

## UGANET RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

UGANET served persons living with HIV, Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Women and Girls, widows, Prisoners and their children, Persons with disabilities, Palliative care patients, Young people, Sex workers, Drug users, and other marginalized persons

### Achievements per department:

#### 1) ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND FREE LEGAL SERVICES

- UGANET has for the past 20 years championed access to justice for marginalized groups, core to these women and girls, women living with HIV, widows, Women with Disability.
- Legal aid outreaches: UGANET offers free legal aid services to remote communities in six regions across the country through legal an average of 200 legal aid awareness sessions targeting marginalized persons and duty bearers.
- An average of 1500 victims of rights abuses reclaim their rights on an annual basis through free legal aid services by trained UGANET lawyers stationed in different regions.
- Success planning for the elderly; palliative care patients, widows, orphans among others. An average of 1900 people benefit from free success planning/will writing services offered by UGANET across the country.
- Court representation: Amidst the bureaucratic and un staffed judiciary; UGANET continue to help the poor and powerless access justice in courts of law with an average of 250 vulnerable persons benefitting from free court representation services;



while majority of the vulnerable persons are supported through alternative dispute resolutions that are contextually friendly to most of the

marginalized persons –who always have stigma and fear.

- Legal empowerment: Through the paralegals tool kit; different practical courses, legal aid manuals the UGANET legal aid model has uniquely satisfied the needs of the most disadvantaged groups. Under the Palliative care support mechanism: a four point-community –based service model consisting of 1- health worker, 2- social worker, 3- paralegal and 4- the UGANET lawyer continue to yield customized support services for clients that are not only in pain but also entangled in a chain of socio-legal challenges.
- UGANET a strong legal framework that continue to capacity young lawyers especially interns; legal experts interested and with passion in human rights and social justice. An average of 10 lawyers are hosted and mentored across the different regions in Uganda.
- Partnerships: UGANET legal aid model entails a comprehensiveness in packaging for the victims of rights abuses. A referral web is therefore activated periodically –where different services providers and gates keepers of justice are mapped out and engaged to offer different services in their continuum of care and according to the needs of the referred clients. Common areas have been emergency shelter homes; child care centers, specialized hospitals among others.
- Client Toll free communication lines and other new initiatives to accelerate access to justice: UGANET has entered a partnership with one of the low cost telecommunication companies to offer toll free calls-installations in different regions to reduce on time lag and accessibility to

legal protection by the poor of the poor. Discussions with partners are also underway to refurbish an emergency shelter home for victims of violence in danger of death or harm.

## 2) RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY FOR SOCIAL, POLICY AND LEGAL CHANGE

- HIV act 2014 challenge: UGANET is team leader on the HIV Prevention and control Act 2014 coalition that successfully challenged and ensured the removal of 70% of the clauses that fuelled Domestic Violence when the act was still a bill in 2012/2014; and UGANET is still leading 45 national and grass root level women CSOs to challenge the Act in the constitutional court on the remaining few clauses that discriminate and punish women.



- DVA act 2010: UGANET was a key player in the passing of the Domestic Violence Act 2010; which had been contested by Government for a long time. UGANET issued position papers; advocacy briefs and is currently disseminating the act among duty bearers.

- Marriage and Divorce bill (Family relations/Domestic relations bill): UGANET is a member of the Domestic Relations bill coalition that is pressuring Government to enact this bill into law.
- UGANET together with law refugee project and other partners challenged sections of the anti-home sexuality bill which were not in line with constitution of Uganda.



- UAGNET lead the efforts that successfully challenged the degrading and inhuman treatment against one of health workers (Rose Mary Namubiru) who had erroneously pricked a child in one of the clinics in Uganda but was harshly judged, condemned and persecuted by the public and the media due to her HIV status.
- SRHR guide: UGANET jointly with ICWEA and MOH is working on sexual reproductive health rights guidelines in the context of women living with HIV and in line with the Patients charter.
- Research for Social accountability: UGANET spearheaded the process of developing the Gender and HIV score card, an accountability framework

that ensures that all relevant Government ministries deliver on their gender mandates and ensure accelerated action to deal with gender equality.

- UGANET spearheaded and documented the social accountability accomplishments that empowered and improved access to HIV and AIDS services in 25 districts.
- Strategic lobbying and networking with parliamentarians, policy makers; development partners and the UN Family. UGANET has a solid experience in engaging strategic actors and will continue to replicate this expertise for meaningful social justice in Uganda.
- Legal advocacy and strategic litigation has been and will continue to be a core business of UGANET in the promotion and protection of rights – especially for the vulnerable persons.

### 3) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ EMPOWERMENT:

- Community studies: Understanding community norms to address social justice focusing on social justice especially for Health, HIV and Gender has been prioritized. This is done through the analysis and response to community social and structural barriers, to open gates for access to justice by the most vulnerable and voiceless.
- Community led social change: Community mobilization and engagement helps to map out community own resource persons and other opportunities that are exploited and capacitated with knowledge; skills; positive attitudes to take charge of their own development. Community members are empowered to identify, challenge and report rights abuses to the relevant duty bearers in a timely manner.



- An average of 1200 GBV survivors supported annually: UGANET has been implementing the SASA model that has saved thousands of GBV survivors initially through 60 trained community activities who later coached over 300 households as Stop GBV agents. SASA is a creative methodology where transformation of behavior and attitude happen for consistent exposure to messages, dialogue that challenge abuse and excessive use of power. It addresses the mind, attitude, deep seated customs and beliefs; and overtime causes change in outlook and actions.
- Community level mediations: Over 1000 victims of rights abuses have reclaimed their rights through 100 empowered community paralegals who arbitrate through mediations and support community justice structures (clan leaders, religious leaders, LCs) in human rights based

approaches.



- Hundreds of widows regain their succession and property rights. Through partnership with UN women, UNDP among others; a total of 50 eminent women also known as watchdogs have been empowered to sensitize; track and challenge women property rights abuses.



- MARPs networking to fix gaps: Communities of prisoners, sex workers, PLHIV, widows, PWDs, Orphans, palliative care patients, victims of drug abuse and other marginalized persons have been linked to appropriate services and empowered to demand for their rights with in the law.







