



LAWYERS OF HOPE

"Defend the cause of the poor and needy"



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Board President Message

LOH remains a committed actor in promoting access to justice and child protection in Rwanda, firmly believing that justice and opportunity must be within reach of every person, regardless of their economic circumstances.

The year 2025 deepened our conviction that legal empowerment and social protection must go hand in hand. Through our programs, we continued to walk alongside vulnerable children, families, and communities; ensuring that those most exposed to rights violations are not left without a voice or recourse.

We continue to prioritize collaborative relationships with local leaders and authorities, ensuring our initiatives are community-rooted and genuinely responsive to the needs of those we serve. These partnerships are not merely operational; they reflect a shared belief that sustainable change can only be achieved when institutions and communities work together.

This report reflects our commitment to transparency and accountability toward the people we serve, our donors, and our stakeholders. Lessons drawn from this year's implementation will continue to shape and strengthen our future programs.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our partners for their tremendous support, and I salute the dedication and professionalism of our staff and volunteers in delivering our shared noble cause.

Me SAFARI GAHIZI

President of the Board – LOH

Executive Summary

In 2025, we served over **2,000 people** through legal aid services, extended sponsorships to **500 children**, and empowered **49 families** to achieve sustainable livelihoods through our graduation model.

In 2025 we implemented our programs to address community conflicts, improve access to justice, reduce legal illiteracy, promote child well-being, prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), support teenage mothers, contribute to enhanced access to education, and strengthen child protection at the grassroots level. Interventions prioritized the most vulnerable households, particularly those affected by poverty, school dropout, and early pregnancy. Through close collaboration with local leaders, community volunteers, and partner institutions, over 2,000 direct beneficiaries were reached across Gasabo, Kicukiro, and Rulindo Districts.

Key achievements included the successful delivery of a community nutrition education program, reintegration of teenage mothers into formal and vocational education, facilitation of access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence, and the establishment of community-based support groups.

These interventions contributed to improved nutritional practices, increased school attendance, and strengthened community awareness of child rights and protection.

Despite these accomplishments, several challenges were encountered, including limited financial resources, delays in funding disbursement, and growing demand for services beyond available capacity. In some communities, persistent poverty and social stigma continued to hinder beneficiary participation, particularly among teenage mothers.

Looking ahead to 2026, plans include expanding legal empowerment and education programs to additional administrative cells, strengthening partnerships with local authorities and development partners, and enhancing monitoring and evaluation systems. The organization remains committed to transparency, accountability, and community-driven development, and looks forward to continued collaboration with stakeholders to improve the lives of vulnerable populations.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EMPOWERMENT



269

Local Leaders
Trained

194

Legal Cases
Received

641

Children reached
through campaigns

521

Community
members sensitised

In fiscal year 2025, we advanced our strategic objective of strengthening legal awareness, expanding equitable access to justice, and building community-based legal support systems for vulnerable populations. The intervention focused on increasing knowledge of fundamental rights, national laws, and legal procedures among marginalized groups, while equipping local leaders and community paralegals with practical skills to provide basic legal guidance, referrals, and dispute resolution support. Targeted beneficiaries included vulnerable children, families, prisoners, and faith-based community leaders, ensuring that legal protection reached populations most exposed to rights violations and systemic barriers to justice.

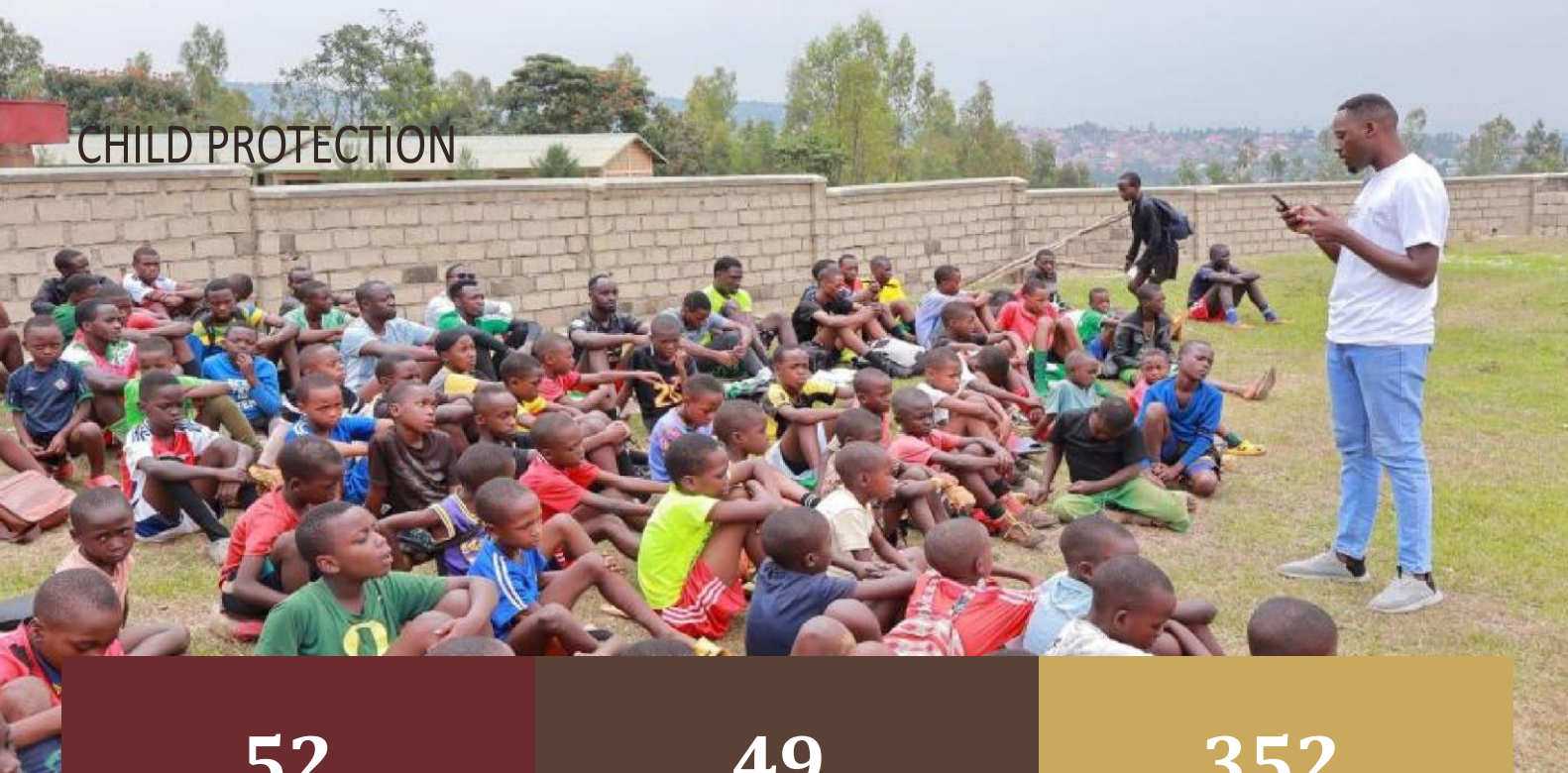
Key activities included structured legal awareness sessions for local leaders on family law, child protection legislation, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, and gender-based violence (GBV) legal frameworks, alongside the systematic reception and handling of legal cases reported by community members.

These interventions produced measurable results: 269 local leaders (including 24 pastors) were successfully trained, strengthening decentralized legal support and the prevention of rights violations; 194 legal cases were received, demonstrating increased community trust, improved visibility of legal services, and growing demand for justice support, with cases currently at different stages of resolution; and 1,162 people (including 641 children and 523 adults) participated in child rights and protection campaigns, significantly enhancing community-level awareness and preventive protection practices.

Collectively, these achievements signal strengthened grassroots legal empowerment, improved community responsiveness to rights violations, and expanded access to justice for vulnerable populations.



CHILD PROTECTION



52

Reintegrated

49

Families trained

352

Household visits

We continued our intervention to ensure that both girls and boys are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other forms of violence.

Our work focused on identifying children living on the streets and engaging them through recreational activities such as football and informal social support; tracing and reconnecting children with their families through structured reconciliation processes; increasing school engagement and enrollment among street-connected children; and improving children's overall well-being and motivation to learn. The program promoted physical and mental health through structured sport to reduce stress, build confidence, and strengthen children's readiness to actively participate in learning and social development.

Significantly, this year 52 children were successfully reintegrated from street life into their respective families, 49 families participated in farming and livelihood training to strengthen household resilience and improve family support systems, and 352 household follow-up visits were conducted, enabling continuous monitoring of child behavior, well-being, and family reintegration outcomes.

These achievements contributed to reduced street exposure among vulnerable children, strengthened family reintegration, improved child well-being, and enhanced protective community and household environments for sustainable child development.

EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP

380

School fees support

380

School materials &
uniforms

70

Vocational enrollment

501

Reached through
football program

49

Families trained

49

Families moved
above poverty line

In 2025, we focused on expanding access to education, reducing school dropout, and improving academic performance among vulnerable children and youth. The intervention aimed to enable children to enroll in and remain in school by covering tuition and essential school-related costs, while addressing key drivers of discontinuation such as poverty, early pregnancy, child labor, and family instability. Beneficiaries included vulnerable children, former street-connected children, youth, and teenage mothers. Key activities included payment of school fees and provision of scholastic materials and uniforms to reduce financial barriers to education.

Notable achievements include: 380 children supported with school fees, 380 children provided with school materials and uniforms, and 70 young people including teenage mothers enrolled in vocational training. Additionally, 501 children participated in football sessions integrating child rights education and life skills, within which 22 children were successfully reintegrated from street life into their families.

At the household level, 49 families completed income-generating activities training, and these families have since transitioned above the poverty threshold, demonstrating sustainable socio-economic improvement.

These achievements contributed to improved school access and retention, enhanced child protection, strengthened family economic stability, and increased long-term opportunities for vulnerable children and youth.

COMMUNITY PARALEGALS PROGRAM

6

Legal awareness sessions

231

Community members
reached

45

People received legal
advice

12

Cases resolved through
mediation

The Community Paralegals Program aimed to strengthen access to justice at the grassroots level by empowering trained community paralegals to provide basic legal assistance, legal education, mediation, and referral services to vulnerable and marginalized populations. The initiative focused on decentralizing legal support and improving community capacity to prevent and respond to rights violations.

Key activities included community sensitization sessions on basic laws, rights, and responsibilities, with education covering land rights, family law, gender-based violence, child protection, labor rights, and access to public services. Community paralegals provided basic legal advice and non-representational guidance to help individuals understand legal procedures, documentation requirements, and available options. The program also promoted mediation and alternative dispute resolution for minor conflicts, including family disputes, land boundary issues, debts, and neighborhood disagreements, fostering peaceful conflict resolution at the community level.

In addition, paralegals facilitated referral and accompaniment services by directing complex cases to appropriate institutions such as LOH, courts, police, and local authorities, and accompanying vulnerable clients when necessary. The program conducted six legal awareness sessions reaching more than 231 community members, provided legal advice and information to 45 individuals, successfully resolved 12 cases through mediation and alternative dispute resolution, and referred two complex cases to the LOH head office for further legal support.





ADVOCATE AFRICA CONFERENCE

responses to justice and governance challenges affecting vulnerable populations.

The Advocates Africa Conference convened Christian lawyers and faithbased leaders to promote justice, ethical leadership, and social transformation across Africa through collaboration, dialogue, and action-oriented advocacy.

The platform sought to strengthen partnerships among legal and faith actors and encourage coordinated

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The conference was successfully hosted at Kigali convention center in collaboration with the Rwanda Bar Association, bringing together legal professionals, judicial representatives, and faithbased leaders from across the continent.

The conference attracted delegates from 30 countries, fostering cross-country exchange, strengthening professional networks, and reinforcing a shared commitment to advancing justice and social transformation in Africa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the donors listed below for their generous support.
Your contributions made these achievements possible.



THE NETWORK OF LAWYERS OF HOPE IN RWANDA

Kigali, Gasabo, Kacyiru-KG 684 St, HN 73

P.O Box: 6064, Kigali-Rwanda

Tel: +250785247005

Primary Email:

lawyersofhoperwanda@gmail.com

Organization Email:

info@lawyersofhope.org.rw

www.lawyersofhope.org.rw



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