



LSF HALF YEAR NEWSLETTER - 2022



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WORD FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our 2022 half-year newsletter, ACCESS TO JUSTICE. This publication provides you with updates on development inside and outside of LSF, Featuring Activities around our nationwide Access to Justice Program, insights on women and girls' rights, legal aid issues our successes and achievements during this period.

This year has kicked-off implementation of our new strategic plan which will culminate in 2026, and as before our mandate is defined by the enormous investments we place in ensuring that quality legal aid services remain accessible to all but even more so to women and girls. Community is well empowered to know use and shape the law, we foster conducive environment for sustainable access to justice and ensuring sustainability of Legal Aid Sector.

Collaboration with various stakeholders including the government, paralegal organizations, key development partners, and other strategic partners in providing legal aid services and paralegal services also features extensively, confirming our belief that we achieve more when we work with others.

The many accomplishments that LSF has registered in this first half of this year are a result of the undying resolve of our team, stakeholders and like-minded partners but also the many levels of government with which our organization and our grantees work on a regular basis. The cooperation we continue to receive from the governments in the mainland and in Zanzibar enable us to fulfill our mandate to promote and protect human rights, rule of law, democracy , gender equality and reach thousands of people with vital legal aid services.

LSF remains determined to continue fostering effective relationships with communities we serve through paralegals and other legal aid providers, our grantees, development partners, other civil society organizations, the private sector and the government so that our efforts to facilitate access to justice bear fruit the country over.

On behalf of LSF, I welcome you to read and feel free to share this newsletter.

Lulu Ng'wanakilala
CEO



LSF's Chief Executive Officer
Lulu Ng'wanakilala

Participation at the UN CSW66 session

As part of the 2022 International Women's Day commemorations, LSF participated and supported the government delegation attending the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 66) which ran under the theme "Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls in the Context of Climate Change, Environmental and Disaster Risk Reduction Policies and Programmes".

Among other things related to this theme, the session's objectives were to call member states to set policies and laws to strengthen global efforts in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. The session included member state ministerial-level meetings, technical experts' sessions, and side sessions which were held both virtually and physically.

The LSF was invited to be part of the Government of Tanzania delegation led by the Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr. Dorothy Gwajima, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Amon Mpanju, directors and other ministry officials.

Among the resolutions that the Government adopted as outcomes of the meeting was the review of policy and institutional frameworks for the improvement of an enabling environment for women's leadership and political participation; to enhance the role of women in climate change decision-making; to set up capacity building sessions to empower women economically as a means of adapting to climate change; to establish firm monitoring and evaluation programs to inform the status of women at all levels; to encourage the participation of women in parliament so that they can have one voice and thus put in place policies and laws that contribute to achieving gender equality and women empowerment. All these commitments by the Government of Tanzania fall within LSF's priority areas laid out in its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.



The 66th session of the conference on the Status of Women (CSW66) is focused on promoting gender equality and the empowerment. The priority theme was based achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs.

LSF facilitates the empowerment of school girls in Geita and Shinyanga with sexual and reproductive health rights skills



The Flaviana Matata Foundation officer educates school girls and communities at Ngokolo Secondary School based in Shinyanga region on sexual reproductive health rights and menstrual health and hygiene management to enable girls to stay in schools.

In promoting sexual and reproductive health rights the LSF in partnership with the Flaviana Matata Foundation launched and carried out a project that is instrumental in advocating for girls' rights to education through raising awareness of menstrual health and hygiene management (MHMM) in Shinyanga and Geita.

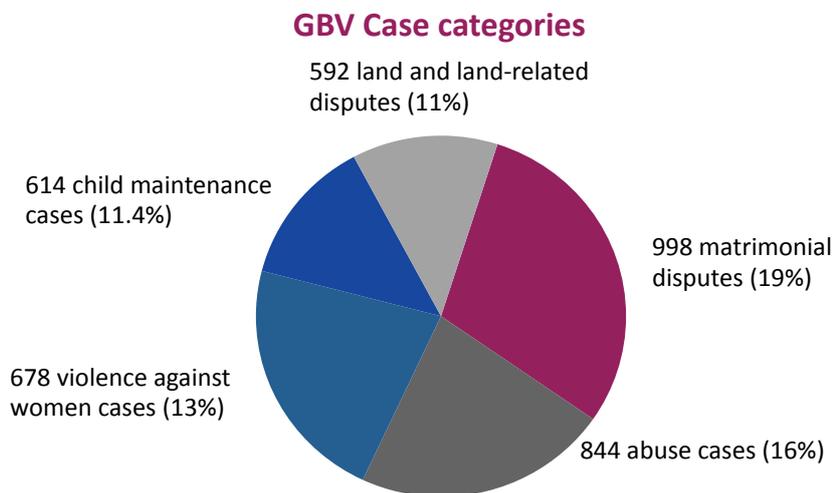
The project aims to empower local communities with knowledge and enable them to openly hold dialogues about these vital agenda specifically addressing sexual and reproductive health rights and women's and girls' rights.

As an immediate result of the project, about 1,956 young girls were supplied with MHMM kits which included sanitary pads and underwear, a crucial step towards helping them stay in school during their menstrual periods and continue with their education, and also take care of their personal hygiene needs.

The project is expected to have a far-reaching impact as it will reduce dropout and absenteeism rates while motivating parents and guardians to consider the importance of supporting their female children, especially in menstrual health hygiene, and consequently promote girls' confidence in school.

Gender-based violence cases

Gender-based violence (GBV) is listed among the major challenges that LSF routinely addresses in communities across the country through legal aid services provided by paralegals and other legal aid providers. In the period between January and March, LSF's statistics showed that more than a quarter of all reported disputes, that is 5,358 (26%) were associated with GBV.



These types of cases and disputes are included under GBV cases due to the fact that each one of them has an underlying and sometimes indirect element of GBV.

About 75% (3,989) of all reported GBV disputes were brought by women, demonstrating that women form the bulk of victims of GBV, which confirms a consistent increase in violence against women across the country.

The statistical interpretation of GBV cases indicates that 1 out of 4 individuals who reported a dispute to paralegals had suffered from GBV. By regional distribution, the highest number of reported GBV cases between January and March was from Pwani which recorded about 1,305 cases, followed by Dar es Salaam with 504 cases and Kagera with 487.

In the northern and central parts of mainland Tanzania, child marriage, child pregnancy and female genital mutilation (FGM) were prominently reported. In the same period, 10 FGM cases were dealt with by paralegals 9 of which were referred to the police and courts.

In a bid to decrease the rate of GBV towards women and girls, LSF has been a pioneer through both direct interventions and through grantees in ensuring the National Plan of Action on Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) is implemented at the grassroots level.

In February 2022, the LSF secretariat attended the NPA-VAWC technical committee meeting which was organized by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups to discuss the status of the plan's implementation for the period from July to December 2021.

In the same month, the LSF secretariat was also consulted by the same ministry for inputs and recommendations on the ongoing final evaluation of the NPA-VAWC (2017/2018 – 2021/2022) and the development of NPA-VAWC II.

Within this half of the year apart from other paralegal engagements in district NPA-VAWC committees, Mwanza-based Railway Children Africa (RCA), an LSF grantee, reported having held meetings with NPA-VAWC district committees in both Nyamagana and Ilemela districts to equip the committees with expertise in how to best address GBV issues.

The 2022 International Women's Day



Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Facility, Lulu Ng'wanakilala speaking at the launch of the Tengeru Arusha Community Development Institute's Women's Symposium as the part of the commemorations of 2022 International Women Day.

Once again on 8th March the world celebrated International Women's Day highlighting the theme, "Gender Equality Today for Sustainable Tomorrow."

This year LSF partnered with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups to mark the day nationally in Arusha with the aim of bringing together women and other stakeholders to examine strategies for building networks and partnerships for propelling the gender equality agenda in Tanzania forward.

Additionally, the national celebration event was organized to build support, consensus and commitment at the highest levels of both the private and public sectors in common efforts towards gender equality. LSF-funded Meru Paralegal Organization which is based in Arusha attended the event and its exhibition, and provided legal aid and education to visitors and the general public from LSF's pavilion.

The commemoration featured several platforms for engagement including a conference, stakeholders' meetings, a women's walk for gender equality, an exhibition, road shows, media engagement and theatre through which more than 2,000 people were reached with legal education.

In continuing to collaborate and make contributions towards the welfare of women, LSF supported the women's conference which was organized by the National Women's Research and Documentation Centre (NWRDC) which operates under the auspices of the Tengeru Institute of Community Development (TICD) in Arusha. This institution exists purposely to provide a national forum for sharing the latest research findings, knowledge, opinions, suggestions and vision and other progressive developments and experiences towards gender equality.

The conference extended a discussion forum for gender stakeholders to share experiences, insights and knowledge on various issues affecting women across the country. It also provided a range of interactive platforms from specific individual research presentations to panels, keynote presentations by prominent researchers, group discussions, stakeholder meetings, and networking on gender equality topics.

Attended by 300 participants, the conference attracted representatives from sectorial ministries, government agencies, civil society organizations, regional and international organizations, grassroots women's groups, academia, students, and the private sector.

The Legal Aid Symposium 2022

LSF in collaboration with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MoCLA) co-hosted a two-day symposium on legal aid in Dodoma on 30th and 31st March 2022 under the theme “Legal Aid for a Just and Inclusive Society” looking to probe the implementation of the Legal Aid Act, 2017 by analyzing its successes and challenges in the last five years.

Essentially, the Legal Aid Symposium 2022 involved engaging deliberations that allowed participants to exchange experiences on various aspects of legal aid in the country in a bid to enhance the establishment of strong, sustainable institutions for the provision of legal aid services in efforts to improve access to justice across Tanzania.

The event was opened by the then Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, George Simbachawene, who also launched LSF’s Access to Justice Stakeholder Mapping Report which aims to identify access to justice practitioners in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, their engagement, and strategies for enhancing access to justice in the country.

The curtain came down on the symposium with remarks from the Deputy Minister for the Constitution and Legal Affairs, Geoffrey Pinda who urged stakeholders in the legal aid services sector to establish and maintain strategic cooperation with the government as a means of facilitating improvements to the legal aid sector.

Dialogue during the Legal Aid Symposium directed its focus on access to and the reach of legal aid, quality and efficiency of legal aid services, legal aid regulation and coordination, women and legal aid needs, children’s access to legal aid, and legal aid optimization.

The symposium produced several recommendations from the legal aid sector which included pointing out the need for paralegals to be granted formal recognition at every level of local government so that they can serve even more citizens; expand access to legal aid in criminal systems, use of technology in the provision of legal aid and coordination.

In improving the quality and effectiveness of legal aid services there is a need to roll out standardized legal training for paralegals, establishment of guidelines for the provision of legal aid in civil and criminal systems, and capacity building of legal aid providers on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).



Guest of honour for 2022 Legal Aid Symposium, the then Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, George Simbachawene, delivers his keynote speech as he officially opens the 2022 Legal Aid Symposium in Dodoma.

Other recommendations included the establishment of a coordination protocol for legal aid providers with relevant government departments and the judiciary, providing time limits for inheritance and family cases, having in place a multi-sector approach for delivery of justice to women and girls, strengthening the capacity of legal aid providers and police on juvenile justice and child referral systems, the need to harmonize civil and criminal laws with the ADR Act, the need to enhance partnerships and collaboration between the government, the judiciary and private sector in legal aid provision and finally that the government prioritize the establishment of a legal aid fund.

Giving her final remarks the LSF CEO, Lulu Ng’wanakilala said that the symposium had provided LSF with several recommendations, and that the organization would issue a formal report to the government with the sole intent of ultimately improving and expanding the legal aid services sector in the country; she further commended and credited the ministry for waiving the annual registration fee for paralegals.

During the legal Aid symposium, a public exhibition featured, amongst other things, a one-stop centre for free legal aid services that allowed the visiting public to receive legal assistance at their convenience.

Legal empowerment for domestic workers and children

In advocating for the rights of street children and domestic workers in Ilemela and Nyamagana districts in Mwanza Between January and March, 51 individuals were supported with temporary shelter through trained fit persons of whom 15 were rescued street children, 11 were children who were living and working in streets and 25 were domestic workers who were victims of abuse and exploitation.

Separately, another 55 individuals were reintegrated with their families, 19 of whom were children living and working in streets and 36 domestic workers who have survived abuse.

In the same timeframe, 38 children were enrolled back into schools Of these, 12(9 males and 3 females) are children living and working in the streets(CLWS).

Others are and 14 domestic workers were re-enrolled in Primary and Secondary schools while 12 enrolled in vocational training centers. In addition, about 111 CLWS and domestic workers were provided with scholastic materials.

38,762 people comprising men and women, children, medical doctors, justice actors, and members of the National Plan Action to End Violence against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) committees were reached with legal awareness

This was made possible through the partnership between the LSF, Railway Children Africa (RCA), and Wote Sawa, in Promoting Rights of Domestic Workers and Children and Youth Living and Working on the Street in Mwanza Region.



LSF emphasizes women and girls' empowerment



LSF' Gender Program Officer, Diana Nsekela, speaks on the role of women lawyers with their contribution to the achievement of SDG5 (Gender & Equality) at the Women Lawyers Breakfast Forum held in Arusha during Tanganyika Law Society 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Tanganyika Law Society is the strategic partner for the Legal Services Facility (LSF). 26th May 2022, TLS conducted its Annual General Meeting in Arusha purposely to provide a platform for discussions on TLS operations, welfare and resolutions.

Elections were also held for various leadership positions within the TLS, as well as a vote being cast for nominations for the East African Law Society President. In addition to this, there were specific sessions dedicated to matters such as the Women Lawyers Forum, the Young Lawyers Forum and various panel discussions. There were also several opportunities for plenary discussions, networking and Q & A sessions for attendees to ask panelists follow-up questions.

Key takeaway messages from the fora and plenary discussions included the following; the importance of women lawyers rising to the task of addressing gender equality issues in the varying contexts in which they arise; acknowledgment of the unique challenges faced by women in the legal sector. These challenges include unconscious bias, cultural expectations around work-life balance, and incorrect perceptions surrounding the loyalty of female employees.

Also, societal barriers to entry for women in the legal profession which have yet to be addressed. While women are entering the legal profession in increasing numbers, in general, there is little upward mobility for women within the legal sector. This presents a challenge for women not only in terms of opportunities to rise

to key positions but also in women's opportunities to exercise more influence and contribute to decision-making.

During this forum, LSF Gender Program Officer, Ms. Diana Nsekela provided a speech on Women Lawyers and Sustainable Development Goal Number 5 (Gender equality), and in turn, this led to a plenary discussion regarding the groups and societies available for women lawyers to join in order to contribute to gender equality in the country and the region. Recommendations were also made for how women can contribute to gender equality in everyday professional settings.

Ms. Diana insisted on the important role that women lawyers play in addressing gender equality as a cross-cutting issue across all of our national challenges. Her speech discussed the important work that the LSF has already done, and continues to do, in pushing the agenda of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

LSF Gender Officer detailed the remaining gaps that need to be filled in achieving SDG5, and how women lawyers are critical agents of ensuring access to justice, sustainable development and economic growth.

"Without women in top decision-making and leadership positions, it is difficult to ensure that women's concerns and challenges are reflected in policy making. More women at the table is crucial to having issues of gender reflected in decision making" said Ms. Nsekela.

LSF partners with UNESCO to Mark 2022 World Press Freedom Day



Legal Services Facility Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala, moderates a panel discussion on State of the Press: Africa Continental and Sub-Regional Press Freedom Reports, during the World Press Freedom Day held in Arusha.

Every 3rd May press freedom takes center stage the world over as World Press Freedom Day is marked. This day celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom and is used to evaluate press freedom around the world, reminding everyone of the need to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

The 2022 World Press Freedom Day, Africa Media Convention, UNESCO, the Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology and the National World Press Freedom Committee in the United Republic of Tanzania collaborated with the Eastern Africa Editors Society (EAES) and UNESCO offices and regional partners in Africa to host the African Media Convention, to mark the 2022 World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) in Arusha, Tanzania.

The LSF partnered with UNESCO and other key stakeholders in organizing the commemoration which sits well in the LSF's overall agenda and mandates that is the promotion and protection of human rights in which the right to information, freedom of speech, and media and journalism safety is a fundamental human right. The LSF is keen on advocating for a conducive environment for the media fraternity, the manifestation of digital siege and favorable policies and laws for the media and journalist to exercise their duties in the country.

This year's world press freedom commemoration to a larger extent provided an opportunity for the region and continent at large, to share, reflect and own the outcomes of the analyses, knowledge and lessons learned through the multifaceted dialogue on the

related sub-topics under the global theme Journalism under Digital Siege.

The convention carried the following objectives: discussing the opportunities and challenges of digital expansions on journalism and press freedom in Africa, with a special focus on legislation and policy reform; reviewing Sub-Regional Reports on Press Freedom and document the impact and mitigation approaches, most relevant to the African context, of privacy, online surveillance and hacking on journalism and journalists' safety in Africa.

Other objectives were to discuss models for media viability promoting public trust amidst the global digital revolution; to discuss the role of data-driven impact journalism and the transparency of digital platforms as catalysts for citizens' fundamental rights; to build solidarity on the continent through strengthened networks, entrenching gender responsive and transformative media freedoms in the region.

In Africa, World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) remains a critical platform for results-oriented policy dialogue, gathering public and private partners and civil society to discuss pertinent issues of concern and identify areas of collaboration. It is a unique, credible, systematic effort for strategy and advocacy towards an improved environment and operational framework for press freedom.

In Tanzania, UNESCO works with the responsible Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology and diverse actors in the media sector celebrate World Press Freedom Day in line with the global theme, adapted to topics that are most relevant to the national and regional context.

LSF Launched the Legal Aid Stakeholders Mapping Report



Guest of honor for the 2022 Legal Aid Symposium, the then Minister of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs, George Simbachawene, unveils the LSF's Access to Justice Stakeholders Mapping Report. From left is Director of Legal Aid Department Zanzibar, Hanifa Soud, Registrar of Legal Aid Services, Felistas Mushi, LSF CEO, Lulu Ng'wanakilala and LSF Program Manager, Deogratias Bwire.

Late last year the LSF was awarded a grant from the Danish Institute of Human Rights for conducting a study which aim at mapping and informing the key legal aid stakeholders in the country.

LSF undertook a comprehensive study assessment of the implementation of its activities to Access to Justice (A2J) Stakeholders. In this thrust, it decided to start with a mapping of A2J stakeholders in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar that will identify their engagement strategies to enhance access to justice in Tanzania through the operationalization of the Legal Aid Act 2017 for Tanzania Mainland and Legal Aid Act 2018 for Zanzibar.

At the Legal Aid Symposium 2022 in Dodoma LSF launched its Stakeholder Mapping Report which among other things shed a spotlight on the need for access to justice stakeholders to coalesce collaborative efforts to improve justice provision.

The report which was launched by the then Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs George Simbachawene also indicated the importance of paralegals in assisting the fulfillment of access to justice. As can be seen in the report paralegals are among the most important stakeholders in the provision of legal aid services alongside the courts, police local government authorities, religious leaders and traditional leaders.

A2J Stakeholders Mapping and Analysis

The findings indicate that stakeholders (government and non-government actors) have varied levels of influence and impact on A2J in Tanzania. They are also faced with many challenges including perceived

corruption, particularly for the judiciary and law enforcement organs, delays in investigation and prosecution of cases, poor working environment due to shortage of equipment, and inadequate staffing particularly for law enforcement officers and judicial workers, overcrowding in prisons, budgetary constraints and poor knowledge about human rights and the essence of procedural safeguard especially for the police force and prisons.

In addition, there has been laws and regulations which are restricting the civic space of CSOs/NGOs working in the A2J sector, political parties, and media. Legal aid providers are faced with the challenge of institutional capacity, skills gaps, and inadequate funding which affect their service delivery capacities. The public, as the ultimate beneficiary of the A2J system, are faced with the challenges of little knowledge and awareness about legal and human rights issues, social and economic barriers (cost of accessing justice) and harmful social norms which limit access to justice, particularly to women, children, People With Disabilities (PWDs).

Based on the assessment, the proposed strategic priorities to be considered include: i) Improve the country's legal and regulatory framework for the enhancement of A2J ii) Enhance institutional capacity development including systems development; iii) Promote HR and Skills Development capacity iv) Promote access to Justice and Public Confidence iv) Enhance Public awareness on legal procedures and human rights; v) Forge a strategic partnership between A2J stakeholders.

Run for Binti Marathon



Legal Services Facility Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala (first left) and Smile for Community Organization Executive Director, Flora Njelekela (right) are happy running in the Run for Binti Marathon which was organized to raise funds and awareness on menstrual health and hygiene heading to its commemoration day on 28th of May.

On 21st May 2022, LSF partnered with Smile for Community Organization (S4C) and organized the 'Run for Binti, Twende Pamoja' marathon in Dar es Salaam to raise funds and generate awareness of World Menstrual Health and Hygiene Day, in collaboration with paralegals in Lindi, Mbeya, Kagera and Tanga, to provide legal aid services to young girls who experience challenges including gender-based violence.

Proceeds from the marathon were intended to increase access to reproductive health rights for young girls and expand reproductive health education, as pointed out by S4C Executive Director Flora Njelekela who said, "We have organized this event to support 1,500 girls and continue providing awareness on menstrual health and hygiene. This year S4C has partnered with various stakeholders including LSF which extends grants to paralegal organizations and other legal aid providers countrywide through its Access to Justice Program. In this note, S4C will join hands with paralegals in select regions to provide legal aid services to young girls who face numerous challenges".

On her part, LSF'S CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala highlighted the role legal aid providers play in ensuring the rights of women and girls are upheld and said, "We have partnered with S4C to mobilize resources which will benefit women and young girls in various regions in the country, and furthermore we are happy that our grantees, particularly paralegals, on the ground will be part of this year's event in every region by ensuring that quality legal aid services are provided to women and young girls for free".

The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes May 28th as Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Day. In Tanzania, this day is usually commemorated by stakeholders in the health sector, among others, participating in activities aimed at inspiring adherence to menstrual health and hygiene, the use of relevant products, and the application of safety practices.

LSF supports the 2022 Zanzibar Annual NGOs Forum



President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, cuts a special ribbon to launch 2022 Zanzibar Non-Governmental Organizations Forum 2022 which was themed on 'Strengthening NGOs and Governmental Partnership for the Development of Zanzibar'.

On a yearly routine the Association of Non-Governmental Organizations of Zanzibar (ANGOZA) in collaboration with the Government of Zanzibar host the Annual Non-Governmental Organizations Forum, and this year LSF extended support for the event which was held from 12th – 14th of March.

Intended to devise ways of and promoting closer collaboration with the government, this year's forum carried the theme, 'Strengthening NGOs and Governmental Partnership for the Development of Zanzibar', and was attended by the President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi as guest of honour.

During the commencement of the forum, President Mwinyi acknowledged that NGOs remain important in engaging and getting involved in programs that aim to move Zanzibar forward, citing that the good relationship between NGOs and government had been emphasized especially because the role of the

private sector remains important in the development of the country.

President Mwinyi added that efforts against exploitation, improving water availability, education, promotion of human rights and peace have all been impressive due to the involvement of NGOs, a factor that led the governments of Zanzibar and Tanzania to be committed to strengthening collaborations.

In his remarks, LSF's Senior Program Manager, Deogratias Bwire, applauded President Mwinyi for facilitating an enabling environment for NGOs' work in the country, making it feasible for LSF, which has been implementing its Access to Justice Program through a memorandum of understanding signed by the both government and the basket fund purposely, to improve accessibility of legal aid services in the archipelago through legal aid providers and paralegals.

The Citizen's Rising Woman Initiative 2022



Legal Services Facility Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala (left) receives the Citizen Rising Woman Award 2022 after LSF being pronounced the overall winner for promoting internal gender equality policies and practices where 56% of its management and 57% of its board members are women with both the Board Chair and CEO being women.

This year was the 2nd edition of The Citizen Rising Woman Initiative 2022 which bore the theme “Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow” with the objective of inspiring, recognizing, celebrating and promoting culture of mentorship among women in leadership and business. The Rising Woman Initiative is a project that focuses on identifying and profiling women leaders, with emphasis on women in managerial-cum-leadership positions and LSF supported this year's edition, highlighting the value it places on women's advancement.

The Rising Woman Initiative has blended in with The Citizen's daily content through a series of published profiles of women in leadership positions in various corporate entities or organizations. According to Mwananchi Communications Limited (MCL), the publisher of The Citizen, the initiative was designed to uplift women and be part of the movement to empower and inspire them, as well as men to put an end of gender inequality. This year the initiative shone a spotlight on all issues that concern a woman - from the things that affect her to those that appraise her capabilities and celebrate her presence.

Since its first series, some 59 published features have detailed women leaders' experiences of working in their respective sectors, reinforcing why it is important to have women in top leadership positions. In the second edition of the initiative, LSF's CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala was profiled as a leader in the NGO sector, highlighting her accomplishments so as to inspire young girls and women around the country.

LSF participated in the Rising Woman Initiative 2022 gala which was held on International Women's Day on 08th March 2022 in Dar es Salaam and received the overall Rising Woman Award 2022 for its work promoting internal gender equality policies and practices through which 56% of its management and 57% of its Board members are women, led by the Board Chair and CEO.

Women's economic justice and property rights

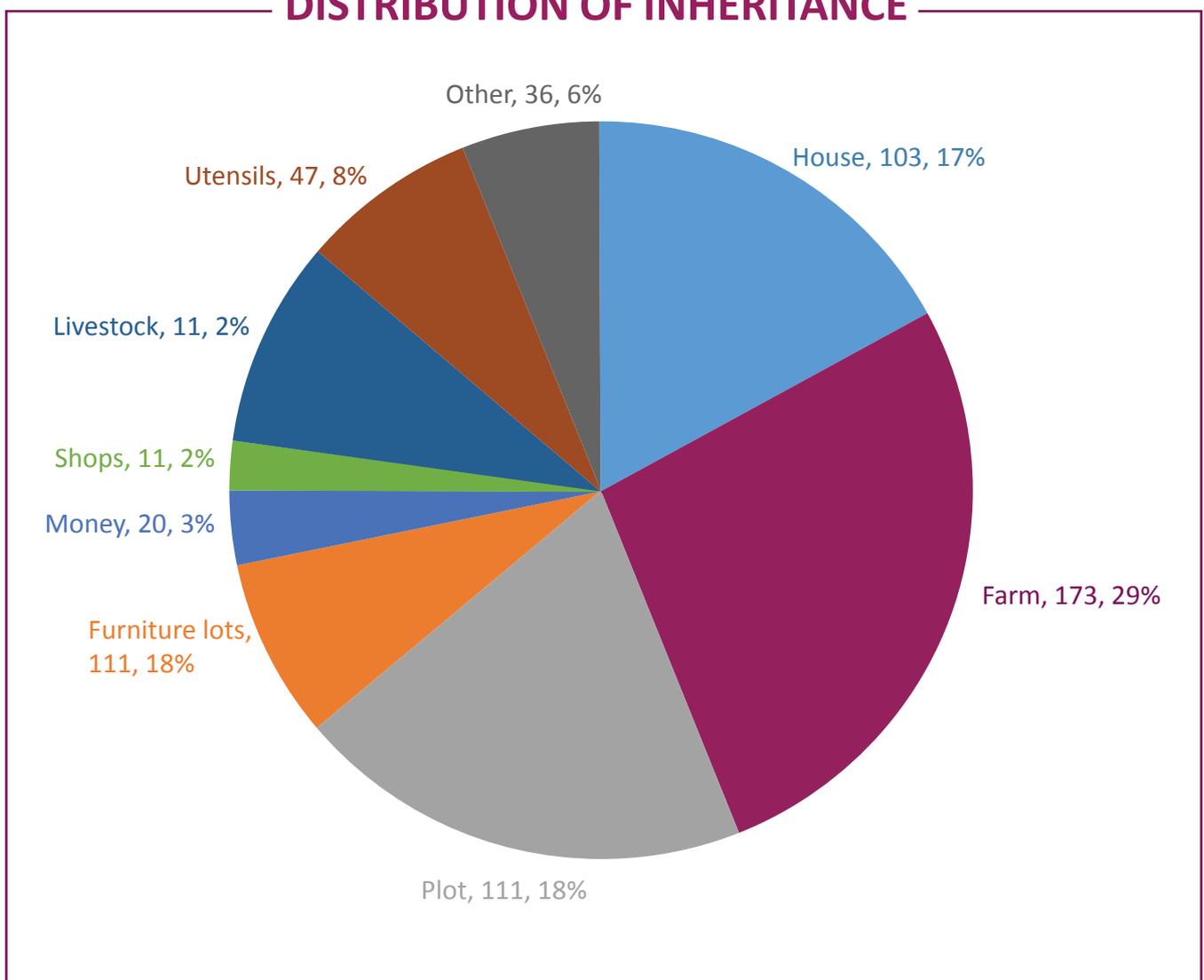
Enhancing socio-economic justice for women and marginalized communities is one of LSF'S priority areas in its current strategic plan which runs from 2022 - 2026.

One of the ways this end is achieved is through legal aid services provided by paralegals who work across the country handling cases and resolving disputes pertaining to women's rights to property which are normally brought to them through inheritance disputes.

Between January and March, LSF's reports show that inheritance disputes accounted to about 7.4% of all disputes which equates to 1,551 disputes (695 reported by men and 856 by women). Of the 856 disputes brought by women, 69% were resolved in their favour as shown in the table below. These disputes were increasingly reported partly because of the existence and practicing of gender discriminatory customary laws and traditional norms.

In essence, this indicates that through the assistance of paralegals 590 women secured their rights to land and land-related properties such as farms, houses and plots, as well as other assets like shops, furniture, money and livestock.

DISTRIBUTION OF INHERITANCE



EDITORIAL PICTURES



LSF CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala and the Country Representative for UN Women in Tanzania Hodan Addou pose together after meeting in Dar es Salaam to discuss enhancing partnerships to address women's economic, political and social challenges in the country.



LSF CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala (right) with the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Mary G. Makondo during the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)'s 10th anniversary celebrations in Dar es Salaam.



LSF CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala speaks with the THRDC National Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa during THRDC 10th anniversary celebrations.



LSF CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala (left) with the THRDC Board Chairperson, Judge Joaquine De Mello and the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) Executive Director Tike Mwambipile during THRDC's 10th anniversary celebrations.



EU Head of Delegation to Tanzania Amb. Manfredo Fanti (middle) with LSF CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala and the Executive Director of the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) Dr. Rose Reuben on World Press Freedom Day 2022 in Arusha.



Minister for Information, Communication, and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye is briefed on LSF's Access to Justice Program by LSF Communication Officer Mtpa Wilson on World Press Freedom Day 2022 in Arusha.



LSF CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala presents the Deputy Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Geoffrey Pinda with a bag containing published recommendations from the Legal Aid Symposium 2022 that included the need for formal recognition of paralegals who are key players in the acceleration of access to justice.



The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Constitutional and Legal Affairs Mary G. Makondo speaks at the close of the Legal Aid Symposium 2022 in Dodoma.



The Head of Police Gender Desks Mary Nzuki makes a point during a panel discussion enhancing legal aid regulation and coordination of police gender desks during the Legal Aid Symposium 2022.



The Country Representative for UN Women in Tanzania, Hodan Addou addresses the Legal Aid Symposium 2022 virtually on women and girls' legal needs.



The then Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs George Simbachawene is briefed on paralegal work when he visited LSF's booth at the Legal Aid Symposium 2022.



Paralegals paying attention to woman who visited a one-stop centre for free legal aid services which was the part of the 2022 Legal Aid Symposium in Dodoma that enabled the visiting public to receive legal assistance at their convenience. The legal aid services were provided by officers from the police gender desk, paralegals, lawyers from the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) and social welfare officers from the Ministry of Social Welfare.



Some legal aid sector stakeholders visit the Legal Services Facility (LSF) exhibition pavilion during the launch of the 2022 Legal Aid Symposium in Dodoma.



Representative of Luxembourg based North-South Cooperation, Josiane Hofmann speaks in the partnership meeting held on 12th May 2022 at Legal Services Facility Offices in Dar es Salaam.



Representative of Luxembourg based North-South Cooperation, Roberto Marta follows the session attentively in the partnership meeting held on 12th May 2022 at Legal Services Facility Offices in Dar es Salaam.



Chamwino-based Katuka Paralegal Organization dance troupe performs at the opening of the Legal Aid Symposium 2022. The troupe uses traditional music as an outreach tool for legal education.



Morogoro Paralegal and Legal Aid Centre (MPLC) Communication Officer Peter Kimath makes a point of contribution during the Legal Aid Symposium 2022.



Tanzania Paralegals Network (TAPANET) National Coordinator Tolbert Mmassy presents a report on the state of paralegal work at the Legal Aid Symposium 2022.



Program Coordinator for Kinondoni Paralegal Organization, Anthony Isakwi contributes a point in the discussion session during the 2022 Legal Aid Symposium held in Dodoma.



LSF CEO, Lulu Ng'wanakilala and MS TCDC Program Director Sara Ezra Teri sign a memorandum of understanding that aims to address three key areas; the promoting of legally empowered communities in particular women and youth; promoting and protection of civic space; and capacity development for the LSF grantees across the country .



In a picture is the Legal Services Facility team of staff and paralegals during the Run for Binti Marathon organized by Smile for Community Organization in Dar es Salaam, with aims of raising funds and awareness on reproductive health rights education through commemoration of menstrual health and hygiene day.



LSF staff warm up before the start of the Run for Binti Marathon.



Legal Services Facility Resources Mobilization and Communications Manager, Jane Matinde, speaks to Serge Brammertz, the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) under Secretary General Prosecutor about LSF’s core mandate in access to justice in Tanzania during the Pan African Lawyers Union Annual General Meeting held in Arusha.



Legal Services Facility Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng’wanakilala is in a group photo with her staff members; Gender Program Officer, Diana Nsekela (right) and Program Officer, Fortunata Ntwale (left) after receiving an appreciation trophy that recognizes the LSF’s commitment in supporting 2022 TLS Annual General Meeting held in Arusha.



LSF CEO Lulu Ng’wanakilala joins Smile for Community Organization Executive Director Flora Njelekela (second right) and other guests in cutting a cake to inaugurate the Run for Binti Marathon.



Legal Services Facility (LSF) Management led by the CEO, Lulu Ng’wanakilala participates in the premier continental forum of and for lawyer, and lawyers’ associations in Africa , the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) 2022 Annual General Meeting and Triennial General Asembly held in Arusha from 27th to 30th June 2022 which was themed on, ‘The Africa We Want: From Aspirations to Reality.’

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