

LSF QUATER 01 NEWSLETTER

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Top News

Legal Services facility and Enabel
Sign a 10.7 Billion agreement to
enhance access to justice in Tanzania



01/22

New Partnerships Formed

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01

2023 Results Highlights

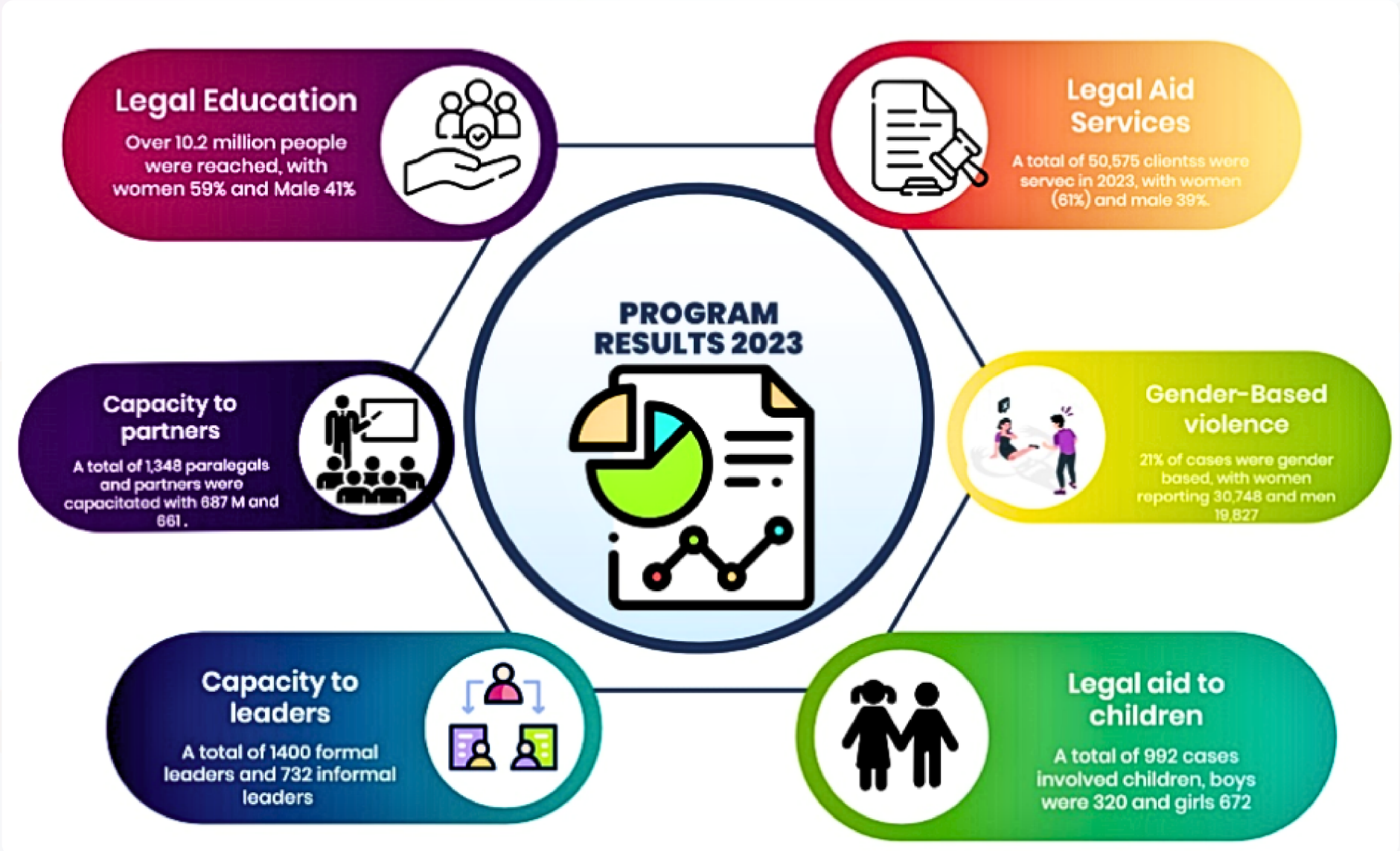
We are proud to highlight remarkable results achieved in fostering access to justice for all, particularly for women and marginalized communities in 2023.

Accessibility of Legal Aid Services:
More than 10million people were reached.

50,575 Cases were reported to paralegals in which 73% of cases were resolved.



Program Implementation Results 2023



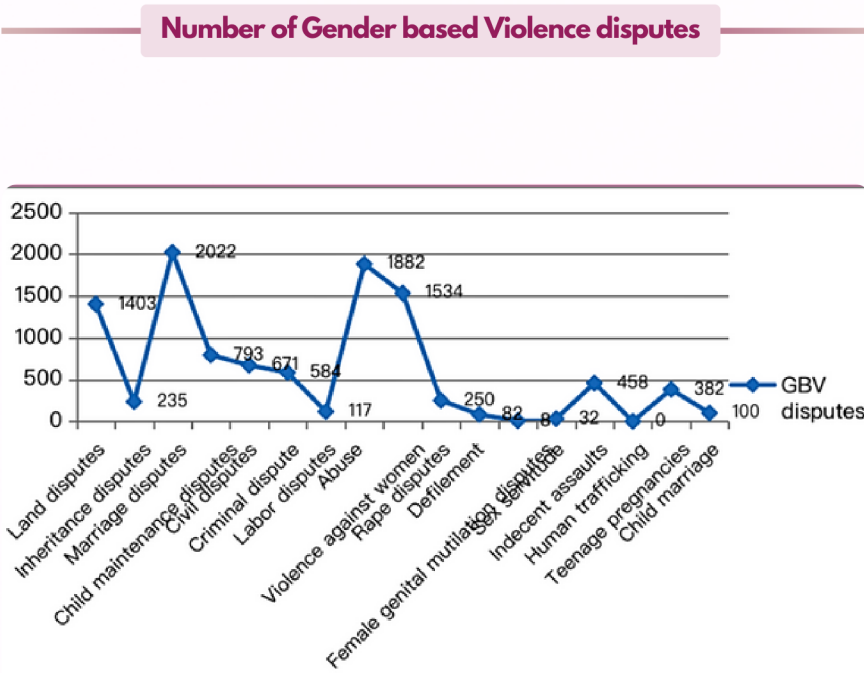
1.1 Protecting women and girls against gender-based violence through Legal Aid.

In the reporting period around 20.8% of all data equal to 10,553 disputes were disputes reported as gender-based violence disputes (GBV), which is lower than the target of dealing with 25% of GBV disputes. This implies declining of GBV disputes in the communities.

Whilst, there are automatic disputes which are in the category of GBV in the table above, legal aid providers have also given a capacity to spot those disputes with GBV elements or concern as per graph below.

About 72% (7,820) of all reported GBV disputes were brought by women,

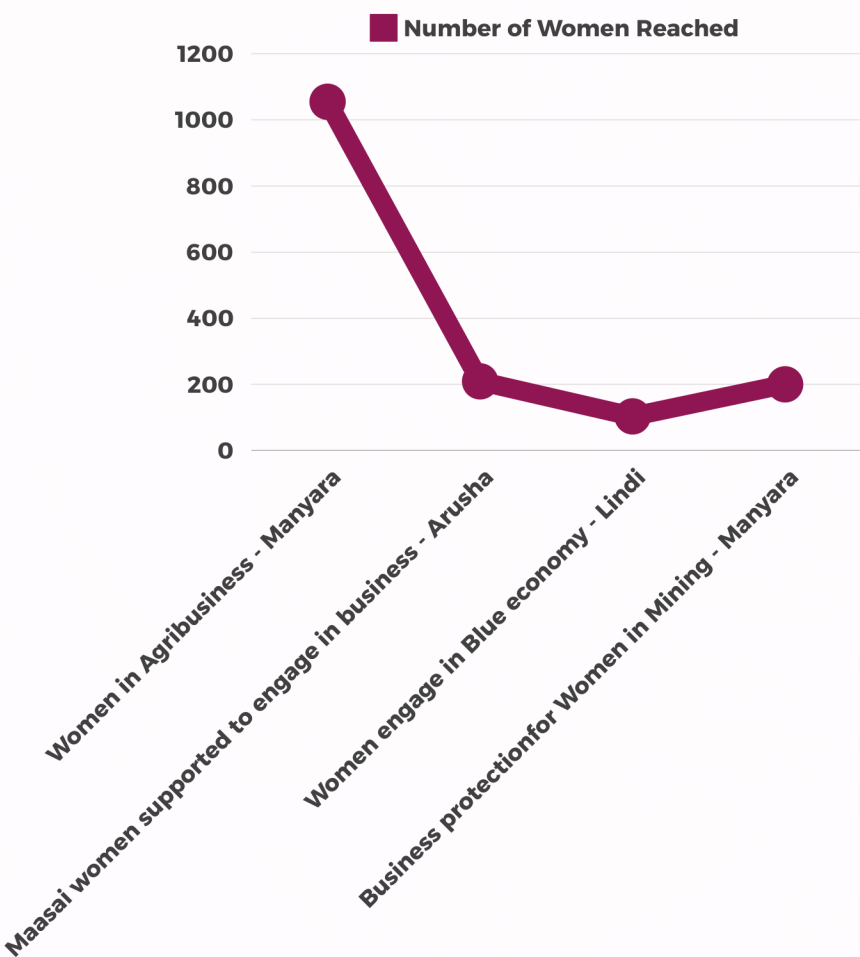
demonstrating that women and girls are the main victims of GBV. Still girls continued to suffer from Child Marriages, Early Pregnancies and incidents of the Female Genital Mutilation.



1.2 Addressing gender inequalities through economic justice projects.

The LSF program is geared to address gender inequalities and systemic limitation to women economic justice and inclusion. LSF supported women to engage in modern agribusiness, Women in mining areas, blue economy, and start-up capitals were given to women.

The chart below shows number of women benefited from various women economic justice projects.





1.3 Increased access, ownership and control over properties to women.

Increasingly women are now directly getting access to and ownership of properties through legal aid services.

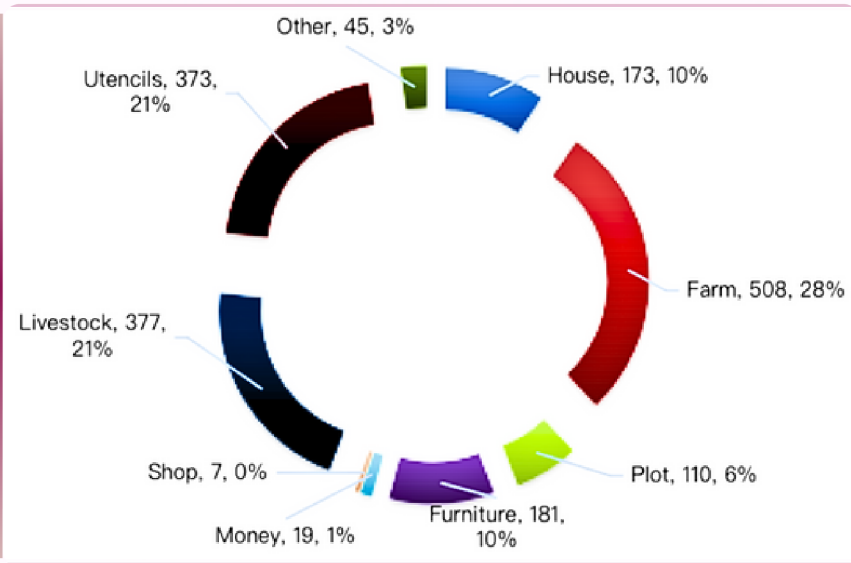
In this reporting period the project registered 2,402 inheritance disputes of which 59% of disputes were resolved, with 817 women had access to land, houses, farms, plots and other resources, which in turn have improved their status in the communities.

Women secured 1,793 several types of assets (*in figure below*), with access to land from 1 acre to 20 acres, which is quite valuable to the women, both economically and self-worth.

The highest claimed inheritance land value was from the client in Kibondo district in Kigoma, which was worth TZS 5 million. During the 2023 farming season she harvested 40 sacks of maize using only 6 acres.

This was substantial benefit to her family especially children, which without intervention made by paralegals her community could see a starving family.

Another good example is of Mrs Mariam in Musoma rural, after being assisted by paralegals she recovered her 17 acres of agriculture land from her late husband’s siblings, worth TZS 10 million.



02 IMPROVED ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN THROUGH LEGAL AID

LEGAL SERVICES FACILITY AND ENABEL SIGN 10.7 BILLION AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN TANZANIA.

The Legal Services Facility (LSF) and Enabel, the Belgian development agency, have officially signed a 10.7 billion grant agreement to implement the Improved Access to Justice for Women through Legal Aid (IMPAWLA) Project.

This collaborative project is funded by European Union (EU) under its flagship initiative called.

“Gender Transformative Action: Breaking the Glass Ceiling.”

The project aims to to reduce inequalities in access to justice for women and girls by enhancing their access to quality legal aid services.

Additionally, it will strengthen the organizational capacity of LSF to improve the achievement of its mission. Under this new grant agreement, LSF and Enabel will collaborate to implement a comprehensive legal aid program for women and marginalized groups.

This program will take a holistic approach by focusing on improving the provision of quality legal aid for women, fostering legal empowerment, and promoting a conducive environment for access to justice.

It will leverage LSF's extensive network of paralegals and legal aid providers, enhancing their capacity to deliver crucial services.

A primary focus of this initiative will be on combating gender based violence.

Speaking about the new program the EU Head of Delegation, H.E. Christine Grau, The Resident Representative at Enabel in Tanzania, Koenraad Goekint Said,



Through the Gender Transformative Action Program, ‘Breaking the Glass Ceiling’, and in particular this initiative, the EU continues to support access to justice for women and girls through legal aid in particular for victims of gender based violence.

It indeed complements other efforts within the overall programme aimed also at promoting women's economic empowerment and increasing their leadership and representation in decision-making positions. EU Head of Delegation, H.E. Christine Grau,



The Resident Representative at Enabel in Tanzania, Koenraad Goekint said;

“We are thrilled to embark on this groundbreaking collaboration with the Legal Services Facility (LSF) to enhance access to justice, particularly for women, girls, and marginalized communities in Tanzania. This partnership underscores our commitment to promoting sustainable development and fostering a society where everyone can access their rights and participate fully in the legal system. By leveraging our collective expertise and resources, we aim to make meaningful strides towards building a more equitable and just society for all Tanzanians”.

“On her side LSF Executive Director, Lulu Ng'wanakilala said

”Through this initiative, LSF will ensure that high-quality legal aid services are accessible to all individuals through formal and informal justice systems, empowering the community to understand, shape, and utilize the law.

Moreover, the program aims to address gender-based violence and empower women socially, economically, and in leadership roles. We are delighted to sign this contract with Enabel, as it represents a significant step towards improving access to justice, particularly for women, girls, and marginalized communities across the country”.



Both representatives also expressed their support and commitment to the project, emphasizing its potential in the protection of women’s rights against all forms of discrimination, with the aim of transforming Tanzanian society into a more equitable and just one. The initiative strives to ensure that justice is within reach for all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic status. The period for the implementation on the signed agreement is 26months.

03

BRINGING SMILES AND
SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES-
RUN FOR BINTI

we are happy to share some heartwarming news from our recent collaboration with Smile for Community through the Run for Binti Marathon 2023. Together, we have made a significant impact on the lives of female students in the Mtwara Region.

Through this partnership, LSF and Smile for Community we are happy to donate 2,500 sanitary pads to female students in secondary schools located in Nanyamba and Chiwa.

This contribution aims to support girls in managing their menstrual health with dignity and ease, ensuring they can focus on their education without interruption.



Access to proper sanitation facilities is essential for promoting hygiene, health, and overall well-being, especially for young students. With these new facilities, we hope to create a more conducive learning environment for everyone.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the participants, institutions, organisation and supporters who made the Run for Binti Marathon 2023 a success. Your dedication and generosity have made a tangible difference in the lives of these communities, empowering young girls and promoting education for all. #KumlindaNiJukumuLetu.



04

RUN FOR BINTI MARATHON TO TAKE PLACE ON 25TH MAY 2024

The annual Run for Binti Marathon is set to take place on the 25th May 2024.

The Run aim to mobilize resources and joint efforts to empower girls by ensuring they have access to education and reproductive health rights, including safe menstruation and improved learning environments.

Last year's event benefited students from Nanyamba and Chawi secondary schools in the Nanyamba Town Council by providing them with modern toilets and sanitary pads to girls, helping to maintain their health and ensuring their continuous school attendance.

Speaking during the announcement event, LSF's CEO, Ms. Lulu Ng'wanakilala, stated,

"In implementing our Access to Justice program, it's evident that girls and young women face both avoidable and unavoidable barriers to education, healthcare, and their basic rights.

That is why LSF sees the importance of collaborating with Smile for Community and other stakeholders to reduce these obstacles forge new paths towards a just and equal society, especially for girls."



Announcing this year's race date, Smile for Community's Director General, Flora Njelekela,


"Smile for Community, in partnership with LSF, is thrilled to announce the Third Season of the Run for Binti races, set for May 25 at the Oysterbay Grounds in Dar es Salaam.

The races will include 21 km, 10 km, and 5 km runs, as well as a 55 km bicycle race.

This year's objective is to enhance girls' educational and reproductive health environments.

Funds raised will go towards building and improving sanitation facilities in secondary schools, improving access to clean water by constructing wells, promoting safe menstruation through the distribution of reusable sanitary pads, contributing to environmental conservation through tree planting, and providing education on self-defense and addressing gender-based violence."

The beneficiaries of this year Marathon are more than 10,000 students from five secondary schools in the Lindi and Mtwara regions.

A portrait of President H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, wearing a black hijab with colorful floral patterns and glasses, smiling. The background is slightly blurred, showing logos of various organizations.

LSF EXTENDS APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT H.E SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN FOR HER COMMITMENT TO LEGAL AID SECTOR.

The Legal Services Facility (LSF) sends its heartfelt message of appreciation to **Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania**, on the momentous occasion of the **Law Day held at Dodoma on 1st February 2024**.

As the Co-Chair of the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign, alongside the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MoCLA), the LSF is deeply moved by Her Excellency's recognition of the campaign's achievements, surpassing expectations within its first year.

The event, which was graced by Her Excellency for the third consecutive year, served as a platform to commend the invaluable contribution of legal aid to the welfare of the nation.

During the historic gathering, Her Excellency extensively praised the distinctive role played by legal aid in uplifting the underprivileged segments of society. She reaffirmed the government's unwavering support for the Legal Aid sector, providing a resolute assurance to the justice community. Her Excellency emphasized that legal aid work, particularly for the poor and vulnerable, is a divine calling.

The LSF, together with its community of more than 4000 paralegals, has faithfully adhered to this divine calling for over a decade. Through their dedicated efforts, the LSF has served the underserved, reaching the hardest-to-reach and highly vulnerable women and girls in Tanzania, positively impacting over 8 million people annually.

The continued and resolute support from Her Excellency triples the LSF's and its partners' determination to extend the campaign's reach to more women, girls, and marginalized communities in the second and third year of its execution.

Furthermore, the LSF commends Her Excellency's directive to the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs regarding the development of an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Policy. As rightly observed by Her Excellency, a functional ADR system is indispensable to any legal system as it facilitates the repair of broken relationships.

The LSF has consistently invested in enhancing the country's ADR capacity, and paralegals have effectively utilized ADR skills to resolve community justice problems. With the adoption of the ADR Policy, the legal aid sector stands to benefit immensely, and the LSF pledges its unwavering support to the Ministry.



EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS: LSF AND NMB FOUNDATION JOIN FORCES.

We are jubilant to announce a groundbreaking partnership between the Legal Services Facility and NMB Foundation, aimed at empowering women and girls socially and economically.

This alliance marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to foster gender equality and create opportunities for women and girls to thrive.

The partnership between LSF and NMB Foundation underscores our shared commitment to addressing the challenges faced by women and girls, particularly in the realms of social and economic empowerment.

By pooling our resources, expertise, and networks, we aim to implement sustainable initiatives that will uplift and support women and girls in communities across the region.



As we embark on this journey together, we are excited about the transformative impact that our partnership will have on the lives of women and girls.

By working hand in hand, we can build a more inclusive and equitable society where every woman and girl has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

07

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH MAMA SAMIA LEGAL AID CAMPAIGN.



The campaign was launched by Prime Minister in Dodoma. The LSF LSF is a co-chair actively participated in the campaign by supporting paralegals to provide legal aid and education to thousands of people who attend in large gatherings.

At national level the campaign has already been done in Dodoma, Manyara, Ruvuma, Simiyu and Shinyanga regions.

Through this campaign 42 Municipal 452 wards and 1,348 in six regions were reached more than 362,488 has been reached through legal in the implementing regions. 415,280 were reached including 7,166 remands in prison

The outcomes of the legal empowerment approach have increased peoples' access to justice both socially and economically by helping to resolve legal problems amicably.

Accordingly, local leaders at the field level have claimed that the work of the partners reduced the workload at their end which otherwise they would have been involved to resolve disputes.

During the monitoring field visits local leaders, policies, courts and government leaders confirmed that the presence of the Access to Justice program helps to decrease petty disputes from their desks that allow them to engage in other developmental agendas.

“

THE GOVERNMENT IS INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZING LSF AND PARALEGALS WORK THROUGHOUT THIS CAMPAIGN.

“WE THANK LSF FOR THE UNIQUE STRENGTH OF RECRUITING, TRAINING AND SUPPORTING PARALEGALS WITH THE INTENTION OF OFFERING A UNIQUE SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY IN TANZANIA AND ENSURING ACCESS TO JUSTICE IS ATTAINED PARTICULARLY TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN”

~ A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

08

CALL FOR PARTNERS TO JOIN HANDS IN TACKLING GBV THROUGH LEGAL AID SERVICES



During this quarter, the LSF issued a call for proposals for Legal Aid providers to offer legal aid services to marginalized communities, with a special focus on women and girls across the country.

The call aims to provide grants to paralegal organizations in every district, both on the mainland and in Zanzibar and enable community access free legal aid services.

This pivotal initiative seeks to eliminate financial barriers, ensuring that individuals in marginalized communities, particularly women and girls, can avail themselves of essential legal assistance.

By offering support to paralegal organizations at the grassroots level, the LSF ensures the availability of legal aid services where they are most needed.

Furthermore, the LSF unveiled the MWANAMKE SALAMA Project, a special initiative to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and promote equality for all.

The Mwanamke SALAMA Project will be implemented in five regions, including Shinyanga, Mara, Dodoma, Zanzibar and Kigoma. Through this project, we aim to deliver essential legal aid services to those impacted by GBV, fostering a safer and fairer community for all.



The project seeks to disrupt the cycle of violence and empower victims to seek recourse and protection, promoting gender equality and raising awareness about GBV. The initiative aims to catalyze a shift in societal norms and behaviors, contributing to the creation of a more supportive and inclusive.

CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES



At the Legal Services Facility (LSF), we recognize the importance of job creation as a catalyst for socioeconomic development.

As a leading organization dedicated to promoting access to justice and legal empowerment, we are committed to not only providing essential legal aid services but also to creating meaningful job opportunities.

During this quarter, the LSF is providing an opportunity for Tanzanians to join our team in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar to support our mission of fostering access to justice for all.

We believe that by expanding our workforce, we can enhance our capacity to serve communities in need and further our goal of ensuring that everyone has access to justice regardless of their circumstances.

We anticipate recruiting more than 31 individuals in various roles during this quarter alone.





In commemoration of International Women's Day, the Legal Services Facility (LSF) joined the global community in reaffirming its commitment to advancing gender equality and empowering women.

The highlight of this year's commemoration was the launch of the National Gender Policy 2023 by the Ministry for Community Development, Gender, Elderly People, and Special Groups.

Furthermore, the LSF, through paralegals, provided legal aid services at the Mashujaa grounds, enabling the community, particularly women and marginalized communities, to access free legal aid services for 7 days.



This underscores our ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, as we strive to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and foster an inclusive environment where women can thrive and contribute meaningfully to society.



In addition to our activities in Dodoma, our partners were actively engaged in commemorating International Women's Day at the regional level, further amplifying our collective commitment to gender equality and women's rights.

EMPOWERING NGO'S FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are excited to announce our partnership with the National Council of NGOs (NaCoNGO) in Tanzania!

Together, LSF and NaCoNGO are embarking on joint initiatives to foster a cohesive coalition within the sector. Our shared goal is to influence policies that ensure a supportive environment for NGOs, with a special focus on addressing gender equality in the country.

Gender equality is a cornerstone of our collaborative efforts. By advocating for policies that promote gender equality and empowering NGOs to address gender disparities, we are working towards a more inclusive and equitable society. Through workshops, seminars, and targeted initiatives, we are committed to driving positive change and ensuring that women and girls have equal opportunities to thrive.

With approximately 9600 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Tanzania, NaCoNGO plays a crucial role in connecting and empowering these organizations.

As a network dedicated to capacity development, information sharing, and advocacy, NaCoNGO provides a coordinated and workable mechanism for NGOs to contribute effectively to national development.



LSF's Program team discuss views during the NACONGO meeting.

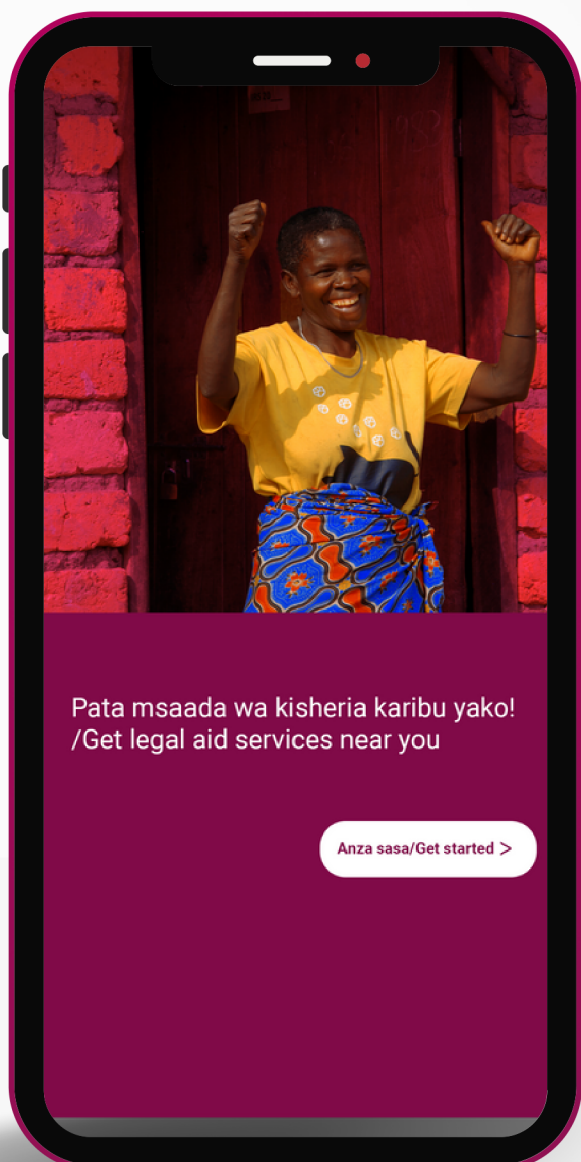
We invite all NGOs in Tanzania to join us in our mission to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Together, we can make a difference! Whether through collaboration, advocacy, or capacity building, your participation is invaluable.

Contact NaCoNGO today to learn more about how you can get involved and contribute to positive change in Tanzania.



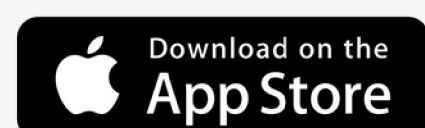
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»»» SUCCESS STORY: «««

PARALEGAL-LED INITIATIVE:

➤ Empowering Education through sanitation Transformation at Iboja Primary School.



Iboja Primary school Latrines before Paralegal intervention



Iboja Primary school Latrines After Paralegal intervention



31 NEW MODERN TOILET ROOMS BUILT (2018-2020) IN IBOJA DISTRICT



2 NEW ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

“

When we have periods, we need washrooms the most," says Mbuke, a student at Iboja Primary School in Ushetu district, Shinyanga region. "In those times, we used to go back home. But when we'd return to school, classes would have started. Because of that, we often missed out on our studies."

”

Iboja Primary School, located in Ushetu district, Shinyanga region, previously faced a shortage of safe toilets.

Students used traditional toilets, which were not friendly to many, especially girls and students with disabilities. This lack of adequate facilities led to frequent absences from classes, particularly for girls during menstruation periods, as there were no special rooms for them.

Students resorted to using the bushes, leading to the outbreak of diseases due to poor hygiene practices. This situation resulted in regular school dropouts, creating an unhealthy learning environment that threatened the students' health.

Recognizing the challenges faced by children in their school routine, particularly girls who missed classes during menstruation periods, Ramadhan Focus paralegals at PECOIO took action. They mobilized the school committee to address the community through a village assembly.

The idea gained acceptance, and paralegals addressed community members during the assembly, who agreed to contribute 17,500/= to every household. This contribution was paid in two terms, with Tshs. 7,500/= paid initially and Tshs. 10,000/= paid later. The village committee was responsible for collecting all contributions from community members.

As a result of the collective efforts of the community members at Iboja Village, they embarked on building 17 toilet rooms. Upon hearing of the community's efforts, government officials at Ushetu District decided to support them. The plan expanded to build 31 toilet rooms, with community members collecting stones, gravels, and sands to commence construction.



Iboja Primary school Latrines before Paralegal intervention

Ultimately, they successfully completed the construction of 31 toilet rooms, including two rooms for disabled students and one special room for girls.

The initiative began in 2018, and the completion of the toilets was achieved in 2020. Students began using the new facilities in 2020, and they are now considered the best-designed and top-ranked toilets among all schools in Ushetu District.

Paralegal mobilization has empowered community members, shifting their focus from government grants to self-reliance.

Legal education initiatives, such as advocating for children's right to education, have united Iboja Village in creating a conducive learning environment.

LSF's "Access to Justice for Women and Children" project has notably contributed to community well-being by providing legal knowledge and resources. Through collaboration and empowerment, LSF has significantly improved the lives of women and children in the community.



ABOUT THE LSF

The Legal Services Facility (LSF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing access to justice for marginalized individuals and communities in Tanzania.

With a network of over 4000 paralegals, the LSF provides legal aid services, empowers communities, and advocates for policy and legal reforms to create a more inclusive and equitable justice system.



The LSF's Executive Director (right) and Director of Programs and Operations in a picture after the Enabel contract signing event.

► Our Vision

A society in which all people have equitable access to justice.

► Our Mission

To promote and protect human rights by enhancing legal, social, economic and civic empowerment to women, girls and marginalized communities through grant making, policy advocacy and legal aid services.



Paralegal from Calesoju providing education on gender-based violence at Mbande Magengeni market.



Paralegals are actively involved in empowering women economically. *Bi Batret Malemla, a Paralegal from Temeke district, exemplifies this commitment by attentively listening to a trader from Tandika market as she describes the challenges they encounter in the marketplace.*

Key Results Areas

To promote and protect human rights by enhancing legal, social, economic and civic empowerment to women, girls and marginalized communities through grant making, policy advocacy and legal aid services.

Goals: LSF's strategic goal is to enhance access to justice for all, in particular for women in the next five years. More specifically, LSF aims at:

01 Increasing accessibility of quality legal aid services to the marginalized communities in particular women

We focus on increased accessibility of quality basic legal aid services for women and marginalized groups across the country. Through grant making and management emphasizing on innovation and the use of technology by legal aid providers and paralegals, women and marginalized groups are able to obtain quality legal advice, assistance and representation in accordance with acceptable legal aid services standards

02

Promoting legally empowered communities, in particular women.

We empowerment communities with legal knowledge through legal awareness and empowerment by legal aid providers and paralegals so that they are able to shape and reform laws and practices as well as advocate for civic, political, and social-economic rights and entitlements through both individual and collective actions.

03

Enhancing a conducive environment for sustainable access to justice.

We focus on advocacy initiatives aiming at reforming structural inequalities within the access to justice system, advocating for laws, regulations and practice reforms to conform to regional and international access to justice standards

04

Institutional development and sustainability of LSF and the legal aid sector.

We focuses on enhancing the performance and sustainability of LSF as an organization and on the other enhancing the coordination and support of access to justice and legal aid actors to collectively work together on the delivery of legal aid services



- LSF Quater 01 Newsletter

Thank You

LSF would like to express our sincere gratitude to our partners and donors for their invaluable contributions that make our work possible:



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