

REPORT ON CAPACITY BUILDING
TRAINING
FOR ZOA COMMUNITY BASED
PARALEGALS & TOT's
ON THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN
RIGHTS & FREEDOMS OF A PERSON
IN UGANDA



TRAINING CONDUCTED IN SIRIPI
RHINO CAMP SETTLEMENT, ARUA DISTRICT

FROM 11TH – 15TH OCTOBER 2017
FACILITATED BY: MR. ALITIA ELIA

PREAMBLE

The CENU–ZOA training on capacity building for ZOA Community Based Paralegals & TOT’s was in respect to “**Support Program for Refugee Settlements and Hosting Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS–NU)**”, a project implemented under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) by ZOA, DRC, SAVE THE CHILDREN and CEFORD. The fundamental objective of the training was to build capacity of the community based Paralegals & TOT’s on human rights issues from the legal and practical perspectives to enable them ably address all human rights related issues in the various clusters within the Rhino Camp settlement, Arua district.

JUSTIFICATION FOR ORGANIZING THE TRAINING

Human right in the life of a refugee or a host community is a very fundamental concern. There are many situations that do not tally with the normal enjoyments of rights in the refugee camps perhaps due to ignorance of the rights or willfully occasioned. For example, cases of violence (social, domestic and sexual–gender based), property grabbing, manipulation, irregular adoption and trafficking of children, lack of life support needs, delayed or denied justice by local authorities, corruption, abuse of office and authority, among others which directly impact on the right (entitlements) and freedoms of the victim. It was therefore important for ZOA to equip the community based paralegals & TOT’s with the knowledge and skills on human

rights and fundamental freedoms of a person whether refugee or native, to enable them respond to cases of human rights abuse in Rhino Camp Settlement. The training offered broad knowledge on human rights ranging from legal provisions in the Ugandan Constitution of 1995, Universal Declaration on Human Rights, African Charter on human and people's rights, UN Convention on Civil and Political rights, and vivid discussions on social, cultural, religious, political and economic perspectives on human rights. From the second day, the participants were already giving testimonies of how ignorant they were on many important areas of human rights, as they endlessly thanked ZOA for bringing for them this very important training from which they got fully equipped with the law, general knowledge and skills to manage HR issues within their areas.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

Before the training officially commenced, the paralegals & TOT's had a chance to raise their specific expectations and general areas that they wanted to know or get addressed by the facilitator during the four days training as enumerated below:

Core expectations and areas of interest

- I. A participant expected to get knowledge on human rights to enable them solve such problems in the community.
- II. Another participant expected to know the work of a Paralegal and how it is related to human rights.
- III. One of the participants expected to know the benefits of observing human rights.
- IV. A female participant expected to get knowledge and skills to interact with the community on human right issues.
- V. Another participant expected to know importance of team work in matters of human rights.
- VI. Some members expected to know roles of leaders in promotion of human rights.
- VII. A Paralegal from refugee side expected to know the rights of a refugee in Uganda.
- VIII. Lastly, a participant expected to know the reporting channels to help address human rights problems in communities.

General expectations/Fears

1. The participants generally expected to get handouts for reference purposes.
2. Members expected to get certificates from this training.
3. They expect more capacity building trainings on legal issues and other core programs undertaken by ZOA to enable them address such issues properly as they occur in the communities and clusters.

REPLY TO THE EXPECTATIONS

Facilitator: The Facilitator assured the participants that all their expectations raised above shall be met with considerable satisfaction but called upon the members to pay attention, be active, interactive and ask every question they have to ensure the training achieves its objective of building capacity of the Paralegals on Human Rights and also to obtain value for money by ZOA.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Overall objective of this training was to build capacity of the Community Based Paralegals on the issues concerning human rights and freedoms of people and how they can promote or address gaps arising from the same while in their communities.

Specific objectives

- I. To deepen the participants understanding on the laws relating to fundamental human rights and freedoms of a person, both local and international.
- II. To help participants understand the rights of suspects (accused or defendant) and complainants (plaintiffs) before Courts of law.
- III. To enable participants understand the impact of Culture, religion, politics and socio-economic practices on human rights and freedoms of persons who practice or subscribe to such practices whether willingly or through coercion.
- IV. To build the participant's skills in responding to human rights issues in communities.
- V. To share with the participants reporting channels available for human rights issues from their communities to the national or international levels.

METHODOLOGY

- Participatory lectures were undertaken to deliver training content to stimulate interest, build active participation aimed at creating maximum training impact.
- Role plays & training game time activities kept the participants active, focused and concentrated throughout the training.

- Sessions of group discussion to generate participant’s deeper understanding of certain training areas also provided an opportunity for expression of views in confidence for inclusive participation.
- Exercises generated the level of understanding of the content delivered.
- Sharing of personal experiences presented an opportunity for the nationals and Refugee Paralegals, and TOTs, to share challenges they face from either side in resolving human rights issues, cultural or social practices that violate human rights, etc.
- Question and Answer sessions engaged the participants in active debate, probed understanding and was a useful tool of needs assessment throughout each stage of the training.

TRAINING OUTPUTS

- All paralegals and TOTs were in attendance as expected.
- All the planned lectures were delivered during the four days of the training.

Participant summary

Category	Number	Total
		Total
Refugee Paralegals & TOT’s	20	20
National Paralegals	22	22

& TOT's		
Total participants	42	42

LAYOUT OF TRAINING PROGRAM

The planned content of the training was delivered as guided by the program outlined below.

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
Day 1 program		
8:00–9:00am	Arrival & Registration of participants	ZOA/
9:00–9:30am	Welcome & Introductions	Facilitator
9:35–9:40am	Official opening remarks	
9:40–10:00am	Expectations, Fears, ground rules, Logistical issues & training Objectives	
HEALTH BREAK		
10:20–10:40am	Definitions of key terminologies used in human rights law	Facilitator
10:40–11:40am	Overview and introduction to human rights	
11:40–12:30pm	Reflections and sharing of experiences	
LUNCH BREAK		
2:00–3:00pm	Human Rights and Culture (Uganda and S. Sudan)	Facilitator
3:00–4:00pm	Human rights and Socio-economic and political	

4:00–4:30pm	challenges and abuses Reflections & sharing of personal experiences, Closure of day 1	
Day 2 Program.		
8:30–9:00am	Arrival & Registration of participants	Facilitator
9:00–9:30am	Recap of day one learning	
9:30–10:00am	The law on Human rights (Coverage of Chapter four of the Ugandan Constitution 1995 on fundamental rights and freedoms of person)	
HEALTH BREAK		
10:20–1:00pm	Chapter four Cont'd..... With Reflections, Experience sharing and examples	Facilitator
LUNCH BREAK		
2:00–3:30pm	Chapter Four Cont'd....	Facilitator
3:30–4:30pm	Group discussions and Reflections Closure of day 2	
Day 3 Program.		
8:30–9:00am	Arrival & Registration of Participants	Facilitator

9:00–9:30am	Recap of Day 2 work	
9:30–10:00am	International legal provisions of Human rights...	
HEALTH BREAK		
10:20–12:20pm	The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)...	Facilitator
12:20–1:00pm	Case studies on cases referred to ICC from Uganda and Sudan	
LUNCH BREAK		
2:00–3:30pm	UDHR Continued	Facilitator
3:30–4:20pm	Question and answer session on general issues of human rights	
4:20–4:30pm	Recap of Day 3	
DAY FOUR (4)		
8:30–9:00am	Arrival & Registration of participants	ZOA
9:00–9:30am	Recap of Day 3	Facilitator
9:30–10:00am	Group activity on challenges facing human rights from the two country teams (Team Uganda and Team South Sudan)	Facilitator
HEALTH BREAK		
11:30–12:55 pm	Presentation on challenges of Human rights	Facilitator

	Reflections on the challenges and way forward	
LUNCH BREAK		
2:00–4:20pm	Reporting channels in Uganda and internationally Reference points and useful contacts	Facilitator
4:20–5: 00pm	Evaluation of the training (strengths, challenges, recommendations)	Facilitator
5:00pm–5:30 pm	Administrative announcements Closure	ZOA

KEY ISSUES FROM PROCEEDINGS

Since Human right is a big concern, many issues relating to abuse came up during this training as enumerated below:

- Politically motivated killings e.g. in Kasese
- Disappearances (Christopher Aine, Amama Mbabazi Aide)
- Torture and other cruel/degrading treatment (Nalufena & safe houses)
- Poor prison and detention conditions (overcrowding, disease, hygiene, poor feeding, etc)
- Arbitrary arrests and detention of political leaders and activists.
- Poor funding of police and other security agencies to address HR issues.
- Arrest procedures and treatment of detainees (Arrest without issuing arrest warrants, house arrests and confinements, incarceration).
- Cases backlogs.
- Detainee's ability to challenge unlawful detentions in court.
- Amnesty
- Denial of fair public trial
- Interference from the executive
- Politically motivated judicial decisions
- Poor trial procedures
- Interference with private property or homes
- Media censorship/no press freedom
- Restricted internet freedom
- Restricted academic freedoms
- Denial of freedom to peacefully demonstrate

- Curtailed freedom of speech & expression e.g. cancelling press conference of political parties.
- Restricted content in news papers and tabloids
- Rape and domestic violence
- Thorough beating of your girl friend (lover) until she cries to show she loves you and therefore can continue with you irrespective any difficulty she faces in the marriage (a practice from South Sudan).
- Wrestling your prospective wife before getting married (a practice in Uganda among the ITESO).
- FGM and other harmful cultural practices
- Sexual harassment...etc

Recommendations

- More funding to Human rights organizations and bodies
- Professionalization of security organs
- Responsive civil society
- Civic education
- More funding to judiciary to expedite cases
- etc

Key achievements

- Completion rate was 100% as all Paralegals and TOTs attended the training from day one to the fourth day.
- At the end of the four days, participants expressed total satisfaction with the training as evidenced by statements of the participants. End of training evaluation revealed that the

participants were more enlightened, confident on handling issues of human rights from their clusters and communities.

- There were action points at the end of the training by the participants on how to implement ideas gathered from the training.

ACTION PLANS

We are going to sensitize our members from the clusters on the issues of human rights to help reduce cases of abuse. The Cluster Paralegals shall be in charge.

We shall establish contacts with authorities like police, Uganda Human Rights Commission and other organizations including UNHCR to timely report cases of abuse of human rights from our communities that we cannot manage alone. It will be our role as Paralegals to do that together with our Local council officials.

We shall acquire relevant law books like the constitution, Penal code Act, the Refugee Act, Torture Prevention Act, Police Act, etc to enable us understand the law more so as to address issues legally and procedurally. ZOA shall help us to inquire how much those law books and statues cost from the bookshops in Arua town or Kampala so that we can organize to acquire them.

TRAINING CHALLENGES

Arrival time: Since the clusters are located away from siiripi where the venue for this training was, the participants who traveled from places like Yelulu, Tika, Eden, among others spent a lot of time riding on their bicycles to Siripi, which made our morning sessions to start quite late or with half of the participants then gradually all would be present.

Solution: We would recap for about 30–45 minutes to run through the previous work, respond to some concerns that were not addressed in the previous day, etc) until the members were all around to begin activities of the new day. This was done to ensure no participant was left out of any important session which needed to know.

Weather condition: Because the training venue was semi permanent, there were cases of unnecessary noise from rain that interrupted some training sessions during such times.

Solution: This challenge was practically beyond control. We would simply wait for the rain to settle then continue with the training as planned.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

More capacity building trainings

Whereas this training was much appreciated by the Paralegals, they expressed concerns that more of such trainings need to be given to them even on other subjects such as land, conflict resolution, gender, etc to enable them address such issues in the clusters.

Equipping Paralegals with basic and necessary statutes

By all standards, a Paralegal must have fair legal knowledge on matters of law (preferably some formal training) and that entails possession of all required legal materials such as Acts of Parliament, Constitution, international statutes, I.E.C materials, etc which helps them get knowledge to advise or handle cases that require strict application of law or procedures e.g. in criminal or civil matters. It's therefore, highly recommended that the paralegals be assisted in procuring such important tools to facilitate their work in the communities for better results.

TRAINING EVALUATION

The training was timely planned as it cured many social, cultural, political, legal and technical challenges concerning Human rights.

It was so much appreciated as the content, methodology was in line with the community needs and the impact was evidently high as seen in the very active participation, level of interest and the action planning.

Looking at the following extracts from the participants comments,

..I didn't know what a paralegal means even though I was a Paralegal with ZOA, now I know what I should do as a Paralegal in the communities...

..I have liked the training, I thought I was okay with my work but I have discovered that I didn't know many things especially on human rights. I feel empowered to do my work better...

..I have today learnt the procedure of adoption and legal custody of children; this has been a big problem in my cluster. Now I know where the problem was and how I will address it with people in my cluster...

...My bank account with KCB in South Sudan was frozen and I can't access my money even in Uganda here, when am going through difficult times while in the camp. My children face difficulties from school...I have now understood that my economic right was grossly violated by KCB and Central Bank of S. Sudan, I will

follow the issue without fear because I have got skills and knowledge from this training.....

The above comments clearly reveal how well the training was delivered. The contributions, questions asked and level of activity throughout the training was commendable.

CONCLUSION

Overall, this training was remarkable not only to ZOA but we at CENU got empowered and more prepared to always respond to issues of human rights from this opportunity. It's a subject that is universal and people or leaders must therefore properly understand that human rights and freedoms are God given and therefore inherent. Nobody except where permitted by law, has right or powers to deprive, deny or abuse the rights or entitlements of another person.

Finally, we request you to pay keen attention on the key proceedings and recommendations expressed by the participants in this training; it's our hope that, this report helps you understand the challenges associated with human rights in the communities and nations as expressed above and how the Community Based Paralegals can be good public or human rights defenders while in the community.

Appendices



.....The facilitator Mr. Alitia making a point in Siripi cluster



Participants keenly following proceedings as the session goes on.



The facilitator Mr. Alitia Elia stressing a point to the participants on challenges of human rights in Uganda



A brain storming session on the weaknesses Human rights structures in Uganda

Facilitator Acknowledgement

I-----acknowledge

that this report is a true reflection of how the training transpired on ground, duly delivered under my guidance and direction. I undersign here below in confirmation.

Sign-----

Date-----