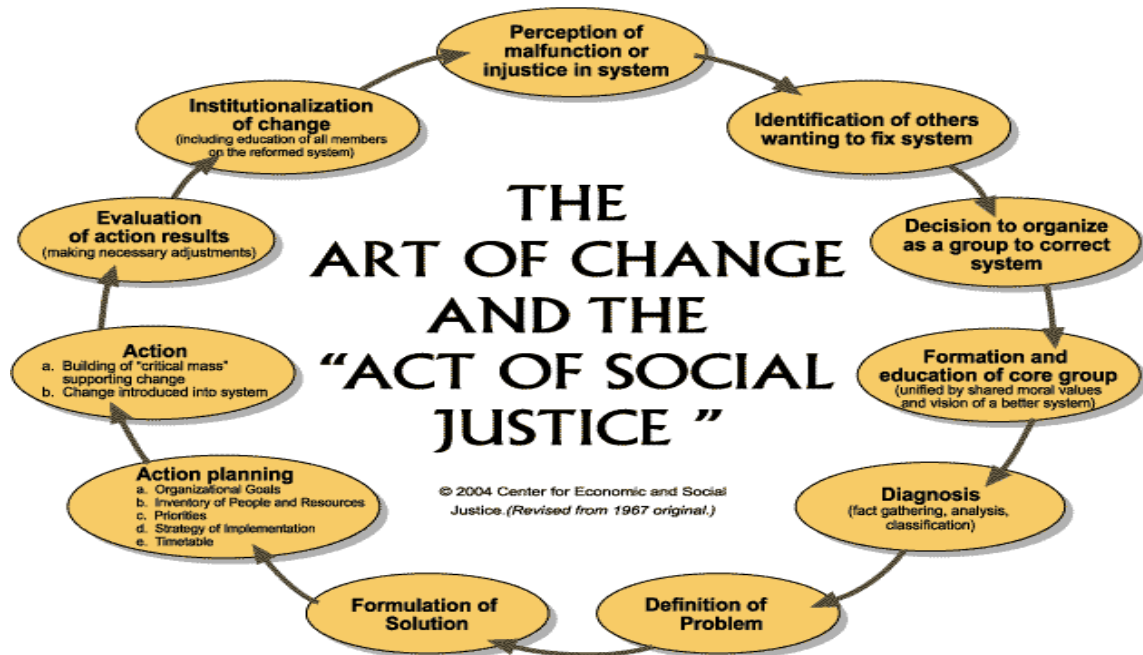


ISLAMIC WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR JUSTICE, LAW AND PEACE (IWILAP)

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



ACCRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AU	Actionaid Uganda
ARASA	AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa
ASF	Avocats sans Frontieres
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ED	Executive Director
DANIDA	Danish Agency for International Development
FIDA	Uganda Women Lawyers' Association
GBV	Gender-based violence
IWILAP	Islamic Women's Initiative for Justice Law and Peace
JLOS	Justice Law & Order Sector
LASPNET	legal aid service providers network
LAP	Legal Aid Project
LASPs	Legal Aid Service Providers
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAPE	National Association of Professional Environmentalists
NGO	Non-Government Organization
SALC	Southern Africa Litigation Centre
SFF	Segal Family Foundation
ULS	Uganda Law Society
USAID	United States of America International development
UHRC	Uganda Human rights Commission

Glossary of terms

<i>nafaka</i>	In Islamic Sharia, a legal obligation of material support to be provided by the husband for the wife and children. In the event of divorce, the former husband must continue to support his wife for three months and his children until the time when the child can support her/himself or gets married. Similar to: <i>alimony</i>
Mahr	In Islamic Sharia, a legal obligation on the part of the man to give the woman an agreed upon sum of money upon registration of the marriage. In the case of divorce, the man is expected to pay either all, half or none of the sum to the wife, depending on the circumstances of divorce. Similar to: <i>dowry</i>

What we stand for

OUR VISION

An equitable and just society in which women are empowered to reach their full potential.

OUR MISSION

To pursue justice for women through human rights based legal aid, research and advocacy.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal 1: *Contribute to the protection and empowerment of women suffering discrimination and violence.*

Goal 2: *Promote women's rights and combat negative practices against women.*

Goal 3: *Develop institutional and human capacity in order to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of IWILAP*

IWILAP has a number of values that guide the way members, staff, board and partners relate and operate. The values in context of IWILAP mean:

a) Integrity

IWILAP strives to always uphold quality of being honest; trustworthy; adherence to moral and ethical principles; and being of moral uprightness. It means doing the right thing even when no one is watching. IWILAP ensures that integrity underlies all of its operation

b) Equality

IWILAP ensures that individuals or a group of individuals are treated fairly and equally and no less favorably, specific to their needs. IWILAP does not discriminate from its clients and employees on grounds of age, gender, nationality, tribe, place of origin, political opinion, race, colour, disability, occupation, or on any other status. IWILAP focusses on specific marginalized women.

C) Transparency

Save for circumstances where confidence is required, IWILAP will ensure that it operates in an honest way of doing things that allows other people/stakeholders to know exactly what IWILAP is doing.

d) Accountability

IWILAP always position itself to a situation in which people know who is responsible for something and can ask them to explain its state or quality. IWILAP respects and discharges its duties of care. For its accountability is not an afterthought.

e) Professionalism

IWILAP professionally handles all of its beneficiaries with competence, respect and courtesy. IWILAP strives to provide timely and quality services to the society.

f) Voluntarism and volunteerism

IWILAP staff operates and is guided by the spirit of volunteering by ensuring that it undertakes its responsibilities willingly and with dedication not necessarily working for payments but working while believing more on the value of the work rather than the amount of money or material benefit that one gains. IWILAP will live out these values by:

- i) Communicating the values constantly;
- ii) Revisiting and refreshing the values where necessary;
- iii) Confronting contradictory behavior;
- iv) Periodically checking out with feedback.

WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is indeed with great honor that I present to you the annual report of our Islamic Women's Initiative for Justice Law and Peace (IWILAP) FOR 2019.

On behalf of IWILAP, allow me present to you our annual report as a way of giving accountability to our members, partners and communities and the general public, both local and international.

I see this as an opportunity to take stock of the work we have diligently under taken, the resources that we have used and the challenges we have faced during the year 2019.

With great honor allow me congratulate, the IWILAP staff for their commitment towards the attainment of the organizational goals and objectives. Since its inception, IWILAP has had two strategic plans of which each has had a program focus with research, Advocacy and Empowerment. This is indeed a great effort. Much as research by IWILAP and other organizations shows little progress in the improvement of people's lives in Uganda, the increasing poverty, land disputes and ignorance are some of the struggles.

I would like further to congratulate the organization for being accredited with a certificate by Uganda Law Council and we now pride ourselves as legally accredited legal aid service providers and this has pushed us to a greater level.

IWILAP has always responded to these issues through a variety of approaches as per this report. IWILAP has indeed endeavored to empower communities to sustain themselves.

This report therefore high lights several of the key activities undertaken by the organization during the year 2019. It also documents the impact of our work on community empowerment and advocacy.

Finally, I would want to thank our development partners for supporting IWILAP programs. I also once again thank our staff for the tireless efforts that have been geared towards achieving our objectives.

Yours Sincerely



Mwanga Asha Mastulah

Executive director

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

IWILAP's work started in Uganda in 2013 and marked 6 years of dedicated service to humanity and human rights activism

Islamic Women's Initiative for Justice, law and peace is a non-profit NGO that works to empower women to attain their rights and to improve vulnerable population's access to justice across Uganda. Women in Uganda are routinely denied rights granted to them by international and domestic law. These violations occur due to patriarchal laws and cultural traditions that devalue women in both the public and private sphere. As a result, IWILAP, as a legal based organization strives to promote a nation that upholds gender equality and respects women's rights by using a grassroots and top-down approach simultaneously through different programs and lobbying strategies. IWILAP therefore promotes access to justice through legal aid and advocate for gender responsive policies for women. IWILAP seeks to develop a Ugandan society based on the principles of law, justice, gender equality and social justice. IWILAP was established in Uganda in 2013 and by forging a feminist vision based on equality and justice, IWILAP plays a prominent role in addressing women's access to justice through legal aid, gender-based violence in Ugandan society in both the public and private spheres.

IWILAP is proud of its uncompromising commitment to provide legal aid, social counselling and protection services to women in an environment where human rights abuses are rampant and women's issues are regularly overlooked. IWILAP lawyers and social workers intervene in individual cases of abuse in partnership with state, Civil Society Organizations, line ministries, policy makers, the academia, development partners, local authorities and other stakeholders. In a bid of achieving its mandate, IWILAP aims at providing a diverse range of legal aid services to indigent, marginalized and vulnerable women. Services offered include legal advice, legal representation in courts of law, documentation and dissemination of simplified legal literature, legal and human rights awareness creation campaigns among so many others. The year 2019 was yet a remarkable year for IWILAP as we recorded many successes as per the proceedings.

Political Brief

Overview

The year 2019 was marked by important political developments for Uganda on the national and international stage.

Violations of freedom of association, assembly, and expression continued in 2019 as authorities introduced new regulations restricting online activities and stifling independent media. The government arrested its political opponents and blocked political and student rallies. These restrictions on expression and assembly, arbitrary detentions and prosecutions of outspoken critics, and the government's failure to ensure accountability for past abuses, do not bode well for the 2021 general elections.

Freedom of Expression

The Ugandan government continued to undermine freedom of expression by imposing new regulations on bloggers and website owners. In 2019, the government introduced new regulations requiring online operators to apply for authorization to host blogs and websites or risk being shut down. Government also censored media outlets, and arbitrarily detained outspoken critics of the president.

The police used the 2013 Public Order Management Act (POMA) to block, restrict, and disperse peaceful assemblies and demonstrations by opposition groups, often with excessive force.

In August, a court convicted and sentenced academic and activist, Stella Nyanzi, to 18 months' imprisonment for "cyber harassment" under the Computer Misuse Act for a poem she published on Facebook in 2018 criticizing President Museveni. The court ruled that the poem violated prohibitions on "obscene, lewd, lascivious or indecent" content.

There are efforts in place to secure greater accountability for the legal rights for women.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Crackdowns on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex activists continued and same-sex relations remained illegal in Uganda. In May, police shut down celebrations marking the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism, and Transphobia event in Kampala, accusing the nongovernmental organization Sexual Minorities Uganda of planning an illegal gathering, forcing the organization to move the event to a private residence.

Conclusion

2019 has been marked by a number of small steps taken towards securing legal accountability of the Uganda occupation and human right crimes at an international level.

Additionally, the last quarter of the year 2019 has shown that Uganda has a high tendency to violate International Humanitarian Law without any restrictions. This means further lack of safety and insecurity not only for the Ugandan society as a whole but to the Ugandan women in particular, as members in the political, social sphere and mothers and family members.

2019 Highlights

a) Successful preparation of IWILAP's 2020-2024 strategic plan

In 2019 IWILAP successfully worked on developing the 2020-2024 strategic plan following a rapid assessment of the 2016-2020 strategy with the support of The Young Feminist Fund. The strategic plan is designed to respond to the needs of beneficiaries and partners, which they've outlined in multiple internal and external evaluations. It was drawn up using these evaluations and extensive planning sessions to identify the most pressing issues affecting women's rights and the most appropriate means to address these. The strategy reflects a comprehensive appraisal of the exact needs of Ugandan women and combines a multi-pronged strategy to effectively deal with the challenges at local, national and international levels.

The strategy builds on IWILAP's previous successes in the core work of providing legal, social and protection services to women, raising awareness about women's rights, and advocacy and capacity building. Following successful evaluations of the best way to create societal change about women's rights, IWILAP's new strategy places greater emphasis on grassroots work, targeting new local groups to be catalysts for change within their community. The new strategy also responds to feedback from clients and partners on the relationship between violence and women's economic independence, suggesting that empowering women is incomplete without economic empowerment, and aims to review laws and refer women to relevant entities that provide economic empowerment. Advocacy work at the national and international levels are an inseparable part of IWILAP's work especially efforts to change policies, laws and legislation to ensure equality, non-discrimination and respect for women's human rights. Finally, the strategy realizes that the worst effects of the Israeli occupation are felt by the most marginalized groups in Ugandan society, including women, and it therefore includes the necessity for collecting testimonies and submitting reports to the UN and relevant entities to hold human rights violators accountable to international conventions. IWILAP is also continuing in its engagement with International partners like the Women's Human Rights Education Institute to make CEDAW a living document. Several consultation sessions were carried out with partner organizations during the process of preparing the draft plan, in which IWILAP presented a draft strategy and received feedback on it. The final draft of the strategy was then presented to the Board of Directors and was approved.

b) IWILAP extends Munanamateka to grassroots and a wide range of service providers

IWILAP realizes that offering services to women who are victims of violence or threatened with it is not enough. These services need to accommodate women's needs in terms of location and treatment. In this regard, IWILAP in 2019 worked on extending its outreach and service provision to underserved areas where women are oppressed or disregarded through conducting mobile legal aid clinics and made them a popular tool that enables women to deal with domestic violence through the preparation of a protection manual for grassroots and on training service providers on how best to deal with women who have suffered from violence. Building on its previous experience, IWILAP aimed to support CBOs to provide social and legal counseling in addition to

awareness-raising in their constituencies. IWILAP worked on extending its outreach, through building partnership with Mpigi Feminist Review Trust & GDA in order to provide women with Social and Legal Aid. Mpigi Feminist Review Trust was chosen as the main partner to IWILAP after a long process of reviewing and visiting other women grassroots' organizations in our districts of operation thus making it the 4th partnership that IWILAP has with grassroots' organizations covering the East, North, Central and Southern part of Uganda. These partnerships enable women in remote areas to access the different services and seek help when needed.

c) Establishment of One stop Centre with a legal aid clinic

The Centre was established to be an inter-agency unit for women victim/survivors of domestic or sexual violence. When a case is received, the victim/survivor is first examined and treated by a doctor and also seen by a counselor, a social worker, within 24 hours in a separate examination room that protects privacy and confidentiality.

The underlying principle of such a multi-sectoral approach that recognizes the rights and needs of survivors as preeminent, in terms of access to respectful and supportive services, guarantees of confidentiality and safety, and the ability to determine a cause of action for addressing GBV incidents.

The services offered at the center include provision of temporary accommodation/ shelter, protection from perpetrators, counselling, prosecution, representation in court, provision of medical care, provision of basic needs food clothing etc.

d) Drafting and dissemination of CEDAW report

IWILAP in partnership with Women's Human Rights Education Institute and the CEDAW Institute Uganda played an instrumental role in disseminating knowledge about CEDAW to both the government and civil society organizations. IWILAP has been helping in the process of training government partners in writing the official report, and civil society organisations in writing the shadow report.

During this time IWILAP, along with other civil societies and Human Rights' organisations, participated in workshops, one of which was organized by UNOCHR and other official duty. As a result of this work IWILAP has been placed in a position of significant responsibility towards the CEDAW shadow report, which will be produced by civil society organisations. It has been assigned, along with other organizations, to be a part of the committee to draft the CEDAW shadow report with civil society organizations, and is responsible for writing the legal and social part of it. It has also been invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attend a workshop and offer input prior to the drafting of the official report, which will be sent to CEDAW.

DETAILED ACTIVITY REPORT

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS.

Strategic Goal 1: *Contribute to the protection and empowerment of women suffering discrimination and violence.*

1. Legal Representation /Aid

The above was done through court representation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism. By the end of 2019 IWILAP had handled a total number of 6001 Clients across the country. 4000 of these clients were received at various mobile legal aid clinics. 2500 were male while 1500 were female. Out of the total number of 6001 cases registered, 4600 were completed in office through ADR while 27 cases were taken to courts of law; 73 cases were still pending in courts by 2019, 1000 cases were referred to pro bono and other legal aid service providers, 300 cases were closed due to lack of merit while one file was withdrawn.

Success Story: Legal Aid

A case of a young woman was referred to IWILAP's service unit after spending one night in police custody. The 20 years old university student living with her aunt went to the police station to file a harassment complaint about a man who she loved and promised to marry when she was a teenager. When the man was summoned to the police station he presented a clandestine marriage contract that has the young woman's signature, and as this type of marriage contracts is illegal they were both detained pending investigation.

IWILAP's lawyer worked with the young woman and found that she was tricked into signing this paper when she was 15 years old after being told by the man that this is a bank paper that will enable him to take a bank loan in order to marry her. IWILAP's lawyer was able to prove that the contract was fraud and urge the police department to assign a gender-specialized prosecutor to look into the case.

The young woman was released on the same day, and a meeting was organized by IWILAP and its partners with the State Attorney, in which the importance of having a specialized prosecutor was addressed and a complaint was filed against the first prosecutor who looked into the case as he asked the lawyer in front of the victim and her aunt "how could you defend such a girl? If she was my daughter I would have killed her". The general prosecutor later received a warning from his supervisor and the aggressor was made to sign an affidavit to not harm or come near the young woman. The case is still ongoing in court.

Provide one-time legal and social consultations

IWILAP continues to provide one-time consultations to women (whether joint socio-legal consultations or legal only). The majority of these consultations took place following awareness-raising sessions, where women would individually approach IWILAP lawyers and social workers

and ask personal questions related to the topics discussed, and ask for advice on how to make the right decisions and what steps to take.

IWILAP provided joint one-time socio-legal aid to 260 women. Most of the consultations revolved around marital rights as well as divorce, types of alimony, custody and the rights of divorced women. IWILAP successfully referred 8 women to other services providers when women's cases or immediate needs did not come under IWILAP's remit. Most of these cases were referred to other LASPS where the Munamateka protocol was put into action in order to ensure the professional and safe referral of women.

IWILAP provided one-time socio-legal consultations to 260 women. 50 of these women came to IWILAP's office following these one-time consultations, so that 20% of the women who receive consultations request social and/or legal services. This is a positive step, showing that IWILAP is causing positive change, and the women are taking initiatives on their own and highly benefiting from the awareness-raising sessions and the consultations.

Empower women with guidance on taking cases to court and providing them with legal consultation

Throughout the year, IWILAP was able to assist 85 women, many of whom returned because their husbands had hired lawyers, and IWILAP's lawyers transferred their files to the on-going services in order to represent them. The majority of these cases were dealing with alimony disputes, as IWILAP prepared and empowered 24 women in filing alimony cases on their own and children's behalf, 11 women were also empowered through counselling sessions to raise their custody cases in courts. However, after evaluating this tool, IWILAP concluded that it has to have its lawyers follow up with cases in court as social and procedural obstacles are complicated. In an effort to provide women with reliable information, in an easy-to-understand manner, IWILAP distributed 650 copies of the alimony manual, and 700 of the custody manual.

IWILAP experienced a spike in demand for such 'in-court' legal aid, providing 158 women with legal consultations in civil and Sharia courts based in Mpigi, Budaka, Mbale, Kampala, Wakiso and Southern region, 50 of whom were referred to IWILAP one stop centre to receive more in-depth support.

2. The pro bono service.

Since IWILAP's insertion, we have been offering pro bono in our areas of operation by members of the legal team who have continued to provide free legal services to hundreds of indigent men, women and children. IWILAP had an MOU with a number of lawfirms that provide free legal services to a number of indigent groups of people in our areas of operation.

Budaka taxi park legal aid clinic.

This legal aid clinic was conducted on 10th December 2019 in commemoration of the International Human Rights day, the Islamic Women's Initiative for Justice, Law and Peace (IWILAP) with

financial support from Action aid Uganda, Civil society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) and the Foundation for Human Rights initiative (FHRI) conducted a one day mobile legal aid Clinic in Budaka Town, Budaka District and handled a total number of 103 cases.

IWILAP with its partners had a common aim of providing a community based centralized platform to access justice for victims especially women, children and the indigent groups to solve land disputes, domestic violence, contractual matters, nuisance and any other matter that needed legal advice.

IWILAP conducted a mobile legal aid at Budaka Taxi Park where over 103 clients were attended to. Some of these cases were handled at office and others referred to other lasps.

Land grabbing was highly reported on the said day indicating that Budaka District needs special attention from the Land commission if government is to promote peaceful living among citizens. The disputes are between the people with in the district and between districts for example Butaleja District. The escalating Land disputes in the district calls for legal services to be availed to inculcate and promote justice with in the communities.



IWILAP legal Advocate Counsel Kisakye Jackline on the right offering legal advice to a client

Other cases cited include youth selling one piece of land to several people hence creating confusion and fraud, family bickering, police and district leader's involvement in these conflicts.

Waiswa Amiri, one client said the sub-county land committees together with partners have started addressing the gaps in the land management in the district in which women and children are affected most. They also cited organizations such as Action-aid to be doing empowerment and sensitization programs about the question and fact in issue.

This way therefore, there is need to put in place a referral mechanism, including using the existing structures like the police, cultural leaders and district officials to do what they are employed to do.

IWILAP therefore calls on government to implement the national land policy which aims to empower women gain access to land.

Civil society organizations have called for the implementation of a National Land Policy to empower local women gain access to land. Women are still held back by cultural norms, poverty, wars and low levels of sensitization as a result they have failed to achieve their full potential,” women, more especially in areas of customary land tenure system continue to face discrimination which has affected the district’s agricultural production. This way therefore, if implemented the Land Policy will help streamline women’s access to land in Budaka District. .

Cabinet approved the National Land Policy which looks at the role land plays in national development as well as issues of land ownership, distribution, utilization, alien ability, management and control. The policy recognizes four tenure systems including mailo, freehold, leasehold and customary tenure. According to Uganda Bureau of Statistics approximately 80 percent of Ugandan land is held under the customary tenure system implying most people acquire land through inheritance and succession. According to the cases registered on the said day, this has posed challenges to women since most societies in Budaka district are patriarchal and do not allow females inheritance.

Most of the visiting indigent persons/clients expressed and showcased ignorance. The LC 1 chairperson of Budaka Mr Abdul Rashid Kwiri noted that there are many legal issues in the area and the same required urgent attention. He also added that land as another key issue and that land is life and nobody can live comfortably without it. He noted that *“Land is a major factor in the wellbeing of people, but unscrupulous developers are forcefully grabbing land from locals using their powerful positions,”* he said.

In the above instance therefore, IWILAP and Actionaid’s aim was to provide a community-based centralized platform to access justice for victims of land grabbing especially women, children and resolving land disputes. This calls for the two organizations contributing to access to justice in a wider context by enhancing property ownership and access their legal rights as enshrined in the constitution of the republic of Uganda.



Area LC 1 Chairperson, Mr Abdul Rashid Kwiri making his remarks to thank IWILAP and Action aid services.



Mr Eliabu explaining to Senior counsel Fahad Mading.

3. Iganga District Legal Aid Clinic

IWILAP in conjunction with ACCU conducted a mobile legal aid clinic in Iganga District .This was geared towards making legal aid accessible to the indigent persons of Busoga region.

This same legal aid clinic was part of the activities organized by ACCU and IWILAP to mark the 2019 anti-corruption week. A number of cases were registered totaling to 300 ranging from domestic violence, land conflicts, theft, corruption, human rights abuse, child neglect, murder among others.

Iganga Legal Aid Clinic Success story

A client is a father and a husband to two wives with 10 children whom he claims do not respect him,that children connive with their mothers and abuse him

Intervention and result.

Legal aid team visited this family, listened to both parties counselled and, mediated them. The father acknowledged for being drunkard and promised to reform and children plus their mothers apologized not to do it again.

4. Legal Aid Needs Assessment in selected Regional Prisons (Budaka, Mbarara and Ibanda districts)

IWILAP in conjunction with The Young Feminist Fund (FRIDA) conducted a needs assessment in Ibanda and Mbarara Districts. Following the clashes in Kasese district where a number of people lost their lives, it came to our attention that many others were languishing in jail with no access to legal representation. FRIDA and IWILAP coordinated efforts to ensure that these people get a fair hearing and overall access to justice. We therefore supported this process by availing our advocates, paralegals and volunteers who joined the team visiting the prisons and police stations in the western region. The main purpose of this assessment was to;

- Identify the Kasese suspects being detained and find out their legal needs.
- Identify the inmates in Kakiika prison who needed psychosocial support and legal representation.

Unfortunately IWILAP legal team found when the Kasese suspects were being transferred to Nalufenya police post. For the case of the Kakiika prison, 30 inmates were given psychosocial support and 20 were referred to other lasps.

5. Capacity building and Community legal empowerment program

a) Information, Education and communication.

With support from IWILAP board members and our members, IWILAP under promoting access to justice: An ADR based approach justice delivery mechanism implemented 154 IEC materials on community mediation in land matters and ADR were developed and disseminated in the district of Wakiso, Budaka, kiboga and Kibale for awareness creation .This has promoted use of ADR

mechanism by individuals and communities involved in conflicts and disputes before resorting to litigation.

IWILAP trained and provided technical support on human rights promotion and basic laws to a panel of 60 elders, of these 40 were female and 20 male. 20 youths were also involved and trained on their roles and how to effectively amplify justice

Challenge.

- High illiteracy level limits our target group from accessing information's majority of Ugandans cannot read and write.

b) Community sensitizations and training.

The project was able to enhance legal awareness of 1500 people on their land rights and procedures in land transactions, domestic violence, children rights, succession, marriage and divorce, Rule of law and the laws applicable; in the districts of kibale, Budaka, Mbale, Moroto , Iganga, Wakiso ,Napak and Nakapiripirit. This year, we conducted 15 community outreaches in the local languages. This was in a bid to increase public awareness and promote capacity of communities to demand for respect of human rights and accountability mechanisms for resolving, managing and mitigating conflicts related to land and other disputes through ADR



Indigents wait to be addressed about human rights by IWILAP staff

After the sensitization meetings, after acquiring information about their rights and about the availability of free legal services through mobile clinics 400 new cases were registered.

c) Media campaigns.

- Radio spot messages

IWILAP with support from Action aid-Uganda made fifteen radio spot messages and announcements on two different radio stations within the eastern region. The announcements were made on Open gate FM and Bugwere FM as a way of mobilizing the indigent and marginalized persons within Budaka and the surrounding areas to attend the mobile legal aid clinic. Ten of the announcements were aired at Bugwere FM and five at Open Gate FM. These announcements made a great impact as they reached out to people in faraway places from Budaka like Butaleja, Mbale, and Iganga among others.

We were able to reach a wide spectrum of the community in over 10 talk shows.

IWILAP was also given space on Radio akaboozi and NTV as a key stake holder to educate the public about Human rights ,laws and legal aid as well as IWILAP mandate in regard to provision of legal aid .These talk shows were participatory as listeners and viewers had a session to call in and seek clarification on the discussed issues. The same were responded to.

This enabled us to achieve one of our objectives of creating awareness and as a result of these talk shows 200 new clients came to our offices seeking for legal aid. It also allowed our reach out campaign / strategy to work.



IWILAP's Executive Director right Mwanga Mastulah in a radio talk show about human rights issues on Radion FM 90-Kampala

6) Advocacy; Women Rights and Gender Equality Advocacy

Protection of women rights and elimination of gender inequality are major strategies in elimination of poverty and injustice. Women in general suffer the effects of Gender Based Violence, the challenge of poor and inadequate sexual reproductive health services; unequal access to and control of productive resources and the burden of unpaid care work. All this manifest power imbalance at family, community, national and international level. Women spend most of their time in the gardens, when time for harvesting comes, their husbands own the products, sell them and do not account to their wives, notwithstanding most women do not own land.

As IWILAP, our key role under this mission is lobbying for reform in legislation that hamper the full realization and recognition of the important role women play in society; Support to the economic empowerment of women through access to and control over reproductive resources like land, information, solidarity networks; advocacy for recognition, reduction and redistribution of the unpaid care work.

Strategic Goal 2: Promote women's rights and combat negative practices against women

7. Empower women with guidance on taking cases to court and providing them with legal consultation

Throughout the year, IWILAP was able to assist 85 women, many of whom returned because their husbands had hired lawyers, and IWILAP's lawyers transferred their files to the on-going services in order to represent them. The majority of these cases were dealing with alimony disputes, as IWILAP prepared and empowered 24 women in filing alimony cases on their own and children's behalf, 11 women were also empowered through counselling sessions to raise their custody cases in courts. However, after evaluating this tool, IWILAP concluded that it has to have its lawyers follow up with cases in court as social and procedural obstacles are complicated. In an effort to provide women with reliable information, in an easy-to-understand manner, IWILAP distributed 650 copies of the alimony manual, and 700 of the custody manual.

Challenges

- Patriarchal system. In Uganda and Africa in general, men consider themselves superior to women, so even when women are sensitized about their rights, men have always sabotaged the effort.
- Drought-efforts to empower women economically through increased production has been affected by drought leading to famine for example in Budaka District.

Sustainable livelihoods approach

Women are still poorly represented at the decision making level, and women still remain disproportionate victims of continued aggression in homes by their husbands, forced resettlements, food and water insecurity not forgetting the high poverty levels.

This approach is therefore important in changing the lives and wellbeing of the people living in poverty, gender discrimination, and exclusion as it provides the means and opportunities for women to achieve their basic needs of life.

IWILAP achieved this by encouraging women to form Sacco's and in this case 20 women saving groups were formed in our areas of operation.

We also focused on enhancing capacities of Islamic women to draw on their assets to respond to opportunities and risks, minimize vulnerability and maintaining or improving wellbeing by adopting alternative livelihood strategies.

8. Maintain and develop the capacity of IWILAP's Service Unit to respond to the needs of Ugandan women:

In 2015, the CEDAW Institute Uganda Counselling Centre (CIUCC) was contracted to conduct supervision of the entire Service Unit. The CIUCC held meetings together and carried out a needs-assessment, reviewed and discussed the provisions of the supervision contract. Also, the psychological impact of difficult cases and how they affect the lawyers and social workers working on these cases was discussed, provided a much-needed outlet. As well as supervision meetings, IWILAP held periodic staff meetings to discuss professional matters such as the work plan, and indicators and methods of implementation. Additionally, 4 bi-monthly meetings were held (3 hrs. each) to follow up on progress towards the Service Unit work plan.

IWILAP's Service Unit continues to develop and maintain strategic relations with relevant institutions including local authorities, security forces, JLOS to facilitate coherent socio-legal protection service provisions across Uganda. This enables us to deliver the most comprehensive care possible to the most vulnerable women, and lessen the possibility of women "slipping through the net" - something we seek to avoid under all circumstances.

In order to ensure the protection of women survivors of violence when accessing services, IWILAP held 12 meetings with partners including the police, JLOS and MoH to discuss interventions with emergency cases in the emergency shelter, and maintain good relations with the partners. 3 meetings with the emergency shelters were held to develop an MOU. Eventually, IWILAP signed MoU with the three shelters and managed to reactivate the shelters' committee. Additionally, the emergency shelter's committee held 15 meetings to follow up on cases and coordinate cooperation with the specialized sectors.

9. Provide emergency protection for women at risk of violence and develop an intervention plan for each

During the year 2015, IWILAP provided emergency protection to 40 women from all over Eastern region between the ages of 18-55 whose lives were at risk. The majority of these women were between the age of 20-35 suffering from family violence and being threatened with murder. Emergency shelter clients typically stay for up to one month according to Emergency Shelter procedures. Intervention plans and legal counselling are provided by the shelter's social worker and our lawyers for each client as needed. However, some of the clients this year stayed for over

three months as part of the centre was closed for renovations and their clients were referred to us. The emergency shelter committee, made up of IWILAP, CEDAW Institute Uganda, the Family Protection Unit at the Police Department decided to refer ten women to other shelters for more long-term protection due to the nature of their cases and difficulties in communication to facilitate their reintegration into their communities. This referral is made upon carrying out a case conference for the client to define the intervention plan. 30 of the women were able to safely return to their families in accordance with the individual intervention efforts exerted by the Police Family Protection Unit, 4 were referred to Actionaid to continue their stay at their emergency shelter as these women cases were complicated and required a long-term stay in the shelter, and the rest were referred to other institutions. 6 of the women at the shelter received legal counselling in addition to their stay. IWILAP faced some challenges in the emergency shelter, mainly due to the lack of dialogue between partners and shortcomings in the application of the Munamateka protocol when referring women.

The Emergency Shelter as a legal and social entity is seen by IWILAP as the front line for the protection of women whose lives are in jeopardy. The shelter's work emphasizes the importance of applying the national referral system in a way that protects the lives of women who have no other resort.

Success Story:

A success story involved one of the women who received protection services at the emergency shelter. The woman mentioned that she had been sexually abused by her cousin but her father did not believe her story and threatened to kill her. The woman was under direct threat of being killed by her family which is part of the patriarchal mentality that puts blame on the woman. An intervention plan was made by the social worker at the shelter and later in cooperation with CEDAW Institute Uganda. IWILAP managed to meet with the father, identified the case and showed evidence that the abuser was the cousin. IWILAP managed to convince the father that his daughter should not be blamed and pay her life a price for this, as she is a victim. As a result the father was convinced to return his daughter back home and to find ways to protect her.

10. Participate in activities for the 16 Days of Activism

Workshop meeting as part of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign On the 9th of December 2019, IWILAP held a workshop in Mbale Town as part of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign. The meeting focused on issues that are of high importance to women in Ugandan society. Violence against women were on top of the agenda, as women in Uganda struggle on the internal level from a patriarchal system that results in several shapes of violence, as well as struggling on the external level practices that result in further limiting the rights and freedoms of women.

11. Participate in activities on International Women's Day (8 March) with partner organizations

IWILAP also participated in activities on International Women's Day with partner organizations. The focus of this year's theme was 'No Ugandan Women should be under patriarchy'. IWILAP participated in the main event which took place under the auspices of The Young Feminist Fund-FRIDA and the Global Advocacy for Development (GAD) forum. The event constituted a mass feminist march affirming the message that violence against women is a primary result of patriarchy occupation. Additionally, IWILAP participated in Kampala International University's seminar titled 'Protection of Women under patriarchy According to International Conventions and UNSC Resolution 1325', where the targeted audiences were judges in law students.

Success Story: The empowering effects of awareness activities in marginalized areas

When Fatumah from Masaba, a 40 year-old mother of 5, first came to IWILAP's awareness sessions for housewives, she expressed that she was suffering in her marital life. She told the group that she was unhappy and felt stifled since her husband would often prevent her from simple everyday activities such as seeing her friends or going for a walk. According to Fatumah what frustrated her most was that she didn't know how to overcome the issues she was facing. She explained that she had reverted to the psychological coping mechanism of "erecting protective barriers" in order to prevent others from exploiting her.

As the weeks passed however, Fatumah began to open up and started to express her opinions and feelings on topics of the awareness raising discussions which focused on improving women's life skills, including communication and conflict mediation, in order to confront and overcome the pressures they face in their everyday lives in a way that does not harm their physical or psychological wellbeing. Fatumah reported that talking about the issues she faces and listening to other women's experiences made her feel less alone and eased the psychological pressure. In fact, Fatumah appreciated the positive impact of the meetings so much that that she decided to organize her own awareness groups in collaboration with IWILAP.

Fatumah took the initiative to organize all the logistics of the sessions including the venue and invitations, and coordinated with host organizations which were so impressed with her event management skills that they paid her for these arrangements. By applying the communication skills she learned through a series of workshops with IWILAP, Fatumah reported that she was able to convince her husband of her need to be active outside the home and during her most recent communications with IWILAP she mentioned that her martial life had improved. Fatumah's initiative also helped IWILAP, and the hosting organizations who work with at-risk women, to reach out to more marginalized women in similar positions, demonstrating the empowering potential of awareness sessions to transform participants into actors in their own lives and agents of change in their local communities.

12. Raise awareness within key target groups who can support a positive attitude towards women's rights:

Hold workshops on women's rights with youth and university students

IWILAP held 3 awareness-raising workshops about women issues at Budaka District Local government offices, with an average of 22-25 students per workshop. The workshops covered a general understanding of the law, and discussed issues such as early marriage and the specific laws involved when entering into a marriage. Of the main topics handled was the Marriage & Divorce Act, where the group discussed 'nafaqqa', divorce and self-affirmation. Another important topic was 'Values and Ethics'. A film was shown and the focus was on women survivors of torture, how to approach them and their cases, and how to help and be supportive. Many participants came forward with their personal experiences on the issue.

Six awareness raising works were carried out in five universities IUIU, Livingstone University, Kampala, Busitema & Makerere. These students were from law, social science and psychology. This training aimed to increase student's awareness on discrimination against women in Uganda laws; especially the criminal law. In specific the awareness raising sessions discussed gender and gender based discrimination at the social and legal levels as an introductory session to define level of students understanding of these concepts. It thoroughly discussed the criminal law and discrimination women face in this law and protection procedures that are available and the gaps that prevent women from claiming their rights. Students were also provided with suggested mechanisms to support women to access their rights; especially through having a modern criminal law, family protection from violence law and *(For a full list of University workshops please refer to Appendix B)*

These workshops gave special attention to CEDAW to define the gap between the criminal law and protection mechanisms mentioned in the international law and the Ugandan ones. This aims to increase students' knowledge on the importance of modifying existing laws to conform to international conventions that were signed without reservations.

In the feedback sessions during the last day of the training a significant number of students expressed their interest to do their dissertations on CEDAW and consequences of joining the international conventions on women's rights in Uganda. Students from IUIU University who attended the training have established a Facebook page to create a platform for discussion on issues related to gender and human rights. They have also encouraged other students from their university to join this page and to sign for the women camp IWILAP carried out in Dec.2019. A total of 20 students (11 males and 9 females) participated in the women camp where intensive workshops were carried out during the 4 days on international conventions, criminal law and methods of advocating for women's rights.

13. Lead awareness-raising workshops for targeted groups and institutions

The CEDAW Institute Uganda approached IWILAP requesting it to conduct an awareness-raising workshop that discusses the issue of Ugandan Women and the Domestic violence Act of 2010. IWILAP conducted the workshop in Jinja where a group of 16 women participated and discussed issues related to marriage, polygamy, education, shared finances with their husbands and such.

The diversity of opinions, and comfortable open discussions that took place allowed for a healthy and productive conversation. IWILAP conducted 10 awareness raising activities with local organisations about women's rights. The targeted groups were diverse (women, members of political parties, institutions). The topics discussed included: women's right to inheritance, family violence and its impact, social circumstances and the realities which Palestinian women face, and a background on IWILAP and its work and mission.

14. Build the capacity of service professionals and grassroots women's organisations to provide protection to women.

IWILAP has been following up on the quality of the work and the progression of implementing the work plan with grassroots organizations. IWILAP has also been advancing its accounting system, integrating the project budgets and getting familiar with financial requirements. In 2019, IWILAP conducted several follow-up meetings with grassroots organizations. 16 programmatic/software follow-up meetings have convened, 8 of which were carried out with 5 participants from the staff and management team of Mpigi Feminist Review Trust, and another 8 were carried out with 7 participants from the staff and management team of Global Advocacy for Development (GAD). Also 24 financial follow-up meetings convened for both charities to review all financial procedures and provide constructive feedback.

IWILAP's Capacity Building Unit developed an awareness curriculum, to be used to develop a basis for the work conducted with the women in addition to conducting 3 meetings with the staff. During this year, the support and supervision offered to the service staff was well-organized due to the diverse selection of facilitators offering guidance to IWILAP's lawyers and social workers. 15 specialized supervision sessions were offered, constituting 45 hours: 9 collective sessions, 1 social supervision session, 5 legal supervision sessions, and 8 lawyers and social workers participated. The topics included: analyzing social conditions, constructive criticism within the working team, examining child custody lawsuits, examining separation and divorce lawsuits, analyzing the legal implications of dowry, economic empowerment and its role in supporting women survivors of torture. These interventions enabled both the grassroots Mpigi Feminist Review Trust and GAD to provide legal and social guidance services and awareness to women in marginalized areas.

15. Train state and non-state service providers in order to develop best practices in dealing with women victims of violence:

Build the capacity of service providers in the referral system to apply best practices for working with women victims of violence

In order for women victims of violence to get adequate treatment when resorting to medical and police services, IWILAP worked on building the capacity of these service providers from MOH and Police Family Protection Unit. After a number of workshops and theoretical and practical trainings, the beneficiaries showed an increased knowledge from 18% to 91% of gender-related

terminology issues. IWILAP also carried out raising awareness workshops with community activists on GBV issues & women's rights in the interest of providing a well-aware network of organizations and civil society workers who know how to deal with women subjected to violence. The importance of these workshops is emphasized by the attendance of women in leadership positions. 1000 copies of methods of protection of women victims of violence manual were printed and distributed. 60 community activists received training on utilizing the protection manual of women victims of violence. MOU was signed between the 3 protection shelters and service providers. 80% of service providers who participate in TOT training have the capacity to train their colleagues and these service providers held 18 training workshops for 338 of their colleagues. 500 copies and training manual prepared, printed and distributed.

Moreover, IWILAP is striving to develop a partnership with the Justice Sector due to its significant role in helping women reach justice. IWILAP's role focuses on providing the DPP's Office with the necessary knowledge and tools to be able to resolve women cases from a legal, social and psychological angle. IWILAP has been communicating with the DPP's Office through meetings, reviews and direct correspondence.

16. NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION: Engage with active networks and coalitions to support women's rights

IWILAP has continued to network with other civil society organizations (partners) for example on areas of capacity building and empowerment, legal aid, and advocacy

Increase coverage of women's rights issues in mainstream and social media:

Build a network of media professionals that support women's rights

IWILAP has been successful in maintaining and developing strong relations with media professionals, and has done so by staying in constant contact with the local media network, through a mailing list, and by keeping the network up-to-date with IWILAP's activities and reports. Approximately 11 media sources share IWILAP's news by broadcasting the update exactly in the same form IWILAP prepares it. 19 press releases were published in 13 different media outlets and 3 press conferences were published in 7 different news websites. Also, IWILAP has been participating in a variety of activities prepared by media institutions or IWILAP partner organizations.

IWILAP carried out an activity where the focus was women's right to life, and displayed real life stories of women who have been killed and held a discussion of the problems and the background that violated these women's rights to life.

IWILAP is also keeping up with the Social Media including Facebook and YouTube, 150 updates were published on IWILAP's Facebook page between 01/01/2018 and 30/11/2019, and 8 YouTube short videos.

Disseminate IWILAP reports and publications

Hard copies of IWILAP's publications were distributed by mail and handed out to visiting delegations during briefings and field visits. They provided the targeted groups with succinct historical, legal and political background supported by dozens of testimonies collected from women who graphically described the day-to-day realities for Ugandans living under violence and patriarchy. IWILAP's monthly Bulletins were distributed electronically to the mailing list which included hundreds of subscribers.

IWILAP's original materials and publications were also made public via social media (Facebook and Twitter) which helped to reach out to a wider audience. IWILAP's website continued to be regularly fed with original up-to-date materials with positive images of women that projected resilience and determination.

Strategic Goal 3: Develop institutional and human capacity in order to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of IWILAP

3.1 Enhance the efficiency of IWILAP's internal operations:

Undertake evaluations of IWILAP's programmes

While preparing the current strategy, IWILAP undertook a rapid assessment of its 2016-2020 strategic plan in cooperation with the CEDAW Institute, followed by a rapid assessment of its past strategic plan which started in 2013-2015. As a result, feedback was collected from a combination of surveys, circulated by survey monkey, to a number of stakeholders and one-to-one interviews and questionnaires undertaken with other individuals. The survey was completed by 62 beneficiaries (34 females and 28 males), 31 clients, 7 partners and 20 IWILAP members. The surveys' responses hold a strong testimony to IWILAP's relevance as clients were highly satisfied with IWILAP's services; a) Relevance: Beneficiaries, donor/partners and staff rated most highly legal and social services for women in Uganda; b) Effectiveness - Nearly 90 per cent of clients provided positive ratings of IWILAP's accessibility, timeliness and professionalism and over 90 per cent noted the high quality or acceptable quality of IWILAP's legal counseling, social counseling and awareness and empowerment activities; c) Impact - IWILAP services have made a notable contribution to their clients' and beneficiaries' knowledge of their rights and their sense of empowerment and control over their lives; d) IWILAP's future programmes and services - Beneficiaries and clients prioritize awareness-raising workshops as the most important for future investment. Staff prioritize policy advocacy and partners/donors focus on strengthening IWILAP's capacity. An area requiring strengthening raised by staff, beneficiaries and partners was IWILAP's use of media, publicity and large-scale awareness campaigns.

At the institutional development level, the staff rated IWILAP's achievements in maintaining a diversity of funding sources and improving internal policies and practices most highly. The area

where staff identified the slowest progress was in promoting critical thinking about women's rights discourse amongst staff. Some staff highlighted areas requiring greater attention in relation to the work environment.

Lessons learnt

IWILAP has undertaken several internal and external assessments of its work, and has used the results as guidance when defining the upcoming 4 year strategic plan (2020-2024). From previous assessments IWILAP has learned that it benefits most from using legal precedents and strategic litigations. IWILAP aims to use strategic litigation in the upcoming plan in order to develop its publications to promote women's rights in the legal system. IWILAP has identified the case studies which it will utilize for raising awareness about new issues regarding the law and women's human rights. Also from previous assessments IWILAP has learned the significance of raising awareness and expanding the range of its activities and community segments to create societal change. In its new strategy, IWILAP has included new groups – mainly consisting of men - in its activities, and these groups include different unions, 40 political and social activists and new graduate lawyers. *(For case studies conducted by IWILAP please refer to Appendix M)*

3.2 Develop IWILAP's strategic plan (2020-2024), budget and annual work plans and administrative reports

A diverse set of workshops were carried out with each unit separately, with all of the staff members, and with the members of IWILAP's General Assembly and the Board of Directors. The results of these workshops were analyzed and strategic objectives and goals were developed. The 2020-2024 strategic plan adopted an interactive Theory of Change which brought in new stakeholders. These stakeholders include unions, political parties, and male community members. This new step will enable IWILAP to reach more men in local communities and thus involve them in increasing the protection of women. Strategic Plans for 2020-2024 was shared with IWILAP partners for discussion, review of its theory of change and strategic interventions. Further, the strategy was presented and thoroughly discussed with IWILAP's Board of Directors who approved, which gave staff the opportunity to work on the 2020 action plan.

During 2019, there were 3 meetings with the General Assembly, and IWILAP's Board of Directors convened 3 times. The 2018 Financial Reports have been prepared, and the audited financial statements have been issued and approved by IWILAP's Board of Directors and the General Authority, and distributed to all of the donors. Based on the proposal of the new strategic plan for 2020-2024, the budget was prepared for 2020-2024 and was approved by the Board of Directors, in addition to the finalization and approval of the strategic plan for 2020-2024.

3.3 Hold meetings for the Board of Directors

During 2019, the Board of Directors held 3 meetings during which they approved the IWILAP's annual financial and narrative reports for the year 2018, in addition to approving the audited financial statement for the year which ended on December 31, 2018. The Board of Directors was

involved in the strategic planning process, reviewed and approved the 2020-2024 strategic plan and budget. They also interviewed and appointed the new General Director of IWILAP Ms. Fatumah Nabugolola.

3.4 Improve IWILAP's financial sustainability: Maintain a diversity of funding resources

IWILAP's external relations department keeps partners and donors informed of its work through mailing lists, bulletins, success stories and general reporting. The unit produces tailored reports on specific projects to inform the project orientated donors of the project's process and outcomes. Over the reporting period, 2 general reports and 17 special reports were prepared. Additionally, 7 success stories and 2 case-studies from the 2019 programmes were prepared and disseminated to donors. Partners and donors are also regularly accompanied on field visits to programme sites to enable them to see the work IWILAP carries out. Feedback from the donors remains very positive, and IWILAP continues to respond well to new requirements, delivering high quality reports to deadline.

3.5 Develop and diversify relations with new donors

In response to the challenges presented by the funding crisis, IWILAP has diversified its sources of funding at the local, regional and international level. In particular the funding trend for special projects challenges sustainability, and IWILAP has taken measures to limit the impact of this by trying to submit proposals that include core costs and current staff, although this remains an obstacle. In spite of these challenges, IWILAP has successfully developed new funding opportunities and is currently exploring new areas such as crowd-funding and Arab funding. During 2019, IWILAP's funders numbered 6.

IWILAP sought membership and partnership of various organizations having similar mandate with that of IWILAP. In the same line, we attended a number of meetings with the said networks. IWILAP was part of the CSOs under the Coalition of Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), who analyzed and reviewed 2019/17 Budget Frame work paper after which alternative budget proposals for the same year were prepared and also participated in the members of parliament tax campaign.

IWILAP was also part of the pioneer organizations of earth Juris prudence in Uganda together with the National Association of professional environmentalists (NAPE) where they continued to discuss issues of culture and the environment at Buwama traditional institute. We have liaised with these organizations and a lot has been learnt and shared eg the discussions called for broader participation by women in resolving conflicts, in national negotiating committees and in the public freedoms and social reconciliation committees to protect mother earth.

Events attended in 2019

IWILAP's Staff attended several events throughout the year. Some of these included

Media Advocacy

Live broadcast panel discussions on Human rights issues.



MS Mwanga Mastulah Ashah discussing human rights issues at NTV

Conferences, meetings and workshops:

- International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTTP)- Equitas, Montreal, Canada
- DGF human rights training, march 2019, office.
- Cehurd validation meeting, 15th march 2019 Eureka Place, Ntinda Kampala.
- Uganda police force consultative meeting 10th April 2019, Hotel Africana.
- Focal point meeting for the East and Horn of Africa Human rights defenders project 5th may 2019, Speke resort Munyonyo, Kampala.
- Gender Cluster meeting, 10th may 2019, and FIDA offices.
- Ngo dialogue with the ministry of internal affairs 9th may 20th 14, silver springs hotel Kampala.
- Earth jurisprudence work shop 22nd -25th may 2019 kayabwe.
- URA promoting integrity work shop 1st June 2019 Golf Course Hotel Kampala.
- Laspnet Validation meeting 5th June 2019, patio restaurant, Kampala.
- Removing legal barriers to treatment: Training on human health rights for African Lawyers 27th-29th June, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Earth Jurisprudence meeting 14th -17th July 01 –Tukai Rift Valley Hotel, Amboseli-Kenya
- Gender based Violence, “Restoring Dignity to Survivors of Sexual /Gender Based Violence and their families “. Hilton Hotel, Nairobi.

- Land Rights sensitization meeting 7th -9th December, Hotel Africana, Kampala.
- DGF human rights work shop 18th 20th December Kampala.
- MPS' tax evasion meeting ,csbag offices , Kampala

Challenges faced by Islamic Women Initiative for Justice Law and Peace (IWILAP)

- IWILAP like any other Civil Society Organization operates in a restrictive legal and regulatory frame work which provides a challenge in building and sustaining rights 'holders' capacity for action on socio economic transformation for instance the law requires that permission must be sought from police in order to hold a public gathering by notifying it three days I advance prior to the activity.
- Gender inequalities acutely limit opportunities of women and girls making them vulnerable to effects of human rights advocacy especially in gender main streaming.
- The risks of exposing human rights are real and demotivate the whistle –blowers. A number of women have received threats of divorce from their husbands after empowerment and as a result many women have been refused by their husbands to attend such empowerment campaigns.
- The legal and policy framework has proved to be challenging especially in situation where corruption officials are transferred to their stations instead of being reprimanded. Once teachers and health workers are reported to authorities for habitual absenteeism and embezzlement of public funds, they are instead transferred too other facilities where the communities do not know much about them ending up into a recycle of undisciplined officials.

- The right to Access to information though enacted into law is yet to be respected by public officials and enable the public to easily access public information .The actual practice is that the public is still denied public information and the only parties that access information are the implementers of government projects .This has hindered our work especially in our areas of operation.
- The demand from the public on IWILAP is far stretching on the limited financial resources at its disposal. This arises due to the fact that IWILAP does not have any single donor. This therefore has a bearing on the internal operations and the service delivery on the side of IWILAP. Therefore the sustainability of IWILAP is put to context on the strategies it is to consider in future in raising resources to fulfill its mandate. Unequal and discriminatory laws prevented any attempt to empower women to claim their rights. Draft laws submitted to the presidents, such as the Penal Code and Family Protection from Violence Law, are still under discussion due to the dysfunctional status of the PLC and the lack of credible will from the Cabinet to approve these laws. The PLC has been unable to convene since early 2007, and amendments to laws by presidential decrees risk being revoked if PLC membership remains majority Hamas.
- There is a lack of reinforcement of court decisions which continues to prevent women from claiming their rights, particularly in cases of alimony, divorce rights and custody. In some cases, lawyers use legal gaps in the law to avoid implementing certain court procedures. For example, if a court decision is obtained about alimony in favor of a woman, the lawyer of the husband might use gaps in the law by showing that the husband is not able to financially afford it. Therefore, the court decision will not be implemented. In addition, women remain constrained by stigma, within local communities and their own families, which continue to deter them from seeking their legal rights in the first place.
- In its effort to contribute to rule of law, Human rights and Governance in Uganda, IWILAP faces challenges from backlog within the judicial system on the Government of Uganda, making it uncertain of real time justice delivery. Much as IWILAP implements the pro bono services and it faces challenges from costs of representation, delayed procedures, unavailability of witnesses, magistrates and judges to administer justice especially in upcountry courts. All this is further aggravated by the skewed approach by legislators to enacting laws. Although the interest of state and public might vary, it is important to recognize that the different laws in place create an environment for observance of human rights and good governance. At the same time, the role of IWILAP should be seen as being impartial as a pressure group to either the public or state.
- The proposed National Legal Aid policy and bill is still a while in the making. Until it is passed, it leaves the bulk of legal aid provision to Legal Aid Service Providers with minimal intervention by Government in capital offences and state briefs. It is hoped that the policy will ensure that government assumes full responsibility in the provision of legal aid services in the country. At a broader level IWILAP is seen as an organization that responds to the legal needs of the poor through provision of legal aid and pro-bono services to the poor. Therefore its scope

and mandate is being challenged to respond to the different legal practices, legislation and human rights concerns.

There are other challenges and weaknesses IWILAP faces and these include the following;

- Lack of permanent premises for the IWILAP Secretariat, which affects the effective running of the organization. IWILAP is renting the premises where it operates.
- Inadequate Monitoring and Evaluation of programs
- Lack of income generating activities for the organization
- Weak capacities of membership to implement work.

Recommendations

- a) Women play a central role in social accountability and good governance initiatives given the disproportion impact of bad governance and lack of accountability on girls and women as opposed to their counter parts the men and boys. This therefore calls for deliberate increase in the opportunity for women to participate in social accountability to improve service delivery.
- b) There is need for increased civic education and community empowered to ensure demand driven accountability which is more sustainable and clear way of achieving transparency and accountability as opposed to leaving leaders to account.
- c) The government should understand that civil society organizations operate on humanitarian ground not to oppose government.
- d) Case follow up. There is great need to follow up on some of the cases reported and recorded. Some matters reported were those of urgent attention and were so sensitive but due to legal ignorance and lack of financial capacity, the complainants were not aware of what could be done. Some of the complainants were victims of human rights abuse, domestic violence, land grabbing conflicts sexual offences among others. IWILAP and its partners should therefore work hand in hand within the minimal resources and follow up on some of the sensitive matters that were recorded.
- e) There is need to conduct more mobile legal aid clinics within Budaka. The intended mobile legal aid clinics should be conducted in much more rural areas than trading centers since majority do not live in town centers but rather in typical rural areas. We learnt that a number of indigents failed to make it to the trading centre due to lack of between 1000-2000/= to be spent in transport costs.
- f) Sensitization. There is need to sensitize residents to be vigilant against people who take their children under the guise of giving them scholarships and jobs, among other offers. Parents and guardians are here -by called upon to amicably resolve issues and conflicts involving children to stop them from running away from home to the streets where they become vulnerable to traffickers.
- g) There is need to further emphasize community policing and public partnership with the police to prevent child abuse. This is premised on existing evidence that the community policing mechanism has resulted in a downward trend in crimes reported over the years as indicated in

the Uganda Police Annual Crime and Traffic/Road Safety Report for 2011. The Community policing model should be inbuilt in the child protection strategy as this will help not only to reduce on the new cases of child abuse but also in apprehending the perpetrators of child abuse. In addition, there is need for the police to setup a sound electronic case management system for easy and timely record keeping and retrieval of child abuse information so as to facilitate profiling of evidence to aid in the prosecution of child abuse perpetrators.

- h) We also call upon the Ugandan Parliament to enact a law prohibiting torture and the Government to ratify the Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture.



IWILAP staff at an outreach in Budaka, Left is the programs Director Ms Nagodyo Asmailah , Legal Associates Sauni Samantha , Namirembe Juliana , Kisakye Jackie, Executive Director Mwanga Mastulah Asha , Ms Shiba of Action Aid Uganda, Head Litigation Counsel Mading Fahad , Senior legal officer Turyamusiiima Geoffrey and Finance Manager Mr Pakoyo Lateef.



A client consults IWILAP legal team at a pro bono service in Iganga.



Left is Counsel Fahad Mading attending to clients at Budaka Legal Aid Clinic.

OUR YEAR IN THE MEDIA













Our programs Director Mr. John Namulanda addressing participants at Nakulabye Market during one of the legal aid clinics



Our Executive Director (Yellow Veil), Next to her is IWILAP head of Legal aid Clinic Ms. Samantha Sauni



A participant registers his name during one of the mobile legal aid clinics



Our Executive Director stands next to a victim of defilement during a mobile legal aid clinic



Ms. Nagodyo Asmailah stands with a group of women after a community sensitization on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Mbale

“We don’t have the luxury of despair... in times of crisis we must provide hope and leadership whilst inspiring the next generation of young women.”

Maha Abu-Dayyeh