



NEWSLETTER

Advancing People Centred Justice | ISSUE 1 OF 2026



HOW RAWI-EA IS TRANSFORMING REFUGEE LIVELIHOODS

Picture this. A young, ambitious, educated refugee sits across from a potential employer. They went to school here in Kenya. They studied the same curriculum as their Kenyan counterparts, sat the same exams and qualified, and have walked the same corridors searching for jobs. And yet the employer is required by law to prove that no Kenyan can do the job this refugee is applying for. The same job. The same skills. The same education system.

Section 28 of the Refugees Act 2021 stands among the most progressive refugee law provisions in Africa, explicitly guaranteeing refugees the right to work. Kenya has reinforced this commitment by ratifying the 1951 Refugee Convention, advancing the Shirika Plan's focus on socioeconomic integration, and recognizing refugee

documentation under the Nairobi County Refugee Integration Strategy. Yet, a stark gap remains between promise and practice. The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act still requires employers to prove that no Kenyan can fill a role before hiring a refugee.

For years, many organizations across Kenya and beyond Africa had been doing genuinely good work on

refugees' right to work; however, more still needed to be done to translate this work into the meaningful, lasting changes most sought by refugees.

"What Magic, Exactly, Are Refugees Expected to Perform?"



Researcher Dorothy Omboto presents research on refugees' right to work to RAWI members in Nairobi.



RAWI-EA Coalition members during the inaugural meeting at Park Inn by Radisson Blu.

Refugee Access to Work and Inclusion – East Africa (RAWI-EA) formation.

To drive more coordinated and impactful action, Refugee Access to Work and Inclusion – East Africa (RAWI-EA) was formed in 2025, a coalition of civil society organizations, refugee-led groups, academic institutions, communications experts, and policymakers, each bringing their unique expertise, each retaining their organizational autonomy but all united around one goal: making the right to decent work for refugees real, not just on paper.

RAWI exists to unlock access to decent work for refugees by addressing the

systemic barriers that keep skilled and willing individuals on the margins. It focuses on those unable to access higher education or regulated professions, or forced into underpaid work due to lack of documentation, supporting their transition into dignified, productive livelihoods as contributors and taxpayers. At the same time, RAWI brings together change makers and organizations to align efforts, recognizing that meaningful progress requires coordinated action, not fragmented interventions.

RAWI-EA' Achievements.

RAWI-EA's greatest achievements include four refugee advocates admitted to the Bar, one refugee admitted to the Kenya School of Law, a public interest litigation, the first of its kind in East Africa, now moving through the courts. These are complemented by a groundbreaking legal and policy analysis that provides the evidence we need, and by employer forums where the question is no longer whether refugees should work, but how they can do so legally, decently, and under fair conditions. Importantly, we have secured concrete commitments from policymakers to work hand in hand with us.

Call for Action

RAWI's momentum is real, but we cannot sustain it alone. We invite organizations, development partners, and refugee professionals to bring their knowledge, networks, and leadership to this coalition.

Contact the coalition secretariat at Kituo Cha Sheria: kemuma@kituochasheria.or.ke

RAWI-EA COALITION HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING TO SET 2026 AGENDA

On 16 March 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria, in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and with support from Heinrich Böll Stiftung, convened the inaugural meeting of the RAWI-EA Coalition at the Park Inn by Radisson Blu.

The meeting brought together coalition members and key partners in a significant step toward strengthening regional collaboration. It provided a platform to formally introduce the RAWI-EA Coalition, while also offering an opportunity to reflect on progress made during the first quarter of 2026.

Central to the convening was a forward-looking dialogue focused on shaping the coalition's strategic direction. Members collaboratively set key priorities and agreed on actionable steps to guide their work for the rest of the year.



Kituo FMP Coordinator Margaret Kemuma facilitates a session during the RAWI-EA Coalition Inaugural Meeting.

REFUGEE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE IN KAWANGWARE



Kituo Legal Assistant Richard Musyoki addresses participants during a sensitisation meeting with refugee communities in Kawangware.

On 27th March 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria participated in a sensitisation meeting with refugee communities in Kawangware, creating a platform for dialogue and connection. The engagement brought together community members to share experiences and strengthen understanding in a safe, inclusive setting.

During the session, Kituo Cha Sheria outlined its vision, mission, and mandate, while highlighting the legal aid services available to support access to justice. Participants were informed about their rights and the avenues available for seeking legal assistance.

The meeting also emphasized peacebuilding, promoting Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) as a practical, community-driven approach to resolving disputes. Focus was placed on dialogue and mediation as effective tools for fostering harmony and strengthening community cohesion.



Kituo Legal Assistant Richard Musyoki addresses participants during a sensitisation meeting with refugee communities in Kawangware.



Hon. Justice Lawrence Mugambi delivering judgment on 28 January 2026 in the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombing compensation case.

KITUO APPEALS HIGH COURT DECISION IN 1998 U.S. EMBASSY BOMBING CASE

The 1998 bomb blast left deep and lasting scars on its victims, with many still struggling to come to terms with the immense loss and trauma endured.

Nearly three decades later, that pain remains unresolved, carried in the bodies, memories, and daily realities of survivors and families who lost loved ones. For many, justice has felt distant and uncertain, despite years of waiting and hope.

Following the High Court ruling on 28th January 2026 dismissing their petition on behalf of survivors and families of the August 7, 1998 U.S. Embassy bombing in Nairobi, Kituo Cha Sheria filed an appeal in the Court of Appeal on 30th March 2026.

The petition, filed in 2021 under case number HCCHRPET/E166/2021, sought compensation from the Government of Kenya for victims of one of the country's deadliest terror attacks, which killed over 200 people, both Kenyans and foreigners and injured more than 4,000 others. Many survivors continue to live with life-altering injuries, including blindness, deafness, and severe physical trauma. The case was heard before Hon. Justice. Lawrence Mugambi, with judgment delivered on 28 January 2026 after earlier postponements.

In its decision, the Court held that the petition lacked sufficient legal merit, finding that the petitioners had failed to prove that the government had

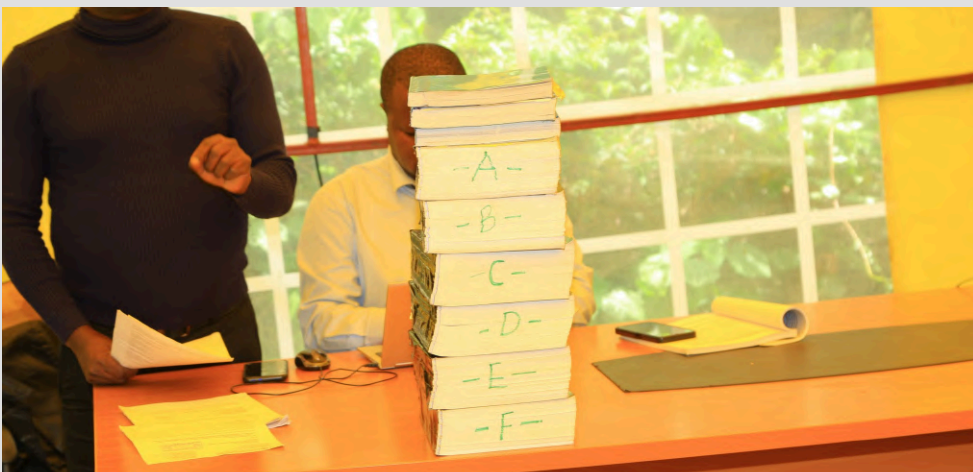
prior knowledge of the attack or actionable intelligence that could have prevented it. The Court also ruled that key evidence presented relied on reports whose authors did not testify, rendering it hearsay and inadmissible. While acknowledging the gravity of the victims' suffering, the Court emphasized that sympathy could not substitute the legal burden of proof.



Lawyers and victims at Milimani Law Courts addressing the press after the ruling on 28 January 2026.

The judgment, however, left many survivors feeling that their lived experiences had once again been set aside. For them, the case was never only about legal thresholds, it was about recognition, dignity, and the right to be heard after years of silence. Some survivors continue to live with permanent disabilities, including loss of sight and hearing, while others face ongoing medical challenges and psychological trauma that has shaped every aspect of their lives. Families of those who died still grapple with grief compounded by what they describe as years of neglect and inaction.

In their appeal, the victims, through Kituo Cha Sheria, argue that the High Court committed several errors in its determination



Copies of the appeal pleadings.

of the case. They maintain that the State had actual knowledge, or at the very least ought to have known about the existence of active terrorist cells and the imminent planning of the 1998 attack, citing intelligence reports from the U.S. Embassy, prior police raids on key suspects, and other credible sources. Despite this, they contend that the authorities failed to take reasonable and necessary measures to prevent or mitigate the bombing, thereby breaching their duty to protect the public.

The petitioners argue that the authorities failed to take necessary steps to prevent or mitigate the bombing, and that the High Court overlooked the State’s constitutional and international legal duty to protect human life. They maintain that victims are entitled to reparations once harm has occurred, regardless of whether State inaction is ultimately proven, noting that the State retains the option to pursue compensation from third parties linked to the attack. The appeal also points to the State’s prior acknowledgment of an obligation to compensate, which, they argue, created a legitimate expectation of reparation.



Kituo Legal Aid Coordinator John Mwariri briefs survivors and their families during an appeal update session.



Kituo Legal Assistant Boniface Muinde briefs survivors and their families during an appeal update session.

“The court did not sufficiently consider the full extent of harm suffered by the victims and their families, including the psychological, physical, and economic impact nor the State’s duty to ensure accountability and redress,” said John Mwariri from Kituo Cha Sheria.

Earlier, Kituo Cha Sheria convened a briefing with survivors and their families, outlining its intention and readiness to challenge the High Court decision. The legal team highlighted key gaps in the ruling, particularly around evidentiary thresholds and the burden of proof, while emphasizing the strong legal foundation underpinning the appeal. Survivors were assured of Kituo’s preparedness and unwavering commitment to pursuing justice, accountability, and long-overdue recognition of their suffering as they take the next step toward redress.

EMPOWERING CHANGAMWE RESIDENTS THROUGH SMALL CLAIMS COURT ACCESS



Our Programme Officer, Tirus Makumi, facilitating a training session in Changamwe.

On 27th March 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria, in partnership with Stretchers Youth Organisation, held a legal aid and community sensitization session in Changamwe, Mombasa, bringing much-needed legal knowledge closer to the people. The session drew residents eager to understand how to address everyday disputes arising from chamas, small business transactions, and debt-related disagreements.

Through practical guidance, the team demystified the role of the Small Claims Court, explaining the types of cases it handles and walking participants step-by-step through the process of filing claims.

Participants were also introduced to the e-Judiciary mobile application, where they learned how to conveniently track and follow up on their cases without the burden of constant physical visits to court. Beyond the training, the session created a safe space for individuals to share their legal challenges. Several cases were screened and documented, paving the way for continued legal support and follow-up. By the end of the engagement, residents left not only better informed but also empowered with the tools and confidence to pursue justice in a more accessible and efficient way.



FROM TRAUMA TO HOPE: A REFUGEE'S JOURNEY BEYOND LEGAL AID

For many years, Kituo Cha Sheria has been a beacon of hope for the poor and the vulnerable in Kenya and beyond, including refugees. Through its commitment to legal empowerment and the provision of legal aid, Kituo has enabled countless individuals to access justice and reclaim their dignity. However, not all who seek legal aid require legal intervention alone. Some carry a far heavier burden, one shaped by trauma, loss, and experiences that the law, by itself, cannot heal.

Within Kituo's Forced Migration Programme, this reality is well understood. The programme integrates psychosocial support through dedicated counsellors who walk with clients beyond the courtroom, helping them rebuild not just their cases, but their lives.

This was the case for James (not his real name), a Congolese refugee who came to Kituo Cha Sheria seeking legal assistance. James's story is one of survival against overwhelming odds.

When James first arrived, he appeared like many others, hopeful, yet visibly weighed down. During the initial screening, the legal officer quickly realized that his needs extended far beyond legal representation. Beneath his request for justice was a deep and urgent psychological crisis. James was struggling with severe trauma and suicidal thoughts, rooted in a past marked by unimaginable violence and hardship.

He recalls, with painful clarity, the moment his life was shattered. His father was killed in front of him during conflict in the Democratic Republic of

Congo. Soon after, those responsible began searching for him, intending to kill him as well. Forced to flee, James embarked on a journey filled with fear, uncertainty, and suffering.

“When I left Congo, I went through so many hardships. War had already begun, and even conflict within my family had started. My father was killed before my eyes, and after his death, they came looking for me so they could kill me as well. But by the grace of God, I was spared. God had a plan for me.”

At one point during his escape, while seeking refuge alongside strangers who were also fleeing for safety, they were captured by armed men and taken deep into the forest. There, he was subjected to forced labor, constant beatings, and inhumane treatment. He witnessed the brutal killings of the very strangers he had met, carried out by the armed men who had captured them, and lived in constant fear for his life. Near the bodies of those victims, he was sexually assaulted by two men, an ordeal that left him unconscious and with deep physical and emotional scars.

“I saw that my friends, the same ones I had met that evening had been killed. Out of fear, I lost control of myself and didn't know what to do. The commander told me, ‘If you refuse to do what we say, you see how they are lying there dead, and that will be you.’ He then did everything he wanted to me. He raped me... Two of them had assaulted me, and I received no treatment or help.”

Eventually, amid the chaos of a clash between the armed group and police, James seized a chance to escape. Disoriented and alone, he fled without a clear direction until he reached

a village near the Uganda border. From there, he found his way to Nairobi, Kenya.

In Nairobi, James had no family, no support system, and no place to call home. He survived on the streets, often sleeping in open spaces. At one point, he was beaten for sleeping in a clothes stall, a moment that further deepened his sense of despair. Though he later found temporary refuge with fellow Congolese nationals who helped him learn barbering, his struggles persisted.

In an attempt to build a better future, James saved money and entrusted it to an individual who promised to help him travel abroad. The promise turned out to be a scam. He lost all his savings of Kenyan shillings 80,000 and when he sought help, he was dismissed and reminded of his vulnerability as a non-citizen.

“One of my customers, whom I used to shave, told me he had helped many Congolese secure jobs abroad and encouraged me to try my luck. I explained that I had no family or support and asked for a year to raise the money. After working hard, I gave him Ksh. 80,000 and waited, but months passed with no response. When I finally asked for my money back, his attitude changed, and he told me, ‘You’re not even Kenyan and there’s nothing you can do to me.’”

Overwhelmed by cumulative trauma, loss, and hopelessness, James began experiencing persistent thoughts of ending his life. Fear haunted his sleep, and the weight of his past seemed unbearable. Even after obtaining refugee documentation, the emotional wounds remained raw and unresolved.

It was at this lowest point that James was referred to Kituo Cha Sheria.

“That’s when thoughts of ending my life began to come into my mind. I lived in constant fear, even in my sleep. I kept thinking about death.”...

“Later, I heard about a refugee center that helps people. I went there and explained my situation, but they told me my case needed to be taken to Kituo Cha Sheria. That’s how I ended up ta kituo cha sheria.”



Recognizing the urgency of his condition, the legal officer referred him to Kituo’s psychosocial support services under the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Programme. There, he met Habiba Mohamed, psychosocial counsellor. Through consistent counselling sessions, Habiba provided James with a safe space to process his trauma. She helped him confront painful memories, manage stress, and understand that his experiences though devastating did not define his worth. Slowly, through patience and care, James began to heal. The thoughts that once consumed him began to fade, replaced by a renewed will to live. With emotional and psychological support, he started to rebuild his life, not just as a survivor, but as someone with value, dignity, and hope for the future.

“She supported me mentally, emotionally, and showed me that I still have value and purpose in life. She gave me hope. The person I am today, and the changes in my life, are because of her.”

His journey is a powerful reminder that justice is not only about legal outcomes, it is also about restoring humanity. At Kituo Cha Sheria, this holistic approach ensures that individuals like James are not only heard in law, but also healed in life.

“This boy came for legal aid; he never came for counselling. When our lawyers saw his condition, he was immediately referred for counselling. He was in a very bad state. He was suicidal and had lost hope in life but through the sessions, he has recovered well...I encourage boys and men not to keep quiet, but to speak up and seek help.” Habiba Mohamed, Psychosocial Counsellor, Kituo Cha Sheria

ADVANCING PEOPLE-CENTERED JUSTICE AT THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Our Executive Director, Dr. Wambua Kituku, participated in a high-level Regional Conference on People-Centered Justice in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26th March 2026, bringing together justice sector leaders, policymakers, and practitioners from across Africa.

The conference focused on strengthening access to justice through the integration of traditional and

community-based dispute resolution mechanisms with formal justice systems. It provided a platform for sharing best practices, promoting human rights and gender equality, and enhancing collaboration towards inclusive and accessible justice for all.

Our work continued to contribute to regional and global conversations on legal empowerment and access to justice.



Our Executive Director Dr. Wambua Kituku (centre), during regional conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Participants pose for a group photo during the engagement

CSOS ENGAGE ORPP ON POLITICAL PARTIES ACT AMENDMENTS

On 23 January 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria joined fellow Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in a sensitisation meeting convened by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) to deliberate on proposed amendments to the Political Parties Act.

The engagement provided a collaborative platform for stakeholders to review and share insights on the proposed reforms, contributing to the development of consolidated proposals that will inform the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill. Discussions focused on strengthening the legal and institutional framework governing political parties in Kenya.

PSK-CLE MEETING ON STRENGTHENING PARALEGAL PRACTICE

On 14th January 2026, the Paralegal Society of Kenya paid a high-level courtesy call to the Council of Legal Education to discuss key issues in paralegal development, including training, curriculum accreditation, experiential learning, and collaboration to strengthen paralegal practice in Kenya. The meeting focused on aligning PSK's curriculum with national standards to ensure paralegals are well-equipped to serve communities effectively.

A major part of the discussions emphasized experiential learning, with both PSK and CLE recognizing the importance of practical, community-based training. This approach aims to

give aspiring paralegals real-world exposure, helping them understand the justice system while responding to the lived realities of the communities they serve.

Kituo Cha Sheria was represented by John Mwariri, Coordinator of the Legal Aid and Education Department, highlighting the organization's commitment to access to justice and legal literacy. The meeting laid the foundation for ongoing collaboration between PSK and CLE, signaling a step toward a more structured, recognized, and impactful paralegal sector in Kenya.



PSK-CLE meeting session on strengthening paralegal practice in progress

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY VOICES IN KWALE'S EXTRACTIVES

As Kwale County attracts increased investment in mining and carbon credit projects, Kituo Cha Sheria held a capacity-building session on 25 March 2026 for members of the Kwale Mining Alliance, community paralegals, and the Kwale CSOs Consortium. The session strengthened understanding of legal and governance frameworks on land rights and environmental justice.



Capacity-building session underway in Kwale.

The engagement equipped participants with practical tools to engage in decision-making processes, promoting transparency and accountability while safeguarding community land, protecting the environment, and supporting local livelihoods.

KITUO HOSTS NASCI-AJS SECRETARIAT HEAD



Kituo team with Ms. Jemimah Aluda (centre) during a courtesy visit at Kituo

Kituo Cha Sheria hosted Ms. Jemimah Aluda for a courtesy call with Executive Director Dr. Wambua Kituku on 27 February 2026. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration in advancing Alternative Justice Systems (AJS), with emphasis on public awareness, community engagement, and coordination of upcoming activities, including the AJS Annual Conference.



Our Mombasa Coordinator, Conrad Afiang, facilitating the session during training on small claim courts in Mombasa

PARALEGAL TRAINING ON THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT

In Mombasa, Kituo Cha Sheria, in collaboration with the Judiciary of Kenya and with support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and UNDP Kenya, conducted a two-day refresher training for community paralegals on the Small Claims Court.

The training was designed to strengthen the capacity of grassroots paralegals to effectively support citizens in addressing legal challenges experienced at the community level. It also focused on enhancing their ability to respond to emerging issues affecting the full operationalization and accessibility of the Small Claims Court.

STRENGTHENING SMALL CLAIMS JUSTICE IN MOMBASA

On 26 February 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria, in partnership with Sisters for Justice and the Mombasa Small Claims Court, held a reflection meeting in Mombasa to review lessons from the implementation of the Small Claims project. The forum identified gaps, documented achievements, and explored ways to strengthen delivery of small claims justice.



Our Mombasa Coordinator, Conrad Afiang, facilitating the session during a reflection meeting in Mombasa

considered emerging judicial decisions affecting the Court's effectiveness, underscoring the need for continued dialogue and adaptive responses.

Kituo expressed appreciation to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kenya, through the UNDP Kenya Amkeni Wakenya Programme, for its continued support.

The discussions produced a joint action

plan to improve efficiency, enhance coordination among justice actors, and ensure timely, accessible justice for vulnerable court users. Participants also

KITUO HOSTS MURANG'A GOVERNOR ON SOCIAL JUSTICE



Kituo team pose for a group photo with Murang'a Governor H.E. Irungu Kang'ata during a courtesy visit to Kituo Cha Sheria.

On 30th March 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria had the honour of hosting the Governor of Murang'a County, H.E. Irungu Kang'ata, for a high-level engagement focused on advancing social justice and enhancing the welfare of vulnerable communities within the county.

The meeting, led by Board Chairperson Justus Munyithya, provided a strategic platform for dialogue on strengthening access to justice, promoting inclusive development, and addressing the longstanding land injustices affecting victims of the Mau Mau freedom

struggle in the area. Both parties engaged in constructive discussions, underscoring the importance of collaboration between county governments and civil society organizations in delivering sustainable, people-centered solutions to land-related challenges facing these communities. Central to the deliberations was a shared commitment to ensuring that legal empowerment and social protection mechanisms remain accessible to those most in need.

KITUO HOSTS MISEREOR DELEGATION FOR STRATEGIC TALKS

Kituo Cha Sheria, led by Executive Director Dr. Wambua Kituku, was honored to host a delegation from Misereor at its head office on 9 March 2026. The delegation included Dr. Kamila Krygier and Katharina Goette.

The meeting provided a meaningful platform to share key highlights from Kituo Cha Sheria's Strategic Plan 2026–2030 and to present updates on ongoing programmes advancing access to justice. Discussions focused on strengthening collaborative efforts aimed at expanding legal empowerment initiatives and deepening impact within communities.

Kituo Cha Sheria expressed sincere appreciation for Misereor's continued partnership and support. The collaboration remains instrumental in advancing shared goals of promoting access to justice, strengthening legal empowerment, and upholding human rights for all.



Kituo team and Misereor delegates pose for a group photo during a courtesy visit at Kituo Cha Sheria



Kituo team and GIZ delegates pose for a group photo during a courtesy visit at Kituo Cha Sheria

KITUO CHA SHERIA HOSTS GIZ DELEGATION TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP

Kituo Cha Sheria, led by Executive Director Dr. Wambua Kituku, on 11 March 2026 received a delegation from GIZ – German International Cooperation Civil Peace Service (CPS) team, led by Programme Coordinator Sophie Schmitt. The visit provided an opportunity to exchange updates on program support, reflect on progress made, and share insights from Kituo's Strategic Plan as both parties continue to strengthen their collaboration.

Kituo Cha Sheria expressed appreciation for GIZ's continued support, particularly through the Civil Peace Service programme, which plays a key role in promoting peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities in Kenya.



Training in progress for refugee and host community leaders in Nakuru.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY JUSTICE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AMONG REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Peaceful coexistence and resilient communities are nurtured through dialogue, understanding, and accessible systems for resolving disputes. In areas where refugees and host communities live side by side, fostering trust, social cohesion, and mutual respect is critical to preventing conflict and promoting stability. To advance these goals, Kituo Cha Sheria, with support from GIZ, is implementing a continuous series of capacity-strengthening trainings for refugee and host community leaders across Nakuru County, Uasin Gishu County (Eldoret), and Turkana County.

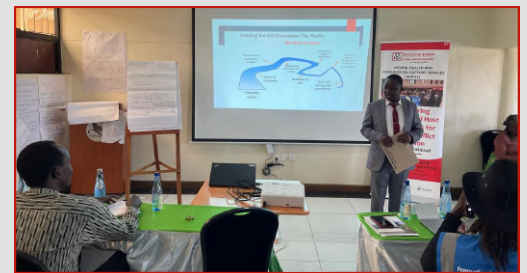
The trainings are conducted by our psychosocial counselor, Habibah Mohamed, Alice Kwenda, our programme officer Jimmy Sayi, and a

representative from The National Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Alternative Justice Policy (NaSCI-AJS).

The initiative promotes the use of Alternative Justice Systems (AJS), community-based approaches such as mediation, dialogue, and consensus-building that enable disputes to be resolved peacefully and locally before escalating to formal courts. At the same time, the program integrates Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to address the emotional and psychological effects of conflict, displacement, and everyday community tensions. By combining justice mechanisms with psychosocial support, the trainings aim to strengthen

community resilience, empower local leadership, and ensure that justice processes not only resolve disputes but also support healing and the restoration of relationships.

The forums bring together community leaders and decision-makers from both refugee and host communities to build knowledge and practical skills in Alternative



Training in progress for refugee and host community leaders in Eldoret.

Justice Systems (AJS) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). The initiative seeks to advance people-centred justice and strengthen community wellbeing by addressing disputes and tensions early, before they escalate into formal court processes.

Through these ongoing engagements, the initiative continues to strengthen grassroots leadership by equipping refugee and host community leaders with practical skills in Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).



Participants pose for a group photo during a training for refugee and host community leaders in Nakuru.



ADVANCING INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION AMONG REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

Refugee women play a vital role in strengthening democratic participation within their communities. Equipping them with the right knowledge and psychosocial support ensures they can engage confidently and safely in electoral processes.

Guided by this perspective, Kituo Cha Sheria, in partnership with RefuSHE and with support from GIZ, rolled out a series of targeted engagements in Nairobi aimed at preparing refugee communities for electoral periods. The initiative began with training refugee women leaders on election preparedness, focusing on legal rights, responsible civic engagement, and practical strategies to navigate political risks. Recognizing the emotional toll that electoral cycles can bring, the sessions also integrated psychosocial support, emphasizing mental well-being, stress management, and access to support systems.

The programme then expanded to include refugee entrepreneurs, acknowledging their critical role in sustaining livelihoods and fostering community resilience. Facilitated by Kituo officers, these sessions explored the psychological effects and root causes of conflict, while equipping participants with practical preparedness strategies to safeguard their businesses and personal safety during politically sensitive periods.



Training session for refugee women in progress.



Kituo staff participating in a wellness session.

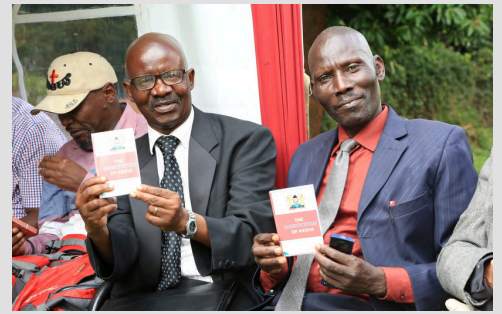
STAFF WELLBEING THROUGH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS SESSION

Kituo Cha Sheria held a staff mental health and wellbeing session at its Head Office, reaffirming its commitment to employee wellness as a key driver of productivity, purpose, and impact. The initiative provided staff with an opportunity to pause from routine work, reflect, and recharge in a supportive and engaging environment.

Supported by GIZ (German International Cooperation), the session took place on 31 January 2026 and featured a series of guided activities designed to promote mental wellness and strengthen workplace resilience. Staff participated in breathing exercises, interactive bingo sessions, and expressive collage art activities, all aimed at encouraging relaxation, creativity, and team connection.

KITUO ENGAGES NAIROBI-BASED PARALEGAL COORDINATORS

Kituo Cha Sheria convened Nairobi-based paralegal coordinators in a strategic meeting aimed at enhancing collaboration in delivering community-level legal aid. The engagement underscored the critical role of paralegals in promoting access to justice within informal settlements through legal awareness, Alternative Justice Systems (AJS), and referrals of complex cases.



Paralegals during the Kituba Day Celebrations

Participants reflected on field experiences and achievements while highlighting key challenges, including high caseloads, limited resources, and gaps in training, mentorship, and reporting, alongside increasingly complex land, housing, family, and labour cases. In response, the meeting resolved to strengthen coordination through structured reporting tools, improved referral systems, and regular capacity-building.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

X Space Conversation

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

Topic: Your Voice Matters: Advancing Social Justice Through Inclusive Decision-Making

Speakers

- KINGSLEY TAABU, Advocate, Kituo cha sheria
- FAITH CLAUDI, Advocate, Kituo cha sheria
- GLORY KAIRI, Advocate, Kituo cha sheria

Moderator

ESTHER NEKESA

20 February, 2026
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Online
@KituoSheria

On 20 February 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria marked International Social Justice Day by hosting an engaging X Space conversation under the theme “Your Voice Matters: Advancing Social Justice Through Inclusive Decision-Making.” The discussion created a dynamic platform for participants to reflect on the importance of inclusion in governance and the realization of human rights.

LIVE WEBINAR

INTERNATIONAL ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

Theme: Strengthening Legal Systems to Protect Human Dignity

- DR. WAMBUA KITUKU, Executive Director, Kituo Cha Sheria
- ANNERITA MURUNGI, Administrator, HIV and AIDS Tribunal
- PATRICIA NEKOYE, Advocate, Kituo Cha Sheria
- JIMMY SAYI, Programme officer, Kituo Cha Sheria

Register for Free: <https://shorturl.at/nKA14>

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
2 March, 2026

COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO DISCRIMINATION

To commemorate the International Day of Zero Discrimination, KITUO, in partnership with the HIV and AIDS Tribunal, convened a joint webinar on 2nd March 2026 to examine the intersection of HIV-related stigma, discrimination, and access to justice.

The discussion underscored how discrimination continues to deepen vulnerabilities for persons living with HIV, emphasizing the need to uphold dignity, equality, and human rights across legal and health systems. Participants called for stronger enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, greater public awareness, and closer collaboration to advance equality and accountability.

AFRICAN CLIMATE COMPENSATION LAB ONLINE WORKSHOP

On 12 February 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria participated in an online workshop with 30 participants focused on climate attribution and loss and damage in Africa. The session explored how scientific evidence links fossil fuel emissions to climate impacts and how such evidence can support legal and policy claims.

AFRICAN CLIMATE COMPENSATION LAB ONLINE WORKSHOP

12 FEBRUARY 2026
30 PARTICIPANTS

Exploring climate attribution and loss and damage in Africa through science, evidence and justice.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

applications and policy advocacy. However, the virtual format limited opportunities for deeper engagement and networking.

The key lesson is that effective climate justice work requires integrating science, evidence, and legal storytelling. Continued participation in specialized learning platforms is essential for building technical capacity in emerging areas.

The workshop strengthened Kituo’s understanding of climate justice litigation

and improved its ability to connect scientific evidence with legal narratives. It provided practical insights for grant

KENYA'S LEGAL MINDS SHINE ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT STAGES



Law students debating during the 2026 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition Kenya at Mount Kenya University

The 2026 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition Kenya National Qualifying Rounds commenced on 30th January 2026 at Mount Kenya University, Parklands Law Campus in Nairobi, bringing together law students from universities across the country for one of the most prestigious platforms in international legal advocacy.

The rounds are marked by intense, high-level oral arguments as teams engage with complex issues of international law, including sovereignty disputes, maritime boundaries, state immunity, and enforced disappearance. The competition continues to serve as a vital training ground for future litigators, sharpening research, analytical reasoning, and courtroom advocacy skills while exposing students to the demands of global legal practice.

The proceedings are further strengthened by the participation of seasoned legal professionals, including our Board Member, Mosongo Maosa, who served as one of the judges. His involvement reflects the continued commitment of the legal fraternity to mentoring young advocates and ensuring that emerging talent is rigorously tested and guided within internationally benchmarked standards of legal excellence.



Mr. Mosongo Maosa during the moot court session.

The Jessup competition, which brings together thousands of law students globally through national and international rounds, remains one of the most respected arenas for developing future international lawyers and has consistently produced advocates who go on to excel in diplomacy, litigation, and human rights practice

In a parallel demonstration of Kenya's growing legal footprint beyond its borders, our Programme Officer, Glory Kairi, through her participation with the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa, was part of a team that emerged as the Best Litigation Team at the African Court of Immigration Detention Moot Competition held in South Africa.



Our Board Member, Mr. Mosongo Maosa, presiding alongside other judges during the Moot Court Competition.

Her achievement reflects the increasing presence of Kenyan advocates in regional strategic litigation spaces, particularly in areas concerning migration, detention rights, and access to justice. Together, these milestones underscore a broader narrative of a rising generation of Kenyan legal minds who are not only excelling in competitive moot court environments but are also steadily shaping conversations on justice and legal reform at both continental and global levels.



Our Programme Officer, Glory Kairi (left), celebrating with a colleague at the moot court competition in South Africa.

KITUO CALLS FOR INTEGRITY IN SUPREME COURT JUDGE RECRUITMENT

Kituo Cha Sheria, represented by Programme Officers Glory Kairi and Patricia Nekoye, on 24th March 2026 attended a stakeholder engagement convened by the Judicial Service Commission Kenya. The forum formed part of the ongoing process to recruit a Judge of the Supreme Court of Kenya, bringing together stakeholders to contribute views on the qualities and standards expected of candidates.

During the engagement, Kituo Cha Sheria presented its views, emphasizing the need to appoint jurists of integrity and independence, with a strong track record in advancing constitutionalism, human rights, and access to justice. The organization highlighted that beyond legal expertise, the ideal candidate should demonstrate impartiality, accountability, and a deep understanding of the lived realities of Kenyans, particularly marginalized communities who often face barriers in accessing justice.



Participants pose for a group photo during a Judicial Service Commission stakeholder engagement.

Kituo emphasized that, given the Supreme Court's pivotal role in shaping Kenya's legal and democratic landscape, its composition must reflect these core values. As the apex court, the Supreme Court of Kenya is central to the interpretation of the Constitution and the protection of fundamental rights, making the selection of its judges a matter of great national importance.



Our Legal Officer, Patricia Nekoye (right), during a Judicial Service Commission stakeholder engagement



Judges of the Supreme Court of Kenya during the Closing of File ceremony in honour of the late Justice Mohammed Khadhar Ibrahim at the Supreme Court.

KITUO JOINS JUDICIARY IN HONOURING JUSTICE MOHAMMED IBRAHIM

On 9 March 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria Executive Director Dr. Wambua Kituku joined the Judiciary of Kenya at the Supreme Court for the Closing of File proceedings in honour of the late Justice Mohammed Khadhar Ibrahim. The solemn ceremony, led by Chief Justice Martha K. Koome, brought together judges, advocates, and justice sector stakeholders to celebrate his life of service to law and country.

Justice Ibrahim was widely remembered for his strong commitment to constitutionalism, human rights, and judicial integrity. His jurisprudence helped shape Kenya's legal and constitutional framework, reflecting deep intellect and a steadfast pursuit of fairness.

Beyond the Bench, he was celebrated as a mentor and principled leader whose legacy continues to inspire the advancement of justice, accountability, and the protection of fundamental rights.



Our Executive Director, Dr. Wambua Kituku (left), during a ceremony at the Supreme Court of Kenya.



Participants pose for a group photo during courtesy visits to Dandora Community Justice Centre

ADVANCING COMMUNITY JUSTICE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted courtesy visits to community justice centres in Kibera and Dandora as part of the Haki Mashinani Project on human trafficking, supported by Justice Ventures International (JVI). The engagements focused on strengthening access to justice and enhancing community responses to gender-based violence, human trafficking, and other injustices affecting vulnerable populations.

Discussions during the visits identified key gaps in legal aid service delivery, including the limited number of advocates and trained paralegals at the grassroots level. To address these challenges, the project will support the placement of advocates within community justice centres to provide legal aid, strengthen referral systems, and promote community-based legal empowerment. This initiative aims to improve coordination, enhance protection mechanisms, and ensure more effective access to justice for marginalized communities.

KITUO HOSTS JVI

On 13 March 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria's Forced Migration Programme (FMP) hosted Justice Ventures International (JVI) for an engagement meeting to review ongoing project activities and explore future collaboration. The



Engagement meeting between Kituo Cha Sheria and JVI

meeting offered an opportunity to reflect on progress, share implementation updates, and identify ways to strengthen joint efforts in expanding access to justice for poor and marginalized communities.

DAGORETTI-KAWANGWARE MOVES TO END ILLEGAL DUMPING



Community dialogue session in progress in Kawangware.

On 11 March 2026, the Kituo Cha Sheria team met with members of the Dagoretti-Kawangware community for a client briefing on the intended petition to address this ongoing challenge. The engagement created a platform to provide legal guidance and advisory support, helping residents better understand their rights and the legal pathways available to them. Through this process, the community was equipped with practical knowledge and tools to take structured action against the persistent dumping.

The growing burden of illegal garbage dumping has steadily reshaped daily life in Dagoretti-Kawangware, turning once vibrant spaces into areas marked by overflowing waste, foul odors, and heightened health risks.

With a shared sense of urgency and renewed clarity, the community resolved to proceed with filing a petition through Kituo Cha Sheria.

LEGAL EMPOWERMENT IN PRACTICE: BRINGING “KNOW, USE, SHAPE” TO LIFE



Paralegals from the Vihiga Justice Centre during a mediation session in Vihiga.

Legal empowerment begins with helping people know the law, use the law, and shape the law. In response to a collaborative initiative on developing content for the Legal Empowerment 101 (LE 101) course, Kituo Cha Sheria contributed practical insights drawn from its grassroots work to help illustrate these core principles in action.

The LE 101 course is designed as an introductory learning platform that breaks down the concept of legal empowerment into practical, relatable components. It focuses on the core themes of “Knowing, Using, and Shaping the Law,” using short, engaging video content that blends expert insights with real-world experiences.

In partnership with the Grassroots Justice Network, Kituo documented real-life experiences from Vihiga, Nakuru, and Kawangware, where paralegals and community members are not only understanding legal concepts but actively applying them.

Through interviews and existing field footage, the documentation captures how communities engage with the law to resolve disputes, access justice, and influence decisions that affect their daily lives. This approach aligns with the course’s focus on producing short, engaging video content that combines expert explanation with practical, community-based examples.

The stories trace a journey from awareness to action, where people learn their rights, access courts and administrative systems, and organize to influence policy and accountability.

MISSING VOICES COALITION 2025 REPORT LAUNCH

On 25 March 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria joined the Missing Voices Coalition at the Ghetto Foundation for the launch of its 2025 report, marking the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. The report highlighted a troubling rise in police killings and enforced disappearances, with a 20% increase from 2024 and over half of the deaths linked to the June–July 2025 protests, raising fresh concerns over excessive use of force during demonstrations.

The commemoration underscored that access to truth is central to justice, serving as a first step toward accountability, redress, and healing for victims and families, while reinforcing the State’s duty to ensure transparency, uphold the rule of law, and address violations through accessible and effective justice systems.



Kituo Legal team members Teddy Odhiambo, Whitney Oliech and Martin Njuguna at Missing Voices Launch

LEGAL EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP



Participants pose for a group photo during a courtesy visit

On 19 February 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria hosted delegates from Tangaza University for a courtesy call on its Executive Director, Dr. Wambua Kituku, in a meeting aimed at exploring collaborative opportunities to advance access to justice.

The engagement provided a platform to discuss potential areas of partnership, with a key focus on integrating law students into Kituo Cha Sheria’s programmes through structured internships, clinical placements, and volunteer opportunities.

The proposed collaboration is expected to give students practical exposure to legal aid services, community outreach, and public interest litigation.



Kituo Legal team members Patricia Nekoye and John Mwariri appearing before a Parliamentary Committee.

FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC AT ST. MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH



On 16 February 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria, in partnership with Catholic Peace and Justice Development (CPJD) and with support from Misereor, conducted a free legal aid clinic at St. Monica Catholic Church, offering essential legal support to community members seeking justice and guidance.

The clinic provided residents with free legal advice, mediation services, and practical guidance on a range of legal matters, including land disputes, family law concerns, and human rights issues. The engagement created a safe and accessible space for individuals to seek clarification on legal challenges affecting their daily lives, while also facilitating the informal resolution of disputes through mediation.

KITUO PRESENTS MEMORANDUM ON NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND BILL BEFORE PARLIAMENT

Kituo Cha Sheria–Legal Advice Centre’s legal team, Mwariri John and Patricia Nekoye, on 26 February 2026 presented a Memorandum on the National Infrastructure Fund (NIF) Bill, 2026 before a Parliamentary Committee of Kenya.

The Bill seeks to establish the National Infrastructure Fund as a state-managed financing mechanism intended to mobilise long-term capital for major public infrastructure projects such as roads, energy, housing, and water systems. It proposes the use of diverse funding sources, including budgetary allocations, donor support, and proceeds from the privatisation of public assets, to support infrastructure development and reduce reliance on conventional borrowing.

However, concerns have been raised regarding the governance structure of the proposed Fund, particularly the extent of executive control and the safeguards for public



Members of the Parliamentary Committee during a session.

participation and parliamentary oversight. Questions have also emerged around transparency in the collection, management, and allocation of resources, especially given the involvement of privatisation proceeds, which require strong accountability mechanisms to prevent misuse.

In our submission, Kituo Cha Sheria highlighted key gaps in the proposed law and recommended stronger legal safeguards to enhance accountability, transparency, and institutional checks and balances in the management of public resources.

ADVANCING LEGAL PROTECTIONS AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES



Participants pose for a group photo after a technical review meeting convened by HURIA

Kituo Cha Sheria joined technical stakeholders on 11 February 2026 in a meeting convened by Human Rights Agenda (HURIA) to undertake a comprehensive review of the Draft Enforced Disappearances Law. The engagement marked a significant step toward criminalising enforced disappearances in Kenya and strengthening legal protections for victims and their families.

The review brought together in-depth, technical, and forward-looking deliberations aimed at refining key provisions of the draft legislation. Participants worked to enhance alignment with constitutional safeguards and international human rights standards, while also reinforcing accountability frameworks and urgent response mechanisms for cases of disappearance.

Enforced disappearances remain a grave human rights concern, striking at the core of dignity, justice, and the rule of law. The proposed legislation is expected to serve as a critical safeguard by explicitly outlawing the practice, strengthening investigative processes, tightening accountability measures, and ensuring effective protection and redress for victims and their families.

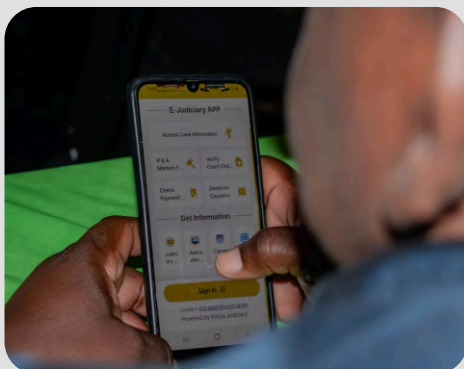


Our Programme Officer, Tirus Makumi, facilitating a training session in Mombasa.

ENHANCING JUSTICE DELIVERY IN MOMBASA

On 17th March 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria, in collaboration with the Judiciary of Kenya, conducted a targeted capacity-building training for Officers Commanding Stations (OCSs) across Mombasa County, alongside Deputy County Commissioners. The training aimed at strengthening their role in supporting the effective operationalization of the Small Claims Court in Mombasa.

The engagement highlighted the critical position of the police and the National Government Administration Officers (NGAO) as primary points of contact for individuals seeking redress for various claims. It also emphasized their role in the enforcement of court decrees, particularly in ensuring compliance by judgment debtors, which is key to the success of the Small Claims Court system.



Participant being trained on the e-Judiciary mobile application.

As part of the training, participants were introduced to the newly launched E-Judiciary mobile application. They were equipped with practical skills on how to verify court orders, generate cause lists, and access real-time case information. This component aimed to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the handling of small claims matters.

LEGAL EMPOWERMENT FOR REFUGEES IN NAIROBI

Kituo Cha Sheria participated in the Nairobi Refugee Strategy Meeting convened by the Nairobi City County Government on 17 February 2026, contributing to forward-looking discussions under the Inclusive Development Plans & Policies and Legal Support & Advocacy pillars. The deliberations highlighted key opportunities to deepen legal empowerment, support policy reform, and expand access to justice for both refugees and host communities. Through enhanced collaboration, stakeholders underscored the importance of building systems that ensure equitable protection and meaningful participation for all residents of Nairobi.



Group photo after the Nairobi Refugee Strategy Meeting.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders committed to advancing inclusion and protection across the city, creating a platform for strategic engagement on strengthening coordination. It was an engaging and forward-looking session, featuring substantive discussions on aligning ongoing initiatives with broader inclusive urban development goals.

ENHANCING COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NAIROBI'S INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS



Participants engaged in a human trafficking training session in Dandora.

Kituo Cha Sheria, together with the Social Justice Centres Working Group, participated in a three-day human trafficking training in Dandora supported by Justice Ventures International (JVI). The training brought together community justice actors drawn from different informal settlements with the aim of strengthening grassroots capacity to respond to human trafficking cases in a more coordinated and survivor-centred manner.

Facilitated by Azadi, the sessions focused on practical skills in prevention, identification, documentation, and referral mechanisms, equipping participants to better detect and respond to vulnerabilities within communities such as Dandora, Mathare, Kibra, and surrounding areas. The training also deepened understanding of how trafficking networks exploit gaps created by poverty, unemployment, migration pressures, and limited access to justice services.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

On 30 January 2026, Kituo Cha Sheria partnered with the Judiciary Tribunals, Korogocho Justice Center, Hakijamii, and the Restoring Dignity Foundation to mark Dialogue Day through a community forum in Korogocho. The engagement provided a platform for discussions on access to justice and the role of tribunals as people-centred avenues for dispute resolution.

Bringing together community members and justice actors, the forum fostered dialogue on making justice more inclusive, responsive, and accessible at the grassroots. Participants emphasized the need to raise awareness of legal mechanisms, build trust in institutions, and ensure justice is affordable and closer to the people through sustained community engagement and collaboration.



Participants pose for a group photo during the Dialogue Day forum in Korogocho

BRINGING JUSTICE CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY IN KWALE

Kituo Cha Sheria, in collaboration with Stretchers Youth Organisation, on 30th January 2026 conducted a Huduma Mashinani outreach in Mrima, Dzombo Ward, Kwale County, aimed at bringing essential government services closer to the community alongside a legal aid clinic.

The legal aid clinic focused on addressing prevalent community concerns, particularly land disputes, environmental challenges, and other emerging legal issues affecting residents. Community members were also provided with legal guidance on dispute resolution pathways and available avenues for accessing justice, in a bid to promote peaceful and informed resolution of conflicts at the grassroots level.



Kituo's legal team screens clients for legal aid during the Huduma Mashinani outreach.

In addition to legal support, the outreach facilitated access to vital civil registration services, including national identity card applications as well as birth and death certificate registration. The integrated service delivery approach enabled residents to access both justice and administrative services in one setting, reducing barriers and improving access for underserved communities in the region.








Participants convene to access essential services during the Huduma Mashinani outreach.

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