



The Legal Aid Forum

Working Together For Equitable Access to Justice



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

FOREWORD

I take great pride in presenting the annual report of the Legal Aid Forum for the year 2023. As the foremost non-state provider of legal aid services, LAF remains dedicated to enhancing access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups in Rwanda. Our commitment to promoting human rights is unwavering, aligning with the efforts of other justice sector stakeholders in the country.

Throughout 2023, guided by a bold new five-year strategic plan, we continued our pioneering efforts to promote and facilitate accessible and high-quality legal aid services. Our initiatives aimed to deepen access to quality justice and reinforce respect for human rights.

This report details the diverse range of activities undertaken by LAF during 2023, highlighting significant accomplishments such as legal aid provision encompassing advisory services and courtroom representation for thousands of vulnerable individuals, professional capacity building for several justice sector actors and human rights defenders, legal education/awareness campaigns in communities reaching millions of Rwandans. Additionally, our involvement in international treaty body reporting cycles, provision of grants to LAF members, and other endeavors are outlined. Our research and advocacy endeavors yielded noteworthy results, including impactful recommendations that were incorporated into legislation following advocacy events. We take pride in the tangible changes our advocacy efforts have brought about in legislation and policies.

The year 2023 was marked by significant achievements for LAF, laying a solid groundwork for continued success in 2024. We remain steadfast in our commitment to working together for equitable access to justice in Rwanda.

LAF is thankful to all partners who are supporting its mission. Our appreciation goes to USAID/Rwanda, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Charles Steward Mott Foundation, Embassy of the United States, Foreign Commonwealth Development Office, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Clifford Chance, Advocates for International Development, and the German Cooperation-GIZ. We eagerly anticipate your continued support and collaboration.

Me Andrews Kananga
Executive Director

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ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICT	Information Community Technology
IECMS	Integrated Electronic Case Management System
IVR	Interactive Voice Recording
LAF	Legal Aid Forum
ODI	Overseas Development Initiative
RFL	Rwanda Forensics Laboratory
RIB	Rwanda Investigation Bureau
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TV	Television
UN	United Nations
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USSD	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data

INTRODUCTION

The Legal Aid Forum was established in 2006 to create a platform for organizations committed to providing legal aid to indigent and vulnerable populations in Rwanda. It was founded through a collaborative initiative of 30 civil society organizations that recognized the importance of sharing information, exchanging best practices, and working together in capacity building, research, and evidence-based advocacy.

Since then, LAF has grown into the country’s leading non-state legal aid provider, bringing together 38 members, including national and international NGOs, professional bodies, university-based legal aid clinics, and faith-based organizations. The Forum supports legal aid delivery across a broad range of legal areas, acknowledging the interconnected nature of legal challenges and the need for holistic, people-centered support.

LAF’s 2023–2027 Strategic Plan is structured around four interlinked strategic objectives, illustrated in the diagram below. These objectives are designed to complement one another, with many of the Forum’s activities cutting across multiple pillars. For example, training for LAF members contributes both to strengthening knowledge systems and to the broader institutional development of the legal aid sector.

LEGAL EMPOWERMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal assistance and representation• Legal education and awareness on rights
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researches for evidence-based advocacy• Capacity building for justice actors, members and staff
HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION AND PROTECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UPR Monitoring• Engaging with human rights treaty bodies & human rights mechanism
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal Aid Civil Society Fund• Grants making and fundraising



PERFORMANCE BY LAF SECRETARIAT

I. COMMUNITY LEGAL EMPOWERMENT

Since its establishment, LAF works to empower vulnerable and indigent individuals to use both formal and informal justice mechanisms to claim and assert their rights. Our legal empowerment efforts focus on equipping people with the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to access the benefits and rights they are entitled to under the law. We also strive to improve access to justice in communities by providing high-quality legal aid for vulnerable groups.

Our approaches to Legal Empowerment

Our legal empowerment approaches include a range of strategies, such as community-based paralegals, Legal Aid Week, ICT, Mobile Legal Aid Clinics, Media, University Legal Aid Clinics, Posters, and more. By implementing these approaches, we are working to strengthen the capacity of the people of Rwanda to use legal mechanisms to pursue transformative improvements to laws and systems. Below we dive more into how each approach works.

Legal Advice

Legal advice is guidance or oral counsel provided by a professional lawyer concerning the law's substance or procedure in a specific factual situation. This typically involves analyzing the facts and advising on the best course of action based on applicable laws.

In 2023, LAF has effectively served its beneficiaries through a dedicated legal aid call center (1022) which allows beneficiaries to directly contact lawyers for assistance and follow-up on their cases. This innovation has proven to be impactful, enabling LAF to reach a wide audience without needing a physical presence in the communities.

It is worth noting that [LAF's documentary on using ICT to bridge the justice gap for vulnerable communities](#) was a finalist for the 2023 Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action campaign.



Legal Aid Call Centre at the LAF: Call Centre Lawyers providing legal advice to legal aid seekers

As a result, LAF received an invitation to speak at the Voices of SDG16+ side-event during the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). This recognition marked a significant milestone for LAF, showcasing our efforts in fostering access to justice for the Rwandan population on the world stage.



Walk-ins seeking legal advice from the Legal Aid Forum In-house Lawyer

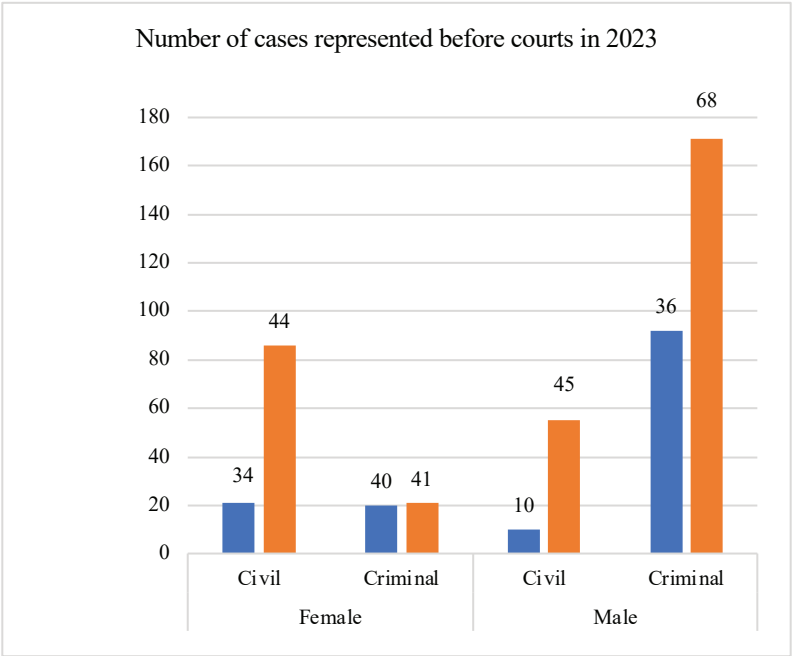
In addition to the call center, LAF also received walk-ins who visit the office seeking legal advice and orientation. individuals visit LAF seeking legal services. In 2023, 1,194 people (648 men and 546 women) received free legal advice through the call center and walk-ins.

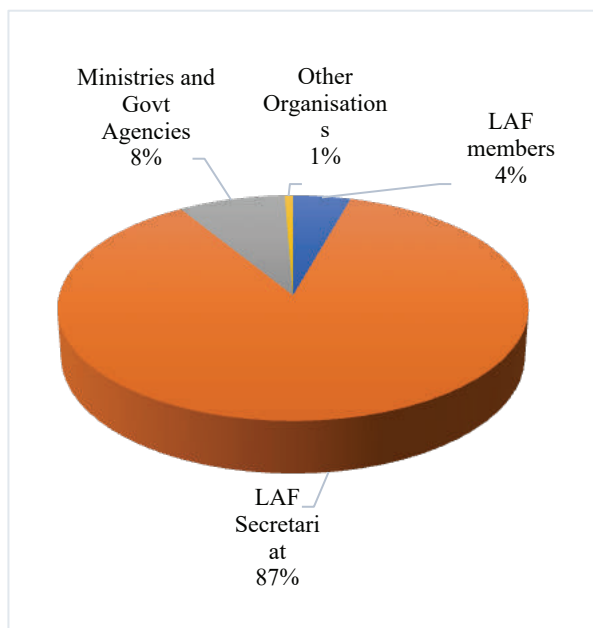
Legal Representation

The right to legal representation is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003, revised in 2023. The constitution ensures that everyone has the right to due process, including being informed of the nature and cause of the charges and having the right to defense and legal representation.

LAF has adopted various methods to receive legal aid requests including through walk-ins at our offices, our legal aid call center (1022), referrals from government institutions, members and paralegal services.

In 2023, LAF provided legal representation to 318 individuals in courts of law, including 187 men and 131 women. Among these cases, 156 were civil, 162 were criminal, and 95 were resolved through plea bargaining.





DNA Testing

Over the course of its work, LAF has realized that several vulnerable women and girls are unable to afford to pay for scientific evidence such as DNA services that are key to access to justice. In order to bridge this gap, LAF entered into partnership with the Rwanda Forensic Laboratory (RFL) to provide DNA services to LAF beneficiaries in need.

In 2023, **20 cases** (19 women and 1 man) benefited from DNA testing services. The challenge with DNA cases is that sometimes, beneficiaries, particularly men, have been unwilling to collect DNA test results. To address this, LAF tries to collect the results on behalf of the client and takes them to respective courts that ordered the tests so that justice is not delayed.

Legal Education/ Awareness

LAF is committed to enhancing legal awareness through impactful programs designed to educate individuals about their legal rights, responsibilities, and the available legal services. By empowering people to make informed decisions regarding legal matters, we aim to foster a society where the rule of law and equal access to justice prevail. Our efforts have significantly impacted over 2,109,279 individuals in 2023.

This achievement includes conducting awareness sessions with the help of our community paralegals, reaching and educating 76,151 people. These sessions provided knowledge about various legal rights and procedures, covering areas such as land rights, laws addressing gender-based violence (GBV), family and persons law, succession law, labor law, and child rights law. We achieved this outreach through events like parental evenings, local saving groups (ibimina), meetings, community work, and citizens' assemblies.

Additionally, among its approaches to reach the biggest number of people possible, LAF uses simple mobile phone technology to provide education to the Rwandan population free of charge. This is done through ICT platforms (845 and 1022) which uses IVR and USSD technologies to enable citizens to access law-related information, advice, and guidance. These platforms host pre-recorded legal content in the local language, easily accessible 24/7 free of charge. In 2023, LAF reached over two million Rwandans through this approach.



LAF community-based paralegal in Gatsibo District conducting an awareness session during a citizens' meeting (inteko y'abaturage), educating the residents of Kizigura sector on family and gender-based violence laws.

¹ Interactive voice response (IVR) is a technology that allows a computer to interact with humans through the use of voice and DTMF tones input via a keypad.

² USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) is a Global System for Mobile (GSM) communication technology that is used to send text between a mobile phone and an application program in the network. Applications may include prepaid roaming or mobile chatting.

Scaling up grassroots community legal empowerment

LAF is committed to making legal services accessible to vulnerable communities who often cannot afford the hefty costs associated with formal justice systems. To bridge the gap between the formal justice system and these communities, LAF regularly invests in building the capacity of community-based paralegals to be justice defenders at grassroots level. Residing in the communities they serve, these Community-based paralegals play a vital role assisting people to engage with the legal environment and empowering them to understand and claim their rights.



Walk-ins seeking legal advice from the Legal Aid Forum In-house Lawyer.

In 2023, LAF's paralegals handled 6,453 cases, successfully resolving 76% by the end of the year. They mediated 1,743 cases, provided legal advice to 1,861 individuals, and referred 2,849 beneficiaries to supportive services. Among the beneficiaries, 4,128 were female and 2,325 were male. The cases included 4,330 civil matters and 2,123 criminal issues, reflecting the broad range of legal problems addressed.

LAF's community-based paralegal program has proven to be an effective method for providing legal services to communities most in need. By empowering grassroots justice defenders with legal knowledge and skills, LAF promotes access to justice and ensures that vulnerable populations receive the support they need to protect their rights.

Impact Beyond Numbers

Behind every statistic, there is a face, a voice, and a unique journey. Through our legal empowerment approaches, we have witnessed individuals whose lives changed for the better as a result of the legal assistance provided to them. seeking guidance, advice, and justice. Below we highlight success stories of people that faced diverse challenges but were able to overcome them with of our legal aid attorneys. These stories embody the essence of our commitment to being more than just a legal aid provider; We are advocates for change, and catalysts for community empowerment.

Impact story 1: Access to justice – a hurdle for persons with disabilities

Harerimana, a man with a hearing disability, was arrested and accused of intentional assault or battery. He was convicted and sentenced to seven years of imprisonment with a fine of five million Rwandan francs (5,000,000). In 2019, the National Prosecution Authority requested LAF's support to provide a lawyer for Harerimana's appeal, and this request was approved. A LAF lawyer was assigned to the case, which was registered in the High Court.

During the court proceedings, the lawyer argued for Harerimana's acquittal on the grounds that his right to due process had been violated. Harerimana could not communicate with investigators, understand the charges against him, or adequately defend himself due to the lack of an interpreter during questioning at both the investigation bureau and the prosecution's office. The court, in its decision to acquit him, cited Article 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda, which guarantees the right to due process, including being informed of the nature and cause of charges and the right to defense and legal representation. The court also referred to Article 68 of Law No 027/2019 of 19/09/2019 related to criminal procedure, and Article 13(1) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by Rwanda.

On January 27, 2023, recognizing the violation of Harerimana's rights during his arrest and questioning, the court decided to release him immediately in the interest of justice.

Story 2: From Accusation to Acquittal: Gatete's Journey to Justice

In Rusizi District, Mr. Gatete, a shoe vendor, encountered a distressing ordeal when he was apprehended and charged with money laundering. Unable to afford a lawyer, he had to deal with the legal process on his own.

As the primary breadwinner for his family, Gatete's arrest plunged his household into panic, with essential needs becoming increasingly challenging to meet in his absence. His incarceration not only jeopardized his liberty but also posed a significant threat to his family's welfare and stability.

Gatete tried to represent himself during questioning at the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) station. But realizing how serious the charges were, he looked for outside help. Unfortunately, he couldn't afford a lawyer.

A ray of hope dawned unexpectedly when a legal practitioner affiliated with the Legal Aid Forum visited Gatete at the RIB station. This meeting was a turning point. The lawyer offered free expertise and support, helping Gatete through questioning and representing him in court.

With LAF's support, Gatete finally got the legal assistance he needed.

Thanks to this assistance, Gatete was proven innocent and cleared of all charges. This not only gave him back his freedom but also restored his reputation in the community. Gatete could go back to selling shoes, ensuring his family's needs were met once again.

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“Being suspected of a crime you didn't commit is tough, and representing yourself in court makes it even harder. I am deeply grateful for the assistance I was given” Gatete

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KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

1. RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

1.1. RESEARCH

Research is a crucial component in the Legal Aid Forum's work, playing a key role in shaping our evidence-based advocacy. We strive to ensure equitable justice and advocate for the rights of all, particularly vulnerable groups, through research analysis of legal and policy frameworks. It has been through our research that we gain valuable insights, concrete findings on legal complexities, and identify gaps requiring advocacy for policy reforms.

This section summarizes the research works that were conducted this year.

1.1.1. Mid-term Assessment of Implementation of UPR Recommendations given to the Government of Rwanda during the third review

In 2023, LAF played a proactive role in mobilizing and organizing civil society to engage with the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism. As the convener of the Rwanda Civil Society Coalition on UPR, LAF led a mid-term assessment on implementation of recommendations given to Rwanda during its third review in 2021.

The assessment focused on monitoring progress of implementation, identifying gaps and challenges that need to be addressed as well as recommending actions to be taken to ensure that the forthcoming review in 2026 finds Rwanda aligned with the commitments made. The active participation of state and non-


state actors in the UPR Mid-term Assessment report demonstrated improved collaboration and efforts in boosting the culture of human rights protection and promotion in Rwanda. As a result of this comprehensive assessment, in October 2023, we submitted a Mid-Term Assessment Report to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva for review.



CSO coalition on UPR gathered in a workshop to validate findings of the UPR Mid-term Assessment

1.1.2. Small is beautiful, but scale is necessary': Frontline justice services in lower-income countries with the potential to scale up

In 2023, we took part in a research initiative led by ODI, focused on assessing cost-effective and scalable front-line justice services. The aim was to uncover the impact of grassroots justice initiatives by examining examples from various countries. These initiatives were designed to provide legal advice, assistance, and informal dispute resolution services at the community level.



The findings of the research demonstrated that front-line justice services in lower-income countries are effective and significantly contribute to enhancing access to justice. Moreover, they operate with cost-effective and affordable unit costs. LAF represented Rwanda in this research alongside 12 other low-income countries that were evaluated for their implementation of cost-effective front-line justice services.

Using the findings and recommendations from this assessment, LAF actively advocates for financing people-centered justice, highlighting the importance of investing in community-based justice initiatives to ensure equitable access to legal assistance and dispute resolution services.

[Click here to read more on the assessment](#)

1.1.3. Comparative Analysis of Media Laws and Policies in East Africa

This comparative analysis was conducted to highlight the relevant international and regional human rights standards and compares how each of the four East African Community member states fair on eight key media regulatory issues of pluralism; diversity; independence of regulatory bodies; regulation of journalists; regulation of print media; regulation of broadcasting media; public service media/broadcasting; and regulation of film.

The report acknowledges that have the four countries have ratified key human rights instruments and their Constitution's guarantee media freedom and welcomes the positive policy changes that have been witnessed in the media sector in the four countries in the past decade or two. Such changes have included digital switchover, review of various laws that criminalized freedom of expression and establishing regulatory mechanisms for the media sector.

It is worth noting that recommendations from this assessment informed the new draft media policy

1.2. ADVOCACY

In 2023, LAF conducted and participated in a number of advocacy activities encompassing parliamentary discussions, high-level conferences, strategic dialogues, direct engagements with policy makers, as well as through radio and TV talk shows. We take pride in observing that crucial suggestions put forth through our advocacy efforts this year in various legal and policy-influencing discussions have been integrated into updated laws and policies, hence positively influencing and shaping the Rwandan legal framework

Some of the outstanding advocacy activities conducted by LAF in 20223 include:


- **New draft Media Policy**

Building on momentum created in the previous year, LAF continued its efforts on supporting the review of Rwanda's highly anticipated new draft media policy to replace the outdated 2011 one that is currently in place. During a series of consultative workshop, LAF put forth several research-informed recommendations to be integrated as key policy actions so as to foster a conducive atmosphere for freedom of expression in Rwanda. Notably, several of our recommendations have been taken into account.

- **Review of the draft Land Orders**

Following our research on the impact of implementation of expropriation practices on landowners in 2022, one of the key findings from this assessment pointed to the absence of Ministerial Orders that the land law provided for, and this resulted into constant violation of land rights during the implementation of the land law.

It is against this background that in 2023, LAF was consulted by the Ministry of Environment to participate in a series of workshops that aimed at reviewing the draft Prime Minister's Order determining modalities of protection, conservation, and efficient use of land & the draft Ministerial Order determining modalities for temporal requisition of land and termination of land ownership contract.



During these consultation meetings to review the land orders, LAF's comments emphasized on ensuring that people's land rights are not infringed in the process of developing these new Orders.

- **Developing Awareness raising Manuals and a National Counter Trafficking in Persons Policy**

In Rwanda's efforts to combat Human Trafficking, LAF participated in various consultation and advocacy-raising meetings organized by the Ministry of Justice in partnership with International Organization for Migration, to develop harmonized training and awareness manuals, as well as a Policy on counter-trafficking in persons.

As a result of these consultation meetings, a draft Anti-human trafficking Policy was developed and currently under review for adoption.

- **Review of the law N° 15/2004 of 12/06/2004 relating to the production of evidence in courts**

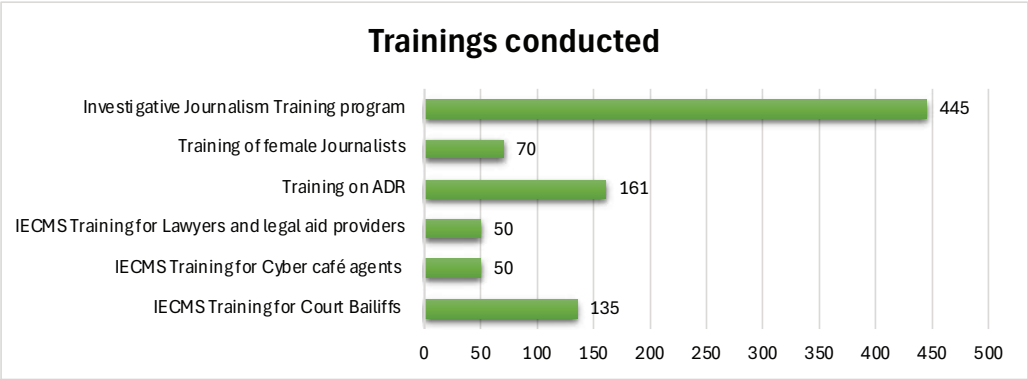
LAF participated in a series of consultation meetings that aimed to review and amend the 2004 law of evidence given concerns that this law was outdated and reforms were needed to adopt emerging and new scientific evidence such as DNA tests in criminal cases. Review of the law of evidence is still ongoing and we anticipate legal reforms that shall be in line with LAF's recommendations for review.

2. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity development is a core element of LAF's work for many years, delivering concrete achievements in access to justice. Since its establishment in 2006, one of LAF's greatest achievements has been the training and capacity building of legal aid providers and justice sector institutions, focusing on improving skills, professionalism, and respect for human rights.

This work continued in the year 2023 during which LAF trained 911 justice sector actors including court bailiffs, lawyers, human rights defenders

(particularly journalists), prosecutors, paralegals, etc. These capacity-building efforts encompassed a range of activities, including training workshops, seminars, mentoring programs, and skill-building sessions tailored to the specific needs of each target group and included international human rights instruments and relevant domestic legal provisions.



By investing in the capacity development of legal aid providers, court bailiffs, lawyers, and other justice sector actors, LAF aimed to strengthen the overall delivery of legal services and promote access to justice for vulnerable members of society. These initiatives contributed to building a more robust and knowledgeable network of professionals equipped to address the diverse challenges within the legal and human rights landscape in Rwanda. For journalists, training included investigative journalism skills, code of conduct and legal framework governing their profession.



Professional Court Bailiffs attend a training on using IECMS for judgment execution



HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION AND PROTECTION

Since 2014, LAF has played a pro-active role in mobilizing and organizing civil society to engage with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by leading a coalition of organizations under the theme of “*catalyzing civil society participation in the UPR process for improved human rights situation in Rwanda*”.

The purpose of the civil society coalition on the UPR is to actively engage with relevant government institutions and citizens around the UPR process. One of the strengths of the coalition is its broad base and LAF has been working to build the capacity of members on how to engage the government in the framework of UPR and monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations.





CSO coalition on UPR gathered in a workshop to validate findings of the UPR Mid-term Assessment

During 2023, the coalition undertook a mid-term assessment on the progress made by the government of Rwanda in implementing recommendations accepted in 2021.

Engagement with members of the Parliament on the UPR process

As cornerstones of national human rights protection systems, laying the foundation for and strengthening the rule of law and its institutions, Parliamentarians play a critical role in the implementation of UPR recommendations.

In 2023, LAF convened with the Honorable Senators of the Committee on Political Affairs and Governance and shared insights on the UPR mechanism and the role they have in implementation of recommendations Rwanda accepted.

Following the discussion, the Honorable Senators commended the LAF for their engagement and expressed their interest in learning more about the UPR mechanism. They invited the LAF to organize a comprehensive training

session for all Senate committees on the UPR mechanism and the role of Parliament in the implementation of UPR recommendations.



CSO coalition on UPR gathered in a workshop to validate findings of the UPR Mid-term Assessment



INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Under this strategic objective, the Legal Aid Forum (LAF) prioritizes local grant-making to strengthen its membership network and extend access to justice across Rwanda. This approach empowers member organizations to design and lead community-driven legal aid interventions, tailored to the specific needs and contexts of the populations they serve.

In 2023, LAF awarded subgrants to six member organizations—Rwanda Bar Association, Haguruka, Lawyers of Hope, ARDHO, Human Rights First, and Dignité en Détention—to implement legal aid initiatives targeting vulnerable and underserved communities. These grants supported the delivery of free legal services, including legal advice, representation, awareness-raising, and community outreach, particularly in areas where formal justice institutions remain less accessible.

In addition to financial support, LAF also ensured that grantees benefited from a range of capacity-building activities delivered throughout the year. These included technical trainings for legal aid providers, aimed at improving legal knowledge, enhancing service delivery, and strengthening internal systems and institutional practices.

Through this localized grant-making approach, LAF continues to reinforce the capacity and coordination of its member organizations, fostering a stronger, more decentralized legal aid network that is responsive to community needs and contributes meaningfully to national access to justice efforts.



FINANCIAL REPORT

No	Items	Consolidated budget	Consolidated expenses	Balance	% of variance
1	Office costs	282,993,789	281,593,789	1,400,000	100%
2	Personnel	517,050,000	517,000,203	49,797	100%
	Sub-Total running cost	800,043,789	798,593,992	1,449,797	100%
3	Activities:			-	
3.1	Research and Advocacy	35,600,000	25,934,894	9,665,106	73%
3.2	Capacity development	18,551,496	11,947,449	6,604,047	64%
3.3	Legal assistance costs:				
3.3.4	Awareness	51,395,993	50,795,993	600,000	99%
3.3.5	Incentives for casual workers	-	-	-	0%
3.3.6	Call Center set Up	120,155,600	120,155,304	296	100%
3.3.7	Grants making	369,813,739	369,813,739	-	100%
3.3.8	Human right promotion and protection	481,398,547	171,920,145	309,478,402	36%
3.3.9	Legal Aid & Legal Aid Empowerment	517,869,100	192,489,996	325,379,104	37%
	Sub-Total activities	1,594,784,475	943,057,520	651,726,955	59%
	Total	2,394,828,264	1,741,651,511	653,176,753	73%

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

LAF took a strategic and proactive approach to media engagement to promote its activities and share information. This included the publication of articles in the newspapers, engagement in radio and TV talk shows, press interviews, publication of reports and participation in national, regional, and international conferences. Articles were published in [UN Foundation Blog](#), [The New Times](#), [Igihe.com](#), and [Kigali Today](#). Media coverage included: Rwanda Broadcasting Agency, Radio/TV Isango Star, and Flash FM.

LAF also promotes its work and shares information through social media platforms, namely Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. While Twitter, Instagram and Facebook are used to share updates on the organization's work and events, the YouTube Channel has videos and webinars, which explain legal issues and the findings of LAF's reports as well as share impact stories for LAF's interventions.

In efforts to raise awareness against GBV, from 25th November to 10th December during the 16 days of activism, we conducted a series of awareness activities through our social media platforms like twitter, Instagram and toll-free lines. We developed awareness raising materials like fliers with key messages that aimed at raising awareness in fighting GBV.



As a result of the good rapport LAF has built with the Rwandan media sector, the organization has become the go-to for legal aid information by journalists. On various occasions, LAF was requested by media houses to shade light on

several key laws, citizens’ rights, and to discuss different aspects on the status of legal aid in Rwanda.

Additionally, LAF had a strong presence at a range of local, regional, and international meetings where it was able to share learning and experiences, exchange ideas, and engage with stakeholders and donors. The meetings were a strategy for LAF to engage stakeholders on particular issues of interest of the forum, fund rising, discussions on working relationships, experience sharing and learning from others, and build strategic partnerships and relationships.

The Global Freedom from Slavery Forum 2023

Key Takeaways



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Pathfinding is about turning commitments into action. It is crucial to engage governments to put in place appropriate policies and legislation that will ensure that the goals set for 2030 are met. Without proper implementation, commitments remain on paper and do not translate into action.

Me Andrews Kananga, Executive Director, Legal Aid Forum

Me Andrews Kananga sharing insights with participants in the Global freedom from Slavery Forum in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic





Programs Manager at LAF sharing effective approaches to community legal empowerment, during a side event in the High-Level Political Forum

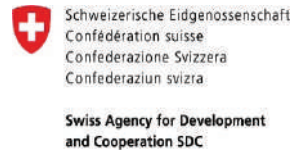


Executive Director of LAF sharing best practices on innovation in Legal Aid, during the 2023 International Legal Aid Conference in Boston, USA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Kingdom of the Netherlands



**C L I F F O R D
C H A N C E**



