

VUMBUZI

OUR 2022 STORY

Realising people centred, user-friendly justice in East Africa



Vumbuzi?

Vumbuzi comes from the Swahili word 'Uvumbuzi' which means Innovation.

We believe in advancing innovative solutions that challenge existing inequities, strengthening our common human need for peace and justice and in fostering people centered justice pathways. We continue to do this by supporting startups that alleviate and resolve pressing justice needs in East Africa and creating an enabling environment for them.

Vumbuzi represents our vision for justice in Africa; where by 2030, access to justice is easy, affordable and most importantly, user-friendly.

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FOREWORD

“

Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.

Martin Luther King Jr, March for Integrated Schools, April 18, 1959.

It is dusk again, the journey long and arduous,
Many miles covered and many more to go,
We have arrived in this junction,
looking back with longing at what has been,
And looking forward to what could be,
Full of hope and possibility;

We have encountered the harshness and coldness of injustice,
Eating away at the very soul of our people,
We have wept, yelled loudly,
Overcome with anguish and anger;
But in midst of life vicissitudes, we have found solace,
Unyielding fortitude and the merry of joy and laughter
Reminders that hope lingers forth undeterred.
We have countered villages of
Daring innovators, building, creating
And shaping the fortunes of so many

So as we look into the distance,
We honour those who have gone,
Those who have been,
And those who continue to be;

Re-imaging, reshaping and rebuilding,
a home of all of us,
That is peaceful, just and inclusive!

Innovation continues to play a key role in disrupting and strengthening critical sectors that are vital to our growing human needs. Justice as an essential hinge needs continuous oiling and strengthening to ensure it serves the many needs of people in East Africa. Hence, we are committed to continue to find, fund and support justice start-ups at different stages of development to ensure we can fill this critical gap.

Therefore, we are inviting you to read through our many stories, challenges, and lessons from this year. It is our hope that in doing so, you can join and partner with us in the coming years to realize our overall mission of people centered user friendly justice.

Eric Kariuki
HiiL Innovation Hub, Head – East Africa



WE BELIEVE IN A SOCIETY, WHERE JUSTICE IS USER-FRIENDLY.

By Sharlene Muthuri



“It is in justice that the order of society is centred.”
— Aristotle

East Africa’s innovation scene in recent years has been booming and progressing relatively well. Since the early 2000s, we have witnessed a global technological revolution, with innovation responding to everyday needs; from food delivery to financial breakthroughs. All Sectors have shown great progress but the justice sector still remains slow in resolution for the people that need it most. At HiiL Innovation Hub

East Africa, we work to ensure that SDG 16 – **Access to justice for all** – becomes a global reality. This particular goal is often viewed in isolation which is far from the truth. It has strong links with other goals, in line with the integrated and indivisible nature of the agenda. Aside from promoting equal access to justice and effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, the agenda also pledges to deal with inequality,

corruption, poor governance, and other factors that provide a thriving environment for injustice. Hence without peace, justice, and inclusion, none of the SDGs can be completely achieved. Weak institutions and poor governance make it impossible for societies to stir development and improve economies. However, social, economic, and environmental progress plays a pivotal role in creating the conditions for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. Every year, an estimated 1.5 billion people cannot resolve their justice problems, with almost 60% still being unresolved. 253 million people worldwide still live in extreme conditions of injustice and high levels of insecurity make it impossible for them to seek justice. In the East African region, the process is marred by corruption, impunity, and other atrocities that make the process difficult for the common people at the grass root level.



In Kenya, the 2019 **Afro-Barometer Report**¹ showed that only one in twenty (20) Kenyans had contact with the judicial system. The situation in Rwanda is no better as research shows that the case backlog in the court system was at 79%. In Somalia, cost barriers affect large swathes of the population, and play a major role when it comes to accessing justice.

It's not all doom and gloom though. Significant strides have been made to address this challenge. For instance, since our inception and through our various programmes, HiIL has supported over 150 startups globally that are assisting their communities to resolve their most pressing needs through justice innovation. In the East African region, HiIL has been able to support 193 startups globally and over 66 startups in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Somalia through the HiIL Justice Accelerator programme. Furthermore, we have supported twenty-one (21) startups through the Justice Entrepreneurship School and forty-three (43) entrepreneurs through our Jenga Haki Ideation

programme across the East African region.

Access to justice matters. The world's most vulnerable people are the ones that actually need it the most but unfortunately, lack access to it. Without equal access to justice, peace and security are undermined resulting in lack of fundamental protections for billions of people across the world. At HiIL Innovation Hub East Africa, achieving user-friendly justice for 50 million people in the region by 2030 is our main goal. We are a social enterprise that is dedicated to pursuing justice innovation that makes the process easy, affordable, and accessible. To make access to justice work, we need improved resolutions. Innovation needs to be applied collaboratively with stakeholders and justice changemakers in order to deliver value and benefit those with limited resources. We need to harness community leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders in ensuring that user-friendly solutions to justice issues are incorporated into law, and applied to become reality.



1. https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ad442-kenyans_seek_and_find_justice_outside_formal_courts-afrobarometer_dispatch-16april21.pdf



HIIL INNOVATION HUB EAST AFRICA

EXECUTING TEAM

As a Hub, we believe in constant improvements in the lives of people. We believe that by stimulating innovation, our goal of ensuring at least 50 million people across East Africa attain user-friendly justice will be made possible. We believe in having meaningful conversations and partnerships that create the necessary impact needed to accelerate justice innovation in Africa.

- Eric Kariuki – Hub Head, HiIL Innovation Hub East Africa (Back Left)
- Julius Muriuki – Programme Associate, Kenya (Back Right)
- Hope Kamukama – Programme Associate, Rwanda (Not in Picture)
- Sharlene Muthuri – Marketing Associate (Front Center)
- Antony Maingi – Communications Consultant (Back Center)



OUR 2022 SUMMARY: OUR YEAR OF FIRSTS

At the core of who we are and what we do, is ensuring that 50 million people resolve their justice problems by 2030. This year's events and programmes have helped us make a few steps towards achieving this goal. 2022 has been quite eventful here at HiIL.

Our 2022 Milestones

We began the year by launching a call for the HiIL Justice Accelerator where we managed to onboard four (4) startups from Kenya and two (2) startups from Rwanda. We followed this up with the launch of our first 6-week incubation programme; the Justice Entrepreneurship School across three (3) countries where we supported nine (10) startups from both Kenya and Rwanda and three (3) from Somalia. Additionally, we had three (3) countries participating in the Jenga Haki ideation programme.

At the beginning of the year, we set out to find the most promising justice game changers across the East African region and trained over 60 of them through our various programmes. This magazine features some of their stories, and we hope that you find them as inspiring and innovative as we did!

Vumbuzi – Our 2022 Story highlights the goals we set to achieve at the beginning of the year as well as the programmes, events and other activities we've organised or participated in for the entire year. It focuses on the different results that were achieved for the organisation in the different regions. Moreover, we also reflect on the challenges we experienced as a Hub and lastly the different lessons and insights that impacted our work throughout the year.

Additionally, this Magazine focuses on the different programmes that we ran with the accelerator, incubation and ideation programmes. Namely, the HiIL Justice Accelerator, the Justice Entrepreneurship School and the Jenga Haki Hackathon. The different programmes represent the various regional cohorts that are already generating revenue, have a minimum viable product or still in the ideation stage. It highlights the different community events, Twitter Spaces and various info sessions that we've held and partnered in throughout the year.

The last section of this magazine focuses on the partners and donors at HiIL Innovation Hub East Africa, who made it possible to support many different innovations across East Africa and whose contribution was pivotal to the impact that we've made throughout the year.

At the core of who we are and what we do, is ensuring that 50 million people resolve their justice problems by 2030.

2022 Impact Summary



3 Kenya
Rwanda
Somali/Somaliland



8 Programmes delivered in the 3 countries supporting justice innovators.



70+ Justice Innovators supported to go through our 3 justice entrepreneurship programmes



1,000+ People Attended HiIL Innovation Hub East Africa Online and Physical Events



90,000+ Euros Disbursed to support our justice innovators



INNOVATING JUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA: EXECUTING OUR 2021-2022 STRATEGY

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“Development is more than money, machines or good policies; it’s about real people and the lives they lead”
– Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

Innovation stirs development of more effective products, processes, services, and even technologies, that are made available to markets, governments and society. Recently, a wave of change has started being witnessed within the justice sector where different legal institutions are launching alternative justice systems in order to ease legal processes for people.

As a justice innovation hub, we have been at the forefront of this by helping train, incubate and develop different innovative technological solutions that can help solve the most crucial justice problems.

In the years to come, we hope that millions of people will be able to tap into the endless opportunities that are in the sector, as well as more stakeholders investing in the most promising startups in order to accelerate development to serve the most vulnerable members of our society.

2022 INSIGHTS & THE JOURNEY

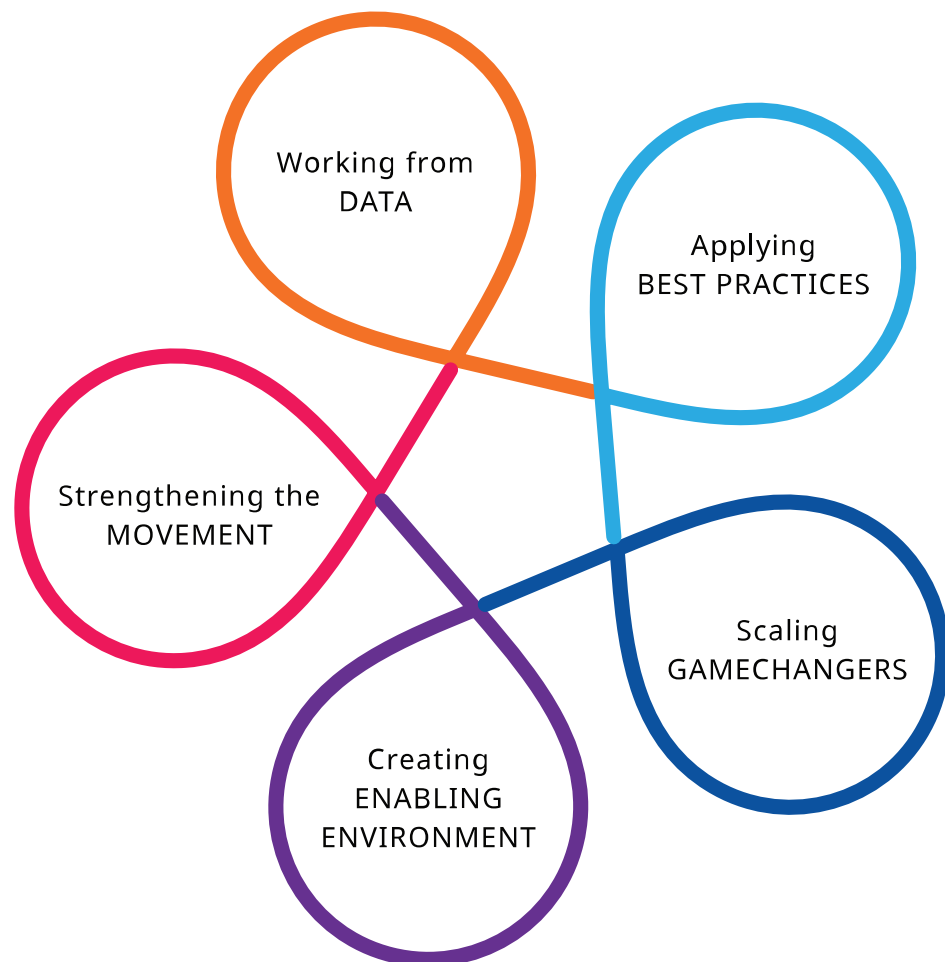
In pursuit of the goals, we set for the year, we have had remarkable strides in all our programmes, albeit different challenges faced. We believe that in order to have impactful people-centred justice we need to work on systemic, scalable solutions for governments, organisations, and justice entrepreneurs. To achieve this goal, we run different programmes throughout the year that train and support startups in different stages to achieve scalability.

Through partnership and support from the Dutch Embassy in Rwanda and Somalia, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands, we have been able to support 86 startups in the East African region and we hope to add many more to our network.

OUR APPROACH

People-centred justice resolves legal problems people face and prevents recurrence. It is tailored to what people need in order to move on and, therefore, creates opportunities for people to fully participate in their societies and economy. It puts people and the outcomes they need at the centre, not institutions. Hence, a concrete approach is being established.

These 5 elements come from the pioneering work of the Task Force on Justice, Pathfinders for Justice, the OECD, the Portuguese EU Presidency, World Justice Project, Namati, Open Society Justice Initiative, HiiL and more.



Working from Data – We collect, publish and give access to data on people’s justice problems and their resolutions.

Applying best practices – We aim to improve the capacity of justice practitioners and providers of justice services to resolve justice problems by assisting justice stakeholders in adopting evidence-based practice.

Scaling gamechangers – To Increase access to and use of justice services, we support justice ‘Gamechangers’; the sustainable service models that have the greatest impact towards delivering justice.

Creating an enabling environment – We convene stakeholders to help reduce barriers to progress and create conditions for dialogue and collaboration.

Strengthening the movement – We strengthen networks for knowledge exchange and celebrate the success of people-centred justice initiatives. Through community building, we dismantle silos and inspire changemakers to support the realisation of SDG16.3 – equal access to justice for all.

INSPIRING, INCUBATING AND ACCELERATING: A CLOSER LOOK INTO OUR 2022 GOALS.

We set out to achieve three main goals for 2022: **Inspire, Incubate and Accelerate.**

As HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa, we opened our doors to entrepreneurs from across the East African region to participate in our programmes, to which we have witnessed tremendous results. We have been able to inspire, mentor and support over seventy (70) innovations this year and we look forward to supporting more.

Every year, we run three programmes: The HiiL Justice Accelerator in the first quarter, the Justice Entrepreneurship School in the second quarter and the Jenga Haki Programme in the fourth quarter of the year. In 2021, only four (4) teams from Kenya managed to go through the East African region but this year, six (6) teams, four (4) from Kenya and two (2) from Rwanda, were accepted into the programme. Through our Justice Entrepreneurship School, we supported twenty-one (21) startups across the East African region; 9 in Kenya, 9 in Rwanda and 3 in the Somali region. Additionally, the Jenga Haki programme helped inspire a new generation of entrepreneurs with over forty-three (43) teams accepted into the programme: seventeen (17) in Kenya, fourteen (14) in Rwanda and twelve (12) in Somalia.

We’ve had other wins that have contributed to the hub’s success. We started a monthly Twitter Space series in collaboration with entrepreneurs within and outside the HiiL Network, a

“We have been able to inspire, mentor and support over seventy (70) innovations this year and we look forward to supporting more.”

move that has seen tremendous growth and engagement in all our social media platforms.

Throughout the year, we have also expanded partnerships outside of the justice sector to incorporate key experts in media, business and others which is key to holding an effective conversation not only in matters to do with justice innovation, but ensuring key growth in the ecosystem. 2022 has been a learning experience and we can’t wait to see what 2023 holds.



Board of Advisors

Our East Africa hub is governed through a board, which consists of Amos Mwongera, Kevin Kwasa and Somet Kipchilat. We appreciate their leadership and guidance given throughout the year.



KEVIN KWASA

Kevin Kwasa is a Partner at O & M Law where he combines his deep knowledge of corporate commercial law and extensive experience in providing legal advice with a passion for justice and fair administration of law.

Kevin has been honoured to act for both local and foreign clients on a diverse range of corporate and commercial matters and has been involved in a myriad of complex national and multinational transactions including large M&A deals and large financial and securitization matters. He also mentors younger advocates as part of the mentorship and pupillage initiatives in the firm.



AMOS MWONGERA

Amos Mwongera is an Entrepreneur, Researcher, Communications Strategist, Mentor/Coach/Trainer, Public Speaker as well as a Social Impact and International Development Expert. He is the Founder and Director of Redbrick Africa Ltd.

Amos has had a professional career spanning over 20 years and numerous experiences working in various countries in Africa and with numerous Government, Private Sector, Non-Profit, and Social Enterprise organisations and professionals across East Africa, supporting them to understand, measure, and report on their social and environmental impact.



SOMET KIPCHILAT

Somet Kipchilat sits at the forefront of the fastest growing technology industry and market. as a Program manager under the Next Billion Users (NBU) org at Google, building programs to empower software engineers to achieve more. He also spends part of his time working with several startups and entrepreneurs on their Digital Transformation Journey.

Previously, he served as a Senior Business Development manager for Sub-Saharan Africa under Microsoft's Africa Initiative (4Afrika). He plays a key role in representing the company externally within the Startup and developer ecosystem on the continent and advocates on Microsoft's work on several critical issues around technology including Access, skills, privacy, security, accessibility.



HIIL JUSTICE ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

One key component in Hiil's integrated way of achieving the SDG 16 goal is the Justice Accelerator: this startup programme supports the next generation of entrepreneurs that build and scale innovative services that transform the justice sector. The Justice Accelerator is Hiil's flagship innovation programme that runs globally in East Africa, West Africa, Middle East and the North African region. The Justice Accelerator supports entrepreneurs who have developed solutions that need support to scale.

Over the past decade, Hiil has supported 150+ justice startups globally. They have brought forth solutions for preventing and resolving justice problems in the workplace, for small businesses, between neighbours, for crime prevention and much more. These solutions have been able to empower people to take action themselves to achieve people-centred justice.

The Justice Accelerator programme is the only programme that brings together highly motivated justice-driven startups from a variety of sectors, from legal tech startups that help people with contract automation to fintech startups that include the unbanked. The programme is 5 months long and focuses on startups that are already generating revenue and have a business model with potential to scale and serve millions of people globally, but most importantly, a functioning product with some traction indicating a proof of customer demand. The programme's curriculum includes workshops on various topics, such as that cover different aspects of the business, from impact measurement to financial modelling.

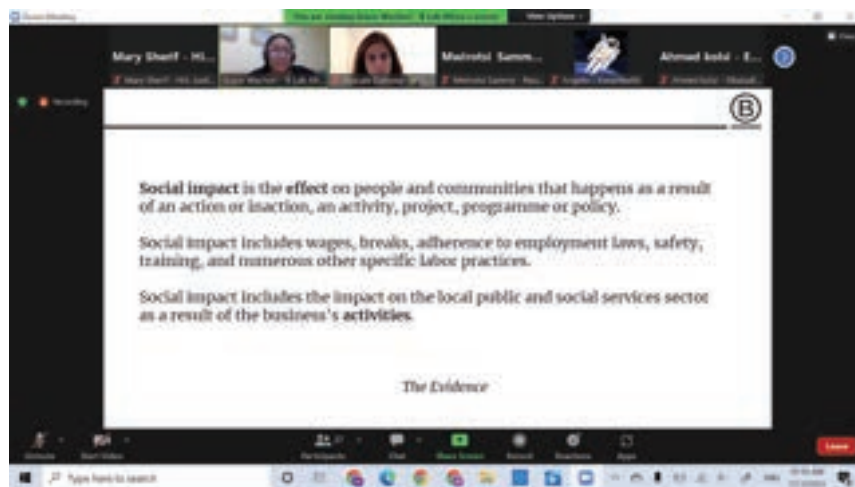
Over the past decade, Hiil has supported 150+ justice startups globally.

INNOVATING JUSTICE: HIIL INNOVATION HUB EAST AFRICA'S 2022 PROGRAMMES

The framework for the programme is lean impact, where there is emphasis on continuous building, learning, measuring and reiterating, with a strong focus on solving a pressing justice problem. Each startup has a coach that works with them throughout the programme. The startup is also connected to expert mentors who help the startup in tackling some of their obstacles in achieving rapid growth. The programme also gives startups access to a pre-seed funding of 10K EUR.

The programme culminates in a Demo Day where the startups pitch to an audience of potential investors, partners, customers and media. At Demo Day, if chosen as one of the top 3 winners of the Innovating Justice Award, then they also get access to additional funding up to 20K EUR.

The programme also gives startups access to a pre-seed funding of 10K EUR.



Pictured: The Justice Accelerator Impact Measurement Workshop in progress; July 2022. Photo | Mary Sherif

Selection:

The open call seeks to identify the enterprises that fit the HJA criteria in terms of the impact, sustainability, scalability and team. It includes a 6 week long open call for applications, as well as specific promotional and marketing activities. The call takes place once a year in each region. After this, startups are shortlisted and invited for interviews and thereafter selection and workshops. The call opens as soon as the previous cycle ends. For example, the 2023 call will open on Demo Day of the 2022 cohort.

Workshops:

Some components incorporate in the 5-month programme include:

- **The JA Academy** – A series of workshops on different topics geared towards equipping entrepreneurs with necessary skills and understanding the current level of the startup's engagement, coming up with their key metrics and practising their pitches.
- **Coaching** – Each entrepreneur gets a coaching session with the facilitators in order to have personalised feedback. This is important as it helps to monitor the startups so as to foresee certain challenges before, they arise, or even before the entrepreneur and their team notices it.
- **Mentorship** – Each entrepreneur is assigned a mentor upon request, that can help them in their scaling journey.

The Hiil Justice Accelerator is headed by **Ronald Lenz**, who is the **Programme Director**, and **Iran Huffels** who is the **Programme Manager**. The programme features different coaches and mentors from around the world that guide the entrepreneurs over time.

The HJA activities and programmes are implemented globally, **in East Africa, West Africa, the Middle East and North Africa**. In each region, the startup and justice innovation ecosystem look different.

As such, at every step, when possible, the programme gives flexibility for the customisation of its content per each region and per cohort. Specifically, the activities for the cohorts are intentionally different in each region, so as to accommodate the diversity in the ecosystems where we operate.

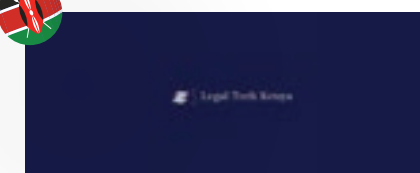
This year in the East African region, **four startups from Kenya** and **two from Rwanda** made it to the JA programme:



Nyumbani Online – a comprehensive rental property management system that provides complete control of rental spaces to owner and property managers.



Mama Fua – an online platform that specialises in offering laundry and dry-cleaning services to customers



Legal Tech Kenya – A startup that provides consulting and technical services for individual legal practitioners, institutional legal departments, and law firms, to help them modernise their legal practice through technology



SILQU – A technological platform that aims to provide end to end practical solutions for all real estate needs by automating all rent payments, invoices and communication.



E-Arbitrator – An online Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) platform where individuals, businesses, and organisations can find an arbitrator, submit their case, and have their disputes resolved all online.



XanaHealth – A medical technology company launched that digitises the collection of medical records.



HJA Demo Day: Unlocking Justice potential in Startups

On 16 February, Hiil's Global Justice Accelerator programme hosted Demo Day 2022. The capstone event of Hiil's annual Innovating Justice Challenge was held virtually this year and showcased 16 justice startups from the 2021 cohort. Three justice startups were announced as winners and were awarded €20,000, €10,000 and €5,000 respectively. The Demo Day is a global event that brings together justice leaders, policy makers, entrepreneurs and many other players in the justice sector to showcase different startups around the globe as well as highlighting opportunities available that make justice accessible.

The gathering also featured speeches by Ronald Lenz, the director of the Justice Accelerator program and Sam Muller, Hiil's CEO that emphasised on the need to innovate and bring new services to scale that can prevent or resolve justice problems for everybody. Startups are a key driver in this transformation of the justice sector. They can come up with break-through ideas that large institutions often struggle with.

In East Africa, we had four teams representing the Hub:

- a. **KYR Africa** – a social justice platform seeking to provide 20 million Africans with access to user-friendly, affordable justice education and advice on their

individual freedoms and rights by 2030.

- b. **Upesy** – a mobile app that connects people to reliable emergency response services and brings together the best providers and all their emergency response services on a single platform to achieve more coordinated and better response times for emergencies.
- c. **Vindex Systems Ltd** – A Kenyan start-up employing technology to secure motorcycles and vehicles in Kenya.
- d. **We Are More** – a digital platform in Kenya, providing legal aid to justice seekers by giving them information, access to advocates and mediators.

In first place, came **Nigeria-based Think Help Restore (THR) Media**. The enterprise uses new media and technology to support survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence and upskills survivors to empower their financial independence. **Civitas Digital** came in second place. The Tunisia-based venture works with municipalities to deliver basic services to citizens in 80% less time. Third place was awarded to **Legal Ascend**, a South Africa-based “death tech” startup that helps families settle their deceased estates quickly and affordably. Demo Day concluded the 2021 Innovating Justice Challenge.

However, the ending of last year's challenge also marked the beginning of the 2022 Innovating Justice Challenge. Altogether, the forum created a people-centred justice initiative whose mission is to achieve equal access to justice for all, through innovation.

MOVING FORWARD:

SUPPORTING JUSTICE INNOVATION IN EAST AFRICA

By Julius Muriuki



"It's nice that vacuum cleaners can be made user-friendly, but we think justice has a bit more urgency. That's why we make it affordable, accessible, and easy to understand for everyone."

That is a quote from our HiIL global CEO Mr. Sam Muller. I always thought it was very catchy and interesting. I always wondered what do vacuum cleaners being advanced have to do with Justice. I visited a household store and I found this really nice and small vacuum cleaner that could scope off dust from the far to reach corners on the couch and even on the car seats and floor. I quickly went for it as I had struggled a lot to get rid of food crumbs that always fall on the seat.

As I was at home using that nice advanced vacuum cleaner, I realised what the quote was trying to communicate. People's justice problems are like the food crumbs that I have been trying to get rid off. However, no one has made a nice, compact, user-friendly vacuum cleaner to take away their Justice problems. This does not mean that there

are no existing avenues to which one can resolve their justice issue, quite a number exist. However, the situation is that each year, 1 billion people around the globe have a new justice problem. Shockingly, over 70% of those people do not find a satisfactory resolution. 30% don't even feel empowered enough to take action. This has a high impact on their lives and society; From violence to seriously damaged relationships and business conflicts. That is a bigger problem than my need to vacuum my couch, and this problem is growing by the day. This begs the question,

How fair is Justice if it doesn't get you anywhere?

This question has always rung in my mind since the day I fully understood what it is we are trying to achieve at HiIL. This prompted me to have an in-depth interaction with people who are facing

justice issues, and understand why they can't use the solutions available to them as they are. This knowledge gave me a better understanding of their point of view and has helped me better advise the upcoming entrepreneurs who we support to ensure that their solutions are people-centred and user-friendly. These entrepreneurs have been receptive to feedback and they have come up with amazing, easy-to-use solutions that are instrumental in preventing or resolving justice problems. In 2022, I have had the privilege of working with entrepreneurs both at the accelerator, incubation and ideation stages as they plug in to bridge the justice gap. I look forward to doing the same in 2023 as we work towards ensuring that we help 50 million people prevent or resolve their most pressing justice problems by 2030.



JUSTICE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHOOL PROGRAMME

What do you do when you are a start-up in the justice space and you're in the incubation stage meaning the product is there but it's still in the piloting phase or is yet to garner traction? You join the Justice Entrepreneurship School.

The Justice Entrepreneurship School is a 6-week programme for early-stage startups that are attempting to bridge the justice gap and are fit for the incubation stage. The target startups were startups that have a basic product but don't have any traction and are located in Kenya, Rwanda

and Somalia. three teams in both Kenya and Rwanda were to be awarded a grant of 1,000 Euros while the three teams from Somalia would each get a grant of 5,000 USD.

The programme has enabled the startups to achieve their goals which include getting their product into the hands of their users as fast as possible, aggressively and consistently obtain their feedback and refining their product accordingly to ensure that it actually solves the problems that it is intended to solve.

The invitation for startups to apply for the programme ran for one month and in that period, seventy-two (72) applications were received for the program from the three countries. There were 27 applications from Kenya, thirty-two (32) applications from Rwanda and thirteen (13) applications from Somalia. After a rigorous exercise sifting through the applications, conducting interviews and shortlisting, a total of ten (10) applicants were selected from Kenya and Rwanda and three (3) applicants for Somalia.

COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAMME



Eric Kariuki, Hub Head, training justice innovators from Kenya, Somalia and Rwanda respectively during the Justice Entrepreneurship School Programme sessions.

The Bootcamp

The bootcamp, whose purpose is to help the entrepreneurs to look at the viability of their business model, is held in all three countries for five days and entails activities like lecture room training, outdoor training and one on one coaching. Each startup is reviewed by their peers in the bootcamp and they're ranked from these reviews.

2022 participants came out of the bootcamp having gained more knowledge through interactions with their peers as well as the rigorous activities they went through. "Improving your product solely depends on understanding the needs of the problem owners. That's what the bootcamp has taught me", said Kelly Ikuzwe, founder of Citizen Justice System. Kelly was one of the Rwanda entrepreneurs who

benefitted from our programmes.

Virtual Seminars

We held virtual seminars to not only check in and keep up with the progress of the participants, but to enable the participants to share their journeys, lessons and triumphs with each other. As moderators and facilitators, we stepped in to guide and mentor the participants in areas where they incurred hardship and required us to assist. We also emphasized on the participants, through yet another virtual seminar, the importance of a consistently strong team. Such sessions are key to a cohort as there's no better teacher than experience and who better to convey these lessons than your peer who is in the same entrepreneurship journey as you.

Field visit and Due diligence checks

During field visits, a member of the HiIL team met startups in their working environment, which helped in evaluating their efficiency as well as meeting members of their team. These were conducted in Rwanda, Kenya and Somalia. In order to protect both the organisation and ascertain the legality of the startups, the HiIL team further conducted a due diligence check for those who won the grant award in both countries as well as an additional check on their legal documents so that grants can be processed smoothly.

“Improving your product solely depends on understanding the needs of the problem owners. That's what the bootcamp has taught me.

KELLY IKUZWE, FOUNDER OF CITIZEN JUSTICE SYSTEM

Grant Award Disbursement

After ranking highest on the peer review during the bootcamp and passing the various checks, the following startups were awarded grants of 1,000 euros each for the startups in Kenya and Rwanda while those in Somalia received a grant of 5,000USD;

The grants were granted to the following in Rwanda;

1. Claudine Niyonzima of **SanTech**
2. Muhizi Deexon of **IGITREE**
3. Fulgence Maniraho founder of **World soft**

In Kenya the award was granted to;

1. **The Dispute Resolution Hub** under Assunta Ndami represented by Josephine Kairo,
2. **Netsheria International** under Njomo Kamau
3. **Vibranium Identity** under Eddie Kago.

While in Somalia the award was granted to;

1. **Hiiliye Legal Services** under Mohamed Abderazak
2. **Xalgoob Mediation** under Abdrizak Farah Mohamed
3. **Easyway Legal Insurance** under AbdiNajib Ali

Congratulations to all the winners. The awards were well deserved!

Gala Night

The programme was finalised with a farewell dinner for the participants. This event provided a chance for the entrepreneurs to network amongst themselves as well as share memories, fun times and reflections about the entire JES programme, the activities they engaged in and the skills and lessons learnt.



Eric Kariuki, Hub Head, congratulating Josephine Kairo for winning the pitching session during the Justice Entrepreneurship School Programme.



Justice Entrepreneurship School Programme - Kenya participants farewell dinner.



SUPPORTING JUSTICE INNOVATION:

IN RWANDA

By Hope Kamukama

Kinyarwanda

Akenshi iyo twumvise ijamba gushaka ubutabera hari ibintu bitatu byingenzi bihita biza mu mutwe wacu, amafaranga, gutakaza umwanya, ndetse ninzira igoranye bifata kugirango umuntu abashe kuba yagera kubutabera, ibi rero usanga akenshi bica intege rubanda rugufi, bagahitamo kwiyecekera aho kugana inzego z'ubutabera ngo bahabwe ubutabera baba bakwiye kubona.

Intego ya HiIL nuko muri 2030 nibura abantu miliyoni 30 muburasizuba bwa Africa bazaba bashobora kubona ubutabera kuburyo buhendutse kandi bwihuse. Ibi rero kubigeraho twasanze bisaba ubufatanye bwizigo za leta, abikorera ndetse na ba rwiyezamirimo. Ni muri urwo rwego HiIL ndetse n'abafatanyabikorwa bayo ifasha aba rwiyezamirimo bafite imishinga itanga ubutabera cyangwa yorohereza abaturage kubona ubutabera cyangwa kwirinda kwijandika mubyaha binyuze muri poroguramu zayo zitandukanye. Muri uyu mwaka wa 2022, kubufatanye na ambassade y'ubuholande mu Rwanda, HiIL yakoranye naba barwiyezama mirimo 25 binyuze muma rushwanwa itegura, ni mugihe abagera kuri 11 begukanye ibihembo bitandukanye bizafasha aba

English Translation

Most times, when we hear about finding justice, there are three main things that come to mind: money, time and the complex process it takes to get justice. This discourages ordinary people from seeking justice they deserve.

To achieve the HiIL mission of helping 50 million people access justice by 2030, we need combined efforts with governments, the private sector and entrepreneurs. In 2022, HiIL, in partnership with Dutch Embassy of Rwanda, worked with around 25 justice entrepreneurs in Rwanda through its programmes. Additionally, 11 justice entrepreneurs received grants which will help them grow their business and serve more people in Rwanda.

A major challenge we faced this year was that this programme, which was new to Rwanda, was not easy for the people to understand how justice innovations can generate an income. We attribute this to the fact that most projects around justice are non-profit. We chose this approach in order to help entrepreneurs to be self-sufficient. Irregardless of whether funding is available or not, this approach would ensure their businesses can keep going and keep

rwiyezamirimo guteza imbere imishinga yabo no kugeza ubutabera kumubare munini wabaturage Nyarwanda.

Zimwe mumbogamizi twahuye nazo muri uyu mwaka nuko iyi gahunda yasaga nkaho ari nshyashya mu Rwanda, ndetse no kumvisha abantu uburyo umuntu yakora umushinga utanga ubutabera kandi nawe ukamwinjiriza amafaranga byari bigoranye, akenshi usanga ibi bikorwa n'imiryango idaharanira inyungu, ariko HiIL yahisemo ubu buryo m'urwego rwo kugirango aba barwiyezamirimo babashe kwigira ndetse n'imishinga yabo izarambe ikomeze no gufasha abakiliya bayo no mu gihe abaterankunga baba hagaritse inkunga. Kimwe mu byo twishimira twagezeho nukubasha gufasha ba rwiyezamirimo kwagura imishinga yabo ndetse no kugera ku bakiliya bisumbuyeho, ikindi ni ukuba hari abandi bantu twungutse bakunda kandi bashyigikiye ibyo dukora nubwo byasaga nkaho ari ibintu bishya mu Rwanda.

Njyewe kugiti cyanye uyu mwaka wambereye uwo kwiga ibintu byinshi bishya kandi byiza, cyari igihe kiza cyo kwishimira ibyagezweho mu rwego rw'ubutabera mu Rwanda, gusobanukirwa imbogamizi tugifite ndetse nicyakorwa kugirango nawa muturage wo hasi abashe kugera k'ubutabera mu buryo bumworoheye. Kimwe mu bisubizo dufite rero nka HiIL ni ugukomeza gushyigikira ba rwiyezamirimo bahanga udushya dukemura ibibazo bikiboneka muri uru rwego rw'ubutabera kugirango bashobore gufasha benshi kandi mugihe gito.

Nsoza, ndifuzza gushimira aba rwiyezamirimo cyane cyane abakiri bato bashoboye guhanga udushya

serving their clients. Through HiIL programmes, these entrepreneurs are growing their businesses and serving more customers. Connecting with many people who support what HiIL is doing despite its novelty, especially here in Rwanda, is a stamp of approval for us.

On a personal note, it has been an insightful year. I was able to learn and recognise what we have achieved in the justice sector in Rwanda, understanding the current challenges and finding ways some of these challenges can be addressed so that an ordinary person can access affordable justice. One of the solutions we are providing is to keep supporting justice innovations that address challenges the justice sector is still facing, so that many more are able to access fast and affordable justice.

Lastly, I would like to thank entrepreneurs who managed to create innovative justice solutions. Follow our various platforms; our website and other social media platforms as we have different programmes coming up next year. We are also grateful to everyone who supported our programs this year, it's a continuous journey. We are looking forward to working together with you in upcoming programmes.

Connecting with many people who support what HiIL is doing despite its novelty, especially here in Rwanda, is a stamp of approval for us.



Hope Kamukama (R), Programme Associate – Rwanda, supporting a justice innovator during the Justice Entrepreneurship School Programme in Rwanda.

muri iki gice kerekera n'ubutabera, mukomereze aho mwagure ubucuruzi bwanyu ndetse na serivise mutanga zigere kuri benshi kuko mu mwaka utaha hari gahunda yo gukomeza kubashyigikira byisumbuyeho, mukomeze mudusure kuri website ya HiIL ndetse n' imbuga nkoranyambaga zacu zitandukanye kugirango mutazacikanwa. Ndashimira kandi buri wese wadushyigikiye muri urugendo rwo guharanira ko ubutabera bugera kuri bose, ni urugendo rukomeza kandi twizeye ko tuzakomeza gufatanya namwe no mu mu mishinga dutega nya mu bihe buri imbere.



HiIL Innovation Hub – EA team and Rwanda justice innovators posing for a group photo during the Justice Entrepreneurship School Programme.



Justice Innovation Circles held in Nairobi, Kenya at the August 7th Memorial Gallery.

The Justice Innovation Circles: Kenya, Rwanda and Somalia

There is a need and opportunity to leverage our knowledge, resources and networks to enable 'people-centred' justice in East Africa and beyond through cross-sector collaboration and innovations, which could range from new ways of thinking to productions featuring technology. For us, the scope of justice that allows for innovation does not limit only to the justice system itself. Instead, it begins at family and community levels, extends to the justice system: policies, court, and alternative justice means. For this reason, HiIL hosts the Justice Innovation Circles all around East Africa, an event that lobbies for such discussions as well as showcase startups that are making this a reality.

The Justice Innovation Circles is our regional event that seeks to bring together entrepreneurs, justice leaders and policy makers to discuss opportunities in justice innovation through evidence-based practices, how to create an enabling environment for

FACTS CORNER:



Kenya Region

- The first woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize was from Kenya in 2004
- Kenya has some of the world's most complete skeletons including the Turkana Boy (1.6 million years old) which has provided great knowledge of early human physiology.
- Between 1952 and 1960, the country experienced the "Mau Mau" uprising, a movement comprised of members from the Kikuyu, Embu, and Meru tribes who took an oath of unity and secrecy to fight for the country's freedom from the British rule.
- The biggest justice issues in Kenya are crime issues, affecting 21% of the urban area population and 18% of rural areas.



Justice Innovation Circles held in Kigali, Rwanda at the Kigali Public Library.

FACTS CORNER:



Rwanda Region

- The percentage of women in Parliament is 61.25%, the highest in the world
- Every last Saturday of the month is Umuganda, the Community work day
- Rwanda's history is plagued by one of the worst genocides in history
- The most prevalent justice issues in Rwanda are family justice issues, with the annual reported SGBV cases reaching up to 8,000, according to UNDP.

people-centred justice to thrive and to provide a platform to showcase our twenty (20) entrepreneurs who have graduated from the Justice Entrepreneurship School.

This year we hosted the event in Kenya and in Rwanda in the month of September, in an effort to meet and engage with entrepreneurs and stakeholders in the justice sector. Both editions also served as pitch events for the three startups that emerged top during the Justice Entrepreneurship School Bootcamp.

On the 16th of September, we hosted the first edition of the Justice Innovation Circles at Kigali Public Library in Rwanda. The Kigali edition brought together Entrepreneur Support organisations, policymakers, entrepreneurs and other players within the justice sector, to interact with the entrepreneurs that had just undergone the Justice Entrepreneurship School and also support justice innovation. The second edition of the Justice Innovation Circles was held on the 24th of September at the August 7th Memorial Gallery in Nairobi, Kenya. The event was graced by the Former Chief Justice, Hon. Dr. Willy Mutunga who was the Keynote Speaker. In his speech, he thanked the HiIL team for supporting various startups that have become serious justice game changers, like Sheria Kiganjani in Tanzania, Exuus Limited in Rwanda and Upesya in Kenya.

Among startups that pitched were NetSheria International, Vibranium ID in Kenya; IgiTREE and SanTech in Kigali. The startups are an indication that scaling justice innovation in East Africa is possible. The last edition of the Justice Innovation Circles was the Somali edition, which was held on the 30th November, which also marked the end of the Jenga Haki Programme. The Somalia edition incorporated teams from Justice Entrepreneurship School and Jenga Haki pitch.

Fatima Omer, Senior Communications Advisor for the Somaliland Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, addressing the participants. The event began at 10 am EAT. We had four teams from Somaliland pitch in person, three other teams pitched virtually. Thereafter, the jury left to assess the different teams and give feedback thereafter. Different officials from the Government of Somaliland also spoke during the event as well as guests from other nongovernmental organisations. Overall, we had sixty (60) physical attendees from different sectors in both justice, innovation and business development and twenty (20) virtual attendees both on Facebook and Zoom.

JIC inspired a new generation of entrepreneurs in Kenya, Rwanda and that we hope to support in the near future, as they forge their path in helping their communities. It is these new innovations that will ensure that the legal process is no longer complex, inaccessible and expensive. Whether an entrepreneur is preventing or resolving a justice need, they are helping a business, an individual or an organisation avert a crisis and solving a pressing problem for millions of people.



Fatima Omer speaking during the Justice Innovation Circles held in Somali, Hargeisa at the Assod Hotel.

FACTS CORNER:



Somali Region

- Mogadishu is said to have been established all the way back in 1 AD.
- Somalia has the longest coastline in mainland Africa.
- In Somaliland, mobile payments are so important that they are estimated to account for half of the transactions made in the country.
- In 2018, the number of judges was doubled from 90 to 186 to improve access to justice in Somaliland.
- The Somali culture revolves around poetry, an art form that remains significant as Somali refugees relocate throughout the world.
- The main justice issues in the region revolve around land and family. In 2018, of the 347 cases reported in different court levels in Mogadishu, 212 of these were from women, whose land was grabbed by spouses, or within families.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

THE JENGA HAKI PROGRAMME 2022



“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but building on the new.” – Socrates

Socrates describes what HiIL endeavours to do through our various programmes; to help our participants to build on their innovations with the end goal of making a positive change in justice.

Our final programme of the year was designed to explore solutions for pressing justice problems in society whilst using technology to leverage on the solutions. The Jenga Haki Programme, Kickstarted in the final quarter of 2022, carried the theme:

How do you use technology to prevent or resolve justice problems around the family?

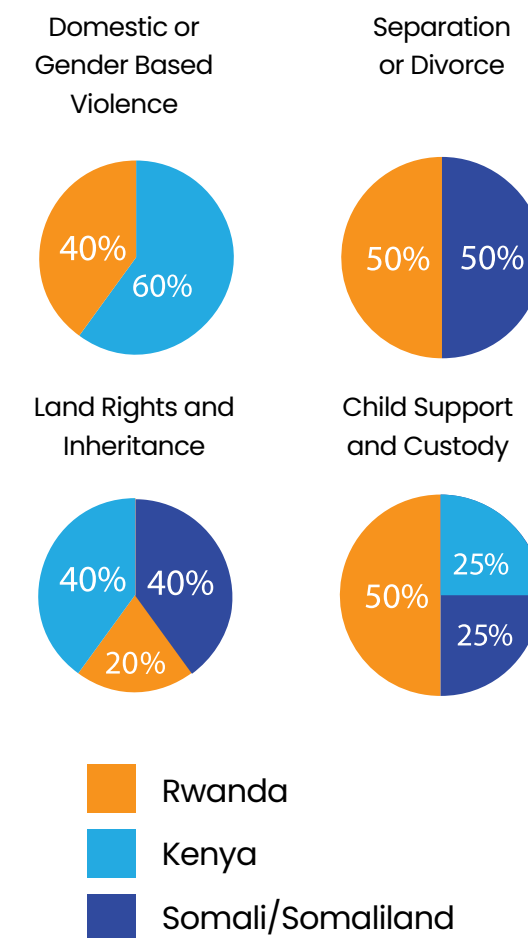
With family justice becoming increasingly worrisome due to the rising cases of injustice, this is a crucial topic that needs more gamechangers to effect positive change. Through the Jenga Haki Programme, we set out to bring people with different sets of skills and interests together, and put them in a specific environment and timeframe to quickly build a solution to a specific problem and in this case, family justice.

Open Call of Applications

For four weeks, we received 130 applications from Kenya, Rwanda and the Somali Region after the call of applications was announced and after a thorough selection process, forty-two (42) teams were selected to join the programme.

Here is an analysis of the 42 teams selected to join, the country they represent and the family justice area they chose to delve in.

It was interesting to note that no team in Somalia attempted to tackle Domestic or gender-based violence while no team in Kenya attempted to tackle separation or divorce. We hope to see future startups from these countries tackle these issues and spearhead much needed change in these areas of family justice.



Some of the Jenga Haki Programme innovators presenting their pitches at Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

Kick off and Masterclasses

The programme kicked off with an orientation session for the teams and was divided into three classes which would help the teams as they would embark to create a prototype. The sessions conducted were to help them:

1. Develop a solution that would have the people it is designed for at the centre making it user-friendly.
2. Develop a solution that would teach them how to better communicate with their end user and ensure that they solve their problems in a simple manner.
3. Learn how to communicate with different audiences the reason why they have built their product, how their product works and what their product is. This was essentially critical in preparing for the pitch event where they would be communicating this information to the audience using a pitch deck.

Sprints and Office hours

A sprint is a short, time-boxed period when a scrum team works to complete a set amount of work. During this time, the teams retreated to work on their prototypes and their pitch decks, with regular checking in to gauge their progress and offer assistance when necessary. One on one conversations were conducted with the teams during this period to assess what they were struggling with either in developing their pitches or in their product development.

The Jenga Haki Festivals

The last phase in the programme was the Jenga Haki Festivals, where we organised three events for all three countries where the teams participating in the programme got a chance to pitch their solution and show how it works. The Jenga Haki festival is an external pitching event where the entrepreneurs pitch in front of an audience and a jury. The Jury evaluated the pitching teams based on their problem-solution fit and how appropriate and realistic their business model was. The top three teams were awarded €500, €750 and €1,000 respectively.

Entrepreneur experience

"We had an amazing time pitching our innovation challenge at Jenga Haki Festival last week and are so proud to have come third. Huge thanks to Hiil Innovation Hub East Africa for the incredible opportunity," Faith Mutitu of Sheria Street mentioned. Building solutions in Africa is tough, not impossible. With the right support and mentorship, innovation in areas such as justice is a force for good. The overall lesson for most of these entrepreneurs was learning the problem owners, and creating a solution that could best fit them.

Building solutions in Africa is tough, not impossible. With the right support and mentorship, innovation in areas such as justice is a force for good.



Jenga Haki Festival

The heart of innovation is the ideation process. It is through ideas that entrepreneurs pinpoint different solutions that can be used to resolve different issues and improve lives. Ideation helps challenge assumptions and overcome biases to produce life-changing products. At Hiil, through the Jenga Haki Ideation programme, we help entrepreneurs build around their ideas and create prototypes.

The Jenga Haki Festival is a regional event that marks the end of the Jenga Haki Ideation programme. During this event, different teams come together to pitch their solutions and showcase their prototypes, for a chance to win up to 1,000 euros. This festival is meant to inspire a generation of justice entrepreneurs, by supporting the best solutions that solve different justice issues. It also brings together multiple partners and stakeholders from various professional backgrounds to discuss opportunities in the field.

Kenya

In Kenya, we had 13 teams pitching and presenting their prototypes to the jury. The jury panel comprised of Mr Eric Kariuki, our regional hub head, Ms Carol Kimari, the Country director for Y-Gap Kenya and Ms Maureen Njenga, a professional mediator and psychologist with experience in family disputes. After the pitching events, the jury retreated to deliberate and after around an hour they came back to announce the results and following teams were announced as winners:

1. **Team Logic with project mwanangu** – Mwanangu is an application that facilitates co-parenting activities between divorced parents and aims to reduce child custody cases in court.
2. **Opaque 254 with project Sheria street** – Sheria Street is a whistle-blower that uses both USSD and a website that enables women to report any form of harassment or discrimination in interviews or within their work places.

“It is through ideas that entrepreneurs pinpoint different solutions that can be used to resolve different issues and improve lives.”

Rwanda

The Jenga Haki festival in Rwanda was a hybrid event that took place on Thursday 24th November 2022 from 3 PM to 6 PM CAT. This was a virtual event as all the team leaders who were pitching on behalf of their team had gathered at one location while the rest of their team members and the audience joined the event on Zoom. The jury in Rwanda consisted of Mary Sherif- The Communications Head at Hiil, Odunoluwa Longe who is the Co-founder at DIY Law and Anastase Ndagijimana, the Project Coordinator at Haguruka. The three teams that emerged as winners presented prototypes that were not only realistic, but had the potential to serve millions of people in Rwanda:

1. **PC Counsel** – they have developed an online AI tool that can offer services that connects GBV survivors to GBV service providers and community justice initiatives/organisations, provide online counselling among other services
2. **Just Tech** – This team presented a portable emergency device that provides immediate notifications to emergency personnel, family members, neighbours, and/or care providers in any situation that requires early assistance.
3. **Tubimenye** – This is an online Startup that teaches adolescent from secondary school information related to gender-based violence (GBV), and sexual and reproductive health.

Closing out the year with the festivals was the biggest highlight for us! The Jenga Haki Festival-2022 was one for the books.





SHARED EXPERIENCES & SHARED LEARNINGS

Our community is made of entrepreneurs, mentors, coaches and investors who share JA's commitment to user-friendly justice using innovation, challenging one another, learning from each other, supporting each other, and having fun. To us, community is about people developing a sense of unity and belonging, building social capital, and

essentially how members feel and interact with one another.

Building our community helps us share ideas, network and generate new innovative ideas in the justice space and contributes to the growth of the justice innovation ecosystem in Africa.

“To us, community is about people developing a sense of unity and belonging, building social capital, and essentially how members feel and interact with one another.”

Twitter Spaces

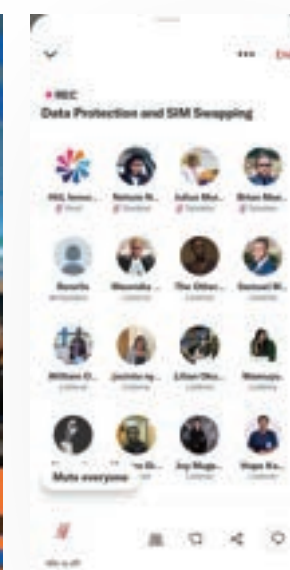
Since April this year, we have held interesting monthly Twitter Space discussions, ranging from inclusive innovation to Misinformation and Disinformation. As a Hub, we have been at the forefront of not only educating our audiences on certain issues, but also highlighting innovative ventures that help mitigate some of these issues that hinder access to justice.

One such discussion was the Innovation for Inclusion discussion where persons with disabilities have not been able to access justice due to disproportionate marginalisation, which is further exacerbated by legal, institutional and social barriers. This discussion in partnership with Innovate Now and Tangaza University College, helped shed light on innovative solutions that have been developed to help people living with disabilities to resolve some of their justice problems. Our August Twitter Space focused on Data Protection and SIM Swapping due to the cyber security situations that have resulted in many individuals and businesses losing millions of shillings to fraudsters. Participating in this discussion as speakers were Nelson Nkari of Legal Tech Kenya and Brian Maera of Sheria Online.

In September, we held the Misinformation and Disinformation info session, a conversation about the rise of a coordinated 'disinformation industry' in Kenya and the threat it poses to justice. This was in partnership with Rose Lukalo of Fumbua and Eric Mugendi of Meedan. The discussion also touched on how

technology can also be harnessed to exploit vulnerability and exacerbate underlying grievances and how social media platforms can be used by democratic leaders to influence or control political narratives and outcomes through increasingly sophisticated disinformation campaigns.

In November, we majored in Building Access to Justice for Family in Rwanda, in line with our ideation programme theme: how to use technology to resolve family justice issues. The guest speaker was Peace Hillary Tumwesigire who is the CEO of Family Magazine and the Chairperson of Women Media Owners for Change in Rwanda. In this discussion, we looked at the solutions available that are actively helping victims of domestic abuse in family settings.

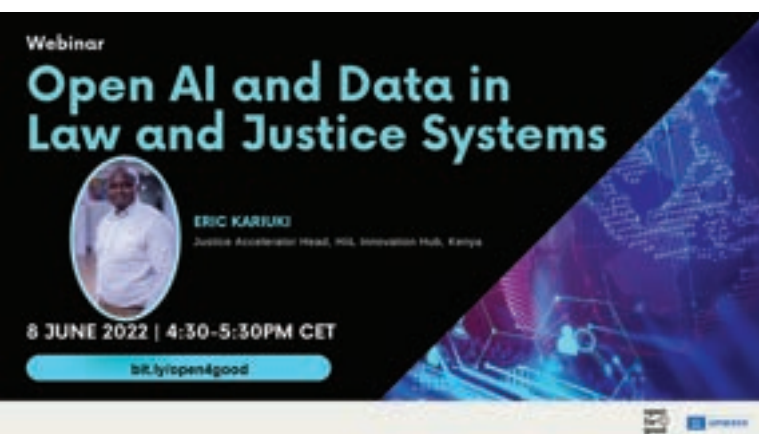


Stakeholder Engagement: Open AI and Data in Law and Justice Systems

As the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) increases in justice systems worldwide, various stakeholders from around the world joined the Open for Good Alliance webinar to discuss the development, use and governance of AI systems in justice systems. The aim of the discussion was to provide access to justice through the development of synergetic solutions that use new technologies and artificial intelligence.

In June this year, our Hub Head was invited to speak at UNESCO's webinar on navigating Open AI and Data in Law and Justice Systems. This webinar presented insights, lessons learnt, and challenges of developing Open AI and Data initiatives in Law and Justice Systems in Asia (India), Africa (Kenya) and Latin America (Brazil).

This webinar explored how AI systems are being used in justice systems to make administration of justice more efficient through algorithms that help in legal research and document analysis to algorithms that are being used for predictive justice from setting or denying bail, to sentencing or assessing the likelihood of re-offending – with specific risks associated for human rights.



The Kenya 2021 Startup Bill

The Startup Bill 2021 is a piece of legislation that was introduced to the senate in 2020 by then **Nairobi Senator, Johnson Sakaja**. The aim of the bill was to foster innovation and create an enabling environment for startups to thrive. This year we undertook a comprehensive exercise to critically analyse the contents of the bill and assess if the bill, as is, can achieve the set objectives. We undertook desktop research and engaged startup founders both within and outside our alumni network. Through this discussion, we were able to pick up some of the key challenges that face startups that the bill does not address. These include;

1. Most startups do not have access to complete information regarding the regulations in the sectors they are operating in as most of this information is scattered in very many pieces of legislation as well as policy documents. This has resulted in startups being penalised with hefty fines due to non-compliance that has made them insolvent.
2. Startups cannot rely on banks because they cannot get long-term loans. Due to lack of security for the loans, they are made to rely on either savings or profits, which isn't enough to sustain the business.
3. In Kenya there is very little emphasis on manufacturing, agriculture etc so the market becomes a real problem, because we are competing for the same market.

We hope to engage other ecosystem builders next year, come up with a report and use it to lobby parliament to make the necessary changes that will address the plight of startups.



In May 2022, we hosted the first Alumni Connects of the year for all Hiil alumni at Wama Africa in Lavington. Alumni Connects is a forum that brings together alumni of Hiil's different programs and different cohorts over the years and aims to give back, learn about new ideas, welcome new cohorts, and peer to peer support from like-minded individuals. Through Alumni Connects, entrepreneurs get the support that they would require from Hiil as we remain committed to ensuring their success.

Legal Tech Training with Gerald Abila

In January 2022, the Barefoot Law Founder, Gerald Abila conducted a legal tech training workshop with the 2021 HJA cohort. The discussion majorly covered strengthening legal innovation among entrepreneurs in East Africa and empowering the entrepreneurs to incorporate technology in the legal sector.

As lifetime members of our network, we always find different ways to support different alumni in different ways like Twitter Spaces, JIC and other events that we organise. In 2023, we look forward to integrating them in the different programmes as mentors, partners and facilitators.



Gerald Abila – CEO, Barefoot Law

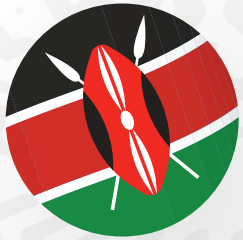


Adding on to the Family:

A hearty congratulations to Hope Kamukama, Sammy Mwiroti and Shema Steve, on the extra additions to their families! May your new-borns be blessed with good health, love and laughter as you raise them.



OUR ACCESS TO JUSTICE JOURNEY



NELSON NKARI

CEO - Legal Technologies Kenya Limited

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My favourite quote is from the current head coach of the Phoenix Suns, an American basketball team that plays in the National Basketball Association (NBA), Monty Williams. To motivate his team and make clear the magnitude of the task that awaited them, he said, **“Everything you want is on the other side of hard”**. It was a way to make his players understand that they can only achieve their goals through hard work and discipline, not shortcuts. Their best player, Devin Booker, credits this phrase and the mentality instilled in him by the coach for the giant leap he took in the year following the appointment of Coach Monty Williams.

This is the same philosophy I apply in my life. I take great pride in everything I commit myself to undertaking. I like to see my tasks through to completion with due care, focus and commitment.

This is not limited to just my work, but carries over into everything else I do outside of the workplace. As a young Lawyer fresh out of Law School, it is very difficult to break into the market and find your footing. Opportunities in existing Law Firms and in-house legal departments are limited and this is compounded by the fact that at present, over 1,000 new lawyers are admitted to the bar every year. More often than not, the only option available to many young lawyers is setting up your own legal practice. Startup costs are extremely high in Kenya and are out of reach for many young lawyers. Furthermore, access to quality work is limited and not guaranteed for young lawyers even when one sets up their legal practice. This was my lived experience together with my co-founder, Calvin Njagi, and it is what drove us to create Legal Point Services.

Legal Point Services is Kenya’s first legal work platform. It is a web-based application that enables anyone in need of legal services to access them from verified and trustworthy lawyers on Legal Point Services. Our application facilitates the exchange of legal services entirely online, and allows legal clients to better manage all the aspects of their legal matters from start to finish.

Our application is a virtual workspace that enables lawyers to work entirely online and run their legal practices from anywhere. We have in-built functionalities that are designed to not only replace the functions of a physical office space, but also to improve the efficiency and quality of legal service delivery. This is achieved through automation and specialised legal tech tools that enable lawyers to reduce errors in their work and handle comparatively more work than lawyers who make use of manual methods of work. Through Legal Point Services, Lawyers can meet and interact with new clients and deliver services to them online.

A recent study showed that only about 14% of SMEs in Kenya access legal services, with the biggest impediment being costs. Through Legal Point Services, SMEs and corporates can outsource their legal work to the verified lawyers on our application. Our application is designed to reduce the operating costs of Lawyers by enabling remote working, and we have seen this translate into reduced legal costs for their clients. By exposing SMEs and corporates to a diverse catalogue of lawyers, they can now match with and receive services from qualified Lawyers who fall within their budget.

Our intention is to build Legal Point Services into the equivalent of an operating system for legal service delivery. It is our hope that we can innovate even more in automation through Artificial Intelligence, and add more features that improve the quality of our app and the user experience for all our clients.

In five years, we plan to have expanded and established a presence in other East African countries, at least one Central African country, at least one West African country and at least one Southern African country. We hope to have at least 150,000 active legal service providers and generally, to reduce the costs involved in access to justice by providing Legal Point as a low-cost tool.

The justice innovation space is largely untapped and the possibilities for growth and innovation are limitless. There is so much that is yet to be done in justice innovation and I hope to be among the leaders of justice innovation in Africa. The essence of justice innovation is to bring justice closer to the people who need it most. Justice innovation makes it possible for us to resolve a lot more justice issues for the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Startup costs are extremely high in Kenya and are out of reach for many young lawyers.



CLAUDINE NIYONZIMA

Co-founder – SanTech Limited

<https://www.santechrwanda.com/>



"There is no secrets to success, it is the results of preparation, hard work and learning from failure" – Colin Powell

SanTech is a private company that has a vision to be a hub that develops technological products in order to facilitate human daily activities and develop talents for invention and innovation to the Gross Domestic Products.

My motivation behind SanTech is that, as it develops, I am doing what I am passionate about and I have a place where I can express my wish and potential to serve the world community, and with the core business E-Visitors, we are delivering justice to the communities through automating Digital data collection. Through SanTech, I can see a great change in the future generations and the development of the industry in general.

In five years to come, I see SanTech as one of the small industries that manufacture electronic materials and solutions to Justice and education as

well as creating solutions for other industrial sectors (Agriculture, Health and financial management).

Working with Hiil has been quite insightful in helping me grow and scale my business. The JES Bootcamp held in Musanze, Rwanda, helped me make a few changes in my team and also changed how I approached potential customers.

As an entrepreneur, it is very hard to ask for help, but this is a constant practice that has helped me experience growth and achieve goals I had set. I am excited to be among the game changers in Justice, so that I may bring impact to the industries and human resource works using innovations and youth empowerment.

“Through SanTech, I can see a great change in the future generations and the development of the industry in general.



ARNAUD KAYONGA

Co-founder – Ihugura Chatbot



"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all." – Helen Keller

Ihugura Chatbot is a question & answer platform that specialises in delivering factual information in law. We currently serve the Kinyarwanda speakers. Think of it as Siri/Alexa/Google Assistant in your local language possibly over a phone call that specialises in legal information.

I believe that the more a community is aware of its rights & limitations, the more the law is respected, thus for the average citizen to be able to access legal information using everyday devices, such as a mobile phone, is a big step in an equitable society. With the Ihugura chatbot, accessibility is at the core of our solution development allowing for the average user to be able to interact with voice and in their local languages.

In five years, we see Ihugura Chabot being a digital tool used by people in various fields such as finance, justice, and education to bridge the gap in access to information.

Justice is a universal challenge facing all walks of life but leaves behind the less resourceful people the most. What excites me the most is leveraging technology to bridge the gap to access information for the less resourceful people mostly left behind.

The Justice innovation Boot Camp held in Musanze by Hiil Innovation Hub East Africa was an eye-opener on how to approach our stakeholders and most importantly, how to develop our product.

“With the Ihugura chatbot, accessibility is at the core of our solution development allowing for the average user to be able to interact with voice and in their local languages.



MICHEAL OPONDO

CEO – Kenyan Legal

<https://kenyanlegal.com>



One of my favourite quotes of all time is, if they can make penicillin out of mouldy bread, then you can definitely make something out of yourself.

Kenyan Legal was a dream I started working on in 2013 whose goal was to democratise legal knowledge and information to the general public. It started out as a magazine that helped law students publish their articles and other useful pieces of information. As a magazine, we also provided legal aid services in universities, prisons and the like but had to come to a halt when things got busier. When we resumed our operations, we worked on making it more accessible and affordable to SMEs.

Kenyan Legal is an online legal marketplace helping SMEs in streamlining their legal compliance processes by providing a catalogue of legal documents and specialty lawyers' network. We provide legal services to businesses that can't afford to hire in-house lawyers. We are a team of five people in the technical, business development and legal department of the company.

In Kenya, there are high overheads in running a law firm, which in turn drives up the cost of legal services rendered to SMEs. Only 14% of 7.9 million Kenyan SMEs can afford legal services and this makes it that much harder for SMEs to navigate the endless legislation. Kenyan Legal provides a cheaper CRM system for legal practice & a legal documents marketplace where SMEs can access updated legal documents, have cost certainty in seeking legal services and seek justice & redress for fraud and bad debts.

What excites me about the sector that I work in is the fact that there's a lot of opportunities to meet and engage with other justice entrepreneurs. There's also lots of avenues in justice innovation that are yet to be explored and I can't wait to pursue these possibilities ahead.

We provide legal services to businesses that can't afford to hire in-house lawyers.



Morning Shall Come – A poem by Ouma Don Collins

Sometimes life crashes so hard and throws you in the woods,
You shout so hard but no one hears your voice,
Those who hear it, liken it to the howling of wolves,
Those who recognise it, ignore it to avoid its haunt,
You reach out for help, but they avoid you like plague,
The people you called friends, cover their ears with their palms,
Dusk falls on life and there's light no more,
The only flickers are from stars up above,
You try to push forward but hit tree trunks instead,

Every step forward becomes evidence of miles ahead,
You look for yourself but you only find space,
All you have is a feeling of your being,
The night turns darker and every sound even scarier,
You become withdrawn and trust but yourself,
Darkness becomes colder and the winds blow lower,
Shiver and shaky breath make a loud conversation,
Your mind is racing but your knees are motionless,
Your hands are frozen and only to hope you can hold,
When you're curled on that earth and holding on to your heart,
Hold on to this too and keep it in mind,
Morning shall come and the sun will shine.

Ouma Don Collins is the CEO and Co-Founder of Civic Voices.
For more information, check out their work here: www.civicvoices.africa



ABDIRISAQ F. MOHAMED

Co-founders - Xalgoob Mediation

Somali

"Aan wada hadalno waa aan heshiino."

Xalgoob mediation, waa xarun dhexdhexaadin, bixisana noocyada kale duwan ee xalinta khilaafadka madiga Gaar ahaan kuwa Qoyska, kana howl gasha Gobolka banaadir. Waxaan fududaynaa xalka gaaridda khilaafaadka inagoo bixinayna noocyada kala duwan ee xalinta khilaafadka. Taas uu door kaqaato dhinac sadaxaad oo dhexdhexaad ah kalsoonina ay ku qabaan dhinacyadu. Macamishiina waxay ay door bidaan adeegyada aan bixino halkii ay aadi lahaayeen dacwad maxkamadeed, taas oo waqti ahaan iyo dhaqaale ahaan aan culays ku ah Macamiisha. Waxa ugu muhiimsan ee lagu doorbido adeega aan bixino waa in lasoosaaro natiijo lagu wada qanacsanyahay.

Waxaan degree laad ee Jaamacadda ummadda kadiyaariyay cilmiga Qaanuunka, intii an ditaarinayay Bachelor ka waxaan Qaatay course ku

English

"Let's talk, let's agree."

Xalgoob Mediation, is a mediation and Dispute resolution center that provides different methods of alternative dispute resolution, especially for family disputes, in Banadir Region, Somalia. We facilitate access to justice and provide effective forms of dispute resolution by acting as a neutral and impartial third party. Customers prefer the services we provide instead of going to court, which is time consuming and a financial burden for customers. To avoid this, people reach us through the Internet (website and other social media). The most important thing about our service is that we provide a result that is of mutual satisfaction to both parties.

Xalgoob was inspired by my experience in a court in the Banadir region. At the beginning of the first-session of the trial, based on the provisions of the Code of Procedure, the judge called on the parties to resolve their dispute in an

saabsan Conflict Resolution, Taasi waxay iga dhigtay mid fahma caqabadaha haysta bulshada aan ku dhex noolahay oo ah in aysan heysan badal ay aadaan (alternative) si ay uga baaqsadaan dacwad maxkamadeed oo ay lacag iyo waqti badanba uga baxdo, Natiijaduna aysan noqon karin mid lagu wada qanco Waxa kaloo jirtay in maalin maalmha kamida anigoo maxkamadda Gobolka banaadir ujooga Tababar (internship) Fadhiigii laad dacwad madani ahayd garsooraha isagoo cuskanaya Qodobada xeerka Habka ayuu ugu baaqay dhinacyada inay xalkusoo garaan maxkmada banankeeda. Balse caqabadu waxay ahayd in aanu jirin meel ay u aadaan xalin khilaafaad iyo cid kacaawisa. Taasi waxay saamaysay dareenkena wxayna qayb ka ahayd sababaha keenay inaan abuurno xaruntaan.

Xalgoob mediation waxay ku sugnaan doontaa mar xaladda shanta sano e sosocota In ay noqoto Xarunta ugu horaysa ee bixisa adeeg xalinta khilaafadka ayna u

HASSAN M. AHMED

Co-founders - Xalgoob Mediation

out-of-court settlement. However, the challenge was that there were no independent and legitimate institutions in the country to mediate between the dispute parties. We decided to set up Xalgoob Mediation to help the parties on reaching agreements.

I obtained my first degree in Law from Somali National University. While I was studying for my Bachelor's degree, I took a course on Conflict Resolution. This allows me to understand the challenges that people face in civil litigation in the court, causing loss of money and time, and the results may not be satisfactory.

In five years, we would like to be the most qualified pioneer centre in the region focusing on alternative dispute resolution methods as a way to settle disputes without the need to proceed to litigation and provide all the services that are ideal for dispute resolution centres. We are planning to have centres in at least three (3) out of seventeen (17) districts in the Banadir region to serve the needy

dhamaystiranyihiin dhamaan adeeg yada muhiimka u ah xarumaha lagu xaliyo khilaafadka. Waxaan qorshaynaynaa in aan kuyeelano xarumo ugu yaraan 3 Dagmo oo kamida 17 ka dagmo ee Gobolka banaadir. Si adeegeenu ugaaro dadka baahida uqabo ee ku nool Gobolka banaadir. Shansano gudahood waxaan rajaynaynaa in adeega aan bixinno saamiga ugu badan ku yeesho suuqa.

Waxay inoo lahayd xiiso gaara in xiriir iyo wadashaqayn na dhexmarto Hiil innovation hub East Africa, gaar ahaan aan qayb ka noqonno Barnaamijka Janga Haki Festival Somalia. Kaas oo aan ka kororsanay khibrad kana helnay taageero kale waxu ahaa Barnaamij xiiso galinaya Hal-abuura yaasha.

Justice innovators from Somali/Somaliland during a discussion in one of the Justice Entrepreneurship School Programme sessions.

people. In five years, we hope that the service we provide will have the largest share in the market.

It was very interesting for us to have a working partnership and training session with Hiil innovation hub East Africa, especially being a part of the Jenga Haki Festival in Somalia.

In five years, we hope that the service we provide will have the largest share in the market.



The Dispute Resolution (DR) Hub

The Dispute Resolution (DR) Hub was inspired by the fact that there is a current backlog of cases in Kenyan courts, most of which can be successfully resolved outside of the court process. In an effort to create a significant dent in this pool, we created a platform for access to justice via alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, arbitration and negotiation. As at now, we are prioritising mediation of family-related cases, which form an estimated 33% of the aforementioned case backlog. However, we also provide mediation and arbitration services for commercial, workplace and land-related disputes.

In June, we held an ADR Connect Event, which is an annual hybrid event held with the aim of driving conversations surrounding alternative dispute resolution. This year, we welcomed our guests to network and learn, with a focus on transferability of ADR skills in one's career, in an effort to help resolve conflicts and enhance a conflict-competent society. It was open to members of all professions who share a passion for dispute resolution. In July, the Dispute Resolution Hub partnered with the Full Circle Centre and the Strathmore Dispute Resolution Clinic to hold the Strathmore Legal Aid Clinic. This was also in conjunction with other stakeholders, namely Oraro & Company Advocates, KN Law LLP, DLA Piper Africa, Kenya (IKM Advocates), CREAM Kenya and the National Construction Authority. This Legal Aid Clinic was geared towards creating awareness about ADR, which would bring to light its significance, and garner the interest of young legal practitioners in matters surrounding alternative means of access to justice.

Some challenges we have faced are such as slow uptake of Mediation, which then resulted in the generation of more public awareness and sensitization programs, and the lack of standardised practice rules, leading to infiltration by uncertified Individuals. The impact that DR have had thus far, and that would like to continue making, is acquiring new partners, both locally and internationally, hosting an Inaugural ADR Connect Event, which we would like to hold annually as we grow, and regional expansion of the DR Hub's operations, which have begun in Mombasa, with the hope of broadening into other counties.

For more information check out the Dispute Resolution Hub here:
<https://fullcirclecentre.com/drhub/>





MOHAMED ABDIRAZAK

Co-founders – Hiiliye Legal Services



SALMA YALAHOW

Co-founders – Hiiliye Legal Services

Somali

“Yaanan is dhiibin, ilaa aan ka xaqiijineyno halka uu hayaanku yahay”.

Bartamihii sanadkii 2014, adeer ayaa loo dilay si xaqdarra ah isaga oo aan dambi laheyn oo goobtiisa shaqada jooga. waxaa uurkutaallo iyo niyadjab nagu aheyd inaan qoys ahaan helin cadaaladii aan xaqqa u laheyn, xitaa waan waynay meel aan u doonano cadaalad iyo cid na caawisa. Guud ahaan qoyskeenu waxay dareemeen quus iyo in aysan jirin meelkale oo aan maciin bidno. Aniga ahaanse, waxay taasi igu dhalisay inaan ku fakaro sidii aan –inta karaankeyga ah– wax ugu baddeli lahaa dhibaatan ka jirta dalkeyga hooyo.

Wixii markaa ka dambeeyay, waxaan goostay inaan barto culuumta sharciga, si aan ugu yaraan faham dhammeystiran ugu helo sida uu nidaamkeenna cadaaladeed ushaqeeyo iyo halka ay wax ka qaldan yihiin. Markaan muddo laba sano ah daraaseenayay shuruucda udegsan dalkeenna iyo sida uu hannaanka garsoorka iyo maxkamadaha ay ushaqeeyaan waxaan fahmay inaysan

English

“Let’s not give up until we confirm where the enemy is.”

In mid-2014, my uncle was killed innocently at his workplace. We were frustrated and disappointed that we did not get the justice we deserved as a family, we even lost a place to seek justice and someone to help us. Our whole family felt desperate. We had nowhere else to go. This made me think about how I could, as much as I could, change something about this problem in my home country. From then on, I decided to study law so as to at least have a complete understanding of how our justice system works and where things go wrong. After studying the laws of our country for two years and how the judicial system and courts work, I understand that there is no problem with our laws but there is a problem of implementation and non-compliance. To add to that, the methods of access to justice are few and difficult.

That is where the idea of establishing Hiiliye Legal Services came from; to

jirin mushkilad la xiriirta sharciyada balse ay jirto mushkilad ah fulin iyo dabbaqaad la’aan, iyo sidoo kale inay yaryihiin ayna adag yihiin qaababka loo maro helitaanka cadaalada.

Halkaas ayay ka timid fikrada aasaasida Hiiliye Legal Services, si aan u fududeyno qaababka helidda cadaalada ee Soomaaliya. Waxaan sameynay inaan mideyno tiknoolajiyadda iyo sharciga si aan u awoodno inaan isku xirno dadka cadaalada raadinaya iyo hay’adaha garsoorka iyo booliiska si markaa qaababka helidda cadaalada ay unoqdaan kuwa fudud, la heli karo oo waxku’ool ah. Marka laga soo tago shaqooyinka aan sida caadiga ah bulshada ugu qabanno waxaan diiradda saarnaa inaan si gaar ah u caawinno dadka danta yar, ee aan awoodin inay helaan adeegyada cadaalada ama ay iska bixiyaan qarashaadka maxkamadaha. Waa run dad badan oo dulmanayaal ah ayaa jira oo aan heysan cadaalad, haddana waxaa jira kuwa gaaray heerka ugu dambeeya ee quusta ah, waa kuwaa kawa aan rabno inaan kalsooni siino.

facilitate access to justice in Somalia. We have made it possible to unite technology and law to be able to connect people seeking justice with judicial and police institutions so that the processes of obtaining justice are simple, accessible and effective.

In addition to the work, we usually do in the community, we focus on specifically helping the underprivileged, who are unable to access justice services or pay court fees. It is true that there are many oppressed people who do not receive justice, but there are those who have reached the last level of despair, they are the ones we want to give confidence to.

I am still in the first stages of setting up. I still have many challenges ahead of me. However, I am fuelled by the encouragement of the Somali community, especially the people close to me who are my friends, my parents, my brothers and my teachers. As Hiiliye Legal Services is the first company of its kind in Somalia to build on the digital system and provide legal services and access to

Waxaan wali ku jiraa aasaaska Shirkadda, wali waxaa i horyaalla caqabado fara badan, sidaas ay tahay waxaa shidaal ii noqda dhiirigelinta bulshada Soomaaliyeed, gaar ahaan dadka ii dhow haddii ay ahaan lahaayeen saaxiibadey, waalidkey, walaalahey iyo macallimiinteyda.

Maadaama ay Hiiliye Legal Services ay tahay shirkaddii ugu horreysay nooceeda ah oo ku dhisan nidaamka dhijitaalka ah islamarkaana bixisa adeegyada sharci iyo helida caddaaladda waxaan la kulanay caqabado fara badan. Ugu horreyn waxaan ubaahanahay inaan yagleelno koox nagu habboon oo heysta khibradaha iyo aqoonta muhiimka inoo ah. Billowgiiba waxaan kulanay Salma Cabdullahi Yalaxow, (La-aasaase, iyo madaxa tiknoolajiyadda ee shirkadda). Salma waa aqoonyahan daraaseysa culuumta kombuyuutarka aadna ugu xeeldheer arimaha tiknoolajiyadda casriga ah. Waxaan isla garanay inaan ku midowno shakhsiyadeena hamuunta u qabta halabuurka iyo caawinta dadka. Iyadu weligeedba waa jecleed fanka halabuurka, balse nasiib wanaag waxaa na wada kulmiyay, Hiiliye Legal Services.

Markii ugu horreysay fulinta fikradaheena halabuur waxaan gudagalnay horraantii 2021, waxaan raadinay maalgelin iyo maaliyad aan ku dhaqaajinno halabuurkeenna, marwalbana waxa ay taagneyd heer illaa ugu dambeyn aan la kulanay Hiil Innovations iyo SIMAD ILab, kuwaas oo door muuqda ka qaatay fulinta iyo hirgelinta mashruuceenna iyo inay nagu biiriyaan talooyin iyo tusaalooyin dhaxalgal ah. Mahad oo dhan Alle ayay usugnaatay oo intaas oo dhan nagu sabarsiiyay naguna ilhaamiyay

justice, we have faced many challenges. First of all, we need to establish a suitable team that has the experience and knowledge that is important to us. Salma Abdullahi Yalakhaw, (Co-Founder, and Chief Technology Officer of the company) is a computer science major who is well versed in modern technology. From the beginning, we found ourselves united by our passion for creativity and helping people. She has always loved the creative arts, but luckily, we were brought together Hiliye Legal Services.

We started implementing our creative ideas in early 2021. We looked for funding until finally we met with Hiil Innovation Hub and SIMAD ILab, who played a significant role in the implementation of our project and gave us useful tips and examples. All thanks to Allah who made us patient and inspired us to make the right decisions and achieve our goals.

Firstly, we launched an application that anyone can download and a website that anyone can visit to easily access our services. From time to time, we have been joined by new clients, and we provide them with accessible, user-friendly and affordable legal services to make it easier for people to get justice. Our services are used by people who need to hire a lawyer. We facilitate and work with them to find the lawyers they need. We have also started to provide free legal aid services to people who need legal aid and work with them to find lawyers to represent them in court for free, offer legal advice and other services.

In Somalia, the ability to pay for justice services is estimated at less than 20%. Also, getting justice services requires

inaan qaadano go'aanno sax oo ujeedkeenna na gaarsiiyay.

Ugu horreyn, waxaan ku bilownnay application uu qofkastaa soo degsan karo iyo website uu qofkastaa booqan karo si dhibyar ugu u helo adeegyadeenna. Marba marka ka dambaysa, waxaan nagu soo biiraayay macmiil cusub, waxaana macaamiisheena siinnaa adeegyo sharci oo la heli karo (accessible), dhibyar (user friendly) sidaas oo kale la awoodo (affordable) si ay dadku ugu fududaato helidda Caddaaladda. Waxaa adeegyadeenna isticmaala dadka u baahan in ay qareen qabsadaan. Waxaan u fududeynaa oo aan kala shaqeynaa sidii ay u heli lahaayeen qareenada ay u baahna yihiin. Waxaan kaloo ku bilownay inaan dadka u baahan kaalmada sharci (Legal aid) aan siinno adeegyo lacag la'aan oo aan kala shaqeyno inay helaan qareenno si lacag la'aan ah ugu matala maxkamadaha, la-talinta sharci iyo adeegyo kale.

Soomaaliya marka la joogo inta awoodda inay iska bixiyaan qarashaadka adeegyada caddaalada waxaa lagu qiyaasaa wax ka yar 20%. Sidoo kale inaad adeegyada caddaalada hesho waxay ubaahan tahay inaan soo marto waddooyin dhaadheer oo aan dhib yareyn. Tani waxay muujineysaa heerka ay gaarsiisan tahay baahida dadkeenna ee helidda caddaalada, ka Hiiliye ahaan waxaana utaaganahay inaan soo yareyno gaabkaas ka jira dhinaca caddaalada.

Innaga oo lajaan qaadeyna, adeegsaneyna tiknoolijiyadda, kana faa'iideysaneyna hal-abuurka caddaaladeed ee baahaaya, waxaan diiraada saareynaa inaan faafinno wacyiga caddaaleed iyo fahamka

going through long and difficult roads. This shows the extent of the need of our people to access justice and we aim to reduce this shortfall in justice. By leveraging technology, innovation, and justice, we aim to spread justice awareness and understanding of the law. This will lead many people to understand how to seek their rights and where to seek them. We have succeeded partially and we have reached many people who previously did not even have any information about judicial services and how to seek justice.

We believe that after five years we will be the top company in the country that provides the whole range of legal services by keeping up with modern technology that is constantly evolving. We hope to meet the needs of 4 million people living in Mogadishu. Our hope and mission are to be the leader in legal technology services in the Banadir region, and also to work to provide our clients with high-quality legal services by serving people efficiently.

Ultimately, Justice Innovation is the way to go today and in the future since technology is the key to all the opportunities that our society needs. We are actively involved in solving justice problems in our communities by making sustainable changes in justice.

Justice Innovation is the way to go today and in the future since technology is the key to all the opportunities that our society needs.

sharciga. Taas waxa ay keeni doontaa dad badan inay ku fahmaan sida ay xuquuqdooda uraadsan lahaayeen iyo meelaha ay ka raadsan lahaayeen. Waana ku guuleysanay qeyb ahaan oo dad badan ayaan gaarnay oo markoodii hore aan xitaa wax xog iyo ogaal ba aanan ka haysan adeegyada garsoorka iyo sidii ay uraadan lahaayeen caddaalada.

Waxaan aaminsanahay in shansanno kadib aan noqon doonno shirkaddii ugu sareeysa dalka taas oo bixisa guud ahaan adeegyada sharci iyada oo lajaanqaadeysa tiknoolajiyadda casriga ah ee sii kobcaysa marba marka ka dambaysa. Waxaan rajeynayaa inaan baahi tirno ku dhuwad 4 milyan qof oo Muqdisho ku nool.

Waxaan rajeyneynaa oo himiladayada ah, inaan noqonno hormuudka adeegyada Tiknoolajiyada Sharciga ee Gobolka Banaadir, sidoo kale inaan ka shaqeyno sidii ay macaamisheennu ku heli lahaayeen adeegyo sharci oo heer sare ah iyada oo dadka loogu adeegaayo si hufan.

Ugu dambeyntii, Hal-abuurnimada Caddaaladda waa dariiqa maanta, iyo mustaqbalka tan iyo markii tignoolajiyadu fure u noqotay guud ahaan fursadaha jira iyo sida ay bulshadeennu ay ugu baahi qabto. Waxaanu si firfircoon uga qaybqaadanaynaa xallinta dhibaatooyinka caddaaladeed ee ka jira bulshooyinkeenna iyada oo aan sameyneeno isbaddelo lataaban karo oo xagga cadaaladda ah.



Hilliye Co-Founders Salma (L) and Abdirizak (R) during the Justice Entrepreneurship School Programme sessions in Kenya.



OUR DONORS, COLLABORATORS & PARTNERS OF 2022



Supporting Innovation in Rwanda

A chat with Marloes Van Fulpen

Kindly share with us an introduction on who you are and the role you play at the Dutch Embassy of Rwanda.

My name is Marloes van Fulpen. I joined the Dutch Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda in July 2021 and I'm responsible for our justice and rule of law project portfolio in Rwanda.

What was the Embassy's motivation behind supporting justice innovation in Rwanda?

The Netherlands has been a longstanding partner of Rwanda in its aim to develop a modern and professional justice sector. Over the past 28 years the partnership evolved from very practical support (rehabilitating justice institutions, construction of prison facilities and courtrooms) to strengthening capacity and institution building (training of judges, lawyers, registrars, etc.), just to name a few elements of

our broad partnership. Many impactful results have been achieved together with both government, judiciary and civil society partners.

One of the outstanding examples actually is a justice innovation that came about through a partnership between the civil society organisation Legal Aid Forum and the tech company Viamo: the 845 platform. The platform provides free legal aid services to the entire population in Rwanda and its easily accessible by mobile phone. It's just one of the good examples of how the private sector can team up with other justice stakeholders to improve access to quality justice.

The Netherlands is currently transitioning its partnership with Rwanda from aid to trade. The work of the Hiil Innovation Hub comes at the perfect time to bridge our previous and future work. I'm very much

Our Donors

We are honoured to have worked with different donors, and entrepreneur support organisations in the startup ecosystem, who have been instrumental in making our programmes a success. We have partners representing different regions in Africa and globally, who we attribute 2022's success to their unwavering support.

This year in particular, we had the opportunity to work with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Rwanda and in Somalia, as well as the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs on various programmes held in Kenya,

Somalia and Rwanda. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored programmes in Kenya, while the Embassies sponsored programmes in Rwanda and Somalia. We had a chat with Marloes Van Fulpen, who is the Representative at the Netherlands Embassy in Rwanda, to get a better understanding of their work in justice over the years as they officially transition to support trade in the region.



convinced that there are start-ups in Rwanda who are able to find innovative, sustainable, private sector driven, solutions for justice challenges in the country (and beyond!).

What is your vision for justice innovation in Africa?

The beauty and added value of the private sector is that it is much more able and free to take risks that governments or civil society actors sometimes cannot take. Surely these risks don't always lead to success, but if they do, like the 845-platform just mentioned, justice entrepreneurs can fill gaps that others might not be able to. And if done well, it can be scaled up and sustained for a long time. In general, much more attention can be paid to the role of the private sector in our aim to have access to justice for all.

What has been your experience so far in meeting and interacting with justice entrepreneurs from Rwanda?

So far, I have been lucky to meet a few enthusiastic justice entrepreneurs during the Justice Innovation Circle. It is inspiring to engage with these young entrepreneurs who strongly believe there are ways to make this world a better place and, in SDG-terms, leave no one behind. A broad range of challenges and innovations were discussed and it was amazing to have justice and law experts engage with the private sector to find ways to work together. We should absolutely strengthen these types of partnerships and I am happy that Hiil is driving this in Rwanda.

Collaborators

Partnerships are communities in their own right. To bring together all relevant actors is not an easy task as this requires having around one table with not only different government institutions but also social partners, entrepreneurs, NGOs, representatives of the civil society and many more. This year, we've had the pleasure of working with and partnering with different professionals that have helped make our programmes a success! Here are some of the players in the ecosystem that supported and continue to support our programmes:



AWIL OSMAN

As a CEO and cofounder, Awil Osman is a pioneer at the startup tech ecosystem in Somalia. He is an innovation expert & a serial entrepreneur with more than 7+ years of experience designing and developing acceleration & incubation programs, boot camps, and training for startups in East Africa.

As the CEO of Irise Hub, the first innovation hub in Somalia, he has supported more than 150 businesses and startups and implemented programs across Somalia. Additionally, he has also worked in the AU-UN Information Support Team, which engaged a wider range of stakeholders in support of the AU / UN mission, and worked to create a positive narrative about the peace and state building process in Somalia. Osman supported us in training startups and different teams in the Somali region through the Jenga Haki Programme and the Justice Entrepreneurship School.



ODUNOLUWA LONGE

Odunoluwa Longe is a venture & technology lawyer passionate about entrepreneurship, innovation and social change, and works in the intersection of these passions. Additionally, Odun is the CO-founder of DIY Law, a startup that works to create access to legal by making legal more transparent, simple and affordable.

As a founder and operator of DIY Law, Odun has developed deep capacity and over a decade of experience in operations & project management, organisational development and stakeholder/people management. Odun held a Masterclass with Jenga Haki Participants on pitching and later also joined the jury in assessing teams during the Jenga Haki Festival- Rwanda Edition.



ALBERT KIMANI

Albert has over 10 years' experience Start-Up support and advisory in East Africa and is currently Head of Programs at Power Learn Project and advisory support at Ygap.

A Key component of his work over the years has been to support start-ups design products and systems to grow their efficiency and effectiveness in their respective ecosystems. This involved helping enterprises understand their markets/ customers, helping enterprises refine their MVPs and their Value Proposition. During our Jenga Haki programme, Albert trained teams in Kenya and Rwanda on Human Centred Design



KWAME OGA YEBOAH

Kwame is a seasoned entrepreneur, with a passion for solving problems through collaboration and technology. He is currently the Cofounder and Head of product of Inclusive Innovations, a platform that aims to connect Africans to global opportunities using their financial Identities, by building tools that use identity data to enable financial and regulatory institutions onboard and verify identities of individuals and businesses across Africa.

Kwame participated as a trainer during the Jenga Haki Programme where he trained the teams in Kenya and Rwanda on Product Development and User testing.



VINCENT OWINO

Vincent is an experienced Technical Manager with a history of working in the information technology and services industry. He is currently the Chief Technology Officer at Upesy World, a platform that brings together top emergency service providers and their emergency response services in security, ambulance, and roadside assistance in order to connect them to people that need these services.

During the Justice Entrepreneurship School Bootcamp in Kenya, Vincent shared his inspiring startup story with entrepreneurs and offered tips for surviving various phases in the startup journey.



**MERCY
KAMANDE**

Mercy is an experienced, passionate communications and brand-building professional with over 7 years of extensive work in marketing. Adept in formulation and development of insight-driven communication and marketing strategies, Mercy has headed Centum Investment's Marketing department as well as helping entrepreneurs build strong strategies through various programmes like the Y-Gap Accelerator.

In 2022, Mercy joined the Hiil Justice Accelerator as a mentor and has continuously helped in supporting the participants in Kenya and Rwanda.



Y-GAP

Partners



Y-Gap believes that business can be a force for good, and that entrepreneurship is key to solving the most challenging social and environmental problems facing our world today. But for this to happen, the world's diversity must be represented in creating these solutions and the systems that enable them to succeed. Y-Gap challenges inequalities in order to make entrepreneurship more inclusive.

Since 2013, Y-Gap Kenya has supported almost 200 impact ventures across 21 counties in Kenya. While our support to entrepreneurs' cuts across all sectors, we have recently made some strategic choices around the evolution of our approach, the work we do and the impact we want to make over the next few years. As such, our future looks towards breaking down the barriers faced by 'underserved' entrepreneurs: those closely connected to a

social or environmental issue who use business as a tool for change in three key areas: Climate change, Gender and Digitization. Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events across the globe, negatively impacting entire sectors, disrupting people's lives and livelihoods. It is a real threat to the vital work our entrepreneurs lead and the communities they serve.

Whilst we support entrepreneurs to leverage digital tools, services and markets, we also know that in certain contexts, structural barriers still exist, such as unequal access to digital infrastructure. With the global ecosystem being dominated by male-run programs that often fail to attract women and accommodate their needs, these barriers are

often higher for women entrepreneurs. Despite the challenges facing them, female founders tend to produce more revenue than their male counterparts and are also more likely to invest their profits back to their family and community.

At Y-Gap, we are always learning, hence refining the value the Y-Gap Kenya community can create in climate mitigation and adaptation. Understanding that technology can drive financial and market access for entrepreneurs in a resilient way if accessible to all, we are working to address digital inequalities and break down the barriers. With the promise of what can be achieved with a stronger focus on women, we will enhance their full participation in the economy. Yes! We are great believers that impact entrepreneurs are the ones closest to these problems and should be the ones driving and leading meaningful solutions.



50 years and beyond: KITUO's journey in promoting access to justice

Kituo cha Sheria (hereinafter "KITUO"), as an organisation, is deeply intertwined with Kenya's struggle for human rights, access to justice, democracy and good governance. Since its establishment in July 1973, KITUO has become a force to reckon with in human rights circles locally, nationally, regionally and internationally. KITUO was founded by prominent and now senior members of the legal fraternity. The organisation began by providing direct legal aid services to vulnerable and indigent communities mostly from informal settlements. Community-based paralegals were trained to serve their communities as first responders to justice challenges.

Every year, KITUO directly reaches over 6,000 people with legal aid services nationwide. On the other hand, over 5 million Kenyans annually are reached indirectly through community

outreaches. Despite being the oldest human rights organisation in Kenya, East, Central and the Horn of Africa, KITUO has readily adapted to a dynamic environment. Her innovation has impacted on the mode of delivery of legal empowerment services and the ideological underpinnings and approaches to justice. We now highlight some of the achievements.

Firstly, KITUO has engaged in strategic litigation that has impacted jurisprudence. Some landmark cases include: the recognition of the right to internet for all, State responsibility to safeguard against climate change, the prisoners' right to vote and the freedom of movement for refugees. Secondly, KITUO pioneered legal empowerment through paralegalism since the 1970s for community organising and advocacy. Now, KITUO coordinates an extensive grassroots national network of community and prison paralegals who work closely with the over 700 volunteer advocates registered under its scheme. Thirdly, KITUO has

developed innovations e.g., the M-Haki platform, an SMS platform through which legal inquiries are shared and responded to within 48 hours. The innovation was developed in 2015 with technical support from HiIL and later funded by the Netherlands Embassy in Kenya. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, KITUO set up an ICT centre for ICT support for litigants. Fourthly, KITUO has taken the lead on continental initiatives to promote access to justice in Africa. As a founding member of the African Centre of Excellence for Access to Justice and E. Africa Regional Anchor of the Legal Empowerment Network, KITUO has collaboratively advocated for people driven justice.

As KITUO turns 50 years in the new year, a critical milestone will be achieved in the longstanding journey and commitment to access to justice. In achieving this, KITUO will promote people-driven justice approaches in its programmes whilst advocating for similar methodologies within state and non-state actors.



Driving Growth Within the Kenyan Startup Ecosystem

The ecosystem has made tremendous strides within the last year. The environment has thrived despite the increasing challenges of funding, the pandemic and even the political atmosphere.

ASSEK's obligation to represent the entrepreneurial ecosystem and promote networking among stakeholders only increases as the association seeks to bring about an entrepreneurial economic breakthrough in Kenya. It is with this in mind that the association continues to drive growth within the Kenyan startup ecosystem through its mandate: Policy, Internationalisation, Collaboration, Empowerment and Capacity building.

On a national Level, ASSEK continues to strategically align its goal for this year with the Big 4 Agenda. In the first half, they have established partnerships

with pertinent governmental organisations like the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA), Kenya Technopolis Development Authority (KOTDA), and the Ministry of East Africa Community and Regional Development Department of Business Reforms and Transformation to ensure consistency.

ASSEK has had to prioritise effective data mapping in their strategic objectives for the year in order to be able to collaborate with the government and other pertinent parties. The recent Digitization Project has allowed us to carry out a nationwide data mapping exercise for Entrepreneurship Support Organizations (ESOs). The project has had a particular focus on the digitization capabilities and gaps in knowledge, investors, and market access through digitalization of their processes in light of the COVID 19 pandemic consequences. The

findings of this study will help ASSEK and other stakeholders create and implement ESO capacity-building projects with a digital focus to ensure better support for entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, the WIDU Diaspora Remittance Project has also been at the forefront of ASSEK's work in this most recent half of 2022. This project, funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), uses diaspora remittances to promote small scale start-ups and micro-enterprises through diaspora remittance, grants, business coaching, and mentorship. The project has reached significant milestones in the previous quarter, with 270 entrepreneurs already signed up for the program. A total of more than 30 million Kenyan shillings have been invested in 141 entrepreneurs. In the upcoming months, we anticipate welcoming

more entrepreneurs to the WIDU platform in order to achieve economic breakthroughs and sustainability in Kenya.

Additionally, ASSEK has been able to expose the ecosystem to a global stage with partners like Zayed Sustainability Prize, GITEX, and Agorize, allowing them to benchmark with other efforts in innovation and entrepreneurship. Its members and a variety of entrepreneurs have been able to learn the art of storytelling and pitching through these workshops and events in order to strategically stand out before investors and large organisations.

As we almost conclude the year, ASSEK continues to strengthen its members with a growing network of more than 60 innovation hubs with expertise in fields like Agri-tech, health-tech, and assistive-tech, among others. Through a variety of initiatives, including the elections, workshops on capacity building, member hangouts and annual gala, ASSEK is able to add value to member ESOs with an intention of driving growth in the ecosystem.



AFRILABS

AfriLabs, the largest network of Africa-based technology and innovation hubs has birthed two (2) ground-breaking initiatives: a white paper that outlines innovation policy areas for African Governments to contemplate and a digital platform that unites all the stakeholders in Africa's innovation ecosystem under one umbrella. These came about to sustain AfriLabs' policy advocacy work, building on the network's next Ten-Year Strategy, previous projects and

advocacy initiatives targeting hubs, startups, Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), which are the engine of growth for most African countries.

As a thought leader in Africa's innovation economy, AfriLabs has articulated ten (10) policy pathways to promote digital skills for inclusion & employment; encourage entrepreneurship and startups through legislation; create an enabling environment to attract investments; adopt pro-innovation tax policies; enable an inclusive digital payments ecosystem; commit to AfCFTA and open intra-Africa digital trade; preserve Digital Rights and Access to digital infrastructure; promote innovative uses of data; build R&D capacity and protect IP; and simplify public procurement for innovation. The AfriLabs Policy Pathways highlights the voices of entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs and hubs across Africa on the ten (10) policy priorities all parties (governments, multilateral organisations, development agencies and private businesses) must address in order to establish a framework that will foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and the digital economy for job creation, economic growth, and prosperity throughout Africa.

In addition to the above, as part of the digital policy to connect even more people, AfriLabs AfriConnect platform, powered by modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social engagement algorithms will be a true reflection of One Africa vision. AfriConnect will be one place with the ability for startups, hubs, corporates, Government Agencies, NGOs and other ecosystem stakeholders to connect, network, collaborate, learn, share and transact. In future, this will transform into a marketplace, intending to bridge the divide between African communities, the technology & innovation ecosystem, trade & research while fostering accredited information sharing.

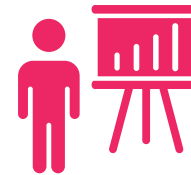
Initiatives such as the pioneering policy pathways and all-encompassing digital platform are some of the reasons why a network like AfriLabs will continue to remain relevant to business owners who care about thriving in Africa's economic climate. Founded in 2011, with a mission to support innovation hubs and their communities to raise high potential entrepreneurs that will stimulate economic growth and social development in Africa, AfriLabs has become the largest and most diverse community of technology hubs, entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs on the continent. It has an ever-increasing coverage and membership of over 370 technology and innovation hubs across 52 African countries and the diaspora; and a broader community of over 1 million entrepreneurs, developers, entrepreneurs and startups.

Read more on the innovation policy areas and AfriConnect by visiting AfriLabs website: <https://afrilabs.com/>

FOSTERING INNOVATION IN 2023

At Hiil we believe in a pragmatic approach that incorporates justlers, partners and other stakeholders in creating user-friendly justice. The new year is just round the corner, and so are our new year goals! In 2023, we plan to increase access to justice more than ever by supporting more justice startups, engaging more stakeholders and inspiring more potential entrepreneurs. How can you get involved?

Programmes



Every year we run the Hiil Justice Accelerator, the Justice Entrepreneurship School and the Jenga Haki Programme for entrepreneurs at different stages in their businesses. Through these programmes we are able to support different justice entrepreneurs through mentorship, coaching and funding. Would you like to participate? Email us at **justinnovateea@hiil.org** and we will match you with the right programme fit for your business.

Partnerships



We're always on the lookout for new partnerships in different sectors! This year we've had the opportunity to partner with organisations like Y-Gap Kenya, Africa Law and Tech Network and many more. In the coming year we seek to spread our wings to reach more entrepreneurs in our region and beyond. Would you be interested in partnering with us? Send us an email at **justinnovateea@hiil.org**

Support



Supporting justice innovation requires mentors, business trainers and different sectors coming together to ensure progress in access to justice. In the coming year, we hope to engage more with leaders in the business, justice and technology sectors that can help us support more justice entrepreneurs in Africa. Would you like to support our work? Email us at **justinnovateea@hiil.org**

Funding

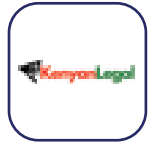


In the coming year, we'd like to expand our operations to more countries in East Africa, to support more entrepreneurs which would require a lot of resources. Would you like to support our work financially and be part of the change needed in the justice sector? Together, we can reach our 2030 goal of helping 50 million people access affordable justice in record time and because of it, change the lives of millions. Please send an email to **eric.kariuki@hiil.org** for more information on how you can help.

Kenya: Start Up Profiles



The DR Hub is a hybrid centre that offers swift and affordable mediation and arbitration services to majorly solve family disputes. The Dispute Resolution Hub is supported by the equity shareholders of Full Circle Centre. For more information, visit; <https://fullcirclecentre.com/drh/about-us/>



Kenyan Legal believes that all SMEs should be able to afford legal services hence they assist the enterprises access legal help while reducing instances of litigation. For more information; visit <https://kenyanlegal.com/>



Lipa Safe is a platform that offers escrow payment services to online transactions. For more information; visit <https://lipasafe.com>



Civic voices is a public participation platform that informs, involves and engages common citizens in policy and law making processes. Through their mobile platform, they work with governments, donor partners and civil society organisations to achieve more inclusive and meaningful public participation. For more information; visit <https://www.civicvoices.app>



Vibranium ID performs Blockchain based automatic identity verification to combat internet fraud during transactions. For more information, visit; <http://app.vibranium.id>



Netsheria International is a platform that provides commercial documentation and legal aid services to startups as well as trainings. They also offer online legal consultation and review of legal documents of these startups. For more information; visit <https://netsheria.com/>



Alatpres is an emergency response service that enhances public safety by sharing safety concerns or emergencies that arise to the public as well as the authorities. For more information; visit <https://www.alatpres.com>



Ace Litigator is an online litigation database that contains legal documents for courts or tribunals. They aim to make sure every dispute is well represented with the appropriate and well-researched litigation documents. For more information; visit: <https://acelitigator.com/>



Instruct is a digital service that connects lawyers with clients and provides legal information. Instruct aims to achieve legal inclusivity, particularly among women. For more information; visit: <http://instruct.co.ke>



Fine Print Legal is an online public participation platform that provides information to its users about different policies that are drafted and get feedback from the public regarding their legislation and implementation. For more information; visit: <https://fineprint.or.ke/>

Rwanda: Start Up Profiles



BIT Support Limited seeks to provide an Online and Offline Web Based management system (Called Smart Business Manager - SBM) that monitors and manages the essential areas of the business. For more information, visit; www.bits.rw



Stand for them is an organisation that helps vulnerable people in the society by creating an automated reporting hardware system that helps illiterate and disabled people to report violence cases. For more information; visit www.standforthem.herokuapp.com



Vuga UKire Initiative connects therapists with clients online, create awareness and offer dispute resolution services to resolve family disputes. For more information; visit www.vugaukire.com



Yegogate is an online platform that allows customers to review businesses and report instances (cases) of poor customer service in order to obtain justice. For more information; visit www.yegogate.com



KUMIRA Software is a USSD-based and WEB-Based system for helping people to report crimes to the local government and get replies via the system. For more information, visit; www.worldsoft.rw/kumira



Santech is a startup that aims to improve business productivity and transparency of casual workers by automating records and reports. For more information; visit www.santechrwanda.com/E-visitors



IgiTREE is an automated website/phone application, that helps reunite families that separated due to different circumstances. For more information; visit www.igitree.com



Citizen Justice System is a website that records cases from administration officers digitally and allows the public to follow up easily from the platform. For more information; visit: www.justicesystem.iyanjye.com



Ihugure Chatbot helps people access factual legal information on their phones. Their goal is to make justice information more accessible. For more information; visit: www.ihugure.herokuapp.com/

Somali: Start Up Profiles



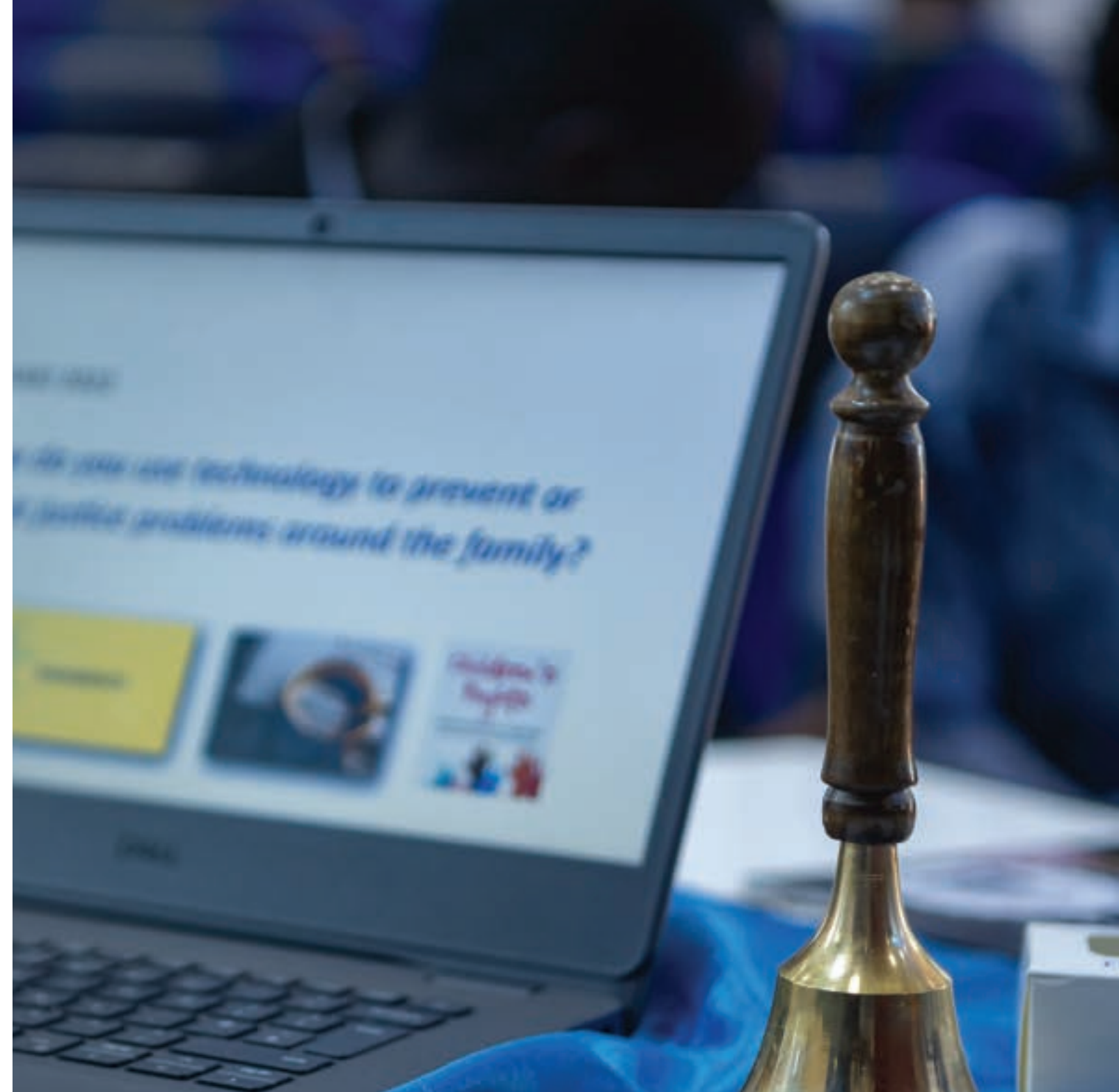
Hiiliye Legal Services is an online platform for virtual access to, and provision of legal services based in Somalia. It is the first company that has been established in Somalia. We provide our clients with accessible, user friendly and affordable legal services to make it easier for people to get justice. <https://hiiliye.so/>



Xalgoob Mediation is a mediation and Dispute resolution centre that provides different methods of alternative dispute resolution, especially for family disputes, in Banadir Region, Somalia. <https://xalgoob.com/>



Easyway Legal Insurance is a legal insurance company that provides legal services in Hargeisa, Somaliland through premiums.



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