



Completion Report

UGA-IJM-LAW-P01, Uganda
Reporting Period: May to November 2016

Defence for widows

Budget: \$7,000 – fully funded!

Update:

This project assisted in the training of 30 Ugandan Resident State Attorneys on trial advocacy with a focus on succession-related property grabbing. Land grabs against defenceless widows are common in Uganda, with the dead husband's family or other unscrupulous actors evicting the widow and her children, even when she owns the land.



A client's house

The training was held in Kampala, Uganda in August this year. This training was a focused on enhancing technical competency and achieving appropriate sentencing in property grabbing cases. The training was delivered by an Australian Justice of the Victorian Supreme Court and two Australian barristers. All three donated their time and paid their own travel and accommodation. As well as the time for the actual training, all three spent time prior to the training becoming familiar with Ugandan legislation and rules of evidence so that the training was immediately applicable to the situations the trainees would encounter in their daily lives.

Rigorous before and after surveys and tests were taken, and there was a demonstrable improvement in knowledge and ability of all participants. Participants themselves identified the training as extremely useful. Some of the feedback includes:

To me this training has been a godsend. It has been the best in all the years. A good innovation to come to handbook. My wish is that we can have this book in each office.

This has been a defining moment in my life.

Looking forward to sharing this training with those who have not had a chance to go to this training.

This last comment is incredibly encouraging. It indicates that the results of the project will extend far beyond the 30 attorneys trained (who all came from different offices).



Trainers and participants

Our partner has a track record of identifying the bottlenecks in problems, and attorneys without proper knowledge was a key bottleneck. Another is the judiciary and training is currently being developed for the judiciary. We are looking forward to trained attorneys working with judges to improve results for defenceless widows. Thank you for your part in making this possible.