A-E) now face a bleak future after the honorable judge discharged previous stay orders stopping their eviction.

Kituo Holds Kilimambogo Settlement Scheme PIL Caucus



Participants of the Public Interest Litigation Caucus at the Monarch Hotel, Nairobi pose for a group photo

Kituo Cha Sheria's Legal Aid Department had an insightful and very successful public interest litigation (PIL) caucus at the Monarch Hotel, Nairobi. The caucus was held on Friday, 18th May, 2018; participants included Kituo lawyers and volunteer advocates who shared their experiences in terms of best practices and approaches in litigating cases of public interest. Kituo Advocate John Mwariri led the panel through the cases that included an intended Kilimambogo Settlement Scheme title issuance case and a sample case

on employee discrimination at the workplace. The intended petitions are based on alleged denial, infringement of and threat to rights and fundamental freedoms under various articles of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

Also present at the caucus were representatives of about 1,343 households comprising of occupants and settlers of the parcels of land in the Settlement Scheme. We express our sincere gratitude to all the participants who attended and made the day a success!