



Foundation for Human Rights Initiative [FHRI]

Celebrating 25 years of human rights activism in 2016



WHO ARE WE?

The FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI) is an independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and not-for-profit human rights organisation. Established in 1991, FHRI is legally registered as a non-governmental organization under the Non-Governmental Organizations Registration (Amendment) Act 2006 (now repealed). It is duly incorporated under the Companies Act, Cap.110 as a body corporate and incorporated under the Trustees Incorporation Act, Cap.165, Laws of Uganda. The organization seeks to enhance the knowledge, respect and observance of human rights and promotes exchange of information and best practices through training, education, research, legislative advocacy and strategic partnerships in Uganda. FHRI has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, is a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and is affiliated to the International Federation of Human Rights Defenders, (FIDH).

FHRI has effectively executed six strategic plans since its inception in 1991. Each of these programs is based on research, monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, human rights education, legislative advocacy and legal aid service delivery. FHRI has been at the forefront of the human rights movement in Uganda in the past 24 years through the publication of action oriented research reports, capacity building programs, treaty reporting to regional and UN treaty bodies, campaigns against torture, the death penalty and impunity, electoral reform, law reform, public interest litigation and provision of legal aid services to the rural and urban poor particularly women and children in hard to reach areas. In addition, FHRI has facilitated the formation of community based human rights groups, sponsored radio and TV talk shows and human rights centred music, dance and drama and established a Human Rights and Democracy Resource Centre to support program implementation.

In 2015, FHRI marked four years in the implementation of its 7th Strategic Plan (2012-2016) titled, 'Bridging Rights and Values: Strengthening the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda (2012-2016)'. This five year program which complements the previous 6th Strategic Plan, seeks to address the democracy and the human rights deficit in Uganda at the policy, legislative and practice levels. The program links human rights and civic values and prioritizes the use of ICTs in human rights advocacy. Uniquely, the program also establishes and spearheads a collaborative framework between civil society and the private sector in order to maximize growth. It has three broad focus themes: social accountability, equality and, democratic governance. Gender, child rights, HIV/AIDS, the elderly, PWDs and minority rights are cross cutting issues in research, legal assistance, policy and legislative review.

FHRI is proud to be associated with a number of implementing partners including: Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Parliament of Uganda, Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC), the Justice Law and Order Secretariat (JLOS), the Judicial Studies Institute (JSI), the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP), Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Electoral Commission, National Association of Women Judges in Uganda (NAWJU), Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP), Children Justice Initiative (CJI), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), Coalition Against Torture (CAT), Africa Centre for Treatment of Torture Victims, (ACTV), Wells of Hope, Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity (UCLF), Kabugo & Co. Advocates, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, NGO Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network Project (EHAHRDP), the Death Penalty Project LTD, FIDH, OMCT, Penal Reform International (PRI), World Movement for Democracy (WMD), Freedom House, World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ – Kenya), International Centre for Not for Profit Law (ICNPL), the East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSOF), Women Leadership Development (WLEDE), the Simmons College School of Social Work (USA), the University of Wyoming (USA), Drake University (USA), Integrity Action (UK), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), Children Education Society (CHESO) and The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) both in Tanzania.

FHRI also supports and works with various community based human rights groups such as: Universal Human Rights Defenders and Activists (UHRDA) in Lugazi, Sese Human Rights and Economic Promoters (SHREP), Hope After and During Incarceration (MAC) in Entebbe, Voices of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Masaka district, Support the Elderly Persons in Uganda in Masaka district, Human Rights Activists and Monitors (HURAMO) in Amuru district, Community Rural Empowerment and Support Organisation in Gulu district, Koboko Civil Society Network, Soroti Development Association and NGO Network (SODANNI), Kamuli

District NGO Network (KANENGO), Tororo Civil Society Development Association, National Human Rights Association of Uganda (NHRA) in Tororo, Rwenzori Peace Bridge for Reconciliation (RPBR) in Kasese district, Masindi District NGO Forum, Kalangala Human Rights Defenders, Kalungu Paralegal Association, Human Rights Defenders Masaka, Kumi Human Rights Initiative (KHRI), Pastoral Women Alliance to Break Cultural Chains (PWABCC) in Kiboga district and Action for Human Rights and Civic Awareness (AHURICA) in Kayunga district. Other groups are Human Rights Target (HRT) in Luwero district, Youth Revival Association (YRA) in Kampala, Lira Women's Peace Initiative (LIVEPI) and Tweweyo drama group in Luwero district.

FHRI also collaborates with a number of civil society organisations including: Human Rights Network (HURINET), Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations in Uganda (DENIVA), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (NCHRDs), Citizens Election Watch-IT (CEWIT), Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) at the School of Law, Makerere University, Network of Public Interest Litigators (NETPLI), Platform for Labour Action (PLA), Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), Uganda Journalists Human Rights Network (UJHRN), Uganda Parliamentary Press Association (UPPA), Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIEPC), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), FIDA-Uganda, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum in Kampala (HRAPP), National Coalition Against the Death Penalty in Uganda, East African Coalition Against the Death penalty, Refugee Law Project (RLP), Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), the Strengthening Access to Justice – Uganda Chapter (SAJEA), Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU), the Citizens Election Observers' Network-Uganda (CEON-U), and the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU).

Within the framework of the Civil Society-Private-Public Sector Forum (CS-P-PSF), FHRI collaborates with a number of private and public sector institutions including: the National Planning Authority (NPA), National Social Security Fund (NSSF), World Bank, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), Crown Beverages Ltd, United Bank for Africa (UBA), Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE), Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA), Uganda Small Scale Industries (USSIA) and Uganda Insurers' Association (UIA).

The University Human Rights Network which was initiated by FHRI in 2006 now has a total of 39 human rights associations including: Busoga University, Ndejje University, International University of East Africa, Livingstone International University, Uganda Martyrs University -Nkozi, Makerere University Business School, Kampala International University (Kansanga), Bugema University (Luwero), Nkumba University, Kyambogo University, Uganda Christian University (Mukono), Gulu University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, the Islamic University in Uganda (Kabojja), Cavendish University, Mutesa I Royal University, Bugema University (Mbale), Mountains of the Moon University (Fort Portal), Islamic University IUIU (Mbale), Uganda Pentecostal University (Fort Portal), St. Lawrence University, Kumi University, Busitema University, Uganda Martyrs University (Mbale), Uganda Christian University (Arua), Kabale University, Kuluva School of Nursing (Arua), Tertiary Institutions Students' Association (LASA-Joint), Kampala University (Ggaba), National Technical College Unyama (Gulu), Bishop Stuart University (Mbarara), Mbale School of Clinical Officers, Nyondo Primary Teachers Training College Tororo, Core Primary Teachers' Training College (Bushenyi), Uganda College of Commerce (Tororo), Kampala University (Jinja), Kampala International University (Bushenyi), National Technical College – Elgon and, National Technical College – Bushenyi.

The print and electronic media are key partners. These include: CBS FM, Super FM, Radio One, Radio Simba, KFM, Vision Voice, Sanyu FM, Prime Radio, Capital FM, Radio Sapientia, Voice of Teso, Dembe FM, Top Radio, Power FM, Joy FM, Radio West, Radio Buddu, Radio Equator, Kiboga Radio, Kalangala Community Radio, Voice of Africa, BBC, UBC, WBS, NBS, Urban TV, Top TV, Record TV, Aljazeera, Radio Docketella, Turkish News, SBC, Radio France and Deutsche Welle among others.

Newspapers that have supported the campaign include: The New Vision, Daily Monitor, The Weekly Observer, Bukedde, The East African, Reuters, The Independent Magazine, Red Pepper, among others.

FHRI receives financial support for its programs from foundations, individuals and donor agencies that have interest in the promotion and protection of human rights.

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The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) is grateful to the following organisations that have supported the implementation of our 7th Strategic Plan (2012-2016) in 2015.

- British High Commission/UK Foreign and Common Wealth Office (FCO)
- Citizens Elections Watch with Information Technology (CEW-IT)
- Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)
- Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- European Union (EU)
- Freedom House under the USAID Rights and Rule of Law Program (RRL)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Penal Reform International (PRI)
- USAID – Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity and Peace (SAFE)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)

Busitema University Main Campus, in Tororo district is acknowledged in a special way for hosting the 8th Annual Inter-University Human Rights Competition held from 6th – 7th March 2015.

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FHRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Rev. Dr. John
Kateeba Tumwine**

Dear friends,

On behalf of the FHRI Board of Directors, Trustees, members, friends, staff, partners and the communities with whom we serve, I have the pleasure to present to you this 2015 Annual Report of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI). We thank God for bringing us this far.

2015 was a significant year for FHRI. Being a pre-election year, the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) spearheaded by FHRI made momentous interventions in the campaign for electoral democracy. The 'Votability' and 'Topowa' multi-media campaigns became household names during the year. The drives leveraged from both conventional and non-conventional low cost messaging media to mobilize the electorate to participate in the electoral process, attracting unprecedented public support. Similarly, the launch of the Citizens Election Observer Network- Uganda (CEON-U), coupled with various components of FHRI's human rights advocacy programs registered tremendous achievements as expounded in this report.

This Annual Report is published at a time when FHRI will be celebrating 25 silver years of human rights work in Uganda and beyond. Reflecting back, FHRI was born in 1991 against the backdrop of a turbulent political and human rights wave in the 1970s and 1980s. Since its birth, the organisation has consistently defended civil liberties while promoting the rule of law and good governance. Research, civic education, legislative advocacy and legal aid have remained at the core of this agenda.

As we celebrate the two and half decades of triumph and challenges, we are certainly convinced that the bold step the founders took to establish this organisation was opportune. As we brace our selves for the future, the words of Robert Kennedy still inspire this calling:

"Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, these ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

We have not walked this journey alone. The backing from our Trustees, Working Group, members, friends, government, civil society (in Uganda and abroad), implementing partners, community based partners and development partners in 2015, makes them part of FHRI's achievements.

On 7th May 2015, FHRI was honored with yet another Award in recognition of its struggles for human rights. The European Union Human Rights Defenders Award, 2015 was awarded to the Executive Director, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, H.E Alain Hanseen, the Belgium Ambassador to Uganda presided over the award ceremony on the same day. FHRI is grateful to the EU for sharing this recognition.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board of Directors and members, I salute our Executive Director, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana and his team for upholding the original vision, mission and core-values of FHRI. In a special way, we salute our Patron, Prof. Dr. Hon. Justice George Kanyeihamba, for keeping the candle burning and standing true to the cause.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY
'Together We Can Make A Difference'

Rev. Dr. John Kateeba Tumwine
Chairperson, FHRI Board of Directors



A cross-section of FHRl members keenly following the Audit report 2014 presented at the 9th Annual General Assembly held on 22nd August 2015 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.

FHRI PATRON AND
OUT GOING BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2012-2015)



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Rev Dr John
Kateeba Tumwine
Chairperson



Her Worship Justine
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Dr. Livingstone
Sewanyana
Ex-Official

OUR MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015



**Dr. Livingstone
Sewanyana**

Save for the preoccupation with the roadmap to the 2016 general elections, poverty, unemployment, restrictive civic space and a despondent population continued to characterize Uganda's social, political and economic terrain in 2015. The poverty quandary took center stage in virtually all political campaigns and citizen led manifestos. Singled out by citizens in all regions of the country as a major issue impeding their progress, voters were determined to elect candidates who will tackle poverty more decisively. As was the case in the previous year, much more remained to be done to address the liberty trade-off, the disparity between the rich and the poor, and the backlash occasioned by dwindling returns on investment for a private-sector- led economy.

Despite existing challenges, 2015 was a year of remarkable achievements for FHRI. Through its interventions, FHRI made substantial contribution to various efforts that sought to strike down barriers that undermine individual growth and potential, effective access to justice, and wider political participation.

Human rights research and advocacy remained the core of FHRI's program. During the year, FHRI released a ground breaking report on human rights and poverty on 2nd December 2015 at Hotel Africana, Kampala. The report, which was launched by the EU Ambassador to Uganda, H.E Kristian Schmidt, sought to inform public debate and policy dialogue on human rights, poverty, its root causes and the effectiveness of government poverty eradication initiatives, the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADs) program and the youth livelihood programs.

Through a well calculated victim-centered media campaign, the launch enlisted the participation of policy makers such as the National Planning Authority, the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) institutions including the Uganda Prisons Service, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Law Reform Commission and the Directorate of Public Prosecution, development partners, academia, human rights defenders and the media. At the lower level, the poverty debate was extended to 36 districts through simultaneous radio talk shows on 4 radio stations across the country with an estimate listenership of 100,000 people. The radios were Mega FM, Gulu (North), Eastern Gate FM, Bugiri (East), Radio West, Mbarara (West) and Buddu FM, Masaka (South/Central). The immediate feedback obtained after the release of the report indicates an appreciation of the findings by stakeholders and the general public in all four regions.

Promoting a regulatory framework that upholds rights and responsibilities formed a significant part of our human rights advocacy efforts in 2015. During the year, FHRI campaigned successfully for the enactment of a more human rights compliant

NGO law. The organization scored extraordinary results from working with other civil society organizations and academia in advocating for human rights friendly provisions in the Non-Governmental Organizations Bill, 2015. These included the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, Human Rights and Peace Center, Human Rights Centre, Kituo Cha Katiba, Uganda Law Society and Human Rights Awareness and Promotional Forum.

Of the 44 proposals mooted in the joint memorandum submitted by FHRI on the *NGO bill, (2015)*, 21 proposals were adopted by the Defence and Internal Affairs Committee of Parliament and incorporated in the final Act passed in November 2015 thus making the law considerably more human rights compliant. Key amendments were the inclusion of CSO representatives on the NGO Board; stricter grounds for refusal or revocation of NGO operating permits; removal of the Resident and Deputy Resident District Commissioners as Chair of the district and sub-county NGO Monitoring Committees; inclusive of an independent and impartial appeals mechanism; and removal of the requirement of existing NGOs to re-register. Beyond the Ugandan parliament, the memorandum was also presented before the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the East African Legislative Assembly, the European Union Human Rights Working Group and the Community of Democracies.

During the year, the right to life campaign notwithstanding divergences in public opinion, gained momentum. Our efforts to enforce the Suzan Kigula Supreme Court ruling were boosted when government issued the certificate of financial implications paving the way for the tabling of the private member's bill titled '*The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2013*'. The bill was tabled in Parliament on 11th November 2015. Public hearings have been held and a report of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee is underway. The bill seeks to repeal the mandatory death penalty provisions, and reduce the number of offences that attract the death penalty. The judiciary has also begun rolling out the Sentencing Guidelines in capital offences that would enhance fair trial in criminal proceedings and limit the use of the death sentence.

In an effort to expand space, and deepen citizen voices in the 2016 elections, The Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy (CCEDU) launched the '*Votability*' and '*Topowa*' campaigns in 2015. Utilising multi-media and boda boda riders, significant response was registered as more and more people turned up to check their names on the National Voters' Register. It is not in dispute that the Electoral Commission had to extend the deadline to accommodate this renewed interest.

Similarly, the Topowa campaign received unprecedented public support. Social media was awash with the campaign, attracting over 20,500 likes on CCEDU's Facebook page. The page was ranked Number 2, among the fastest growing NGO Facebook pages in Uganda. The public pushback when the Electoral Commission threatened to ban the '*Topowa*' campaign speaks volumes of its impact.

In 2015, FHRI was host to a unified, inclusive and comprehensive domestic electoral observation network – the Citizens Election Observers Network – Uganda (CEON-U). CEON-U is a consortium of 18 civil society organizations that observed the 2016 general elections. Under this framework, 200 long- term and 700 short- term observers were recruited and deployed. 2 pre-election observation reports were released by CEON-U and widely disseminated in 2015.

After a protracted campaign for electoral reforms by CCEDU and political activists, the move by government to table *The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2015* in Parliament on 30th April 2015 was an important milestone. The preceding strategic and methodological advocacy for electoral reforms in effect pushed government to table the proposed reforms. The availability of the model bills formulated by CCEDU impacted on the quality of the public debate – with stakeholders utilizing the proposals therein to assess the suitability of the proposed reforms by government.

By the end of 2015, FHRI had built a students' human rights network that boasts of 39 human rights associations, spread out in all major universities and tertiary institutions in Uganda. Between 6th-7th March, 2015, FHRI in partnership with Busitema University in Tororo district, hosted the 8th Inter-University Human Rights competition at the Busitema University campus under the theme, '*Deepening Socio-Political Transformation in Uganda: The Road Ahead.*' Over 600 students drawn from 30 institutions of higher learning discussed a range of topics touching on democracy, human rights, and access to justice. The debate was televised on National Broadcasting Service (NBS) for a period of one month thereafter. More internal student debates were conducted at various universities during the year. Suffice to note that the human rights clubs are being recognized by the students guilds at many of these active Universities.

Instituted way back in 1994, the FHRI Legal Aid Unit assisted a total of 1,047 clients (543 male and 504 female), reporting a 71% increase in the number of indigent assisted in 2015. In the same year, FHRI successfully obtained compensation amounting to UGX 48,060,698 for indigent workers, single mothers and orphans.

Beyond legal representation, the Unit engaged in outreach activities such as legal aid camps, rights awareness training and administrative assistance to deserving cases. Operating in 6 districts in Uganda (Kampala, Masaka, Jinja, Wakiso, Kalangala and Kiboga), the Unit further trained 196 local leaders (135 male and 61 female) on land matters in Masaka and Jinja districts, sensitized 4,217 community members, (2,590 male and 1,627 female), assisted 2,906 clients (1,869 male and 1,037 female) through the toll free facility and supported 10 radio talk-shows in the focus areas.

Through the National Paralegal Advisory Service (PAS) hosted by FHRI, suspects both in police custody and prisons can access paralegals (52) or social workers (57) who make access to justice a reality. Presently, PAS covers 61% of the prison population in 58 districts of Uganda. In 2015, PAS secured the release of 40,544 suspects (32,796 male and 7,748 female). 46% were released on police bond and 13% on court bail. The PAS Busia Community Legal Volunteers Program was also launched during the year, bringing the total number of districts to 58.

The strategic litigation component of FHRI's work was bolstered by a new grant from USAID in 2014 under the Rights Rule of Law program. In 2015, FHRI extended support to 3 Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases. The cases seek court interpretation on a range of human rights issues including bail, the constitutionality of excessive prison sentences and the legality of changing demonstrators with treason. However, the cases had not been heard by year's end due to frequent court adjournments. If successfully heard in the Supreme Court, the cases will widen the enjoyment of the right to bail, freedom of expression, association and assembly and the right to a fair hearing. Additionally, under the capacity building component of this program, a human rights training workshop was conducted jointly with the National Association of Women Judges in Uganda (NAWJU) for women judges from 1st-2nd October 2015 at Imperial Royale hotel.

Through the Alternatives project, FHRI has contributed to creating awareness of the UN Bangkok Rules on the treatment of female offenders, both at the regional and international levels. For instance, in 2015, the findings of the report on *'Children of imprisoned parents'* published under this initiative was the subject of a stakeholder roundtable on the UN Rules on 9th July 2015 at Hotel Africana, Kampala and at the Addis Ababa Conference of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child held on 21st November 2015. Well received by JLOS, the report will support policy and practice advocacy for reforms within the sector.

The Transitional Justice campaign was boosted by a new partnership with the Danish Refugee Council in 2015. The initiative on land rights in Amuru district sought to promote land rights of former Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through policy advocacy in Lamogi and Pabbo sub-counties. At the peak of land disputes in the district, FHRI's preliminary interventions have brought to the fore the plight of former/returning IDPs particularly women and children.

At the institutional level, FHRI was subject to a Joint Annual Review (JAR) of the current Strategic Plan, *"Bridging Rights and Values: Strengthening the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda (2012-2016)"*. The purpose of the exercise was to assess progress towards the objectives of the program in 2015. The exercise was conducted by Pro- Initiatives Agency, an independent firm. A final report is in the offing. Relatedly, during the year FHRI implemented its Institutional Strengthening Plan (ISP). Cognizant of the findings from the DGF/FHRI led Mid Term Review exercise conducted in 2014, FHRI conducted learning and knowledge sharing sessions on human rights advocacy on 28th September 2015 and an introductory knowledge building session on Monitoring and Evaluation on 18th December 2015.

2015 ushered in FHRI's 9th Board of Directors who were elected for a three-year term during the 9th General Assembly held on 22nd August 2015 at the Human Rights House. 653 members (384 male and 269 female) of FHRI attended this meeting. Little could have been achieved without the able leadership and sound guidance of the out going Board of Directors serving from 2012 – 2015. Their tenure witnessed tremendous growth in the organization, both qualitatively and quantitatively. To expand the office space, a modern Annex has been built, thanks to their foresight and support.

FHRI would never have recorded these achievements in 2015 without the support and involvement of our Patron, Trustees, Working Group, Board of Directors, membership, staff, development partners, peers and allies. Without your financial and technical support, words would not turn into concrete actions.

The success notwithstanding, challenges still exist. The search for social justice and responsive governance necessitates a collective effort. The bar needs to be raised. Those who govern must uphold their obligations. Those who are governed, do not only enjoy rights, but have corresponding duties. Human rights defenders must hold the torch high. Barriers must be removed. Innovative measures have to be devised to produce new solutions to age-old problems.

'Together We Can Make A Difference'

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana

Executive Director and EU Human Rights Defenders Award Winner, 2015

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The political events that transpired in 2015 were defining features of the 2016 general elections. Government finally tabled the long awaited *Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2015* on 30th April 2015, which sought to amend election related laws. The bill was passed into law on 11th August 2015. Although this was an attempt by government to reform electoral laws, with no substantive reforms on the law establishing the Electoral Commission, the reforms were merely perceived as cosmetic, casting doubt on the credibility of the elections. Government came under intense scrutiny from political activists and civil society groups working in the area of democracy who questioned its willingness to effect genuine reforms.

As is often the case in Africa, elections are frequently a bellwether for insecurity and human rights abuses.

During the year, freedom of expression, association and assembly were under serious threat. According to the 2015 Human Rights Watch report on freedom of expression and association in Uganda, due to increasing public discontent on a range of issues such as poor health and education services, corruption, widespread unemployment and the rising cost of living, the government became irrationally sensitive to any critical voice attempting to portray the government in bad light. Through the use of repressive provisions of laws such as the *Public Order Management Act (2013)*, police used excessive force against the opposition and journalists and openly threatened and intimidated critical journalists and civil society activists. As a result, some dissenting voices were shaken, leading to a state of self-censorship.

The revelations of the October 2015 '*Funguwa Macho*' report which detailed government's grand ambitions of secret state surveillance further legitimised claims of a systematic scheme by government to close down space for critical reporting and debate on issues of public interest. On 8th July, the Uganda Communications Commission issued a document to all broadcasters, cautioning against "negative and unprofessional trends such as lack of balance, sensationalism, incitement, abusive language and relying on unauthorized and unreliable sources of information". Many media observers saw this directive as an attack on freedom of expression in the run-up to the 2016 elections.

Election violence threatened to undermine the legitimacy, integrity and credibility of the 2016 elections. The November 2015 report authored by CEON-U reported wide scale violence and intimidation in 186 polling stations across 89 constituencies during the NRM primaries. A push factor of the violence was the participation of some public officials in partisan politics with reports citing police officers. By the close of the year, the media and public discourse was awash with reports of violence and counter accusations from various political camps. The recruitment and use of crime preventers did not auger well with the public who accused them of extortion, intimidation and physical attacks of political opponents and journalists.

High level splits within the ruling National Resistance Movement resulted in former Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi announcing his independent candidacy for president. As such, throughout the year, numerous public assemblies organized by opposition political parties were disrupted or prevented from taking place by the Uganda Police Force with organizers often being placed under "preventive arrest". Amama Mbabazi and presidential aspirant of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) Kizza Besigye were separately arrested and prevented from participating in planned political events. Both were placed under

“preventive arrest’ during the year.

Joining these series of events, the fears and apprehension within the NGO sector regarding a new stringent law came to pass during the year. As predicted, the NGO bill was gazetted on 10th April 2015 and contained a number of contentious clauses which threatened the independence of the sector, and had potential of narrowing the civic space particularly for those NGOs engaged in democracy and rights monitoring and advocacy.

In response, NGOs made frantic efforts to adopt a common position, push-back some of the provisions and persuade policy makers to review the sticking clauses. On 27th November 2015, Parliament passed the *Non-Governmental Organizations Act 2015*. The new law, which was not yet assented to by President Museveni by year’s end, imposes criminal and civil penalties on organizations for engaging in activities that are “prejudicial to the interests of Uganda or the dignity of the people of Uganda”. Despite significant improvements to the original bill, the Act as passed creates criminal penalties, including up to three years in jail, for any member of a NGO who engages “in any act, which is prejudicial to the interests of Uganda and the dignity of the people of Uganda.” What conduct constitutes the “interests” or the “dignity” of Ugandans is not defined.

In a similar threat, throughout the year, the offices of several human rights NGOs were broken into or otherwise targeted. On 30th June 2015, the offices of Human Rights Network for Journalists-Uganda were broken into. The organization lost several computers, laptops and documents. On 17th July 2015, the offices of Uganda Land Alliance were broken into, on the outskirts of Kampala. A security guard was killed in the course of the attack.

The case-backlog challenge persisted in 2015. With only 0.6% allocation of the National budget (2015/2016) to the judiciary, the institution grappled with the problem due to funding shortfalls. This gap had a negative ripple effect within the JLOS – affecting the success of access to justice campaigns. Out of the 11 Justices that must constitute the Court, there were only 4 full time judges and 4 in acting capacity thus creating a gap of 7. Litigants suffered major set backs unsure when their cases will be heard.

The *Anti-Terrorism Amendment Act, 2015* was passed during the year. The introduction of 15 new capital offences was a backlash on the campaign against the death penalty. Similarly, the increase in crime, terror threats, rampant killings of Muslim clerics and the pronouncement by the President on his intention to retain the death sentence, undermined the campaign.

At the international front, Dominic Ongwen, a senior commander in the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) was taken into custody by US forces in the Central African Republic, and subsequently transferred to the International Criminal Court in the Hague. He faces three counts of crimes against humanity and four counts of war crimes. Ironically, international criminal justice experts criticized Uganda’s lack of commitment to the process of national reconciliation and accountability for atrocities suffered by the people in Northern Uganda.

Given the above challenges, FHRI continued with its advocacy for democratic reforms in 2015.

KEY

- Research, Advocacy and Lobbying
- Legal Services
- The Paralegal Advisory Services Program (PAS)
- External Services
- Civic Education

I. PROGRAM ACTIONS

2015 marked the fourth year in the implementation of FHRI's 7th Strategic Plan titled: '*Bridging Rights and Values: Strengthening the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda (2012-2016)*.' The program has 7 strategic objectives:

1. To monitor and document human rights practices in order to promote dialogue and respect for human rights and democratic development in Uganda.
2. To promote sustainable access to justice for the poor and vulnerable groups in Uganda.
3. To promote the sharing of best practices in the administration of justice in the Great Lakes region.
4. To enhance the capacity of democratic structures with knowledge on legal rights, procedures, remedies and civic obligations.
5. To promote electoral democracy in the run up to the 2016 general elections.
6. To promote leadership development among human rights defenders in the Great Lakes region.
7. To strengthen the institutional capacity and sustainability of FHRI.

This program has three broad focus themes: social accountability, equality and democratic governance. These themes are executed under 7 Actions:

Action 1: Research, Advocacy and Lobbying

Action 2: Legal Services

Action 3: Civic Education

Action 4: External Services

Action 5: Special Projects

- i. The Paralegal Advisory Services Program (PAS)
- ii. Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)
- iii. Citizens Election Observers Network, Uganda (CEON-U)

Action 6: Partnerships/Networking

Action 7: Organisational Development

The 2015 Annual Report highlights each of these Actions, the activities carried out there-under and the progress towards achieving the anticipated results. The report also highlights the corresponding challenges.

RESEARCH, ADVOCACY
AND LOBBYING



Human rights documentation



Transitional Justice



Advocacy for
democratic reform



Barazas



Routine monitoring



Policy and law reform



Performance audit



Opinion poll survey



Treaty reporting

ACTION 1: RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

For civil society to effectively claim rights and demand for accountability, it is imperative to build an information system that effectively generates data, in order to facilitate external review and engagement with state institutions on human rights practices.

FHRI has a 24 year track record of human rights monitoring, reporting and documentation. Thematic and issue based reports are published periodically and contribute to policy formulation and democratization debates in Uganda and the global stage. The Action also includes routine monitoring of detention centers, policy and law reform, and a campaign on victim centered transitional justice policies.

Objective

The Action seeks to influence policy and practice change through human rights research, advocacy and lobbying.

The Action has five components:

1. Thematic and issue based human rights reports
2. Treaty reporting
3. Advocacy and lobbying
4. Routine monitoring
5. Policy and law reform
6. Transitional justice

Implementation

The focus themes of the Action include: the functioning of multi-party democracy in Uganda; the right to a fair hearing; natural resource management; exercise of legislative powers; decentralised governance; eradication of extreme poverty; and electoral democracy. The research division periodically publishes and disseminates thematic and issue based human rights reports at the national and district level through Lower Level Platforms (LLPs) and Barazas.

Treaty reporting promotes dialogue on government compliance with international commitments. This function includes participation in regular sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Union, the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights, the East African Community and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region framework.

Advocacy and lobbying is an integral part of the Action. Follow up actions are implemented under this sub-component. On the other hand, policy and law reform analyses compliance of laws, policies and bills with international human rights standards.

Lastly, the transitional justice campaign promotes awareness of international criminal justice mechanisms and a victim centered transitional justice policy framework.

Planned activities

The following activities were planned in 2015: publication of one thematic human rights report on 'Eradication of extreme poverty in Uganda'; publication of two issue-based reports on *Extra-judicial killings* and *Election-related violence*; routine monitoring visits to detention facilities; an opinion poll survey to gauge human rights perceptions amongst

the public; a performance audit on the level of implementation of recommendations made by FHRI since 2007; publication of a Human Rights Reform Agenda; two grass-root level barazas to disseminate the Human Rights Reform Agenda; participation in the 56th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul; participation in the 55th Session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and submission of a memoranda to select parliamentary committees in light of proposed bills.

The activities planned under the transitional justice campaign in 2015 were: a situation analysis on land rights of former Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Lamogi and Pabbo Sub-counties in Amuru district and 2 stakeholders' validation meetings in the focus areas.

Output

1. Thematic and issue based human rights reports

Thematic human rights report on *Eradication of Extreme Poverty in Uganda*

- The Report titled: Human Rights and Poverty: Eradication of Extreme Poverty in Uganda was published and launched on 2nd December 2015 at Hotel Africana, Kampala by H.E Kristian Schmidt, the EU Ambassador to Uganda.
- The report examines poverty in Uganda while taking into account socio-cultural, economic and political factors. It also advocates for a human rights-based approach to development.
- 500 copies of the report were printed and disseminated to the National Planning Authority, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Economic Policy Research Centre, Uganda Prison Service, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Law Society, Uganda Law Reform Commission, Directorate of Public Prosecution, Civil Society Organizations, academia, university students and media houses.
- At the lower level, the poverty debate was extended to 36 districts after the launch of the report through simultaneous radio talk shows on 4 radio stations (Mega FM- Gulu, Eastern Gate FM- Bugiri, Radio West-Mbarara and Buddu FM –Masaka) with an estimate listenership of 100,000 people.

Issue –based report on *extra judicial killings*

- Two research missions with respect to the theme were conducted in Karamoja region from 7th – 14th July 2015 and Rwenzori region from 20th – 26th July 2015. The research team conducted more interviews at the national level with victims of extra judicial killings and security agencies. The aim was to analyze the causes and trends of mob justice in Uganda.
- To supplement the information from the missions, prison visits were also conducted at Luzira Upper prison from 29th September – 6th October 2015, Kigo prison on 30th September 2015, Masaka Main and Masaka Women prison on 2nd October 2015, Luzira Murchison Bay on 6th September 2015, Muinaina prison on 13th October 2015 and Nakasongola prison on 14th October 2015.
- A draft report on extra judicial killings was produced to provide evidence and guidance in the restitution of families and communities affected by extra judicial killings in the Karamoja and Rwenzori regions.

2. Treaty reporting

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

FHRI participated in the 56th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR in Banjul, the Gambia from 23rd – 28th April 2015.

- The information in the Alternative report co-authored by FHRI and East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) formed the basis for dialogue between the African Commission and Uganda's state delegation to the Commission on Uganda's human rights record during Uganda's review at the 56th session of the ACHPR.
- FHRI also participated in side events organized by various actors, most notably a side event organized by EHAHRDP. The event brought together government officials, Members of Parliament, and civil society organizations. This enabled open discussion on key human rights concerns such as the right to education, health, freedom from torture, shrinking NGO space, media freedoms, and political space rights, among others.
- During the 57th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR in Banjul, Gambia which took place from 4th – 18th November 2015, FHRI yet again presented a statement on the human rights situation in Uganda. The statement called on the government of Uganda to condemn election-related violence and refrain from violating freedom of association and assembly in the run up to the 2016 general elections. It also called upon the ACHPR to take keen interest in the developing political situation in Uganda in the run up to the 2016 General Elections; take seriously the early warning reports on election violence, call upon the government of Uganda to condemn election violence; and ensure the unhindered participation of women in the 2016 general elections. The reports were well received by the Commission.

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

FHRI was unable to attend the 55th Session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights due to resource constraints.

3. Advocacy and Lobbying

Opinion Poll

In 2015, FHRI contracted Ipsos, a Research firm in Uganda between May and June 2015 to conduct an opinion poll to gauge the human rights concerns, needs and perceptions of ordinary citizens.

- A total of 2,000 citizens above the age of 18 years were interviewed nationwide. Identification of these individuals involved random selection across 14 sub-regions of Uganda.
- Face to face interviews were held at household level and data dis-aggregated by geographical area, gender, urban/rural setting and age. Table 1 represents the demographic of the opinion poll.

Table 1: Demographics of the opinion poll population sample in 2015

	Sample	Setting		Gender		Age			
		Rural	Urban	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45+
Total	36%	29%	55%	31%	39%	43%	37%	32%	29%
Central	36%	29%	55%	31%	39%	43%	37%	32%	29%

Eastern	22%	25%	16%	23%	22%	17%	20%	30%	26%
Northern	16%	18%	12%	18%	14%	17%	16%	14%	17%
Western	26%	29%	17%	27%	25%	22%	28%	25%	27%
Total	2000	1501	499	838	1162	499	669	409	423

- This opinion poll was published in 2015 and the results shared with relevant stakeholders including the policy decision-making, human rights defenders, among others. The findings which formed part of FHRI's Human Rights Reform agenda were published in August 2015.

Performance Audit

During the year, FHRI commissioned an independent consultant to conduct an assessment on the status of implementation of previous recommendations made by FHRI in its thematic human rights reports since 2007.

- The appraisal prioritized recommendations focusing on *freedom from torture; the right to life; the right to a fair trial; the right to liberty and security of persons; treatment of detainees; freedom of expression, association and assembly; political space rights; independence and effective functioning of state institutions; land rights; rights of women; and rights of children.*
- On 4th August 2015, a validation meeting was held at the Human Rights House in order to strengthen the draft audit report. Feedback was received from the Uganda Law Reform Commission, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Uganda Police Force, the Directorate of Public Prosecution, Parliament, Uganda Human Rights Commission and the JLOS secretariat on current initiatives undertaken by the respective government agencies to address the recommendations and gaps identified.
- The findings of the performance audit together with the opinion poll were compiled into the Human Rights Reform Agenda.

Barazas

Barazas are open - air meetings for dialogue between duty bearers and rights holders. In order to validate the findings of the opinion poll and performance audit and provide communities with a platform to dialogue with the local government leaders and law enforcement agencies, FHRI organized two Barazas in 2015, one at Rwizi Arch Hotel in Mbarara and another at Belgravia Restaurant in Kalungu on 26th August and 27th August 2015 respectively.

- In Mbarara district, the Baraza was held at Rwizi Arch Hotel and was attended by 165 participants (231 male and 134 female). These included local leaders, Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prisons Service, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions and civil society groups. Hon. Justice Lameck Mukasa, Head of the Criminal Division in the High Court of Uganda presided over the event as the chief guest.
- He commended FHRI for undertaking the assessment and for sharing the findings with the public. He implored the participants to utilize the findings to engage the various political leaders within their communities. He also called on more Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to strengthen human rights advocacy in the communities as a means of empowering the citizenry.
- In Kalungu district, the Baraza was held at Belgravia Restaurant and was attended

by 200 participants (145 male 55 female). The guest speaker, Ms. Christine Nanding, Deputy Director, Legal and Human Rights Directorate, Uganda Police Force addressed the participants on the rights of suspects during arrest and detention.

In both spaces, questions relating to excessive use of force by security officers, corruption and torture by the Uganda Police Force dominated the discussions.

Human rights reform agenda

FHRI published a Human Rights Reform Agenda in August 2015.

- The agenda encompasses issues arising from the performance audit report, opinion poll survey results and findings from the barazas.
- The human rights reform agenda prioritises the following 5 areas for advocacy: (1) protection and promotion of human rights in Uganda's legal framework; (2) strengthening the demand side of governance; (3) enhancing access to justice; (4) strengthening the human rights capacity of the security forces; and (5) improving treatment of persons in places of detention.
- The agenda contains action points for deepened human rights protection and promotion in Uganda in order to accelerate policy and practice change. It will inform FHRI's future advocacy agenda.

4. Routine monitoring

In 2015, the research team routinely inspected 34 prisons, 20 police stations and 5 police posts. The purpose of the inspection was to assess conditions and practices against international human rights standards on the treatment of suspects and prisoners.

- During the inspections, human rights violations related to pre-trial detention, overstay on remand and torture was common occurrence. The findings documented brought to the attention of the authorities through stakeholder meetings. Table 2 and 3 provide a summary of prisons and police stations visited in 2015

Table 2 Prisons visited by FHRI in 2015

No.	Prison	Date of visit
1.	Gulu Prison (Male)	8 th April 2015
2.	Gulu Prison (Female)	8 th April 2015
3.	Masaka Main Prison	20 th April 2015
4.	Masaka Prison (Female)	20 th April 2015
5.	Masaka Sazza Prison	20 th April 2015
6.	Mpigi Prison	27 th April 2015
7.	Kabasanda Prison	27 th April 2015
8.	Butoolo Prison	7 th May 2015
9.	Nkozi Prison	7 th May 2015
10.	Kitala Prison	12 th May 2015
11.	Lugazi Prison	13 th May 2015
12.	Butuntumula Prison	18 th May 2015
13.	Sentema Prison	19 th May 2015
14.	Koboko Prison	21 st May 2015

15.	Arua Main Prison	22 nd May 2015
16.	Gilgil Prison	22 nd May 2015
17.	Mityana Prison	26 th May 2015
18.	Nyimbwa Prison	2 nd June 2015
19.	Wakyato Prison	2 nd June 2015
20.	Hoima Prison	24 th June 2015
21.	Bugambe Prison	24 th June 2015
22.	Buseruka Prison	24 th June 2015
23.	Kiboga Prison	25 th June 2015
24.	Moroto Prison	8 th July 2015
25.	Kitalya Prison	21 st July 2015
26.	Kasangati Prison	27 th July 2015
27.	Busaana Prison	31 st July 2015
28.	Ntenjeru Prison	31 st July 2015
29.	Jinja Main Prison	4 th August 2015
30.	Jinja Remand Prison	4 th August 2015
31.	Kirinya Prison	4 th August 2015
32.	Kigo Prison	30 th September 2015
33.	Muinaina Prison	13 th October 2015
34.	Nakasongola Prison	14 th October 2015

Table 3: Police stations and posts visited by FHRI in 2015

No.	Police Station	Date of visit
1.	Gulu Police Station	9 th April 2015
2.	Masaka Police Station	20 th April 2015
3.	Nyendo Police Station	20 th April 2015
4.	Lugazi Police Station	13 th May 2015
5.	Koboko Police Station	21 st May 2015
6.	Arua Police Station	22 nd May 2015
7.	Mityana Police Station	26 th May 2015
8.	Mpigi Police Station	27 th May 2015
9.	Nakiwogo Police Post	15 th June 2015
10.	Entebbe Police Station	15 th June 2015
11.	Kayunga Police Station	22 nd June 2015
12.	Nagalama Police Station	22 nd June 2015
13.	Kabimbili Police Post	22 nd June 2015
14.	Kabalagala Police Station	23 rd June 2015
15.	Hoima Police Station	25 th June 2015
16.	Kiboga Police Station	25 th June 2015
17.	Moroto Police Station	7 th July 2015
18.	Busunju Police Station	10 th August 2015

19.	Kalungu Police Station	13 th August 2015
20.	Kalilo Police Post	13 th August 2015
21.	Kitante Police Post	13 th August 2015
22.	Kyamulibwa Police Post	13 th August 2015
23.	Nsangi Police Station	17 th August 2015
24.	Gombolola Police Station	17 th August 2015
25.	Nateete Police Station	20 th August 2015

5. Policy and law Reform

The policy and law reform component examines the compliance of laws and policies with international standards.

- In 2015, following the tabling of the *Non-Governmental Organisation Bill, 2015* (NGO Bill), FHRI formed a coalition in June 2015 of Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs), academia and advocates. These included East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; Human Rights and Peace Center; Human Rights Center, Kituo Cha Katiba; Uganda Law Society and Human Rights Awareness and Promotional Forum. This coalition aimed at strengthening advocacy for the enactment of a human rights compliant NGO law.
- The group adopted a joint memorandum on the bill. Key areas of concern included the powers and composition of the NGO Board, functions and composition of the district NGO Committee, grounds for revocation of NGO permits, dissolution of NGOs and mode of inspection of NGOs.
- The memorandum was presented before the Defence and Internal Affairs Committee of Parliament on 25th June 2015, the Standing Committee on Human Rights Affairs in Parliament on 13th May 2015, the European Union on 21st May 2015, Inter-Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD) on 25th May 2015, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) on 11th June 2015 and the US Embassy, Kampala on 23rd June 2015.

In order to amplify the campaign for a human rights friendly NGO law, FHRI proactively engaged the media. FHRI was covered 22 times regarding the NGO Bill, in effect actively contributing to the debate on the compliance of the bill with international standards.

The collective and unprecedented pushback from civil society organizations prompted further consultations on the bill by the NGO Board and the relevant parliamentary committees. Table 4 below provides a summary of the media coverage.

Table 4: FHRI media briefings on the NGO Bill, 2015

Date	Media House	Issue
04/05/2015	The New Vision	Government sets tough rules for NGOs
13/05/2015	NBS TV (Sun Set News and Amawulire)	FHRI submits a memorandum on the NON-Government Organizations Bill, 2015

13/05/2015	CBS FM (News)	FHRI calls for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
13/05/2015	Radio Sapientia (News)	FHRI makes recommendations to parliament on the NGO Bill, 2015
13/05/2015	Radio Simba (News)	FHRI proposes amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
13/05/2014	Top Radio (News)	Human Rights activists propose reviews in the NGO Bill, 2015
13/05/2015	Radio one (News)	Activists call for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
13/05/2015	Akaboozi (News)	Activists call for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
13/05/2015	Radio Simba (News)	FHRI seeks to make amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
13/05/2015	Uganda Radio Network	FHRI lobby's MPs to make amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
13/05/2015	Super FM (News)	Activists call for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
14/05/2015	The New Vision	Government asked to revise new NGO Bill, 2015
25/06/2015	NBS TV News	Civil Society Organizations call for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
25/06/2015	WBS TV News	CSO's submit joint proposals before parliament to have the NGO Bill, 2015 amended
25/06/2015	Top TV	CSO's have argued parliament not to pass the NGO Bill, 2015 in its current status
25/06/2015	KFM News	Activists unanimously call for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
25/06/2015	Radio One	Activists urge legislators to review the NGO Bill, 2015
25/06/2015	Radio Simba	NGO's submit proposals before parliament on the NGO Bill, 2015
25/06/2015	CBS FM	Activists want parliament to review the NGO Bill, 2015
25/06/2015	Super FM	CSO's call for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
25/06/2015	Top Radio	CSO's call for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015
25/06/2015	Pearl FM	CSO's call for amendments in the NGO Bill, 2015

6. Transitional justice campaign

The transitional justice campaign was boosted by support from the Danish Refugee Council in 2015. The pilot project sought to promote land rights of returning Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through policy advocacy.

The target areas were Lamogi and Pabbo sub-counties in Amuru district. In 2015, 2 activities were supported including a situation analysis on the land rights of former IDPs in Lamogi and Pabbo sub-counties, formulation of Model Local Policy Guidelines (LPGs) and 2 stakeholders' validation meeting.

The situation analysis on the land rights of former IDPs in Lamogi and Pabbo sub-counties, 21st – 25th September 2015

- The study was commissioned from 21st – 25th September 2015. The assessment sought to understand the extent to which arbitrary deprivation of land has impacted the rights of IDPs in the return and resettlement process.
- A total of 138 respondents including civic leaders, Members of Parliament, Local Council Court officials, conflict prevention experts, former IDPs and Community Based Organisations were interviewed.
- During the survey, IDPs interviewed called for comprehensive policy guidelines that protect IDPs against the arbitrary deprivation of their land. The findings have been consolidated into a report titled, '*Labong Ngom Kwo Peke*', translated as '*Without Land, there is no Living*.' The findings contained therein informed the formulation of Model Local Policy Guidelines to enhance legal protection of land rights of former IDPs.

Two – 1 day stakeholders' validation meetings

- The study report was validated on 28th and 29th October 2015 at Lamogi Sub-county hall and multi-purpose hall in Amuru district respectively. The participants provided feedback on the report of the situation analysis paving way for its release and dissemination. The 2 meetings were attended by a total of 93 participants (62 male and 31 female) including parliamentarians, officials from Justice Law and Order Sector institutions, Community Based Organisations, former IDPs and the media.
- Amongst the participants were Mr. Bilak Jalmoro Resident District Commissioner Amuru district, Hon. Gilbert Olanya, Member of Parliament, Kilak County, Mr. Kisebo Mathias, Sub-county Chief Lamogi and Mr. Ojara Atkinson, LC III Chairperson Lamogi.

Formulation of Model Local Policy Guidelines (LPGs)

- Following the situation analysis and validation meetings, FHRI formulated Model Local Policy Guidelines, a step-by-step implementation manual on land management, disposal and acquisition.

In the next phase of the initiative FHRI will run a consultative and awareness campaign on the LPGs for possible adoption by civic leaders and civil society.

Outcome

The intensified engagement with the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) during the year has resulted in a noted improvement in the welfare of inmates. For instance, following allegations of torture at Kitalya Prison in 2014, FHRI held a meeting with the Uganda Prison Service administration to discuss the allegations. When FHRI visited Kitalya Prison again in July 2015, the inmates applauded FHRI's intervention and noted that the human rights situation in Kitalya Prison had changed immensely with better observance of inmates' rights and the introduction of a human rights committee. Inmates have noted a significant reduction in the occurrence of torture and corporal punishment at the prison since then.



As a result of the routine monitoring visits, immediate action was taken by JLOS to address some of the emerging human rights issues identified by FHRI. The release of juveniles detained with adults and exposure of officers alleged to be involved in acts of torture are examples of remedial actions.

Suffice to note that the intensified engagement between FHRI and the Uganda Prisons Service, has also contributed to further collaboration between the UPS, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and FHRI to conduct joint trainings with the aim of strengthening the effectiveness of human rights committees in prisons countrywide.



Beyond the policy level approach, the bottom up stratagem through the two Barazas held in the districts of Kalungu and Mbarara on 26th and 27th August 2015 had a positive effect on the targeted 365 citizens' levels of understanding of human rights. From their own testimonies, participants felt empowered, having learned about legal procedures, the functions of state institutions such as the Uganda Police, available avenues for redress and practical skills for human rights advocacy. From the evaluation of this activity, 90% confessed to a change of attitude and a renewed inertia for the defense of rights and social justice



FHRI interventions on treaty reporting increased dialogue on key human rights issues at the regional level. For instance, the report co-authored by FHRI and EHAHRDP informed lobby efforts by FHRI at the African Commission and steered debate during Uganda's review. Commissioners raised human rights concerns that had not been addressed in the State report during the review. For instance, the alternative report drew the attention of government to the recently gazetted NGO Bill, 2015 then. FHRI's major concern was the disregard of NGO contribution in the drafting of the Bill. During

this session, the government delegation committed to enhancing NGO participation in the law making process, which was implemented.

'The most useful thing is that we had a platform to express our feelings and we got to learn about rights.' Male participant, Mbarara district

'We got to share experiences with law enforcement bodies.' Male participant, Mbarara district

'I learnt that we do not need to wait for FHRI to come down on the ground to do the work, but we are also responsible to do the needful. The moment I am back at home, I will start immediately to practice what I have learnt and teach others about human rights.' Female participant, Mbarara district.

'I learnt more on how to cooperate with police to settle disputes in society.' Male participant, Kalungu district



Through the loose civil society coalition formed on the *NGO Bill, 2015*, FHRI scored extraordinary results in advocating for human rights friendly provisions. Of the 44 proposals detailed in the joint memorandum submitted by FHRI, 21 proposals were adopted by the Defence and Internal Affairs Committee of Parliament and incorporated in the final Act passed in November 2015 thus making the law considerably more human rights compliant.

Key amendments were the inclusion of CSO representatives on the NGO Board; stricter grounds for refusal or revocation of NGO operating permits; removal of the Resident and Deputy Resident District Commissioners as Chair of the district and sub-county NGO Monitoring Committees independent and impartial appeals mechanisms; and removal of the requirement of existing NGOs to re-register.

Out of the 44 issues raised in the joint memorandum submitted by FHRI, 21 issues were taken up.



At the peak of land disputes in Amuru district in 2015, FHRI's preliminary interventions have brought to the fore, the plight of former/returning IDPs particularly women and children. There is general consensus amongst district leaders, civil society and IDPs on the need for Local Policy Guidelines that provide a clear step by step procedural guide on how former IDPs especially women/widows and orphans in Lamogi and Pabbo should access, own and utilize their land.

Challenge

The shrinking space for independent views has adversely impacted on the level of responsiveness of key stakeholders during human rights and democracy related research. Without relevant information, analyzing trends and sustaining advocacy for practice change is difficult.

LEGAL SERVICES



Legal Assistance



Legal rights
awareness campaign



The Death Penalty
Campaign



Juvenile Justice



Rule of Law



Toll free facility



Bill

ACTION 2: LEGAL SERVICES

The Action promotes sustainable access to justice and advocates for best practices in the administration of justice through a four track approach: provision of legal aid services to poor and vulnerable persons, the campaign against the death penalty, capacity building for the judiciary, and diversion of children and women in conflict with the law from the criminal justice system. Through these interventions, FHRI has assisted over 10,000 victims of human rights violations, contributed to jurisprudence on the death penalty, and through the partnership with the judiciary, promoted judicial independence and integrity.

Objective

The Action seeks to promote access to justice for poor and vulnerable persons in Uganda.

The Action has four components:

1. Legal aid assistance
2. The Death Penalty Campaign
3. The Rights and Rule of Law (RRL) program
4. The Alternatives project

Implementation

The Action promotes sustainable access to justice and advocates for best practices in the administration of justice. The Action includes pro-bono services for poor and vulnerable persons, the campaign against the death penalty, strengthening judicial independence and advocacy for alternatives to imprisonment.

Planned Activities

In 2015, the activities planned under the legal aid unit included pro-bono legal aid services to at least 240 vulnerable and poor persons, 20 legal aid camps in Wakiso, Kiboga, Bundibugyo, Kampala, Kibaale, Kalangala, Masaka and Jinja districts reaching 1,500 clients; 8 legal rights awareness sessions in Jinja and Masaka districts reaching 800 community members and leaders; 8 radio talk shows in Jinja and Masaka districts on legal rights; 4 capacity building trainings in land matters for 200 local leaders of Masaka and Jinja districts; legal representation for 35 indigent persons in courts of law; and legal assistance to 200 clients through a toll free line.

The following activities were planned under the campaign against the death penalty in 2015: a regional meeting for prison staff in East Africa, a fact finding mission on mental health in Uganda's prisons, a workshop for judicial officers on the Sentencing Guidelines; advocacy on 'The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2013'; international advocacy before the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR); the 24th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria and the Asian Regional Congress on the Death Penalty; commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty, and prison monitoring visits in Kenya and Tanzania.

The activities planned under the Rights and Rule of Law program included a stakeholder analysis, 2 strategic litigation review meetings; the development of a strategic plan for the National Association of Women Judges in Uganda (NAWJU), and a human rights training for members of the NAWJU.

Lastly, the Alternatives project planned the following activities in 2015: The publication of a research report on the *status of female offenders*; a roundtable to disseminate the findings; a training workshop for prison officials on the UN Bangkok Rules; publication of a research report on '*Children of imprisoned parents*'; a roundtable to disseminate the findings; publication of six East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society network newsletters; and a regional membership exchange visit in Uganda.

Output

1. Legal aid assistance

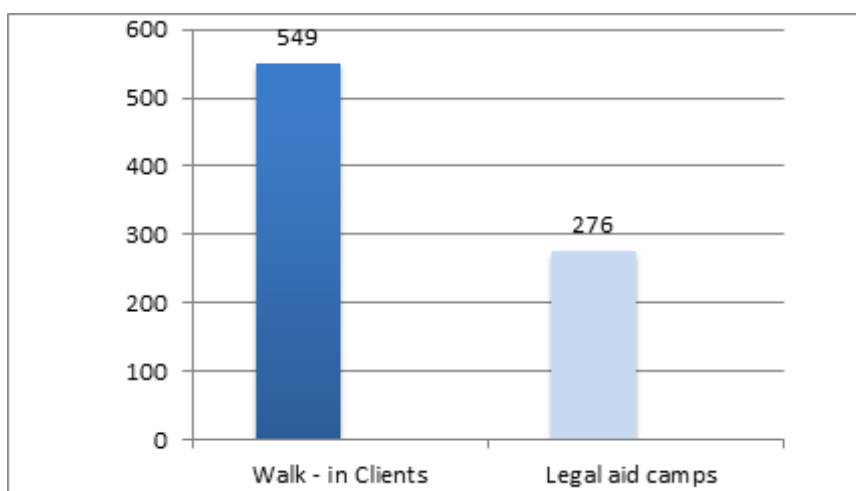
Through the provision of a range of services including, legal representation, legal advice, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and legal and human rights awareness programs, the Legal Aid Unit assisted a total of 1,047 clients (543 male and 504 female) in 2015.

1. Legal aid assistance

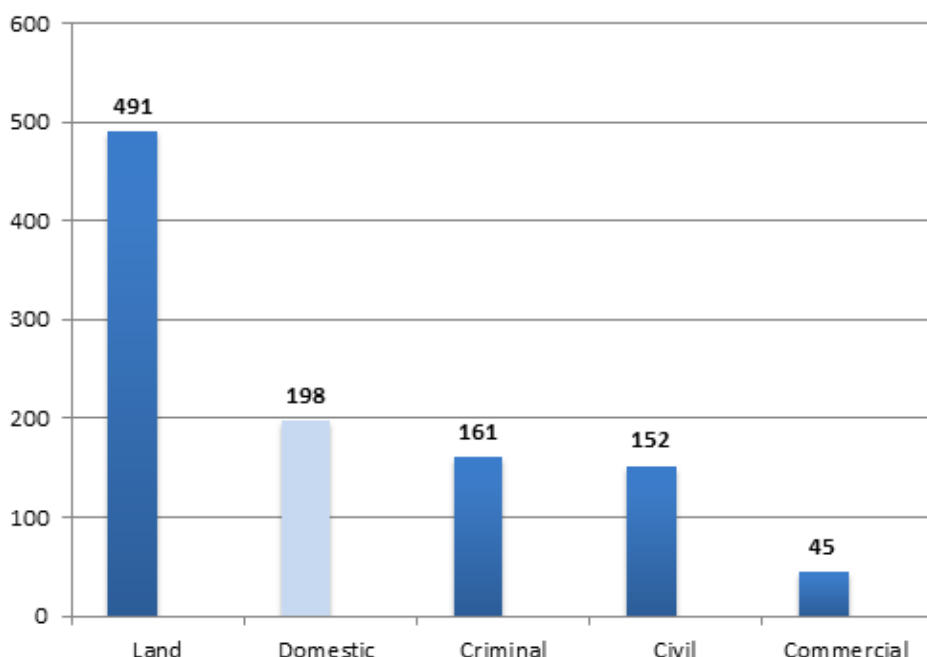
Legal assistance to walk-in clients and legal aid camps

- 1,047 new clients (543 male and 504 female) were assisted by FHRI in 2015. Out of these, 549 clients (273 male and 276 female) walked into FHRI offices for assistance while 498 clients (270 male and 228 female) were assisted through the legal aid camps.

Graph 1: Clients assisted by FHRI in 2015



- From graph 1 above, 52% of the clients walked into FHRI premises seeking legal assistance while 48% of clients were assisted through the legal aid camps.
- In total, 14 camps were run in 2015 in Kiboga (27th -30th April 2015), Kalangala (4th -8th May 2015), Masaka (16th -20th February 2015, 25th – 29th May 2015, 9th – 13th November 2015), Jinja (9th – 13th March 2015, 15th -19th June 2015, 14th – 18th September 2015, 16th – 19th November 2015).
- In 2015, the unit handled matters relating to land, domestic cases, criminal, civil and commercial as illustrated in graph 2 below.

Graph 2: Nature of cases registered by the Legal Aid Unit.

- When disaggregated per case, land related cases formed the bulk of cases at 46% followed by domestic cases at 18%. The completion rate was put at 66%.

Legal rights awareness sessions on land rights and radio programs

- The sessions were conducted concurrently with the legal aid camps in Kiboga, Kalangala, Masaka and Jinja.
- A total of 4,217 community members (2,590 male and 1,627 female) were reached up from 2,891 in 2014. The increase in numbers is attributed to the up-scaling of outreach activities. Complementarily, 10 radio talk shows on land matters were supported to promote legal and human rights awareness. The programs were aired as summarized in table 5 here below:

Table 5: Summary of radio programs in 2015

No.	Radio station and district	Frequency
1	Word of life, Masaka	102.9 FM
2	Buladde FM, Masaka	100.7FM
3	Kira Radio, Jinja	88.6 FM
4	Basoga Baino, Jinja	87.7 FM
5	Radio Ssesse, Kalangala	101.9FM
6	Kiboga FM, Kiboga	89.5 FM

Capacity building for local leaders on land rights

- 4 capacity building trainings were conducted on land matters for local leaders in Masaka and Jinja districts as summarised in table 6 below:

Table 6: Summary of capacity building sessions conducted in 2015

No.	District, Venue	Dates
1	Masaka, Kyesiiga sub-county headquarters	16th -19th February 2015
2	Masaka, Kabonera sub-county headquarters	24th – 27th August 2015
3	Jinja, Buyengo sub-county headquarters	15th – 18th June 2015
4	Jinja, Mafubira sub-county headquarters.	16th – 19th November 2015

- Overall, 196 leaders (135 male and 61 female) were trained. The capacity building sessions aimed at enhancing the capacity of local actors in responding to land matters effectively.

Toll free facility

The toll free line (0800100016) assisted a total of 2,906 calls in 2015 (1,869 males and 1,037 females).

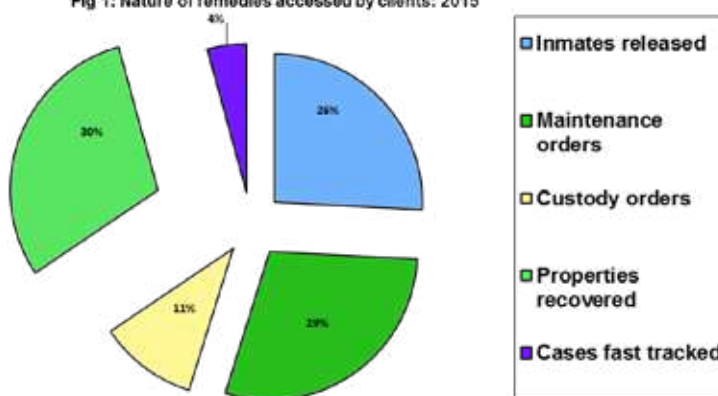
- The outgoing calls were 1,312 while those received were 1,594. 2,190 of the calls were follow up calls while 716 called in with inquiries. This facility has supported FHRI's rapid response mechanism to human rights violations.

Outcome



In 2015, the FHRI's legal aid work resulted in the release of 24 suspects from detention. Further, the lawyers were able to secure 27 maintenance and 10 custody orders from court for children living with single parents. The recovery of 28 properties and compensation worth UGX 48,060,698/- on behalf of poor women, men and vulnerable workers who were unable to access terminal benefits, workman's compensation and non-payment of wages was part of the achievements during the year. Figure 1 below shows the nature of remedies secured in 2015 at a glance.

Fig 1: Nature of remedies accessed by clients: 2015



From figure 1 above, the recovery of properties and the securing of maintenance orders were the dominant remedies obtained.

Apart from the remedies obtained under the legal aid program, FHRI also contributed to an increase in knowledge of legal rights and procedures through legal and human rights awareness campaigns. Through mass legal awareness sessions and radio talk shows in the districts of Masaka and Jinja, the program reached a total of 3,210 people (2,725 males, 1,689 females). This number tripled the target of 1,300 beneficiaries. The 71% increase was due to the success and relevance of the program as well as a deliberate and calculated approach to reach more persons in the target districts. FHRI can with confidence affirm that the sustained rights awareness campaign has conscientized targeted communities and strengthened their capacity to claim rights. The testimony of the sub-county chief in Kyanamukaka, Masaka district attests to this.

Our Clients' stories

Migadde Paul "Ever since this project started work in my sub county things have changed. My people have been empowered and can now even challenge the way local leaders handle land disputes. As a result, land conflicts are being resolved better. Kibanja owners are now sensitized so land grabbers have resorted to grabbing forests!" LC 3 Kyanamukaaka sub county Chief in Masaka district

Nabalowoza "I am poor with nothing but you handled my case at no cost. Now am at peace. May God bless you"

Nakawunde "I am a widow aged 52 years and live in Kyanamukaaka, Masaka district. I was married to my husband for many years and he was the sole breadwinner. Unfortunately, he passed away and left us nothing as a source of income.

After his death, I went back to my father's home to a kibanja (plot), which my father had given to me before his death. My brothers especially the eldest wanted to take my kibanja. They said that we the girls should not have a share in my father's estate. The conflict escalated.

I reported to the LC 1 who had been trained by FHRI. He tried to intervene but my brothers were adamant. The LC 1 referred me to your offices.

Through your intervention however, my brothers accepted to attend a mediation meeting out of which they agreed to stop interfering with my land and an agreement was made to that effect. I am now happily farming on my kibanja.'

Challenge

The challenge for FHRI has been to respond effectively to an increasing number of clients and to manage clients' expectations.

2. The Death Penalty campaign

Uganda retains the death penalty for 28 offences although no executions have been carried out since 1999 (for civilians) and 2003 (for military). By November 2015, there were 211 prisoners on death row (200 men and 11 women). The judiciary continues to hand down death sentences (3 death sentences were issued in 2015). Although one could argue that an unofficial moratorium is in place, the government has maintained the death penalty on the statute books.

This notwithstanding, FHRI's decade old campaign against the death penalty has registered positive results. The precedent set by the Susan Kigula Supreme court ruling in 2009 has had multiplier effects including, release of some prisoners on death-row, the commutation of death sentences to life, the development of sentencing guidelines in capital cases that limit the use of the death sentence, the formulation of the Private Member's Bill titled, *Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendments Bill, 2013*, the reduction in the number of death row inmates and the mitigation hearings for prisoners on death row. When combined, these achievements perfectly resonate with the anticipated results of the campaign.

Building on these achievements, FHRI's on-going regional campaign has prioritised legislative advocacy to limit the use of the death penalty, capacity building for prison staff on humane treatment of prisoners on death row, dialogue within regional and international human rights treaty bodies on death penalty trends in East Africa and coalition building for effective advocacy.

Objective

The overall goal of the campaign is to advocate for the progressive abolition of the death penalty and implementation of humane alternatives.

Output

i. Regional roundtable for prison staff in East Africa

In 2015, FHRI convened a regional roundtable from 11th – 12th March 2015 at Maanzoni Lodge, Nairobi, Kenya with a thematic focus on sentencing regimes, mental health in prisons, remission and treatment of vulnerable prisoners.

- The roundtable was a culmination of the series of in-country trainings that were conducted FHRI in 2013 and 2014 in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania on treatment of prisoners on death row.
- The meeting targeted senior prisons officers from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania totalling to 52.

ii. Fact –finding mission on mental health in Uganda prisons

Following the regional meeting, a follow up fact finding mission on mental health in Uganda prisons was conducted from 8th -12th June 2015 in Luzira prison, Uganda by Dr. Eileen Koske from the Kenya Prison Service.

- 39 mentally ill prisoners were assessed with research findings pointing to inadequate psychosocial support mechanisms for mentally ill prisoners. This information will be utilised in the campaign.

iii. Judicial officers' training workshop on Sentencing Guidelines in Uganda

Upon request from the Judicial Studies Institute, FHRI supported a training workshop for judicial officers on the new Sentencing Guidelines. The capacity building and awareness session was held from 17th -18th June 2015 at Wash and Wills Hotel, Mbale.

- The meeting was attended by magistrates, judges and prosecutors and was presided over by the Principle Judge, Hon. Justice Yorokamu Bamwine. His Lordship applauded FHRI for the sustained and value adding collaboration with the judiciary.

iv. The Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2013)

The objective of the Private Member's bill is to enforce the declarations in the Supreme court in the FHRI public interest litigation case – the Kigula case, specifically, amendment of laws providing for mandatory death sentences. It also proposes a reduction in the number of offences that attract the death penalty. The bill was sponsored by Hon Alice Alaso and Hon. Fox Odoi- both MPs in the 9th Parliament.

- Following protracted advocacy on the bill, the certificate of financial implications was finally obtained on 29th April 2015 paving way for its gazetting. The first reading of the proposed law in parliament was on 11th November 2015 and thereafter committed to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee for further scrutiny.
- In order to support advocacy for the bill in parliament, FHRI developed a memorandum summarising the rationale for each section of the bill. This synopsis informed Hon. Alice Alaso's presentation when the bill came up for its first reading during plenary on 11th November 2015.
- In addition, advocacy materials including banners, wristbands and a brochure on '*Ten reasons why the death penalty should be abolished*' were disseminated to support the campaign with information.
- Further, FHRI supported three task force meetings for Members of Parliament (MPs) in Uganda. The purpose of the meetings was to map out strategies that will ensure the passing of the private member's bill. FHRI utilised this opportunity to lobby MPs to amend Section 7 *the Anti- Terrorism Amendment Bill, 2015* which provided for mandatory death sentence. The First Parliamentary Counsel remained an ally in this respect.

v. National and international level advocacy

- At the national level, FHRI joined other abolitionists around the world to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty in Uganda on 10th October 2015 under the theme, '*Death penalty does not prevent drug crimes*'. A drama production entitled, '*Dilemma in Matendo Village*' depicting the horrors of the death sentence was supported and staged at the International University of East Africa on the same day. The media – both traditional and new media remained an important player in the campaign.

At the international front, FHRI made significant contribution to the development of new human rights standards seeking to limit the application of the death penalty.

- For instance, during the reporting period, FHRI was part of the drafters of the Protocol to

the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the abolition of the death penalty (2014). The African Commission adopted the protocol at its 56th session in Banjul, Gambia in April 2015. The report submitted by FHRI on the status of the death penalty in Uganda before the 55th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in Banjul, Gambia informed this process.

- Similarly, FHRI was part of a team of practitioners that contributed to the review of the Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners now referred to as the *Mandela Rules*. The revised rules were adopted during the 24th Session on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, Austria from 8th – 22nd May 2015.
- The global events attended by FHRI on the death penalty such as the Asian Regional Congress on the Death penalty, 11th – 12th June 2015, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia supported the local advocacy efforts, raising the visibility for the campaign. FHRI was voted onto the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty at this event.

Outcome



The certificate of financial implications regarding a private member's bill titled *'The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2013'* was obtained on 29th April 2015 and the bill finally tabled in Parliament on 11th November 2015. If passed into law, the number of offences punishable by death will reduce significantly.



Owing to the sustained mass campaign against the death penalty, the number of inmates on death row declined further from 292 (18 female and 274 male) reported in 2014, to 211 prisoners (200 men & 11 women) in 2015. In 2015, 3 death sentences were handed down in comparison to 4 in 2014. *The Anti- Terrorism Act 2003* (which was one of the laws providing for mandatory death penalty) was amended during the year. The new amendment substituted the 'mandatory death sentence' under Section 7 of the Act with a discretionary one.

Considering the trend, we can confidently assert that a defacto moratorium is in place.

Challenge

The global fight against terrorism and the increase in gruesome murders continue to legitimize the death penalty as an appropriate sentence in East Africa. The resurgence of legislation that maintains the death sentence is a common trend.

3. The USAID Rights and Rule of Law (RRL) program

The USAID Rights and Rule of Law (RRL) program implemented in partnership with Freedom House (US) seeks to promote the rule of law and protection of human rights in Uganda. The 3 -track approach of the program seeks to catalyse change in the judiciary, civil society and the media. FHRI leads implementation of the component on strengthening judicial independence. The component includes the use of strategic litigation as a tool for social transformation.

Objective

To strengthen the capacity and independence of the judiciary in order to reach decisions that uphold human rights.

Output

i. Stakeholder Analysis

In order to inform the capacity development interventions planned under the program and map stakeholder expectations, a stakeholder analysis to map expectations and document on-going capacity building initiatives was conducted in February 2015.

- Interviews were conducted with a High Court judge, the Chief Registrar, an Executive Member of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJU), the Legal Officer at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), officials at the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Assistant Registrar, the Judicial Studies Institute (JSI), Judicial Service Commission (JSC), heads of other USAID programs -Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Peace and Equity (SAFE) and Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance (GAPP) and the Assistant Registrar Planning and Development- DANIDA Support to the Judiciary program.
- Following the exercise, a comprehensive report was compiled. The report proposes strategies of engagement with the judiciary based on the feedback from the interviews. In addition, the report underlines the need for FHRI to initiate an advocacy campaign for the enactment of *The Judiciary Administration Bill, 2014*.

ii. Two strategic litigation review meetings

As part of the support towards FHRI's strategic litigation component, 2 strategic litigation review meetings were held on 4th March 2015 and 20th April 2015

- The 1st meeting reviewed two on-going FHRI Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases- *Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General, Constitutional Appeal No. 03/2009* and *Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No. 53/2011*. The 2nd meeting devised strategies and criteria to guide the selection of 3 additional cases for PIL.
- After the review meetings, follow up exploratory meetings with various law firms were held to further determine issues for litigation in the selected cases. As an outcome, FHRI become a co-petitioner in a case challenging excessively long prison sentences and inhumane treatment of inmates. (*Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No.3/2015*)

iii. Strategic Litigation seminar

Following the strategic litigation review meetings, a strategic litigation seminar was held on 28th August 2015 at Royal Suites Hotel, Bugolobi, Kampala.

- The seminar organised under the theme '*Strategic Litigation Advocacy: How to build an effective strategic litigation advocacy campaign*', was facilitated by Prof. Joe Oloka-Onyango, a leading PIL scholar at Makerere University. Mr Ladislaus Rwakafuzi from

M/S Rwakafuzi and Co. Advocates and Ms. Dorothy Kabugo from M/S Kabugo & Co. Advocates made presentations on the status of the PIL cases they were handling. 25 participants (17 female and 8 male) including public interest litigation lawyers and human rights organisations participated.

iv. The human rights training workshop for NAWJU

- The training for the National Association of Women Judges in Uganda was held from 1st -2nd October 2015 at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala. The capacity building training workshop was organised under the theme, *'Role of the Judiciary in human rights enforcement in Uganda.'*
- The sessions were intended to promote the application of human rights norms in all areas of the law and to identify challenges faced by judicial officers in human rights enforcement.
- The resource team comprised reputable experts including Rtd. Hon. Lady Justice Mary Maitum who offered perspectives as a former judge; Hon. Lady Justice Damalie Kisembo a judge and former prosecutor; Dr Zahara Nampewo, a women rights expert; Dr Rose Nakayi, an expert on land rights; Ms Christine Birabwa, an expert on access to justice and head of a national legal aid program; and Mr Isaac Ssali Mugerwa, a commercial lawyer. Hon. Lady Justice Dr Esther Kisaakye and Ms Valentine Namakula led the discussion on 'Strategic Interventions and Recommendations for NAWJU.
- 28 female judicial officers (10 judges, 1 registrar, 2 deputy registrars, 3 chief magistrates and 12 Grade 1 magistrates) participated in the training – from the following duty stations- Soroti, Nebbi, Nakasongola, Kyegegwa, Bukedea, Kumi, Kampala, Jinja, Masaka, Ngora, Kisoro, Isingiro, Nakaseke, Kiryadongo, Mukono and Amolator.

v. Capacity Building for FHRI

Following the Organisational Capacity Assessment exercise conducted by AKIJUL Consultants in December 2014, FHRI adopted an Institutional Strengthening Plan (ISP) in 2015.

- The ISP prioritises five thematic areas for capacity strengthening including learning and evaluation, fundraising and donor relations, external communications, safety and security and advocacy. The ISP guides institutional strengthening and results based planning, budgeting, program review and reporting.
- Within this framework, a capacity building session on Monitoring and Evaluation for FHRI staff was held on 19th December 2015 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.

Outcome



The strategic litigation interventions under this program have resulted in a new partnership between FHRI and the Network of Public Interest Litigators (NETPIL). FHRI is a member of the NETPIL working group on civil and political rights and land justice.



The NAWJU training provided Judicial officers with a unique and interactive forum that allowed for knowledge exchange and sharing of experience amongst peers. 100% of the participants reported that they had gained knowledge on the application of international human rights norms in domestic cases.

Challenge

The success of civil society led initiatives such as the USAID Rights and Rule of Law program largely depends on external factors which many times are out of the organisation's control. Collective planning with stakeholders is key to securing results.



Participants attending the NAWJU training on human rights

Seated from left – right: Hon. Lady Justice Nkonge Alexandra, High Court of Uganda, (HC) Hon. Lady Justice Wasswa Basaza Patricia (HC), Hon. Lady Justice Kiggundu Jane, former Executive Director of Judicial Studies Institute (HC), Hon. Lady Justice Dr. Esther Kisaakye-Kitimbo, Supreme Court of Uganda (also President of NAWJU), Ms. Darlene Foote, USAID Uganda and Hon. Lady Justice Mugesera Tumusiime Linda Lillian (HC)

4. The Alternatives project

The Alternatives project is jointly implemented with Penal Reform International (PRI). The project began as a pilot in 2013. This regional initiative is built on previous work by FHRI and PRI on juvenile justice and the promotion of non-custodial sentences. Two years into implementation, the project has created a network of regional child rights activists in East Africa who are championing the implementation of child friendly justice systems and promoting the rights of women offenders using the UN Bangkok rules.

Objective

The project seeks to reduce the unnecessary use of imprisonment, promote child-friendly justice systems and a more sensitive approach to dealing with women offenders using the UN Bangkok Rules on non-custodial sentences for women offenders.

Output

i. The report on the status of female offenders titled 'Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda'

The report, 'Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda' was launched by Hon. Judge Lameck Mukasa, of the High Court of Uganda on 9th July 2015 at Hotel Africana in Kampala.

The objective of the research conducted in partnership with PRI was to support the implementation of the international standards set by the UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules). By providing facts and figures, the report illustrates the need for gender specific policies that respond to the needs of women in prison, and enables countries identify key areas that need to be addressed as a matter of priority.

- The launch was attended by 30 child and women's rights activists (18 women, 12 men) from the Uganda Human Rights Commission, JLOS, civil society organisations, the academia, and the UNOHCHR. Participants adopted an action plan for improved treatment of female offenders in Uganda. 300 copies of the report were printed and disseminated.
- Following the launch, the report was also presented before the 24th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna-Austria from the 18th – 22nd May 2015.

ii. Training workshop for Uganda Prisons Service and the Community Service Department on the UN Bangkok Rules

- Following the launch of the report on women prisoners, FHRI and PRI conducted a training workshop for female prison officers on the UN Bangkok Rules. The training, which took place from 22nd - 23rd October 2015 at Royal Suites Hotel, was the first ever training in the prisons service on the UN Rules. 23 participants (21 women prison officers and 2 male officers) participated.
- The training curriculum was tailored along the needs and gaps identified by the PRI-FHRI joint research "Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda".

iii. The FHRI-PRI report entitled, 'A shared sentence; children of imprisoned parents in Uganda'.

The report on '*children of imprisoned parents in Uganda*' was launched on 26th November 2015 at Hotel Africana in Kampala by Hon. Judge Joseph Murangira of the High Court of Uganda. The research assessed the extent to which Article 30 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1999) (ACRWC) and General Comment No.1 on Article 30 of the ACRWC have been implemented in Uganda. Both instruments highlight directly how the rights of children are affected when their parents/primary caregivers are caught up in the criminal justice system.

- The launch was attended by 30 child rights activists (17 women and 13 men). The findings and recommendations from the joint research were presented and an action plan prioritising awareness raising of the problem adopted. The roundtable was attended by civil society organisations, judicial officers, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and police and prisons officers. 200 copies of the report were printed and disseminated.
- Preceding the launch, the report was presented at the AU conference in Addis Ababa held in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the ACRWC from 20th - 21st November 2016. The presentation received positive feedback from participants.

iv. FHRI hosts exchange visit amongst juvenile justice activists in East Africa

On 27th and 28th May 2015, FHRI hosted a two -day exchange visit between NGO's working in the area of juvenile justice in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

- The learning visit was carried out under the auspices of the East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society e-Network which was established by PRI and FHRI to promote sharing of best practice and dialogue on criminal and juvenile justice reform in the region. The exchange visit was co-hosted by Passion for Community (P4C), FHRI and the Uganda Children Centre (UCC). 20 participants from NGO's including Undugu Society Kenya and C-Sema Tanzania were hosted.

v. East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society Network e-newsletters

Members of the East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society e-Network were kept abreast of developments in the sector through a periodic e-newsletter published by FHRI on a quarterly basis in 2015.

Outcome



Through the Alternatives project, FHRI has contributed to creating awareness of the UN Bangkok Rules on the treatment of female offenders, both at the national, regional and international level. The reports have been well received by JLOS and regional players. In the process, FHRI has secured commitments from the Uganda Prisons Service to utilize the findings in order to respond to associated.



The growth of the East Africa Criminal Justice Civil Society e-Network from 131 in 2014 to 150 members in 2015 attests to its added value in promoting information sharing and capacity building through exchange visits and the e-newsletters.

Challenges

The initial difficulty experienced in accessing places of detention for purposes of research disrupted the program timeline.



Participants at the launch of the report on, *'Who are women prisoners, Survey results from Uganda'* on 9th July 2015 at Hotel Africana, Kampala.

8th Inter-University
Human Rights Competition



Community Outreaches



Governance Platforms



Neighborhood
Assemblies



Citizens' accountability
platforms



Monitoring of service delivery



CIVIC EDUCATION

ACTION 3: CIVIC EDUCATION

The activities under this Action are designed to promote participatory decision making for effective service delivery, build capacity of community based human rights groups to effectively monitor and report human rights violations and to build a cadre of passionate and knowledgeable human rights defenders.

As offshoots of this Action, the CBOs and university human rights associations have been hailed by beneficiaries and stakeholders as sustainable structures for building civic activism. (FHRI/DGF Joint Annual Review, 2014)

Objective

The Action seeks to enhance human rights and civic awareness in order to increase the demand for political and social accountability.

The Action has one major activity with three sub-components:

1. Public Outreach

- I. Student's Leadership Forum
- II. Civil Society Strengthening
- III. Building Civic Competence for Social Change

Implementation

In order to strengthen the voice of demand for democratic and social accountability, FHRI uses both conventional and non-conventional platforms to create awareness on rights, duties and civic values.

Public outreach is conducted through Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the existing network of community paralegals and community based organizations. Sections of the public that benefit from interventions under this Action include community based organizations, grassroot communities, the local government, private sector, universities as well as tertiary institutions in a bid to enhance human rights and civic awareness and as a result increase the demand for political and social accountability.

Planned activities

The following activities were planned in 2015: the 8th Inter – University Human Rights Competition, 21 governance platforms, 10 neighbourhood assemblies, 4 monitoring sessions of service delivery, 6 outreach sessions, 4 impact monitoring sessions and one, 3 day training for election observers.

Output

i. Students Leadership Forum

8th Inter-University Human Rights Competition under the theme, 'Deepening socio-political transformation in Uganda: The Road Ahead'

The university outreach program seeks to build knowledge, strengthen research skills and stimulate debate on human rights amongst young human rights defenders in schools and institutions of higher learning.

- In 2015, FHRI in partnership with Busitema University – Main campus in Tororo district convened the 8th Inter-University Human Rights Competition from 6th – 7th March 2015. 600 students (317 male, 283 female) drawn from 30 institutions of higher learning participated.
- Hon. Jackson Markson Oboth, Member of Parliament, West Budama County was the Guest of Honor who represented the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga. Ms. Sophie Racine, Component Manager Rights, Justice and Peace, Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI and Prof. Mary Okwakol, Vice Chancellor, Busitema University also graced the event.
- Research papers submitted and oral presentations made covered a wide range of human rights and governance issues in Uganda including, legal aid and access to justice, escalating youth unemployment, the right to quality health care, electoral reforms and functional democracy, the right to freedom from torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment, the death penalty campaign, domestic violence and freedom of expression association and assembly.
- A panel of human rights experts assessed the written and oral presentations and conferred awards upon outstanding performers. These were, Ms. Christine Birabwa, Executive Director, Justice Centres Uganda, Mr. Asuman Bisiika, Executive Editor, East African Flag Post, Mr. Solomon Wilson Kirunda, Senior Legislative Drafter, Parliament of Uganda, Ms. Dora Kwikiriza, Project Coordinator, National Association of Women Judges Uganda and Mr. Denis Kibirige, Senior State Attorney.

- Uganda Christian University and Nkumba University emerged the overall winners with 85%.
- Makerere University followed with 84.8%.
- Uganda Martyrs University took 3rd place with 82%.
- Gulu University emerged in 4th Place with 75%.

- Best discussed topics – Health by Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi.
- Best dressed presenter – Makerere University.
- Best presenter- Islamic University in Uganda.
- Best researched paper – Uganda Christian University, Mukono.

Governance platforms are held at the university level. The debates form part of the routine activities of the human rights associations. In 2015, 9 Students' Governance Platforms were organized by various university human rights associations. A total of 1,325 students (866 male and 459 female) participated in the debates as summarized in table 7 below.

Table 7: A summary of the Students' Governance Platforms supported by FHRI in 2015

No.	University Human Rights Club	Date	Guest Speaker(S)
1.	Uganda Christian University– Arua campus	28 th February 2015	Rev. Denis Ruhana Onzima, Dean of Students, UCU-Arua campus
2.	Islamic University in Uganda- Kabojja campus	9 th April 2015	Ms. Caroline Obbo, Legal Associate, FHRI
3.	Busitema University- Tororo	30 th April 2015	Mr. Eden Akategeka, Assistant Administrator, Busitema University

4.	Makerere University Business School.	15 th April 2015	Mr. Obura Edward Peace, Hon. Treasurer FHRI Board of Directors, Mr. Moses Muhwezi, Deputy Principle, MUBS and Mr. Mpata Zaid, Patron of the human rights club
5.	Uganda Martyrs University – Nkozi	15 th April 2015	Rev. Dr. John Kateeba Tumwine, Chairperson, FHRI Board of Directors, Ms. Sophie Alum Achom, Dean of Students, Umu and Mr. Mubangizi Denis, Patron of the human rights club
6.	Kumi University	18 th April 2015	
7.	Uganda Teachers College- Bushenyi	27 th and 29 th April 2015	
8.	Uganda Technical College- Elgon	29 th April 2015	
9.	Kabale University	15 th May 2015	Dr. Joseph Tindyebwa, Dean of students, Kabale University

Use of social media

Use of social media is promoted in order to expand the students' social network.

- In 2015, university students remained active on the university network Whatsapp group sharing information and updating each other on upcoming events in their communities. Similarly, 7 universities in the network including Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda Christian University - Mukono, Uganda Christian University-Arua, Makerere University, Makerere University Business School, Kabale University, Uganda College of Commerce and International University of East Africa maintained Facebook and twitter accounts as well as Websites.

ii. Civil Society Strengthening

This component seeks to promote dialogue between duty bearers and rights holders for human rights responsive governance. In 2015, 5 activities were implemented as follows:

Neighbourhood Assemblies (NA)

Neighbourhood Assemblies are open membership pressure groups that operate from the village to the district level. The groups meet regularly to identify and address local problems relating to governance, human rights and service delivery.

- In 2015, FHRI supported 2 meetings convened by 2 existing neighbourhood assemblies. Asigala Talaama neighbourhood assembly in Buwunga Sub-county, Masaka met on 8th March 2015 to reflect on their role in the electoral process in their district. 102 members (43 male and 59 female) attended. The second meeting was jointly convened by Mabuye A, Mabuye B, Nambeere I and Mabeere II neighbourhood assemblies on the state of service delivery in Kamira Sub-county, Luwero district. The assembly was held at Galikwoleka Primary School on 20th March 2015. It was attended by 50 members (39 male and 11 female).

Monitoring of service delivery

Building on the achievement registered in 2014, the previously trained community monitors in 6 districts, Buikwe, Masaka, Kayunga, Luwero, Kalangala and Kiboga conducted 5 monitoring visits.

- The purpose of the visits was to track the use of public funds remitted by the central government to local governments for service delivery. 47 primary schools were visited between 2nd and 6th February 2015. Low pupil enrolment, high school drop out rates and late reporting by students particularly girls were part of the findings. These findings were shared with the respective district leaders.

Citizens' accountability platform

Following the monitoring visits conducted by the community monitors, FHRI in partnership with Kalangala Human Rights Defenders convened a citizens' accountability platform on 18th March 2015.

- The purpose of this meeting was to disseminate the findings from the monitoring visits on service delivery amongst district leaders and to encourage collective action to address the gaps. The meeting took place at the districts council hall and enlisted the participation of the Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Tukaikiriza Caleb, District Chairperson, Mr. Willy Lugolobi, lower local council leaders, head teachers, health workers, civil society and community members. 46 participants (35 male and 11 female) were participated.
- The discussions were enriched by a presentation of the Citizens' Manifesto, a civil society led agenda, which is a compilation of the socio-economic and political aspirations of Ugandans. These discussions were led by Mr Mukasa Misusera from CEW-IT.
- A joint action plan that addresses gaps in school enrolment, value for money monitoring, and community participation was adopted.

Training Long Term Election Observers (LTOs) in the use of ICT

As part of the Civil Society Strengthening component, FHRI run a series of capacity building sessions for LTOs in preparation for the 2016 general elections. The election observers training workshops were conducted for 72 observers (49 male and 23 female) from Busia, Kalangala, Kamuli, Kayunga, Rakai and Tororo districts and hosted at Unik Hotel, Kampala from 9th -11th April 2015.

- The focus of the training was the use of ICT application – The Open Data Kit (ODK) in election observation.
- Mr. Sserunjogi Davidson, the Hon. Treasurer, FHRI Board of Directors presided over the opening during which he shared his experiences on election observation in Zimbabwe in 2013.

Impact monitoring

In 2015, impact monitoring was supported in order to document best practices in community activism. During the year, 2 impact monitoring sessions in the form of Focus Group Discussions were conducted with FHRI community partners in the Eastern and Northern region.

1. Eastern region (9th July 201 in Shine-On Hotel, Mbale)

- 10 partner CBOs participated hailing from the districts of Moroto, Tororo, Busia, Kamuli, Iganga, Mbale, Bududa, Bukedea, Soroti and Kumi. A total of 22 participants (17 male and 5 female) attended.

2. Northern Region (30th July 2015 at Pearl Afrique Hotel)

- 8 partner CBOs participated. They hailed from Dokolo, Gulu, Kobobo, Kitgum, Lira, Nwoya, Pader and Amuru districts. 20 human rights activists participated (13 male and 7 female).
- The beneficiaries' testimonies recorded during the discussions suggest attitudinal changes with respect to rights of women as well as an improvement in access to justice.

'I am passionate about issues of inheritance and succession. I have solely been instrumental in the decline of the practice of widow banishment in this area'.
Mr Odwong Wod Ayo, Mega FM, Kitgum'

'As a result of the FHRI training on human rights monitoring, I have been able to work closely with the police and the Resident State Attorney. This has progressively seen justice prevail in my community especially for the indigent'. Mr. Ogema Francis, Arapkob Media Ltd, Lira

iii. Building civic competence for social change

This component seeks to deepen understanding of human rights as a basis for building pressure necessary to demand for socio – political transformation. In 2015, through song and non-contemporary platforms, FHRI intensified efforts to deepen understanding of human rights. The human rights song, titled 'Ddembe lyo' translated as 'my rights' was played at the following platforms:

- The valentine's day show organised by Digida FM in Kireka on 14th February 2015. Over 500 people attended.
- The musical event organised by Juice FM radio on 5th April 2015 at Marian gardens, Kira Town Council, Wakiso district.
- The 'Maama Wange' concert, a show that was commemorating Mother's Day at Theatre La Bonita on 10th May 2015. The event was an also opportunity for FHRI to address an audience of over 500 people on human rights, domestic violence and participation in the update of the National Voters Register.

Outcome

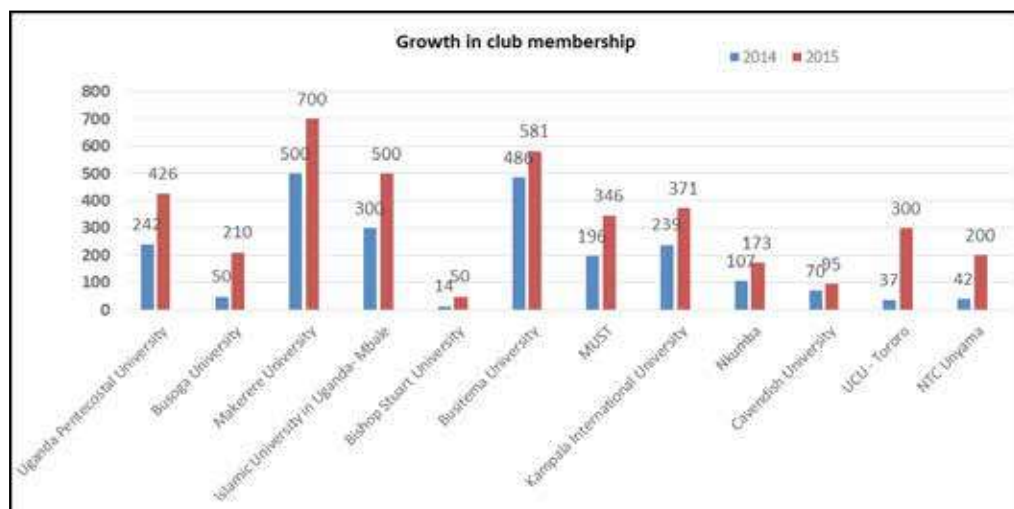


It is not in dispute that the Civic Education Action through the University Outreach program is building a social movement of young human rights defenders. For instance, there has been a significant increase in the growth of human rights clubs in the University Human Rights Network - from 32 in 2014 to now 39 in 2015. 7 more human rights clubs joined the University Human Rights Network in 2015. These include, National Technical College-Unyama, National Technical College-Bushenyi, KIU Bushenyi campus, National Technical College-Elgon, Uganda College of Commerce-Tororo, Livingstone International University and Mbale School of Clinical Officers.

The district coverage of the network has also expanded from 9 districts in 2012 to 20 districts in 2015. These include, Kampala, Mukono, Wakiso, Luweero, Mbale, Tororo, Gulu, Mpigi, Jinja, Iganga, Kumi, Arua, Bushenyi, Kabarole, Soroti, Kabale, Lira, Mbarara, Fort-Portal and Mpigi.

The growth in numbers is matched by an increase in individual membership at the university human rights club level. Each of the clubs has registered a 50% increase in the number of new and active members. Graph 3 below provides a snap shot of this increase.

Graph 3: Growth in membership at the university human rights club level from 2014 to 2015



Owing to this growth, there has been an increase in the number of indirect beneficiaries of student led human rights education/outreach programs. This trickle down effect has increase voices calling for accountability and respect for human rights at the university level.

For instance, on 23rd and 24th March 2015, students of Kabale University human rights club participated in 'The People's Parliament' on NTV, a platform that affords communities an opportunity to provide feedback to their leaders on pressing issues. The theme discussed was 'corruption'.

In the same spirit, Makerere University Business School (MUBS) human rights association spearheaded the painting of a zebra crossing on 15th April 2015 outside their campus. This was in protest to countless lives lost through road accidents at the spot. Further, in the wake of the terror attacks on Garissa University in Kenya during the year, MUBS club members matched in solidarity to the Kenya High Commission to Uganda calling for respect of the right to life and personal security.

On the other hand, Uganda Pentecostal University human rights club in Fort Portal, participated in a debate on access to justice that was convened by Justice Centers in Ijojo district on 8th April 2015.

Students from NTC Unyama, MUST, Kabale University and Kumi University utilized radio to promote human rights and participate in public debates and policy dialogue on issues of public interest. As such, club members have been hosted on radio talks on Mega FM, Radio West, Hope Radio and Rupiny FM.

JACKSON's story Ndyabanawe Jackson a 2nd year student at Kabale University had never been involved in any human rights activity. He however had attended a community meeting on domestic violence, a human rights issue that was prevalent in his home area. Although he was passionate about intervening he felt very helpless especially because he was not aware of human rights and legal procedures related to this issue. In April 2014, FHRI visited Kabale University. The civic education team conducted a session on human rights and encouraged students to form a university human rights club. Ndyabanawe offered to spearhead the establishment of the club. He recruited members and became the first president of Kabale University human rights club.

This offered him the opportunity to participate in various other human rights activities including; research on topical human rights issues and the 7th and 8th inter-university human rights competitions. Ndyabanawe's knowledge on human rights was gradually enhanced. He gained confidence to conduct community human rights sessions on his own.

On 23rd October 2015, Ndyabanawe was elected Youth Chairperson, Nyakinoni sub-county, Kanungu district. He continues to advocate against domestic violence and creating human rights awareness. He is currently planning to contest for the position of District

General Secretary for Youth where he will continue to carry the human rights candle.

"The establishment of the human rights club in Kabale University was a major stepping stone for me. It has enabled me spread human rights within my community. I am always called on if there is any case of human rights abuse and that has earned me a platform to continue doing what I learnt from the club" Telephone interview with Jackson on 2nd November 2015.



Results emerging from the impact assessment indicate a marked change in the target communities' attitude towards rights of women and widows in Mucwini sub-county, Kitgum district. For example, the notion that women should not inherit property or be evicted from their matrimonial homes has become indefensible. Similarly, community based associations such as Lugazi Human Rights Defenders and MESSAGE, a media organization based in Tororo, who are beneficiaries of technical support from FHRI, are actively engaged in monitoring public expenditure in health and education in lower local governments. The groups have drawn local attention to the problem of absenteeism of teachers and health workers prompting the introduction of penalties in schools and health facilities.

Challenge

The politicization of human rights campaigns during the election period disrupted activity schedules of some human rights clubs. In some of the Universities, the administration was reluctant to host personalities that were likely to irrationalise human rights debates, postponing some activities as a result.



The award ceremony at the 8th Inter-University Human Rights competition on 7th March 2015, Busitema University, Tororo. Ms. Sophie Racine, DGF Component Manager, Rights, Justice and Peace (pink and blue striped top) and Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI (3rd from right) hand over the awards to the overall winners- UCU (far left holding the certificate) and Nkumba University (far right, holding the shield)

EXTERNAL SERVICES



Human Rights and
Democracy Centre



Documentation Unit



Public Affairs Unit



ICT Support



Communication and
Information Unit



Membership Development

ACTION 4: EXTERNAL SERVICES

External Services is implemented under the Communication and Information Division (CID). The function supports the FHRI human rights advocacy agenda through the use of ICTs and information sharing. The Division also spearheads the FHRI membership drive to promote collective advocacy.

Objective

The Action seeks to improve information sharing and management, promote collective advocacy, maximize participation and build consensus on democracy and human rights issues in Uganda.

The Action has three major activities:

1. Communication and Information
 - Human Rights and Democracy Information Centre
 - Public Affairs Unit
 - Documentation Unit
2. Membership Development
3. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) support

Implementation

FHRI has an Information Centre that provides library, internet and secretarial support services; issues e-newsletters annually; conducts book exhibitions; updates and maintains the FHRI Website and social media platforms; conducts media briefings; issues press releases and urgent appeals; oversees the publication and dissemination for the Annual Report and brochures; and spearheads membership recruitment and development.

Planned activities

In 2015, the Division planned to continue providing information and internet services to users; publish 3 issues of the e-newsletters; participate in book exhibitions; oversee the dissemination of FHRI publications and promotional materials; organise media briefings; prepare press releases; organise 1 membership platform; hold the 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM)/ 9th General Assembly; and update the FHRI Website and the social media platforms.

Output

1. Communication and Information Services

The Human Rights and Democracy Information Centre

- In 2015, the Human Rights and Democracy Information Centre provided library services to 153 users (59 male and 94 female). The majority of the users were students from higher institutions of learning such as Cavendish University and Kampala International University. Other users were from the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the general public and FHRI members.
- The Centre's collection was boosted by a donation of 149 materials from Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity, KIOS, Human Rights Centre, Uganda Human Rights Commission,

FIDH, ACFODE, ICJ-Kenya, UWONET and EHAHRDP. These were in form of reports, periodicals, position papers and new laws.

- The Centre in-turn donated over 100 reading materials to University human rights clubs and community based groups such as Elgon Human Rights Initiative, Uganda Martyrs University- Nkozi campus, Makerere University – Department of Philosophy, Malire Resource Centre – Tororo and International Paralegals for Advisory Advocacy and Social Support.
- In order to keep members abreast with new developments at FHRI, the Centre published and disseminated *Volume 12 Issue No.4 of the FHRI e-newsletter: July – December 2014* and *Volume 13 Issue No.1 of the FHRI e-newsletter: January - May 2015*.

Scroll 1: Summary of exhibitions in 2015

- The 8th Inter-University Human Rights Competition on 6th – 7th March 2015 at Busitema University, Tororo.
- Human rights club Executive handover on 9th March 2015 at Islamic University in Uganda, Kabojja Female Campus.
- Social Accountability meeting on 20th March 2015 at Kamira, Luweero.
- The district budget meeting on 25th March 2015 at Luweero Town Council, Luweero.
- Ethics and Human Rights Expo from 26th – 27th March 2015 at Makerere University, Kampala.
- Human rights debate on 15th April 2015 at Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi.
- 5th Civil Society Organisations Fair organised by NGO Forum from 25th – 26th May 2015 at Hotel Africana, Kampala.
- Roundtable on the UN Bangkok Rules on 9th July 2015 at Hotel Africana, Hotel.
- Seminar on Strategic Litigation on 28th August 2015 at Royal Suites, Kampala.
- Bangkok Rules Training for women prison officers from 22nd – 23rd October 2015, Royal Suites, Kampala.
- Kampala City Council Authority Education Forum Expo from 19th – 20th November 2015 at KCCA Gardens, Kampala.

Public Affairs Unit

The Public Affairs Unit promotes the FHRI corporate image and creates awareness of services rendered by the organization. The Unit liaises with stakeholders to promote FHRI advocacy messages and programs. This is done through press releases, media interviews, social media campaigns and rapid response fact-finding missions.

Using the media, in 2015, FHRI proactively took a stand and condemned a number of human rights excesses perpetuated by state and non-state actors, in effect, drawing public attention to and protecting people at risk of injustice and abuse.

- On a count of 229 media appearances (114 in print and 115 broadcast) over international and national media outlets, FHRI spoke out against the following: abuse of the rights of prisoners in Muinaina prison; police brutality and abuse of the FDC female political activists on Mbarara High Way; surveillance and interception of communication by the state following the release of the '*funguwa macho*' report; voter bribery by MPs and cabinet ministers during the NRM primaries; the ineffectiveness of government's poverty eradication programs and police brutality and excessive use of force against the Kampala Lord Mayor and his supporters. Access to justice, respect for media freedoms, the NGO bill and civic space, electoral reforms and the death penalty were some of the other broader issues addressed.
- In the course of the year, FHRI further sponsored a 6-month human rights Uganda TV show which aired on WBS TV code-named *Manya edembe lyo* translated as 'Know your rights'. The recorded program was aired every Saturday from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. Amongst other guests, FHRI featured once a month and discussed the campaign against the death penalty, land rights, human rights issues in the context of 2016 general elections and eradication of extreme poverty and human rights.
- The highlights of FHRI's work in the media in 2015 are summarized in table 8 below:

Table 8: FHRI in the media in 2015

MEDIA HOUSE	TITLE OF THE ARTICLE
The New Vision	
The New Vision, 26 th January 2015	Why NRA stormed Kampala City
The New Vision, 2 nd February 2015	Speed up electoral reforms
The New Vision, 19 th February 2015	Where do the sacks of money which fund political campaigns come from?
The New Vision, 4 th April 2015	Commentary on elections
The New Vision, 14 th April 2015	What if a paraded suspect turns out to be innocent
The New Vision, 14 th April 2015	Low voter turnout blamed on apathy
The New Vision, 15 th April 2015	Appreciation message from Kagezi's family
The New Vision, 19 th April 2015	Voting starts now, not on election day
The New Vision, 21 st April 2015	Church leaders criticized over silence on electoral reforms
The New Vision, 24 th April 2015	CCEDU flags off Votability campaign

The New Vision, 28 th April 2015	Youth go register to vote
The New Vision, 30 th April 2015	Lawyers, MPs speak out on constitutional amendments
The New Vision, 04 th May 2015	Government sets tough rules for NGOs
The New Vision, 04 th May 2015	Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana commenting on the Non-Government Organizations Bill, 2015
The New Vision, 11 th May 2015	Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana scoops the European Union Human Rights Defenders' Award, 2015 in Uganda
The New Vision, 11 th May 2015	Labor rights
The New Vision, 12 th May 2015	Women must be on board for democracy to prevail
The New Vision 14 th May 2015	Government asked to revise new NGO Bill, 2015
The New Vision, 16 th May 2015	We can only talk of democratic society when human rights are observed
The New Vision, 25 th May 2015	Organisation advises on presidential poll runner up
The New Vision, 9 th July 2015	Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana featured in a story on what Ugandans make of medals
The New Vision, 23 rd July 2015	CCEDU advert for job vacancies
The New Vision, 31 st August 2015	Parties should uphold human rights
The New Vision, 11 th August 2015	Civil Society Organizations to deploy 900 monitors
The New Vision, 23 rd August 2015	Mao attacks government over new electoral laws
The New Vision, 23 rd August 2015	EC bosses sued over election rules
The New Vision, 23 rd August 2015	Government stampeding parliament-Kadaga
The New Vision, 24 th August 2015	Electoral Commission, civil society vow to fight voter apathy; Topowa
The New Vision, 9 th October 2015	MPs discuss draft bill to abolish death penalty
The New Vision, 21 st October 2015	Clergy launch observer mission for elections
The New Vision, 3 rd November 2015	Kigezi records highest voter bribery
The New Vision, 30 th November 2015	Report calls for non-custodial sentences for mothers
The New Vision, 30 th November 2015	EC bans Topowa campaign
The New Vision, 1 st December 2015	Voter education: EC, CSOs clash
The New Vision, 2 nd December 2015	Poverty deprives Ugandans of their human rights
The New Vision, 4 th December 2015	Pictorial of Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana and EC Chair Eng. Dr. Badru Kiggundu during the Civil Society interactive workshop on November 30

The Daily Monitor	
The Daily Monitor, 12 th January, 2015	Is Uganda ready for another president
The Daily Monitor, 14 th January 2015	Activists condemn police action
The Daily Monitor, 15 th January 2015	Battered journalist receives visitors
The Daily Monitor, 16 th January 2015	We should focus more on climate change this year
The Daily Monitor, 19 th January 2015	When victim becomes perpetrator, it is crucial that justice is done
The Daily Monitor, 31 st January 2015	Let's promote, develop institutions not individuals
The Daily Monitor, 9 th February 2015	Addressing pending electoral reforms before 2016
The Daily Monitor, 11 th February 2015	CCEDU monitors LC5 elections in Bugiri
The Daily Monitor, 11 th February 2015	A toast to the rights icon
The Daily Monitor, 18 th February 2015	Embrace electoral reforms or we take over parliament
The Daily Monitor, 09 th March 2015	Government reshuffles should get rid of incompetent people
The Daily Monitor, 10 th March 2015	Parading suspects; media are violating suspects' rights
The Daily Monitor, 12 th March 2015	House directive to stop senior journalists attract criticism
The Daily Monitor, 27 th March 2015	Stop violating human rights in the name of providing security
The Daily Monitor, 10 th April 2015	Judiciary shall guard freedom of speech-CJ
The Daily Monitor, 13 th April 2015	Votability launch at Grand Imperial
The Daily Monitor, 16 th April 2015	Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana condemns suspected Makerere student killers boasting on social media
The Daily Monitor, 20 th April 2015	Drive rallying citizens to vote starts
The Daily Monitor, 23 rd April 2015	Poll register agents are unserious
The Daily Monitor, 24 th April 2015	NGO rallies boda boda cyclists to promote 2016 elections
The Daily Monitor, 27 th April 2015	Is it in the politicians interests to mobilize eligible voters to register?
The Daily Monitor, 30 th April 2015	EC extends voter's register exercise

The Daily Monitor, 30 th April 2015	Youth should register to vote
The Daily Monitor, 03 rd May 2015	Stop infringing on media freedom
The Daily Monitor, 07 th May 2015	Sewanyana wins EU rights award
The Daily Monitor, 08 th May 2015	Sewanyana wins EU rights award
The Daily Monitor, 11 th May 2015	Sewanyana scoops EU rights award
The Daily Monitor, 13 th May 2015	Celebrating human rights defenders' award 2015; FHRI boss scoops EU rights award
The Daily Monitor, 26 th May 2015	Citizens reject government constitutional reforms
The Daily Monitor, 27 th May 2015	Let's commit to building an electoral democracy
The Daily Monitor, 8 th June 2015	Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana featured in a story covering EU's views on the 2016 general elections
The Daily Monitor, 03 rd July 2015	Local Councils warned on land deals
The Daily Monitor, 3 rd July 2015	We should raise democracy bar
The Daily Monitor, 23 rd July 2015	Crispy reacted to a story run on recalling electoral reforms
The Daily Monitor, 27 th July 2015	Crispy reacted to a story run on impact of throwing out electoral reforms on voter turnout
The Daily Monitor, 3 rd August 2015	Re-examine the validity of the death penalty
The Daily Monitor, 5 th August 2015	Don't tamper with press freedom
The Daily Monitor, 28 th August 2015	The unresolved question of electoral reforms, what it means for 2016
The Daily Monitor, 2 nd September 2015	Opposition, Civil Society skeptical of Amendments
The Daily Monitor, 23 rd September 2015	Campaign to fight voter apathy launched
The Daily Monitor, 18 th October 2015	The state's right to obtain information from citizens must follow the law
The Daily Monitor, 18 th October 2015	Why shouldn't clergy participate in politics
The Daily Monitor, 3 rd November 2015	NRM primaries: Kigezi tops in voter buying
The Daily Monitor, 18 th November 2015	Activists, DP condemns police over brutality
The Daily Monitor, 30 th November 2015	Civil Society warns voters against bribery
The Daily Monitor, 2 nd December 2015	EC declines to cite anti-Topowa lobby

The Daily Monitor, 3 rd December 2015	Election observers accuse EC of failing on voter education
The Daily Monitor, 7 th December 2015	Handouts can't fight poverty, says EU envoy
The Daily Monitor, 10 th December 2015	More effort needed to promote human rights
The Observer	
The Observer, 9 th January 2015	Voter apathy is the real threat to political change
The Observer, 15 th -16 th April 2015	Kagezi murder must not shake our resolve
The Observer, 27 th -28 th April 2015	CCEDU flags off votability campaign
The Observer, 29 th -30 th April 2015	Have you verified your voter registration details
The Observer, 01 st May 2015	Police needs to respect journalist
The Observer, 11 th -12 th May 2015	Social media, theater, drama, and comedy must be used to deliver messages that will inspire young people to participate in elections
The Observer, 20 th -21 st May 2015	New voters roll should be a good development
The Observer, 3 rd -5 th July 2015	Intraparty democracy is crucial for 2016 elections
The Observer, 10 th -12 th July 2015	Uganda should aim at eradicating poverty
The Observer, 22 nd -23 rd July 2015	Forget the glory past and leap to the dream future
The Observer, 27 th -28 th July 2015	We should link youths to democratic governance
The Observer, 12 th -13 th August 2015	We need absolute media freedom towards 2016
The Observer, 14 th -16 th August 2015	Bride price is just a token of appreciation
The Observer, 28 th -30 th August 2015	Let us approach electoral and constitutional reforms holistically
The Observer, 25 th September 2015	NGO's launch 2016 civic education
The Observer, 2 nd -3 rd December 2015	EC threatens to ban partisan NGOs
The Observer, 2 nd -3 rd December 2015	EC, NGOs to review Topowa message
The Observer, 9 th -10 th December 2015	Human rights should be at the heart of elections- says FHRI's Sewanyana

The Red Pepper

The Red Pepper, 20 th April 2015	Boda riders embrace CCEDU 2016 campaign
The Red Pepper, 04 th May 2015	CCEDU vows to fight on for poll reforms
The Red Pepper, 4 th November 2015	NRM bosses, Ministers, MP's in voter bribery and buying named
The Red Pepper 18 th November 2015	FHRI condemns police brutality on citizens

The Independent

The Independent, 18 th -24 th September 2015	CEON's launch
The Independent, 4 th December 2015	EC bans Topowa campaign

The Guardian

The Guardian, 6 th November 2015	Ugandans lose faith in power of the vote
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Chimp Reports

Chimp Reports, 4 th December 2015	CSOs want inherent human rights addressed to address poverty
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In 2015, FHRI hosted 16 delegations at the Human Rights Houses including:

- Students from Danida Fellowship Centre on 26th January 2015.
- Mr. Mark Phare and Mr. Joe Bolton, British High Commission on 10th February 2015.
- Mr. Mike Musau, National Coordinator, Election Observation Group – Kenya on 27th February 2015.
- Students from the Law Development Centre (LDC), Kampala on 12th March 2015.
- Rev. Canon. John Ssebudde, Provost of Mukono Cathedral and Rev. Godfrey Ssengendo, Vicar of Mukono Cathedral on 7th April 2015.
- Delegation from the Zambian Law Development Commission on 24th April 2015.
- Ms. Yohanan Assefa, National Endowment for Democracy on 22nd May 2015.
- Visiting delegation from Malawi on elections, from 24th – 29th May 2015.
- Students from Drake University and Makerere University Business School, Kampala on 5th June 2015.
- Dr. Eileen Koske, Kenya Prisons Service on 8th – 12th June 2015.
- Mr. Matthew Burnt, Ms. Jessica A. Hartzfeld and Ms. Olivia Lubwama, US Embassy on 11th June 2015.
- Ms. Carol Werunga and Mr. Dalli Barako Guyo, Kenya Human Rights Commission on 22nd June 2015.

- Ms. Jenai Cox ,Senior Program Manager, Freedom House on 1st July 2015.
- Mr. John Kisembo, Ag. Director and Mr. John Senabulya, United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders on 3rd July 2015.
- Students from Simmons College, USA on 22nd July 2015.
- Students from Kampala International University, 2nd November 2015.

Documentation Unit

In 2015, FHRI published the following:

- 1,000 copies of the FHRI Annual report 2014 was printed and disseminated to government agencies, civil society groups, media, academia, FHRI membership, development partners and the general public.
- 2 speech series titled '*Democratic Governance and the Role of Civil Society in Uganda*' and the other on, '*Reflection on Key Governance Issues in the run-up to 2016 General Elections*,' authored by FHRI Patron, Hon. Justice Prof. Dr. G.W. Kanyehamba. The publications were widely disseminated particularly amongst FHRI members during in 2015.

2. Membership Development

Membership development takes 2 forms: The membership drive, recruitment and, membership involvement in FHRI activities to enhance collective efforts. Efforts were made to grow the membership in 2015 and to encourage member participation through membership platforms.

- In 2015, the team recruited 124 new members (61 male and 63 female) increasing the number to 1,404 in 2015.
- One membership platform was held on 30th July 2015 at St. Austin Social Centre and Hostel, Mbale. The platform attracted 70 participants (44 male and 26 female) from Mbale, Soroti, Butaleja, Manafwa, Kumi, Bukedea, Tororo, Sironko, Balambuli and Bududa districts. 2 membership engagements in Luweero and Buikwa districts under the auspices of Bumu Disabled Development Association and the Buikwe District Youth and Social Committee were supported in the same spirit.
- As obliged under the FHRI Constitution, the 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the 9th General Assembly was held on 22nd August 2015 at the Human Rights House. The meeting attracted 653 members including 384 male, 269 female.

- The FHRI Website (www.fhri.or.ug), the Facebook page and twitter account were regularly updated to allow for more interactive and informative platforms.
- As part of the current awareness, the Human Rights and Democracy information Centre conducted 11 exhibitions of FHRI literature at the following events in 2015.

Outcome



By the end of 2015, the membership drive registered positive results. A 5% increase in the growth of its membership from 1,280 members (720 male and 560 female) in 2014 to 1416 (860 male and 610 female) in 2015 indicates growing public interest in the work of FHRI



Human rights activism through song: FHRI members dancing to the human rights song –*Ddembe lyo*- during the 9th General Assembly held on 22nd August 2015 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.



On 7th May 2015, the European Union awarded Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, with the prestigious European Union (EU) Human Rights Defenders' Award, 2015. The award ceremony was held at the Residence of the Belgium Ambassador to Uganda, H.E Alain Hanssen in the presence of the Heads of Mission of the EU Member States in Uganda. The award was in recognition of his relentless efforts in pursuit of social justice, human rights and democratic governance.



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana (5th left) Executive Director, FHRI together with the Heads of Missions of the EU Member States, the EU Delegation and Norway in Uganda at the Residence of the Belgium Ambassador at the Award giving ceremony on 7th May 2015. Inset is the award plaque.



FHRI's on-line approach to human rights activism is gaining momentum and reach. In 2015, the FHRI Website recorded 68,001 new hits making it to 278,871 content hits. 63 new e-newsletter online subscriptions were recorded increasing the number to 723 from 60 subscribers recorded in 2014. FHRI presence on social media grew registering 2,431 likes on Facebook compared to 1,419 in 2014. A total of 847 new tweets and 409 new followers were also recorded.

Challenge

Increased incidences of cyber-attacks and reports of secret surveillance by government, places organizational data security at risk. CCEDU's website was hacked into during the year. In response to this challenge, FHRI will invest in data security training and systems in order to secure its information.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS
PARALEGAL ADVISORY
SERVICES**



Monitoring Visits



Legal rights awareness



Access to justice



Case file
decongestion



Steering
committee meetings



Launch of PAS Busia

ACTION 5: SPECIAL PROJECTS

i. Paralegal Advisory Services

The Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS) project commenced in 2005 as a pilot in 4 sites in 3 districts with 18 paralegals and 6 social workers providing legal assistance and advice for pre-trial detainees. Over the years, the programme has grown to cover the districts of Arua, Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Mbale, Jinja, Kampala, Mbarara, Bushenyi, Kabarole, Busia and Soroti. In 2015, the program extended its services to the prisons of Masaka, Luweero-Nakasongola, Iganga, Agago, Pader, Kapchorwa and Nebbi. PAS now operates in 58 districts covering 61% of the national prisons population with representation in all the regions of the country.

A National Steering Committee headed by a High Court Judge, Hon. Judge Lawrence Gidudu, governs PAS. The body provides leadership and plays an oversight role.

Objective

PAS seeks to improve the understanding of principles and procedures of the formal criminal justice system by both users and criminal justice agencies in Uganda. The program contributes to physical and case file decongestion, links the demand and supply sides of advocates for practice change in the criminal justice system.

Implementation

PAS is implemented by 52 paralegals and 57 social workers, 1 field legal officer and 40 Community Legal Volunteers. The secretariat comprises 5 staff including the National Coordinator, Legal officer, Accountant, Office Administrator and the Project driver.

Planned activities

The following activities were planned under PAS in 2015: provision of legal assistance to suspects and inmates, legal rights awareness and education for suspects, inmates and the public, 4 quarterly regional monitoring visits to PAS sites, PAS orientation training, launch of the PAS Busia Community Legal Volunteers (CLVs) program, training CLVs and civic leaders in handling civil matters at the grassroots, recruitment of new staff for the PAS extension sites and 2 Steering Committee meetings.

Output

i Provision of legal assistance to suspects and inmates

In 2015, the paralegals and social workers contributed to the process of physical and case file decongestion within the targeted magisterial areas as summarised in table 9 below:

Table 9: Summary of releases by PAS for 2015 disaggregated by gender

Intervention by PAS	% of total	Male	Female	Total
Mandatory Bail	5%	1,929	239	2,168
Mediation/ Diversion	5%	1,440	495	1,935
Court Bail	13%	4,480	698	5,178
Police Bond	46%	16,154	2,322	18,476
Community Service Orders	4%	1,476	218	1,694
Release on fine payments	2%	752	130	882
Other releases	0%	77	25	102
Juveniles	25%	6,488	3,621	10,109
Grand Total	100%	32,796	7,748	40,544

From table 9 above, the total number of suspects and inmates released through PAS intervention in 2015 was 40,544 (37,796 male and 7,748 female) up from 37,837 (31,615 male and 6,222) in 2014. The biggest number of suspects was released on police bond.

ii. Monitoring visits

- 4 quarterly monitoring visits were conducted by the PAS secretariat in 2015 in a bid to provide back up support to the paralegals and social workers; improve working relationships between the paralegals and JLOS officials, recruit 40 CVLs and paralegals. Table 10 below summarizes the visits conducted.

Table 10: Summary of monitoring visits conducted in 2015

PAS site	Dates
Arua	6-9 April 2015
Arua	4 th -6 th June 2015
Mbarara, Bushenyi and Fort Portal	15 th – 17 th April 2015
Jinja, Busia and Mbale Busia	21 st – 24 th April 2015
Busia	17 th -21 st August 2015
UCLF	5 th May 2015
Luzira prison	6 th May 2015
Gulu, Lira and Kitgum	27 th -30 th May 2015
Masaka, Luwero and Nakasongola	21 st -22 nd October 2015

iii. PAS orientation training

The orientation training was part of the induction process for the newly recruited program staff under PAS. The training which took place on 2nd December 2015 at Nsambya Youth Sharing Hall, was attended by 37 paralegals and social workers (20 male and 17 female) from 13 program and extension sites.

- The session was facilitated by Her Worship Edith Mbabazi, Grade 1 Magistrate Nakawa Court, Mr. Hasiyo Adam, PAS Supervisor, Uganda Prisons Service, Mr. Okalany William, Director, Legal and Human Rights Department, Uganda Police Force and Ms. Lucy

Ladira, Technical Advisor, Criminal, JLOS. The trainers led discussions on criminal justice procedures, legal and human rights of suspects, access to justice and the PAS code of conduct.

iv. Launch of the PAS Busia Community Legal Volunteers (CLVs) program

The objective of the PAS Busia CLVs program is threefold: promote legal rights awareness for the poor and vulnerable involved in civil matters; increasing access to redress through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and legal representation in civil matters and, strengthening the capacity of paralegals and community legal volunteers to mediate civil matters.

- The CLVs program was officially launched on 6th November 2015 at Lunyo Sub-county headquarters in Busia district. Mr. Kururagire Jack Wycliffe, Commissioner, Inspectorate of Prisons and FHRI Board member officiated at the launch. Mr. Oti Kenneth Adola, Resident District Commissioner Busia, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI, Mr. Jonathan Ochom, representative from DGF, Mr. Nahabwe Nelson, District Police Commander, Busia, Mr. Ojambo Pamba, LC 3, Busime Sub-county and Mr. Taabu Bonnex, LC3 Lunyo Sub-county, graced the launch. It was attended by 257 participants (174 male and 83 female).

v. Training civic leaders

The objective of the training for civic leaders was to enhance their capacity to effectively mediate cases before they escalate into full-blown conflicts at the grassroots. Stemming the flow of such cases into the justice system would in effect reduce the backlog of civic and criminal disputes in the courts.

- This training took place on 10th December 2015 at 12 Pearls hotel in Busia district and was attended by 114 trainees (100 male and 14 female).

vi. Extension of PAS services

In 2015, PAS extended its services to 15 new prisons in order to increase access to justice for the vulnerable inmates.

- The prisons are: Masaka main prison, Masaka Saza prison, Butuntumula prison in Luwero and Nakasongola, Pader main prison, Patong prison in Agago, Paidha main prison, Nebbi main prison, Iganga main prison, Kumi main prison, Kapchorwa main prison, Morukatipe prison in Tororo, Kigo and Kitala prisons in Entebbe, Kauga prison in Mukono and Kasanganti prison. 9 paralegals (4 male and 5 female) were recruited to support this extension.

vii. PAS National Steering Committee meetings

- In 2015, 2 PAS National Steering Committee meetings were held on 10th March 2015 and 30th June 2015 at the Human Rights House. In addition to following up challenges identified in PAS sites, the Committee adopted a new logo to rebrand the program.



Outcomes

The total number of suspects and inmates released through PAS interventions has continued to rise from 31,302 in 2013, 37,837 in 2014 to 40,544 in 2015. This remarkable increase is attributed to the extension of the program in order to reach more vulnerable prisoners who are in dire need of the legal services offered. The use of CLVs in providing basic legal assistance and mediating cases has proven an effective and sustainable approach to community empowerment and stemming the flow of cases into the justice system. PAS' contribution to addressing the case backlog problem and decongestion in prison is not in dispute. Table 11 below summaries the number of cases assisted by the CLVs in 2015.

Table 11: Summary of CLVs programs implemented in 2015

Activity	Target	Achieved		Total	Percentage
		Males	Females		
Legal sensitization	1,000	427	216	643	64%
Mediation	50	15	08	23	46%
Legal Representation	35	10	01	11	31%
Legal Advices for walk-in clients	200	147	21	168	84%
Radio talk shows	12 Shows	-	-	06	50%
Development and distribution of IEC materials	10 Topics	-	-	05	50%



The legal rights awareness component of the program has empowered suspects to self - represent. For instance, as a result of the legal rights awareness session conducted by PAS paralegals for 56 suspects in Isingiro police post and 113 inmates in Isingiro prison, in December 2015, inmates in prisons applied the knowledge acquired. 6 of them opted to amend their plea for community service orders while 8 applied for court bond, which was granted.

Challenge

Ignorance of rights and legal procedures amongst suspects and inmates, limited co-ordination between actors in the justice system, the non-appreciation of non-custodial sentences amongst some judicial officers and the ever present challenge of overstay on remand, still pose as major impediments to accessing justice. PAS will have to deepen its interventions particularly in the new sites to address these issues.



Ms. Nyangoma Salome, the paralegal in the Mbarara PAS site sensitizing inmates at Isingiro police post on 15th December 2015



Mr. Kururagyire Jack Wycliff, Commissioner, Inspectorate of Prisons (holding the microphone) launching the CLVs program at Lunyo sub-county Headquarters in Busia District on 6th November 2015

CITIZENS' COALITION FOR
ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY
IN UGANDA (CCEDU)



ii. Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)

Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) will mark its 6th anniversary on 19th September 2016. The coalition was launched in 2009 to advance and promote integrity, transparency and active citizen participation in Uganda's electoral processes.

In 2015 alone, 50 organizations and 400 individuals applied and were admitted as members. CCEDU's membership has in effect grown from 850 organizations in 2014 to 878 organizations and institutions. CCEDU has over 15,000 individual members who are spread across the country.

The coalition is governed by the membership platform, the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee. The CCEDU Advisory Board is the think tank of the coalition and comprises 12 configurations elected by the membership including the elderly, workers, faith based networks, media, development workers, student/youth, Persons with Disabilities, private sector, women, human rights activists and Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. The Board hosts representatives of these configurations and provides technical advice on strategy.

The Executive Committee, which is charged with overseeing policy implementation is comprised of 90 civil society groups. The body is run by eminent persons in the area of human rights and democratic governance.

Objective

CCEDU seeks to advocate and promote integrity, transparency and active citizen's participation in Uganda's electoral processes.

Implementation

CCEDU mobilises citizens to partake in civic education, advocacy for electoral reform and participation in election monitoring.

The CCEDU secretariat comprises of a Coordinator, Communications Manager, Advocacy and Membership Officer, Project Associates, interns and a driver. It is located at the Democracy House, Plot 1111 Lulume Road, Nsambya.

Planned activities

In 2015, CCEDU planned to garner support for 'The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2014 and The Electoral Commission Amendment Bill, 2014, roll out three voter mobilization drives – *Votability* around the National Voter's Register Update and Display, *Topowa*, *Honour Your Vote* to increase voter turnout in the 2016 general elections and *Basobola* which mobilises support for women candidates in the run up to the 2016 general elections. CCEDU further planned to observe the 2016 general elections in partnership with Women Leadership Development and CEON-U.

Output

i. 'The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2014 and The Electoral Commission Amendment Bill, 2014

On 30th April 2015, government tabled, *The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2015* which sought to amend a string of election related laws/provisions in the run up to the 2016 general elections.

- Following the tabling of the bill, CCEDU and its members presented a memorandum before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee on 22nd May 2015 containing views on the tabled bill. The memorandum also contained the electoral reform proposals mooted in the model bills- *The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2013* and *The Electoral Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2013* formulated by CCEDU in 2014, such as the strengthening of the independence of the Electoral Commission, participation of political parties in the appointment process and the prospective role of the Judicial Service Commission in the appointment process.
- After the presentation in Parliament, CCEDU embarked on a series of consultative meetings with key stakeholders on the proposed reforms. For instance, CCEDU in partnership with the Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP) spearheaded a nationwide consultative process on the reforms. A citizen compact summarizing the aspirations of Ugandans with respect to electoral reforms was adopted thereafter.

ii. The Votability campaign

The *Votability* multi-media campaign sought to mobilise the electorate to participate in the update of the National Voters' Register exercise.

- Launched at a colourful ceremony at the Grand Imperial Hotel on 10th April 2015, the campaign was executed as a multi-media campaign in partnership with 64 media houses across the country. Social media, above and below the line messaging initiatives, citizen engagements, use of campaign ambassador, radio and TV talk shows supported the campaign.
- Mr. Charles Mashare Head of Voter, Education at the Electoral Commission representing the Chairperson, Eng. Dr Badru Kiggundu officiated at the launch. It was attended by at least 300 CCEDU members. Government officials, Members of Parliament and development partners from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), and the European Union (EU) graced the launch with their presence.

iii. The Topowa campaign

Phase II of the *Votability Honour Your Vote* campaign under the tagline *Topowa* was launched on 22nd September 2015 at Hotel Africana- Peoples' space in Kampala. The launch was presided over by Commissioner Joseph Biribonwa, the Deputy Chairperson of the Electoral Commission flanked by Commissioner Jane Mugabi. The campaign was a coinage aimed at mobilising Ugandans to participate in the electoral process and cast their vote.

- Led by city comedian Afande Kerekere, the procession of democracy activists was flagged off at YMCA by Rev. Cyprian Masembe. The parade leading to Hotel Africana was led by a brass band, skaters and dancers.
- Over 400 CCEDU members, civil society, religious leaders, Members of Parliament, development partners and the general public participated in the procession.
- Both Commissioner Biribonwa and Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Chairperson of CCEDU's Executive Committee rallied Ugandans to heed the call and embrace the *Topowa* campaign.

- The campaign was implemented in partnership with 74 media houses which aired spot messages, DJ mentions and hosted CCEDU members and the secretariat staff to talk shows on elections across the country.

- ▶ At least 2,400 videos on Topowa were distributed in phase one in Karamoja alone.
- ▶ The launch was covered in all major newspapers like The Daily Monitor, The New Vision, Observer, Independent and Red Pepper among others.
- ▶ NBS TV covered a live feed of the launch.

iv. The Basobola campaign

In 2015, two firms- MAAD Advertising Ltd and Garnet Casting Ltd were contracted to conceptualise and produce the radio messages under the *Basobola* campaign.

- The civic education messages which were intended to mobilise support for women candidates in the run up to the 2016 general elections were produced in 5 languages- luganda, Luo, Ateso, Rutoro and Runyankole.
- The strategic radio campaign signed up 20 radio stations carefully selected from 4 regions of the country and particularly in those areas/constituencies where women were vying for mainstream political positions at the parliamentary level.
- Table 12 below provides a list of the radio stations contracted to run this campaign.
- The radio spot messages were complemented with DJ mentions, radio talk-shows and social media posts. Radio talk shows hosted women contestants within their respective constituencies thus raising their visibility.

Table 12: Radio stations contracted to host the Basobola campaign in 2015

NAME OF RADIO STATION	REGION
CBS (89/2FM)	Central
ALL KARAMOJA (94.7FM)	Northern
RADIO LIRA (88.7FM)	Northern
JOGO FM (93.8FM)	Eastern
MEGA FM (102 FM)	Northern
SHINE FM (103.1 FM)	Northern
RADIO Q FM (94.3FM)	Northern
VOICE OF TESO (88.4 FM)	Eastern
OPEN GATE (103.2 FM)	Eastern
BULADDE FM (100.7 FM)	Central
LIBERTY (89.0 FM)	Western
ELGON (101.4 FM)	Eastern
SOURCE BROADCASTING	Eastern

VOICE OF KIGEZI (89.5 FM)	Western
WBS TV	Central
VOICE OF KAMWENGE (87.9FM)	Western
HOMENET SPIRIT FM (96.6 FM)	Northern
SUUBI FM (104.9 FM)	Central
BAABA FM (87.7 FM)	Eastern
IMPACT FM (98.5 FM)	Southern

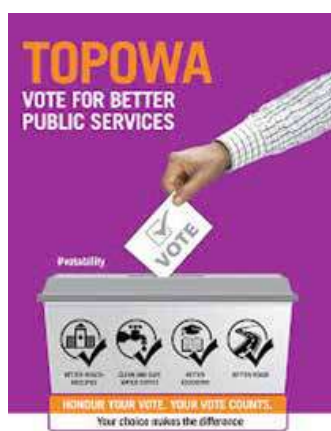
v. Election observation

In 2015, FHRI and Women Leadership Development (WLEDE) trained 32 Long Term Election Observers (18 female and 14 male) on gender sensitive election observation. The training took place between 29th September and 1st October 2015 at Eureka Place Hotel in Ntinda. As part of the training package, each election observer was handed an *Election Observer's Pocket Guide* developed under this partnership.

Subsequently, the LTOs were deployed in 29 districts/constituencies of Uganda in order to document experiences of female candidates vying for main- stream parliamentary seats.

- By the end of the year, the LTOs had altogether filed a total of 96 regular election observation reports or through the Open Data Kit platform. A preliminary assessment of the reports indicated low turnout of women in the elections campaigns.
- Similarly, within the framework of CEON-U, CCEDU was assigned as a sub-national member in charge of the Central region covering 36 districts.
 - o In this respect, 230 long-term and short-term observers were trained and deployed. The span of deployment covered September 2015 to February 2016.
 - o The observers filed regular reports on a wide spectrum on issues related to the nomination and campaigns during the year.

Outcome



The Votability campaign registered significant response as more and more people turned up to check their names on the National Voters' Register. With an estimated 93% of the population of voting age registering (Electoral Commission report on Voter Registration 2015), it is not in dispute that the Electoral Commission had to extend the deadline to accommodate this renewed interest.

Similarly, the Topowa campaign received unprecedented public support. Social media was awash with the campaign attracting over 20,500 likes on CCEDU's Facebook page and ranking it Number 1, among the fastest growing NGO Facebook pages in Uganda. The public pushback when the Electoral Commission threatened to ban the 'Topowa'

campaign speaks volumes of its impact.

The *Votability* campaign was recognized by the Electoral Commission as the most effective effort conducted undertaken to promote registration onto the voters register. The tagline was adopted by the EC on their website during the year.

The *Topowa* campaign influenced 65% of voters to cast their vote (IPSOS preliminary report 2016)

The success of these campaigns is partly attributed to the participation of eminent persons such as the Arch Bishop of the Church of Uganda – His Grace Stanley Ntagali who endorsed campaign messages and inspired the faithful to participate peacefully and actively in the electoral activities.

The social media platforms that were re-activated at the beginning of September 2015 pulled in more people. The campaign recorded over 150 new followers daily and 20,000 impressions weekly on Facebook while the use of the ‘hashtag *topowa*’ on twitter also registered daily impressions of over 1,000,000 on peak days.

Challenge

With the narrowing space for divergent views in Uganda, civil society led campaigns such as TOPOWA are prone to politicization and can be easily total banned.





Dr D Zac Niringiye

@dzniringiye

The #Topowa message is not partisan. It is impartial. So who is partisan: #Topowa or Ug's Electoral Commission?



Emmanuel Waiswa

@ewaiswa

But @UgandaEc U cd send complaint to CCEDU showing areas u disagree on or terminate MOU. Be reasonable. #Topowa

EC Uganda @UgandaEc

5/5 We encourage all organisations supplementing voter education campaigns to avoid deviating from the MoUs and guidelines signed with EC

3:08 pm · 27 Nov 15



iii. Citizens Election Observers Network-Uganda (CEON-U)

Citizens Election Observers Network –Uganda (CEON-U) is a consortium of eighteen civil society organizations which agreed to conduct a unified, comprehensive and effective domestic election observation mission for 2016 general elections.

The 18 civil society organisations include Action for Development (ACFODE), African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME), Citizens Watch-It (CEW-IT), Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Women in Democracy and Governance (WDG), Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) / Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU), Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAFP), Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNJ), Human Rights Network-Uganda (HURINET-U), Legal Aid Service Providers' Network (LASPNET), National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda (NUDIPU), Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC), The Uganda NGO Forum (UNNGOF) / Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP), Transparency International-Uganda (TI-U) / Alliance for Campaign Finance Monitoring (ACFIM), Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Uganda Youth Network (UYONET), Western Ankole Civil Society Forum (WACSOF), Women Leadership Development (WLEDE) and Women's Democracy Network-Uganda Chapter (WDN-U).

CEON-U is structured at three levels, namely the steering committee (Directors of Member Organisations), the coordination unit and the sub national organisations (implementers / regional coordinators).

Objective

To enhance the integrity of the election process by deterring and exposing irregularities.

Implementation

To successfully manage and implement the election observation project, CEON-Uganda divided the country into 16 regions. They include Acholi, Ankole, Buganda A, Buganda B, Buganda C, Buganda D, Buganda E, Bugisu, Bukedi, Bunyoro, Busoga, Karamoja, Kigezi, Lango, Rwenzori, Sebei, Teso and West Nile.

These regions are represented by 23 Sub-National Organisations who support the implementation of the CEON-Uganda activities at the regional level.

The CEON-U secretariat comprised of 18 staff (9 male and 9 female) headed by a National Coordinator. It was located at the Democracy House, Plot 1111 Lulume Road, Nsambya.

Planned activities

The following activities were planned under CEON-U in 2015: Launch of CEON-U and training regional coordinators and long-term observers.

Output

i. Launch of CEON-U

- CEON-U was launched on 10th September 2015 at the Golf Course Hotel, Kampala,. Officiating at the launch, the Chairperson of the Uganda Electoral Commission, Dr. Eng. Badru Kiggungu acknowledged the role played by the citizens' initiative

such as CEON-U in promoting free and fair elections in Uganda. He pledged the Commission's support to the Network.

- The launch was also attended by Ms. Sabrina Bazzanella, Operations Advisor - Governance, Delegation of European Union to Uganda, Mr. Nils Mueller, Director of Democracy, Rights and Governance, USAID, Mr. Simon Osborn, representative of National Democracy Institute, Ms. Ritah Aciro, Co-Chairperson, CEON-U and Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Chairperson, CEON-U.

ii. Training regional coordinators and long-term observers

Three training workshops were run in September 2015 (for Regional Coordinators), October (for Long -Term Observers) and November (for both Long-Term Observers and Regional Coordinators).

- The 1st training was conducted for Regional Coordinators from 29th – 30th September 2015. A total of 24 trainees (16 male and 8 female) participated.
- The 2nd training was conducted for Long-Term Observers from 6th – 7th October 2015. A total of 187 observers (125 male and 62 female) were trained.
- The LTO and Regional Coordinators' remedial training was conducted from 12th – 13th November 2015. A total of 35 participants (19 male and 16 female) were trained.

As part of the training, election related data collection tools were disseminated based on the following themes: election administration, voter education and information, campaigns, campaign financing, electoral violence and security and media.

ACTION 6: PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

I. PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

FHRI continues to work closely with a wide range of institutions and groups pursuing similar objectives at the local, national and international levels.

Objective

To work closely with other actors in order to promote adherence to human rights standards at the national and international level.

Implementation

In 2015, networking took diverse forms-joint campaigns, country visits, internships, volunteer placements and participation in national, regional and international events.

Output

FHRI is an active member in 17 networks and coalitions including: EHAHRDP, HURINET-U, DENIVA, LASPNET, UCRNN, ULA, CCEDU, CEON-U, UGMP, CAT, National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders in Uganda (NCHRD-U), Uganda National Working Group on Access to Justice (SAJEA), WCADP, the East African Coalition Against the Death Penalty (EACADP), NGO Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (CEAC) and NETPIL. The organization is also affiliated to the International Federation for Human Rights Defenders (FIDH).

Table 13: FHRI's roles in networks/ coalitions

Network/Umbrella	Position
East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP)	Chairperson, Board of Directors
The East African Coalition Against the Death Penalty (EACADP)	Coordinator
Federation of International Human Rights Defenders (FIDH)	Vice President
World Coalition Against the Death Penalty	Member, Steering Committee
Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)	Chairperson, Executive Committee
Citizens Election Observation Network- Uganda (CEON-U)	Chairperson, Steering Committee
Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO)	Chairperson, Board of Directors
National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders in Uganda	Board Member, Board of Directors

• Events attended in 2015

Conferences, meetings & workshops

- Validation meeting, PILAC, Makerere University, 2nd February 2015, Kampala.
- Disability rights and law draft curriculum seminar review, Makerere University, 8th February 2015, Kampala.
- Annual lawyers' dinner, keynote address, Kampala International University, 11th March, 2015, Kampala.
- 1st Colloquium and the 3rd General Assembly of the Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' organized by NGO Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and People's Rights at Mount Meru Hotel, 12th – 13th March, 2015, Arusha, Tanzania.
- Meeting on tracking implementation of recommendations from human rights monitoring bodies, organized by UNDP at UNDP offices with United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) consultant Bjorn Petterson, 28th April, 2015, Kampala.
- EU/CSO consultation meeting at Hotel Africana, 21st May, 2015, Kampala.
- Meeting on the *NGO Bill* organized by UN OHCHR at the UN OHCHR offices, 25th May, 2015, Kampala.
- Presentation on the *NGO Bill* at the Interparty Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD), 25th May, 2015, Kampala.
- Presentation on the *NGO Bill* at a consultative meeting organized by UHRC at Hotel Africana, 11th June, 2015, Kampala.
- Public dialogue on the *NGO Bill* organized by IPOD at Grand Imperial Hotel, 9th July, 2015, Kampala.
- Stakeholder consultative meeting organized by UNDP at Protea Hotel, 19th August, 2015, Kampala.
- Litigation expert meeting, FIDA- Uganda, Metropole Hotel, 6th October, 2015, Kampala.
- Uganda National Stakeholders Forum on the UPR organized by HURINET-U at Fairway Hotel, 22nd October, 2015, Kampala.
- 10th anniversary celebrations of EHAHRDP organized by EHAHRDP at Speke Resort, Munyonyo, 26th – 27th October, 2015, Kampala.
- Meeting the Steering Committee of the National Stakeholders Forum on the UPR, organized by HURINET-U at Arch Apartment Hotel, 30th October, 2015, Kampala.
- Experience sharing meeting organised by UPIMAC at Lira Hotel, 23rd November, 2015, Lira.
- Sub- Regional conference for East African National Human Rights Institutions organised by Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) jointly with the Network of African National Human Rights Institution (NANHRI) at Hilton Hotel, 9th – 12th December, 2015, Nairobi, Kenya.

Launches

- Launch of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders funded projects by the Dutch and Austrian Embassies organized by East and Horn of African Human Rights Defenders Project at the Human Rights House, 13th February, 2015, Kampala.

- Launch of the Citizen Election Observation Network – Uganda organized by CEON-U at Golf Course Hotel, 16th August, 2015, Kampala.
- Launch of the Topowa Campaign organized by Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda at Hotel Africana, 22nd September, 2015, Hotel Africana, Kampala.

Outcome

FHRI's networking strategy is guided by its current Strategic Plan. It is focused on issue based networks and coalitions that have a bearing on FHRI's thematic campaigns. This strategy has added value to FHRI's overall program by amplifying campaigns on key human rights issues such as the right to life, freedom from torture, access to justice, electoral reform, the death penalty, penal reform, among others.

Secondly, FHRI's involvement in global events on democracy and human rights has enabled the organisation to contribute to the global human rights and governance agenda in 2015.

Challenge

The requests for partnership and involvement in meetings by FHRI are overwhelming. The challenge is for FHRI to strike that delicate balance.

II. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The implementation of the current five-year program requires efficient systems, a well-trained and motivated staff and creative leadership.

Objective

To build a sustainable and innovative human rights advocacy organization in Uganda.

The Action has four components:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
2. Human Resource Development.
 - Staffing
 - Internships
 - Staff training and development
3. Governing Bodies
4. Office Administration.

1. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Objective

The M&E component tracks progress of program implementation, outcomes and impact for effective human rights advocacy.

Planned activities

The following activities were planned for 2015: Update of the annual work plan, year planner and budget 2015, 2 quarterly program review meetings, 2 Board of Directors meetings, 2 strategic partnership meetings, 1 M & E staff session, 4 regional impact monitoring visits, the DGF/FHRI Joint Annual Review, 2015 and 1 end of year Board- staff retreat.

Output

- The annual work plan, year planner and budget for 2015 form part of the M & E system. These instruments were updated for 2015.
- In 2015, 2 quarterly program review meetings were held for staff to review progress against set targets, respond to challenges and plan collectively. The meetings took place on 7th May 2015 and 6th August 2015 at the Human Rights House.
- Similarly, 2 quarterly Board of Directors meetings were held on 9th May and 8th August 2015 at the Human Rights House to monitor progress and approve work-plans and budgets.
- FHRI held 2 strategic annual and bi-annual partnership meetings within the cooperation framework with DGF on 11th February and 9th September 2015 at the Human Rights House. These meetings examined progress towards implementation of FHRI's five year Strategic Plan (2012 -2016).
- During the year, as part of the Organisational capacity building component under the USAID Rights Rule of Law program, an M & E capacity building session for staff was held on 18th December 2015. It was conducted by Mr. Janani Luwumu, Country M & E

Specialist, USAID Rights and Rule of Law program.

- As part of the M & E, FHRI also conducted 2 impact monitoring visits in Eastern region (9th July 2015) and Northern region of Uganda (30th July 2015) in order to document the impact of FHRI work and best practices in human rights work by CBOs trained by FHRI. The other 2 were not conducted due to time constraints.
- During the year, DGF and FHRI conducted a Joint Annual Review of FHRI's program in 2015. The review sought to assess FHRI's progress towards delivery of agreed outputs and outcomes as articulated in the FHRI Strategic Plan (2012 – 2016). Further, the exercise also assessed progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2014 Joint Mid Term Review. The final report is underway.
- As an established practice, the annual Board-Staff retreat to review progress and reflect on impact of FHRI work during the year was held on 14th – 18th December 2015 at the Human Rights House.

2. Human Resource Development

Objective

To improve staff capacity for effective implementation of the program

Human Resource Development has three components:

- Staffing
- Internship program
- Staff training and development

i. Staffing

The FHRI team comprises of technical and administrative support staff. In 2015, FHRI hosted a total of 77 staff as disaggregated in table 14 here below:

Table 14: Number of FHRI staff in 2015

Program	Total no. of staff	Male	Female
FHRI	51	16	35
PAS	4	2	2
CCEDU	6	5	1
CEON-U	16	7	9
Totals	77	30	47

STAFF LINE-UP

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director



Ms. Sheila Muwanga
Deputy Executive Director (Programs)



Ms. Milly Nakakande
Executive Manager



Ms. Isabella Bwire
Executive Manager



Ms. Connie Numbi
Project Officer



Ms. Ntanzu Rosabella
Project Officer

RESEARCH DIVISION



Ms. Josephine Kankunda
Senior Researcher



Ms. Lizet Vlamming
Senior Researcher



Ms. Penny Mbabazi Atuhaire
Researcher



Mr. Rashid Bunya
Research Associate

LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION



Dr. Josephine Ndagire
Director Legal Services



Ms. Lucy Nantume
Senior Associate



Ms. Maria Kaddu Busuulwa
Senior Associate



Mr. George Musisi
Associate



Ms. Solome Nagadya
Associate



Ms. Josephine Namukasa
Legal Assistant



Ms. Caroline Obbo
Legal Assistant



Mr. Richard Kisuze
Legal Assistant



Ms. Asiimwe Editor
Legal Assistant



Ms. Mugabekazi Primah
Legal Assistant



Ms. Nakabugo Nassim
Legal Assistant



Ms. Esther Kaggwa
Legal Assistant

RIGHT TO LIFE



Ms. Doreen Namyalo
Senior Associate



Ms. Catherine Komuhangi
Project Assistant

ALTERNATIVES PROJECT



Ms. Diva Mukisa
Project Coordinator



Ms. Talent Musingyiza
Project Associate

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



Ms. Alice Nassaka
Director Civic Education



Nampala Claire
Project Associate



Ms. Rose Nanyondo
Training Coordinator



Mr. Elly Kasirye
Associate Trainer

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION DIVISION



Ms. Elizabeth Nantamu
Coordinator External Services



Ms. Doreen Kyobutungi
Records Officer



Mr. Isaac Ssekuma
Resource Centre Officer



Mr. Daniel Ntambi
Marketing Officer



Ms. Sandra Nsimire
Records Officer



Ms. Hannah Taremwa
Information Officer



Ms. Teddy Namayanja
Public Relations Officer

PARALEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES



Ms. Elinor Wanyama Chemonges
National Coordinator –PAS



Mr. Hannington Musisi
Driver



Mr. Emmanuel Otim
Administrative Assistant



Ms. Faith Mutumba
Legal officer

CITIZENS' COALITION FOR ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IN UGANDA



Mr. Crispy Kaheru
Coordinator



Mr. Moses Ngorok
**Project Officer
Advocacy &
Membership**



Mr. Charles Mwangushya
**Communications
Manager**



Ms. Beatrice Brenda Icibo
**Finance & Administration
Manager Accounts**



Mr. Moses Nyanzi
Driver



Mr. Eddie Ssemakula
Project Associate (New Media)

CITIZENS ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK - UGANDA



Dr. Martin Mwendha
National Coordinator



Mr Ivan Mwaka
Short Term Observer
Manager



Mr Andrew Kawogo
Lead Trainer



Mr. John Mary Odoi
Long Term Observer
Manager



Ms. Charity Kalebbo
Ahimbisibwe
Communication Specialist



Ms. Evelyn Shinyekwa
**Finance and
Administration Manager**



Mr Edwin Bwambaale
ICT Manager



Ms. Clare Arinitwe
**Monitoring &
Evaluation Officer**



Ms. Dorothy Kawumi
**Logistics
Officer**



Mr. Steven Mulabi
**Logistics
Officer**



Ms. Faridah Lule
**Project
Associate**



Ms. Deborah Namirimu
Project Assistant



Mr. Keneth Raffer Wanda
Accounts Assistant



Ms. Susan Nalukwago
Project Assistant



Ms. Maria Kizito
Finance Officer



Mr. Walusansa Badru
Project Intern



Ms. Peruth Nakubulwa
Administrative Assistant

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



Ms. Rose Kamuli Mwesigwa
Director Finance & Administration



Mr. Patrick Lugunga
Accountant



Ms. Gladys Mirembe
Finance & Administration Assistant



Ms. Winnie Munyegera
Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATION



Mr. Ssebaana Steven
Office Manager



Mr. Matthew Sekitto
Office Assistant



Ms. Elizabeth Nakato
Front Desk Officer



Mr. Moses Kyazze
Senior Driver



Mr. Allan Semalulu
Senior Driver



Mr. Sendawula Frank
Cleaner/Gardener



Mr. Godi Hassan
Gardener



Ms. Olivia Kigozi
Welfare Assistant



Mr. Richard Okeya
Security Guard

ii. Internship

In 2015, FHRI hosted a total of 38 interns (13 male, 25 female) from different universities in Uganda and abroad. The students contributed to the human rights campaigns throughout the year.

Output

Table 15: Interns hosted by FHRI in 2015

No.	NAME	INSTITUTION	HOSTING DIVISION
1.	Nakafero Sheirah	Islamic University in Uganda	Executive Office
2.	Babirye Nassimu	Kampala International University	Programs Office
3.	Nabukenya Rashida	Kyambogo University	Programs Office
4.	Emma Clarke	Osgoode Hall Law School, Canada	Research
5.	Justine Toh	Ogoode Hall Law School, Canada	Research
6.	Namuwenge Sumayiyah	Makerere University	Research
7.	Purun Cheong	Harvard Law School, U.S.A	Research
8.	Asiimwe Bosco	Makerere University	Legal Services
9.	Ayebale Samuel	Kampala International University	Legal Services
10.	Kajwara Christopher	Law Development Centre	Legal Services
11.	Kigozi Nathanella	Uganda Christian University	Legal Services
12.	Moses Ngorok	Law Development Centre	Legal Services
13.	Nabirye Getrude	Law Development Centre	Legal Services
14.	Nyalwa Ezira	Law Development Centre	Legal Services
15.	Owembabazi Paget	Uganda Christian University	Legal Services
16.	Sebuufu Shaun	Makerere University	Campaign Against the Death Penalty
17.	Ayume Jimmy	Uganda Christian University	Alternatives Project
18.	Nassunje Keren	MakerereUniversity	Alternatives Project
19.	Mangeni Milton	Makerere University	Capacity Development
20.	Nakabuye Sandra	Makerere University	Capacity Development
21.	Nakyanzi Daphine	Bugema University	Capacity Development
22.	Nampwera Noume	Kampala International University	Capacity Development
23.	Regina Najjemba	Makerere University Business School	Capacity Development
24.	Walusansa Badru	Kampala International University	Capacity Development
25.	Nakirijja Regina	Makerere University Business School	Capacity Development
26.	Nakiganda Susan	Kampala International University	External Services
27.	Lusiika Anna	Kampala International University	External Services
28.	Luima Arnold	Makerere University	Finance and Administration
29.	Birigenda Shem Kisarale	Uganda Christian University	Paralegal Advisory Services
30.	Busingye James	Kyambogo University	Paralegal Advisory Services
31.	Nabisubi Florence	Makerere University	Paralegal Advisory Services
32.	Nakiirya Mary Slyvia	Makerere University	Paralegal Advisory Services
33.	Abaho Sheillah	Makerere University	CCEDU
34.	Krista Hardebeck	Stanford University , U.S.A	CCEDU
35.	Nakate Jonanita	Kyambogo University	CCEDU
36.	Namuddu Christine	Makerere University	CCEDU
37.	Nantanda Faridah	Islamic University in Uganda	CCEDU
38.	Namubiru Christine	Makerere University	CS-PP-SF

iii. Staff training and development

In 2015, FHRI staff attended several trainings as listed below:

- Ms. Carol Obbo, Legal Associate, attended the 46th Annual study session in International and Comparative human rights law that took place at the International Institute of Human Rights, 6th –24th July 2015, Strasbourg, France.
- In-house training for interns on the concept of human rights, 24th July 2015, Human Rights House, Nsambya.
- In-house training for FHRI staff on M&E by Techno Brain, 21st August 2015, Human Rights House, Nsambya.
- Ms. Teddy Namayanja, Public Relations Officer, participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program, 14th September -2nd October 2015, USA.
- Inhouse training for FHRI staff on human rights advocacy and lobbying, 28th September 2015, Human Rights House, Nsambya.
- Inhouse training for FHRI staff on M & E, 18th December 2015, Human Rights House, Nsambya.

3. Governing Bodies

FHRI is a membership organisation with an organisational structure that comprises the General Assembly, Patron, Trustees, Board of Directors, the Working Group and the secretariat.

While the General Assembly is the supreme governing body of FHRI, the Trustees are the custodians of FHRI Constitution and property. The Patron on the other hand promotes awareness of the values and mission of FHRI while the Working Group is a think-tank of the organization, with a mandate of providing strategic direction on emerging issues. The Working Group is elected by the General Assembly.

The Board of Directors provides strategic direction to the organisation while the secretariat is the implementing arm.

FHRI holds Annual General Meetings (AGM) for its membership to reflect, adopt and approve new strategic plans, annual reports and the audit reports. FHRI also convenes the General Assembly every three years to elect new members to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors meets three times a year to appraise staff, discuss and approve activity reports, budgets and program work plans.

Objective

The governing bodies provide strategic leadership to the organization.

Planned activities

In 2015 the planned activities were the 2 Board of Directors meetings and the 19th AGM/9th General Assembly.

Output

- As was planned, 2 quarterly Board of Directors meetings were held on 9th May and 8th August 2015 at the Human Rights House to monitor progress and approve work-plans and budgets.
- In 2015, FHRI convened the 19th Annual General Meeting on 22nd August 2015 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya. The meeting was attended by a total of 653 members (384 male and 653 female). By close of 2015, the total number of FHRI members stood at 1,416 (610 male and 806 female).
- Members adopted the reports of the Chairperson of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director as well as the annual narrative and audited financial reports 2014.
- The 2 speech series titled '*Democratic Governance and the Role of Civil Society in Uganda*' and the other on, '*Reflection on key Governance issues in the run-up to 2016 General Elections*,' authored by FHRI Patron, Hon. Justice Prof. Dr. G.W. Kanyeihamba were disseminated amongst FHRI members during the meeting.
- A new Board of Directors (2015-2018) was also elected as outlined in table 16 below.

Table 16: FHRI Board of Directors: 2015- 2018

Name	Position	Affiliation
Rev. Dr. John Kateeba Tumwine	Chairperson	Board member of the Inter Religious Council
Ms. Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga	Vice Chairperson	Deputy Head of the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
Ms. Patricia Atim P'Odong	Hon. Secretary	Lecturer at the School of Law, Makerere University
Mr. Edward Peace Obura	Hon. Treasurer	College Registrar, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University
Mr. Frank Nigel Othembi	Member	Director, Law Development Centre
Mr. Jack Kururagyire	Member	Commissioner in Charge of Inspectorate, Uganda Prisons Service.
Ms. Evelyn Korishaba Walimbwa	Member	Regional Coordinator (Western region), Women Together for Development (WOTODEV).
Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Ex-Officio	Executive Director, FHRI

The Trustees, Patron and Working Group continued to deliver on their mandate and support the organisation in various capacities. They are presented in tables 17, 18 and 19 below.

Table 17: FHRI Trustees: 2015

Name	Affiliation
Mrs. Mary Sewamuwe	Minnesota Health International
Mrs. Sarah Mukiibi. S.	Libra Consultants Limited
Mr. Albert Mukundane	Consultant
Mr. Wycliffe Birungi	Birungi & Co Advocates
Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	FHRI

Table 18: FHRI Patron: 2015

Name	Affiliation
Prof. Dr. Hon. Justice George Kanyeihamba	GW Kanyeihamba & Co. Advocates

Table 19: FHRI Working Group: 2015

Name	Position
Rev. Dr. John Kateeba Tumwine	Member
Mr. James Kizito-Mayanja	Member
Her Worship Stella Amabilis	Member
Mr. Mwambustya Ndebese	Member
Mr. Patrick Semwogerere	Member
Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Ex-Officio

4. Office Administration

In 2015, FHRI paid its salary and utility bills on a regular basis. Assets were regularly maintained despite the high operational costs. Acquisitions in 2015 included:

- One motor vehicle
- 5 desktop computers and accessories
- 2 printers (HP laser jet and Phantom)
- Office furniture (18 boardroom chairs, 1 office chair, 5 tables and 1 frame display rack)

The organisation duly insured, serviced and repaired its equipment including vehicles, photocopiers, the generator, computers and accessories.

III. FINANCIAL OVER VIEW

Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.

Certified Public Accountants

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Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)** as set out on pages 19 to 62, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at **31 December 2015**, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as the management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.

Certified Public Accountants

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Independent Auditor's Report

to the members of Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company at 31 December 2015 and of the financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and comply with the Companies Act 2012.

Reporting on Other Legal and Statutory Requirements

The Companies Act requires that in carrying out our audit we consider and report to you the following matters. We confirm that:

- (i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- (ii) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from our examination of those books; and
- (iii) The Financial Statements are in agreement with the books of account.


Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.
Certified Public Accountants



11 MAY 2016
Kampala, Uganda

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

(A Company Limited by Guarantee, and not having a Share Capital)

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 Actual Ushs.	2015 Budget Ushs.	2014 Actual Ushs.
INCOME				
General Grants	12.1	11,246,204,783	12,311,033,724	5,249,101,017
Donations in Kind	12.2	137,418,300	120,000,000	-
FHRI Income	13	565,813,254	580,000,000	311,955,025
TOTAL INCOME		11,949,436,337	13,011,033,724	5,561,056,042
Less: Capital Expenditure		(478,634,987)	(347,722,500)	(169,915,952)
Balance available for recurrent expenditure		11,470,801,350	12,663,311,224	5,391,140,090
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE PROGRAMMES				
Research, Advocacy and Lobbying				
Routine Monitoring		18,762,700	31,158,275	47,839,000
Thematic report production		68,800,691	81,873,970	16,967,976
Treaty Reporting		60,000	6,983,000	5,295,710
Lower level Platform		85,433,234	90,500,000	23,845,515
Salary costs		226,848,899	255,388,751	153,704,869
Sub-total Research, Advocacy and Lobbying		399,905,524	465,903,996	247,653,070
Legal Services				
Legal Aid Services		161,806,874	164,722,000	153,788,826
Mobile legal Camps		63,452,350	69,629,760	98,994,197
Representation of Death Row Inmates		118,442,047	149,143,322	302,971,948
Public Interest Litigation/Legislative Advocacy		425,021,539	470,192,500	117,320,399
Salary costs		334,624,601	336,024,006	226,702,249
Sub-total Legal Services		1,103,347,411	1,189,711,588	899,777,619
CIVIC EDUCATION				
Support to Community Based Human Rights		-	-	22,644,000
Social Accountability		67,466,000	67,741,037	45,766,720
University Human Rights Network		85,249,000	87,000,000	62,343,500
Private Sector Outreach		6,550,000	12,356,591	50,540,299
Civic awareness camps		31,360,744	33,000,000	10,197,500
Human Rights Concerts and Anthem		22,030,000	24,500,000	-
Salary costs		158,396,747	171,000,000	186,908,024
Building Civic Competence		5,045,703	-	-
Sub-total Support to CBHR		376,098,194	395,597,628	378,400,043
External Services				
Communication and Information Management		50,986,401	54,500,000	31,931,026
Documentation		26,333,597	36,608,081	42,667,913
Public Affairs		37,071,500	37,900,000	18,990,012
Volunteer and Internship fund		44,506,482	44,761,600	42,341,306
Salary costs		98,126,082	511,415,731	108,731,392
Partnerships		137,896,365	148,958,358	63,561,465
Sub-total External Services		394,920,427	834,143,770	308,223,114

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

(A Company Limited by Guarantee, and not having a Share Capital)

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2015

Note	2015 Actual Ushs.	2015 Budget Ushs.	2014 Actual Ushs.
Organisational Development			
Monitoring and Evaluation	-	4,500,000	48,807,482
Periodic Review and Staff Retreat	3,902,500	2,000,000	14,972,500
Human Resource Development	26,113,659	34,168,000	42,527,000
Governing bodies	51,924,000	54,637,864	-
Accounting software - Pastel	3,570,000	3,960,000	-
Alarm System (Human Rights House)	7,176,000	50,500,000	201,600,012
Salary costs	607,988,532	200,600,000	4,737,123
Sub-total Organisational Development	700,654,691	350,365,864	312,644,117
Programme Support	2,966,340	40,000,000	-
Special Projects			
CCEDU			
Field Activation (CCEDU)	87,000,000	121,200,000	-
Media Activations & Engagements - MAAD ADV	450,001,081	500,000,000	-
Alternative Messaging - Peripheral Visual Intern	72,300,194	80,000,000	-
Media Messaging / BUY	750,308,417	1,242,966,958	-
Media Monitoring (5%) IPSOS	11,800,000	48,021,000	-
Text Based messaging	92,500,000	92,500,000	-
CCEDU Membership engagement	38,565,552	37,800,000	-
Travel	24,704,714	31,410,000	-
Communication	543,340	750,000	-
Project Reporting (National Voter Reg. 2015)	-	7,200,000	-
Media - OMNICON Limited	632,022,094	639,807,680	-
Local Cinema PVI	61,160,131	67,955,700	-
Information Communication Technology	31,543,842	30,643,042	-
Observation Mission	109,033,500	109,316,000	-
Deployment of the Observers	-	123,216,000	-
Data Management	8,520,749	14,800,000	-
Media Campaigns	750,000	2,250,000	-
National ID Registration (NSIS)	-	-	248,052,649
Human Resource	278,833,094	369,146,000	205,233,000
Electoral Reform Advocacy	9,431,288	27,429,813	97,531,452
Election Observation (By elections)	4,450,000	15,706,942	86,226,838
Membership Management Information System	20,414,999	26,100,000	40,565,796
Institutional Development	-	26,420,000	10,901,800
Monitoring and Evaluation	52,185,011	76,620,000	6,432,154
Equipments	129,563,996	129,674,600	1,505,000
Administrative costs	102,305,739	105,685,417	18,889,233
Sub-total Special Projects CCEDU	2,967,937,741	3,926,619,152	715,337,922

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

(A Company Limited by Guarantee, and not having a Share Capital)

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 Actual Ushs.	2015 Budget Ushs.	2014 Actual Ushs.
PAS				
One OFF COSTS		700,000	30,662,500	12,280,450
Coordination costs		109,326,372	109,440,307	191,761,227
Investment costs		2,737,600	3,375,000	-
Running costs		1,169,189,131	1,179,204,906	1,090,052,226
Administrative costs		98,077,205	101,037,720	100,615,566
PAS-Busia		133,942,031	207,077,000	-
Sub-total Special Projects PAS		1,513,972,339	1,630,797,433	1,394,709,469
CEON-U				
Objective 1				
Identification and deployment of Observers		-	6,400,000	-
Training of 32 Training of Trainers		50,066,100	48,025,000	-
Training of 200 LTOs		277,151,060	244,640,000	-
E-day Data Centre		-	95,400,000	-
Deployment of the LTOs and STOs		383,958,915	553,400,000	-
Development and production of election materials		22,150,000	43,940,000	-
Sub-total Objective 1		733,326,075	991,805,000	-
Objective 2				
Public outreach to create awareness		35,740,100	36,216,334	-
Production of visibility materials		24,960,000	16,000,000	-
Production of Observation reports		2,689,200	6,000,000	-
Regular engagement with key stakeholders		-	1,500,000	-
Press briefings and media engagement		27,596,500	51,800,000	-
Sub-total Objective 2		90,985,800	111,516,334	-
Objective 3				
State of preparedness (SEP) community dialogue		-	187,161,075	-
Coordination Unit (Human Resource)		285,964,361	481,400,000	-
CEON Governance		458,500	1,920,000	-
Equipment and Furniture		10,959,835	10,200,000	-
Monitoring and Evaluation		85,500,000	150,000,000	-
Sub-total Operation Costs		382,882,696	830,681,075	-
Sub-total CEON -U		1,207,194,571	1,934,002,409	-
Specific Grants				
Penal Reform International - Community Service		146,428,665	151,434,025	-
Promoting the Electoral Process in Uganda		311,307,835	493,327,356	277,840,217
INTEGRITY ACTION		1,840,000	-	38,384,000
ICJ Kenya		11,002,468	8,600,000	37,340,796
SSA/UHSNET		7,100,000	11,276,000	-
WFD Consultancy		15,585,500	17,150,000	-
Danish Family Planning Association - DFPA		-	95,913,000	-
Sub-total Other Special Projects CEON		493,264,468	777,700,381	353,565,013
Total Programme Expenditure		9,160,261,706	11,544,842,221	4,610,310,367

IV. CONCLUSION

Respect for human rights and rule of law are not abstract notions. They define states and are an engine for economic and social growth. They determine the quality of life of a people.

Achieving Uganda's vision 2040 will thus require deliberate action to foster progress, uphold fundamental values and a minimum threshold of human rights guarantees. As we gear up to celebrate 25 years of human rights work in Uganda and beyond, FHRI will reflect on this-journey begins with a single step.

"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"



Human Rights House Annex constructed in 2015



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