HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS AND PROMOTION FORUM - UGANDA (HRAPF)

Annual Report 2012
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© Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum 2012
ABOUT HRAPF

Legal Status
Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum – Uganda (HRAPF) is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organisation. It is incorporated under the laws of Uganda.

HRAPF’s Vision
To see the rights of all persons including marginalised groups considered as part and parcel of social, political and economic Development.

HRAPF’s Mission
To use the law to promote human rights awareness and enforcement.

HRAPF’s Slogan
Taking Human Rights to All.

HRAPF’s Objectives
i. To sensitise the general population on the human rights regime.
ii. To generate data, information and knowledge on human rights abuses and how they can be avoided or remedied.
iii. To monitor legislative and administrative developments in the country to ensure the application of human rights principles in society.
iv. To promote interest in human rights through presentations and sharing experiences with target groups.
v. To promote peaceful resolution of disputes.
vi. To cooperate with the international community in achieving all the other objectives.
vii. To offer legal assistance to marginalised groups in order to assist them in enforcing their rights.

HRAPF’s Values
1. Non-discrimination
2. Equal opportunity
3. Justice
4. Fairness
5. Practical Approach
6. Team work

Contact Information
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ACRONYMS

AHB     Anti-Homosexuality Bill
AJWS    American Jewish World Services
CBO     Community Based Organisation
CCEDU   Citizens’ Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda
CSCHRCL Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law
CSOs    Civil Society Organisations
EHAHRD-NET East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network
EHARDP  East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project
FHRI    Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
HIVOS   Humanistic Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries
HRAPF   Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum
HURIPEC Human Rights and Peace Center
ICOBI   Integrated Community Based Initiatives
INTERIGHTS International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights,
LASPNET Legal Aid service Providers Network
PACF    Positive Action for Children Fund
RLP     Refugee Law Project, School of Law Makerere University
SIPD    Support Initiative for People with atypical sex Development
UHAI    East African Health and Sexual Rights Initiative
UHRC    Uganda Human Rights Commission
UHSPA   Uganda Health and Science Press Association
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HRAPF acknowledges persons, organisations, groups, and individuals that provided moral, intellectual and financial support to the organisation during the year 2012. More specifically HRAPF extends its sincere gratitude to the following groups:

HRAPF’s donors during the year 2012: These provided the funds and the technical support that formed the basis of HRAPF’s operations in 2012. These donors are: American Jewish World Service (AJWS), Foundation for Open Society Institutes (FOSI), Humanistic Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS), Positive Action for Children Fund (PACF), The East Africa Sexual Health and Rights Initiative (UHAI) and the United States Mission in Kampala.

HRAPF’s partner organisations: HRAPF conducted joint projects and activities and worked with various organisations during the year 2011. These include: The Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CSCHRCL), Refugee Law Project (RLP), Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHARDP), Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPEC), Support Initiative for People with Atypical Sex Development (SIPD), Uganda Health and Science Press Association (UHSPA), Centre for Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), Integrated Community Based Initiatives (ICOBI), Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC), Women’s Organization Network for Human Rights Advocacy (WONETHA), Trans Support Initiative (TSI), and Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG).

On a special note, HRAPF wishes to extend its appreciation to its partners under the HIV project in the four districts where this project operates. Their guidance and support in the implementation of this project is remarkable. We greatly cherish the relationship that we have with them. These are: Butooro Health Centre, Help the Sick (HESI), Buwama Health Centre, and Bulo Sexually Transmitted Infections HIV/AIDS (BUSITHA), in Mpiigi District: Bukomero Health Centre and Nabwendo Health Centre in Kiboga District; Nyimbwa Multi-purpose Organization of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NYIMUPHAS) in Luwero District and Mityana Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS (MIFOLA).

Unincorporated groups working with minorities: Since HRAPF focuses on the rights of minorities, it has worked with many different groups of minorities. Many of these are registered as Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and many of them are unregistered. Many have unique challenges as do their members. HRAPF greatly cherishes the relationship that it has with these groups, and thanks them for working closely with HRAPF, and for the trust and confidence that they have in the organisation. HRAPF also appreciates the patience that these groups exhibit when we are trying to overcome the great huddles that working with law enforcement agencies in Uganda presents.

Networks and Coalitions to which HRAPF belonged in 2012: HRAPF belonged to a number of coalitions and networks in 2012. These were key for joint advocacy, support and for referrals.
These are: The Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CSCHRCL) (UGANET), East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EHAHRD-NET), Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), the Uganda Network Law Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET) and the Uganda NGO Forum.

Non-Ugandan and international Organisations: HRAPF worked closely with a number of non-Ugandan and international organisations in 2012 both for advocacy purposes and for technical support. These include: International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS) UK, Human Rights Watch (HRW), and Amnesty International (AI).

HRAPF's legal aid clients: HRAPF wishes to extent its profound appreciation to the organisation’s legal aid clients both individuals and organisations. These are part of the core constituency of the organisation and are the reason why HRAPF exists in the first place. HRAPF thanks the clients for entrusting their cases to us and for the guidance whenever we go wrong as well as the patience exhibited as we do the work that they entrust to us.

HRAPF acknowledges that without the support of any of the above groups, this report would not have been written or at most it would have been entirely different from what it is now. Thank you to all the groups, as we take human rights to all.
On behalf of the Board of Directors of Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum, it is with pleasure that I present the 3rd Annual Report of the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum – Uganda (HRAPF). As part of our accountability mechanism to our stakeholders and constituency, the Annual Report 2012 summarises HRAPF’s work in the year 2012. It tracks the progress made with respect to HRAPF’s annual commitments, the major highlights of the year, the challenges and the financial performance of the organisation during the year.

2012 was a landmark year in the history of HRAPF. It marked the end of implementation of the HRAPF’s first Strategic Plan (2010-2012). It was therefore a period for self-evaluation and reflection. As such an external evaluation was commissioned by the Board of Directors to assess the outcome of implementation of the Strategic Plan (2010-2012) as well as track the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the organisation. The outcome of this process is encouraging. HRAPF’s is emerging as a key player within the human rights sector in Uganda and at the international scene.

Energised by the evaluation, the Board of Directors spearheaded the development of a new five year Strategic Plan (2013-2017). The process was informed by wide consultations with a number of stakeholders. The new program titled: “Consolidating Our Gains” will be launched at the 2013 Annual General Meeting of HRAPF.

The planned activities for the year 2012 were completed as scheduled. The Board received and reviewed progress reports every quarter. Legal aid service provision which is the flagship intervention of the organisation continued to improve both qualitatively and quantitatively and so did the advocacy work.

From an organisational development perspective, the Board continued to strengthen HRAPF’s policy framework, improve on resource mobilisation, ensure that the oversight function is effective and strengthen membership involvement in the work of the organisation.

All our achievements would not have been possible and worthwhile without the support of HRAPF’s Trustees, members, our peers, victims of human rights abuses, our development partners, the secretariat and stakeholders. Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to you all.

Going forward, 2013 will demand a resilient team to embark on implementing our new five year plan! We will count on our partners and friends to move this agenda forward.

Sheila Muwanga
Chairperson, Board of Directors
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I take the pleasure to present to you HRAPF’s Annual Report 2012. The report contains a summary of the work done by HRAPF in 2012 in all programmatic areas. It also contains an overview of the financial performance of the organisation in 2012. This is the 4th Annual Report that the organisation is releasing since it started its operations on 14th August 2008.

2012 was a very important year for HRAPF. It marked the end of HRAPF’s first Strategic Plan (2010-2012, and the development of HRAPF’s second Strategic Plan (2013-2017). In order to ensure continuity and to learn from the past, HRAPF commissioned an external evaluation of its implementation of the Strategic Plan 2012. The results of the evaluation showed that HRAPF had achieved most of the goals that it had set in its first strategic plan. However there were many lessons to draw from the first strategic plan, which helped to inform the second strategic plan.

The Second Strategic Plan 2013-2017 will guide HRAPF for the next five years. It is more focused and specific, and clearly points out the path that the organisation intends to pursue in the next five years. In line with work that has been going on under the old Strategic Plan, HRAPF will continue to focus on using the law to promote human rights. The rights of minority groups have been singled out as the key focus area. Legal aid service provision for sexual minorities, persons living with HIV/AIDS and poor people facing land problems is among the main strategies. HRAPF will also focus on legislative and policy advocacy, research and documentation.

The development of the new Strategic Plan involved the input of all the stakeholders: staff, the Board of Directors, members, partners, clients, and donors. It was also informed by visits undertaken to Kenya and South Africa to see how organisations doing the same kind of work as HRAPF elsewhere were approaching the work. With such rich input, we are confident that HRAPF’s Second Strategic Plan 2013-2017 will work as an important guide as HRAPF continues to soldier on in the next half decade.

HRAPF continued to do work in its three programmatic areas: Law Reform (women and Minorities), Human Rights Awareness and Capacity Development and Organisational Development.

Under the Law Reform program, HRAPF focused on the provision of legal aid services to the most marginalised groups in the country, advocacy against discriminatory laws and bills and research and documentation. Free legal aid services were provided to marginalised and vulnerable groups, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and poor persons facing land problems. As a result of these services, a sizeable number of people were able to access justice.
Advocacy against laws and bills that threaten basic human rights and especially the rights of marginalised groups continued. HRAPF continued to be an active member of the CSCHRCL; the Coalition set up to oppose unfair and discriminatory legislations and bills in Parliament. HRAPF chairs the Legal Committee of the Coalition whose role is to develop and analyse legal strategies to challenge the unfair legislations and bills. The Coalition received the US State Department’s Human Rights Defenders Award for 2011 in recognition of its work of fighting for human rights and equality for all. HRAPF’s Executive Director, Adrian Jjuuko who was coordinator of the Coalition in 2011 delivered the acceptance speech and received the award together with six other CSCHRCL representatives from US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton in Kampala in August 2012. This was an important event recognising the work of the Coalition and HRAPF was very proud to be part of these efforts.

The petition challenging Section 15(6)(d) of the Equal Opportunities Commission Act continued to pend decision in the Constitutional Court. Efforts were made to reach out to the Registrar of the Court requesting the matter to be decided as it had been long overdue. Unfortunately, despite promises that the matter would be decided soon, the long wait continued throughout the year, as so do minority groups who may continue to wait longer to know whether the Commission will investigate cases of discrimination against them.

Under the Human Rights Awareness Program, HRAPF continued to spread awareness of human rights among marginalised groups. Through legal aid camps, HRAPF extended its services to the people in the rural areas of: Gulu, Kasese, Kiboga, Luwero, Mityana, Mpigi, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, among other districts in Uganda.

Lastly under the Organisational Development program, the organisation continued to grow in terms of strengthening structures and in terms of size and capacities. 2012 saw the HRAPF secretariat relocating from its old premises in Bukesa, Mengo to the new premises at Plot 390 Prof. Apolo Nsibambi Road, Namirembe. The new premises are much more secure, bigger and provide HRAPF staff and clients with the much desired privacy and space to do their work. The staff continued to grow in terms of numbers and also in terms of skills as skills development was a key focus during the year.

2012 was also the end of the first year and the beginning of the second year for the current HRAPF Board of Directors. Under the stewardship of Ms. Sheila Muwanga the Board has continued to develop policies and review the work of the Secretariat. Their leadership, commitment to social justice and their invaluable advice have ensured that the Secretariat was able to implement most of what was set out for 2012. The Board took a key role in the external evaluation of the organisation as well as the development of new Strategic Plan, and thus championing the giving of strategic direction to the organisation.

The membership also continued to play an important role in the affairs of HRAPF. The members continued to support and participate actively in the work of HRAPF as well as contributing to the strategic planning process. The 4th Annual General Meeting sat in June 2012 and was attended by a majority of members who reviewed the work and progress of the organisation. Many of the members...
continued to visit the secretariat, engage with the work of the organisation and represent HRAPF in various fora. Membership participation in HRAPF’s work was a key priority following the last Annual General Meeting where it emerged as a key issue.

HRAPF maintained its membership and continued to play an active role in various Coalitions and networks. It remained a robust and active member of the CSCHRCL, a member of the Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET) and a member of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defender Network (EHARD-NET). HRAPF was also admitted as a member of the Uganda National NGO Forum.

New partnerships were also created and old ones maintained. In the implementation of the HIV project in the rural districts of Central Uganda, HRAPF entered into partnership with community based organisations and health centres in Kiboga, Luwero, Mityana and Mpigi districts. HRAPF continued to work with unregistered organisations and CBOs of HRAPF’s target groups. These partnerships with grassroot organisations act as a link between HRAPF and its constituency and are thus very much valued and cherished.

Fundraising for the year remained on course, and the organisation was able to raise funds to implement all the activities and projects that were planned for 2011.

2012 was thus a very busy and defining year for HRAPF. The organisation continued to soldier on with its work while redefining itself and planning for the future. This ensured that the organisation remained a dedicated and committed player in the civil society sector in Uganda, a role that we expect to continue to play in the foreseeable future until there is a positive change in the lives and status of marginalised groups.

All that was achieved during the year was due to the dedication, determination and zeal of HRAPF’s various stakeholders: members, the Board of Directors, staff members, partners, donors and clients. We therefore extend our acknowledgements to them, and count on their continued support as the organisation begins the implementation of the new strategic plan, and as we continue to take human rights to all.

Adrian Jjuuko
Executive Director
AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS WITH AN IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA IN 2012

2012 marked fifty years of independence for Uganda. It was an achievement worthy celebrating since the country had managed to keep together and relatively prosper despite the turbulence, the wars and the devastation that bedevilled the country for the first two decades after independence. It was also a time for reflection- reflection on the progress made in the social, economic and political spheres. Considering the year 2012 on its own, it presented a mixed picture as regards political, economic and social developments.

Politically, 2012 was the second year of the President’s new term which begun in 2011. The riots and demonstrations that rocked the country soon after the 2011 presidential and parliamentary elections subsided in 2012. However, opposition parties continued to organise sporadic rallies around the country, mostly in the capital, Kampala, while Col. Dr. Kizza Besigye, the president of the main opposition party Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) remained under ‘preventive detention’ for long periods. This state of affairs narrowed the political space and affected the growth of multi-party political democracy in Uganda.

There is still poor governance as indicated by the various indices. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance, for instance, shows little progress in the quality of governance. Uganda received a score of 55.1, slightly above African average of 51.2, placing the country 19th out of 52 countries in the Index. It moved one place from the position of 20 which it held in 2011. The Democracy Index published by the Economic Intelligence Unit ranks Uganda’s democracy as 94 out of 167 (Economic Intelligence Unit, Democracy Index 2012: Democracy at a standstill, 2012). This is however an improvement from 2011’s ranking of 96 (Economic Intelligence Unit, Democracy Index 2011: Democracy under stress, 2012). It is still ranked as a hybrid regime, which is the third ranking out of four. It is thus in the lower third as regards democracy.

Corruption remained a big problem in 2012 with the Inspectorate of Government (IGG) reporting that ‘few gains had been made in the fight against corruption in Uganda’ (Inspectorate of Government, The Third Annual Report on tracking corruption trends in Uganda: Using the data tracking mechanism, pp19). Allegations of large-scale corruption involving government officials continued to dominate the press. The most notable of these involved the misappropriation of about Uganda shillings 60 billion in the Office of the Prime Minister (Auditor General, Special investigation report on the allegations of financial impropriety in the office of the prime minister, 2012). The other which was much more devastating was the alleged loss of more than 165 billion shillings in the Ministry of Public Service to ghost pensioners (Auditor General, Report on special investigations on the allegations of financial impropriety of pension funds in the ministry of public service, 2012). These scandals resulted into the suspension of budget donor support to Uganda by many donors until 2103 (Donors cut all direct aid to government until 2013, Daily Monitor, 4 December 2012). According to the 2012 East African Bribery Index by Transparency International, Uganda had the highest rate of requesting bribes. The 2012 Afrobarometer report, based on surveys in a number of countries, revealed that up to 74% of Ugandans think the country is going in the wrong direction. There is need to end impunity by punishing those implicated in corruption and strengthen
policy to combat abuse of public offices. The effects of corruption and the resultant aid cuts indeed impose a disproportionate burden on the poor and disadvantaged.

Economically, Uganda saw a slowdown in micro and macro-economic growth partly because of the world economic troubles and the government’s tight fiscal and monetary policies. Real GDP growth was at 3.2% by the end of May 2012 (The Republic of Uganda Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development: Budget Speech for the Financial Year 2012-2013). The Bank of Uganda’s lending rate stood at 23.0% in January 2012 which pushed commercial lending rates as high as 27.6% constraining private sector development. These circumstances held back the economy and marked 2012 as a year with the least growth rate indicators since 2000 yet 24.5% of Ugandans still lived below the poverty line (The Republic of Uganda, The State of Uganda’s Population Report 2012: Uganda at 50 years: Population and service delivery; Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects, 2012).

Demographically, Uganda possesses one of the fastest population growth rates in the world. With a population of 34.1 million people in 2012 and a growth rate of 3.2%, the country is ranked fourth in the world next to Niger at 3.63% (estimated) with Qatar ranked world’s number one at an estimated 4.93% (Population Reference Bureau, World Population Data Sheet 2011). According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in 2012 alone, close to 1.7 million babies were born. If the population continues to grow at this rate, Uganda’s population will be 54 million in 2025 and 130 million by 2050 (The State of Uganda Population Report 2012 above). The population largely remains predominantly rural with 29.1 million Ugandans residing in rural areas compared to only 5 million people found in urban areas. The rapidly increasing population imposes obligations on Uganda is the leading country with the youngest population in the world. 78% of the population is below the age of 30 years. About 6.5 million (21.3%) Ugandans are between 18-30 years. The number of young people in Uganda is projected to grow to 7.7 million by 2015. (The State of Uganda's Population Report 2012 above). Most of these young people are however unemployed. Currently about 83% of youths are not in formal employment. This causes a high dependence burden on the few employed Ugandans, and further entrenches inequality.

The health situation in Uganda leaves a lot to be desired. In 2011, Infant mortality rate was estimated at 54 deaths per 1000 live births while under-five mortality rate was at 90 deaths per 1000 live births (UBOS, Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, 2011). There was an increase in maternal mortality rates from 435 deaths in 2005/6 to 438 deaths per 100000 live births in 2011/12 (UNDP: Human Development Report, 2011). 15 per cent of children under the age of five are still showing symptoms of Acute Respiratory Infections, 23% of children under 5 still suffer from diarrhoea yet malaria still rank highest in burden of disease index at 36.2% in the country yet the health budget allocation of 7.8% for 2012/2013 is still below the 10% recommendation by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The HIV/AIDS epidemic made a comeback despite earlier successes. The HIV prevalence rate increased in 2012. 7.3% adults are HIV positive, with prevalence being higher among women (8.2%) than among men (6.1%). It is highest among women and men in Central region 1 (12.5%) and lowest among those in Mid-Eastern region (4.4%). It is also highest among the women and men who are widowed (32.3%) and divorced or separated (16.9), than among those who are unmarried or never married (12.8%). Less than one per cent of children under the age of five tested positive for HIV. The country was the only one in the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa with increased rates of HIV prevalence. The 2011 Uganda AIDS Indicator Survey released in 2012, estimated that the number of new infections rose steadily from 124 000 in 2009 to 128 000 in 2010, to 130 000 in 2011 (Ministry of Health, Uganda AIDS indicator Survey, 2011).
In education, primary school enrolment increased from about 2.7 million pupils in 1997 to 8.2 million in 2009, partly due to the government’s introduction of Universal Primary Education policy in 1997. This led to increased enrolment rates in 2009 to 93%, close to the MDG target of 100%, whereas literacy rates reached 76% in 2011 (African Economic Outlook: http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/fileadmin/uploads/aeo/2013/PDF/Uganda.pdf). Despite improvements, Uganda’s education sector still faces a lot of challenges. They include closing the education gender gap, especially at tertiary level, where female enrolments stood at 44.5% in 2010, below the 50% parity mark. Completion rates remain low, with only 52% of pupils that start primary one reaching primary seven. Education still suffers poor quality and keeping in school especially primary education. There is still a dropout rate of 22% at primary level and high rates of teacher absenteeism.

In terms of human development, the country continued to perform poorly. UNDP’s Human Development Index still ranks Uganda as a country with ‘low human development’, which is the lowest category out of four. (UNDP, Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South, 2013). It is in position 161 out of 186, which is still the position it held last year (UNDP, Human Development Report 2012). This is worrying for the index now has a fourth tier- Very High Human Development where 47 countries have now moved to, yet Uganda remains at the lowest tier.

In such an environment riddled with limited political space, economic underperformance and social inequality, it is not surprising that the human rights situation in Uganda remains wanting.

The State of Freedom in the World Report produced by Freedom House ranks Uganda in the Category ‘Partly Free’. This is the second category, the first being ‘Free’, and the third ‘Not Free’. It indicates a downward trend for Uganda in 2012, due to ‘increased restriction and harassment of the opposition and a systematic campaign to obstruct and shut down civic groups that engage the government on sensitive issues such as gay rights, corruption, term limits, and land rights.’ That indeed summarises the situation of human rights in Uganda in 2012. The Democracy Index gives Uganda 5.88 out of 10 as regards civil liberties in 2012. The Mo Ibrahim Index gave Uganda a telling position of 19 out of 53 as regards rights and participation in Africa with a score of 55 out of 100. Therefore all the indexes seems to agree that Uganda’s human rights record in 2012 was average and that in fact there was a decline.

The most glaring violations took place in the field of freedom of assembly, and association. Demonstrations were broken up with excessive force, opposition leaders arrested, and civil society space further limited. During the ‘walk to work’ protests which broke out over increased inflation, many opposition leaders including the leader of the largest opposition party, FDC, were variously arrested, and a colonial law authorising ‘preventive detention’ invoked to prevent his movement. (Human Rights Watch, World Report 2012, Uganda Chapter). A political pressure group, Activists for Change (A4C) was banned under another colonial law (Steven Chandia, Govet bans oposition pressure group, Activists for Change, The New Vision 4th April 2012). This clamping of opposition parties affects growth of opinion and formulation of alternative development strategies one of the key roles of the opposition. It also affected the creation of checks and balances to the ruling political party and thus created a vacuum in the political process. Civil Society space was further curtailed with threats to organisations working on issues of governance, oil, land rights and LGBTI rights escalating. President Museveni threatened and attacked civil society organisations as serving foreign interests. This was in line with the oil debates (Office of the President Media Centre, Address to Parliament by HE Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, on oil,
February 10 2012). The Minister of Internal Affairs demanded an apology from Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) and Oxfam over a report that alleged eviction from land. (Uganda Land Alliance, Apologise or face closure, government tells Uganda Land Alliance’ April 30 2012). ULA made the apology (Uganda Land Alliance, ‘A Public Apology to the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, Hilary Onek’ New Vision, June 14 2012). The Minister of Ethics and Integrity closed down two workshops organised by human rights CSOs. This coupled with a threat to close down 38 human rights NGOs (Observer 27th June 2012) led to self censorship for NGOs and shying away from work deemed as ‘controversial’. This is a worrying trend. (Human Rights Watch, Curtailing criticism: Intimidation and Obstruction of Civil Society in Uganda’ August 2012).

Bills that threaten human rights continued to remain before parliament. These include the Anti Homosexuality Bill, the HIV Prevention and Control Bill and the Public Order Management Bill. All these laws have worrying provisions for the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual and groups. If passed, the Anti Homosexuality Bill would broaden the criminalization of same sex relations in Uganda, introduce the death penalty for repeat ‘offenders’, HIV positive people engaging in sexual activity with people of the same sex or with those under 18 years. It would be criminal to do advocacy work for equality of all persons including LGBTI persons. The speaker of Parliament Hon. Rebecca Kadaga expressed a personal interest in seeing the Anti Homosexuality Bill passed and promised it as a Christmas gift to Ugandans. The Public Order Management Bill if passed, will further restrict freedom of assembly and expression infringing on the fundamental rights of Ugandans spelt out in Chapter four of the 1995 Constitution. The HIV Prevention and Control Bill would criminalise intentional spreading of HIV/AIDS though there are no clear guarantees that human rights would be protected in the process.

As regards marginalised groups, LGBTI persons and sex workers also came under attack in 2012. LGBTI persons and sex workers faced discrimination and harassment at the hands of the media, police and fellow citizens. There were increased arrests of alleged sex workers in police ‘swoops’ done brutally and without regard to basic rights. Also there were increased threats to LGBTI persons reported, including arrests as the year came to an end. Also evictions from houses, and from jobs was reported as well rejection by family members.

Access to justice largely remained limited to a few rich and connected Ugandans. The number of legal aid service providers remained low, and the government did not put in place an effective legal aid system. The services also do not necessarily reach everyone as the most marginalised and vulnerable individuals and groups are left out despite the high levels of discrimination and violations that they face.

In conclusion, as Uganda seeks to fully integrate with the rest of East Africa, a lot needs to be improved. There is need to broaden political space for all political parties and broaden openness to diversity to avoid the gross discrimination and marginalisation of groups of individuals in a free and democratic society. The fight against corruption needs to be strengthened especially with the discovery of oil to allow proper allocation and use of the available resources for development. There is need to promote the rule of law and respect of human rights. Agriculture needs to be highly concentrated on since it employs the majority of Ugandans. Nevertheless population growth needs to be checked to reduce pressure on the available resources. Reducing human rights violations goes hand in hand with a general improvement in the social and economic conditions of all Ugandans.
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN 2012

2012 was the final year of implementation of HRAPF’s first strategic plan 2010-2012. To avoid a vacuum, it was also the year for the development of the Second HRAPF Strategic Plan 2013-2017. The strategic plan 2010-2012 had three interlinked programmatic areas:

1. Law Reform (Women and Minorities)
2. Human Rights Awareness
3. Capacity Building and Organisational Development

The Law Reform (women and minorities) programmatic area’s focus was on enhancing access to justice for women and marginalised groups under the existing laws while advocating for a change in the laws for the enhancement of access to justice for the groups targeted under the program. It employs legal aid service provision, paralegal training, legislative advocacy, research, documentation, and strategic litigation to achieve its objectives.

Under the Human Rights Awareness programmatic area, HRAPF directly teaches human and legal rights to women, girls, minority groups and the general public. This is done through research and publication, awareness campaigns, community outreaches, and radio talk shows.

The Organisational Development programmatic area is focused on building the capacity of the organisation to undertake its work effectively and efficiently. It focuses on staff capacity building, staff welfare and staff retention, organisational strategic documents and policies, fundraising, alliance building and membership development.

The three programmatic areas are interlinked and feed into each other. Projects are designed to address all three areas, and as such the work is not presented in the form of projects but rather in the form of activities.

The activities for 2012 will be reported upon under each of these three programmatic areas.
THE LAW REFORM (WOMEN AND MINORITIES) PROGRAM

Strategic Goal
To promote equality and non-discrimination before and under the law for minorities in Uganda

Program Objectives
• To advocate for legal reform in legislations that violate human rights principles
• To work with government and parliament to see that laws being proposed reflect human rights principles
• To promote access to justice for minorities and women infected/affected by HIV/AIDS
• To use strategic litigation to reform the law
• To coordinate with the Uganda Law Reform Commission on the need for reforming various laws
• To develop a group of paralegals among the target groups
• To promote access to land justice for indigent persons in Central Uganda

Program Activities
The program targets women and minorities. The activities under this program can be classified into six broad areas: Legal aid service provision, Documentation of cases, Strategic litigation, Paralegal trainings, Advocacy against discriminatory laws, Research, and Capacity building for organisations. Each of these is reported on below:

a) Legal Aid service provision
HRAPF provides legal aid services to minorities and indigent women, including poor women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, and women facing land problems are the target groups under this program.

The Legal aid clinic at HRAPF is divided into 3 divisions: Minorities Division, Land Division and HIV/AIDS Division each with its own specialised capacity to handle the cases under its docket. The services provided by the clinic are: Court representation, mediation, securing police bond, legal advice, verification of cases and incidents, and documentation of cases.

In 2012, the legal aid clinic handled a total of 287 cases for 366 individual clients, 22 organisational clients and over 500 direct beneficiaries.

HRAPF lawyers represented clients at all levels of the formal and informal justice systems in Uganda; in the communities, the local councils, the police, Magistrates Courts, and in the High Court.

1. Legal Aid to minorities
HRAPF Legal Aid clinic provides specialised legal aid services to the marginalised and most vulnerable groups in Uganda. Care is taken to reach out to the concerned individual members and organisations and services are specialised accordingly.

HRAPF’s interventions in all the cases received involved verification of facts obtainable on the ground. Efforts are made to seek all the details for documentation and also to sieve out stories that are not backed up by evidence, so as to save resources. This verification is done through visiting police stations, the place where the incident is reported to have occurred, partner organisations and speaking to witnesses if any, as well as reporting violations to police for investigations.
The Division handled a total of 80 cases reaching out to more than 150 beneficiaries in the process. The cases were divided into the following categories:

### Table 1: Categories of cases of minorities handled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NATURE OF CASES</th>
<th>Number of cases Received</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative action</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrests &amp; Charges</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrests without charges</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banishment from villages</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of names</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Custody and divorce</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company/NGO matters</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment issues</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evictions from rented premises</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Outings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Raids</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Assaults</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoppage of meetings and shows</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatening Violence</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compared to 2011, there was an increase in the number of cases reported and investigated from 47 to 80 matters. This is an increment of 33 cases accounting for a percentage increase of 70%.

Apart from the registration exercise, which provided 25% of the cases handled, criminal arrests and prosecutions accounted for 19 cases making 24% of all cases handled. 4 cases of physical assaults were handled.
2. Legal Aid for Women and children infected/affected by HIV/AIDS in rural Central Uganda

HRAPF provides legal aid services for women and children infected/affected by HIV/AIDS in rural Central Uganda. This is in the districts of Kiboga, Luwero, Mityana and Mpigi. The legal aid is in the areas of: land justice; succession and wills; domestic violence; patients’ rights; marriage and divorce; and children’s rights.

A total of 67 cases were handled. They were categorised into 8 categories as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of cases</th>
<th>Number of cases Received</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrests</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child neglect</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment issues</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inheritance issues</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unlawful deprivation of land</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will making</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in the table, Most of the cases handled in 2012 under the project were land related arising out of intestate deaths, which are as a result of HIV. The deceased who are usually husbands leave extended families which leads to conflicts over the land that belonged to the deceased. Women and girl children tend to lose out under the customary patriarchal norms. Conflicts over land accounted for 24 (35.8%) of the cases received seven of which were completed during the year.

Child neglect also stood out and most cases involved fathers abandoning children when they are found to be HIV positive. These cases account for 15 (22.3%).

Figure 1:
All these cases involved women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by the pandemic. The total number of direct beneficiaries was at least 130. The major challenges identified in providing legal aid for this group were: ignorance of the law, the general lack of documents especially sale agreements people conduct transactions without any formal documentation, and the high levels of poverty where clients are not even able to transport themselves to the places where legal aid is being provided.

3. Legal Aid for Poor People with Land Problems
The Land Justice Division of the HRAPF Legal Aid Clinic deals with cases involving indigent persons facing land injustice. In 2012 all groups were covered and the qualification was inability to pursue justice due to low or no means. A means test was thus employed to determine beneficiaries and both men and women were covered. This service was being piloted in 2012, and as such the service is due to be streamlined starting in 2013 to limit the categories of qualifying beneficiaries to women and children in rural areas of Central Uganda.

In total 139 cases were registered and handled by the Division. These cases were from different districts mainly in Central Uganda including Wakiso, Masaka, Kayunga, Mubende, Nakasongola, Mukono, Mpigi, Luwero, Mityana and Manafa.
The cases were divided into 5 categories as shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of cases</th>
<th>Number of cases Received</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Family disputes</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Child neglect</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Domestic violence</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Employment issues</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Others</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evictions stood out at a total of 75 cases making it (53%). This can be explained partly by the growing trend of landlords selling land without giving ‘bibanja’ holders the first option to purchase as provided for in the law and property dealers who buy land from landlords and then subdivide it, evicting people after paying paltry or no compensation.

The related category of illegal transfers accounted for 37 cases (26.6%) cases due to the growing land fraud in the country. Family disputes (8) and applications for letters of administration also featured. 75 of these cases (54%) cases were completed in the year.

The biggest challenge in dealing with these cases are the rampant delays in the justice system in the country.
In terms of gender, there is a huge disparity that has prompted the decision to actively seek out and focus on cases concerning women in the next year. Like in the previous year, the proportion of men was higher to that of women, a further indication that women remain vulnerable even to access our services as most of them decry transport costs to come to office and court expenditures.

Table 4: Number of cases handled in 2011 and 2012 compared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Number of cases handled</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of direct beneficiaries in 2012 were 420.

4. Documentation of Cases

All the cases that the legal aid clinic receives are investigated and verified for purposes of documentation. HRAPF’s team visits the police stations and the places where the incident reported happened and try to obtain information from the police and the witnesses in the area. Statements are taken from witnesses, and pictures taken where applicable. All these are put on the case file, to use as evidence in case of a trial but also to document the violations that are occurring. Both hard copies of the file and electronic copies are kept. As such data can be manually retrieved and sorted to study trends of violations and also to compare the trends over time.
HRAPF is currently working with the CSCHRCL and Benetech to develop a specialised documentation system. This will go a long way in ensuring that documentation is done effectively and efficiently and the information can be used to map out trends.

5. **Strategic Litigation**

Another important aspect of HRAPF’s legal aid service provision is that some cases that are regarded as being of strategic importance are selected and efforts are made to bring them before the courts of law. These cases are handled in close cooperation and consultation with the persons directly affected and members of their community.

One of such cases is case of Kasha Jacqueline and Others v. the Attorney General and Another, Misc. App. No 33 of 2012. This case was sponsored by the CSCHRCL, whose legal team HRAPF chairs. The case was filed against both the Attorney General and against the Minister for Ethics and Integrity challenging the minister’s action in closing a capacity skills development workshop in February 2012. The minister stormed the meeting, declared it an ‘illegal gathering’ and ordered it closed. Four of the organisers brought the action as applicants seeking to enforce the constitutional protection of their freedom of expression and assembly, the right to equality, and freedom of association. HRAPF’s lawyers are part of the legal counsel for the applicants. By the close of the year, the case was pending decision by the High Court. If successful, the case has the potential to enhance protection of the rights of the rights of marginalised persons.

HRAPF as chair of the Legal Committee of the CSCHRCL led the discussions on how to challenge unfair legislation and bills for being in contravention of the Constitution.

HRAPF continued to monitor the progress of the case of Jjuuko Adrian v. Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No.1 of 2009 – the case challenging the constitutionality of Section 15(6)(d) of the Equal opportunities Commission Act 2009. The challenged section bars the Equal Opportunities Commission from investigating behaviour regarded as “immoral and socially harmful” or “unacceptable” by “the majority of the cultural and social communities in Uganda”. This provision is likely to affect the Commission’s power to deal with issues concerning discrimination and marginalisation of a number minority groups and therefore betray the very purpose for which it was set up. The case was heard by the Constitutional Court in October 2011 and is still awaiting delivery of the ruling. Follow ups were made to the Constitutional Court and letters written requesting the court to deliver the long delayed judgment. The Registrar of the Court continued to promise that the ruling would be delivered soon. We are hopeful that the judgment may be delivered in 2013.

6. **Paralegal Trainings**

HRAPF works with communities, as such it is imperative that members of the community themselves are empowered to provide legal first aid to fellow community members in the absence of a lawyer. Community members usually find it easier to confide in fellow community members rather than lawyers who are usually not from that particular community. Secondly there are no enough lawyers to cover the demand for legal services, and more especially pro bono lawyers offering legal aid to marginalised groups. This is the thrust of HRAPF’s paralegal training projects. Paralegals from marginalised communities and women and children infected/affected by HIV/AIDS are trained in basic law and human rights and are used to provide legal first aid to members of their community.
HRAPF developed a training curriculum for paralegals working with marginalised communities in 2011. Under this curriculum, HRAPF’s paralegal training covers nine days of training and five days of placement with an organisation working on legal issues. After that they are passed out. It is provided in three separate modules separated by a few months; each module is comprised of three intensive days of work and study. The facilitators are HRAPF lawyers and other Staff members. An “out of the office” location is selected to permit the training sessions to be conducted without the distractions of the daily flow of people into and out of the HRAPF Offices. By the time the paralegal completes the training, they have been exposed to both the theoretical and practical aspects of the law.

The first batch of trainees started the training in 2011. They completed all the modules plus the placements in 2011 and were passed out at a colourful ceremony at HRAPF. 17 paralegals in total were passed out. This was a significant development as these paralegals were the first paralegals ever to be trained by HRAPF.

Three volumes of the Paralegal Reference handbook have been published and are available. Each of them corresponds to a particular module. The first handbook deals with Uganda’s legal system. The second covers Criminal Law and Procedure in Uganda, and the third deals with Human Rights and Other Civil Law Processes in Uganda. Each is designed to be a teaching tool during the paralegal training sessions, and then a reference manual for use by the person trained when doing work in their communities. The handbooks are written in easy to understand language and are distributed to the paralegals and their organisations.
The paralegals maintain a close relationship with HRAPF and usually act as the link between HRAPF and the communities in which they work and live. Each paralegal is seconded by an organisation and this ensures that the skills obtained are used at the organisation where the paralegal is from.

7. Advocacy against discriminatory laws
HRAPF continued to advocate against the laws and bills that threaten the basic rights of Ugandans especially marginalised groups. HRAPF’s and the Coalition’s efforts to oppose unfair bills and to fight for equality in Uganda were recognised by the United States State Department by awarding its Human Rights Defenders Award 2011 to the Coalition. HRAPF’s Executive Director, Adrian Jjuuko who was the coordinator for the Coalition in 2011 led the CSCHRCL team that received the award from the then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Kampala in August 2012.

HRAPF has been actively engaged in opposing the HIV Prevention and Control Bill 2012. With expanded mandatory provisions for testing people in Uganda without adequate protection for the information generated from those tests, and with the expansion of criminal offences, which may be committed by persons living with HIV/AIDS, this bill is a threat to human rights in Uganda. HRAPF advocates for the bill to adopt the approach of the East African HIV/AIDS Prevention and Management Bill, which was passed by the East African Legislative Assembly in April 2012. The East African Bill takes a human rights based approach to HIV and AIDS prevention, with an emphasis on confidentiality of information on results of HIV testing, accompanied by effective counselling and treatment, and conducted with the voluntary and informed consent of the persons affected.
Working with the CSCHRCL, HRAPF organised a roundtable discussion between lawyers and human rights activists to discuss the prospects of having these provisions challenged. The meeting charted the way forward on the issue of decriminalisation in Uganda.

8. Research
Research is a cross cutting strategy that HRAPF employs to achieve its objectives. HRAPF conducted a study on the implementation of the laws criminalising consensual same sexual conduct in Uganda. The study focused on arrests, charges, and the trial procedure. Preliminary results indicate that though there are many arrests that take place, there are fewer charges and almost no convictions or acquittals on these charges. Despite this however, the violations involved in the process of arrest and charge are immense. The laws have become an avenue to promote blackmail, extortion and to violate the rights to privacy, dignity of the persons and to equality of marginalised persons.

The study was conducted under the auspices of the CSCHRCL. It will be launched in 2013, and its launch is expected to add another tool to the fight against the unfair and discriminatory legislation in Uganda.

9. Registration of unregistered Organisations
Finally, HRAPF also actively supported organisations working on minority issues that were not incorporated as NGOs or companies limited by guarantee to get incorporated and thus become bodies corporate capable of legally transacting activities in their own name.

HRAPF facilitated the whole process of registration of those Organisations that were established enough to be incorporated. Nine organisations were incorporated as companies limited by guarantee. Even for those not registered, documents such as constitutions, memoranda and articles of association, which provide for the structures were drafted and put in place.

HRAPF continued to avail its services for the organisations that were still grappling with how to establish the structures provided for in the documents, and also how to fulfill the obligations under the law like filing annual returns. A long term relationship where HRAPF acts as the de facto Company Secretary for the Organisations has been established with the registered organisations.

19 organisations in total were involved in this process in 2012, and efforts to get those that could not be incorporated then are still on going.

Conclusion
HRAPF’s flagship project, the Law Reform (women and minorities) project therefore achieved its objectives during the course of 2012. HRAPF remains proud of the work that it has been able to accomplish under this program area.
HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS PROGRAM

Strategic Goal
To promote awareness of basic human rights among marginalised groups

Strategic Objectives
- To promote human rights awareness through direct teaching of human rights to the target groups
- To promote mass awareness of human rights through the mass media

Program Activities
The human rights awareness program involves a number of activities. These are: face-to-face awareness sessions, radio talk shows, TV talk shows, Developing IEC materials, maintain social networking sites, and Maintaining Resource Centre.

Overall 1,011 people were directly reached under this program. Those reached under the radio talk shows cannot be estimated but 70 people called in during the live talk shows. Implementation of these activities was as follows:

1. Face to face Awareness sessions
Face to face awareness sessions are conducted with members of the target groups. These sessions are organised as part of the legal aid camps. The awareness sessions usually take a full day with the morning session used to discuss human rights issues and the afternoon session for legal aid service provision.

a) Awareness sessions with marginalised groups
In order to reach out to communities of minorities in Uganda’s Eastern and Western regions, two legal aid camps were conducted in 2012 reaching out to 56 persons. 36 persons attended the Jinja awareness session while 20 persons attended the one in Mbarara. Matters discussed during these two camps concerned basic human rights, and how human rights can be used to empower marginalised groups.

HRAPF facilitated at awareness sessions organised by partner organisation WONETHA in the districts of Gulu, Kampala, Kasese, Mukono, Nakasongola, and Wakiso. The sessions were on basic human rights and how they affect WONETHA’s members. The trainings were also attended by members of the Uganda Police Force in an effort to sensitise the police on the rights of marginalised persons. They also involved reaching out to Local council authorities and to area defence persons. A total of 430 participants benefited from the trainings and had an opportunity to interact with the police to air out their queries. The sessions in Kampala were conducted in Ndeeba, Kabalagala, Nakulabye, Makindye, Natete and Bwaise. Other sessions were held at the WONETHA offices.

One awareness session was also carried out in Busia, at the Kenya Uganda border with partner organisation Survivors Self Help Group, Busia Kenya which was attended by 20 participants. In total 450 beneficiaries were reached out to in 2013 under this program.
b) Awareness sessions with persons living with HIV/AIDS

In 2012, HRAPF carried out six face to face awareness sessions with women and girls living with HIV/AIDS in the districts of Kiboga, Mityana, Luwero and Mpiigi. 505 persons in total attended these sessions.

**Figure showing the number of persons directly reached during the HIV Awareness sessions**

![Graph showing the number of persons infected with HIV reached during the HIV Awareness sessions in the districts of Kiboga, Mpiigi, Mityana and Luwero in 2012.]

Ms. Veronica Kavunani, HRAPF lawyer facilitating at an awareness session for people living with HIV/AIDS in Bulo- Sub County, Mpiigi district
2. **Radio Talk Shows**
Radio talk shows are used to address broader human rights issues and concerns. Throughout the year 2012 HRAPF maintained a regular monthly appearance on a talk show on Kingdom FM. The talk show involved a discussion between the moderator, a HRAPF staff and a political or law enforcement officer especially senior police officers. The show also had time for live call-ins to allow comments by members of the public.

Overall a total of 15 radio talk shows were held with 13 of these being the talk shows on Kingdom FM, and then one talk show each on CBS FM and Impact FM. Radio is still an effective way to bring information about human rights and about HRAPF’s services to the general public. The issues discussed are issues relevant to HRAPF’s work and to the broader human rights corpus. The most popular topics covered on the talk shows were: stigma of HIV and discrimination arising from related health issues; land rights in the Central region, matters involving wills and succession; and the human rights in Chapter Four of Uganda’s Constitution. More than 75 listeners phoned in with requests for immediate legal advice and information.

![HRAPF staff Mr. Julius Ssentamu holding radio talk show at Kingdom FM with Officer in Charge of Community Affairs, Old Kampala Police Station Mr. Tumwegye Enock](image)

3. **TV Talk Shows**
HRAPF conducted one TV talk show on land matters, which was aired on TOP TV. The show hosted HRAPF’s Executive Director, Mr. Adrian Jjuuko and a lively discussion on the Land Amendment Act, 2010 was held.
4. Developing IEC materials
HRAPF developed and published a number of information materials both about the organisation and its work. More 300 copies of the state of human rights awareness in Uganda report were published. Also 300 copies of the Annual Report 2011, printed 200 T-shirts for the HIV/AIDS project and 1000 organisational brochures.

5. Maintaining HRAPF website and Social Networking sites
HRAPF maintained its website in 2012 with updates on key events and also with publications. The website is still www.hrapf.org.
HRAPF also maintained its facebook account (HRAPF Uganda) and would make occasional status updates on pertinent human rights issues. A number of users would comment.
Plans are underway to ensure that these tools are used maximally and effectively.

6. Human Rights Resource Centre
As part of its effort to promote human rights awareness, HRAPF still operated a resource centre in 2012. The resource centre houses information on human rights especially the rights of marginalised groups. The centre also featured the organisation’s publications. It is open to the general public both individuals and organizations or institutions who are interested in human rights.

Conclusion
The Human rights awareness program supplements the work done in the Law Reform program. It is thus a key component of HRAPF’s work. Over 1000 people were directly reached through this program in 2012.
CAPACITY BUILDING AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Strategic Goal
To have a fully-fledged and functional organisation able to carry out its mandate.

Strategic Objectives
• To attract and maintain adequate professional and competent staff to execute the organisation’s program activities
• To build the capacity of the staff to carry out the organisation’s mandate
• To procure facilities necessary for the execution of the organisation’s work
• To improve on the organisation’s public image.

Program activities
A lot of work and resources were invested in capacity building and organisational development. This was to ensure that HRAPF’s programs had a firm structure to support them. The key activities done under this program are: External Evaluation of the implementation of the first Strategic Plan, Developing the 2nd HRAPF Strategic plan, Developing and maintaining Partnerships, Fundraising, Relocation of the Secretariat, Recruitment of staff, Capacity building for staff, policy development, and membership involvement. Details of these activities are discussed below under three categories: Membership, Board of Directors, and the Secretariat:

1. Annual General Meeting and Membership involvement
The membership body is the highest organ of the organisation. By the end of 2012, HRAPF’s membership stood at 50 members with 20 women and 30 men. The members meet during general meetings. In 2012, one general meeting took place, the 3rd Annual General Meeting.
HRAPF held its 3rd Annual General Meeting on 30th June 2012 at HRAPF offices in Kampala. The meeting was attended by over 50 participants who included HRAPF members, staff members, members of the Board of Directors, and auditors. The meeting discussed HRAPF’s performance in 2011 both in terms of programs and in terms of finances. It also discussed the road map for the new strategic plan, as well as the report of the Board of Directors, and the report of the auditors.

The members discussed ways of increasing membership involvement in the organisation’s activities and tasked the Board of Directors to look into the issue in more details.

During the course of the year, members were invited to participate in HRAPF’s events.

2. The Trustees
HRAPF’s Trustees worked alongside the Board of Directors to oversee the work of the organisation. They met with the Board of Directors in quarterly meetings. There are two trustees who are not part of the Board of Directors:

![Ms. Fredah Kewodi](image1.jpg)  
Ms. Fredah Kewodi

![Mr. Jacob Bukenya](image2.jpg)  
Mr. Jacob Bukenya

3. Board of Directors
The Board of Directors is the policy-making organ of the organisation. The Board ordinarily meets in quarterly meetings. There were five such meetings in 2012. During the meetings, the Board reviewed the performance of the Secretariat during the last quarter, approved work plans and budgets for the next quarter, and developed policies. Trustees and members of the management team attended the meetings in order to ensure cohesion and involvement. The Board was very active during the year and ensured that the organisation remains on course and performs as planned.
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS COMPOSED OF SEVEN MEMBERS, WHO ARE AS BELOW:

Ms. Sheila Muwanga-Chairperson

Mr. Walter Richard Aliker - Treasurer

Mr. Stuart Kamya-General Secretary

Mr. Kafuruka Biryomumaisho, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Adrian Jjuuko, Ex-Officio

Ms. Patricia Atim, Member

Ms. Nuruh Nakiwala, Member

At the Board level, the following activities were done:

a) Policy Development

In 2012, the revision of the Finance Manual was completed. The Security Policy was also developed during the period though it had not been approved by the end of the year.

b) External Evaluation

In a bid to evaluate HRAPF’s performance under the Strategic Plan 2010-2013, the Board HRAPF commissioned an external evaluation, which was conducted by Solome Nakaweesi Kimbugwe an independent consultant. The evaluation noted HRAPF’s key successes and challenges, and made
recommendations for improvement. The evaluation was thus very useful in the development of the new strategic plan for the organisation.

c) Development of the Second HRAPF Strategic Plan 2013-2017
The Board spearheaded the development of HRAPF’s second Strategic Plan 2013-2017. The plan is due to be launched at the next HRAPF Annual General Meeting in July 2013. The plan was developed through a process, which involved the organisation’s staff, members, Board of Directors, trustees and partners. The process was informed by the following events: the learning visit to organisations in Kenya that do similar work from 5th – 9th June 2012 during which HRAPF visited; Busia Survivors Self Help Group, Keeping Alive Societies Hope (KASH), Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) and Aids Law Project (ALP); a staff retreat on strategic planning held on 21st July 2012; the External Evaluation of HRAPF’s Strategic Plan (2010-2012) in November 2012 and the four (4) day strategic planning workshop with HRAPF members, partners and governing bodies held from 5th – 9th November 2012. The plan clearly outlines HRAPF’s mission for the next five years, its objectives and the programmatic areas.

HRAPF’s Program goal under the new strategic plan is: ‘To promote equality and non-discrimination.’ It strategic Objectives are:
1. To promote sustainable access to justice for marginalised groups in Uganda;
2. To influence the adoption of polices and legislation that promote equality and non-discrimination in order to prevent discrimination of marginalised groups in Uganda;
3. To promote partnerships and collaboration with like-minded organisations in order to strengthen voice of marginalised groups at the national and international levels and;
4. To create the appropriate organisational framework and institutional structures for the efficient and effective implementation and realisation of the program goal of HRAPF.

These objectives will be realised under three broad programs:
1. Access to Justice Program
2. Legislative Advocacy and Networking Program
3. Organisational Development and Capacity Building Program

Implementation of the new Strategic Plan began effective 1st January 2013 after the Plan was adopted by the Board of Directors on 15th December 2012.

4. The Secretariat
A lot was done at the Secretariat in order to make in more robust and efficient. These developments are discussed below:

a) Relocation to bigger and more secure premises
HRAPF’s secretariat moved from the old premises at Back to God Church, Bukesa, Kampala to bigger and more secure premises one kilometre to the South West at Plot 390 Professor Apollo Nsibambi Road, 20 Metres off Balintuma Road, Namirembe, Kampala. The premises are located along the main tarmac road, approximately five kilometers from Kampala city centre, with easy access by public transport.
The relocation ensured better accessibility by clients and partners, and a more secure, spacious and more comfortable working space for staff. HRAPF moved into the new premises in April 2012.
b) Staffing
In 2012, HRAPF worked with 16 full time staff and 2 interns. There were 8 females and 10 males.
Of these staff members, four, Ms. Christine Nakirya, Ms. Fariidah Ikyimaana, Mr. Edward Mwebaza and Ms. Veronica Kavunani joined the organisation in 2012.

Two of the staff members left during the course of the year.

c) Outstanding Staff for 2012 Awards
HRAPF recognised two staff members who stood out during the course of the year 2012. The Staff of the Year Award was won by Ms. Fridah Mutesi, Legal Officer, and the Most Improving Staff of the Year Award was won by Mr. Clovice Nyakatura, Logistics Assistant. The two received their awards from the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors, Mr. Biryomumaisho B. Kafuruka during the end of year staff party.
d) Staff capacity development

HRAPF conducted two staff training programs in 2012: one at the beginning and one in the middle of the year. The training at the beginning of the year was conducted to orient staff about the goals and objectives of the organisation and its programs and projects. The midyear training focused on sexual rights, sexuality and gender identity. Other topics covered during the trainings were: budgeting, financial management, security tips and monitoring and evaluation.

Three members of the Management team together with the Treasurer attended an AJWS organised training in financial management for non-governmental organisations facilitated by MANGO. Five members of staff visited Kenyan organisations doing similar work as HRAPF to learn about how they conducted their work.

Mr. Adrian Jjuuko and Ms. Fridah Mutesi participated in the Lawyering on the Margins seminar organised by the Open Society Foundations in Cape Town, South Africa. They met with lawyers working on marginalised peoples rights issues from all parts of the world.
Ms. Flavia Zalwango, attended a Sexuality Leadership training in Lagos, Nigeria.
Mr. Clovice Nyakatura, Ms. Flavia Zalwango, Mr. Julius Ssentamu were also trained as paralegals alongside trainees from other organisations. This was in a bid to build their capacities on working with the law.

e) Staff welfare

Staff salaries were paid on time and in full. Staff benefits were also catered for as provided for in HRAPF’s policies and under the laws of Uganda.
In an effort to promote team bonding, cohesion, and to reduce burn out, football matches were organised between members of staff.
f) Building and Maintaining Partnerships

In 2012 HRAPF worked with various organisations, coalitions and networks, both locally and internationally as shown below:

**National Partners**
- Refugee Law Project, School of Law, Makerere University (RLP)
- Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)
- East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP)
- Human Rights and Peace Center, School of Law, Makerere University (HURIPEC)
- Support Initiative for People with atypical sex Development (SIPD),
- Uganda Health and Science Press Association (UHSPA)
- Centre for Human Rights and Development (CEHURD)

**International Organisations**
- International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS) United Kingdom

**Coalition and networks**
HRAPF works with coalitions and networks of likeminded organisations. These are the Coalition and Networks to which HRAPF belonged in 2012.
i. Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CSCHRCL)
HRAPF joined the coalition in February 2010. This coalition was formed in October 2009 to oppose discriminatory legislations and bills in Parliament. Adrian Jjuuko, HRAPF’s Executive Director, became the Coordinator of the Coalition, a post he held until January 2012.

HRAPF sits on the Steering Committee and heads the Legal Committee of the coalition and chairs the Legal Committee. In August 2012, the Coalition received the United States Department of State Human Rights Defenders Award for 2011. The coalition was recognised for the work it had done in 2011 for preventing the Anti-Homosexuality Bill from passing during Uganda’s 8th Parliament.

ii. Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET)
LASPNET is the network of legal aid service providers in Uganda. HRAPF has been a member of LASPNET since 2010. Adrian Jjuuko has served on LASPNET’s Steering Committee.

iii. East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EHARD-NET)
EHARD-NET brings together organisations in the East and Horn of Africa region that work towards promoting and protecting the rights of human rights defenders. HRAPF was accepted as a member of EHRD-NET in 2011 at its Annual General Meeting.

iv. NGO Forum
HRAPF was admitted as a full registered member of Uganda’s NGO Forum and awarded a certificate of membership.

v. Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)
In 2012, HRAPF actively joined UGANET. UGANET was formed in 1995 to bring together organisations and individuals who are interested in advocating for development and strengthening of an appropriate policy, legal human rights and ethical response to HIV/AIDS in Uganda. HRAPF joined UGANET to advocate against the HIV/AIDS Bill 2010.

f) Fundraising
Two new donors came on board in 2012 and four existing donors were maintained.

HRAPF’s donors in 2012 were:

i) East African Health and Sexual Rights Initiative (UHAI)
ii) United States Department of State
iii) Humanistic Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS)
iv) American Jewish World Services (AJWS)
v) Positive Action for Children Fund (PACF)
vi) Foundation for Open Society Institutes (FOSI)

Conclusion
A lot has been taking place at HRAPF in terms of organisational development and capacity building. This has been seen across the board in all organs of the organisation. The program has been instrumental in ensuring that the organisation effectively carries out its work.
Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)
Audit Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2012

Statement of Management’s Responsibilities

Management accepts responsibility for the financial statements, set out on pages 8 to 19, which have been prepared using appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates. Management is of the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the financial affairs of the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (the Organisation) and of its excess of receipts over payments and that they are in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Management further accepts responsibility for the maintenance of accounting records that may be relied upon in the preparation of the financial statements, as well as adequate systems of internal financial control.

There was no post Balance Sheet events, which necessitate revision of the figures included in the Fund Accountability Statements or inclusion of a note there to.

The financial statements were approved by management of the Organisation on 4th June 2013 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mr. Adrian Juuko
Executive Director

Ms. Sheila Muwanga
Chairperson, Board of directors.
REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS AND PROMOTION FORUM (HRAPF)

We audited the fund accountability statement of the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum for the period ended 31st December 2012, and the accompanying significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' 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 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 judgment, 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 reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements.

We obtained all the information and explanations that to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of HRAPF as at 31 December 2012 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

BIZ & CO Certified Public Accountants
05/06/2013

The Board of Directors
Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum,
P.O. Box 25603,
Kampala, Uganda
# Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)

**Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 December 2012

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**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shs</td>
<td>Shs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash at hand</td>
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<td>4,353,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
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<td>Pre-payments</td>
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<td>7,100,000</td>
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<td>Staff Advances</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>140,000</td>
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<td>Total Assets</td>
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<td>489,050,787</td>
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</table>

Represented by:

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<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13,802,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Reserves</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>475,248,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Accumulated Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td>489,050,787</td>
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</table>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 19 were approved by the Board of Directors of HRAPF and signed on its behalf by:

---

Mr. Adrian Jjukwa,  
Executive Director

Ms. Sheila Muwanga,  
Chairperson, Board of Directors
# Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)

## Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2012

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shs</td>
<td>Shs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>1,034,202,970</td>
<td>382,482,925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations from HRAPF Directors</td>
<td>472,000</td>
<td>5,260,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>User charges</td>
<td>2,810,000</td>
<td>4,206,650</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income received during the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,037,484,970</strong></td>
<td><strong>391,950,275</strong></td>
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</table>

## EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shs</td>
<td>Shs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Project Expenditures</td>
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<td>9,467,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Relocation Project</td>
<td>48,113,738</td>
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<td>Legal Aid for Minorities Project</td>
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<td>37,478,200</td>
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<td>Support to Legal Aid for Minorities Project</td>
<td>109,854,982</td>
<td>70,238,093</td>
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<td>Legal Aid Infrastructure Project</td>
<td>378,368,080</td>
<td>99,881,197</td>
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<td>Access to Justice Project</td>
<td>34,690,358</td>
<td>24,007,000</td>
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<td>Research on S.145 of Penal Code Act Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research On Levels of Human Rights Awareness Project</td>
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<td>4,681,600</td>
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<td>Security Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,220,000</td>
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<td>HIV/AIDS Human Rights Advocacy Project</td>
<td>49,802,115</td>
<td>25,064,000</td>
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<td>Registration of Organizations Project</td>
<td>42,893,320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beyond Strategic Litigation Project</td>
<td>316,250</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure for the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>672,087,343</strong></td>
<td><strong>287,080,240</strong></td>
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**Surplus of income over expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shs</td>
<td>Shs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>365,397,627</td>
<td>104,870,035</td>
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