



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

JUNE, 2020

FOR ALL



COVID-19, EXCLUSIVE EDITION



Dear Reader,

Welcome to this edition of ACCESS TO JUSTICE For All newsletter from the LSF. This is one of the platforms through which we share what is happening within the LSF and from our partners from different parts of Tanzania.

This is a special edition based on different interventions during these difficult times of the Covid-19 epidemic that has affected the whole world including our nation. Our partners on Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar have been engaging in a number of activities to raise awareness and help local authorities in addressing and taking preventive measures against the epidemic.

This Covid-19 epidemic has in some ways affected paralegals work but has not stopped them from working to promote access to justice and making sure legal aid services are available and free to the needy in their communities.

Hence, this issue entails some of the interventions executed by our partners on the ground from different districts and regions to address this situation as part of making sure people have the right to health and life.

This epidemic has affected all spheres of life including all institutions such as schools, health facilities, businesses, entrepreneurship and other areas connected to human lives. However, schools, sports and other activities have resumed after several months of closure.

Therefore, these are the measures taken by different stakeholders including the LSF to support the government in fight against Covid-19 epidemic in Tanzania.

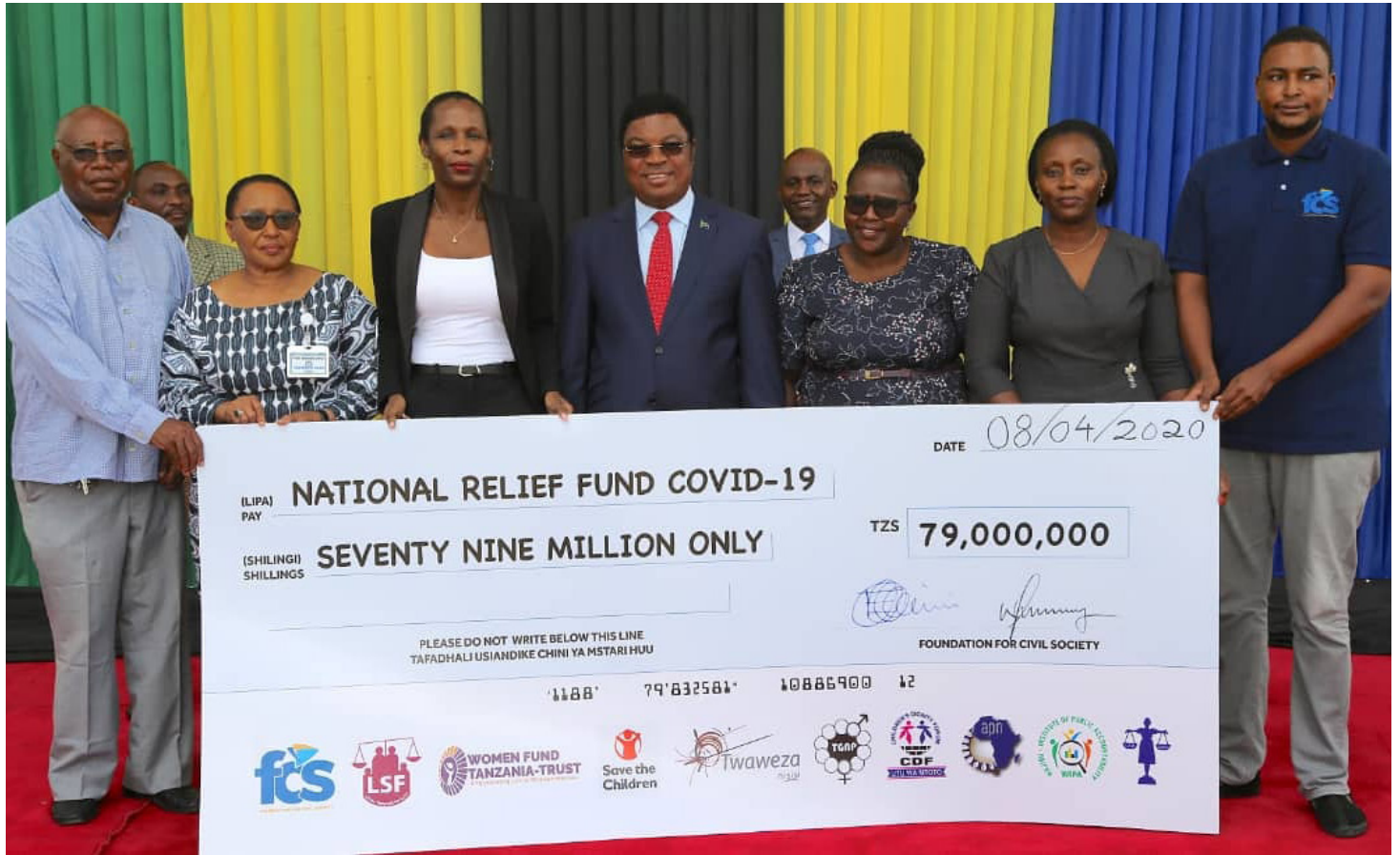
On behalf of LSF, I welcome you to read and feel free to share this newsletter with your friends and colleagues anywhere.

Lulu Ng'wanakilala,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lulu Ng'wanakilala'.

Chief Executive Officer,
Legal Services Facility (LSF)

LSF & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTE 79M TO FIGHT COVID-19



The Legal Services Facility (LSF) and other civil society organizations made a joint effort to help the government in its fight against Covid-19 epidemic in Tanzania. They contributed a total amount of 79 million TZS to signal the support of the private sector to the efforts undertaken by government to fight Corona Virus in the country. Above, LSF CEO, Lulu Ngwanakilala (3rd from left) and other representative hands over the check the Prime Minister of Tanzania, Hon. Kassimu Majaliwa



SERENGETI

GEITASAMO SUPPORTS SCHOOLS IN SERENGETI

...Geitasamo Paralegal Organization is the first such entity to provide Covid-19-related assistance to our school; we are profoundly grateful because clearly there will be protective measures in place for students which are vital in ensuring they remain healthy as they seek to complete their high school education...

Locally-based Geitasamo Paralegal Organization (GPO) has extended a donation of 120 face masks, two reservoir buckets along with three bottles of hand-washing soap all worth TZS165,000 for use by sixth form students at Serengeti Secondary School.

Extends donation to Serengeti Secondary School

GPO is one of the many paralegal organizations across the country implementing various projects that seek to provide access to justice to vulnerable sections of the population. Its donation extends LSF-inspired efforts to engage organizations it funds in initiatives to fight Covid-19 as part of its wider Access to Justice Program especially because the detrimental effects of the disease have a bearing on justice for many.

This contribution has come hot on the heels of the school re-opening along with other sixth form schools around the country in time for impending final examinations. The organization's members contributed money from their own pockets for the donation to the school's 66 students, saying that in addition to providing legal aid and education it is their duty to respond to community emergencies as well. Furthermore, the organization provides awareness on Covid-19 around the district adding its weight to on-going endeavours by health officials and other experts.

GPO's director adds that they are aware of the need for additional equipment if and when the school's lower streams return.

The Headmaster, Tumaini Kitara, in expressing gratitude on behalf of the school said, "Geitasamo Paralegal Organization is the first such entity to provide Covid-19-related assistance to our school; we are profoundly grateful because clearly there will be protective measures in place for students which are vital in ensuring they remain healthy as they seek to complete their high school education".

Kitara has called upon other organizations to emulate GPO's goodwill at this critical time when everyone is at risk of being exposed to coronavirus. Additional equipment would come in handy particularly in anticipation of the possible return of the rest of the student body not too long from now.



SIMIYU

KASODEFO RAISES AWARENESS ON COVID-19 EPIDEMIC

Kawiye Social Development Foundation (KASODEFO) has engaged its staff and paralegals in a public awareness campaign in concerted efforts to fight Covid-19 in Simiyu. Radio programs, social media and publications are used extensively to reach communities around the region with local radio, Sibuka FM as a major support base. KASODEFO routinely uses this station to extend legal education and in the process continue to guarantee access to justice for thousands of people.

As the presence of coronavirus continued to expand around the country, LSF encouraged organizations it funds across the country to devise means of not only availing legal aid and education with added precautions but also actively participate in the fight against the pandemic. It also provides necessary support and monitors all relevant initiatives undertaken by regional mentor organizations and paralegals against the pandemic.



A Maswa-based paralegal, left, participates in a live radio session at Sibuka FM during a discussion on the coronavirus pandemic and the role of legal aid and education

Paralegal organizations from every district in Simiyu, COEO from Maswa, LTPO from Bariadi, BPO from Busega and DEJUO from Itilima collectively held ten live radio sessions consistently reminding communities and individuals to take action and preventive measures to limit the transmission of coronavirus. And access to the legal aid and legal education to the community during this period of corona Pandemic. During the radio sessions about 200 sms from listeners were received and

30 phone calls asking questions and requesting further information were taken.

During this period of the pandemic KASODEFO and Simiyu paralegal organizations, with support and guidance from LSF on managing the pandemic while carrying out work, continue to implement regular project activities while taking all necessary precautions to minimize the transmission of coronavirus in the region.

SONGWE

PARALEGALS ADDRESSES WOMEN GROUPS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In response to on-going efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic around the country, in mid-May paralegals from Ileje Community for Justice (ICOJU) operating under the mentorship of Moravian provided prevention education to residents of Ndola ward on the border with Malawi.

The awareness effort targeted Tujikomboe, a women's entrepreneurial group based on the fact that in their day-to-day

economic activities the women can easily be exposed to infection and thus exacerbate the current situation. The 32 women were given practical demonstrations including on social distancing and how to wash hands properly.

In addition to prevention education against Covid-19, the paralegals also insisted on the need for the group to develop its constitution to help it operate more efficiently and transparently.

Moravian is further preparing to use radio and other outreach channels to expand awareness of the pandemic to other districts of Songwe. This would actively respond to LSF's guidance on use of community radios to reach more people with legal aid and education on a regular basis which has become more imperative now that people everywhere need to be aware of Covid-19 and continue to take measures to protect themselves and others.

MWANZA

"COVID-19 IS AT YOUR DOOR, DON'T LET IT IN! PROTECT YOURSELF"

Kivulini, the regional mentor organization in Mwanza, has conceived and implemented a public awareness campaign against Covid-19 dubbed, "Covid-19 is at Your Door, Don't Let it in! Protect Yourself and Others" to educate and raise public awareness of the pandemic.

The campaign which has been carried out in Magu, Misungwi, Bunda, Nyamagana and Ilmela involved:

- The distribution of personal protective equipment, thermometer guns, sanitizers, liquid soap, reservoir buckets and 1,000 litre water tanks to police gender desks, paralegals, activists, women and girls.
- Providing preventive education and promoting awareness of the pandemic using public address systems mounted on vehicles, using local media, publications and other traditional means such as bullhorn blowing.
- Producing and disseminating prevention guidelines to local authorities, police, paralegals and activists.
- Participating in Covid-19 webinars and using the knowledge to extend public awareness.
- Utilizing alternative and creative ways of implementing project activities that adhere to safety guidelines provided by WHO and health experts.
- Enhancing the capacities of local development officers, education officers, social welfare officers, police gender desk, ward executives and school heads

to formulate creative strategies that will protect children against Covid-19 and women who are forced to work to earn a living for their households while the pandemic rages.

In carrying out the campaign Kivulini has reached a total of 1,401 people and as a result

people are taking seriously all the prescribed preventive measures against Covid-19.

Additionally, there has been a huge response from people in rural communities especially seeking to understand the pandemic better and avoid behaviours and tendencies that can exacerbate it.

The pandemic has brought challenges such as children who are at home due to the nationwide school closure are often seen wandering around without safety precautions. Young girls could also easily become exposed to risky circumstances that may result in childhood pregnancy.

Furthermore, there has been an increase in incidents of domestic abuse reported to police gender desks which are themselves ill-equipped to respond sufficiently to such cases.

These issues are frequently encountered and addressed by paralegals funded by LSF which continues to work closely with its grantees throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and devising ways of helping people remain safe while also continuing to benefit from legal aid and education as means of accessing justice.

TANGA

TEWOREC WORKS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS COVID-19

The Tanga Elderly Women's Resources Centre (TEWOREC) oversees paralegal organizations in eleven district councils in Tanga, providing access to justice under funding from LSF. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, TEWOREC has carried out several activities towards the prevention of the spread of the disease.

Working alongside paralegals the organization handed out Covid-19 brochures in six councils in homes, marketplaces, hospitals, bodaboda stands and bus stands. These spots were selected due to large numbers of people frequenting them and regular movements both of which can be sources of infection and spread of coronavirus.

The brochures were prepared with help from the district councils and local health departments including some that came directly from the councils.

To help increase awareness and consequently prevention of the pandemic the organization and paralegals worked with local radio stations and secured two new sessions in Lushoto which are aired every Saturday morning exclusively for children and targeting adults in the evening covering legal issues in addition to awareness of Covid-19.

Furthermore, on from 28th – 29th May TEWOREC facilitated a Covid-19 awareness session for its staff and representatives from paralegal organizations which was conducted by the Regional Medical Officer on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, hygiene, how to make face masks and their correct, production and use hand sanitizers, self-isolation and social distancing.

The direct engagement of paralegal organizations in efforts to minimize the spread of the pandemic represents an extension of their activities intended to facilitate access to justice in communities around the region. LSF's goal to ultimately improve the wellbeing of all is further enhanced by its involvement in the fight against the pandemic within which it facilitates and monitors regional mentor organizations' initiatives across the country to educate and equip communities against Covid-19.



Tanga City Council pharmacist, Ally Hamza, leads the awareness session for TEWOREC staff and paralegals

MOROGORO

MPLC TRAINS PARALEGALS ON COVID-19

Following the outbreak of the coronavirus the Morogoro Paralegal Centre (MPLC) has taken the initiative to provide awareness of the pandemic to various groups in communities around the region through health officers and committees set up to work towards minimizing the spread of the virus.

From the onset MPLC took deliberate steps to ensure beneficiaries of legal aid and education also receive preventive education against coronavirus hence paralegals from seven districts received training on prevention.

The training was designed to sufficiently equip paralegals with knowledge and understanding of the pandemic to allow them to impart the knowledge to all levels of their communities so that people could take necessary measures to protect themselves and others they interact with.

In the town of Morogoro where MPLC is based its officers provided prevention education to women food vendors at the Msamvu Bus Terminal especially because of the large numbers of people they regularly serve and routinely come into contact with. Further



An officer from MPLC handing over reservoir buckets to food vendors at the Msamvu Bus Terminal.

to the safety education MPLC distributed protective and hygiene equipment.

In appreciation of the donation of protective equipment the vice chair of the food vendors association pointed to the importance MPLC attached to the vendors at the terminal acknowledging the vitality of the facility particularly the large number of people using it and often without adhering to safety measures.

Like other regional mentor organizations around the country, MPLC's initiatives expand LSF's efforts to fully engage itself and its grantees in helping minimize the impact of Covid-19.

These engagements underscore the fact that providing access to justice extends to other vital aspects of life.



...The overriding message is that if people don't take the necessary precautions against the pandemic it will ultimately deprive them of their most important right – the right to live.

The organization has also worked closely with the Ministry of Health in Shinyanga to expand awareness of the pandemic



SHINYANGA

PACESHI USES RADIO TO RAISE AWARENESS

Paralegal Centre Shinyanga (PACESHII) with support from LSF has continued to implement regular project activities while addressing the Covid-19 pandemic across the region by promoting preventive measures at all levels of the communities they serve.

The paralegal organizations that PACESHI mentors, CEO, KIPAO, DEMAQ, PECQIO, KAPAO and NELEHURIFO, have all been active in using local radio for outreach disseminating messages on Covid-19 prevention throughout the region. The utilization of radio for outreach has for long been highly encouraged by LSF as an effective means of providing legal education and it continues to be viable particularly now during the pandemic as the provision of access to justice remains paramount.

Why other means in addition to radio sessions, and further to that made a financial contribution to the Shinyanga District Council and the Office of the Regional Commissioner towards the acquisition of personal protective equipment to be used by health workers caring for Covid-19 patients in government hospitals and health centres.

PWANI

CELG USES ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS TO PROVIDE LEGAL EDUCATION & AID



Paralegals from Kibaha Rural addressing the public on Covid-19 prevention during a stop at Mlandizi.

The onset of Covid-19 signaled the beginning of a new normal for nearly every aspect of life including access to justice. Across Pwani where the Centre for Environmental Law and Governance (CELG) mentors nine paralegal organizations project activities that provide legal aid and education to citizens like in countless other areas of the country have been forced to assume new approaches.

District health offices have been tremendously co-operative in

availing health officers who provide public education from time to time

and also providing Covid-19 information that the paralegals can disseminate

The nine paralegal organizations which are based in Kibaha Urban, Kibaha Rural, Bagamoyo, Chalinze, Kisarawe, Mkuranga, Kibiti, Rufiji and Mafia have in various capacities accommodated Covid-19 interventions alongside their daily project activities of ensuring readily-available access to justice.

While strictly observing preventive measures, they have conducted home visits while careful to maintain social distancing and hygiene and used these opportunities to provide both legal education and awareness of the pandemic.

To minimize the risk of mass infection usual gatherings have been replaced by roving public address systems on pick-up trucks which make stops at various points allowing the paralegals to speak to the public on legal issues along with awareness of Covid-19.

District health offices have been tremendously co-operative in availing health officers who provide public education from time to time and also providing Covid-19 information that the paralegals can disseminate during home visits or for distribution from roving public address vehicles.

Additionally, minimized human contact has driven them to become creative in using simple but effective ways of outreach including producing and distributing light publications with frequently asked questions (FAQs) and direct contact details in case the reader requires further information or clarification of an issue.

Generally, these initiatives continue to support LSF's objectives while in the same wavelength provide effective platforms to address the Covid-19 pandemic in all the nine locations where the project is being implemented. Like other regional mentor organizations across the country funded by LSF, CELG works closely with the paralegal organizations under its oversight to ensure beneficiaries of LSF's broader Access to Justice Program continue to receive both legal aid and education without the interruption of the pandemic.

SINGIDA & KAGERA

SEMA & MHOLA SUPPORT LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN COMBATting COVID-19

Singida-based Sustainable Environmental Management Action (SEMA) took the initiative to raise awareness on preventive measures against Covid-19 to paralegal units due to their work in communities providing legal aid and education.

This effort entailed six days of public awareness of the pandemic in all districts of Singida, with paralegals at the forefront of the campaign which covered the crucial aspects of prevention including social distancing, hygiene, wearing of face masks and public education on the disease.

With the provision of legal aid and education still on course, the paralegals themselves continue to adhere to these preventive measures they engage communities on a daily basis. They have extended awareness to savings groups (VICOBA) during group meetings as well as other formal gatherings.

In Kagera, Mama's Hope Organization for Legal Aid (MHOLA) has distributed protective equipment and hygiene products such as reservoir buckets, liquid soap, sanitizers, face masks, clinical gloves and cash intended for fuel costs to aid the distribution of the donations to the districts councils of Muleba, Karagwe and Ngara and to paralegal units based in the districts.



SEMA staff and paralegals during a Covid-19 awareness session

All these efforts are designed to expand on LSF's desire to facilitate anti-Covid-19 initiatives around the country with the collaboration of regional organizations and paralegals whose work it funds and supports to ensure access to justice among marginalized communities.



Hygiene equipment donated by Mhola ready to be distributed to districts in Kagera

ZANZIBAR

PIRO & UWZ JOIN HANDS WITH GOVERNMENT IN UNGUJA & PEMBA

LSF continues to oversee co-ordination of various initiatives being implemented by regional mentor organizations ...

In Unguja, the Zanzibar Association for the Disabled (UWZ) which oversees four paralegal organizations as regional mentor under LSF funding has undertaken Covid-19 intervention strategies specifically for deaf and blind people taking into consideration their communication needs following instances of being left out of the traditional communication loop.

UWZ firstly conducted a meeting with four paralegal organizations representing North A, North B, West A and Urban districts in Unguja and jointly agreed with them to provide legal education as well as coronavirus prevention strategies through public gatherings attended by less than ten participants per event.

Secondly, UWZ conducted its usual monitoring visits and attended community advisory team and quarterly review meetings convened by paralegal units. Each meeting was attended by less than ten people thus abiding by the government's directive in relation to COVID-19 pandemic.

Thirdly, UWZ produced a TV spot on COVID-19 with a message aimed at removing communication

barriers encountered by deaf and blind people in accessing information disseminated by TV and radio services. The message was interpreted by a sign language interpreter.

Fourthly, UWZ capacitated the paralegal organizations in uploading legal education and COVID-19 information on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter for public consumption.

Lastly, the paralegal organizations aired twenty segments on Tumbatu Community Radio, Spice FM, HITS FM, Coconut FM, Chuchu FM and Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) Radio. The programmes drew attention to child maintenance, human rights, gender-based violence and matrimonial issues all in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Pemba, the Pemba Island Relief Organization (PIRO), a regional mentor organization, and the Ministry of Health facilitated an awareness program for paralegals to impart prevention Covid-19 education at the Chake Chake Paralegal Organization's office. The session was conducted by doctors and was attended by paralegals from MIDIPAO CHAPO and WEPO who proceeded to educate communities on preventive measures against the pandemic on the island of Pemba.

Both UWZ and PIRO are among 28 organizations in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar that are participating in various ways in efforts spearheaded by LSF to contribute to the ongoing fight against the pandemic. In addition to making a contribution to the national committee on the disease, LSF continues to oversee co-ordination of various initiatives being implemented by regional mentor organizations countrywide.



UWZ and paralegals in a planning session for social media use in providing legal education and preventive education against COVID-19 in Unguja

OUR BASKET FUND PARTNERS



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
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