



AJISO 2021 NEWSLETTER



From the Executive Director's Desk



**Dear Esteemed Readers,
Greetings from Action for Justice in Society (AJISO)**

The year 2021 was a memorable one, our team at AJISO in collaboration with our development partners including PROBONO, Bread for the World and Foundation for Civil Society has been of help to us in taking us one step further on the mission to promote human rights, access to justice and socio economic empowerment of women and children in Tanzania.

We are honored to continue implementing the Child Protection project in the Monduli and Mwangi districts, which is a continuation of the Pro Bono collaborative initiative. Pro Bono has been one of our most valuable partners for more than five years.

We were able to bring into existence the Tuwalinde project, which was funded by the Foundation for Civil Society and implemented in the Mwangi region of Kilimanjaro's Lembeni and Kironwe wards.

Also, legal aid service remains the backbone of our programs. With the support of Bread for the World, our legal aid desk was able to provide legal aid services to 99 beneficiaries and train more than 222 paralegals from Mwangi and Rombo districts.

However, we were honored and humbled to participate in Legal Aid Week, which was commemorated from March 1st to 2nd, 2021, and again during the commemoration of 16 days of Activism against GBV, which was held at Muungano and Jamhuri primary schools from November 25th to December 10th, 2021, before finally joining the world to commemorate Aids Day on December 1st, 2021.

Surely, this is not the end, our devoted and dedicated team is more than thirsty and eager to push the agenda forward of the implementation of our 2022 projects in accordance with our strategic plans.

I welcome you all to read our news stories and share it with your beloved one.

**Regards,
Virginia Calist Silayo
Executive Director**

Legal Aid for all

Imagine being on the edge of giving up because you are surrounded by an endless list of impossibilities about matters that can only be resolved through expensive legal procedures that you cannot afford to pay for. As I write, this is a situation that a vast majority of people in rural and urban Tanzania are experiencing. Being unable to afford legal representation leads to the inaccessibility of basic individual rights.

Meeting such legal aid needs for the public is the number one goal for a majority of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) like we, the Action for Justice in the Society (AJISO). In 2021, our legal aid wings have reached and stretched as far as several regions in Kilimanjaro and served a good number of people.



Our team has been on the frontline in the provision of legal education, legal hearing in amicable terms and legal representation for vicoba groups, individuals and committees in the Kilimanjaro region and nearest regions.



However, a lack of legal aid facilities, knowledge of local norms and regulations and financial resources are some of the reasons why rural and remote populations in Tanzania continue to face challenges in accessing justice.

It's an honor and a joy to know that whenever the topic of legal aid is brought up, our beneficiaries in various parts of Kilimanjaro and beyond immediately think of AJISO. This helps us keep our chins up as we continue to serve the public day in and day out. We will always leave our doors open for any issues concerning legal aid.

Our Impact on 2021 Legal aid service

Cases	Beneficiaries
Land Disputes	49
Inheritance	2
Marriage	38
Childcare	102
Claims	20
Criminal Cases	36
Labour Disputes	1
Abuse	42
Violence Against Women	47
Total Number of cases litigated	254

Legal Education Beneficiaries	 Male 25228	 Female 43374
Total	68602	

Community Groups Reached	 Male 1280	 Female 2692
Total	3972	



Capacitating Justice Torch Bearers for Public Good

In an event where you are in dire need of legal counsel, litigation, presentation, advice or even education, you are prompted to call or visit the nearest law enforcer but that's not the case when paralegals are present in the society. You would just happily approach a paralegal officer and engage him or her in your pursuit for justice.

At the Action for Justice in Society (AJISO), we enable this to happen as we have been working with paralegals in the community from time immemorial. Paralegals contribute to accessibility of justice and socio-economic empowerment in the society. Well, paralegals, trained to engage in legal aid and legal education activities enhance and ensure the accessibility and timeliness of justice for all hence skilling them is always a great idea.

With regard to this, AJISO in partnership with UZIKWASA Organization implemented a one year project in four wards of Usseri Division Rombo District (Kirongo Samanga, Kitirima and Kingachi) with the aim of empowering paralegals with reflective learning culture and

effectively using reflective training approaches in their programs to the community that they serve.

Furthermore, the 3-day Reflective Training conducted within the time period of July to November enabled 40 paralegals from Usseri to gain insights on the importance of becoming a leader at all times, and to correct mistakes that have already been made in carrying out their day-to-day responsibilities.

This will help the sustainability of the project even after the project period has been completed. Also in attendance were 12 AJISO staff, 10 Board members, 12 Members, 75 NPA-VAWC members at 3 ward levels and 25 NPA-VAWC members at District level.

The primary objective of the training was to strengthen and support AJISO main facilitators as partners of UZIKWASA to be able to internalize and apply Reflective approaches and to be able to use approaches to generate movement to AJISO stakeholder's in this case paralegals.

Other Objectives of the training;

- To inspire a movement for transformative around gender justice and promote self-aware gender responsive leadership in strategic partnerships with AJISO.
- Sharing reflective social change approaches with AJISO partner organizations and support partners to apply them in their own specific program context.
- To provide support to AJISO and their stakeholders in effectively institutionalizing a reflective learning culture and applying reflective intervention
- Improve the organizational culture of self-reflection, learning and sharing as an intrinsic factor towards sustainable success and credibility of organization interventions, through team building involving both organization staff, board members and members.

“As a leader of paralegals, I normally had a behavior of not seeing the contribution of my fellows, it reached a point where I felt isolated with others but I didn’t take it into consideration knowing myself am not wrong but there are the ones who are wrong. During this time, I had to do all my work and it seemed that I was doing a lot of work to the point that I didn’t have time to rest. After I received reflection training my journey became different, I started building relations with others and appreciate everyone’s contribution and up to now I don’t see any burden on my daily activities

Paralegal leader from Usseri, Rombo District “

In the pursuit of ensuring the abolition of all forms of gender-based violence against women and young people through improved access to justice, economic empowerment, and participation in leadership and decision-making structures in the community, we work tirelessly to ensure that paralegals are highly

equipped to deliver the intended outcomes when participating in community activities. As Ajiso we will always stay at the forefront of capacitating these justice torch bearers so as to catalyze the access to justice for poor and marginalized communities.



AJISO as Watchwomen of Children's Rights

Do you know that from January to September 2021, more than 43 cases of sexual violence were reported at the Monduli District police station alone, including 2 cases of rape, 3 cases of homosexual assault, 24 cases of early pregnancies, and 14 cases of female genital mutilation?

Don't be surprised, there are many more to come since out of 45 reported cases only 11 were brought to court, with 1 convicted, 2 canceled, and 8 still pending. We believe that if this violation can happen in the Monduli district, it can also take place in Hai district, Nachingwea district, or any other district in Tanzania.

Therefore, the Action for Justice in Society (AJISO) saw this threat to children's rights and therefore joined forces with Pro Bono to implement the project, which aims to "Strengthen Children's Rights and Improving Children's Protections" at primary and secondary schools in Arusha's Monduli district and Kilimanjaro's Mwangi district.

The AJISO team launched the project on September 24, 2021, in Monduli District where more than 30 people directly involved with the project gained an understanding of the organization. During the session, our team had the opportunity to share the results of our baseline survey

with the participants; the results were startling but not surprising, given that the majority of children were in grave danger.

On the 18th and 19th of October 2021, the AJISO team shifted from Monduli to the Mwangi district, stopping at Mramba and Relijuu Primary schools in Mwangi district Kilimanjaro region..

The two-day intense workshop helped teachers to reflect deeply on how they conduct their daily activities as leaders and guardians of children in their schools, as well as to build individual capacity on how to successfully implement our projects by sharing their experience with other organizations implementing projects with similar goals in different parts of Tanzania.

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"Many students have been harmed as a result of how we treat them when they come to us for advice." Our postures cause them to be hurt twice because they are hurting on the inside, and when they seek relief, we fail to listen to them, causing them to be hurt again. As a result, we must alter our attitudes toward these students in order to avoid injuring them twice."

A testimony from a Irkisongo school teacher.

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At AJISO, we believe that for children to excel in school, they require not just learning materials and facilities, but also their overall well-being, which includes the protection of their rights. As a result, we will






continue to fight child maltreatment in order to safeguard their well-being and prosperity both in and out of the classroom.

The findings shared after the Baseline Survey in Monduli District.

Child Violence's that Highly Mentioned	The Causes of Child Violence's	Highly Mentioned as Suspects	The Way Forward
Extreme beatings	Poverty	Parents	The presence of sustainable NPA-VAWC Committee
Stigmatization of children with disabilities	The greed of wealth	House helps	
Early/Forced marriages Deuteriation of children's education	Customs and traditions (traditional dances Esoto during the night and Eloiti during the day)	Guardians	Provision of education to specific groups (women, teachers, children, parents, and the community)
The collusion of parents		The community	
Female Genital Mutilation	Deuteriation of values of the community		Making of by-laws that the parents will also be accountable when their child is maltreated
	Lack of education on children's rights and protection		Provision of education about reproduction.
	Lack of accountability and responsible leaders		
	Alcoholism		

Giving Back For A Worthy CAUSE

Join us in our Donation program today.
Your donation will save humanity.

School	Sanitary	School	Stationeries	P W D
Fee	Utilities	Uniforms	Materials	Insurance
				

Through the AJISO donation program, More than 20 students from seven (7) primary schools and two (2) secondary schools were supported in 2021.



Bank Account	AJISO SUSTAINABLE ACCOUNT
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Our Journey of change, championing Tuwalinde Project

Over a decade now, the remarkable and outstanding partnership between Action for Justice in Society (AJISO) and the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) remains strong and unshakable. As the result of this mutual friendship, all witnessed a number of successful projects that have brought us together in the field for execution in Kilimanjaro and its environs.

Early last year 2021, AJISO with the support of FCS introduced the Tuwalinde project which was implemented at Mwanga district in Lembeni and Mwanga Wards. The project is directly intended to support MTAKUWA committees that support children's rights.

Therefore AJISO provide capacity building trainings for committee in collaboration with cutting-edge leaders for local government officials, school students, and teachers, but other groups were never forgotten, as education was delivered through public meetings, village meetings, parent's meetings at schools, and financial groups meetings such as SACCOS and Bodaboda.

In the line duties were honor and privilege

to provide reflective approach training as we continued to implement the TUWALINDE project in the project wards. More than 631 people were reached, 297 of them were men and 334 of whom were women.

During the training, the session goes one step further, allowing committee members to perform their duties more professionally. We noticed significant improvements in the committee members' work performance after they received this Reflective Approach training.

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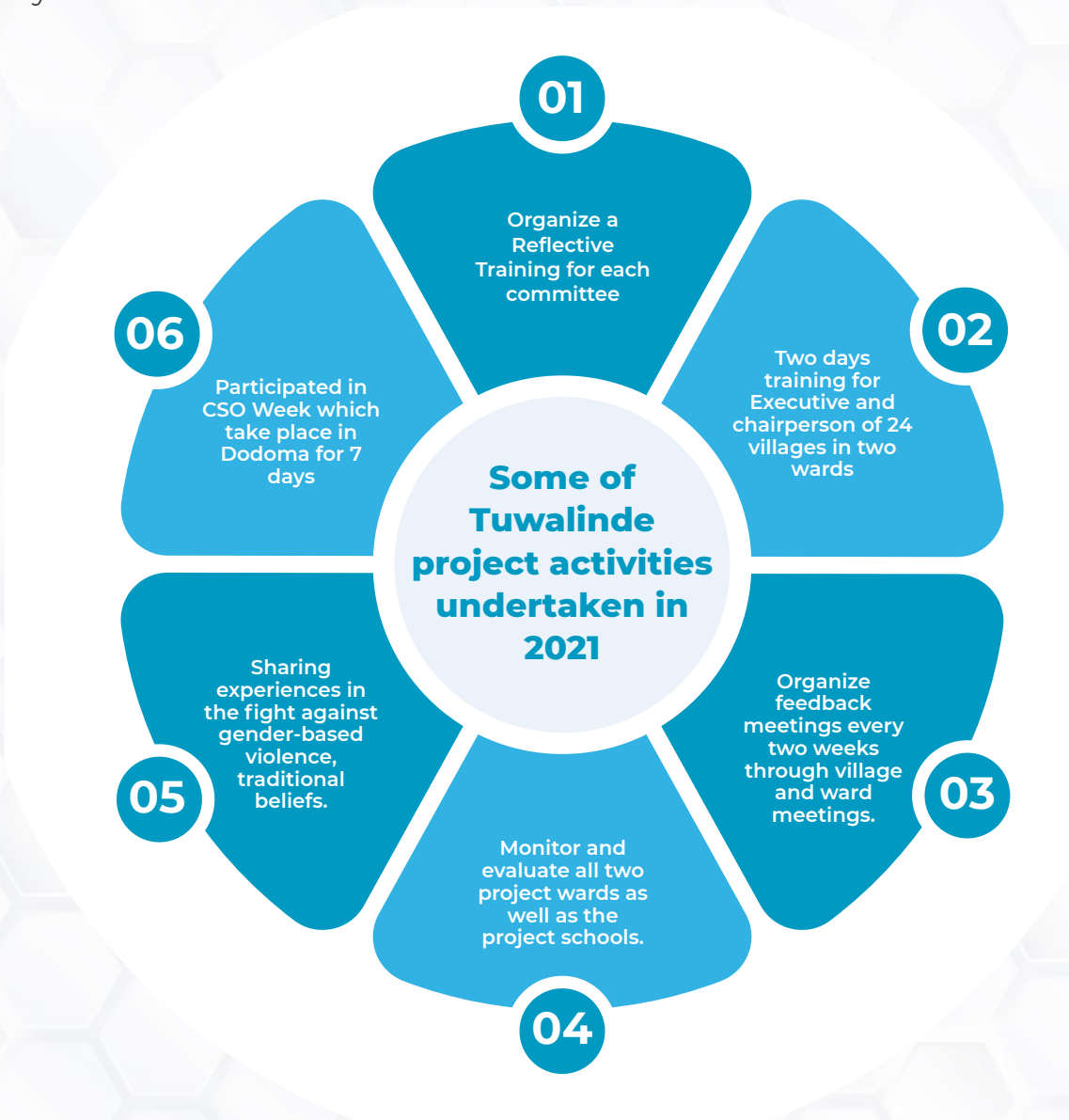
“This project is significant because it has provided me with training that has transformed me into a new person who is unwilling to turn a blind eye to situations of violence, particularly when it involves children”.

Participant of Reflective Approach Training



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However, these changes have prompted committee members to change their attitudes and behaviors, which previously did not address reported issues in a timely manner; however, consultations are now being processed in a timely manner, and members are ready to arrive at various locations to provide education on violence issues and advice on various issues in the community.



Additionally, the presence of some Legal Assistants (Paralegal) in the MTAKUWWA committees has made it easier for cases to be processed as they have a better understanding of the law. This has greatly helped some committee members to gain a little understanding of legal issues where they help them when resolving minor disputes brought to county offices.



Direct project beneficiaries

 Male 297	 Female 334
Total 631	

Indirect project beneficiaries

 Male 369	 Female 486
Total 882	

Picture Stories



A group picture of Ajiso staff, Monduli teachers, and the Police Gender Desk (Monduli Post) during the opening of the Tuwalinde Project in Moduli District on September 24, 2021, where more than 30 people directly connected with the project obtained an awareness of the organization.



On commemorating 16 days of Activism against GBV that is held from 25th Nov to 10th Dec each year, AJISO staff provided education on Gender Based Violence to community via radio programs at Kicheko fm in Mailisita Moshi and to pupils at Muungano and Jamhuri primary schools



On 1st December 2021, AIDS day, Advocate Fina Michael (AJISO Legal Officer) with other stakeholders provided education via a Radio program at Shantie fm in Moshi. On the right is the photo of people marching carrying banners with a message about HIV/AIDS.



Advocate Phina Michael (AJISO Legal Officer) welcomed Hon Job Ndugai (Speaker of Parliament) during the CSO week in Dodoma from the 22nd to the 27th of October 2021. To the left, Adv. Phina Michael does a media interview about AJISO activities.



AJISO staff at a networking session hosted by UZIKWASA in Pangani, where seven groups (from different organizations) that had been trained in how to use reflective approaches were able to come together and share their experiences.



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