

**Newsletter from October 2017 to March
2018**

A Brief Description about TANLAP

Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP) is an umbrella national network working in the legal sector. It is a membership network comprising of 66 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and other institutions providing legal aid in Tanzania.

Founded in 2006, TANLAP's core aim is to work and link up with other Civil Society Organizations in providing quality legal aid and advocate for access to justice among the poor and marginalized sections of society in Tanzania. TANLAP is registered as a company without shares limited by guarantee (Reg. no. 68892) and complies with the NGO Act no 24 of 2002 and has certificate of compliance (No. 1300).

TANLAP'S Vision, Mission and Main Objectives

Vision

- TANLAP envisions a society with access to justice

Mission

- TANLAP is an umbrella organization established to enhance the best practice and capacity of its members for quality Legal aid services

TANLAP Main Objectives

- To strengthen the capacity building on legal literacy among legal aid providers.
- To extend and improve Legal Aid provision in the country.
- To initiate, promote, support as may be deemed expedient, any proposed legislation or other measure affecting the interests of its members.
- To build mutual understanding and coordination amongst Legal Aid Providers and legal aid clients in the country.

Overall Goal

- Access to justice and human rights to the poor and marginalized communities are protected and promoted.

To realize the stated goal, TANLAP seeks to accomplish the following **strategic aims**:

- Capacity of Legal Aid Providers strengthened
- Coordination and harmonization of Legal aid provision improved.
- Organizational Development and Sustainability strengthened.

Activities Implemented

TANLAP was able to implement the following activities from October 2017 to March 2018 which are under three strategic areas;

1. Capacity of Legal Aid Providers strengthened

- **Annual reflection and training session to Legal Aid Providers on Newly enacted Legal Aid Act, 2017 and its regulation.**

TANLAP in collaboration with The Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs conducted a training session on Legal Aid Law and its regulations to 50 legal aid providers organizations and 30 Staff from MoCLA. The training session created an in-depth discussion of various aspects of the compliance to new legal structure the Legal Aid Act, 2017 and its Regulations; collaboration with the Government in delivering access to justice to the poor and vulnerable groups; the recognition and strengthening of the networks and coordination, including the legal frameworks within which they work, the relationship between paralegals, lawyers and advocates.

Outcomes of the training session conducted

- Enhanced capacity of Legal aid Providers and MoCLA staff on newly enacted Legal Aid Act, 2017 and its regulations.
- Increased linkage and collaboration between TANLAP and MoCLA.
- LAPs resolutions on how better the secretariat should continue coordinating them



Non-governmental organizations providing legal aid services, state actors led by the Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, the Registrar for Legal Aid Services and Deputy Director for Public Legal Services and Justice delivery organs represented by the Deputy registrar of the High court of Tanzania-Central zone during the Opening of the Training session.

LEGAL AID PROVIDERS RESOLUTIONS DURING ANNUAL REFLECTION ON THE SITUATION OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND THE BETTER WAY TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION AND NETWORKING, HELD AT MORENA HOTEL FROM 16 FEBRUARY 2018. HOSTED BY TANLAP.

The meeting was attended by delegates from non-governmental organizations providing legal aid services, state actors led by the Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, the Registrar for Legal Aid Services and Deputy Director for Public Legal Services and Justice delivery organs represented by the Deputy registrar of the High court of Tanzania-Central zone.

The meeting delegates conducted an in-depth discussion of various aspects of the compliance to new legal structure the Legal Aid Act, 2017 and its Regulations; collaboration with the Government in delivering access to justice to the poor and vulnerable groups; the recognition and strengthening of the networks and coordination, including the legal frameworks within which they work, the relationship between paralegals, lawyers and advocates.

Delegates also noted that, the legal framework has set the parameters within which LAPs are to function in the subsector under the direct leadership and oversight of the government actors. That, the law gives the Registrar the mandate to regulate and coordinate legal aid providers and sets out a list of provisions to not only guide the legal aid providers in their conduct but also the government department and agencies who in one way or another have been assigned responsibility under . That, the law does not oust the role and mandate of legal aid networks rather, under the Regulations, the networks are encouraged for purposes of advancing their valued services to share best practices, mentoring and coaching of their mention which are essential elements for coordination at national level.

The delegates further noted that, with the strengthened coordination and networking, the role and work of LAP in delivery of quality legal aid services will increase, also noted the critical role played by TANLAP so far is exemplarily and encouraging, therefore there is a need to press forward its mandate as a coordinating organ of non –governmental

organizations providing Legal Aid in complementing the role of Registrar for Legal Aid Providers under the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs .Having deliberated on the matters mentioned above delegates resolved that:

- While noting some challenges in the incumbent's Legal Aid Act and its regulations, Legal aid providers resolve to fully cooperate and collaborate with Registrar of Legal Aid in the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs in implementing the law at hand while preparing for the mechanism for reforms of the noted unfriendly provisions of the law on growth of paralegal and legal aid providers.

- TANLAP secretariat should make deliberate efforts to strengthen the sustainability of Legal aid services by providing reasonable resources to legal aid providers, including small funds to young service providers, fostering partnership with likeminded networks and other legal aid providers and while ensuring that the provision of such funding does not compromise the operational independence and objectives of the providers but only promoting sustainability of the provision of legal aid services.

- Development partners in the area of legal aid services to recognizes the role of TANLAP as the central coordinating body for legal aid providers, and so considering making necessary prior consultation in case of advancement of funds including but not limited to giving funds to the network for subcontracting.

- While aware of the previous provision of fund given to LAPs from the LSRP fund some years ago, LAPs also resolve that the Government revive that mechanism in view of strengthening and promoting sustainability of legal aid providers and legal aid services, and where possible the Network of legal aid providers be given mandate to disburse the same to LAPs

- In view of strengthening resource mobilization and sustainability to legal aid providers, to increase LAPs capacity on fundraising and sustainability through the following mechanism;

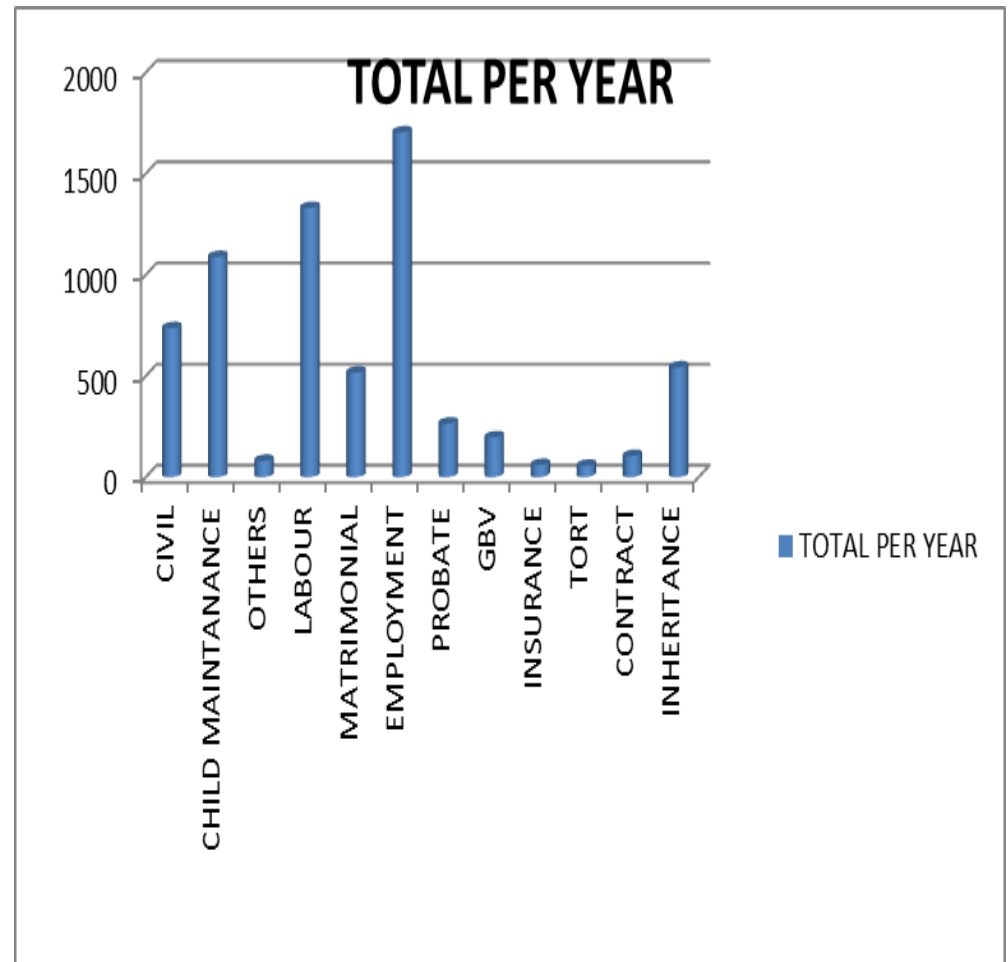
devise strategic mentorship training for Legal aid providers

develop fundraising strategy for Legal aid providers

Create a think tank resource mobilization committee for Legal aid providers.

2. Networking , Coordination and harmonization of Legal aid provision improved.

- Statistics of Legal Aid Provision from September 2016 to October 2017



➤ Conduct Legal Aid week 2017

TANLAP in collaboration with the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs organized and launched legal aid in different Regions of Tanzania.

The legal aid week was launched on the 4th December 2017, followed by five days long series of activities including provision of Legal Aid to the public, provision of legal and human rights education and awareness which ended on 8th December 2017. The Legal Aid week was celebrated under a theme 'Legal aid for Community development' meaning that "Msaada wa Kisheria kwa Maendeleo ya Wananchi".

A total of 2470 clients (1,563 Male and 907 female) received legal aid services. Most of the issues reported were on Matrimonial cause (one of the main causes of matrimonial cause are Domestic Violence), Land disputes, Labour matters and Criminal Cases in Prisons

Region	Male	Female	Total
Dar es Salaam	172	91	263
Dodoma	10	15	25
Iringa	34	38	72
Arusha	23	30	53
Kilimanjaro	27	0	27
Mbeya	271	185	456
Mtwara	45	29	74
Mwanza	41	21	62
Tabora	20	22	42
Musoma	172	193	365
Kigoma	112	118	230
Rukwa	39	42	81
Tanga	22	9	31
Prison	575	114	689
Total	1,563	907	2,470

Legal aid week pictures during the opening and closing ceremonies



Outcomes of the legal aid week

- More than 2470 Citizens received legal aid
- Number of people empowered and aware of their legal rights
- Linkage between the Government and Legal Aid Providers
- Recognition of Legal Aid Providers by the Government by visiting them in their units and offices.



➤ **Coordination legal aid provision during Law Day organized by Judiciary**

TANLAP was asked by the Judiciary to coordinate the organizations providing Legal Aid to provide Legal aid during the commemoration of the law day. Nine(9) Legal Aid providers organizations namely ; LHRC, TAWLA, WLAC, WiLDAF, CLG, CWCA , Mwezeshe Mama, Kinondoni and Kigogo paralegals were able to participate and provide legal aid to the public. A total of 347 received legal aid and education

Legal Aid Provision during Law Day in Dar Es Salaam

ORGANIZATION	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
KINONDONI PARALEGAL	28	40	68
LHRC	39	48	87
CELG	17	21	38
WLAC	0	46	46
TAWLA	2	39	41
WiLDAF	3	34	37
MWEZESHE MAMA	6	7	13
CWCA	4	13	17
GRAND TOTAL	99	248	347

Coordination legal aid provision during Law Day organized by Judiciary



Outcomes of the commemoration of law day

- Increased recognition and enhanced working relation between Legal Aid Providers and the Judiciary
- More than 347 citizens received legal aid
- Number of citizens received legal and human rights education and awareness

Regional Conference on the Formal Recognition of Criminal Justice Paralegals

TANLAP had opportunity to attend the Regional Conference on the Formal Recognition of Criminal Justice Paralegals held in Lilongwe Malawi that was organized by the Paralegal Advisory Service Institute. The Conference was attended by Delegates from non- governmental organizations and governmental agencies Regional Conference on the Formal Recognition of Criminal Justice Paralegals that provide legal assistance in the Criminal justice systems of the Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Zambia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda. The Conference delegates conducted an in- depth discussion of various aspects of the formal recognition of criminal justice paralegals, including the Legal Framework within which they work , the relationship between paralegals and lawyers and strategies for advocating for legal and policy reforms to facilitate the recognition of paralegals. TANLAP also had opportunity to share the presentation on legal framework for legal Aid Providers and Paralegals



Regional Conference on the Formal Recognition of Criminal Justice Paralegals

Outcomes of Regional conference on formal recognition of Criminal justice and paralegals

- Regional learning ,experience and best practice on legal framework recognizing paralegals
- Networking for common understanding on legal aid sector and service provision across the region

3. Organizational Development and Sustainability strengthened.

➤ **Board of Directors 's and Management meetings**

TANLAP conducted management meeting to evaluate the implementations of organization activities, discuss the success, challenges and strategies to overcome the challenges for the development of the organization. Also the management had opportunity to do performance appraisal for each staff. Further TANLAP have been able to conduct quarterly Board Meeting, the major agenda that were discussed were the TANLAP Annual Activities Report, Change of financial year from October - September to January to December , the Board further discussed and approved the Annual Action Plan and Approved date for the AGM proposed by the Management.

Member of the Board during the 19th Board Meeting held on 13 November 2017



Conclusion.

While the legal aid sector currently received a strong support from the regulative hand of the Government, LAPs also have successfully built a strong national identity for its contribution not only on strengthening legal awareness to the community but also on its firm engagement on the change of policy and legal framework on human rights sensitive issues, Now the collaboration between the two is expected to yield massively in the spirit of strengthening access to Justice in Tanzania.

Therefore, it's LAPs obligation and stakeholders to ensure that the existing spirit of partnership which played an important part in realizing the Law and its regulations in place, will not vanish rather being strengthened.

TANLAP appreciates the role played by Development Partners and calls for continued support on provision of Legal Aid for the poor to access justice.