



CHALLENGES/CONTEXT

Project name

Lewuti

Country

Uganda



Implemented by



barefootlaw

+ Avocats
sans frontières

Budget

315.000 €

Duration

02/2019 - 03/2021

Contribution to SDGs

5

GENDER
EQUALITY



10

REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



16

PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Due to several contributory factors, most Ugandans – especially women, have very limited access to legal services, particularly in rural areas.

For instance, most local leaders (cultural and political) have a wrong belief that women cannot own land although the law says otherwise.

As a result, their rights are infringed upon, they have limited recourse for injustice and therefore do not enjoy the full potential of rights and duties they are entitled to.

The project mobilizes digital solutions to overcome physical and financial barriers to reach legal support while addressing the structural gender inequalities that prevents women from accessing justice.

DIGITAL SOLUTION/APPROACH



The project, whose objective is “to increase women’s access to justice through digital solutions for legal empowerment”, uses digital solutions and community-based mediation to overcome barriers of geography, courts’ coverage, knowledge and cost.

It provides community sensitisation on the rights and the law, legal information and guidance through digital tools (SMS, interactive voice responses (IVR) and a call-centre), and leverage community-based mediators to provide access to legal support at the grassroots.

The use of digital tools not only enables to reach to remote areas, but also solves language issues and allows women to access information outside the influence of men.

Implemented by



Financed by



Belgium

partner in development

WEHUBIT EFFECT



SCALING-UP DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

Through Wehubit's support, the project developed and deployed digital tools which enable women to access legal support.

WOMEN ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH MEDIATION

Wehubit's support enabled the re-training of community based mediators to provide services to women in the community.

ADDRESS THE STRUCTURAL ENABLERS OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Wehubit's support enables us to create meaningful information that is shared with the leaders and stakeholders to reduce gender inequalities and discriminations.

EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

Through this approach, women are able to access tailored first line legal support and enjoy access to justice if they build sufficient and tailored knowledge about their rights.

Women can access responsive spaces to ascertain their rights thanks to the dispute resolution process which promotes a gender sensitive rights-based approach to mediation.

Therefore, women's rights are protected and respected and communities can address the structural enablers of gender discrimination.



LESSONS LEARNED

Key lessons from the project include:

1. Digital is a great accelerator for access to legal support, and a useful tool in the absence of other channels.
2. Complementarity of digital services with other traditional methods is key for the uptake of digital solutions.
3. Working with community based actors (here community mediators) was important for project buy-in by the community, provides local knowledge and can be leveraged further when responding to uncertain circumstances (for example working with them remotely during the pandemic).

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?



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