



"Justice without discrimination"

EVALUATION REPORT ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY THE POOR AND MARGINALISED

GRANT No: 0426_MCJL

PERIOD OF EVALUATION: APRIL 2018 TO DECEMBER 2021



Legal and Human Rights Education was conducted by lawyers and paralegals to address emerging issues like land rights. This was at a pre-mediation session that was organized at Bufunda village, Bulugwi sub county, Bugiri District on the 23rd April, 2019 by a legal Assistant (Ronald Kimbugwe).

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project was designed for thirty-six months aimed at enhancing access to justice for the poor and marginalized especially in selected Muslim communities targeting the districts of Kampala, Butambala, Mpigi, Mayuge and Bugiri. The project started on 1st April 2018 and was intended to close-out by end of 30th March 2021 with a total approved grant of UGX. 3,658,733,821. However, through negotiations MCJL received approval of a No Cost Extension (NCE) for three months for the period April to end of June 2021 and thereafter a sequence of Cost Extensions (CEs) for nine months for the period July 2021 to end of March 2022. A total funding of UGX. 4,025,949,878 was disbursed by DGF to MCJL for the period from April 2018 to end of March 2022.

The project operations were affected by the COVID-19 Legal and Policy Response by the Government of Uganda. On 19th March 2020, administrative and contingency measures were put in place to prevent and mitigate the spread of corona virus (COVID-19) by the judiciary in line with the directives issued by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda on the 18th March, 2020, on the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Uganda. Since then, the guidelines affected the operations of all courts in Uganda.

The Evaluation used a mixed method design, exploring both qualitative and quantitative approaches to data collection, analysis and report compilation. The 'Most Significant Change Technique (TMSCT)' was deployed as a model of the evaluation to allow a participatory form of evaluation that uses a story approach to explore the impact of a service or program. This challenges the conventional evaluation so commonly used and discussed with focus on only predefined indicators. The TMSCT process was used because, it partly ensures that the many stakeholders, including client, community, service providers and the government are involved in deciding on what kind of impact and change is important and records and reflects on these. Purposeful Sampling technique was used to accommodate qualitative data for the identification and selection of information-rich cases for the most effective use of limited resources (Patton, 2002).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The project contributed towards SDG 16 and vision 2040 through increased access to Justice for the poor and marginalized due to its significant contribution towards improvement on access to legal and human rights awareness, especially in the Muslim community. A total of 30,450 cases were planned for the entire project life-span. A total of **19,265** cases were started, accounting for 66% of cases planned as registered and out of those started **17,146** cases were resolved accounting for 69% resolution rate. Basing on annual survey data, on average for every 10 cases registered 6 cases were given the due attention they deserved to logical conclusion. It was also noted that before MCJL's intervention in the target communities, Muslim women experienced violence in homes and many youths were arrested without trail. *It was observed that there was a decline in violation of human rights and increased demand for accountability of service delivery at community and district level, as a result of increased awareness through sensitization of citizens on their civic and human rights.*

MCJL adopted the **human rights-based approach** to development which was integrated in its policies, legislation, plans and programs. This approach has strengthened the capacity of the duty bearers to respect, fulfill and protect human rights; and that of the rights holders to know, claim and realize their

rights. Additionally, interventions that responded to the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups in society were prioritized. Human rights education was integrated to develop the capacity of citizens to undertake in-formed participation at all levels in line with the principle of equality and non-discrimination. Measures were put in place for implementing and monitoring progressive fulfillment of the rights and obligations.

Success of the project was also demonstrated by Most Significant Stories of Change at individual and community level in the 5 districts of coverage. Documented evidence was gathered in form of testimonies by project beneficiaries who confirmed Significant Change in their life from the targeted communities.

A total of UGX.**328,235,024** was recovered on behalf of poor and marginalized clients. The recovery of cash and assets helped to restore the economic status of targeted poor and marginalized in communities that were reached.

Mediation of legal matters out of court was established as the most effective and sustainable access to justice mechanism because it is speedy and less costly. 83% of the beneficiaries were satisfied with legal aid services in the same context. For every 12 beneficiaries interviewed, 10 were satisfied with MCJL's services and attributed their satisfaction towards MCJL which served them with the necessary care and attention as a Muslim founded organization and with ability to frontline the lawyers to provide legal services at an established work place for good Service delivery compared to commercial law firms or non-faith based CSOs.

There is an increased level of human rights awareness in the districts of Kampala, Mpigi, Butambala, Bugiri and Mayuge. During the period 2018 to end of 2021, paralegals sensitized a total of 6,956 female and 7,713 male clients using local council and mosque structures on legal and human rights issues on right to fair trial, how to make a will, family custody and maintenance, land disputes, ownership and use among others. Informal dispute resolution mechanisms were explored to enhance early access to dispute resolution through using paralegals as a low-cost and community owned sustainable structure that is likely to continue offering legal assistance within their local community setting.

It was also observed that; the use of social media has become increasingly important and far reaching within the shortest time to meet communication requirements like in the case of face-book, WhatsApp, tweeter that were innovatively utilized. ICT platforms like using the tollfree-line, SMS, E-law and Tidio platforms were instrumental in reaching the youth and those out of the project jurisdiction. These will require strengthening to promote their functionality and to institutionalize their use.

The project worked with stakeholders from targeted communities. The paralegals were identified and selected by local community mosque committees and local council committees. These committees will continue working to serve the people with the support of those already trained and have skills in mediation while continuing to offer community legal services on the same and also provide legal advice.

A police training module was developed and will be utilized by the Uganda Police Force (UPF) training curriculum department even after project close out. Adjudicators from the Muslim community at Qadhi court level were supported with guidelines on the Muslim personal law. The imams and their mosque committees will remain using the guidelines.

Policies and systems were put in place to ensure management of results at planning, implementation, reporting and design. Additionally, data on beneficiary population was regularly updated in an Integrated

Information Management system, where MCJL has won two awards from LASPNET as established to track the demographic changes. Measures to ensure that rights of the poor and marginalized are protected were strengthened. In addition, dispute mitigation and management measures were strengthened. All these will remain functional and supportive to the legal frame-work of both MCJL and Uganda.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT

The cost of legal aid services has increased largely due Transport costs incurred by clients and the lawyer. The cost per case increased; on average ADR increased from UGX 38,571 to UGX 75,000 and court cases increased from UGX 115,705 to UGX 268,517. This was largely attributed to a rise in transport means and related changes in operational procedures partly due to COVID-19. The costs need to be integrated in the forthcoming project plan to ensure cost effective implementation.

Research largely informs advocacy actions for policy reforms and practice change. This requires priority in the new project plan to ensure that action research is part of the advocacy actions on a continuous basis. This is the profound basis for legal and policy reform and will go a long way to model what works and what may not feasibly work. It would be prudent that MCJL conducts a comparative study on how Qadhis courts operate and co-exist with common law courts. In addition, carry out one on one lobby meetings with key stakeholders to steer the operationalization of Qadhis courts. Also, quarterly review meetings with the Technical Working Group would help to steer the operationalization of Qadhi's courts.

Community structures are a pathway to social change and easily sustain the change within their operating structures. Model social structures like Qadhi courts and Local Councils need continuous support. Although changes may be made by the project design, continuity is important for impact. It would be helpful in future to support model mosques and LCCs to consolidate previous efforts. These are critical in supporting the continuity of mediations and case hearings.

MAJOR CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Restricted movements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic affected implementation of activities like community outreaches that were planned to have gatherings. This limited the ability of people to know, demand and report human rights abuses. The close of community mosques by the Government in response to prevent the spread of COVID-19 affected the performance of MCJL's paralegal structure because it was partly designed to work in mosques where clients report cases through Qadhis courts.

The shrinking civic space that was evident as a result of suspension of DGF supported public events. Such actions cause fear in the civil society world which limits the ability of CSOs to speak against and act against human rights violations. Among other actions was restricted access to prisons in Eastern Uganda.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING

- Based on the challenges faced in prison, there is need to conduct duty counsel at selected courts.
- Support model mosques and LCCs in conducting mediations and hearings for learning and consolidated impact.
- Train selected model Local council and Qadhis courts adjudicators on the substantive and legal procedures in the trial process. Also Monthly follow up meetings should be conducted.

- Develop a simplified guide of laws and procedures (written and audio) for local council and Qadhis court adjudicators. Also translate the developed guidelines to Luganda and Lusoga.
- Support Associations of youth, women and PwDs in formalizing their businesses and setting sustainability funds for their groups' e.g., the legal services fund. Also restructure the way community outreaches are conducted to target associations of youth, women and PWDs rather than the general community.
- Conduct radio talk shows to sensitize on registration of Muslim and customary marriages in collaboration with URSB. In addition, provide registers to model mosques and Local Councils.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Project contributed to DGF key result area 3.2 (Access to justice improved) in sphere 3. At outcome level, the project is measured towards the achievement of Outcome indicator 4.1 (Proportion of citizens reporting satisfaction with justice services). At output level, the interventions contribute to DGF indicators 16, 14, 3 and 1. The desired results are measured at each of the outputs. Legal Aid services are measured by tracking progress of DGF Output Indicator 16 (Number of legal aid cases (a) started and (b) resolved); learning interventions including trainings at various levels are progressively tracked by DGF output indicator 14 (Number of individuals participating in DGF supported learning events); advocacy interventions were progressively tracked by DGF output indicator 1 (Number (and type) of issue-based initiatives to influence the legislative / policy frame-work).

Legal status of the organization:

Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL) is registered as a Non-Governmental Organization under the NGO Act 2016, cap 113. It annually remits returns to the NGO Bureau and has an operating Permit Number: INDP85883828NB from 11th May 2020 for 60 months. The organization did not have any pending legal suits and neither any legal contractual or other agreements that may affect the organization on its ability to implement project activities.

3.0 THE PROJECT DESIGN AND STRATEGY

The project was designed for thirty-six months aimed at enhancing access to justice for the poor and marginalized especially in selected Muslim communities targeting the districts of Kampala, Butambala, Mpigi, Mayuge and Bugiri. The project started on 1st April 2018 and was intended to close-out by end of 30th March 2021. However, through negotiations it received approval of a No Cost Extension (NCE) for three months for the period April to end of June 2021 and thereafter a sequence of Cost Extensions (CE) for nine months for the period July 2021 to end of March 2022.

FUNDING FLOW FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK-PLAN

The project funding was realized on a quarterly basis from DGF, upon satisfactory reporting and accountability by MCJL. Below is the funding flow that supported implementation of the work-plan on a quarterly basis as tabulated: -

TABLE I: INDICATING FUNDING FLOW ON A QUARTERLY DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE.

QUARTERLY WORK-PLAN	DATE OF DISBURSEMENT	AMOUNT OF FUNDING IN UGX
May – June 2018 / Q1 FY1	May 2018 – Q1	452,601,850
July – September 2018 / Q2 FY1	27/08/2018 – Q2	291,182,854
October – Dec 2018 / Q3 FY1	21/11/2018 – Q3	405,543,415
Jan – Mar 2019 / Q1 FY2	27/03/2019 – Q1	315,535,415
April – June 2019 / Q2 FY2	17/06/2019 – Q2	284,638,480
July – Sept 2019 / Q3 FY2	-	-
Oct – Dec 2019 / Q4 FY2	20/12/2019 – Q4	243,732,579
Jan – Mar 2020 / Q1 FY3	10/03/2020 – Q1	260,765,263
April – June 2020 / Q2 FY3	27/03/2020 – Q1	286,404,294
July – Sept 2020 / Q3 FY3	25/06/2020 – Q2	271,703,077
Oct – Dec 2020 / Q4 FY 3	29/09/2020 – Q3	181,657,364
Jan – Mar 2021 / Q1 FY4	24/12/2020 – Q4	357,122,384
April – June 2021 / Q2 FY4	17/06/2021 – Q2 No Cost Extension 1	119,412,452
April – June 2021 / Q2 FY4	No Cost Extension 2	49,666,949
July – Sept 2021 / Q3 FY4	Cost Extension – 1	188,060,350
Oct – Dec 2021 / Q4 FY4	Cost Extension – 2	131,437,316
Jan - Mar 2022 / Q1 FY5	Cost Extension – 3	186,485,836

TOTAL GRANT / FUNDING		4,025,949,878
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ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS IN THE PROJECT STATUS.

At the design stage of the project, the project team anticipated the following assumptions and risks which were documented and put across to guide implementation: -

ASSUMPTIONS STATED AT INCEPTION AND HOW THEY HOLD IN THE PROJECT STATUS.

Donors remain committed. This was demonstrated through approval of a sequence of extensions to ensure proper completion of the project in a phased manner. This accommodated adaptive programming.

GOU providing an enabling environment to operate. It was established that the assumption still holds because of positive involvement of government officials in the MCJL interventions and non-disruption of field activities. The actions complimented project efforts rather than disrupting them.

Peace and stability within the target areas. There were no specific security threats in the areas of operation towards MCJL as an institution. This holds and confirms the assumption.

ANTICIPATED RISKS AND HOW FAR THEY AFFECTED THE PROJECT IN OCCURRENCE.

While seeking for dispute resolution women and children in the Muslim communities may still fail or fear to question the extent to which their human and legal rights are upheld during the processes of mediation or adjudication in the Qadhi courts. This was monitored through observation method at case handling level and it was established that the risk is still valid.

There is a risk that the divisions within the Muslim community and other wrangles may negatively affect project implementation and outcomes since some of the adjudicators may also be divided between sects. This was not established in recent times.

Some adjudicators i.e. the imams and sheiks are likely to feel threatened by thinking that much of their power base and influence will be eroded especially among the women and youth due to the proposed changes. This was monitored through engagements with the adjudicators and established that this did not happen.

New risks were also identified in due course of implementation; There was a risk of threatening closure of donor agencies funding legal aid like the DGF. The civil society space has been generally shrinking with increasing concerns of governance. The closure of donor agencies meant that CSOs like MCJL should focus beyond donor funds in implementing their programs. Increasingly, also islamophobia, inclining towards islamization of terrorism may also affect Muslim CSOs that defend human rights of persons in Muslim communities. The government closed 54 NGOs including Chapter 4 and this posed a big risk to other NGOs in governance.

PROJECT STRATEGY

In terms of strategy, the project aimed at enhancing access to Justice for the poor and marginalized. A Problem Driven Iterative Approach was designed to redirect planned interventions with a view to provide both direct and indirect legal aid services in form of direct advice and through ICT platforms like using the

tollfree-line, SMS, E-law platforms; in addition, resolve disputes through ADR, Court representation, prison visits. Also, capacity building of key actors like Muslim duty bearers, police force and local council authorities was planned majorly through trainings and provision of guiding modules in their operations. Continuous Legal Education was supported to ensure that advocates fulfilled the practicing requirements by accumulating required CLE points, volunteer and interns were brought on board and mentored to compliment staff capacity.

On the demand side, local communities were sensitized through radio talk shows and community outreaches to strengthen their capacity to demand for legal and human rights services. Advocacy and lobbying actions were conducted as a strategy for legal and policy reforms. This was implemented through meetings with policy makers, action research and follow-up engagements. The project actions were implemented to ensure that Access to justice is improved and Human Rights of all citizens are upheld among target beneficiaries. MCJL documented evidence of its performance on a quarterly basis and reported results to DGF both intended and unintended, including emerging issues affecting service delivery in the five target districts of Uganda. Below is a table indicating actual performance against planned targets in relation to key performance indicators.

TABLE II: SHOWING RESULTS ACHIEVED AGAINST PLANNED /SET TARGETS

Statement	Indicators		Baseline	Milestone Year 1	Milestone Year 2	Milestone Year 3	Life Project Target	of	Assumptions	Reference source documents
Impact	Impact indicator 1		TBD							
Enhanced access to justice for the poor and marginalized especially in select Muslim communities .	(DGF,3:4.1) Proportion of citizens reporting satisfaction with justice services.	Planned		77.50%	82.50%	87.50%	30,450		• Donors remain committed and release funds timely • Peace and stability prevails in Uganda • Government of Uganda remains cooperative and provides an enabling environment for CSO work	
		Actual		67.78%	68.70%	69.13%	68.54% of 30,450			Case Files
		Disaggregation								
		Source of information			Annual Survey Reports					
	Impact indicator 2									
	(DGF, 3:3.2) Proportion of citizens that report improvement in protection of fundamental rights as a result of DGF interventions.	Planned		70%	75%	80%	2,360			
		Actual		81.11%	77.60%	76.79%	78.5% of 2,360			
		Disaggregation								
		Source of information:			Annual Survey Reports					
	OUTCOMES									
Outcome 1	Outcome indicator 1A									
Access to justice enhanced for the poor and vulnerable citizens in the target communities .	(DGF, 3:4.1) Proportion of citizens reporting satisfaction with civil justice services.	Planned		80%	85%	90%	22,837		Assuming that the Justice system and procedures are responsive to ensure that cases taken are concluded within the stipulated time frame.	
		Actual		78.89%	75.20%	84.09%	79.39% of 22,837			
		Disaggregation								
		Source of information			Periodic Survey Reports					
	Outcome indicator 1B									
	(DGF, 3:4.1) Proportion of citizens reporting satisfaction with criminal justice services.	Planned		75%	80%	85%	7,613			
		Actual		56.67%	62.20%	54.17%	57.68% of 7,613			
		Disaggregation								
Source of information			Periodic Survey Reports							
Outcome 2	Outcome indicator2									

Human Rights of all citizens are upheld.	(DGF, 3:3.2) Proportion of citizens that report improvement in protection of fundamental rights as a result of DGF interventions.	Planned		70%	75%	80%	2,360	Assuming that the poor are willing to learn and demand for their fundamental rights	
		Actual		81.11%	77.60%	76.79%	78.5% of 2,360		1,521
		Disaggregation							2776
		Source of information			periodic reports				4,297
OUTPUTS									Client Satisfaction Surveys
Output 1.1	Output indicator 1.1								
Improved access to Justice of citizens within the targeted communities .	(DGF, 16:3.2) Number of legal aid cases (a)started and (b)resolved	Planned		7,280	10,970	12,200	30,450	Assuming that the Justice system and procedures are responsive to ensure that cases taken are concluded on time.	
		Actual		4,246	7,607	4,297	14,962		Case Files
		Disaggregation							
		Source of information			periodic reports				
	Output indicator 1.1d								
	(DGF, 14) Number of individuals participating in DGF supported learning events	Planned		8	8	8	8	Assuming that all lawyers actively participated in continuous legal education	
		Actual		8	8	8	8		
Output 1.2	Output indicator 1.2								
Improved capacity of key actors to handle Muslim related access to justice issues.	(DGF, 14) Number of individuals participating in DGF supported learning events	Planned		1,065	80	50	2,360	Assuming that the targeted are willing to learn and continuously share information on Human Rights.	
		Actual			80	50	130		Training reports of Stakeholders
		Disaggregation							
		Source of information			periodic reports				
Output 2.1	Output indicator 2.1								
Human rights awareness increased in the target areas.	(DGF, 14) Number of individuals participating in DGF supported learning events.	Planned		560	560	560	1,680	Assuming that the targeted are willing to learn and continuously share information on Human Rights.	Community Outreaches
		Actual		1,831	225	527	752		
		Disaggregation							
		Source of information			periodic reports				
Output 2.2	Output indicator 2.2								
Duty bearers trained on Gender and human rights Standards	(DGF, 14) Number of individuals participating in DGF supported learning events.	Planned		500	90	90	680	Assuming that all those that receive guidelines are part of the trained Qadhi Court Adjudicators In year 1 and the consequent years take on different duty bearers at Community Mosque level.	
		Actual		500	0	97	97		
		Disaggregation							
		Source of information			periodic reports				
Output 2.3	Output indicator 2.3a								
Policy, Legal and Practice Change influenced	(DGF, 1: 3.1) Number (and type) of issue-based initiatives to influence the legislative/policy framework	Planned		3	3	3	9	Assuming that other CSOs collectively	

		Actual			2	15	17	work in collaboration with MCJL to influence legal/policy change.	Advocacy Engagements / reports
		Disaggregation							
		Source of information			periodic reports				
	Output indicator 2.3b								
	(DGF, 5: 3.3) Number of initiatives taken up by targeted duty bearers related to implementation of pro-gender equality legislative frameworks	Planned		2	2	2	6	Assuming that duty bearers appreciate and recognize the gender gaps for policy reform	Networking in Advocacy reports
		Actual			2	0	2		
		Disaggregation							
		Source of information			Periodic reports				
	Output indicator 2.3c								
	(DGF, 15: 3.1) Number of meetings/dialogues/discussions addressing attitudes, perceptions and understanding of topics such as corruption and citizenry	Planned		5	5	5	15	Assuming that the community mobilization is timely	
		Actual			4	262	266		
		Disaggregation							
		Source of information			periodic reports				
	Notes:			Cases from Periodic Reports			Project performance = 66% based on project life span	Date of performance Measurement is 3rd January 2022	Case Resolution rate=69% based on an average of 82% anticipated rate.
	Cases started and Resolved April - September 2018			1,188	1,078		20,131 / 30,450		17,452 / 25,121.25
	Cases started and Resolved Oct 2018 - March 2019			3,058	2,361				
	Cases started and Resolved April - June 2019			739	1,171		Oct 2018- Mar 2019	3058	
	Cases started and Resolved July - Sept 2019			1,939	1,939		Jan-March 2019	1226	
	Cases started and Resolved Oct - Dec 2019			2,149	2,149		Oct-Dec 2018	1832	
	Cases started and Resolved Jan - March 2020			2,780	2,789		May-Dec 2018	3020	
	Cases started and Resolved April - June 2020			881	766				
	Cases started and Resolved July - Sept 2020			1,895	1,608				
	Cases started and Resolved Oct - Dec 2020			1,521	1,077				
	Cases started and Resolved Jan - March 2021			1,531	1,228				
	Cases started and Resolved April - June 2021			1,214	842				
	Cases started and Resolved July - September 2021			370	138				
	Cases started and Resolved October – December 2021			866	306				
	Total cases Started			20,131	17,452	2,679 pending	630 cases pending by lawyers and 2,049 cases pending their current status as reported at community level structures (LCCs & Mosques)		

4.0 CONTEXT OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project operations were affected by the COVID-19 Legal and Policy Response by the Government of Uganda. On 19th March 2020, administrative and contingency measures were put in place to prevent and mitigate the spread of corona virus (COVID-19) by the judiciary in line with the directives issued by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda on the 18th March, 2020, on the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Uganda. Since then, the guidelines affected the operations of all courts in Uganda, as follows;

All court hearings and appearances were suspended for the period of 32 days with effect from 20th March, 2020. For cases at the stage of submissions, the respective courts advised the counsel/parties to file written submissions.

During this time, prisoners and remandees were not presented to court. Where possible proceedings were conducted using video link. All execution proceedings were suspended for the same period of time except where attachment had already taken place. Courts continued to handle certificates of urgency and taking plea for serious cases and bail applications. Only the applicant and his/her lawyer, or in the case of bail application, the sureties were allowed in Court.

Although Judicial Officers and staff continued with duty however, there were no open court appearances. Judicial officers were given opportunity to complete pending judgments. Most Judgments and Rulings were issued to the Parties online. Continuous legal Education (CLE) for Lawyers was affected after suspension of all conferences, workshops, meetings and training programmes at local and foreign. In addition to the above guidelines, sanitizers and other preventive measures were put in place, including digital Thermometers that were deployed at various Court premises.

Most of the activities of the Court were affected by the partial lock down because of COVID-19. In spite of the challenges, it was established that the Court still writes Judgments as well as perusal of some pending case.

Among other challenges were rampant increase of forged court documents such as certificates of no objection, decrees and grants. There was need for a computerized system in order to send details of the output to court and court doing the same at least weekly.

Baseless and malicious complaints against court officials and delayed disposal of matters. Delayed communication from court in case of emergencies, intimidation by Judges, poor time management by officers of court.

There was need for more mediators to be deployed at the family Divisions. Magistrate courts required to give protection orders. The courts needed to give a grace period to advocates whose Practicing Certificates were expired during the lock-down. The family Court was required to grant interim custody since divorce matters take long to be concluded. In order to preserve the dignity of parties and alleviate corruption, divorce files were required to use initials.

Lawyers were required to adjust to the new rules because failure to do so would be portrayed as delayed justice.

Some cases were to fix all matters in session mode, following a first come and first serve basis save for emergencies to get rid of backlog. For instance, the family Division in Makindye formed a WhatsApp forum that would be utilized to effectively communicate court business. There is was need for streamlining the allocation of cases to avoid overwhelming one Judge and cause-listing of cases that were affected by the lock down and other factors to ensure that they are handled. Advocates were required to volunteer in Mediation as one of the ways to ensure dispute resolution. There was need to utilize online innovation to conduct court sessions.

It was observed that the mode was associated with huge expenses such poor network. It was noted that this would also be a challenge in cases such as identification and adoption where parties were required to physically appear before a Judge.

DOCUMENTATION AND FILING OF PROJECT DATA AND INFORMATION

MCJL maintains a proper filing and documentation system for all reports and relevant documents. This is done both manually and electronically. The manual system is where documented records are put in respective file by the individual staff, filed and stored in cabins for routine work in progress and referencing.

The electronic system involves registering the clients' information in the IIMS (Information management system) managed by LASPNET and concluded records such as case files are scanned and filed in soft copy form and retrieval of such records is done in case need arises.

MCJL utilizes a well-developed network system folder for storage of data within the organization that is not dependent on the availability of internet but operates on a local area network (LAN). This eases internal retrieval and sharing of records in office. MCJL also uses cloud storage system. MCJL procured e-space for storage of data on the internet. This enables staff to access the organization data and records while away from office.

The sensitive documents are kept in safe and filing cabin that is only accessed by the Head of administration and president respectively.

PROJECT CASH MANAGEMENT AND EXPENDITURE.

In terms of financial management, MCJL is using online banking for all transactions without any exceptions. All payments are made on-line, third-party receipts / e-mails from payee were issued in acknowledgement of payments. Bank reconciliations are made on a monthly basis, and are approved by senior management. Also, these are verified during review of quarterly financial reports. Payments are done in consistence with the approved programme activities under the DGF project funding. All payments were made against an approved payment voucher and are properly supported.

SECURITY AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

In January 2021, Uganda's general elections saw incumbent President Yoweri engaged actively in a political context that became increasingly monetized. People's security and justice during the election period was violent, continued harassment of and systematic crackdown on political opposition leaders in Uganda, as well as the suppression of civil society, human rights defenders and the media, and the disruption of social media platforms and internet blackouts.

The presidential and parliamentary elections took place on 14th January 2021. The official election period which ran from 11th January to 3rd February 2021, it was observed that there was excessive use of force by the police and the armed forces in the presidential election and their growing interference in the political process. The independent, local and international election observers were prohibited from overseeing the election, preventing it from being assessed against internationally recognized standards. This situation underlined the fundamental importance of free and fair elections, which was a prerequisite for sustainable and long-term development. The Ugandan people, in particular the young population, exercised courage and enthusiasm for democracy that they demonstrated during the election campaign.

On 7th January 2021, Bobi Wine filed a petition with the International Criminal Court (ICC) accusing President Museveni and nine other senior officials of multiple human rights violations.

On 16th January 2021, the Electoral Commission declared President Yoweri Museveni, who had been in office for 35 years, the winner – for a sixth term – with 59 % of the vote, against main opposition leader Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, also known as Bobi Wine, who received 35 %; whereas the results of the election were hard to verify because the Elections Commission did not follow the prescribed tallying process.

On 1st February 2021, Bobi Wine filed a petition at Uganda's High Court to challenge the election results, alleging widespread fraud, including the involvement of the military in stuffing ballot boxes, casting ballots for people and deterring voters from entering polling stations.

The youth still faced crimes such as petty theft, credit card fraud, involvement in land grabbing, evictions and home robberies. Chances of being a victim are high, and incidences are most probably in cities like Kampala. In addition, terror attacks occurred during 2021, recent attacks included: -

- On Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 an attempted assassination on Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala took over the nation's airwaves. Unfortunately, two exuberant youthful lives were lost to hoodlums also more politely referred to as terrorists when bullets rained on the official military vehicle of General Katumba Wamala killing his daughter Brenda Nantongo Wamala and Driver Haruna Kayondo instantly. This incident was considered a threat to national security and all the country's finest and most advanced machinery would be unleashed to track down the assailants before they conceal their tracks and disappear into the population.
- On 16 November 2021, terrorists used two explosive devices in central Kampala killing 4 and injuring 33 people. Two further explosive devices were disarmed by the police
- On 25 October 2021, terrorists used an explosive device on a coach travelling on the Kampala to Masaka road near Mpigi killing one person
- On 23 October 2021, terrorists used an explosive device to attack a restaurant in Kamamboga, a suburb in the north east of Kampala killing one person and injuring a number of others

However, the Government of Uganda made effort through the Uganda Police Force to regularly issue alerts, particularly around public holidays or religious events. In addition, since the attack on Gen. Katumba, 5 ADF operatives have been killed and 36 suspects have been arrested. Those killed were: Nsubuga Hamidu, Lubwama Hussein (Master), Juma Saidi, Mustapha Kawawa, Serwadda Juma, Matovu Isaac who blew himself up.

The issue of Islamizing terrorism remained key in the aftermath of the twin bombings. There was vigorous search of Muslim students and girls at Kyambogo University who were ordered to remove their veils. The fact remains that most of the suspects arrested are Muslims and Muslim organizations, religious leaders have to realize and devise strategies of how to mitigate radicalization of Muslims. MCJL in the aftermath emphasized that there is no connection between Islam and terrorism and Islam is a religion of peace. MCJL further urged Muslims to desist from being misled and radicalized

5.0 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The mixed method design was used, exploring both qualitative and quantitative approaches to data collection, analysis and report compilation. The methodology applied included review of comprehensive and pertinent programme documents, held zoom meetings, administered questionnaires and interviews with community persons and institutions, MCJL staff, former paralegals and rights holders. No workshops were held with stakeholders and other implementing partners. This was followed-up by zoom meetings with selected internal working team at MCJL. Focus group discussions were held with representative target groups of rights holders in selected district offices. All these were purposively selected.

The 'Most Significant Change Technique (TMSCT)' was deployed as a model of the evaluation as participatory form of evaluation that uses a story approach to explore the impact of a service or program. This challenges the conventional evaluation so commonly used and discussed with focus on predefined indicators. The TMSCT process ensures that the many stakeholders, including client, community, service providers and the government are involved in deciding on what kind of impact and change is important and records and reflects on these. Case studies were also used in this approach". The Methodology was selectively chosen to be the most useful because it is not possible to predict in any detail, or with any certainty, what the outcome of a project or programme would be; outcomes varied widely across beneficiaries; there was no agreement between stakeholders on which outcomes are the most important; and interventions were expected to be highly participatory.

In addition, 'Survey Research' was used which "involved the use of questionnaires and structured interviews to collect quantitative data at a single point in time which was examined to identify patterns and relationships"

Lastly document review and analysis. It supported focus on a very in-depth analysis of the legal service delivery project and examined these to develop in depth understandings rather than causal explanations.

The above approaches were utilized because they help reveal particularity and diversity and are good at enabling greater sense to be made of a situation that might not be evident with a more superficial study. They involve working with the client/service/community to identify research questions, to collect the data and analyze it. The approaches sit within a critical theory which is designed to contribute to learnings and empower people in the process and into the future by learning about their situation and working with the service/community/client to work out ways of making improvements. They promote 'quality criteria' which involves reliability, measurement validity, credibility, transferability, dependability and conformability. It requires that the participation be authentic and ensures that the cause-and-effect relationship holds.

6.0 SAMPLING AND SAMPLING SIZE

Purposeful Sampling technique was used to accommodate qualitative data for the identification and selection of information-rich cases for the most effective use of limited resources (Patton, 2002). This involved identifying and selecting individuals or groups of individuals that are especially knowledgeable about or experienced with a legal aid service in their interest, as beneficiaries. A total of 67 respondents were sampled within a distance of not more than 10KiloMeters to ensure that primary data supports the secondary information across the 5 districts of implementation. $50 + 8K = 67$, where k is the number of predictors. The estimated response rate was 2.125 because of the prevailing data collection conditions.

TABLE III: SHOWING NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS PER DISTRICT

DISTRICT	SAMPLE OF RESPONDENTS
1. Kampala	27
2. Mpigi	11
3. Butambala	8
4. Mayuge	8
5. Bugiri	13

This sampling technique is non-probability and was used in the data collection process because of the followings observations: (i) the bias was negligible because of the already existing system generated data which was periodically documented in the IIMS on a quarterly, semi-annual and annual basis; (ii) the sample could be monitored (through a chain of control and custody: who, what, when, why, and how?); (iii) probability sampling was not feasible or appropriate, because the data was time dependent amidst COVID-19 and budget restrictions for the evaluation. There was a significant difference between the base period and the current period as a result of time-lapse due project extensions; (iv) Data could be easily collected only where the collectors were available using the field-based offices; (v) by such circumstances, the nature of the sample size is small and limited to purpose /selective and subjective (Crossman, A 2020).

7.0 KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS

7.1 PROJECT IMPACT

The project increased access to Justice for the poor and marginalized due to improvement on access to legal and human rights awareness, especially in the Muslim community. On average for every 10 cases registered 6 cases were given the due attention they deserved to logical conclusion. Before MCJL's intervention in the target communities, Muslim women experienced violence in homes and many youth were arrested without trail. *KII one* "I managed to know what the laws are because before I did not know them". *KII Two* "MCJL filed my matter in the courts of law, they were able to lodge caveats on the disputed land and they are always willing to advise me whenever I contacted them". *KII three* "My brother was released and I was also able to get back my plot from my uncle" I was treated well.

Success of the project was also demonstrated by Most Significant Stories of Change at individual and community level in the 5 districts of coverage. Documented evidence was gathered in form of testimonies by project beneficiaries who confirmed Significant Change in their life from the targeted communities. A purposive sample of beneficiaries was selected and these included 6 beneficiaries from Butambala, 29 beneficiaries from Kampala, 11 beneficiaries from Mpigi, 7 beneficiaries from Bugiri and 8 beneficiaries from Mayuge district. Categorical documented evidence is appended below;



Most Significant
Stories of Change doc

A total of UGX.328,235,024 was recovered on behalf of poor and marginalized clients. The recovery of cash and assets helped to restore the economic status of targeted poor and marginalized in communities of reach. For instance, children benefitted by continuing with their education through custody and maintenance legal support services, children out of the wed-lock were relative provided for and this improved their livelihood in cases of family disputes, land recovered on behalf of the poor and marginalized supported and significantly improved livelihood family support by providing an enabling environment to families involved in agriculture by growing their crops and raising birds and animals without destabilization.

However, a strong feedback mechanism is still needed as an integral component in the legal aid project. The legal process in due course of implementation of project actions still falls short of consistent follow-up and timely feedback. The feedback mechanism should be a two-way process rather than from one end to ensure timely and logical conclusion of project actions. *KII four* "I think I never made a follow-up on the case". *KII five* "When I asked for my file, I never got it and even backed at me and I want my file back"

7.2 RELEVANCE

THE JOURNEY TO JUSTICE

The legal aid actions especially, Legal advice, mediation, lodging caveats on land, court representation and community outreaches are by far still the most relevant in the journey to accessing justice by the poor and marginalized. There is still need for the indigent to familiarize themselves with the laws and some cases are still on-going at the same time beneficiaries, "the poor and marginalized" still believe that with

faith, justice will prevail. A recovery rate of 8% cash and assets was exhibited by the legal project team on behalf of the poor and marginalized. This was expressed as **(328,235,024 / 4,025,949,878 x 100)** based on total grant disbursed. This relieved many of the clients and makes the project relevant to them from the initial status of zero recovery, fear and distress. It also strongly restored their economic status for social stability and growth.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REMAIN RELEVANT

- Emphasize use of faith-based approach and sharia law and continue serving diligently with view to promoting referrals where necessary.
- Provide for prayer places for clients as they wait for their matters to be handled by the lawyers.
- Expand area of jurisdiction to include more districts and coverage within the districts. Do not limit operation area to Kampala only.
- Increase on the number of legal officers and increase on the number of community outreaches to enhance people's knowledge about their rights.
- Put up bigger sign posts in places of office locations for easy identification.
- Provide transport for clients who come from far.
- Emphasis should be put on locus- based mediations. This saves costs for clients who cannot afford to move.
- Enhance awareness about using the SMS line frequently
- Create awareness of non-discrimination on basis of religion.
- Transport should be provided to clients who are referred to distant places.
- Get a central point to do follow-ups since legal officers can be so busy
- The standard of service delivery should be maintained and the receptionist is the best

However, other responses recommended a change in services, to respond positively to clients. MCJL has poor services because there is still need for clear explanation on the progress of the case by the legal officers. In addition, there is need to fulfill appointments and also respect client time.

7.3 EFFECTIVENESS

Mediation of legal matters out of court is speedy and less costly. 83% of the beneficiaries were satisfied with legal aid services. For every 12 beneficiaries, 10 were satisfied with MCJL's services and attributed their satisfaction towards MCJL as a Muslim founded organization and with ability to frontline the lawyers to provide legal services at the work place for good Service delivery than other CSOs.

To ensure reliability, "Make sure that you have passionate lawyers" and ensure that free court services are accessible and increase legal and human rights awareness using continuous community sensitization through radio programs and community dialogue to poor clients. Increase the number of lawyers and strengthen anti- corruption measures to reduce on corruption tendencies in the JLOS structures. In addition;

- Lobby government to increase the number of courts and judges and magistrates to handle cases
- Increase visibility in community
- Transform MCJL from analog to digital

- Provide transport for clients and photocopying documents for them
- Improve service delivery, handle clients like important people and provide feedback to clients.

7.4 EFFICIENCY

The cost of legal aid services has increased largely due Transport costs incurred by clients and the lawyer. The cost per case increased; on average ADR increased from UGX 38,571 to UGX 75,000 and court cases increased from UGX 115,705 to UGX 268,517. This was largely attributed to raise in transport means and related changes in operational procedures partly due to COVID-19. The costs need to be integrated in the forthcoming project plan to ensure cost effective implementation.

In terms of social and financial implications, majority of clients were well treated and accessed free court representation. However, at times family was not considerate, some mediations failed and next step moved, transport limitation while struggling to go for hearings with witnesses and at times the client paid for services

Also, the cost of living has increased and requires an increment in Salaries for staff so that they don't charge money from clients. In addition, the following need to be revisited;

- Improve on office appearance in terms of visibility, with large font Sign Posts, strategically located and display or provide learning materials.
- Ensure timely and constant supply of papers and files
- Ensure good working condition of equipment like computers to staff and communication means like toll free lines for client feedback across all offices.
- Increase the number of lawyers providing legal aid services.
- Fight corruption tendencies in various offices.
- Provide for ample mediation space for legal aid services to accommodate family meetings and maintain.

7.5 SUSTAINABILITY

The project worked with stakeholders from targeted communities. The paralegals were identified and selected by local community mosque committees and local council committees. These committees will continue working to serve the people with the support of those already trained and have skills in mediation will continue offering the legal services on the same and also provide legal advice. A police training module was developed and will be utilized by the Uganda Police Force (UPF) training curriculum department even after project close out. Adjudicators from the Muslim community at Qadhi court level were supported with guidelines on the Muslim personal law. The imams and their mosque committees will remain using the guidelines.

MCJL ensured buy-in of key stakeholders of the project at the start and various levels of implementation which built alliances with the various sects/factions of the Muslim Faith and leadership, including the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC), Kibuli faction, Tabliq, Jamaati Dawatti Assalafiya (JDS) and the Ahmadiyya sect where MCJL affiliates and works with each in promoting access to justice and protecting the Muslim communities especially women and children as well as ensuring that the Informal Muslim

Justice System is void of discriminatory practices. This built trust with Muslim structures of various leadership who often contact MCJL whenever need arises.

The identification of responsive community mosques, Imams and Mutasibahs (women leaders) was instrumental towards sustaining the project actions. Muslim Adjudicators were trained in the various aspects of the secular law to ensure increased access to Justice in the Informal Muslim Justice System and are now able to also incorporate matters of the law and condemn injustices during their routine sermons, hence raising legal and human rights awareness to the followers.

The project actions also were implemented through local community structures at local council and community mosques to provide legal advice and ADR services to communities. A phased approach was used. These included the practicing Muslim men and women that were identified from the 50 operational mosques that were trained at LDC as paralegals. These are of significant value in supporting beneficiary communities within the Informal Muslim Justice System and therefore will be present to give guidance, support and educate their community members on a range of issues relating to access to justice and appropriate recommendations for referrals even with the closure of the project.

The incorporation of paralegals was geared towards enabling them develop and devolve into an affiliate but independent entity that can advocate for justice for the poor and indigent within and around local community mosques and local council 1 communities that were targeted.

However, 62% of beneficiaries were able to report Human Rights abuses. 38% said that they had lost trust in the system because of corruption, partially due to loss of hope in obtaining justice and fear. Others did not know where to report and which relevant authorities. More sensitizations are still needed for empowerment of community men and women with legal and human rights information and knowledge.

Weak supportive structures due to corruption and theft. "JLOS has not yet done much and nothing can be expected from such places" Some personnel in service lack the required qualifications and JLOS only works to satisfy the rich.

MCJL has continued to ensure transparency and accountability throughout implementation. MCJL has also complied with requirements especially with the local governments where it implements her work amidst the shrinking civic space, MCJL will pilot the cost sharing strategy based on the Internal Needs Assessment conducted among all regional legal aid clinics.

8.0 ACHIEVEMENTS / RESULTS

8.1 OUTPUTS

8.1.1 Access to justice has been enhanced for the poor and vulnerable citizens in the target communities. 66% of cases planned were registered and out of those started 69% were resolved. A total of **20,131** cases were started and **17,452** resolved. Although the set target in the project lifespan was 30,450 cases, 2,679 cases are either still pending conclusion or abandoned. 238 cases are still in the process of mediation by MCJL lawyers. 392 cases are still proceeding in courts of law by MCJL Advocates. **2,049** cases were either still on-going at community level as previously reported by paralegals (at LCCs and Mosques) or abandoned by clients due to various reasons such as restrictions during COVID-19. Their current status was not established due to restricted funding towards supporting the End of project Evaluation.

8.1.2 The project has helped in extending free legal services in the form legal representation, Alternative Dispute Resolution and legal advice to the people who could not afford such services. The provision of free legal services to indigent persons brought about amicable settlement of conflicts through use of ADR. Legal aid provision to indigents restored property rights especially land, freedom for those who are wrongly prosecuted, and it ensured that parents acted responsibly through compelling them to cater for their children's needs, especially in regard to men who had abandoned their homes. MCJL obtained recognition, support and cooperation from the targeted districts and JLOS stakeholders who referred cases for handling.

8.1.3 The project actions helped in recovery of funds on behalf of poor and marginalized clients. A total of UGX **328,235,024** was recovered by MCJL lawyers and paralegals on behalf of poor and marginalized clients, as indicated in the table below: -

TABLE IV: INDICATING MONIES RECOVERED ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS

PERIOD	JAN TO MARCH 2018	MAY TO DECEMBER 2018	JAN TO MARCH 2019	APRIL TO JUNE 2019	JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019	OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019	JAN TO MARCH 2020	APRIL TO JUNE 2020	JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020	OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2020	JAN TO MARCH 2021	APRIL TO JUNE 2021	JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021	OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021	TOTAL FUNDS RECOVERED
MONIES RECOVERED	7,440,000	21,900,000	32,618,000	50,200,000	9,000,000	0	13,400,000	20,068,712	52,826,600	30,513,000	20,068,712	20,000,000	48,500,000	1,700,000	328,235,024

8.1.4 There is improved capacity of key actors to handle Muslim related access to justice issues. At community level, 50 paralegals were trained (37 were Muslim adjudicators from community mosques and 13 from Local Council 1). These were enrolled and supported at LDC for professional training in laws to a level of a Diploma, after their training they rolled out back in the community for service delivery. There is improved working relationship with the local Council authorities, for instance, MCJL is now in touch with the top leadership of all LC 1 chairpersons in Bugiri district. As already alluded too, in Bulidha sub-county a meeting platform of all LC 1 chairpersons was formed and they meet every 1st day of the month. Their participation provides a working platform in which they plan and review their actions for continuous implementation at community level even when the project actions come to an end these engagements will provide a sustainable forum for experience sharing on emerging legal issues and help them to remain relevant in the community. Through a follow-up engagement with the Uganda police Force Officials in charge of curriculum development and training. The Police training curriculum integrated Islamic Family

Law as part of the modules to strengthen the capacity of police officers in handling Muslim family cases, this was achieved through lobbying meetings after efforts had been made to train officers in the family and child protection unit, who were often transferred after building their capacity at district level. MCJL built a good working relationship with the JLOS stakeholders who have provided support in their respective capacities towards the realization of the project objectives. The police in Kawempe, Mpigi, Buwama, Kibibi, DPC in Mayuge and RDC in Mpigi refer indigents to MCJL who are handled, they offer security during locus visits, participate in joint community sensitization meetings, participation in community outreach programs including radio.

8.1.5 Human Rights of all citizens are upheld. There is an increased level of human rights awareness in the districts of Kampala, Mpigi, Butambala, Bugiri and Mayuge. During the period 2018 to end of 2021, paralegals sensitised 14,747 people (6,989 female and 7,758 male) clients using local council and mosque structures on legal issues of right to fair trial, how to make a will, family custody and maintenance, land disputes, ownership and use among others. Informal dispute resolution mechanisms were explored to enhance early access to dispute resolution mechanisms through using paralegals as a low-cost sustainable structure that is likely to continue offering legal assistance within their communities. The use of paralegals is sustainable because they are usually part of the 'community fabric' where they work and are usually in contact with the public and they are accessible.

TABLE V: INDICATING PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH COMMUNITY SENSITISATIONS

	Jan to March 2018	May to December 2018		Jan to March 2019	April to June 2019	July to September 2019	October to December 2019		Jan to March 2020	April to June 2020	July to September 2020	October to December 2020		Jan to March 2021	April to June 2021	
Gender			Total number of people sensitized 2018					Total number of people sensitized 2019					Total number of people sensitized 2020			Total number of people sensitized 2021
Male	90	812	902	549	670	739	582	2540	2776	217	82	461	3536	399	381	780
Female	125	804	929	495	612	710	326	2143	2389	226	70	379	3064	497	356	853
Total	215	1616	1831	1044	1282	1449	908	4683	5165	443	152	840	6600	896	737	1633

8.1.6 Duty bearers were trained on Gender and human rights Standards. There is an increased level of awareness among the Muslim leadership at community mosques on gender issues. Muslim women relatively understand their rights in a better way but also claim them in a polite approach but from an informed point of view. Family issues have been more denounced and understood in due process of violation and reported for legal assistance especially in instances of marital relationships where their rights at celebration, during marriage and upon divorce to reconcile the secular law with the Islamic denouncements in practice. Also, roles of women at community mosque committees have been given priority. Mosque committees have a female representative unlike before and the Muslim women have organised leadership that provides for women spaces only engagements for instance after Juma prayers. This space allows the women to talk to young girls, mentor and counsel them in the youth age category

on merits and challenges faced in marriage but also provides open up forums to prepare for better marital relationships and an appellant mechanism is provided through women leadership who approach the Imam (at community mosques) rather than remaining docile as compared to the situation before the project interventions. In terms of support, the legal aids services offered by MCJL were visible in the communities of operation. Stakeholders like Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Local Counselor V chairpersons, provided an enabling environment to operate the legal aid clinics in the different districts. In addition, the Probation officers, Community Development Officers (CDOs), District community Development Officers (DCDOs), subcounty chiefs and Local council officials were supportive during mobilization of communities for sensitization meetings, made referrals of clients to the legal aid clinics especially for juveniles and identified paralegals in the community for timely legal aid to indigents in the target communities. The women in development approach for gender mainstreaming was able to curb the social cultural practices that prevent women from acquiring necessary knowledge and skills to support their families and have economic independence. This created a favorable ground for women's rights to be recognized in homes and society as a whole, thereby reducing domestic violence in homes.

8.1.7 Policy, Legal and Practice Change influenced. Initiatives were undertaken to influence policy, legal and practices in succession through the Domestic Violence Act- Coalition meetings organized by CEDOVIP. On 11th May 2021, MCJL made a presentation on the Position regarding the Succession (Amendment bill) 2018. The view of MCJL was that whereas largely the bill was largely a good law, the continuous and deliberate exclusion of interests of Minority undermines the principle of inclusiveness which is key in democratic governance. MCJL also proposed to coalition members that it was important for coalition Members to pick interest in understanding Muslim Family law for an objective assessment of the values and interests of the Muslim community. A follow-up meeting was made on the submissions on the succession bill with MPs. MCJL had a discussion with the Imam to Parliament and Member of Parliament Kawempe on 3rd May, 2021 as the Bill was presented on the floor of parliament. MCJL updated the Honourable member about the engagements with the Ministry of justice and Constitutional Affairs which discussion informed Hon latif Sebbagala's response as the Bill was presented.

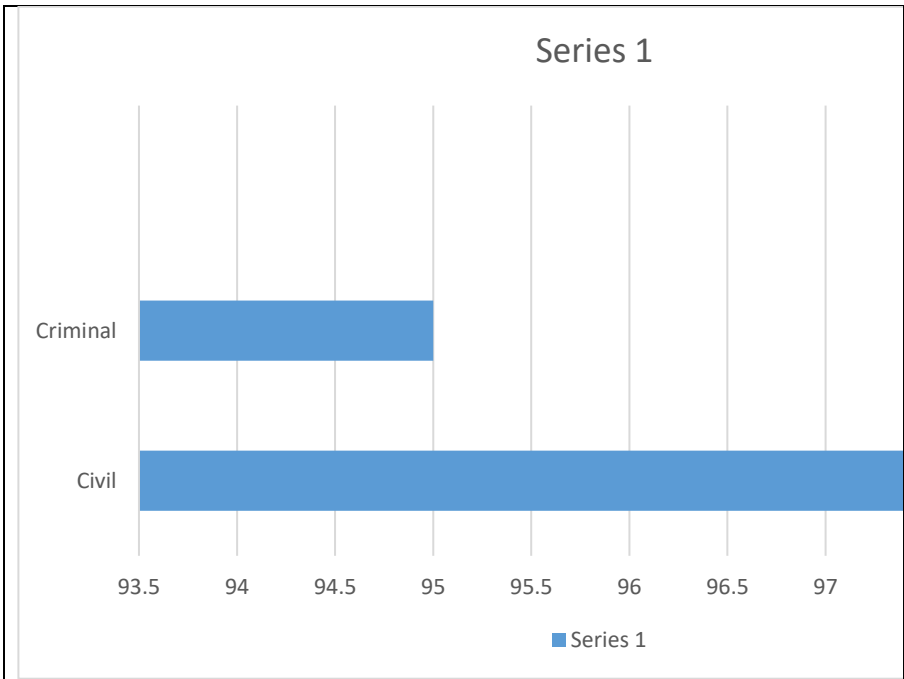
MCJL also wrote and published a statement condemning the approach taken by the security organs of only arresting Muslims whenever a high-profile city murder occurred which in itself deepens Islamophobia. MCJL has argued that the approach of treating murder crimes as 'terrorist in nature' has not only affected Muslims who are sometimes subjected to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment in a bid to extort information from them, but denies innocent Ugandans who have died of such murders and their families a right to bring real culprits to justice because of the wrong institutionalized approach and policy by Ugandan security forces and office of Director of Public Prosecution. This can be accessed on <https://bit.ly/3yAYzwV>

MCJL pioneered and championed the effort to ensure legal reform on Article 129(1) (d) of the 1995 constitution that institutionalizes the operation of Qadhi courts. Several government agencies were engaged including ULRC to expedite the process of enacting the Qadhi courts bill. This initiative has kept MCJL in limelight as well as enabled the organisation to engage in advocacy at national level. MCJL secured a commitment by ULRC to consult with Office of the Solicitor General to provide an updated position on the side of Government about the Qadhi courts bill. Additionally, the Qadhis Courts Bill was read in a ministerial statement by the Deputy Attorney General on 3rd May, 2021. The Minister acknowledged having consulted MCJL in the process leading to development of the Bill. The Hansard can be accessed on HANSARDS 2021 MAY | Parliament of Uganda. A follow up meeting with Uganda Muslim Supreme Council was conducted on 23rd April, 2021, as a result of feedback from the Uganda Law Reform Commission on

the status of the Qadhi Court Bill. The ULRC had written to MCJL clarifying that the Bill was at UMSC for further review by the Muslim community. During the meeting, UMSC was updated of the status per the ULRC communication. It was agreed that MCJL and UMSC work together in ensuring that the Bill gets back to Parliament for passing.

8.2 OUTCOMES

8.2.1 Access to justice is enhanced for the poor and vulnerable citizens in the target communities. 98% of citizens reported that were satisfied with civil justice services; and 95% of citizens reported that were satisfied with criminal justice services. Referrals are made by Imams for cases beyond their jurisdiction for legal aid services. Clients appreciate the quality-of-service delivery offered by lawyers and community paralegals. Those satisfied were attributing this to the reception offered to the client, the lawyer’s ability to reach out to them and their witnesses in a timely manner, follow-up support, effort offered in recovery of the indigents` money and property, timely completion of the legal aid process and the free legal services offered.



8.2.2.1 Human Rights of targeted citizens are upheld. 82% of citizens who received legal and human rights education or information reported improvement in protection of their fundamental rights as a result of MCJL’s interventions with support from DGF. Through one-on-one interview, it was established that the lives of beneficiaries have changed (Men’s behaviours have changed towards their spouses and families as a result of MCJL interventions). There is improved concerned about the girl child and child maintenance at family and community level as result of increased marriage registrations. Muslim families increasingly are willing to provide for all their children equitably, unlike before where girls were discouraged from attaining education at higher levels. The treatment of the girl child has greatly changed as a result of continuous sensitisations and legal advice by MCJL lawyers and paralegals because of this positive change,

some family dispute cases were withdrawn from court. MCJL was able to create and strengthen collaboration, linkages, skills and knowledge between the beneficiaries and other Institutions that promote and protect human rights for access to justice by the poor. The project established working relations with district and sub county authorities in the implementation of the planned activities which was evidenced through the vigilant participation in the community outreach programs. This ensured local ownership of the project outcomes even after the completion date.

8.2.2.2 Community leaders like LC, imams, sub-county chiefs were empowered to apply legal and human rights principles while adjudicating cases in their jurisdictions. Building the capacity of existing offices to deliver legal aid has proved to be cost effective, efficient and a sustainable legal aid service delivery model. Islamic leaders have used their training to champion the rights of women and girls; and fight practices, especially under-age marriages. The adjudicators in Informal Muslim courts have proper guidelines on how these courts operate as well as procedures on how other JLOS structures in place can be utilized to access justice. Local community men and women have gained increased understanding of their rights and this has restored their hope, many innocent people are out of prisons after trial due to MCJL's intervention, relationships/friendships have been restored due to the mediation services conducted by MCJL lawyers, clients have been compensated by their oppressors through recovery of debts, property and all these have positively impacted on the MCJL image in the districts of operation.

8.2.3 POSITIVE UNINTENDED OUTCOME

The innovation of the Tidio platform. On Tidio, clients can ask direct questions regarding Legal Aid, partnerships and networking with MCJL. It accommodates inquiries about any article and personnel on the website for clarity on what is not well understood, and basically everything about MCJL. Tidio is a Live Chat platform on the website. This live chat service allows you to communicate with your clients easily. It is designed specifically for the Word Press community. The MCJL website incorporates the Tidio Live Chat feature used on the MCJL website and this helps the visitors access resources easily and faster through a direct message which is sent to the email address for feedback. The messages on Tidio are directly answered by the ICT Officer or the President who have the log-in credentials to access the Tidio plug-in with in the browser.

Public Interest Litigation. MCJL also embarked on representing the Kyambogo Muslim female students whose right to religion was violated. Interviews were conducted and MCJL worked on a petition against infringing on their right to religion and see to it that justice is served. MCJL intervened on the issue of Muslim Female students at Kyambogo University after them being denied veils while at the university. Female students had been unveiled as a pre-condition for sitting examinations. This violated the students' human rights to dignity and a right to religion. MCJL was approached for indulgence and on the 30th of November 2021, MCJL conducted an interview of the affected students. This was followed with a talk show at Salam TV on the 3rd of December 2021, where MCJL President discussed the freedom of religion and belief and its limitations using the Kyambogo incident as a case study. In order to deter any future abuse of Muslim Female student's rights at institutions of higher learning, MCJL received instructions to file a law suit in the High Court where declaratory orders will be sought in order to protect the dignity and religious beliefs of Muslim Female students in all public academic institutions.

8.3 GENDER AND YOUTH MAINSTREAMING

YOUTH MAINSTREAMING: MCJL reached out to the youth through the different programme activities for example awareness sessions, prison outreaches and direct legal aid without discrimination. ICT was integrated in the project to increase reach out to the youth through platforms like elaw, SMS, toll free, Tidio and on social media platforms like Facebook and twitter. There was youth Inclusion through increased participation in the decision making and implementation processes. A Problem Driven Iterative Approach was used and youth led actions were embraced at case intake level for instance the petition case of human rights violation in the case of the Kyambogo university students, who were unveiled in 2021. The case was supported to deter any future abuse of Muslim Female student's rights at institutions of higher learning. MCJL received instructions to file a law suit in the High Court where declaratory orders would be sought to protect the dignity and religious beliefs of Muslim Female students in all public academic institutions.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING: The project team addressed gender as a cross-cutting concern right from strategy and treated it as an integral component in programming. MCJL developed a gender policy that clearly documents their strategy on gender mainstreaming. MCJL also strategically programmed in a way that neutralised gender stereotyping of Muslim women over the years. Amirats (Muslim women leaders) at community mosques were utilised to reach community women through the available and affordable faith spaces especially after Juma prayers at mosque level. Safeguarding of programme participants and self-care were an integral component of programme implementation. Reminder messages and follow-up communications were made to women to ensure timely case conclusion. The gender capacity building sessions were rolled-out for learning and experience sharing. In addition, cross-cutting guidelines on gender analysis, sensitive programming, data collection and reporting were issued for mainstreaming into access to justice programming.

9.0 WHAT WORKED WELL?

Feedback mechanism is one of the good practices that has demonstrated cordial working relationship in a true spirit of partnership. The feedback mechanism between DGF and MCJL provided room for discussion to clarify more on issues that were unclear. MCJL has been given room to express their feelings about the project progress process and also to give their views on the challenges and how best to address them in their opinion. This provided learning, demonstrated partnership and guided the decisions towards a true and fair view without bias in due course of project implementation.

Flexibility through Joint Monitoring visits, the process gave an opportunity to address project challenges and has been undertaken to ensure that new and emerging needs like those brought about during the COVID-19 pandemic were addressed using the available resources. This gives way for project flexibility and helped to address any planning shortfalls by integrating unforeseen concerns and streamlining implementation of new actions basing on prevailing project needs and challenges that are in conformity with the Problem Driven Iterative Approach. A No Cost Extension was requested and granted and this demonstrated flexibility in management of the project.

10.0 WHAT DID NOT WORK WELL?

Failure to access prisons in Eastern Uganda (Bugiri and Mayuge districts) in due course of implementation of the project cycle. The denial of permission to work in prisons without a clear justification hindered the already planned targets and these could not be easily achieved, even with a change in strategy. The intension of supporting criminal justice for cases that largely emerged from the Muslim community was partly affected and this caused fear of intervening in some cases. As mitigation measure, MCJL worked well utilizing the Memorandum of Understanding with Counsel Rwakafuzi of Rwakafuzi and Co. Advocates to handle such cases and in return MCJL facilitated the process. Also, cases have been handled using duty counsel although with the COVID-19 pandemic, it turned into another hindrance to access inmates at court due to restrictions.

The end of project evaluation was not financed which hinders an external opinion for future programming. This would strengthen the capacity of MCJL in terms of planning for increased resource mobilisation. Although this has been addressed by reviewing IIMS periodic reports, Joint Monitoring reports and M&E quarterly reports. In some instances, primary data has been planned to be gathered through online survey, accessible Key informants and small numbers in FGDs.

Restricted community engagements curtail the progress towards the set targets. The project was designed to reach communities and enhance access to Justice among the poor and marginalized, especially in Muslim communities however, due to COVID-19 community outreaches and prison visits fell short of meeting the set targets.

11.0 CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Restricted movements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic affected implementation of activities like community outreaches that were planned to have gatherings. This limited the ability of people to know, demand and report human rights abuses. The online innovations to the challenge are not suitable for the vulnerable persons due to the limited access of gadgets, internet especially for the rural population.

Close of community mosques by the Government in response to prevent the spread of COVID-19. MCJL's paralegal structure is partly designed to work in mosques where clients report cases through Qadhis courts. MCJL also uses the mosque structure to receive feedback about the human rights challenges affecting the Muslim community. The closure of mosques was therefore a big challenge especially for the vulnerable persons who seek justice through these structures.

The shrinking civic space that was evident as a result of suspension of DGF supported public events. Such events cause fear in the civil society world which limits the ability of CSOs to speak against and act against human rights violations.

High transport rates increased the cost per case to logical conclusion. During January to June 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic greatly contributed to an increase in public transport. This not only affects the lawyers but also the beneficiaries. Many clients fail to follow up their cases as a result of the exorbitant transport rates which they cannot afford. This leads to slow conclusion of cases. There are still pending cases that are ongoing in court and ADR which still require time and funds to ensure logical conclusion.

TABLE VI: INDICATING PENDING CASES IN RELATION TO DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM AND COURT REPRESENTATION PER DISTRICT

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION	PENDING COURT CASES	PENDING ADR CASES	TOTAL OF PENDING CASES
BUGIRI	125	10	135
MAYUGE	41	18	59
MPIGI	86	88	174
KAMPALA	140	122	262
GRAND TOTAL	392	238	630

Limited confidentiality during mediation processes. The ADR intervention had limited office space for interaction with clients through mediation.

Limited storage space for clients' files

Staff especially those under the legal department require self-awareness programmes

Exposure to violence and fear has increased trauma staff and there is need for trauma management and self-care trainings.

12.0 CAPACITY BUILDING

Continuous Legal Education (CLE) was integrated as part of the project in the capacity building process for Lawyers. In addition, lawyers were supported with counselling techniques to strengthen their skills while resolving cases through providing professional legal advice with a psych-social support approach.

Skills trainings on legal and human rights knowledge targeted Muslim Adjudicators and Local Council Authorities. The skills aimed at improving their skills on how to handle cases through mediation at Qadhi's courts in community mosques and local council courts.

Police trainings were conducted especially targeting the child and family protection unit. Before these trainings, one-off sensitizations were conducted targeting police officers but it was later established that those trained moved on to operate in other areas at district level.

Trainings were organized and conducted by DGF on gender, youth and HRBA as cross-cutting issues for mandatory mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues at all stages of programme development and implementation. The gender team alongside the youth working group developed cross-cutting guidelines on gender analysis, sensitive programming, data collection and reporting for access to justice. Specifically, on 23rd and 24th July 2019, a learning and experience sharing workshop on gender analysis, sensitive programming, data collection, analysis and reporting was organized and conducted at Golden Tulip Canan in Kampala.

13.0 LEARNING

13.1 LESSONS LEARNT

During the process of project implementation Learning was a strong integral component in the project roll out strategy, although previously it was under planned. The project interventions have contributed towards increased knowledge and skills especially among adjudicators, community men and women in the field of legal and human rights knowledge and skills which promoted demand for quality-of-service delivery by the poor and marginalized beneficiaries.

It was a learning that it is important to collaborate and establish a harmonious working relationship with the district local governments. This promotes linkages with local governments for organized youth groups, enhances legal and human rights information through well mobilised groups for sensitization and trainings especially for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), Women and youth groups. The strategy builds a firm ground for smooth operations and encourages women and youth to participate in leadership and governance processes by elevating their roles through decision making and empowerment such as improving their capacity mobilization for effective social participation.

Project Targets were set without anticipation of a pandemic like COVID-19 and related government restrictions that were put in place to prevent its spread in form of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This affected implementation of activities and the project lifecycle had interferences including requesting for a No Cost Extension. The learning was to emphasize adaptive programming to suit the changing circumstances. This requires routine support from the funder to ensure that the changes are within the programming context and budget.

The cost per case increased on average; cases of ADR increased from UGX 38,571 to UGX 75,000 and court cases increased from UGX 115,705 to UGX 268,517. This was largely attributed to raise in transport means and related changes in operational procedures. The costs need to be integrated in the forthcoming project plan to ensure cost effective implementation.

Research largely informs advocacy actions for policy reforms and practice change. This requires priority in the new project plan to ensure that action research is part of the advocacy actions on a continuous basis. This is the profound basis for legal and policy reform and will go a long way to model what works and what may not feasibly work.

Community structures are a pathway to social change and easily sustain the change within their operating structures. Model social structures like Qadhi courts and Local Councils need continuous support. Although changes may be made by the project design, continuity is important for impact.

Development of a logical resource mobilisation strategy and plan guides the institutional fundraising drive and partnership. This requires support for continuity in development programmes and goes a long way to strengthen collaboration and partnerships for institutional growth, when well developed and implemented.

Monitoring and Evaluation has to be integrated into the institutional capacity building plan to ensure continuous trainings for staff to appreciate M&E concerns and feasible change for next course of action. This will increase participation and promote project planning and management issues among staff and key stakeholders.

MCJL in August 2019 conducted a Capacity Assessment which helped in reflecting on the Institutional capacity of MCJL. A capacity Strengthening plan was drawn that highlighted the institutional gaps and recommendations. The participation of a cross section of staff and the Board worked so well in assessing institutional progress. MCJL has since adopted interventions in implementation of the capacity strengthening plan, though actions that have had a financial implication are still pending.

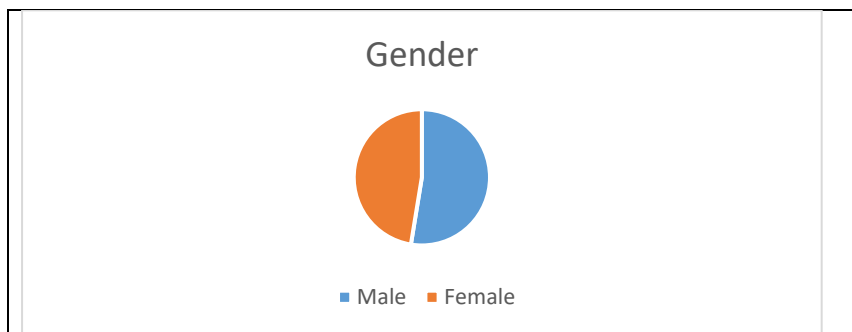
Adaptive programming to suit the COVID-19 period was yet another lesson. MCJL changed the implementation format for activities that required large gatherings. This flexibility in programming was instrumental in attainment of the project. During the reporting period, some staff worked from home due to covid19. This new experience brought about innovations in supervision, measure of outputs among others. A virtual audit was conducted that highlighted recommendations for improvement. It was observed that it is possible to extend services without physical contact. However, for some services especially legal aid, contact with beneficiaries could not be avoided due to the nature of the program.

Retention of staff through project extensions helped to strengthen institutional development actions like rethinking of developing a resource mobilization strategy and plan to guide the institutional fundraising drive and partnership. This required time off the routine work tasks and priority towards strategic thinking for continuity of development programme actions. This also will strengthen collaboration and partnerships for institutional growth, when well developed and implemented.

The Institutional capacity building plan was regularly reflected on to ensure continuous engagement of staff to appreciate a scale down in implementation of legal and human rights actions in response to the target community concerns and more time and effort was allocated to feasible changes at the planning stage for sustainability in the next course of action. This increased participation and promoted the relationship between management, implementing staff and key stakeholders, especially clients. The legal aid services were restricted to already on-going cases with limited acceptance of new and emerging cases.

There was increased use of referral pathways in both the formal and informal justice systems. Depending on the mandate and jurisdiction, partners refer cases where they are best addressed in terms of legal aid service delivery.

Gender has been greatly emphasized in due course of implementation and gender has been one of the deficits, especially within the Muslim community where women and girls were docile and still kept behind the curtain. Among people reached, 47% were female and 53% were male. Research and trainings were carried out in this area by MCJL and the outputs provided value addition to the existing body of knowledge and were further utilized to inform programme development and implementation processes to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations. Below is the diagrammatic gender expression of male and female disparities reached through legal and human rights sensitization at community level.



Project interventions were based on emerging community needs and this guided the implementation which eventually helped to address social legal problems in a timely manner. For example, during the election time in Bugiri district, affected citizens were supported with immediate legal services and most of the issues were resolved early.

Logistical support is key in taming key policy makers who largely influence policy actions and practice change in support for project implementation. Policy Makers in Kampala were not facilitated with transport which retarded their level of participation compared to what was more rewarding in their commitments for action on matters of national importance.

Structural barriers due to under representation in positions of responsibility were hard to counter beyond awareness raising. Although 1/3 of positions at local council 1 were supposed to be occupied by women under the powers of the local council act, it was observed that many LC1s did not fulfil the requirement. To reduce on marginalisation, women were provided for women only spaces to share issues affecting their families; encouraged to participate in leadership and governance processes by elevating their roles through decision making and empowerment such as through community mobilization and social participation to increase their benefits through legal aid at community and individual level.

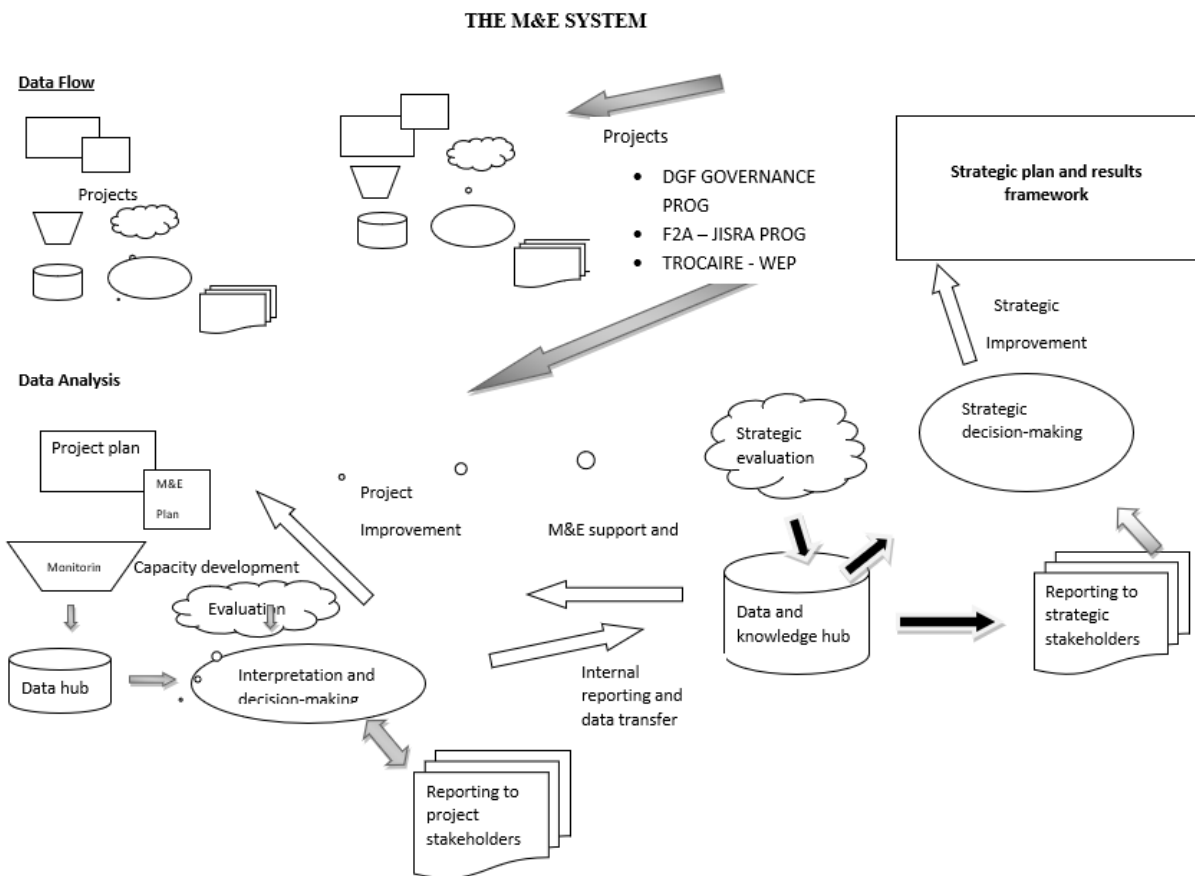
13.2 APPLICATION OF LEARNING

Action Research and planning for new project actions. Previous lessons learned will be integrated in modeling the new project design for continuity and impact of the project on target beneficiaries and areas.

Project data on outputs and outcomes was used to promote capacity building actions through reflection meetings with staff and engagement discussions with external stakeholders.

Performance reviews were conducted based on the available project data and reports prepared for actions including funding, support of new programme actions and redesigning of previous interventions.

The Monitoring and Evaluation took into account checking on previous achievements, tracking best practices and documenting lessons from the stakeholders. This follow-up was on quarterly basis leading to documentation and dissemination of success stories to other stakeholders, which has indicated the impact of the project and easily identifies beneficiaries at district level and needs for future engagements. The project worked through a system to track results and made significant contribution to the organizational decisions based on generated data and networks with other stakeholders as indicated below: -



Review of the monitoring tool for data collection that feeds into periodic reports has been relevantly aligned to the DGF guidelines and partnership agreement but efforts were also made to create an environment for communities to give real time feedback on the services delivered.

13.3 UTILISATION OF M&E RESULTS

MCJL involved the target group through consultative engagements at district level and the stakeholder feedback was used to increase community awareness through community radios at village level. Tidio suffices as a new innovative way of reaching and interacting with beneficiaries after realizing the limitations in the website interactions.

Monitoring visits ensured data quality through verification of physical files in the project locations for quality reporting on the progress of the project outputs and outcomes. Data was collected and entered into the IIMS (Integrated Information Management System) and this led to winning an award by LASPNET.

MCJL received stakeholder feedback from the Uganda law reform commission regarding the status of the Qadhi's Court Bill and this was debated in parliament and its way forward ascertained; also, requests were received from the Magistrate of Iganga, Mayuge and Kisoro to assist indigent clients especially those in the criminal justice pathway at court. This feedback was used as basis for planning and collaboration.

MCJL had a feedback mechanism through using the activity evaluation form, client's satisfaction survey, direct call-in and routine quarterly monitoring visits at district and community level among others. The feedback was compiled and used to inform the project design processes.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING

- Based on the challenges faced in prison, there is need to conduct duty counsel at selected courts.
- Support model mosques and LCCs in conducting mediations and hearings for learning and consolidated impact.
- Train selected model Local council and Qadhis courts adjudicators on the substantive and legal procedures in the trial process. Also Monthly follow up meetings should be conducted based on the agreed action plan with the trained Local council and Qadhis courts adjudicators.
- Develop a simplified guide of laws and procedures (written and audio) for local council and Qadhis court adjudicators. Also translate the developed guide to Luganda and Lusoga
- Support Associations of youth, women and PwDs in formalizing their businesses and setting sustainability funds for their groups' e.g., the legal services fund. Also restructure the way community outreaches are conducted to target associations of youth, women and PWDs
- Conduct radio talk shows to sensitize on registration of Muslim and customary marriages
- Conduct semi-annual dialogues with religious leaders on registration of Muslim marriages and consequently adapt, print and disseminate a marriage register book.
- Conduct a comparative study on how Qadhi's court operate and coexist with common law courts. In addition, conduct one on one lobby meeting with key stakeholders to steer the operationalization of Qadhi's courts. Also conduct quarterly review meetings with the Technical Working Group to steer the operationalization of Qadhi's courts.
- Conduct semi-annual meetings with stake holders in the target district to share action plans, progress and challenges on planned activities within the district.
- Conduct regional phase out meetings for experience sharing with key stakeholders at the end of the Project to ensure proper close-out of project actions with targeted stakeholders.
- There is need to develop a resource mobilization strategy for institutional growth and boost fundraising in terms of strategy but also guide the fundraising drive to strengthen continuity.
- To Improve on visibility, with large font Sign Posts, strategically located and display or provide learning materials. This will help amplify organization image and its impact in access to Justice as an institution.
- Ensure good working condition of equipment like computers used by staff and enhance communication means with beneficiaries through swift platforms like toll free lines for client feedback across all offices.
- Fight corruption tendencies in various offices to boost the morale of clients in legal aid.
- Provide for ample mediation space for legal aid services to accommodate family meetings and maintain operations with limited interference.

14.0 NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

14.1 NON-STATE ACTORS

On the 11th of May MCJL was invited to the DVA 2nd Coalition meeting organized by CEDOVIP where MCJL made a presentation on the Position of MCJL regarding the Succession (Amendment bill) 2018. The view of MCJL was that whereas largely the bill was largely a good law, the continuous and deliberate exclusion of interests of Minority undermines the principle of inclusiveness which is key in democratic governance. MCJL also proposed to coalition members that it was important for coalition Members to pick interest in understanding Muslim Family law for an objective assessment of the values and interests of the Muslim community.

In June, MCJL also wrote and published a statement condemning the approach taken by the security organs of only arresting Muslims whenever a high-profile city murder occurred which in itself deepens Islamophobia. MCJL has argued that the approach of treating murder crimes as ‘terrorist in nature’ has not only affected Muslims who are sometimes subjected to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment in a bid to extort information from them, but denies innocent Ugandans who have died of such murders and their families a right to bring real culprits to justice because of the wrong institutionalized approach and policy by Ugandan security forces and office of Director of Public Prosecution. This can be accessed on <https://bit.ly/3yAYzwV>

MCJL worked in collaboration with The Hague Institute for Innovation of law (HiIL) and participated in collectively interpreting data from research on Justice Needs and satisfaction surveys in Uganda. This was helpful for better understanding of what is going well, and what the current challenges are in finding fair resolutions to the justice needs in Uganda and utilized relevant data while designing of access to justice actions for satisfying local justice needs in a project. MCJL Jointly organized the third Muslim human rights conference in collaboration with HiIL.

MCJL worked in collaboration with Uganda Project Implementation and Management Centre (UPIMAC) to raise the level of civic competence among stakeholders through using IEC materials and its capacity was strengthened with a guiding manual on various modules on civic education. UPIMAC disseminated consolidated civic education modules and made follow-up visits to ensure civic competency in the role out strategy.

14.2 STATE ACTORS

Strengthened relationship with Uganda Registrations Services Bureau (URSB). On the 1st of April 2021, MCJL signed a memorandum of understanding with Uganda Registration services bureau [URSB] on registration of Muslim marriages. The key obligations of the parties under the MOU include Joint sensitization campaigns, sharing of relevant information by each party, strategic meetings with key players among others. MCJL through previous implementation observed that non registration of marriages was a major impediment to realization of property rights of Muslim women at divorce and succession. On the 7th of May 2021, MCJL wrote to the speaker of Parliament of Uganda about the exclusion of Muslim interests in the recently passed Succession [Amendment] Bill 2018. The major concern was that failure to exclude Muslims from operations of certain provisions in the amended bill undermined the constitution which provides for establishment of Kadhis Courts under article 129 (1) (d). MCJL further Engaged Uganda

Muslim Supreme Council on this matter. The Mufti of Uganda raised this concern before the President during the state house dinner with Muslims in the month of Ramadhan. The president's view that it was wrong to merge all people of different religious and cultural background into one law where separation guarantees greater social justice and promised to have this issue addressed.

MCJL also sent congratulatory messages to newly elected members of parliament to soften ground for further collaboration.

14.3 OTHER ACTORS

MCJL entered into a five-year collaboration for implementation of the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action (JISRA) programme which is aimed at promoting freedom of Religion and Belief. MCJL will implement a project with other consortium partners given her experience in implementing human rights interventions in Muslim communities. The project is funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands at a Global Level. MCJL signed a total grant of 250,000 Euros for 5 years stretching from May 2021 to 30th April 2026.

15.0 MOST SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS STORIES

1. SUCCESS STORY FOR MUSISI MPANGA SULAIMAN;

Situation before;

The client came into our offices and his problem was that he had separated with his cohabitee Nantongo Faridah with whom they had five children. During their relationship they had acquired land at Kireka in Kampala district which was in our client's name and part of it had their family home. The client wanted to sell part of it so that he can start a new life since he had no money but Nantongo wouldn't let him access the same.

Intervention by MCJL;

MCJL took on the case and invited Nantongo for mediations to have the matter resolved amicably and indeed she responded positively and an Agreement was entered into when Nantongo was buying our client's share in the said land a sum of Uganda Shillings 30,000,000/= (Uganda Shillings thirty million only) for which she paid Uganda Shillings 15,000,000/= (fifteen million shillings only) cash on the 30/04/2021.

Situation after;

Both parties are happy and we have never received any complaints from the same.

2. CANON GETS HIS KIBANJA AND COMPENSATION

Situation before

Canon Bukenya a resident of Kiriri-Gomba is a 63-year-old man whose case civil suit no. 0034 of 2016 at Mpigi Chief Magistrates Court about trespass to land by a one Ssalongo Sewajja was dismissed due to non-attendance or want of prosecution. Sewajja trespassed on his land and destroyed his banana plantations and other property. He came to MCJL Mpigi field office to seek for our help in obtaining Justice on 15th November 2018.

MCJL's Intervention

Muslim Centre for Justice and Law offered legal representation and applied for re-instatement of the matter Miscellaneous application no. 123 of 2018 which court granted. A court locus visit was conducted and court opened boundaries for the disputed kibanja. The court declared Mr. Bukenya as the owner of the suit kibanja and the Defendant agreed to compensate our client with UGX 1,300,000/=.

Situation after

On 10th January 2019, a consent judgment was entered into between Canon Bukenya (our client) and Salongo Sewajja before His Worship Muyinda Tadeo. Mr. Bukenya also received his compensation of UGX

1,300,000/= from Salongo Sewajja. The land boundaries were opened in the presence of the local council chairman and both parties.

<p>THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA</p> <p>IN THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF MPIGI AT MPIGI</p> <p>CIVIL SUIT NO. 0034 OF 2016</p> <p>CANON BUKENYA=====PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT</p> <p>VERSUS</p> <p>SALONGO SEWAJJA=====DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT</p> <p>CONSENT JUDGEMENT</p> <p>By consent of all parties, it is hereby agreed as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That miscellaneous application number 123/2018 be granted and matter No: 0034/2016 be reinstated.2. That the Kibanja dispute in Mpenja Gomba district between the Plaintiff/Applicant and Defendant/Respondent have been resolved amicably and agreed to settle the same.3. That boundaries have been opened in the presence of the local council chairman I & II Kiriri west, secretary area land committee, and the same have been measured 19ft from UNRA marks to Canon Bukenya's Kibanja, and 35ft from Canon Bukenya to Ronald Ssentale.4. That the portion measured belongs to the Defendant/Respondent Mr. Salongo Sewajja alias Israel Ssewagira.5. That the Respondent Salongo Sewagira compensates the applicant UGX 1,300,000/=(one million three hundred thousand shillings) in costs.6. That the said money shall be paid within three months from signing of the consent.7. That both parties shall withdraw all cases opened up against both at the police and courts of law.8. That with consent, Mr. Sewagira will meet all costs. <p>As dated at Mpigi this 10th day of January of 2018.</p>	<p>WE consent;</p> <p><u>Canon Bukenya</u> <u>Sewagira Sitari</u></p> <p>PLAINTIFF DEFENDANT</p> <p>Judgement is hereby entered and ordered as agreed upon by the parties.</p> <p>Given under my hand and of this Honourable Court this <u>10</u> day of <u>January</u> 2019.</p> <p><u>Muinda Tadeo</u></p> <p>MUINDA TADEO MAGISTRATE GRADE ONE</p> <p>Extracted by: Muslim Centre For Justice & law Mpigi Gomba Road Mukasa David Building 1st Floor P.O BOX 6929 Mpigi.</p>
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3. WIDOW RECOVERS HER SHARE FROM HER LATE HUSBAND'S ESTATE

Lokoda Rose is a widow from Busowa Town Council, Bugiri district. Her husband died 10 years ago leaving her with 5 children, 3 of which were still at school. The husband left another widow who had children who were older than Lokoda's children, one of whom is a former UPDF soldier who had been dismissed from the UPDF for misconduct including but not limited to violence and drug abuse. Lokoda's late husband left a four roomed commercial house in Busowa Town Council from which the family was getting substance. After his death, the commercial house was distributed to the widows each getting 2 rooms. It is from

these rooms that Lokoda was to get rent to pay school fees for her children. However, after the distribution, Lokoda's step son denied them access to the building. He was collecting rent from the tenants who occupy it for up to a period of 10 years. Lokoda was strained as some of her children dropped out of school for failing to raise school fees. They also had no other source of income to fend for the family.

Lokoda had heard about MCJL through a beneficiary who referred her to our offices. MCJL scheduled several mediations which all failed. The Step son aka UPDF soldier refused to hand over the building and he was being supported by clan elders. When the mediation failed, MCJL decided to file a suit against him in Bugiri Grade 1 Magistrates court. After serving him with summons to file a defense he called Lukoda to settle the matter out of court.

Meeting was scheduled and the step son agreed to vacate the premises and agreed never to collect rent from the same. Lukoda was given her share of the building and allowed to collect rent from the same. She is now settled and her children are now at school.

4. DIAHLO DOREEN IS GRANTED CUSTODY

Situation before

Diahlo Doreen came to our offices in Bwaise seeking for custody orders of her a child an infant.

MCJL's intervention

MCJL's advocate took up the case to represent her in seeking for obtaining of custody orders.

Situation after

Custody orders were granted to the client on 27th February 2009 before Her Worship Nnvanungi Sylvia Magistrate grade one and the father was also allowed access to the child. The targeted population did not register any form of minority status and geographical coverage does not host IDP camps.

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
IN THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S COURT OF NABWERU AT NABWERU
IN THE MATTER OF NANFUKA AGNES AGED 8 YEARS
AND

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION FOR CUSTODY ORDER

FAMILY CAUSE NO. 026.....2019

DIAHLO DOREEN BIRUNGI:.....APPLICANT

VERSUS

LUKENGE PAUL:.....RESPONDENT

CUSTODY ORDER

This Application coming up for final disposal on this 27th day of February 2019 before HER
WORSHIP NNVANUNGI SYLVIA MAGISTRATE GRADE ONE in the presence of **NAKALANZ NULU**
Counsel for the Applicant, and in the presence of the Applicant and in the absence of the
Respondent,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that;

4. That Custody is granted to the Applicant
5. That the Respondent shall have access rights.
6. No orders as to the costs.

GIVEN under my hand and Seal of this Honorable Court this 27th day of February 2019

Nst
.....
H/W NNVANUNGI SYLVIA
MAGISTRATE GRADE 1



Chunvina
27th/02/2019



ANNEXTURE I: INTERNAL WORK-PLAN FOR END OF PROJECT EVALUATION

PLANNED ACTIVITY	EXPECTED OUTPUT	SET TIME-LINE	RESPONSIBILITY CENTRE
Develop Terms of Reference	TORs for EoPE	5 th August 2021	MEL MGR- Sulaiman
Develop an Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation Matrix Plan of Action 	10 th August 2021	HRO – Lenah
Setting Up Evaluation Team	Evaluation Team	12 th August 2021	President – Umar
Defining the sample for the Evaluation	Evaluation Sample (Must be Affordable)	14 th August 2021	MEL MGR- Sulaiman
Description of the Methodology for the Evaluation	Methodology (Must be User Friendly)	15 th August 2021	MEL MGR- Sulaiman
Developing survey instruments / Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FGD Guide KII Questionnaire Success Story Tool 	16 th August 2021	HRO – Lenah RAO – Kassim
Review and Approval of Data Tools (For clarity and understanding them)	Final Tools for use as highlighted above	17 th August 2021	HRO – Lenah RAO – Kassim
Administering of Tools in the field data collection process.	Filled Data Tools for feedback	18 th – 23 rd August 2021	LAM - Sumaya LO – Ruth LO – Annet LO – Kristine ICT O – Raymond
Data coding and gathering of primary and compilation of Secondary data for reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coded primary data Compiled Secondary data 	24 th – 28 th August	ICT O – Raymond CRO – Aidah
Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzed data 	29 th – 30 th August	MEL MGR- Sulaiman ICT O – Raymond CRO – Aidah HRO- Lenah
Review of Available Literature and consolidation of findings.	Consolidated draft report	1 st – 4 th September	MEL MGR- Sulaiman

			President – Umar HRO – Lenah
Internal Sharing for feedback & Review	Comments and Value Addition to Report	5 th – 7 th September	MEL MGR- Sulaiman President – Umar HRO – Lenah
Production of final Report	Final EoPE Report with required Annexures	8 th September	MEL MGR- Sulaiman President – Umar
Compilation of End of Project Report (April 2018 – July 2021)	DGF End of Project Report	9 th – 14 th September	MEL MGR- Sulaiman President – Umar
Dissemination of Report(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final EoPE Report with required Annexures End of Project Report 	15 th September	President – Umar ICT O – Raymond RAO
Review and up-dates of cost extension data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October – December 2021 	29 th February 2022	MEL MGR- Sulaiman
Compilation of End of Project Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2018 – March 2022 	20 th March 2022	President – Umar

ANNEXTURE II – THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

