barefootlaw

BAREFOOTLAW
Annual Report 2024







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BUT FIRST...**ABOUT US**

BarefootLaw is a nonprofit organisation which believes that for a society to thrive, people must be able to fully exercise and enjoy their rights. Founded in 2013 in Uganda by a group of young professionals, our organisation was established with the mission of providing accessible legal information to people across Africa. We strive to help individuals resolve their legal problems by leveraging digital technology to create innovative solutions. This approach aims to overcome barriers that hinder access to legal information and services, empowering individuals to exercise their rights.

With a presence in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, and Zambia, we have empowered over one million persons (1,045,010) people to develop legal solutions to their justice needs, and in turn, create peaceful communities where people can thrive.

Notably, this year BarefootLaw underwent an evolutionary process to rearticulate our work to tell our story better. The processes paired us with world-class specialists with extensive experience in global communications and monitoring & evaluation. This report will therefore introduce elements of our new brand framework and theory of change.



Our Purpose

We are creating peaceful communities where people can thrive

Our Mission

We provide accessible legal services for the people across Africa to resolve their legal issues

Our Vision

BarefootLaw envisions worlds (real and virtual) where all persons have access to justice and the law to empower themselves and their communities to thrive.

Our Values

- Professionalism
- Passion for the Law
- Relentless Improvement
- Empathetic Service

FOREWORD

By Gerald Abila, Founder and C.E.O., BarefootLaw

Looking back at 2024,
it's inspiring to see how far we've come, and how much we've achieved together despite global changes and uncertainty. At BarefootLaw, challenges have always sparked our creativity, pushing us to innovate and deliver meaningful impact to over one million people across Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, and Zambia.

This past year, we proudly introduced initiatives such as the BarefootLaw Box in Namutumba, Eastern Uganda, and the pioneering Solar Justice Microgrid in Kole, Northern Uganda significantly improving access to justice for underserved communities. Our campaigns, like "Wills for Women," further demonstrated our commitment to equality, dignity, and empowerment (words now facing prohibition in certain countries).

We're incredibly grateful to our partners for standing firmly by our side during these uncertain times. Your continued support has been essential, fuelling our optimism and strengthening our belief that together, we can build peaceful communities where people can thrive.

For BarefootLaw, humanity is the ultimate law; and as we step into 2025, though uncertainty remains, such uncertainty should serve as an opportunity for us to reflect, and to connect even more deeply through our shared humanity. It is through this that we'll build a future where coming generations will feel proud to belong, and by looking back at our work, be inspired to build even more peaceful communities, and to thrive.

Here's to a brighter, hopeful year ahead.



ACCESS TO LEGAL INFORMATION



Figure 1: Community sensitisation with local leaders in Malawi, on Domestic Violence.

Access to justice goes beyond a court of law issuing a judgement after hearing a case. For some, it starts with the ability of individuals to seek and obtain fair and accurate legal information. By leveraging innovative digital solutions and implementing robust community outreach programs, we have strived to bridge the justice gap and empower persons across Africa to understand and effectively exercise their legal rights.

THE BAREFOOTLAW FUTURE IDEAS INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The 2024 Future Ideas Internship Program provided 18 Ugandan law students with hands-on experience in community-based legal research and advocacy. Over three months, interns conducted fieldwork across Uganda, identifying local legal challenges and developing innovative ***"Future Ideas"***. The program culminated in the Future Ideas Conference, themed ***"Facilitating Legal Discourse: Lessons from the Next Generation,"*** where nine outstanding interns presented their research findings, showcasing BarefootLaw's commitment to using law as a social engineering tool to improve the lives of underserved communities.



Figure 2: Seventeen(17) of the interns under the Future Ideas Internship Program receiving their Certificates of Completion.

INTERN OUTREACHES

A key component of the 2024 Future Ideas Internship Program was community engagement. During these outreaches, the interns organised community engagements, addressing a wide range of legal issues, including land rights and family law, among others.

Through these outreach efforts, 478 individuals were supported through BarefootLaw's digital platforms for further legal support. These referrals provided critical information for individuals, families, and communities.



Figure 3: One of the Intern Outreaches held at Kasangati, Wakiso with persons living with disabilities

WILLS FOR WOMEN CAMPAIGN

BarefootLaw is dedicated to empowering women through legal awareness and action, exemplified by the ***"Wills for Women"*** campaign and our ongoing work challenging the practice of widow inheritance.

The ***"Wills for Women"*** initiative, part of our annual ***"Legally Hers"*** campaign in March, empowers women with legal knowledge to write wills and protect their property. This year, we translated will templates into Lusoga, Acholi, Runyakitara, and Lango, making them accessible online. Through radio, virtual sessions, and community outreaches, we reached rural communities, promoting informed decision-making. Our campaign also tackled widow inheritance, a practice that often violates women's rights. By disseminating legal information and fostering dialogue, we challenged harmful traditions, emphasizing that widow inheritance is a human rights violation, and that consent is not only essential but crucial.

While change takes time, BarefootLaw remains committed to nurturing this progress, advancing women's rights, and working towards a future where all women live with dignity, autonomy, and respect.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Every year, BarefootLaw participates in the 16 Days of Activism Global Campaign to end violence against women and girls. This year, under the theme "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Towards 30 Years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", we utilized a multipronged approach by carrying out community dialogues for local council leaders (both virtual and-physical), virtual dialogues with women in different communities, and legal sensitizations on social media running under the hashtag; #NoExcuses.

We aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the issue, empower individuals with legal knowledge, and foster a culture of zero tolerance for violence. We believe that through continued collaboration, we can move closer to a future where all women and girls are safe and free from violence.

This was executed under the From Access to Equality (FATE) Project, a consortium consisting of Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF), BarefootLaw, Penal Reform International (PRI), and Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), with support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda.



Figure 4: A community dialogue at the BarefootLaw Box in Namutumba with local leaders and community justice partners during the 16 days of activism campaign

DATA

97 **community engagement activities**
serving over 16951 people with legal information.

83% **reduction in cost**
to accessing Legal information as observed from our impact study 2024.

FLO GEENA'S STORY

Flo Geena secures her home after asserting her land rights

After her marriage ended, Flo Geena returned to her parent's home in Paicho with her children. On return, her mother gave her a piece of family land to settle on. Over the years, she built a home and farmed the land, as hers. However, when the larger family land was later formally distributed, her portion fell under her maternal aunt's (her mother's twin sister) share, leading to a dispute. Despite being offered an alternative piece of land by her mother and compensation from her aunt, Flo was unwilling to relocate. She approached the BarefootLaw Box in Paicho to seek legal assistance with the help of a local leader, where she was connected to a lawyer for a virtual consultation.

During the consultation, it was immediately obvious to the lawyer that there was need for mediation. A session was arranged with her mother, the twin aunt, and a clan leader. During the mediation on April 12, the lawyers clarified land ownership principles, emphasizing that a gift, once given with clear intent, cannot be revoked by law. The discussion revealed that while Flo had been given the land to stay on, ownership had never been officially transferred.

In the resolution, all parties agreed that Flo would move to the alternative land given by her mother, while her maternal aunt compensated her UGX 2,000,000 to support the construction of her new home. The compensation was made immediately, ensuring a peaceful settlement. This case highlights the power of legal awareness and mediation in securing land rights and fostering family harmony.

ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES



Figure 5: The BarefootLaw Team, community leaders, and community members at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the BarefootLaw Box in Namutumba District

Understanding your rights is the first step; the next step is confidently asserting them.

For persons across Africa to truly access justice within their communities, access to legal services is vital.

This year, BarefootLaw demonstrated a commitment to bridging the gap between legal information and legal action, actively connecting individuals with the services they need to navigate the justice system effectively. Through strategic partnerships, innovative tools, and dedicated support systems, we empowered communities to not just understand their rights, but to actively exercise them.

THE BAREFOOTLAW BOX IN NAMUTUMBA

We expanded our reach in Eastern Uganda by launching a new BarefootLaw Box in Namutumba District, Nsinze Town Council. This initiative significantly improves access to justice for the local community, providing vital legal services directly within the region.

The establishment of the Namutumba BarefootLaw Box involved the dedicated effort from BarefootLaw staff, IT specialists and collaboration with local leaders. Through multiple dialogues the community leaders as ambassadors of change within the community, we strategized on how the BarefootLaw Box would support their different roles in administering justice to their constituents.

We are grateful to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda for their support in making this expansion possible.

By the end of 2024, the Namutumba BarefootLaw Box had served;

635 ***people through virtual consultations, mediations and legal trainings***

03 ***mediations concerning family issues***

08 ***Community Engagement sessions with Local leaders, VSLA groups, women groups, Sunday gatherings and Community Partners.***

THE SOLAR JUSTICE MICROGRID

BarefootLaw, in partnership with The Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF) and supported by The Jones Day Foundation, launched the Justice Microgrid project in Bala Subcounty, Kole District. This project tackles the critical issue of inconsistent power supply, which previously hindered the delivery of reliable legal services in this remote area.

The Justice Microgrid, a first-of-its-kind 30-panel photovoltaic system, generates 14.25 kW of sustainable energy. This provides reliable power not only to the BarefootLaw Box but also to the surrounding justice ecosystem, including the local police station, Town Council Hall, and government offices. More importantly, it illuminates previously dark walkways, improving safety, particularly in areas known for crimes against women due to lack of lighting.

As our Founder and CEO Gerald Abila, notes, "In a remote community like Bala, access to light is synonymous with access to justice." The Justice Microgrid powers the BarefootLaw Box to function as a true hub for legal services for the people in Bala and beyond.



Figure 6: The launch of the Justice Microgrid at the BarefootLaw Box in Kole by the BarefootLaw team, representatives from SELF and community members from Bala Sub-County, Kole District.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In 2024, BarefootLaw strengthened its commitment to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), particularly mediation, as a cost-effective and efficient pathway to justice. Over the year, we facilitated 157 mediation sessions, all facilitated by lawyers virtually, achieving an impressive 82% resolution rate. This high success rate underscores mediation's effectiveness in resolving disputes without the delays and financial burdens associated with litigation and arbitration.

Mediation has proven to be a transformative tool for justice delivery. Our experience shows that mediation enhances communication, preserves relationships, and empowers individuals to actively participate in resolving their disputes. This approach not only addresses immediate legal concerns but also builds community resilience by promoting sustainable conflict resolution practices.

Through structured case tracking and outcome documentation, our legal services and BarefootLaw Box teams continue to refine its mediation model to remain responsive to justice seekers' needs. Our 2024 mediation outcomes reaffirm that accessible, community-driven dispute resolution mechanisms are key to strengthening legal empowerment and enhancing access to justice for all.

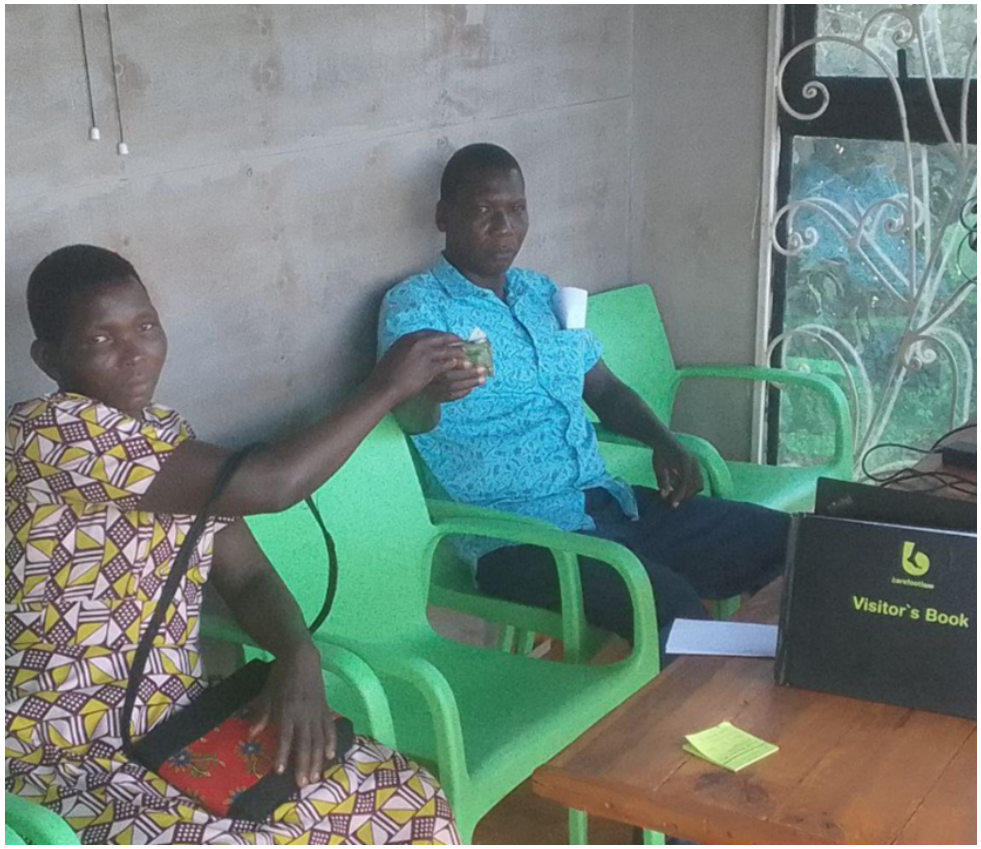


Figure 7: A moment of resolution: Two community members engage in resolution proceeding after a mediation session the BarefootLaw Box, promoting dialogue and peaceful dispute resolution. Through accessible legal information, mediation continues to empower individuals and strengthen communities.

PROPORTION OF LEGAL INQUIRIES

1570 *cases and inquiries handled in legal consultations*



LAND
22%



DOMESTIC
22%



COMMERCIAL
21%



CRIMINAL
15%



SUCCESSION
07%



EMPLOYMENT
06%



TORTS
02%



ADMINISTRATIVE
02%



OTHER
03%

PROPORTION OF LEGAL MEDIATIONS

157 *mediations conducted*



FAMILY
55%



LAND
29%



COMMERCIAL
12%



SUCCESSION
02%

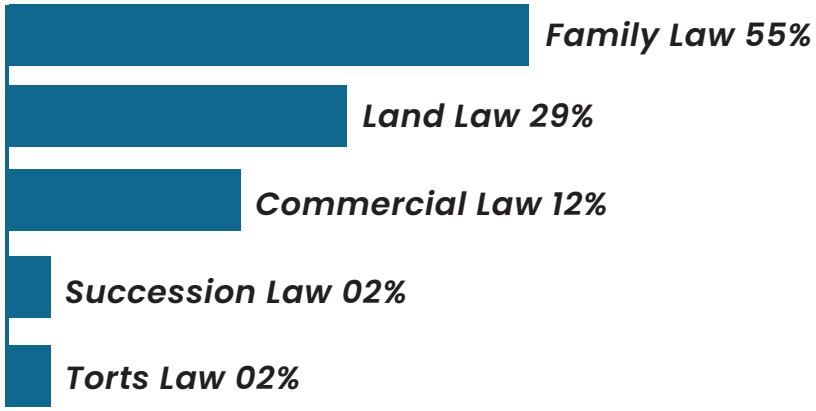


TORTS
02%

82% resolution rate, with an average resolution time of 2.1 hours.

Total value of assets Mediated under dispute for the year were 2.78 billion Uganda ~ 754,492 US Dollars.

PROPORTION OF LEGAL CONSULTATIONS



82% **RESOLUTION RATE**
with an average resolution time of 2.1 hours.

Total value of assets Mediated under dispute for the year was:
2.78 billion Uganda [754,492 US Dollars]

Beatrice's Story

Breaking Free: Beatrice's Journey to Justice and Stability

Akullu Beatrice *(not real name)* endured years of domestic abuse at the hands of her husband, a habitual drunkard who subjected her to severe physical violence. He frequently sold household items and harvests to sustain his drinking habits, leaving Beatrice and their children in a state of constant hardship. The situation escalated when he began questioning the paternity of their second child and later reported her to the police, accusing her of denying him custody of their children.

Recognizing the complexity of the case, the Uganda Police referred Beatrice to the BarefootLaw Box in Kole District. During a virtual consultation with the BarefootLaw Legal Services team and the Child and Protection Officer at Bala Subcounty Police Station, mediation was identified as the best approach to resolving the dispute.

A mediation session was convened, bringing together Beatrice, her parents, and clan leaders from both sides. Our lawyers provided legal information on child custody, parental responsibility, child maintenance, and gender-based violence. The discussion was intense, reflecting the deep emotions involved, but a resolution was reached.

The parties agreed that Beatrice will remain with the children, and their father will visit and provide child support. On the paternity dispute, he was guided to seek a DNA test or file a case in court. Both parties agreed to the test, and as an immediate step, the husband provided school supplies and other necessities for the children.

This success highlights the power of mediation in delivering justice while maintaining family and individual dignity. Through BarefootLaw's intervention, Beatrice secured her children's well-being, gained clarity on her legal issues, and took a step toward a more stable future.

COMMUNITY MOVEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS BUILDING



Figure 8: Gerald Abila at the World Economic Forum in Davos delivering a presentation on BarefootLaw's work.

BarefootLaw's success this year is due not only to our direct efforts, but also to the meaningful partnerships we have cultivated with community justice partners, justice institutions, and other organisations who share our vision for all persons to have access to justice and the law to empower themselves and their communities to thrive.

From organising joint legal trainings and outreaches with partner & Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to working with community justice partners such as the Uganda Police Force (UPF), local council leaders, and partner organisations to follow-up on and resolve cases that go beyond first line legal support.

BAREFOOTLAW RECOGNITION ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

At the 2024 World Economic Forum in Davos-Klosters, BarefootLaw's CEO and Founder, Gerald Abila, received the "Outstanding Social Innovator of the Year 2024" award from the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. This prestigious award recognized Abila's leadership in using AI to improve access to justice through BarefootLaw's innovative work.

This global recognition clearly shows BarefootLaw's unique approach to bridging the justice gap by leveraging technology and AI. It also raises awareness of the critical issue of access to justice, inspiring further investment and collaboration. Furthermore, it provides a platform to share BarefootLaw's best practices and encourage the adoption of similar solutions globally.

BarefootLaw's impact was further amplified by its feature in the Schwab Foundation's report, "AI for Impact: Strengthening AI Ecosystems for Social Innovation." CEO Gerald Abila contributed insights on the need for stronger, more equitable "AI for Impact" programs, drawing on BarefootLaw's experience and positioning the organisation as a thought leader in the ethical and impactful use of AI for social good. These recognitions provide crucial platforms to showcase BarefootLaw's work, amplify its message, attract support, and ultimately reach more people in need of access to justice.

OUR MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS THROUGHOUT 2024

Meaningful partnerships are essential to a thriving access to justice ecosystem. BarefootLaw understands this and actively cultivates relationships with diverse stakeholders, from organisations and community groups to individuals, leaders, and justice institutions. These collaborations are vital for expanding our reach and deepening our impact.

These partnerships ensure our services are tailored to specific needs and maximize our capacity to address complex justice challenges. Direct engagement with communities and strong relationships with justice institutions streamline processes and provide comprehensive support, bringing justice closer to those who need it most.

These collaborations connect BarefootLaw with programs addressing diverse issues, including domestic concerns, succession, and livelihoods, enabling us to provide wide-ranging legal information. We share this experience with partners like the Nyando Social Justice Center in Kenya, building agile, tech-enabled legal support.

STATISTICS FOR COMMUNITY MOVEMENT BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIPS.

With a network of up to 22 grassroots Organisations, we have served 582 persons through like-minded organisations in 2024.

22 ***Grassroots Organisations in our network***

SUCCESS STORY

A Community's Collective Effort to Protect a Child

On November 25, 2024, concerned members of the Lukwari community along the Kitgum-Gulu Highway observed a mother behaving erratically near a swamp with her young daughter. While most bystanders ignored the situation, the following morning, the mother was seen forcefully dragging the child along the tarmac at an alarming speed. Fearing for the child's safety, community members suspected a possible mental health crisis.

Later that day, a group of residents, led by a concerned citizen, found the child abandoned and took her to Paicho Subcounty Police Station in Gulu District. The Officer in Charge of the Criminal Investigations Department (OCID) at the station, recognizing the complexity of the case, sought further legal information and referred the child to the BarefootLaw Box for assistance. Despite extensive efforts by the OCID and the Child and Protection Officer at Paicho Police Station, no family members or relatives could be traced.

Understanding the need for urgent intervention, BarefootLaw coordinated with multiple stakeholders to secure safe care for the child. The case was referred to the Welfare and Probation Officer for additional support.

Additionally, BarefootLaw reached out to several child welfare organisations, including ActionAid, SOS Children's Village, St. Jude Children's Home, and Watoto Homes, to explore suitable placement options. While ActionAid could not accommodate the child due to her age, Watoto Homes stepped in to assess the situation.

Throughout the process, the OCID and the Child and Protection Officer worked closely with Watoto, ensuring the child's safety and well-being. During the interim period, the child was placed under the Child and Protection Officer's care. Following thorough assessments and investigations, on December 18, 2024, Watoto Children's Home officially took custody of the child, relocating her to Laminadear in Omoro District for long-term care.

This case highlights the power of collaboration between community members, law enforcement, legal professionals, and child welfare organisations in ensuring justice and protection for vulnerable children.

EVIDENCE GENERATION



Figure 9: Mr. Odde de Jong. First Secretary Security, Rule of Law & Human Rights, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Uganda, giving a keynote address at the Future Ideas Workshop

Throughout 2024, evidence generation played a crucial role in understanding legal challenges and documenting lessons learnt from justice interventions. Through surveys, case tracking, and research studies, we gathered insights on access to justice gaps, the effectiveness of legal services, and community needs.

These insights informed program design and implementation, enhanced accountability, and contributed to more effective and equitable justice solutions. The studies conducted over the year provided a strong foundation for data-driven decision-making and reinforced our commitment to advancing access to justice.

RESEARCH PUBLICATION: INNOVATIONS IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN UGANDA: JUSTICE USERS' LENS *(SEE LINK HERE.)*

Access to justice remains a pressing challenge globally, and Uganda is no exception. Studies indicate that four in ten Ugandans encounter at least one legal problem every four years, yet a staggering 70% of these issues remain unresolved. While legal innovations have been introduced to improve justice delivery, they have often been designed with a focus on the needs of legislators and legal practitioners rather than the people they serve. This study, published in 2024, sought to bridge this gap by exploring justice service users' awareness of access-to-justice innovations and their perspectives on how justice services could be made more accessible.

The findings revealed that only 54% of justice users were aware of innovations designed to enhance access to justice. Moreover, the use of technology in delivering legal services remained significantly limited, pointing to a gap in digital justice solutions. When asked how access to justice could be improved, respondents overwhelmingly emphasized the need to address corruption, conduct community sensitization programs, and promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

The study's findings underscore the importance of developing people-centred innovations that respond directly to the challenges justice service users face. By focusing on transparency, legal awareness, and dispute resolution outside the formal court system, meaningful and sustainable improvements in access to justice can be achieved. This research serves as a critical step in redefining how justice interventions are designed, ensuring they are truly responsive to the needs of the communities they aim to serve.

FATE (FROM ACCESS TO EQUALITY)

As part of our evidence generation efforts, the FATE (From Access to Equality) Satisfaction Survey assessed user satisfaction, identified key drivers of satisfaction, and highlight areas for improvement in digital legal service delivery. Findings indicated a high level of satisfaction, with 89% of beneficiaries expressing approval of the legal advice received. Satisfaction levels varied by gender, with 93% of females and 83% of males reporting positive experiences. Regionally, Gulu recorded the highest satisfaction rate (90%), followed by Namutumba (80%), while Hoima showed room for improvement. Beneficiaries highlighted the availability of free legal advice, effective counselling, and successful resolution of legal issues, with testimonials showcasing land recovery and conflict resolution.

The findings provide valuable evidence to refine and scale digital legal service delivery, ensuring that legal support remains responsive to the needs of marginalized communities.

KEY FACTORS INFLUENCING SATISFACTION

INFLUENCING FACTOR	PERCENTAGE(%)
Issue was solved	100%
Easy communication	98%
Direct communication with a lawyer	91%
Ease of accessing legal advice	80%
Face-to-face interaction builds trust	77%
Flexibility of the service	75%
Timesaving	55%
Free-of-charge access	30%

SOLAR JUSTICE MICROGRID BASELINE STUDY

As part of our evidence generation efforts, the Solar Justice Microgrid Baseline Study assessed community perceptions of safety, crime prevalence, and the adequacy of lighting infrastructure, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women and girls at night. The findings provided critical insights to guide interventions aimed at enhancing safety and access to justice.

KEY FINDINGS

13.7% ***of respondents felt safe at night compared to 56.1% in the day***

96.0% ***of community members identified lighting as essential for safety***

A study revealed a stark contrast in perceived safety between day and night, with only 13.7% of respondents feeling very safe at night compared to 56.1% during the day. This fear was substantiated by the fact that 92% of respondents had experienced or knew someone who had experienced crime at night within the past year. Robbery (36.6%) and sexual harassment (33%) were the most prevalent crimes, followed by physical assault (26.8%).

Access to police services was a significant challenge, especially for women needing escorts to report crimes at night. This poor access contributed to low reporting rates and dissatisfaction with police response, with 68% of respondents rating police services as ineffective in addressing crimes against women and girls at night.

Inadequate lighting infrastructure further compounded safety concerns, particularly in marketplaces (92.9% reported as unlit) and walkways (62.6% unlit). While local government institutions fared slightly better, lighting was still generally deficient.

Community members overwhelmingly (96%) identified improved lighting in key areas as essential for increased safety and crime deterrence, highlighting the urgent need for interventions like better lighting and enhanced police services.

SHORT TERM IMPACT OF THE LAW BOX ON DISPUTE FREQUENCY IN THE COMMUNITIES THAT WE SERVE

A recent impact assessment of BarefootLaw Boxes in Kole, Namutumba, and Gulu revealed significant progress in improving access to justice in rural Uganda. The study found a 67% reduction in cases reported to clan courts, local councils, and police since the Boxes' introduction, largely due to the availability of legal information, mediation services, and community engagement. The Boxes have been particularly effective in resolving common disputes related to land, family matters, child support, and commercial issues.

Key informants, including community leaders and law enforcement, emphasized the Boxes' role in fostering legal awareness and trust in alternative dispute resolution. Direct access to legal knowledge and mediation has strengthened community-based conflict resolution, reducing the burden on formal courts and effectively addressing land disputes and gender-based violence.

The study highlights the growing recognition of legal empowerment as a sustainable solution to justice challenges. Community leaders and local authorities recommended expanding outreach, offering tailored legal training, and strengthening stakeholder collaboration to enhance the program's sustainability and impact. These findings underscore the potential for scaling up this model to reach more communities and ensure broader access to justice.

OUR WORK ACROSS AFRICA

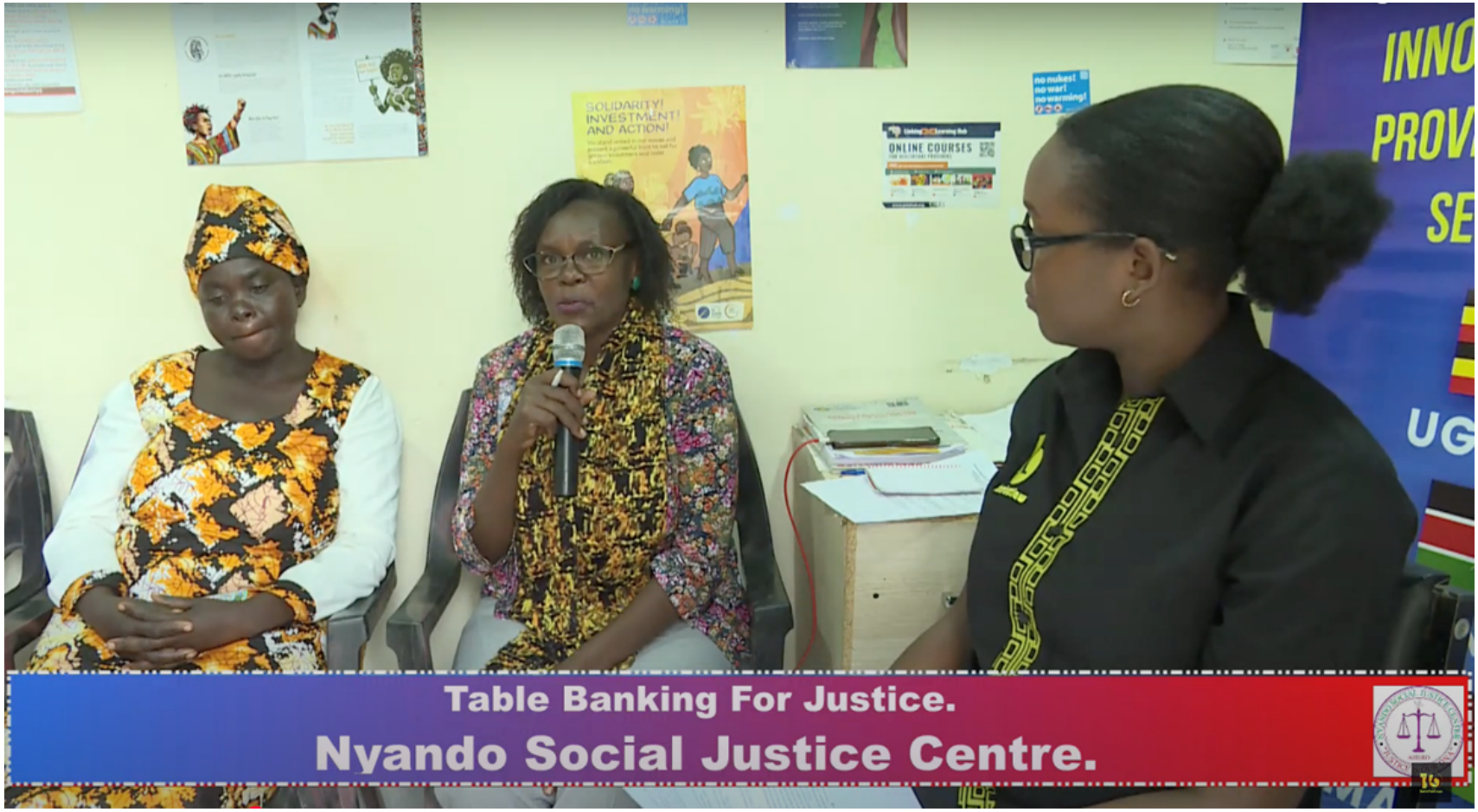


Figure 10: Women, convened by Nyando Social justice under the table banking initiative sharing how they have benefitted from this program.

BarefootLaw's commitment to expanding access to justice extends beyond Uganda's borders. Recognizing the shared legal challenges and the potential for cross-border collaboration, we have strategically broadened our reach across the African continent with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. This expansion reflects our belief that access to justice is a reality for all, regardless of location.

OUR WORK IN KENYA

BarefootLaw in partnership with Nyando Social Justice Centre has been at work in Kenya to empower women to transform their lives through legal training and support for village savings groups. These groups provide a platform for women to build financial independence and improve their livelihoods.

> **"I used to think that my husband was supposed to take care of me while I stay at home with the children. Because of this, he and I used to [physically] fight a lot when he was unable to provide. But now because of the table-banking system, I am now able to make some money for myself. This has helped stop the fighting at home."**

This powerful testimony underscores the tangible impact of BarefootLaw's initiatives, demonstrating how access to legal information, coupled with the opportunity for financial empowerment, can break cycles of dependency and conflict, fostering stronger thriving communities in Kenya.

BarefootLaw's collaboration with Dispute Resolution Hub which is under Full Circle Kenya, exemplifies our commitment to supporting innovation and collaboration within the justice sector. As a winner of the Barefoot Law Justice Innovator Challenge in Kenya in 2023, Dispute Resolution Hub's work is being further amplified through the MOTT project, designed to increase publicity for past innovators' efforts.

This partnership highlights BarefootLaw's dedication to fostering creative solutions that improve access to justice, facilitating collaboration among key players in the field, and ultimately promoting impactful initiatives that contribute to a more just and equitable society.

OUR WORK IN MALAWI

Our work in Malawi focused on supporting grassroots innovators to enhance access to justice initiatives. For example, the Youth Response for Social Change is a grassroots innovator in rural Malawi that combats human trafficking using suggestion boxes in schools as a reporting mechanism for cases of girls at risk. This seemingly basic innovation has proven remarkably effective in reaching vulnerable populations and providing a safe and confidential way to report and prevent potential trafficking situations.



Figure 11: A group of students learning about how to use the suggestion box to be installed in their school (Rural-Malawi).

HUB 22, a grassroots justice innovator, was established to provide a haven and legal support for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and abandoned children, addressing key barriers such as financial constraints and lack of access to justice. By collaborating with the Malawi Police Victim Support Unit and other partners, the hub has facilitated legal aid, medical support, and transportation for survivors while also offering emergency shelter.

To enhance sustainability, HUB 22 invested in farming for food security, using land funded through our support to grow maize and vegetables that help feed survivors seeking refuge at the hub. This “food for justice” approach ensures that no survivor must choose between seeking justice and securing a meal. As a result, the hub has successfully reintegrated 13 exploited children and strengthened resilience despite challenges like transportation and adverse weather. Through these efforts, HUB 22 continues to empower survivors and advance access to justice in Malawi.

By collaborating with these organisations, we amplify the impact of local efforts and contribute to building more peaceful communities in Malawi.

OUR WORK IN ZAMBIA

In Zambia, we launched crowdsourcing for grassroots Innovators in Access to justice, in partnership with the Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR), calling upon individuals and organisations developing groundbreaking solutions to the country's justice challenges.

This initiative offered a unique opportunity for justice innovators to showcase their work, with winners receiving a recognition prize of $1,000 USD. Beyond the financial reward, the event will provide a vital platform for networking and knowledge sharing, connecting innovators with each other and with BarefootLaw.

This initiative not only allows us to support and celebrate the inspiring work of Zambian innovators but also lays the groundwork for future partnerships with like-minded organisations, strengthening the access to justice ecosystem and expanding our collective impact in Zambia. It's an investment in the future of justice innovation, building a stronger and more collaborative ecosystem to serve the justice needs of the Zambian people.



Figure 12: A video shoot of one of the finalists of the crowdsourcing for Justice Innovators in Lusaka, Zambia.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR PARTNERS!

William + Flora Hewlett Foundation
https://hewlett.org/

frey CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
https://www.freycharitablefoundation.org/

MICAH 6|8 FOUNDATION
https://www.micah-68.org/

WEHUBIT
https://www.wehubit.be/

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
https://www.giz.de/

HiiL user friendly justice
https://www.hiil.org/

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
https://www.netherlandsworldwide.nl/contact/embassies-consulates-general/uganda

rippleworks
https://www.rippleworks.org/

SINT ANTONIUS STICHTING PROJECTEN
https://www.aham.nl/SAS-P/

Draper Richards Kaplan FOUNDATION
https://www.drkfoundation.org/

MULAGO
https://www.mulagofoundation.org/

CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION
https://www.mott.org/

AFRICAN COLLABORATIVE
https://www.africancollab.org/

JONES DAY
https://www.jonesday.com/

echoing Green
https://echoinggreen.org/

AZURIT
https://azuritfoundation.org/

DOVETAIL IMPACT FOUNDATION
https://dovetailimpact.org/

MFF Morgridge FAMILY FOUNDATION
https://morgridgefamilyfoundation.org/

King Baudouin Foundation
Working together for a better society
https://kbs-frb.be/

Segal Family Foundation
https://www.segalfamilyfoundation.org/

myriad usa
https://myriadusa.org/

THANK YOU FOR 2024!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2025 WITH YOU