

# FIDA AFRICA REGIONAL REPORT

Presented By:

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# FLAT AFRICA MAP

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## Acknowledgement & Appreciation:

- 01** Honorable President & Exco Members, FIDA World-wide;
- 02** Distinguished Honorary Life President, FIDA World-wide;
- 03** Respected Past International & Regional Executive Members;
- 04** Esteemed CVPs/National Executives, Elders & Members, FIDA Country Chapters;
- 05** Respected Delegates.

- In Africa, a continent marked by diversity in cultures, legal systems, and socio-economic contexts, significant strides have been made by FIDA Country Chapters towards actualizing FIDA's mission of promoting, protecting and preserving the rights, interests and well-being of women, children and other vulnerable members of the society, as well as enhancing access to justice.
- As we all know, the pursuit of justice is a fundamental human right, vital for the enhancement of individual dignity, the promotion of equitable societies, and the sustainable development of nations.
- The Country Reports of the various active chapters (available at <https://fidaafrica.org>) namely: FIDA Nigeria, Uganda, Cameroun, South Africa, Cote D'Ivoire, Zanzibar & Ghana, illuminate some of these achievements while also addressing the systemic challenges that persist within the operational environment.

- Over the past few years, FIDA in collaboration and partnership with various stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, and international partners, have made concerted efforts to advocate for legal reforms, cultural and behavioural changes that resonate with the needs of marginalized communities.
- This advocacy has led to the implementation of innovative legal frameworks that not only improve the accessibility of legal services but also facilitate behavioural change towards justice and legal rights.
- Noteworthy good practices have emerged across the region, showcasing successful models of legal aid and education programs that empower individuals to assert their rights and navigate legal systems.
- Despite these advancements, significant structural barriers remain. Issues such as inadequate funding, poverty, cultural stigma and insecurity continue to hinder the full actualization of our mission and access to justice for many.

# Key Achievements & Strategies Towards Enhancing Access To Justice (1/2)

## Membership Drive

- ✓ With a firm belief that there is strength in numbers, the Regional Vice Presidents embarked on a membership drive across the region aimed at resuscitating moribund branches and admitting new members.
- ✓ They initiated serious talks with Female Lawyers' Associations in South Africa, Liberia, Senegal, Cote D'Ivoire and Ethiopia.
- ✓ There were some positive outcomes from the engagements with South Africa, Cote D'Ivoire and Ethiopia as evidenced in their active participation in the Regional Congress held in Abuja, Nigeria in mini-Congress 2023, alongside older countries like Nigeria, Cameroun, Uganda, Ghana and Zanzibar, as well as in the November organized by Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) in November 2023.

Moved by the same passion, guided by the same spirit and united in focus and determination, FIDA Africa Country Chapters adopted the following strategies towards enhancing access to justice:

### Membership Development:

Continuous Legal Education, Training, & Re-training of members for an up-to-date knowledge of the law and to strengthen their skills in advocacy, negotiation, mediation and legal representation.

### Advocacy for Legal Reform, Cultural & Behavioral Change:

FIDA has continued to play a crucial role in lobbying for legal and cultural reforms that promote gender equality and protect women's rights. This includes advocating for laws, traditions and behaviours that eliminate discriminatory practices and enhance women's legal standing.

# Key Achievements & Strategies Towards Enhancing Access To Justice (2/2)

## Legal Aid & Education:

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- Free representation for indigent women;
- FIDA organized community outreach programs, workshops and seminars to educate citizens, especially women, about the law and their rights.
- **Development of Educational Materials** - pamphlets, and online resources that explain legal rights and processes in simple and relatable language.
- **Paralegal Capacity Building** - training of paralegals to provide support, especially in rural or under-served areas.

All these strategies empowered women to assert their rights and seek justice effectively.

## Sharing Best Practices:

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- **Pro Bono Services** – running weekly pro bono legal clinics specifically addressing the needs of women and marginalised communities who cannot afford legal representation;
- Representing and supporting women in leadership through our Strategic Litigation initiative;
- Recruiting Female Law Undergraduates as associate FIDA members;
- Engaging men and boys as partners & gender champions in the fight against gender inequality, discrimination and gender-based violence;
- Adoption of schools, maternity and children's wards by FIDA Branches;
- Vigorous Media Engagement.

## Key Power Metrics (KPM) (1/4)

- To comprehensively capture the enormous work done by country chapters and track the impact of FIDA's activities across women, child, and family legal support, policy-making, and pro bono cases, FIDA Africa Regional Vice Presidents proposed to the Country Vice Presidents to adopt some specific key Power Metrics (KPM), including digital engagement.
- In their considered view, by incorporating digital metrics such as website visitors, social media engagement, and participation in online events, FIDA can better understand and measure the reach and impact of its work.
- These metrics should provide a holistic view of how effectively FIDA's initiatives support women, children, and families while raising awareness of key legal issues.

**We are glad to report that the CVPs of the various Country Branches positively responded to the RVPs' proposal and submitted their statistics based on the following KPMs:**

### 1. Legal Services and Casework:

- Total number of pro bono cases handled.
- Total number of women, children and indigent persons represented.

### 2. Seminars, Webinars, and Training for Lawyers:

- **Number of Trainings Conducted:** Number of training events (seminars, webinars, in-person sessions) held.
- **Attendance and Participation:** Number of participants.



### 3. Policy Advocacy and Legal Reform:

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- **Legislative Changes Influenced:** Titles and Number of new laws, reforms, or policies influenced or passed due to FIDA's advocacy (e.g., enhanced child protection or domestic violence laws).
- **Policy Recommendations/Statements Made:** Number of policy papers or recommendations/statements submitted to government or international bodies.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Number of consultations and meetings with government officials, lawmakers, and community leaders.
- **Public Campaign Engagement:** Measure the reach of public campaigns advocating for legal rights.

### 4. Support Opportunities for Beneficiaries:

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- **Number of Women and Children Supported:** Beneficiaries who received legal aid, social, or counselling and mediation services.
- **Economic Empowerment Initiatives:** Number of women supported with economic empowerment programs.

# Key Power Metrics (KPM) (3/4)

## 5. Digital Footprint and Engagement:

- **Website Visitors:** Number of visitors to FIDA's website, annually.
- **Social Media Followers:** Number of followers across FIDA's digital platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn).
- **Number of Digital Enquiries:** Number of enquiries (emails, calls) made through digital platforms (website forms, social media) seeking legal assistance or information.
- **Conversion Rate from Social Media to Legal Services:** Number of people who transitioned from engaging with FIDA's digital platforms to receiving legal services.
- **FIDA-Related Video Views:** Number of views and engagement on videos related to FIDA's work on platforms like YouTube, Facebook, or Instagram.
- **Event Participation via Digital Platforms:** Number of participants joining webinars, virtual events, or live streams hosted by FIDA.
- **Social Media Campaign Reach:** Total number reached through digital/traditional campaigns promoting women's rights or legal awareness.

## 6. Human Resource Development:

- **Lawyers Engaged in Pro Bono Work:** Membership strength & Number of lawyers providing pro bono services.
- **Paralegal Capacity Building:** Number of paralegals trained to provide support, especially in rural or underserved areas.

# Key Power Metrics (KPM) (4/4) - Fact Sheet

KEY POWER METRICS	Nigeria	Uganda	Cameroun	Ghana	South Africa	Zanzibar
<b>Legal Services and Casework:</b>						
Total no. of pro bono cases handled.	6990	70314	11	1708	1320	31
Total no. of women, children and indigent persons represented.	6873	70312	18	1708	169	27
<b>Seminars, Webinars, and Training for Lawyers:</b>						
No. of Trainings Conducted.	195	322	23	1	373	88
No. of participants.	7230	1140505	8292	10	450	2960
<b>Policy Advocacy and Legal Reform:</b>						
<b>Legislative Changes Influenced:</b> Titles and Number of new laws.	15	0	0	1	3	4
<b>Policy Recommendations/ Statements Made:</b> Total Number	18	0	3	1	15	2
<b>Stakeholder Engagement:</b> Total Number.	100	0	7	21	49	36
<b>Public Campaign Engagement:</b> Measure the reach: <b>Direct</b>	1000000	0	52200	525	1000000	40000
<b>Indirect</b>	5000000	0	3681950			
<b>Support Opportunities for Beneficiaries:</b>						
<b>Number of Women and Children Supported.</b>	10682	79462	681	2892	3035	11520
<b>Economic Empowerment Initiatives:</b>	0	133	0		1018	70
<b>Digital Footprint and Engagement:</b>						
<b>Website Visitors:</b> Number of visitors to FIDA's website.	190000	12353	42	35,372	85	0
Number of Page Views	522000	0	0	429512	0	0
<b>Social Media Followers:</b> Number of followers across FIDA's digital platforms.	22500	22821	389	4000	39	0
<b>Number of Digital Enquiries:</b> Seeking legal assistance or information.	6400		6	870	1020	0
<b>Conversion Rate from Social Media to Legal Services</b>	960	0	6	135	52	0
<b>FIDA-Related Video Views:</b> Number of views and engagement.	232000	19557	72	246	43	0
<b>Event Participation via Digital Platforms:</b> Number of participants.	12200	7037	0	0	21	0
<b>Social Media Campaign Reach:</b> Total number reached.	1001700000	8835884	515	3000000	1480	0
<b>Human Resource Development</b>						
<b>Lawyers Engaged in Pro Bono Work:</b>						
<b>Membership Strength:</b>	6000	103	60	77	403	80
<b>Number of lawyers providing pro bono services</b>	6012	103	147	25	403	15
<b>Paralegal Capacity Building:</b> Number of paralegals trained to provide support.	543	453	102	560	1960	75

# Structural Barriers & Challenges In The Operational Environment

“

As already mentioned, significant structural barriers exist such as inadequate funding for our activities at all levels, poverty, cultural stigma and insecurity continue to hinder the full actualization of our mission and access to justice for many.

”

“

At the regional level, the financial constraint is exacerbated by a lack of clear legal status, which hampers the sourcing of funding from International Donors.

”

“

Incidentally, there is no form of financial support from FIDA International to the Regions.

”

# International, Regional & National Networking And Movement Building

**01**

Existence of a regional WhatsApp forum where issues of common interest are discussed;

**02**

Best Practices and lessons are shared;

**03**

Countries speak with one voice and issue common Statements on topical matters in various countries – eg Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya etc;

**04**

Partnerships are built across divides to promote regional cooperation and deepen continental integration;

**05**

Alliances and networks are built with other Organizations;

**06**

Movement Building across FIDA Africa Country Branches - imperative of an organized effort to create a shared identity, advocate for systemic change, support and empower one another, to address legal and social injustices.

## Congress Details:

**Theme** - MAPUTO PROTOCOL AND WOMEN IN AFRICA: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AS A VITAL TOOL FOR ACCELERATION

- Held in Abuja, Nigeria, in August 2023;
- A 202-page report has been published and submitted to the President and is available at <https://www.fidaafrica.org>

## Key Features



- Foreword, Keynote Speech, presentations and discussions on the effectiveness of the Maputo Protocol and enforcement of rights within the African Courts;
- Gender justice and the rule of law as well as the impact of technology in accelerating gender equality and economic rights;
- The importance of ICT and Digital Education;
- The role of African Institutions in making the benefits of both the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA), a reality for Africa's women and girls;
- Country Reports of the various Country Branches, highlighting their activities and achievements;
- A vibrant conversation on "The FIDA Africa of Our Dreams";
- A structured Outcome Document;
- Photo Gallery.

# FIDA APP - A Work In Progress

One of the exciting highlights of the Africa Regional Congress is the concept of the FIDA App shared during the Fireside Chat. The key components of the App are comprehensively featured in the 2023 Africa Regional Congress Report available at <https://www.fidaafrica.org>. We are glad to report that the FIDA App initiative is currently underway.

## Background/Summary of Facts

01

The concept is about creating an app for the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA);

02

An App that would guide users on how to report issues like rape, domestic violence, harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, child abuse, and other infringement of the rights of women and children;

03

The FIDA App is envisaged to serve as a vital tool in empowering women and children, particularly girls, by providing accessible legal information and support services and thereby promoting justice and safety for vulnerable individuals.

04

It is pertinent to state here that the slow pace in actualizing the regional FIDA App project is due to financial constraints. It is now imperative to escalate the initiative to a higher level.

# Conclusion – Recommendations

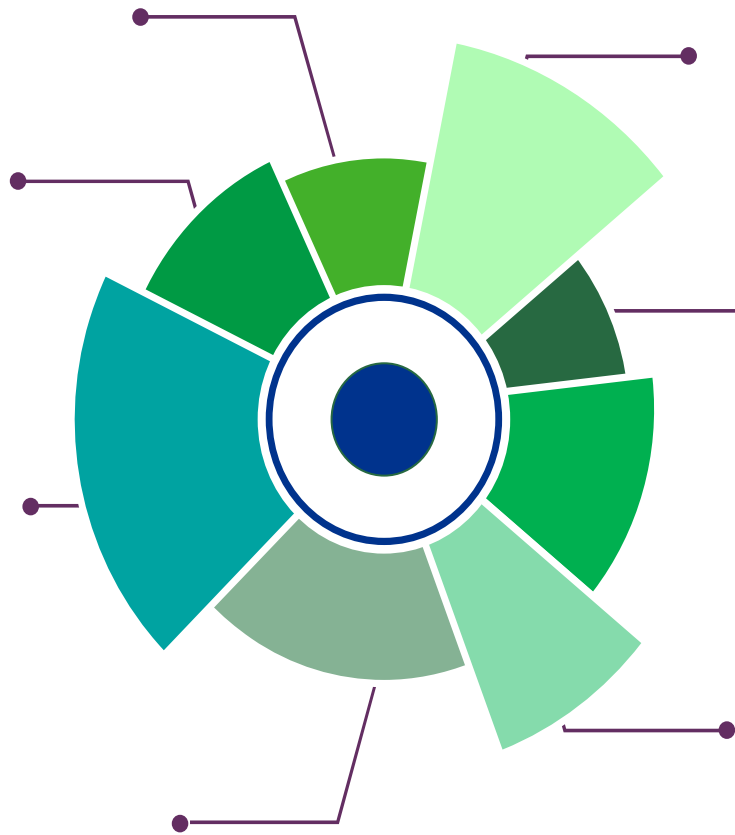
**It is important to define the legal status of the regions and strengthen them to attract funding for projects.**

Clarity of legal status is necessary for effectiveness of initiatives;

Clarity of legal status would enhance the region's credibility & allow for smoother collaboration between govt. entities, NGOs and international organizations;

Recognize & acknowledge specially, any country branch or region or office holder that meets targets/KPIs;

FIDA needs to embark on a vigorous membership drive at all levels - global, regional & national;



Membership drive, development and growth to be a basic Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for all levels of administration - global, regional & national;

Establish clearly defined responsibilities and deliverables for the various offices in the international executive (global & regional levels);

Earmark and grant a certain percentage (%) of the membership dues/annual subscriptions accruable to the International arm from a region to that particular region for its projects.

**Remarkably, it has been a worthwhile experience serving in the capacity of Regional Vice President Africa, with a team of dedicated colleagues who collaborated with one another in a classical show of proud African tradition of adorable and admirable sisterhood. God richly bless you all.**



Thank You

**Joy C. Ejim & Laura Nyirinkindi**  
Regional Vice Presidents - Africa