

# ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMME



## FINAL REPORT

2016 - 2023

Everyday justice for  
Everyday problems

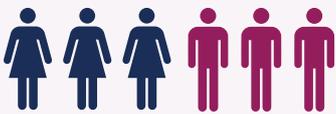
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary .....	01
Context Update .....	02
1. Program Overview .....	03
2. Program Results .....	04
2.1 Accessibility of Legal aid services .....	05
2.2 Legal empowerment .....	10
2.3 Creating an environment conducive to legal aid services provision .....	14
2.4 Sustainability of the legal aid sector .....	20

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Access to Justice Programme has achieved significant outcomes across the country, directly impacting the most vulnerable groups. Between 2016 and 2023, LSF in strategic partnership and generous funding from the Royal Danish Embassy (RDE) led a diverse consortium of committed partners to implement this programme. The growing and driving force of footsoldiers, paralegals, reached millions of women, children and people with disabilities, and other social groups.

The programme operated in a changing governance context which influenced the access to justice agenda including effecting favourable law reforms, specifically the Legal Aid Act in the Mainland and the Legal Aid Act in Zanzibar.



# 4,195

Trained Paralegals in 2023 compared to 2,791 Active Paralegals in 2016

# 4,500

Trained Paralegals between 2013-2016  
Many had dropped out due to social and economic reasons<sup>1</sup>.

# 40,000,000

People reached with Legal Education

# 426,000

Resolved Cases



**23%**  
Gender Based  
Cases



**75%**  
Reported by  
Women

The programme adopted crucial innovation for efficient and effective delivery by working through regional mentor organizations, zonal mentor organizations, regional coordinators and thematic

partners. This approach had positive outcomes for paralegals' programme and financial capacity allowing them to support beneficiaries in a more nuanced way, document results, and meaningfully engage other actors in the access to justice and legal aid continuum.

The programme enhanced an enabling environment for women and other marginalised groups to access justice by breaking down barriers to social and economic rights. We delivered related projects in women economic empowerment through enterprise development supporting vulnerable groups to move from a livelihood-based to an entrepreneurial economy. Women's social economic capacity has proved to increase confidence to push back on injustices, while the highest number of recorded rights issues was around property and/or stemmed from such issues.

Between 2016 and 2023 we successfully managed over US\$ 23million mainly from RDE with additional support from the EU and DFID (now FCDO). During this period, our capacity to adhere to compliance and manage risks increased significantly and trickled down to our partners who improved from small and inefficient organisations to relatively strong entities.

Our programme design was informed by evaluation and empirical studies, and documentation of success stories, while our evidence-driven delivery informed learning, advocacy, and support from partners.

The programme inherited a committed partnership legacy with RDE from the days when the basket was run as a facility. Between 2016 and 2023 interested loyal partners joined the basket, including the EU and the former DFID, and it received critical support from project partners such as UNESCO, the Danish Institute of Research, and the Luxembourg government through the National South Cooperation to run specific interventions. The technical and financial support of these partners enhanced access to justice provision for marginalised communities, placing a special focus on women and girls. The programme fostered robust relationship-building with key stakeholders at all levels, including the private sector, government ministries and agencies, like-minded organisations both within and beyond our borders.

<sup>1</sup> Paralegal Dropout Survey 2017

## CONTEXT UPDATE

From 2016 to 2023 the programme contributed immensely towards the formalisation of legal aid provision in the country. The program has contributed to the enactment of Legal Aid Act, 2017 for the mainland, and the Legal Aid Act, 2018 for Zanzibar. The programme has witnessed a gradual strategic shift of the access to Justice sector in Tanzania from a singular concentration on case-based legal aid to a broader focus on awareness creation and legal empowerment. The paralegal training model was revised to reflect issues relating to advocacy, community mobilization and engaging with local authorities, and legal education skills.

The effects of the COVID-19 outbreak impacted the programme during the end of the implementation period. Access to justice was limited across the country as a result of reduced physical contact and discouraged large gatherings. The enforced movement restrictions limited access to legal aid services, thus increasing possibilities that vulnerable women and girls were left trapped with their abusers in confined spaces in homes consequently increasing GBV incidences.

Access to justice is one of the government's priorities, and through the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MoCLA) the government has consistently supported strengthening the administration of justice and delivery systems. In its 2022/23 budget the government made commitments to improve the justice delivery infrastructure through the prioritisation of ICT use. The government augmented TZS5.7 billion to the previous year's budget allocated for the construction of integrated justice centres and the translation of laws into Swahili. The sector also received a boost from the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign and a supportive government environment in both the mainland and Zanzibar. The campaign has increased legal awareness and education among actors particularly local level government officials and communities.

In response to actors calling for broader justice reforms, in 2023 the government announced the start of a country-wide initiative to raise awareness of the current constitution. This decision came with the premise that citizens needed to understand the current constitution before embarking on a dialogue about a new constitution. The government's appetite for commencing this exercise waned, and until the end of 2023 when this report was being compiled there had been no movement on the issue. The constitution agenda is ostensibly key to our programme and as such we will continue to monitor and are prepared to engage on other issues around access to justice and legal aid in due time.

For years now, the government has responded to actors' calls for inclusive election legal reforms and has consultatively made minor but impactful amendments to electoral laws. Drafts of the amendment bills were released in mid-November 2023 by the line ministry, while parliamentary committees advanced an invitation for public comments in December 2023, and scheduled hearings for early January 2024. A major part of the proposed amendments to electoral laws is geared towards increasing inclusion especially of women in political leadership and civic participation. While women-led and feminist organisations appreciate the inclusive minimum electoral reforms, major criticisms of these bills come from some opposition political actors who see these changes as a patchy work in place of rolling out full constitutional reforms. We see these changes as significant in the initial process towards the women empowerment and sustainable inclusion agenda.

Consultations for the legal aid fund commenced where in the mainland LSF was invited by the ministry to steer a legal aid providers' dialogue on legal aid funding. A further step was achieved in Zanzibar where the ministry revised the Legal Aid Policy to accommodate the legal aid fund. The Zanzibar Law Review Commission submitted a draft proposal to the government stipulating provisions for amendments to the Legal Aid Act, 2018 to accommodate a legal aid fund. Through our programme we have actively advocated for sustainable legal aid services, with legislation-supported funding mechanisms as a core aspect. We anticipate leading non-state actors to provide inputs and engage both ministries towards completion with statutory instruments in place.

Another policy breakthrough was the inauguration of the Legal Aid Advisory Board in August 2023. Two months later, the ministry was able to push through parliament changes to the board's composition with a view to enhancing its operations. Zanzibar's legal aid legislation is taking a positive direction with a strong focus on community paralegalism and extending its statutory stipulations to a better regulated university legal aid clinic, law society pro bono schemes, and judicial dock briefs.

At the policy level, the Government of Zanzibar has committed to coming up with an integrated legal aid database, a unified annual legal aid action plan and a harmonised legal aid budget for government institutions and legal aid providers. In December 2023 the Government of Zanzibar waived fees for paralegal registration benefitting about 278 paralegals and legal aid providers who will collectively save more than TZS5.5 million. LSF has been extremely instrumental in driving these changes in both parts of Tanzania indicating a major success in its advocacy for an environment conducive to the provision of legal aid services and sector sustainability.

**Figure 1: The use of platforms for advocating conducive environment for legal aid**



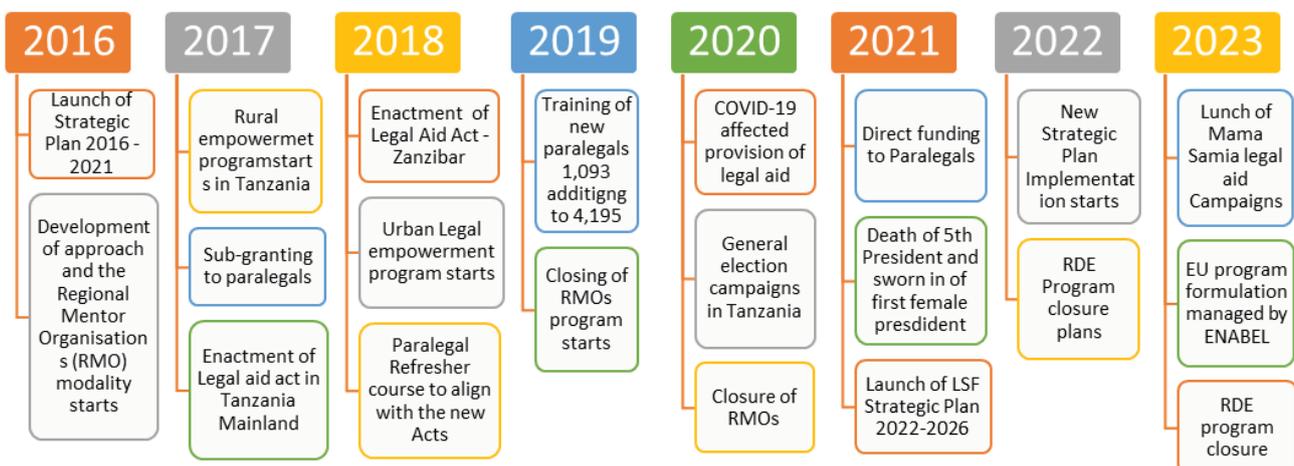
## 1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We commenced the programme by designing its implementation approach and launching our five-year strategic plan which began in 2016 and culminated in 2020. In 2017, actual implementation started and major events that featured throughout included the development and implementation of the regional mentor organisation (RMO) modality, the enactment of the Legal Aid Act, 2017 in the mainland and the Legal Aid Act, 2018

in Zanzibar, training and recruitment of new paralegals, and the launch of our 2022-2026 strategic plan which only operated for one year before the Royal Danish Embassy's announcement that it was closing its operations in Tanzania including its involvement in the Access to Justice Programme.

Figure 1 delineates our programme's 2016 to 2023 timeline, illustrating key events and decisions made along the way.

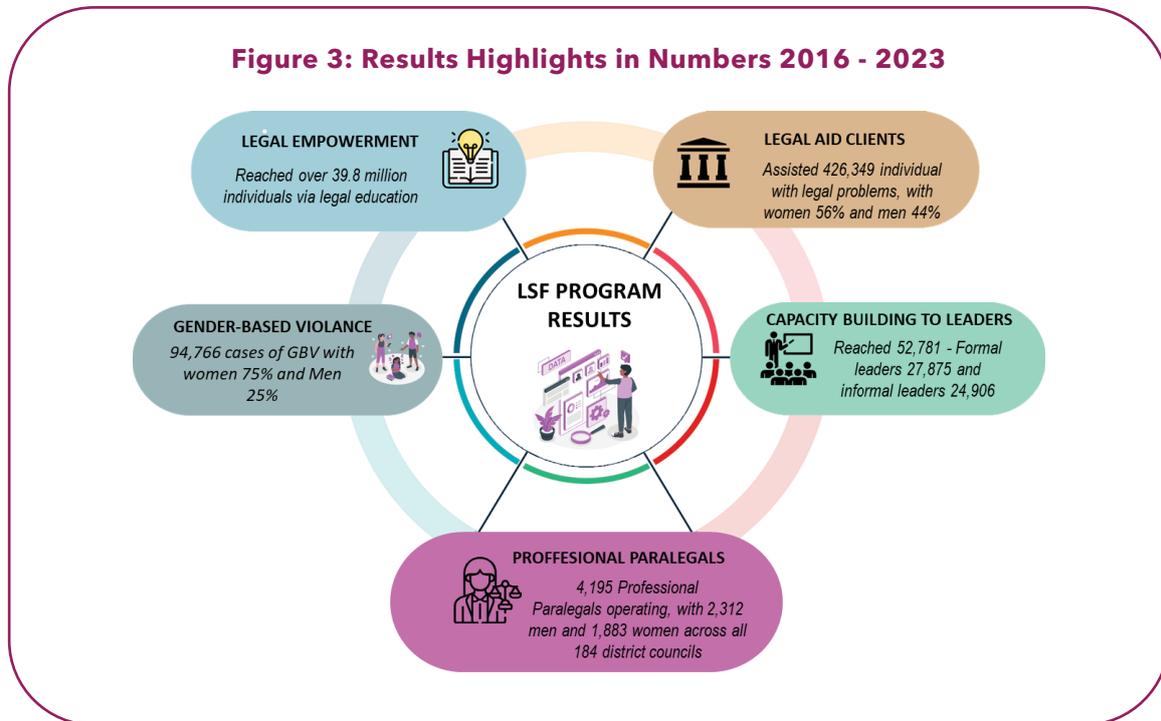
**Figure 2: Program key events 2016 - 2023**



## 2. PROGRAM RESULTS

The main results areas are accessibility of legal aid services, ensuring legally-empowered communities, creation of an environment conducive to the

availability of legal aid services, and institutional sustainability of the legal aid sector.



The programme institutionalized the legal aid sub-sector in the country by widening access to justice through establishing 184 paralegal organizations in each district council, that guarantee affordability, availability, acceptability and easy access of free legal aid services to all.

The programme contributed to improving an enabling legal and regulatory framework environment for legal aid. Two legal aid acts in the mainland and Zanzibar, and reviews of laws and policies that regulate both formal and informal justice mechanisms have also taken place.

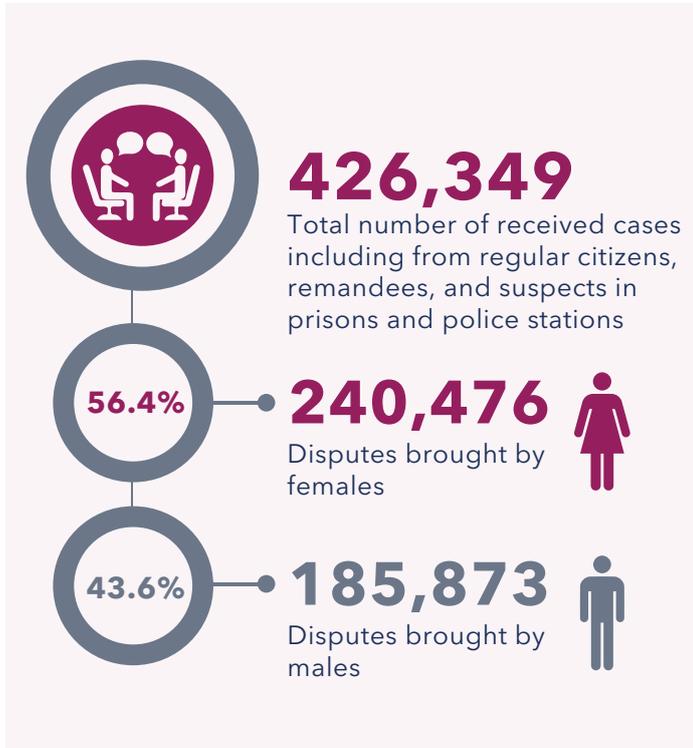
- *LSF's Access to Justice Programme has promoted human rights, good governance and access to justice for all particularly for women, children, and vulnerable groups.*
- **Registrar of Legal Aid Providers, MoCLA**
- *The programme is very useful to ordinary people because many of them in our communities are vulnerable and in dire need of legal assistance. This programme has helped thousands who could not resolve their legal problems through other legal service means. District Magistrate, Rufiji District Council*
- *In Zanzibar the absence of legal aid was a problem that hindered equal access to justice. The denial of legal aid could be viewed as a denial of justice. The poor or marginalised groups, particularly those in rural communities did not enjoy the right of access to justice. In that regard, this programme is relevant in our context because it arrived at a time when the constitution and statutory rights of the appellant denied legal representation. Registrar of Legal Aid Providers, PO - CLAPSGG, Zanzibar*

The enactment of the Legal Aid Act in 2017 has guaranteed the right of access to justice through legal aid and created a legal aid system in Mainland Tanzania. Now, Mainland Tanzania has a functioning legal aid system with both oversight and supervisory organs, accredited and trained legal aid providers and paralegals, as well as a code of conduct that ensures legal aid providers are accountable and offer legal aid services that meet internationally-accepted standards of quality services.

**Report of the Analysis of the Five Years of the Legal Aid Act, 2017: The Efficiency and Efficacy of Enhancing Access to Justice in Tanzania, 2022**

## 2.1 ACCESSIBILITY OF LEGAL AID SERVICES

The efficiency and effectiveness of paralegals and legal aid providers to realize everyday justice for everyday problems in their communities, cannot be underestimated.



Our Baseline survey in 2015 indicated that women reported more cases related to child maintenance (24.3%), gender-based violence (17.9%) and matrimonial disputes (13.3%) while men frequently reported land cases (45.7%). Paralegals' interventions focused on raising awareness of communities to enable them to report more incidences of injustice.

During the reporting period Land was the most reported case type (22.9%) of all cases in the programme, and men recorded higher on land (56%), civil (55%) and criminal cases (64%) than women, while women reported more inheritance (54%), marriage/matrimonial (64%) and child maintenance (74%) cases than men. These results indicate that women were disadvantaged relative to men with regards to the economic opportunities such as land rights but also suffering most from social justices issues i.e matrimonial issues.

### VICTORY AGAINST UNFRIENDLY INHERITANCE CULTURAL NORMS

Mariam from Kishapu, Shinyanga Region was denied the right to inherit her deceased father's estate, a move that prompted her to gather courage and efforts to seek justice. Kishapu Paralegal Organization (KIPAO) took up her case providing her legal aid and support to navigate the complex cultural hurdles projected through persistent resistance from local elders. KIPAO's persistence, however, led to a resolution granting her four cows, two houses one in Kishapu and another in Shinyanga town, and a farm. With newly-acquired assets and her life transformed, Mariam now earns rental income, farms, and even mines diamonds from her plot in Kishapu. This example underscores the crucial role of paralegals in challenging unfriendly cultural norms against gender equality, and securing women's rights to property ownership.

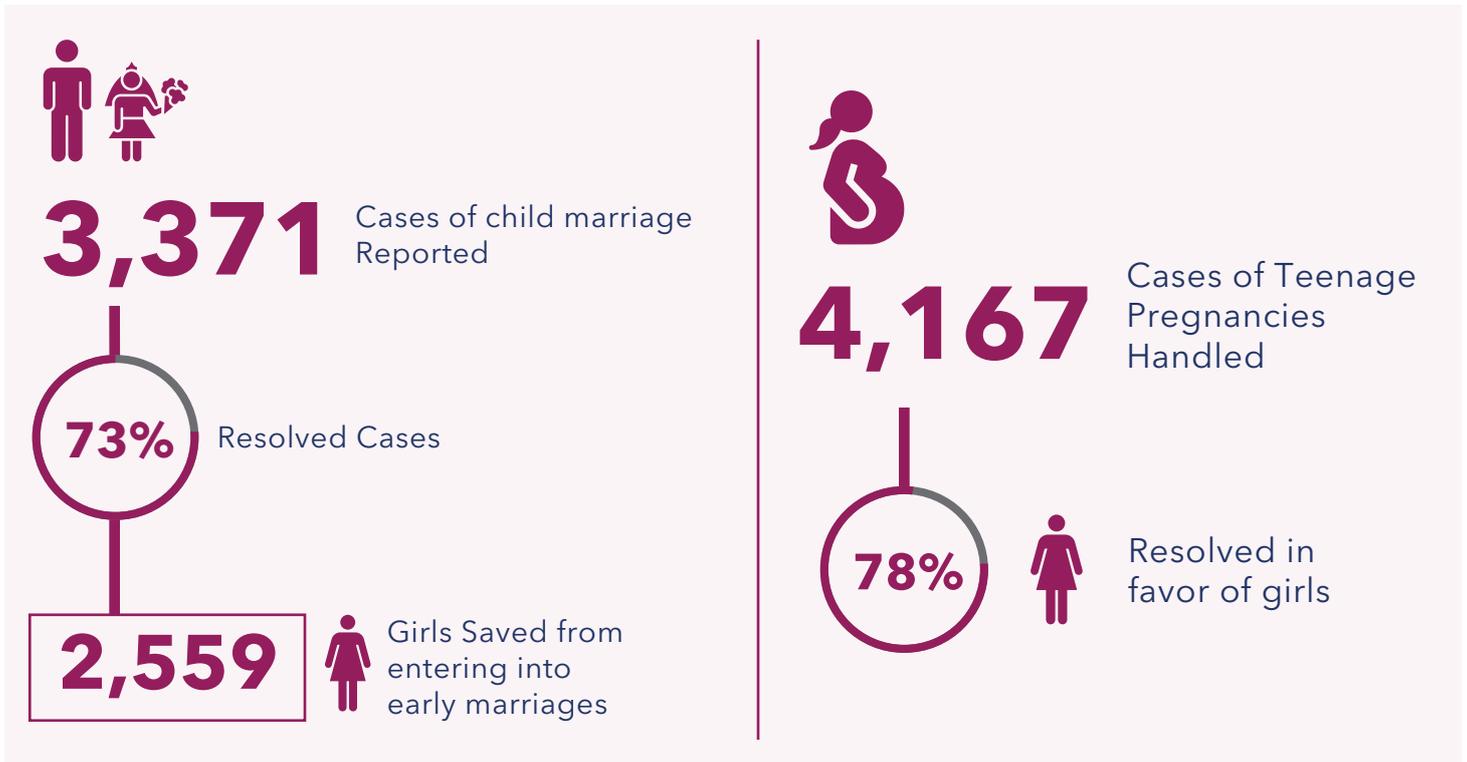
**Table 1: Accessibility to legal aid services - Number of disputes dealt with the program from 2016 - 2023**

Type of Disputes/Disputes	RESOLVED DISPUTES		ONGOING DISPUTES		REFERRED DISPUTES		ENDED WITHOUT SOLUTION		TOTAL			%
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Total	
<i>Land disputes</i>	42,442	32,117	2362	1955	8,346	6,737	1,855	1,761	55,005	42,570	97,575	22.89
<i>Inheritance</i>	11,796	13,402	655	981	2,340	3,013	527	629	15,318	18,025	33,343	7.82
<i>Marriage disputes</i>	21,772	37,976	1095	2286	3,955	7,477	942	1,585	27,764	49,324	77,088	18.08
<i>Child maintenance</i>	10,669	29,297	607	2036	1,880	5,946	580	947	13,736	38,226	51,962	12.19
<i>Civil disputes</i>	28,765	22,620	1694	1457	4,399	3,894	1,004	927	35,862	28,898	64,760	15.19
<i>Criminal dispute</i>	19,750	10,302	587	501	4,050	2,626	682	575	25,069	14,004	39,073	9.16
<i>Labor disputes</i>	4,920	6,298	393	934	1,201	1,243	213	214	6,727	8,689	15,416	3.62
<i>Abuse</i>	2,791	5,933	140	462	571	1,428	284	322	3,786	8,145	11,931	2.80
<i>Violence against women</i>	0	11,192	0	625	0	3,048	0	722	0	15,587	15,587	3.66
<i>Rape disputes</i>	0	1,511	0	171	0	763	0	174	0	2,619	2,619	0.61
<i>Defilement</i>	606	99	43	18	225	50	36	19	910	186	1,096	0.26
<i>FGM</i>	0	1,041	0	2	0	367	0	106	0	1,514	1,514	0.36
<i>Sex servitude</i>	247	1,390	2	6	60	354	4	44	313	1,794	2,107	0.49
<i>Indecent assaults</i>	938	2,151	37	102	211	592	69	93	1,255	2,938	4,193	0.98
<i>Human trafficking</i>	0	141	0	0	24	380	0	0	24	521	545	0.13
<i>Teenage pregnancies</i>	0	2,653	0	83	0	1020	0	501	0	4,167	4,167	0.98
<i>Child marriage</i>	32	2,559	26	17	46	594	0	99	104	3,269	3,373	0.79
<b>Sub total</b>	144,728	180,682	7,641	11,636	27,308	39,532	6,196	8,718	185,873	240,476	426,349	100.00
<b>Grand total</b>	325,410		19277		66,838		14,824		426349			

# PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



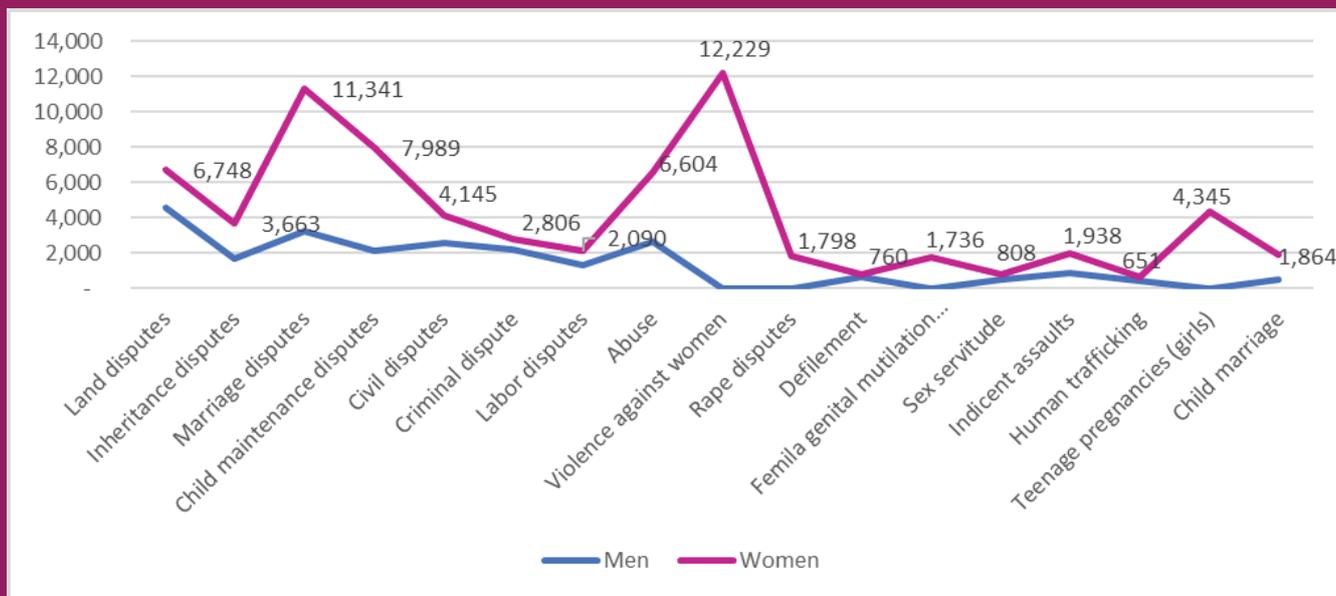
According to periodic program reports, early marriages and teenage pregnancies are among key drivers of GBV in the country.



The programme has launched pilot initiatives in Katavi, Tabora, Shinyanga and Simiyu regions where national data indicate a high prevalence of child marriage and teenage pregnancy. A similar pilot project that advocated ending female genital mutilation (FGM) in Hanang District, Manyara in 2020 concluded with domesticating NPA/VAWC into the Manyara regional action plan, a notable success.

Furthermore, the programme has taken action to implement resolutions to support government initiatives to lift up girls and women. The programme identified and return back to school girls, for instance, in Njombe where paralegals helped six girls to return to school following teenage pregnancy, supporting government return-to-school initiatives.

## FIGURE 5 TREND OF REPORTED GBV CASES FROM 2016 TO 2023



### IMPLICATION OF COVID-19 ON GBV CASES

During the COVID-19 pandemic legal aid providers continued to attend to cases. Evidence points to increased incidences of teenage pregnancy, child marriage, FGM and violence against women as a result of mandatory school and work place or business closures which exposed women and children to perpetrators.

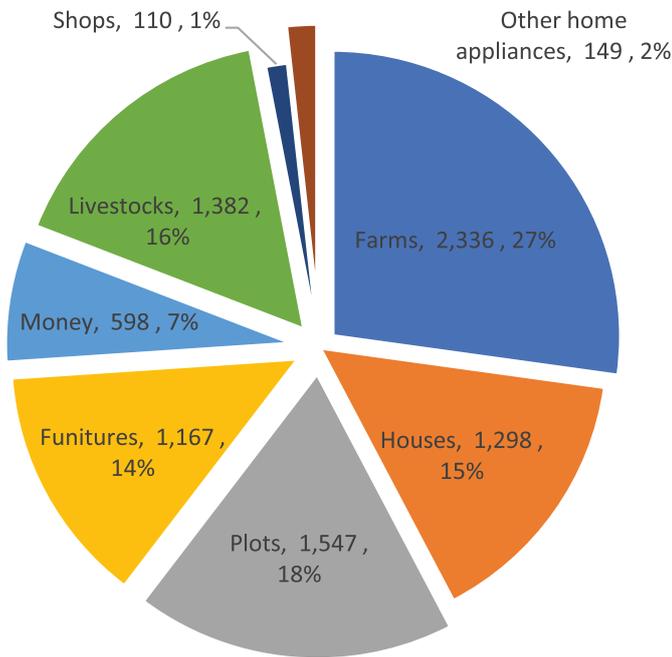
- 26,519** Total number of **Gender-based violence** cases reported
  - Most of these were cases of violence against women and matrimonial conflicts.
  - Which is **26.5%** of all cases reported
  - 19,669** Total number of cases reported by women which is 76% of all cases

### INCREASED WOMEN PROPERTY RIGHTS

Paralegals made significant contribution on women property rights through inheritance cases.

- 37,469** Inheritance cases reported.
  - 79%** Resolved Cases
  - 8,587** Number of Women helped to secure their entitlements in particular land and land-related properties such as farms, houses, and plots
- This improved women socio-economic justice and status.

## INCREASED PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN



*"I'm now stronger than ever!" is what Verediana Mayoya, a widow in the village of Nyamirembe in Kibondo, Kigoma appears to be saying after reclaiming ownership of seven acres she had lost to a man with deeper pockets. The justice she realized through legal aid also enabled her to do better and move out of her old, cramped mud hut and into a bigger, more spacious brick house. She now happily grows groundnuts and cassava that she sells to earn a living.*



## REDUCING SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN TANZANIA

With the objective of contributing to reducing systemic discrimination against women and children in Tanzania through the review of discriminatory inheritance laws, we collaborated with WILDAF, launched and implemented the HAKI MIRATHI project. The project conducted a situational analysis of discriminatory inheritance laws in the country and recommended a need to enact a unified law of succession, as well as amending the Law of Marriage Act. With continuous and consistent engagement with the government and submitting recommendations of the analysis to the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, the government was prompted to conduct its own analysis of laws and policies that hinder access to women's and children's rights including inheritance laws and the Law of Marriage Act. Findings from the government's analysis confirmed HAKI MIRATHI findings of an existence of contradictory provisions between different laws in addressing women's inheritance rights. Until this project's closure the government had commenced implementing findings of the analysis beginning with national consultations on the review of the Law of Marriage Act. In forthcoming projects, LSF in collaboration with other women-led organizations intends to continue advocating the enactment of the GBV law to address the gap in inheritance laws.

## LEGAL AID FOR INCLUSIVE JUSTICE IN DETENTION FACILITIES

ENVIROCARE in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and MoCLA trained 272 police and prison officers to work as paralegals to improve legal aid provision in detention facilities.



The clients were reached Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Dodoma, Arusha, Mwanza, Tabora, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Tabora regions.



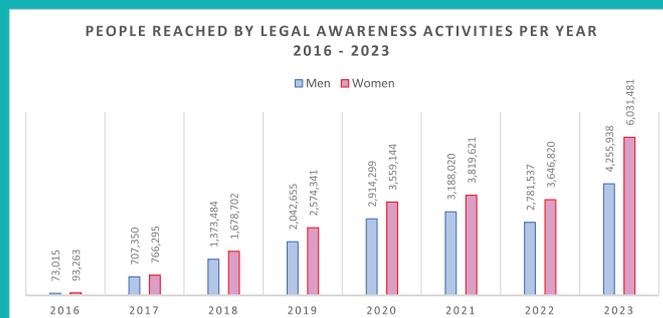
Incidences of rape cases were high in Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Arusha regions. Police resource personnel in collaboration with local government officers identified and granted bail to suspects with bailable minor offenses hence contributing to decongestion initiatives.

**Table 2: Accessibility of legal aid services in detention centres**

		Police			Prison			
1	Status of cases	Male	Female	Total	Status of cases	Male	Female	Total
2	Bailed out	2,300	349	2,649	Bailed out	2,557	359	2,916
3	Sent to court	591	246	837	Acquitted	773	222	995
4	Disposed at police	472	137	609	Convicted	308	82	390
5	Ongoing cases	2,067	535	2,602	Ongoing cases	3,449	949	4,398
	Total	5,430	1,267	6,697	Total	7,087	1,612	8,699

## 2.2 LEGAL EMPOWERMENT

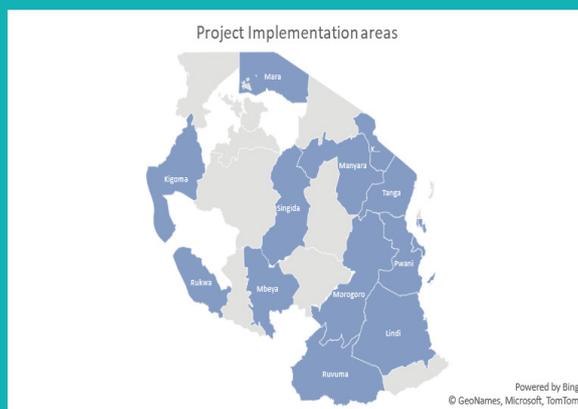
The LSF pioneered legal empowerment to address injustices and for social and economic rights of individuals, communities and the nation. Paralegals and legal aid providers use legal empowerment approach to support communities and individuals particularly women and marginalized communities to know, use and navigate in the legal and regulatory systems to protect and advance their rights and entitlements. The final evaluation report in 2020 showed that individual with knowledge to redress legal matters was 89% compared to 23% found during the baseline survey in 2015.



## CIVIC EDUCATION DURING THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

With additional funding from the Royal Danish Embassy we engaged citizens to participate in the Tanzania 2020 general election. LSF in partnership with CSOs and paralegal organizations accredited by the National Election Commission (mainland) and the Zanzibar Election Commission (ZEC), conducted voters' education and election observation during the 2020 polls.

This engagement ensured strengthened civil society's capacity to promote citizen participation. About 1 million people were reached with civic electoral education in Mbeya, Tanga, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Njombe, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Pwani, Morogoro, Dodoma, Lindi, Kigoma, Singida, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.



Map of Tanzania showing region covered by Election projects in 2020



## LEGAL AWARENESS



**39,849,748**

Number of people project reached between 2016 and 2023

Staggering increase from the original target of 13,000,000

The programme used media as a platform to reach out to people, including radio and TV programmes which increased accessibility of affordable legal aid services. The programme also innovatively invested in digital platforms, online apps, toll-free numbers through created WhatsApp groups, national and outreach activity using mobile legal aid clinics. Additionally, mobile legal aid clinics were used to deliver services across the country.

## LEGAL EMPOWERMENT TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS)

The pilot projects that engaged PWD organizations in Dar es salaam and Dodoma aimed to advance the rights of people living with a disability by integrating legal aid services into their communities. We supported SHIVYAWATA, TLB and Bisto in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam respectively in 2020 to 2021. Bisto advocated for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) to youth with disabilities aged 15 to 35 and reached 1,085 community members. The SHIVYAWATA partnered with other disability organizations to translate into Kiswahili and disseminated the Legal Aid Act 2017 and the Disability Act No. 9 of 2010. This aimed to empower PWDS to access legal aid services in Tanzania.

### PROJECT REACH



**1,085** Number of Community Members reached



**627** Women Reached



**456** Men Reached

### IN KIGAMBONI ALONE



**702** Number of Community Members reached



**454** Women Reached



**248** Men Reached

## URBAN LEGAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

**Table 3: Impact of Urban Legal Empowerment Programme**

S/N	Region	Development issue	Results
1	Dar es Salaam	Access to labour rights for industrial workers	71 factories in Dar es salaam developed anti-sexual harassment, abuse policies and internal grievance handling mechanisms. Each industry had between 100 and 500 workers.
2	Arusha	Safe business spaces for women and youth.	Women and youth street vendors moved to safe appropriate spaces in Arusha ( 1,324 women and 278 men)
3	Zanzibar	Women and youth in Business	1,000 petty traders were allotted with of spaces in the new constructed market in Zanzibar
4	Dodoma	Access to a safe and clean environment	The review of environmental by-laws, policies, and regulations resulted in solid waste management. The trained youth are turning solid waste into charcoal hence gaining income. The project managed to reduce the cost of garbage collection from TZS1,000/= to TZS500/= per week as per Dodoma City Council environmental by-laws.
5	Dar es Salaam	Access to a safe and clean environment	The project created environmental monitoring teams in all 6 municipalities, developed <b>Mazingira App</b> that allows people to interact will environmental lawyers
6	Dar es Salaam	Regularizing economic opportunities for women	The programme lobbied for the adaptation of the developed an online loan application portal by the Dar es Salaam municipals at the regional level to make it easy for women, youth and disabled to access the allocated 10% government loans.
7	Mbeya	Unlawful loan lenders	Created awareness of loan terms and conditions to bridge the knowledge gap existing between lenders and borrowers in informal microfinances. The project managed to take actions to bad lenders who confiscate properties unlawfully because people were not aware of the terms and conditions of loans including getting on high-interest rates, unclear instalments, the validity of loans, and mismatch of the value of collateral against the loan taken. A free portal was launched <a href="http://www.mikopoelimu.teku.ac.tz">www.mikopoelimu.teku.ac.tz</a>
8	Mwanza	Legal empowerment for domestic workers and street children	The project assisted 278 domestic workers (38 men and 240 women) to secure contracts, and rescued 164 street children (118 boys and 46 girls) and reintegrated them with families and shelters.

# THE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Paralegals worked closely with LGAs and health departments in their respective areas to address prevention needs. In Morogoro paralegals were permitted by the regional administrative authority to conduct Covid-19 awareness interventions. The programme trained 20 paralegals in sanitiser production and as a result they produced more than 521 bottles.

Furthermore, paralegals and regional mentor organisations in Geita, Kagera, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Rukwa, Kigoma, and Dodoma regions were involved in awareness-raising and support logistics in selected quarantine centres. The actions provided by paralegals and other actors contributed to address challenges of COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania.

## KEY ECONOMIC JUSTICE INTERVENTIONS

The programme addresses gender economic inequalities and systemic limitation to women through economic empowerment interventions. We supported women to engage in high value agribusiness and business activities. In some instances, start-up capital was provided to women who have already began working on their ideas such as running VICOBA and producing handicrafts and ornaments.

LSF supported two projects, a total of 360 women in VSLAs and VICOBA from the six project villages involving in sunflower, beans, banana and milk products in Manyara region. The project trained women on agribusiness in particular agro-product value addition and market linkages. Babati paralegals trained women rights awareness complementing social economic rights, in particular land ownership and inheritance. The project has contributed to reduce gender gap in agriculture productivity and use of farm proceeds for the benefits of the family.

*“To a great extent, decisions related to sales and use of resources derived from agricultural products were made by men; however, after these interventions women now make household economy decisions alongside men”, Scholastica Yasenti, Halla village.*

# WOMEN FRIENDLY BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

LSF partnered with Community Support Initiative (CSP) to implement the “Uchumi Imara kwa Mwanamke” project. The project aimed to improve a women-friendly business environment and reducing GBV at the Mirerani mining area. The project delivered;



**Improved Security Checks:** now there are gender-sensitive security checks at the mining main entrance, ensuring privacy and dignity for women. The inspection process is now conducted by the respective gender security officers (women officers inspecting women traders), significantly reducing previous disrespectful and inhumane practices.



**Improved police security:** Successful advocacy led to the ensuring the police station inside Tanzanite mining areas is providing services 24-hour a day.



**Strengthened access to justice:** a paralegals' sub-unit was established in Mirerani area specifically for Simanjiro district.



**Convenience passage:** Women are now allowed to use their "Gate pass" at the exiting point to return home with their remaining goods, improving convenience and operational efficiency.



**Reduction in Social Service Costs:** Negotiated reductions in toilet service and bodaboda transportation costs from Tshs 2000/= to 1000/= within the mining area, resulting in increased retention of women in economic activities.



**Diversification of Businesses:** Approximately 90% of trained women entrepreneurs initiated diversified businesses such as maize cultivation, catering services, and pig breeding, enhancing economic resilience and sustainability.



**Advocacy for Local Government Loans:** Successful advocacy efforts resulted in government loans secured by groups of youth, women, and disabled individuals, enabling them to expand their businesses and contribute to economic growth.



**Expansion of Business Opportunities:** Advocacy efforts led to the authorization of additional companies to conduct business in sorting sand which was done by one company only, broadening women's economic opportunities and ensuring a minimum daily income of TZS 15,000 per woman.



**Media Reporting:** Training sessions for women entrepreneurs, paralegals, and journalists resulted in increased media coverage of pertinent issues, with reports now being featured by media outlets such as Star TV, ITV, and Manyara Radios amplifying awareness and advocacy efforts.

## INCREASED WOMEN'S INCOME FROM SEAWEED PRODUCTS

In Lindi region, the Indian Ocean coastline, seaweed farmers received support in the form of production materials aimed at modernizing seaweed and sea cucumber production. This intervention is complemented by advocacy efforts aimed at improving the quality of crops and securing better prices.



An increase in the price of seaweed from TZS500 to TZS2,000 per kg



Improved production of seaweed from 3,535kg to 8,846kg



The sale of raw seaweed has enabled women to earn a total of TZS13,267,500



Women have generated income of TZS6,352,000 from selling liquid soap, bar soap and petroleum skin jelly

## PROMOTING WOMEN'S AND YOUTH ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES.

LSF in partnership with SheriaKiganjani enhanced sustainable women and youth economic empowerment. The intervention bridged the gap between legal awareness and formalizing businesses, enhanced access to financial opportunities for women and youth owned businesses in the Dar es salaam region. Digital Biashara utilized digital tools as a pathway to raise awareness on business formalization by using a short code approach.

# 455,174

People Reached (80% Youth)  
through awareness raising,  
as well as online and in-person legal  
consultation on business formalisation.



246,865

54.24% - WOMEN



OUR PROGRAMME  
REACH

DIGITAL BIASHARA,  
THE SHERIA KIGANJANI INITIATIVE



208,309

45.76% - MALE

## LEGAL EMPOWERMENT ACTIONS

In each of the key result areas, the program has demonstrated the initial changes contributed by the paralegals' legal empowerment approach. The highlighted community collective actions below show the contribution of legal education.



# 100

No of Reported collective  
actions against injustice  
out of Targetted 160

**Table 4: Community collective action as part of legal empowerment**

<p>In <b>Mara</b>, paralegals in collaboration with residents of Nyankanga village lodged a challenge against an investor, Mwita Rogeko, who unlawfully acquired a piece of village land in contravention of legal procedures, while denying villagers the right to use that land for farming as was previously the case. Through paralegal support, the council of elders and the village council ruled in favour of the villagers and the farmland was restored to the villagers.</p>	<p>In the city of <b>Dodoma</b>, we partnered with RUT and implemented community awareness at Makole ward on the importance of environmental conservation. As a result, the community initiated complaints to the ward executive officer, ward health officer and city health officer regarding an unpleasant odour from a leaking sewage system which had become a public nuisance. Following inspections, the matter was decided in favour of the residents by the city environment officer and DUWASA was duly instructed to rectify the sewage system.</p>
<p>In <b>Ruvuma</b>, residents of Magagura village in Songea Rural gathered to demand their money back after a treacherous Rural Electricity Agency (REA) representative collected TZS17,400 from some of them on false electricity connection promises. Paralegals reported the matter to REA and TANESCO, who failed to acknowledge the fake agent. After pressure from paralegals and villagers, the fake agent paid back the villagers and was taken to court.</p> <p>In another case also in Songea Rural, a group of employees of a Chinese road contractor were inspired to take action following training on labour rights provided by paralegals. The employees challenged the Chinese employer to provide them with employment contracts after they had worked informally for several months. The contracts now guarantee them work security.</p>	<p>In the <b>Kilimanjaro</b>, Sanya Juu paralegals helped a group of women who reported sexual abuse of a child and received immediate legal support from the police gender desk. The victim was supported and the perpetrator has been detained. In Moshi, women belonging to savings group in Shirimatunda ward convinced a woman who had endured frequent beatings in the hands of her husband to report him to the ward tribunal through paralegals. The matter was reconciled and the paralegals' action brought protection and restored harmony in the woman's home.</p> <p>Moreover, a women's group in Arusha Chini ward, also in Moshi, working in collaboration with a paralegal helped a woman known locally as Mama Qider, to claim her inheritance rights after reaching out to the group for legal education. The woman successfully secured the property in question.</p>
<p>In <b>Chato, Geita</b>, leaders of the local Mwangaza-Mwekako AMCOS schemed cotton farmers out of their sales revenues, however, through the intervention of paralegals the farmers joined forces and used their knowledge of the law to successfully recover their pay.</p>	<p>The <b>Zanzibar</b>, ZAPAO advocated an improved business environment for vendors yielding a significant milestone in the Urban-West district where 1,000 vendors were successfully allocated stalls at the new government-funded local market in Kibanda Maiti.</p>
<p>In <b>Dar es Salaam</b>, residents of Kisutu successfully collaborated to reduce noise pollution through the intervention of the Lawyers Environmental Action Team (LEAT) who empowered the residents to address noise pollution from hooting by the Dar Rapid Transit (DART) buses, commonly known as "Mabasi ya Mwendokasi". In particular, LEAT assisted the community to write a petition to the DART management, National Environment Management Council (NEMC) and Dar es Salaam City Council, demanding compliance with the Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004. In response, DART took note of the problem and in close cooperation with the police committed to training their drivers in compliance with the Act, and its Environmental Management (Standards for Control of Noise and Vibrations Pollutions) Government Notice. No. 32 of 2015. The official response bears the reference number (AB/76/104/0/67).</p>	

## 2.3 CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCTIVE TO LEGAL AID SERVICES PROVISION

LSF has significantly contributed to the development of two legal aid acts fostering an environment conducive to the provision of legal aid services in the mainland and Zanzibar, and provided support for policy reviews and guideline developments, leading to increased availability of legal aid services in Tanzania. The professional cadre of paralegals providing legal aid services, resulting in increased accessibility to justice for all in particular marginalized community. Overall, LSF has strengthened a 4A dimension of legal aid services in

Tanzania ensuring availability, affordability, acceptability, and accessibility of justice for all.

### LOCAL LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

We initiated nationwide interventions to strengthen collaboration with local-level actors such as local government authorities (LGAs). These interventions included training sessions conducted by the Commission for Human Rights & Good Governance (CHRAGG) which aimed at building the capacity of four district officers as trainers of ward executive officers (WEOs) and ward tribunals on human rights, legal aid, empowerment, and understanding paralegal work. The final programme evaluation conducted in 2021 pointed out that local leaders' awareness about the role of paralegals and access to justice increased significantly from 55% in 2016 to 83% in 2021.

 **58,294** ↑ This was above target of 20,000

No. of formal and Informal Leaders sensitized between 2017 and 2023

 **27,589**  **30,705**

These concerted efforts yielded significant results at the local level, including the integration of paralegal organizations into government buildings and increased participation of paralegals in ward development committee meetings. Notably, 50% of paralegals reported receiving desks in ward executive offices, while other ward executives actively sought their presence. Additionally, paralegal organizations received support in securing plots for office construction and other essential materials. For instance, Kalambo District Council provided paralegals with a motorcycle, showcasing tangible support from local authorities.

We acknowledge the risk of co-option as paralegals interact more closely with the government. The programme supports paralegals with necessary skills to manage this risk including clear understanding of their role, and upholding their professional conduct particularly maintaining a beneficiary-focused environment of strict confidentiality.

**Table 6: Formal and informal leaders reached between 2017 and 2023**

SN	YEAR	Formal leaders		Informal leaders		Total
		MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
2	2017	312	101	423	200	1,036
3	2018	4,030	2,723	1,220	1,199	9,172
4	2019	2,068	1,001	2,032	1,036	6,137
5	2020	1,390	1,409	2,285	1,902	6,986
6	2021	3,245	2,419	3,112	2,401	11,177
7	2022	3,335	6,244	2,062	2,864	14,505
8	2023	2,364	1,735	2,827	2,355	9,281
Total		16,744	15,632	13,961	11,957	58,294

## INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

During this reporting period, we engaged in various high-level initiatives. The program has strengthened collaborations with Ministries and Departments with the potential to increase access to justice in both Mainland and Zanzibar. These initiatives included;

## ENACTMENT OF LEGAL AID ACTS

We made substantial contributions to high-level engagements resulting in the enactment of the Legal Aid Act, 2017 in the mainland and the Legal Aid Act, 2018 in Zanzibar. These acts formalize free provision of legal aid services enabling individuals lacking financial resources to access justice and address the principle that everyone should be able to defend their rights regardless of their financial status, particularly benefiting marginalised and vulnerable populations. The acts serve to legitimise paralegals' role within the legal system, providing recognition, resources, and support for their essential work in offering legal guidance and representation to underserved communities. In 2022, as a result of high-level engagement, the TZS30,000 registration fee for paralegals and legal aid providers in the mainland was waived. This fee had been a major hindrance to paralegal services since the enactment of the pertinent law in 2017.

## STRENGTHENED THE NATIONAL PLAN AND INTERVENTIONS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)

The National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2017-2021) has been an instrumental facility. The plan outlined the process for establishing committees, delegating duties and functions to committees for the protection of women and children at the national, regional, and local government levels to establish proper procedures and coordination in the implementation of the Plan of Action. Through our Access to Justice Programme we were an active stakeholder in enhancing the implementation of the plan, in particular the second (Norms and Values) and fifth thematic areas (Implementation and Enforcement of Laws).

The programme evaluation report published in 2021 showed that the programme was in line with eight (8) thematic areas of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2017/18-2021/22). LSF as one of the stakeholders supported coordination and organisation of MoHCDGEC's actions as part of the implementation of our Access to Justice Programme that falls under the 'Norms and Values' theme.

The evaluation report demonstrates that NPA - VAWC (2017-2021) was aligned with the government vision of eradicating all forms of violence against children, women, and special groups (including gender violence). The evaluation established that NPA-VAWC aimed to address the needs of the intended primary and secondary beneficiaries (women and children; and men, boys, religious and traditional leaders, service providers respectively).

## **STRENGTHENED ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND GENDER EQUALITY**

We signed MoUs with the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Special Groups, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) in the mainland Tanzania and President's Office - Constitution, Legal affairs, Public Service and Good Governance in Zanzibar. During the last quarter of 2023, we carried out the final review of the MoU with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs (MoCLA) which was planned to be signed in 2024. This MoU would formalise the smooth working relations between LSF and MoCLA to promote implementation and improvement of national plans on access to justice.

## **DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE GENERATION EQUALITY FORUM (GEF)**

We actively participated in the development and implementation of the national action plan for the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) and the launch of the national advisory committee on the implementation of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) on economic justice and rights. The initiatives are an important agenda to support women economic rights and ultimately ending gender-based violence. The government has established 3,091 women economic empowerment forums in all 26 regions and the forums start at the national level and extend down to the village level.

## **INCREASED ACCESS AND AWARENESS OF PRINCIPAL LEGISLATION**

Following the amendment of Section 84A (1) of the Interpretation of Laws Act Cap. 1. declaring Swahili as the language to be used in the administration and dispensation of justice by courts and tribunals in Tanzania, we collaborated with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs in Tanzania to translate 17 principal pieces of legislation and their regulations on access to justice into Swahili. This initiative has simplified understanding of the law and improved access to justice.

## **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

We successfully submitted recommendations on the criminal justice system and institutional reforms before the Criminal Justice Reform Commission. The commission submitted the report which included contributions on the right to fair trial, stringent and tough bail conditions, transformation of the Tanzania Police Force, and provision of legal aid and psychological support to prisoners to the President as advanced by LSF. We continued to monitor and advocate the actual implementation of the report's recommendations. In 2021, in the same endeavours we supported the review of the Police General Order (PGO), aiming to improve the standards, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Police Force in carrying out its mandate. The reviewed manual also recognises and institutionalises the Police Gender and Children Desk and the Tanzania Women Police Officers Network, which are instrumental in initiatives to eradicate gender-based violence against women and children.

## **ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LEGAL AID SECTOR IN ZANZIBAR**

We further actively advocated sustainability measures in the legal aid sector in Zanzibar, including recommendations for the inclusion of a legal aid fund in the Legal Aid Act, 2018 and the formation of a permanent legal aid budget working group. Collaboration with stakeholders and participation in forums such as the Zanzibar Legal Aid Forum have facilitated discussions on sustaining quality legal aid provision for the poor and vulnerable in Zanzibar. Major achievements of the forum were the commitment and open directives issued by the Second Vice President to the Law Review Commission as well as the line ministry to work on reviewing the Legal Aid Act, 2018 to include provisions for a legal aid fund with immediate effect.

## ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF LEGAL AID IN THE MAINLAND

### LEGAL AID SYMPOSIUM

In 2022, we collaborated with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs to organise a legal aid symposium to discuss the efficacy of the Legal Aid Act, 2017 as a tool for enhancing legal aid services for a just and inclusive society. As an outcome of the meeting, the ministry announced the revocation of the TZS30,000 registration fee for legal aid providers and paralegals, which had been one of the major drawbacks against paralegal services since the law was enacted in 2017. In 2023, the ministry organised the second legal aid symposium which focused on the sustainability of the legal aid sector. The government, through the Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, urged legal aid stakeholders to discuss funding mechanisms and come up with a draft proposal for further proceedings.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABLE LEGAL AID SERVICES

The government showed willingness to consider sustainable legal aid funding mechanisms through the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign, opening consultations and dialogue opportunities with legal aid stakeholders. These dialogues continued in December 2023 when we held a successful consultative meeting with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs to discuss plans for realising sustainable funding for legal aid providers, and drawn plans are expected to be put into practice in the 2024 programme. Continuing on a similar thread, we engaged with the Parliamentary Budget Committee to advocate for setting up funding to support legal aid services in the country. The committee received the evidence and pledged to challenge the ministry to commit budgetary support to paralegals for the 2024/25 financial year. Additionally, the committee advised LSF to seek other parliamentary committee avenues, particularly the Local Government Affairs Committee and the Local Authorities Accounts Committee.

### IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO LEGAL AID SERVICES IN ZANZIBAR

The Zanzibar Law Review Commission (LRC) in consultation with sector stakeholders proposed amendments to the Legal Aid Act 2018. Some key proposals included a legal aid fund, recognition and regulation of university-based legal aid clinics, expanding the scope of offenses to be covered by legal aid and provision of legal aid services, and a desk at all police stations to mention but a few. LSF and other actors have contributed significantly to

this development including submission of written inputs and participation in engagement sessions. Our key agenda items stipulating specific provisions of the legal aid fund were the source, legal mandate, management, use and accessibility were taken on board. By the end of 2023 the LRC's proposals were at the approval stage at the Ministry of Justice (PoCLAPSGG). The proposals were expected to be discussed at three higher policy organs, the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee (IMTC), the Revolutionary Council, and lastly a draft amendment bill presented to the House of Representatives.

### INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

We supported the President's Office, Constitution, Legal Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance in reviewing the Good Governance Policy, 2011. The review was intended to incorporate current governance, transparency and accountability issues including increased participation of women and girls as right holders and beneficiaries in holding the government accountable and transparent in the fight against corruption. A draft policy was consequently presented to stakeholders for validation.

### IMPROVED WIDOWS' RIGHTS PROTECTION IN ZANZIBAR

In Tanzania widows continue to be excluded from the progress made in raising the status of other vulnerable groups in spite of Tanzania having ratified the international instruments and plans mainly the CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action. The LSF during this year supported Zanzibar Widows' Association (ZAWIO) and the Law Review Commission of Zanzibar to conduct a study on laws affecting full realization of widows' rights with a view of coming up with a reform paper. After it is complete the reform paper will be presented to the President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for further directives.

**Improved sustainable legal aid funding mechanisms:** LSF engaged with Parliamentary budget Committee to advocate for setting up funding to support legal aid services in the country. The Budget Committee received the evidence and pledged to challenge the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs to commit budgetary support to paralegals from the FY 2024/25. In addition, the committee advised the LSF to also seek other parliamentary committee avenues mainly the Local Government Affairs Committee and the Local Authorities Accounts Committee. In Zanzibar, a long-term LSF recommendations were included in the draft Legal Aid Policy. The submissions have also been taken on board in the ongoing law review

agenda by the Law Reform Commission. This was one of the agenda in 2022 during legal aid forum. A permanent Legal Aid Budget Working Group with the purpose of coordinating legal aid budget analysis, monitoring and advocacy by all stakeholders in a collaborative manner has also been formed.

**Improved collaboration in NGOs sector coordination and compliance:** LSF has initiated conversations with NACONGO, aiming to improve sector coordination and enhance the legal and policy environment for NGOs in the country. An improved NGOs policy environment will enhance a conducive environment for legal aid providers since they are registered and operate as NGOs.

## IMPROVED LINKAGES BETWEEN PARALEGALS AND LGAS THROUGH MAMA SAMIA LEGAL AID CAMPAIGN

In December 2022 the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs initiated a stakeholders' planning meeting for a three-year national legal aid campaign known as the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign. LSF, as a co-chair, actively participated in the campaign by supporting paralegals to provide legal aid and education to marginalised communities. At the national level, the campaign has already been conducted in Dodoma, Manyara, Ruvuma, Simiyu, and Shinyanga where paralegals and local government authorities provided legal aid in hard-to-reach areas. Paralegals are now formally recognised and receive basic support from local government authorities. This collaborative approach is essential for the long-term sustainability of the legal aid sector

### IN THE 6 REGIONS REACHED



**42** Municipalities



**452** Wards



**1,348** Villages



**415,280**

People Reached including 7,166 remand prisoners

## Launch of the Mama Samia Legal Aid Campaign



## MANUAL FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) MECHANISMS DEVELOPED

In collaboration with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, we developed a training manual on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, aimed at guiding practitioners, including paralegals, in restoring peace and harmony in local communities. This manual contributes to increasing the accessibility of quality legal aid services for marginalised communities and women.

## 20 WOMEN SECURED LAND TITLE DEEDS IN MOSHI THROUGH THE ADR PROJECT

In 2023, the program pilot project on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) project in Kilimanjaro to explore the effectiveness of ADR in facilitating the process of resolving conflicts through reconciliation, mediation, and negotiation was implemented. The project has been noted to enhance the capacities of paralegals, formal and informal leaders to resolve disputes within the community. The pilot reached 865 disputes, of which 94% were resolved. About 20 women secured land title deeds translating to their journey towards economic development. The value of ADR was acknowledged by the media; for instance, an article in the Mwananchi newspaper quoted Moshi district lawyer Mr. Lucas Mtauca, emphasizing the outcome of ADR intervention as the ability to resolve issues in amicable ways that dispense justice and bring tranquility to the community.



## ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND ORGANIZATIONS

As Chair of the East and Horn of Africa Paralegal Network (EAHPN), LSF has led a collaborative effort among network members from five countries (Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan) to advocate conducive legal frameworks for legal Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan) advocate for conducive legal frameworks for legal aid provision in the East and Horn of Africa, exchange best practices, and conduct studies and research. aid provision in the East and Horn of Africa, exchange best practices, and conduct studies and research. In 2020 and 2021, LSF convened two regional meetings across the five member countries and provide a platform for knowledge sharing, best practices, and learning,

In 2020 and 2021, LSF convened two regional meetings across the five member countries and provide a platform for knowledge sharing, best practices, and learning, as well as to deliberate on priorities. Through these forums, countries like Uganda as well as to deliberate on priorities. Through these forums, countries like Uganda made significant strides in advocating for the Legal Aid Act to the point where the bill made significant strides in advocating for the Legal Aid Act to the point where the bill was submitted to the Constitution and Legal

Affairs Parliamentary Committee, though it has yet to be passed. was submitted to the Constitution and Legal Affairs Parliamentary Committee, though it has yet to be passed. The aim is to assist countries that are still lagging behind in establishing the desired legal framework.

In collaboration with the East African Philanthropy Network (EAPN), The aim is to assist countries that are still lagging behind in establishing the desired legal framework. In collaboration with the East African Philanthropy Network (EAPN), the LSF and other EAPN partners convene through the Tanzania Philanthropy Forum to the LSF and other EAPN partners convene through the Tanzania Philanthropy Forum to share best practices, knowledge, and to advance the philanthropy agenda. Over 30 share best practices, knowledge, and to advance the philanthropy agenda. Over 30 participants meet semi-annually while regional platform meetings are held annually. participants meet semi-annually while regional platform meetings are held annually.

In 2023, LSF co-hosted the annual conference in Zanzibar with EAPN, the conference deliberations challenged long-standing paradigms and encouraged stakeholders to In 2023, LSF co-hosted the annual conference in Zanzibar with EAPN, the conference deliberations challenged long-standing paradigms and encouraged stakeholders to re-examine their roles, embrace collaboration, and prioritize sustainable impact; The re-examine their roles, embrace collaboration, and prioritize sustainable impact; The outcomes of this gathering would be translated into practice, program, and policy outcomes of this gathering would be translated into practice, program, and policy advocacy in order to address social and developmental issues effectively. advocacy in order to address social and developmental issues effectively.

Collaborations with organizations such as the East African Philanthropic Network, UN Women, Open Society Initiative for Africa, The Danish Centre for Human Rights and Collaborations with organizations such as the East African Philanthropic Network, UN Women, Open Society Initiative for Africa, The Danish Centre for Human Rights and Amnesty International hold potential for partnership in areas related to legal empowerment and access to justice.

## COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS WOMEN'S SOCIAL ECONOMIC RIGHTS

LSF initiated partnerships with the private sector to address community socio-economic challenges at the grassroots level. LSF sees partnership and collaboration as a way to make a major impact



**502**

Total number of members benefited from TADB Agriculture loans within 5 Amcos farmer cooperatives



**100,000**

Total number of people reached with Legal aid services after partnership with Vodacom

## 2.4 SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LEGAL AID SECTOR

LSF engages the government and mobilises actors to ensure sector sustainability. The government demonstrated strong commitment to sector sustainability with the enactment of the legal aid acts and also rescinded the paralegal registration fee in 2022. This was critical for the continuation of community-based paralegal programs and for improving the quality and standardisation of legal aid services.

### INCREASED PARTNERS' CAPACITY

**184**

**PARALEGAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY LSF**



**173**

Tanzania Mainland



**11**

Zanzibar

LSF supported 184 paralegal organizations to register as NGOs in each district of Tanzania (Mainland 173, and 11 in Zanzibar) as required by the law. Registered paralegal entities facilitated their recognition and increased their ability to apply for funding from other development partners. About 59 organizations reported to receive funds from other donors. For example, North A Paralegal Center (NAPAC) received TZS 400 million from UNDP to address GBV in Zanzibar, Ilemela paralegal centre, received TZS 50 million from UNDP to support GBV victims to access lawyers and health services in Mwanza. Tunduru paralegals mobilized TZS 250 million from FCS on good governance and

accountability in agriculture sector. Other donors funding paralegals organizations include Freedom House, FCS, Aga Khan Foundation, Pelum, CIDA, etc. This resulted from enhanced capacity on resource mobilization to paralegals to develop the winning proposals as well as accessing the resources at their localities.

Paralegal organisations have mobilized financial resources through their annual fee contributions, securing funds from other donors, and establishing Income Generating activities (IGA) mostly agriculture related including farming, Beekeeping, poultry and breeding. Others engaged in rotating savings and credit schemes (VICOBA), catering services, stationery shops, establishing kindergarten, community fundraising, computer learning centres and motorcycle transportation (boda boda) and operating boats.



**1,222,946,150**

Which is more than 70% of mobilised financial resources TZS 1,313,446,150

**Was obtained through income generating activities and donor funding**



**90,500,000**

**Was obtained through in-kind contributions from communities and local governments.**

Paralegals institutional and technical capacity enhanced their efficiency and effectiveness in operations and project implementation. The capacity on how to use and manage the online data system resulted in increased quality and timeliness of the data entered into the online system. The training in finance literacy increased accountability and good financial management of the paralegal organisations.

LSF grantees managed to mobilize non-financial resources through lobbying, and forged good working relationship with the local state and non-state stakeholders. About 5% of paralegal organisations reported to have secured office spaces in the government buildings.

### INNOVATION TO DELIVER LEGAL AID SERVICES

We have been testing and adopting different innovative options to deliver legal aid services. Paralegals were trained in thematic areas in particular cotton and coffee farmers. This included

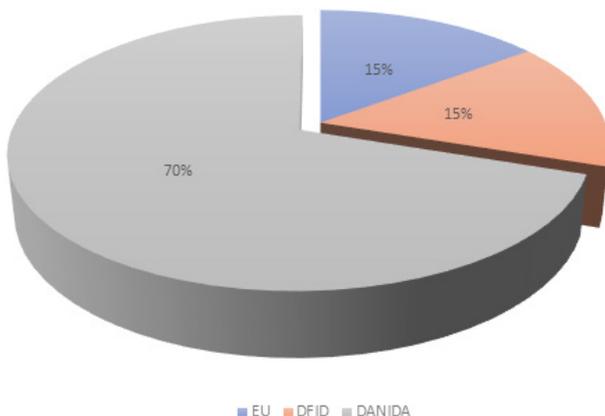
imparting paralegals with skills and knowledge to resolve disputes linked to social and economic sectors. We established a centre of excellence as a learning point amongst to share experience through exchange visit. We also introduced interactive graphic materials for legal aid education, which are good to identify legal issues during discussions.

We supported technology innovation such as the use of Map.me app to locate clients with GBV issue in Simiyu and introduced an offline paralegal app which contains material on legal education along with Sheria Bot on WhatsApp, sms and Facebook Messenger. Above all, the Haki Yangu (My Right) app was also introduced which has ability to locate online and offline paralegals instant for client to contact them, over 1,000 paralegals who have smartphones have registered to the App. Other innovation supported include hotlines for legal aid; Mazingira app for reporting environmental issue; online loan application for women, youth and people with disabilities; and a web-based platform for those with microfinance legal issues.

All these platforms increased legal services accessibility, timely legal service provision and improved referral mechanisms as community member can access paralegals from another district due to strong paralegal network and coordination the client is referred to a paralegal organisation in his/her locality.

## PROGRAMME AND FINANCE MANAGEMENT

Between 2016 and 2023 we managed a basket fund from three major donors, the Royal Danish Embassy, the EU and DFID. We worked with regional mentor organizations, zonal mentor organizations and volunteers to complement the secretariat to deliver the programme. The LSF supported the partners as on-ward grantees. In the course of implementing the access to justice program, we received a total funds of US\$32.4 Million. A three-donor percentage contribution in the reporting period is demonstrated by figure 18. In the final year (2022-2023) RDE was the only basket donor.



## HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2023 our workforce reached the 57% women and 43% men threshold from 33% women in 2017. We also won two gender equality awards and the first runner up in the 2023 Best NGO Employer of the Year award. These awards promote efforts towards inclusive and conducive work environment.



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Basket fund partners of the Legal Services Facility are



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK**

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