

**URURKA QAREENADA  
SOMALILAND**



**SOMALILAND LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION**

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# LEGAL AID ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR OF  
2022

REPORTED BY  
Programme Coordinator  
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Dec-31, 2022

## Introduction Background

Somaliland is yet to establish a Somaliland Bar Association; however, there is a recognized lawyers' association: the Somaliland Lawyers Association (SOLLA). SOLLA is a non-political, non-profit human rights and legal professional association that was founded in June 2004 and unites 90% of Somaliland lawyers, including law professors of Hargeisa University's faculty of law, other law colleges, legal advisors of both legislative houses, government ministries, local governments, national commercial companies, and legal consultancies of the UN and international humanitarian agencies.

SOLLA is mandated to enhance the reputation of Somaliland lawyers, improve the quality of their performance in service delivery, protect lawyers' rights, and regulate observance of their duties, including the realization of access to justice, fair and independent judiciary, respect of human rights, and promotion of legal education, and the realization of democratic and proper application of the laws. Firstly, the promotion of respect for human rights is one of the indispensable purposes of the bar (SOLLA). Secondly, the system of periodic reporting within the context of the major international human rights instruments is the associational vital element in monitoring the full and effective national implementation of international human rights standards.

SOLLA collaborates with local societal groups and the government to carry out the responsibilities and strategies for civil protection based on the community's human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the achievement of democratic and sustainable peace in Somaliland. In addition, SOLLA engages a process to review the country's existing laws and advises a process of the new legislation concerning the civil liberties and fundamental freedoms of the community, upgrading the democratic system, access justice, and fair and independent judiciary system of Somaliland.

Since its beginning, SOLLA has constantly offered legal assistance services. Free legal representation is one of the legal assistance services offered to SOLLA in all levels of Somaliland courts, including district, regional, appellate, supreme, and military courts. Mediations and legal advice are also included in the legal aid services. The SOLLA legal aid programs focused on the most vulnerable members of Somaliland's communities, including IDPs, minorities, women, children, elderly people, people with HIV/AIDS, people who were remanded or in detention, victims of human trafficking, SGBV and GBV, victims of human rights violations, and the underprivileged. More than 28,642 lawyer beneficiaries have received legal aid services from SOLLA since 2006, including advice and mediation as well as court representation. SOLLA has gradually expanded its beneficiary base.

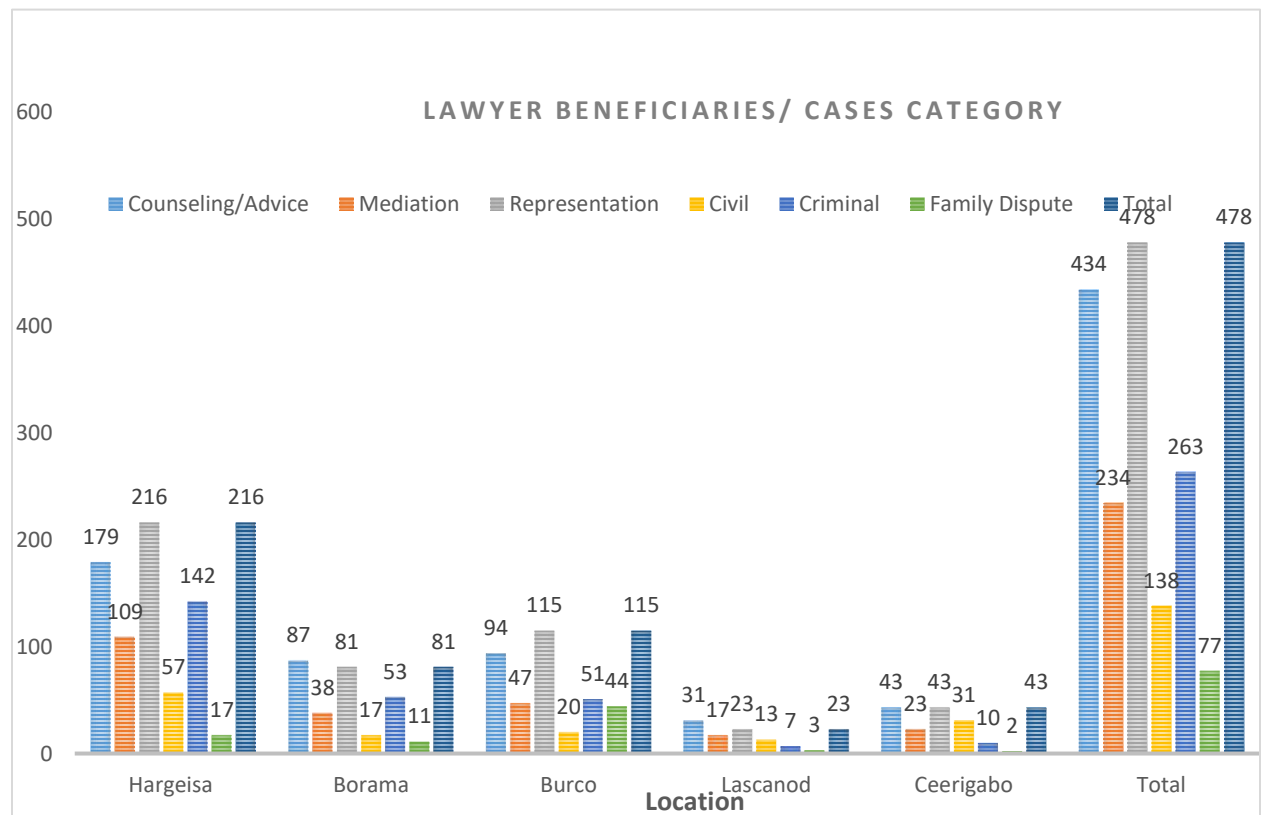
The 2022 Annual Report details the key programs under rule of law and access to justice that have been implemented, targeting particular beneficiaries within the different regions of Somaliland.

1. The first project focused on expanding access to legal and justice support. Under this objective, the SOLLA Legal Aid Program will provide target communities with free, quality legal assistance services in an effort to increase access to justice and allow citizens to address their grievances in an effective manner through the plural legal systems and processes. This program was basically SOLLA self-financing for the period of January up to August 2022.
2. The second project was the Joint Rule of Law Programme (JROLP) for Somaliland, which entails the terms of reference for the RPA of SOLLA on the basis of its implementation. Activity Result 1.3.3: Provision of free legal aid services to vulnerable people in the regions through the lawyer's association SOLLA With a particular emphasis on the vulnerable in Borama, Hargeisa, Burao, Las-Anod, and Erigavo, who were recruited in collaboration for extensive implementation by ten (10) lawyers for four (4) months from September to December, 2022, based on the provision of free legal aid services to vulnerable social groups (women, minorities, IDPs of conflict, drought, and climate, and the disabled).

### 1.1. SOLLA Self-Financing Access To Justice Legal Aid Cases For The January-August,2022

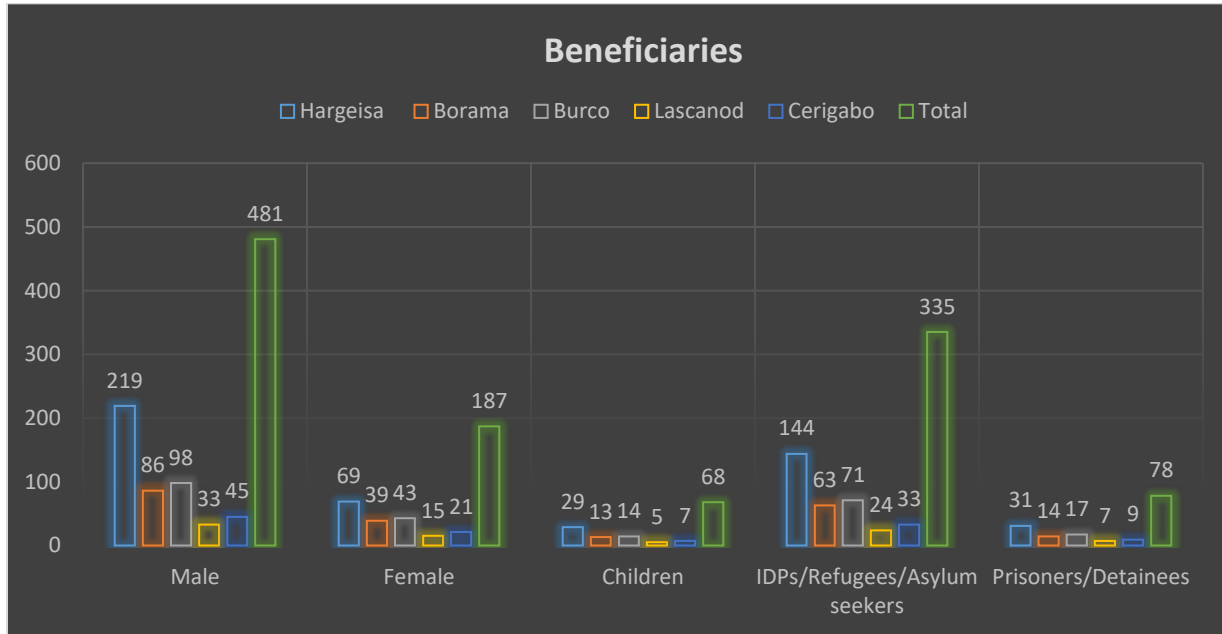
Legal help was provided to 668 clients by SOLLA legal aid attorneys, who provided 434 counseling or advice, 234 mediations, and 478 cases of representation. SOLLA served 478 by providing legal assistance with entailed categories of cases (civil law, family law, criminal law, and so on). There were 138 civil cases resolved through representation, 263 criminal cases, and 77 family disputes. (As detailed, including the aggregated registration date, in the below chart and table.

| Lawyer Beneficiaries/ Cases Category |                    |           |                |       |          |                |       |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|----------|----------------|-------|
| Location                             | Counseling /Advice | Mediation | Representation | Civil | Criminal | Family Dispute | Total |
| Hargeisa                             | 179                | 109       | 216            | 57    | 142      | 17             | 216   |
| Borama                               | 87                 | 38        | 81             | 17    | 53       | 11             | 81    |
| Burco                                | 94                 | 47        | 115            | 20    | 51       | 44             | 115   |
| Lascaanod                            | 31                 | 17        | 23             | 13    | 7        | 3              | 23    |
| Ceerigabo                            | 43                 | 23        | 43             | 31    | 10       | 2              | 43    |
| Total                                | 434                | 234       | 478            | 138   | 263      | 77             | 478   |



## Beneficiaries Categories

SOLLA supported approximately 668 vulnerable people by providing free legal assistance to profiled beneficiaries in Hargeisa, Borama, Burco, Lascanod, and Cerigabo, who were then directed to a specific provision to listen to their case and provide the necessary free counseling and advice, mediation representation, and civil, criminal, and family disputes, in which at least 668 beneficiaries on average were attended to. The traits of 481 males and 187 females are referred to as "gender." Although some of the beneficiaries were in the nature classes (68), the IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers were covered by 335, while the prisoners and detainees were granted 78. The following is a breakdown of the chart. The clients have been given reference numbers to conceal their identities. As detailed, including the aggregated regional data, are app chart and table below.



| Beneficiaries |      |        |       |          |                              |                     |
|---------------|------|--------|-------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Location      | Male | Female | Total | Children | IDPs/Refugees/Asylum seekers | Prisoners/Detainees |
| Hargeisa      | 219  | 69     | 288   | 29       | 144                          | 31                  |
| Borama        | 86   | 39     | 125   | 13       | 63                           | 14                  |
| Burco         | 98   | 43     | 141   | 14       | 71                           | 17                  |
| Lascanod      | 33   | 15     | 48    | 5        | 24                           | 7                   |
| Cerigabo      | 45   | 21     | 66    | 7        | 33                           | 9                   |
| Total         | 481  | 187    | 668   | 68       | 335                          | 78                  |

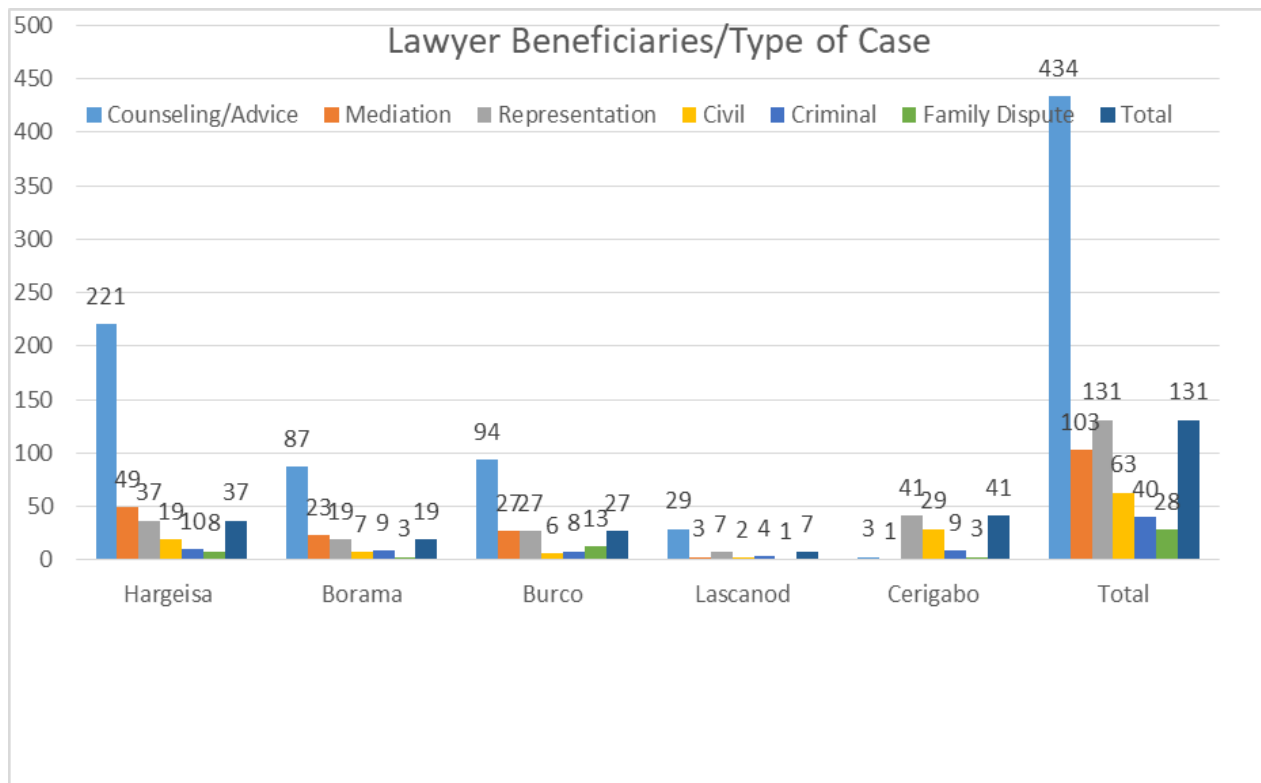
## 2.1. Joint Rule Of Law Programme (JROLP) Legal Aid Cases For The Pried Of September-October, 2022

The overall objective of the provision of free legal aid services to vulnerable people in the regions through the lawyer's association SOLLA is to promote access to justice for eligible persons and to promote public confidence in the justice system through RoL Programme funding to the provinces and territories in accordance with the terms of reference for the RPA of SOLLA for legal aid services. On the basis of that, SOLLA successfully served 668 out of 1250 expected targets, including vulnerable social groups (women, minorities, IDPs of conflict, drought, and climate, and the, disabled). SOLLA RoL Programme implementation in the months of September to October 2022 served 30% women, 10% children, 50% IDPs, and 10% convicts. With the aim of giving free legal aid to the most disadvantaged segments of society, who would often not be able to pay for it.

Hargeisa was served by 307 beneficiaries in the bases of legal aid assistance that results in the provision of summary or full service assistance on behalf of the targeted regions and districts; 129 cases were served in Barama; the eastern region of Somaliland, not limited to the; 148 cases were served in Burco, while 45 cases served in Cerigabo; and 39 cases were served in Lascanod. A total of 668 cases were resolved at the stage of counseling, advice, mediation, and representation. In Hargeisa, 37 cases were served based on 19 civil cases, 10 criminal cases, and 8 family disputes, while in Borama, 19 cases were covered (7 civil cases, 9 criminal cases, and 3 family disputes). Where the eastern regions obtained 27 cases Burco handled 6 civil cases, 8 criminal cases, and 13 family disputes, whereas Cerigabo and Lascanod handled 48 cases, 31 civil, 49 criminal, and 4 family disputes.

The aggregate data obtained from regions in lawyers' beneficiaries were based on 434 servings of legal counseling or advice, 103 mediations, and 131 cases resolved through representation, yielding a total of 668 cases across the projected targeted regions, while the 131 servings of legal assistance entailed categories of cases (civil law, family law, criminal law, and so on). There were 63 civil cases, 40 criminal cases, and 28 family disputes resolved through representation. (As detailed, including the aggregated registration date, in the below chart and table.

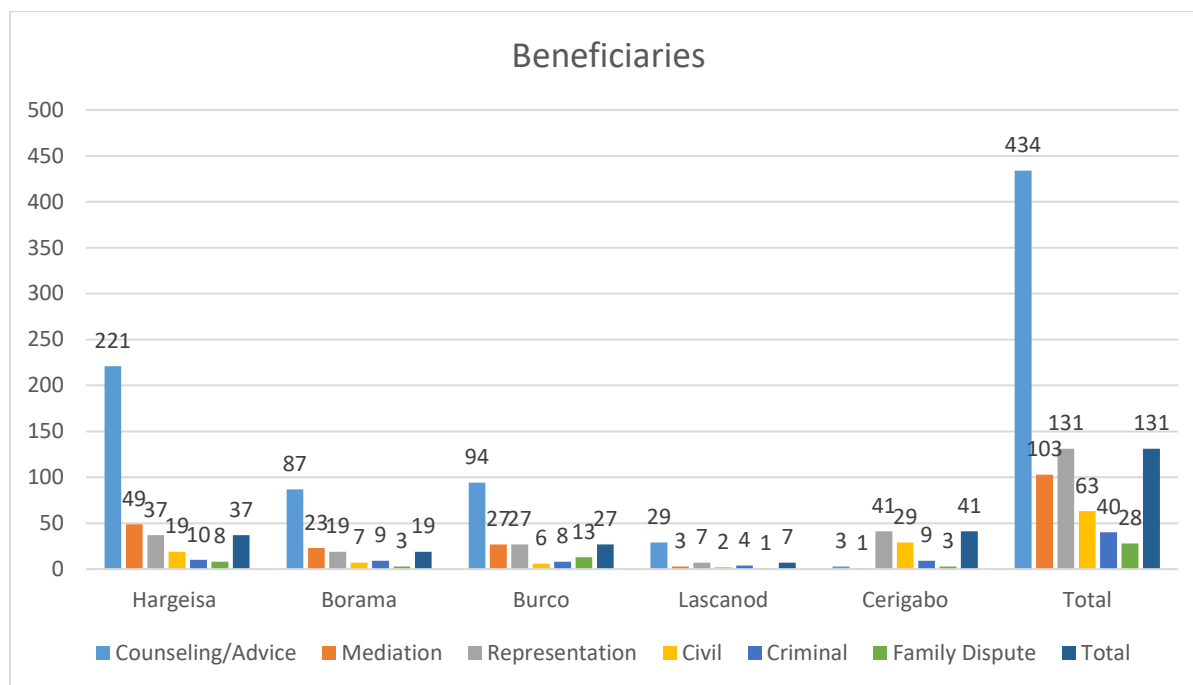
| Lawyer Beneficiaries |                   |           |                | Type of Case |          |                |       |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|----------|----------------|-------|
| Location             | Counseling/Advice | Mediation | Representation | Civil        | Criminal | Family Dispute | Total |
| Hargeisa             | 221               | 49        | 37             | 19           | 10       | 8              | 37    |
| Borama               | 87                | 23        | 19             | 7            | 9        | 3              | 19    |
| Burco                | 94                | 27        | 27             | 6            | 8        | 13             | 27    |
| Lascanod             | 29                | 3         | 7              | 2            | 4        | 1              | 7     |
| Cerigabo             | 3                 | 1         | 41             | 29           | 9        | 3              | 41    |
| Total                | 434               | 103       | 131            | 63           | 40       | 28             | 131   |



## Beneficiaries Categories

SOLLA obtained client status and category information from targeted regions and districts during the months of September and October 2022, which were assisted by counseling, advice, mediation, and court representation with the entailed categories of cases (civil law, family law, criminal law, and so on). In Hargeisa bases, 307 clients were served; those clients were: gender wise, 215 were male while 93 were female; for overall beneficiary categories, there were 31 children, 154 IDPs/refugees/asylum seekers, and 31 prisoners/detainees; similar to the Borama client categories obtained of 129 based on 90 male and 39 female with the overall clients of 13 children, 65 IDPs/refugees/asylum seekers, 13 prisoners/detained. Burco served 148 clients, including 104 males and 44 females, 15 prisoners or detainees, 14 children, and 74 IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers, while Lascanod and Cerigabo beneficiaries assisted 84 clients, including 25 females and 59 males, 41 IDPs, 8 children, and 9 prisoners.

In terms of expected results, SOLLA supported approximately 668 vulnerable people (30% women, 10% children, 50% IDPs, and 10% prisoners) in the months of September and October 2022 by providing free legal assistance to profiled beneficiaries in Hargeisa, Borama, Burco, Lascanod, and Cerigabo, who were then directed to a specific provision to listen to their case and provide the necessary free counseling and advice, mediation representation, and civil, criminal, and family disputes, in which at least 668 beneficiaries on average were attended to. The traits of 468 males and 200 females are referred to as "gender." Although some of the beneficiaries in the nature classes (66) are children, the IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers were covered by 334, while the prisoners and detainees were granted 68. The following is a breakdown of the chart. The clients have been given reference numbers to conceal their identities. The app chart and table below are as detailed as possible, including aggregated regional data.



| Beneficiaries |      |        |       |          |                                  |                         |
|---------------|------|--------|-------|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Location      | Male | Female | Total | Children | IDPs/Refugees/<br>Asylum seekers | Prisoners/<br>Detainees |
| Hargeisa      | 215  | 92     | 307   | 31       | 154                              | 31                      |
| Borama        | 90   | 39     | 129   | 13       | 65                               | 13                      |
| Burco         | 104  | 44     | 148   | 14       | 74                               | 15                      |
| Lascanod      | 27   | 12     | 39    | 4        | 19                               | 4                       |
| Cerigabo      | 32   | 13     | 45    | 4        | 22                               | 5                       |
| Total         | 468  | 200    | 668   | 66       | 334                              | 68                      |

### Case Studies

Three case studies were done to emphasize and add depth to the research on crucial components of the delivery of legal aid services, such as offered services, difficulties, expenses, and creative methods. The case studies also looked at how other participants in the justice system affect and support legal aid. The jurisdictions consented to take part after the case studies were chosen in cooperation with the SOLLA regional administrative offices. Table 1 contains summaries of the case studies.

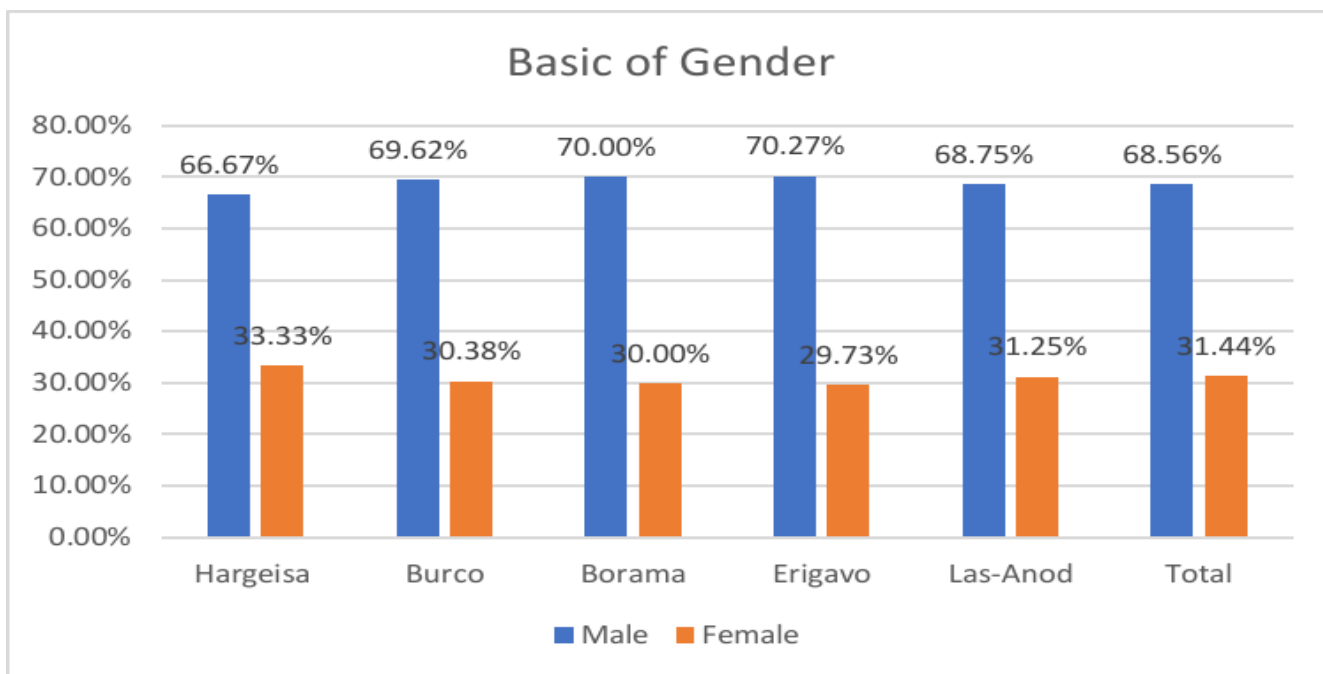
Table 1. Case Studies

| Topic  | Jurisdiction(s) | Number of Interviewees | Rationale   |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| legal aid beneficiaries disaggregated by Gender, social status and regions | Borama          | 3<br>5                 | The case study investigated how recipients of legal aid are served, taking into account their gender, social standing, and geographic location, as well as any variations in the services and manner in which they are delivered in each chosen jurisdiction. The case study took into account expenses, difficulties, and innovative techniques and recommended the legal aid system provides a cost-effective service and continues to innovate to maintain and further enhance its services  |
| Youth in criminal legal aid representation                                 | Burco           | 4                      | The case study considered service innovations and challenges for providing youth in criminal legal aid representation. Lack of specialized courts for youth and increased use of diversion are thought to be contributing factors to the increasing crime rate. The demonstrated current provision of free legal aid services that provided assistance for high youth volumes in criminal cases resulted in decreased youth crime rates, and diversion is also a contributing factor.   |
| Issues and challenges related to remand                                    | Hargeisa        | 2<br>2                 | The case study examined how legal aid assistants have approached the subject of remand as well as how remand affects legal aid, the legal system, and the accused (e.g., duty counsel services). By enabling them to participate in early remand-related discussions, early service provision benefits the client and can reduce the amount of time the accused is held on remand. By gathering material now, it will be possible for attorneys participating later in the process to be completely prepared and advance the case more quickly. |

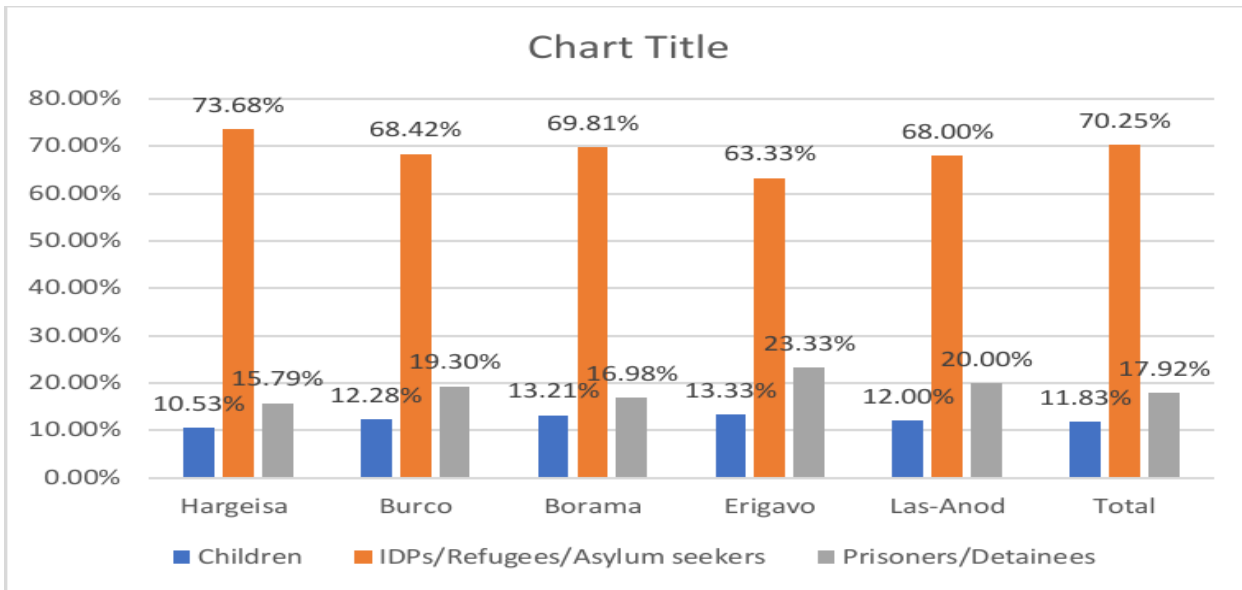


## 2.2. Joint Rule Of Law Programme (JROLP) Legal Aid Cases For The Pried Of November, 2022

The executive summary of this progressive report explores the summary achievements and progress made during the November, 2022 at outlined for Provision of free legal aid services to vulnerable people in the regions. SOLLA hired lawyers to provide free legal aid services to vulnerable people in Hargeisa, Burco, Borama, Las-Anod, and Erigabo on the basis of counseling, mediation, and representation in civil, criminal, and family disputes, as well as to represent economically deprived and vulnerable members of the community. The total number of cases received and represented by the legal clinic during November 2022 was 99; these cases include, but are not limited to, cases in which the clinic provided legal advice and mediation through traditional mechanisms, as well as the actions taken in each case. These aggregated cases will also explain the number of pending cases that are in the process.

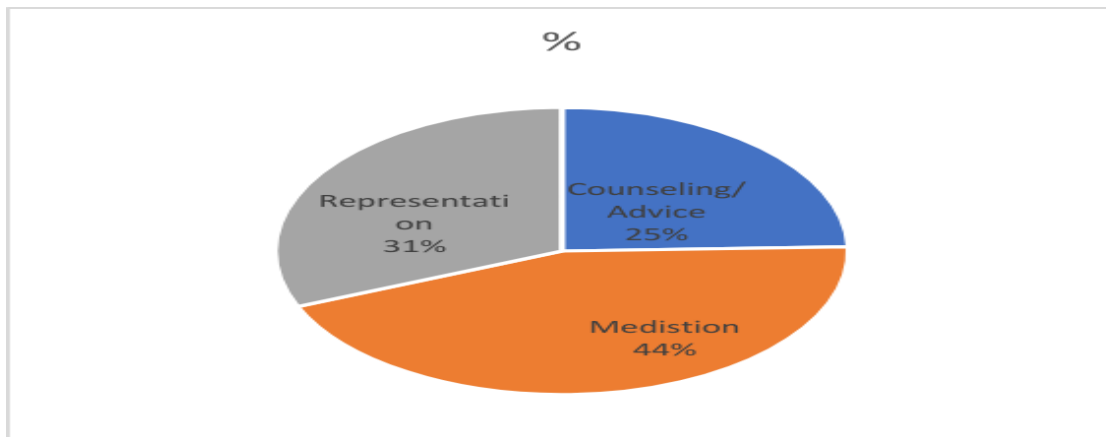


According to the Above Chart, the Beneficiaries under the SOLLA legal Aid offices in five main Cities, 31.44% are female where the remaining 68.56% are male, in the other side, the most populated city Hargeisa is the least percentage provided legal Aid services which is 66.67% Male & 33.34% Female of the total legal aid Beneficiaries, where the two city Ergavo and Borama are highest number Provided legal Aid services which are 70.27% Male & 29.73% Female and 70% male & 30% Female respectively, where the two remaining cities are higher then the most populated city Hargeisa and slightly lower than the two most legal Aid providers city borama and Ergavo, where Lasando is 68.75% Male and 31.25% and Burco 69.62% male and 30.38% Female.

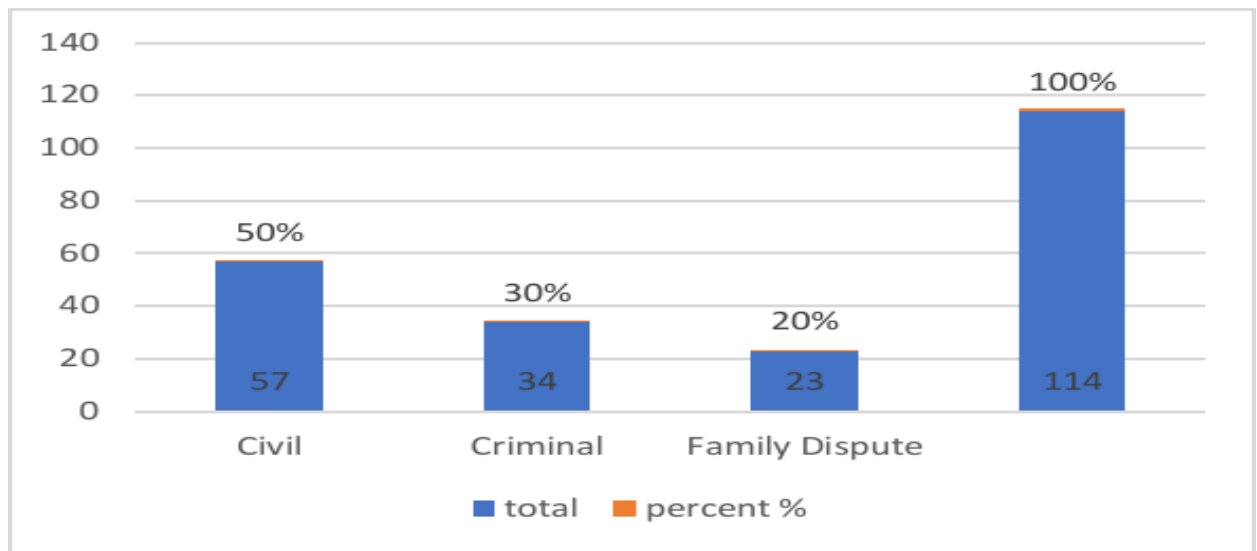


According to the Above Chart, the the Beneficiaries under the SOLLA legal Aid offices in five main Cities, the IDPs/Refugees/Asylum Seekers are the Highest Number provided legal Aid Services by SOLLA offices where is the prison/Detainees are the second number Provided legal Aid services and least number Provided legal Aid services are the Children, where the 13.21%, 13.33%, 12%, 12.28%, 11.83% and 10.53% of the total provided legal Aid services children are in the five main Cities in Somaliland.

### Case types



As shown Above Chart, there are three case, where the highest completed case type is mediation which is 44% out of the total case type, where 31% is are represented in front of the courts and lowest percentage is counseling or advice case type is 1/4 out of the total 100% case types.

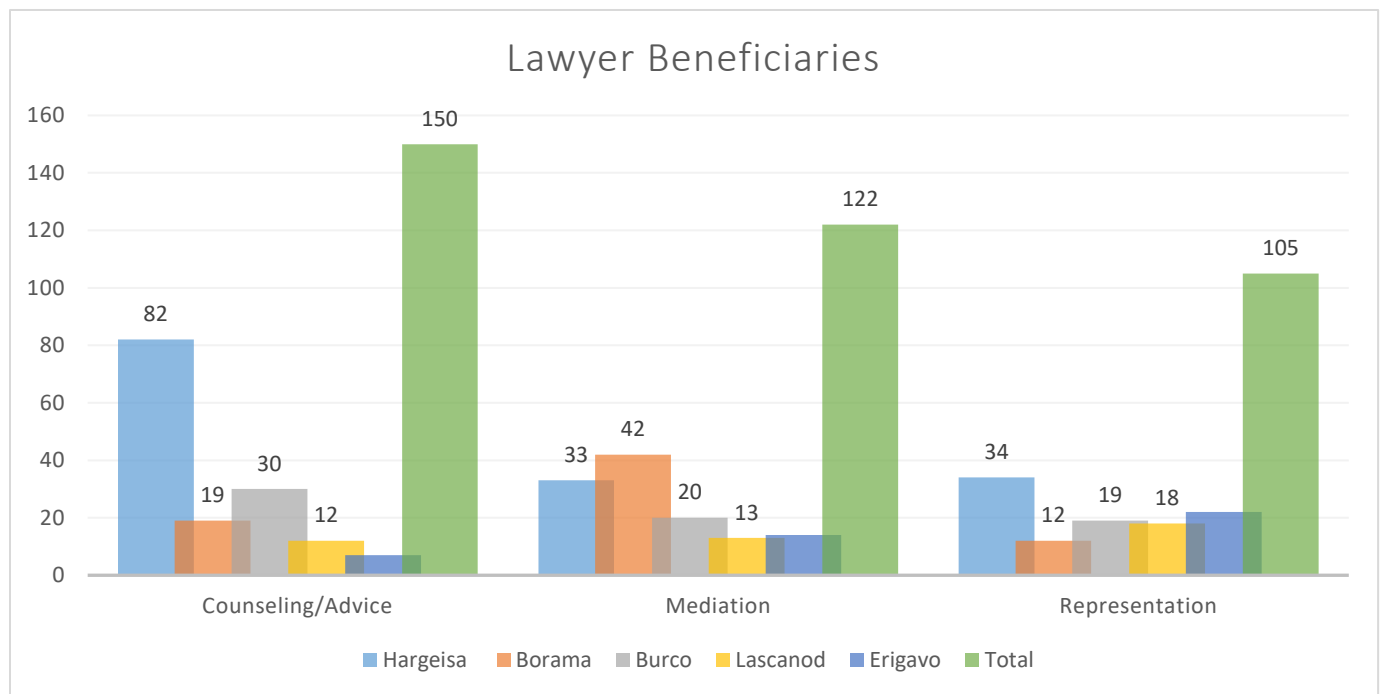


As shown above Chart, 50% out of 100% completed case is civil case, where the 30% out of 100% cases are criminal cases, where the remaining 20% out of 100% are family dispute.

### 2.3. Joint Rule of Law Programme (JROLP) Legal Aid Cases for the period of December 2022

Summary of key achievements during the December 2022 reporting period The Provision of free legal aid services to vulnerable in the regions through the lawyer's associations SOLLA enabled 428 individuals (F:141, M:287) to access justice. Legal aid was provided through one-stop access to assist in 39.78% of counseling/advice, 32.78% were served in mediation and while the 27.85% covered representation. As shown in the table below, Hargeisa was served. Legal aid services were provided in 39.52% of all cases; cases were served in 54.67% counseling or advice, 27.05% mediation, and 32.38% representation. Based on typed cases worked, 19.36% of general totaled cases were assisted in borama served cases, with 12.67% counseling/advice, 34.43% mediation, and 11.43% representation. Burco's total number of cases served Legal aid services were provided in 18.30% of all cases; cases were served in 20% counseling or advice, 16.39% mediation, and 18.10% representation. While Lascanod and Erigavo covered comparable figures, both handled 11.41 percent of the general aggregate cases; cases in Lascanod were 10.66 percent, while Erigavo was only 4%; cases in counseling and advice, in mediation cases, Lascanod were 8%, while Erigavo was 11.48%; and cases in representation, which Lascanod assisted with 17.14%, Erigavo solved 20.95% of the cases.

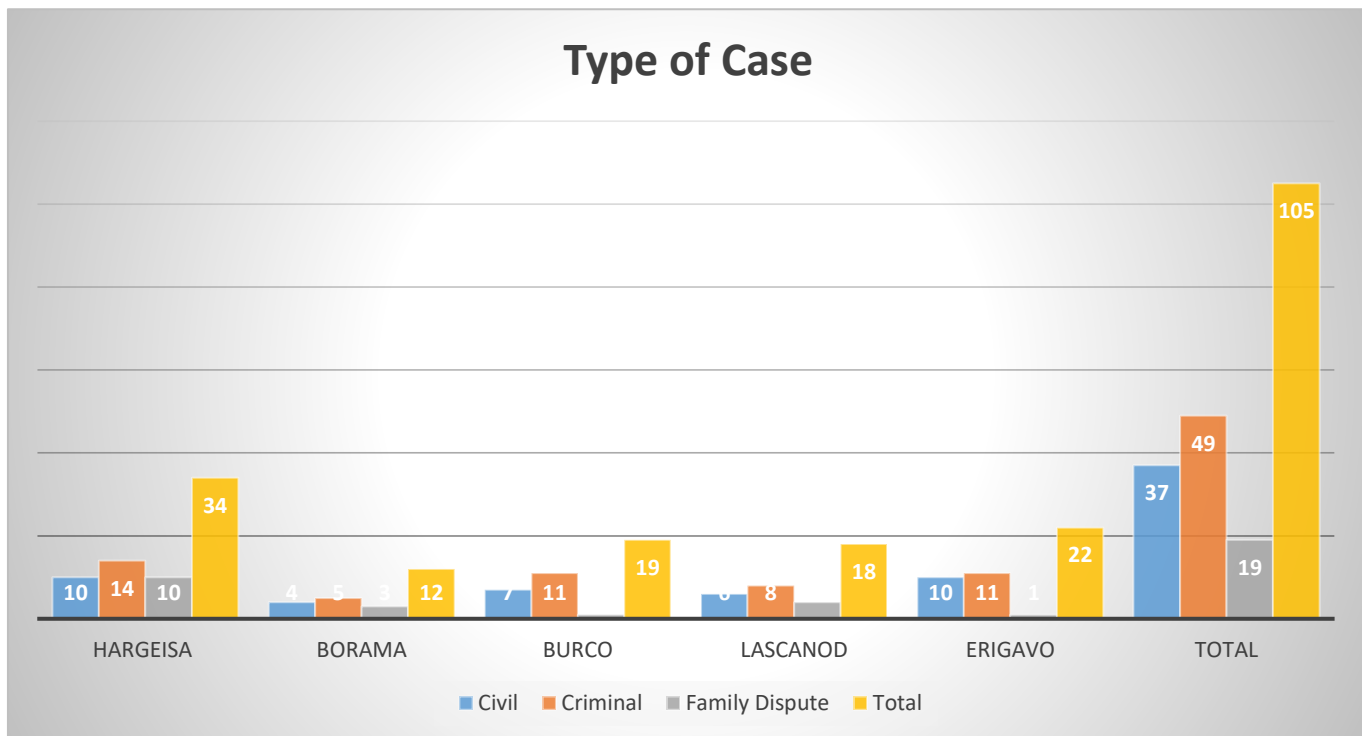
| Lawyer Beneficiaries |                    |           |                |       |                      |             |                  |                  |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Location             | Counseling /Advice | Mediation | Representation | Total | Counseling /Advice % | Mediation % | Representation % | Total Percentage |
| Hargeisa             | 82                 | 33        | 34             | 149   | 54.67                | 27.05       | 32.38            | 39.52            |
| Borama               | 19                 | 42        | 12             | 73    | 12.67                | 34.43       | 11.43            | 19.36            |
| Burco                | 30                 | 20        | 19             | 69    | 20.00                | 16.39       | 18.10            | 18.30            |
| Lascanod             | 12                 | 13        | 18             | 43    | 8.00                 | 10.66       | 17.14            | 11.41            |
| Erigavo              | 7                  | 14        | 22             | 43    | 4.67                 | 11.48       | 20.95            | 11.41            |
| Total                | 150                | 122       | 105            | 377   | 100%                 | 100%        | 100%             | 100%             |



The aggregate data obtained from regions on lawyers' beneficiaries was based on 35.24% servings of civil law, 46.67% servings of criminal law, and 18.10% of cases resolved through family law representation.

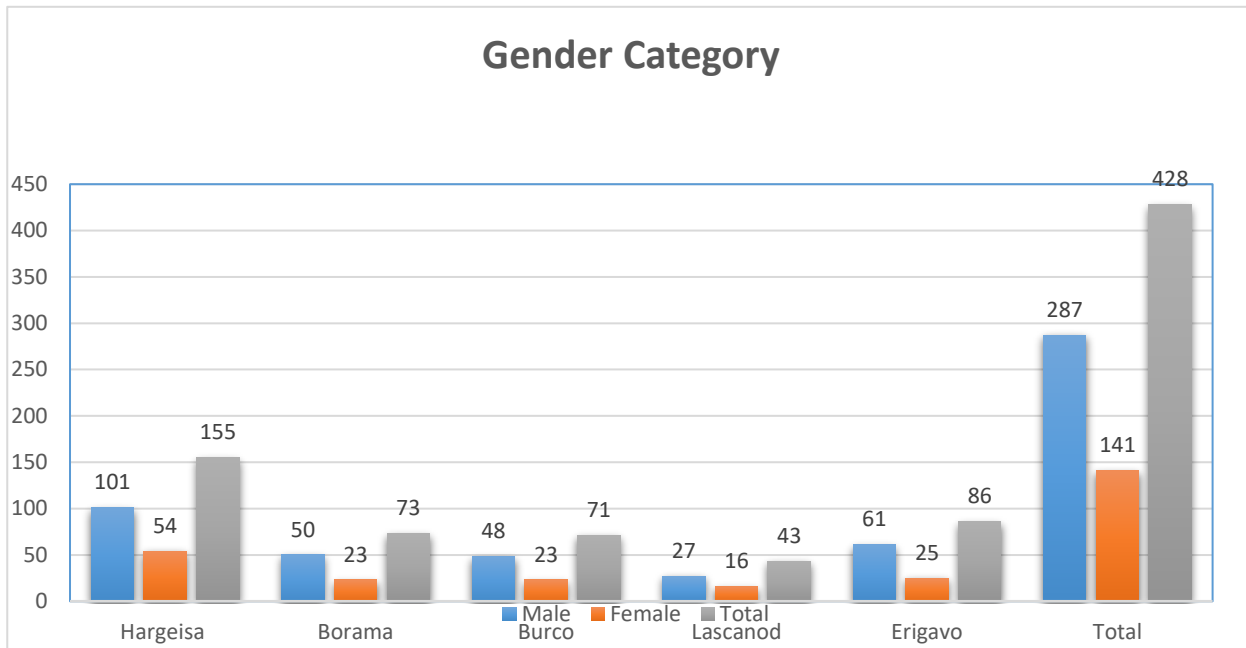
Hargeisa was served by 32.38% of all cases of representation, which are classified as 27.03% civil, 28.57% criminal, and 52.63% family disputes. Borama bases covered 11.43% of total cases worked, which included 10.81% of civil, 10.20% of criminal, and 15.79% of family disputes. While Burco and Erigavo were close in terms of cases served, Burco represented 18.10% of cases while Erigavo assisted 20.95% of cases; both bases form the overall total of cases covered. In Burco, the main types are 18.92% civil, 22.45% criminal, and 5.26% family disputes, while in Erigavo, the main types are 27.03% civil, 22.45% criminal, and 5.26% family disputes. Whereas Lascanod handled 17.14% of all cases assisted, which were mainly 16.22% civil, 16.33% criminal, and 21.05% family disputes.

| <i>Types Of Cases</i> |              |                 |                        |              |                |                   |                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <i>Location</i>       | <i>Civil</i> | <i>Criminal</i> | <i>Family /Dispute</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>civil %</i> | <i>Criminal %</i> | <i>Family/Dispute</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Hargeisa              | 10           | 14              | 10                     | 34           | 27.03%         | 28.57%            | 52.63%                | 32.38%       |
| Borama                | 4            | 5               | 3                      | 12           | 10.81%         | 10.20%            | 15.79%                | 11.43%       |
| Burco                 | 7            | 11              | 1                      | 19           | 18.92%         | 22.45%            | 5.26%                 | 18.10%       |
| Lascanod              | 6            | 8               | 4                      | 18           | 16.22%         | 16.33%            | 21.05%                | 17.14%       |
| Erigavo               | 10           | 11              | 1                      | 22           | 27.03%         | 22.45%            | 5.26%                 | 20.95%       |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>37</b>    | <b>49</b>       | <b>19</b>              | <b>105</b>   | <b>100%</b>    | <b>100%</b>       | <b>100%</b>           | <b>100%</b>  |



According to the chart billow, the beneficiaries of the provision of free legal aid services to vulnerable people in the regions through the lawyer's association were divided gender-wise into the 33% female and 67% male categories. In Hargeisa, where the least percentage of beneficiaries receive legal aid services, which is over all the total of clients (36.21%), in bases of gender-wise males make up 35.19% and females make up 38.30% of the total legal aid beneficiaries. Prospectively, Erigavo has 20.09% of the total beneficiaries, while Lascanod has 10.5%. In terms of gender, Erigavo has 17.73% female clients and 21.25% male clients, while Lascanod has 11.35% female clients and 9.41% male clients. In terms of the overall total clients, Borama served 17.06%, while Burco covered 16.59% of the general aggregate clients for the December 2022 reported period. Male 17.42% in Borama and Burco covered 16.72% of male beneficiaries, which is comparable to both cities' female coverage of 16.31% of total clients provided with free legal aid.

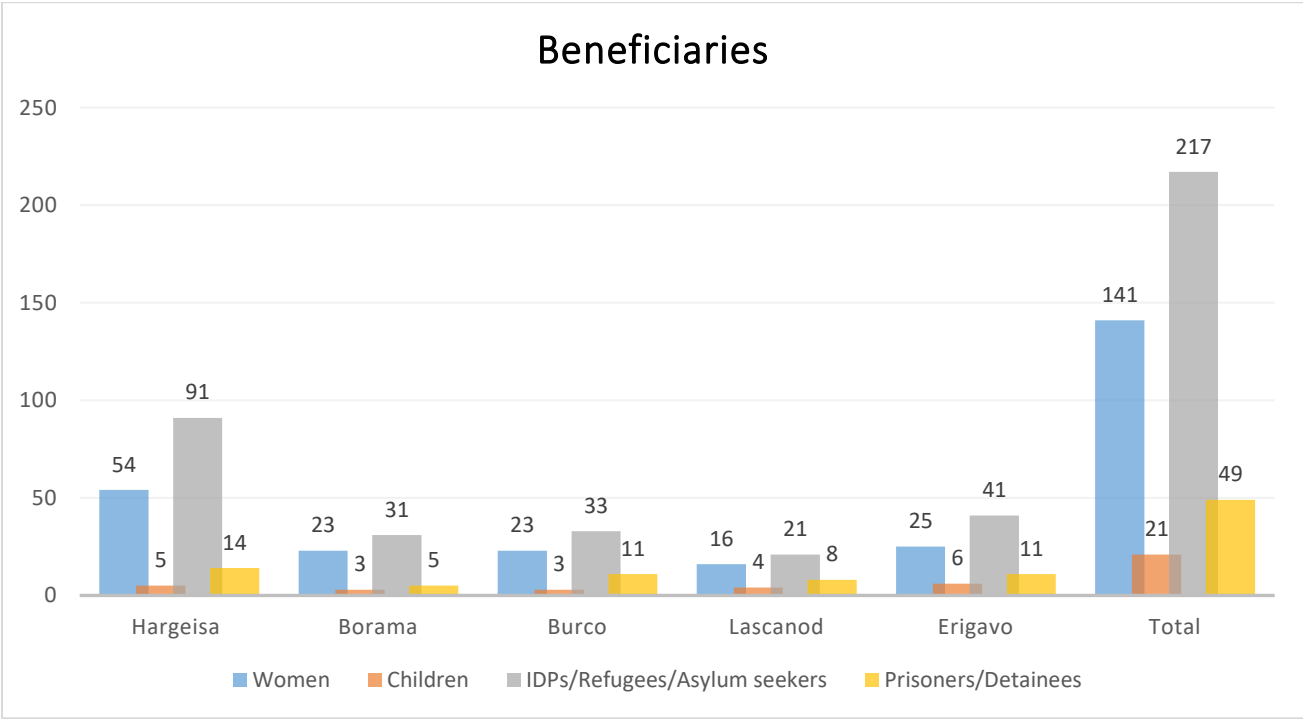
| Gender Category |      |        |       |         |          |         |
|-----------------|------|--------|-------|---------|----------|---------|
| Location        | Male | Female | Total | Male %  | Female % | Total % |
| Hargeisa        | 101  | 54     | 155   | 35.19%  | 38.30%   | 36.21%  |
| Borama          | 50   | 23     | 73    | 17.42%  | 16.31%   | 17.06%  |
| Burco           | 48   | 23     | 71    | 16.72%  | 16.31%   | 16.59%  |
| Lascanod        | 27   | 16     | 43    | 9.41%   | 11.35%   | 10.05%  |
| Erigavo         | 61   | 25     | 86    | 21.25%  | 17.73%   | 20.09%  |
| Total           | 287  | 141    | 428   | 100.00% | 100.00%  | 100.00% |



Through counseling/advice, mediation, and representation with one-stop access to free provision of legal aid legal services in Hargeisa, Borama, Burao, Lasanod, and Erigavo to ensure their inclusion in the program interventions to serve 32.94% of women, 4.91% of children, 50.70% of IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers, and 11.45% of prisoners and detainees to access justice.

As shown in the table below, Hargeisa served legal aid services to beneficiaries for 38.32% of all clients; clients were served for 38.30% of women, 23.81% of children, 41.94% of IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers, and 28.57% of prisoners or detainees. In Borama, 14.49% of totaled general clients were assisted, with 16.31% of women, 14.29% of children, 14.29% of IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers, and 10.20% of prisoners and detainees served. While Lascanod and Erigavo covered general aggregate clients, clients in Lascanod were 11.45 percent, while Erigavo was only 19.39%; in Lascanod's categorized clients, 11.35% while Erigavo 17.73% were women, were IDPs; in IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers, clients in Lascanod were 9.68 percent, while Erigavo was 18.89 percent; and in prisoner and detainee cases, where Lascanod assisted with 16.33%, in bases of clients of children lasanod covered 19.05%, while Erigavo assisted 28.57%. Finally, Burco assisted all clients in reading, with women accounting for 16.36% of beneficiaries, children accounting for 14.29%, IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers accounting for 15.21%, and prisoners and detainees accounting for 22.45%.

| Beneficiaries |            |              |   |                             |            |             |              |   |                             |                     |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Location      | women      | Childr<br>en | IDPs/Ref<br>ugees/Asy<br>lum<br>seekers | Prisoners<br>/Detaine<br>es | Tota<br>l  | Wome<br>n   | Childre<br>n | IDPs/Ref<br>ugees/Asy<br>lum<br>seekers | Prisoners<br>/Detaine<br>es | %<br>Total<br>Cases |
| Hargeisa      | 54         | 5            | 91                                      | 14                          | 164        | 38.30%      | 23.81<br>%   | 41.94%                                  | 28.57%                      | 38.32%              |
| Borama        | 23         | 3            | 31                                      | 5                           | 62         | 16.31%      | 14.29<br>%   | 14.29%                                  | 10.20%                      | 14.49%              |
| Burco         | 23         | 3            | 33                                      | 11                          | 70         | 16.31%      | 14.29<br>%   | 15.21%                                  | 22.45%                      | 16.36%              |
| Lascano<br>d  | 16         | 4            | 21                                      | 8                           | 49         | 11.35%      | 19.05<br>%   | 9.68%                                   | 16.33%                      | 11.45%              |
| Erigavo       | 25         | 6            | 41                                      | 11                          | 83         | 17.73%      | 28.57<br>%   | 18.89%                                  | 22.45%                      | 19.39%              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>141</b> | <b>21</b>    | <b>217</b>                              | <b>49</b>                   | <b>428</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b>  | <b>100%</b>                             | <b>100%</b>                 | <b>100%</b>         |



## Challenges and Recommendation

Key among the challenges identified during the SOLLA Programme Team supervision is the low budget allocation for the SOLLA legal aid operations in Hargeisa and other offices operating in Boram, Burao, Lascanod, and Erigavo. The SOLLA legal aid PRA program complained that the current budget is not adequate for their operation as it has affected staffing and their general operations. Additionally, program staff reported low awareness of the availability of the mobile courts as well as the SOLLA, which limits the uptake of these crucial legal aid services across Somaliland. Furthermore, there has been a reported lack of implementation of the Somaliland legal aid police guideline, particularly in the areas of required court expenses related to case-assisting and tax-session cost of civil cases, while other areas are limited in access for legal aid lawyers to undertake prison and police custody visits and provide free legal assistance and representation for prisoners and detainees, including juveniles, women, marginalized groups, prisoners serving time, and prisoners awaiting trial. Therefore, the

### **SOLLA recommends the following:**

- To provide complemented by the support of legal assistance and with engagement for continuing to cultivate cooperation with partner organizations, service providers, where necessary, a discussion about referral networks can be had and a memorandum of understanding can be signed by both parties, where necessary, to promote a more effective and efficient provision of assistance to individuals in need of legal assistance.
- To strengthen the role and networking in the targeted community for potentially expanding their use.
- SOLLA proposes greater investment in a robust, open, integrated system (a systems with stronger coordination and harmonization support tools with system development in legal aid data collection and data integration with geographic information systems (GIS) via a 3-pronged human-centered process: (1) tool functionality and design; and (2) scaling up and capacity building to improve data scoping and analysis accessibility and usability.
- SOLLA advises employing technology to make it simpler for more individuals to use our legal aid services, such as phone helplines, SMS, or the internet. Here are a few examples of innovations that have made legal aid services more accessible to people who may not live close to urban centers, who may prefer to seek legal counsel anonymously out of fear of discrimination or retaliation, who may want to improve the quality of legal aid services and information flows between justice sector actors, or who may simply want to protect their anonymity.
- The provision of legal aid, especially to vulnerable groups, especially women, children, and minority groups in regions, is necessary to expand through increased variable legal aid operation costs and mobile legal aid in the remaining main districts of the regions.
- Legal aid guidelines signature holders, stakeholders, and legal aid service providers must work together to resolve this complaint and move forward.
- More SGBV women lawyers at SOLLA in Lasanod, Erigavo, Burao, and Borama who are mandated to handle gender-based violence cases are needed.
- UNDP should think about conducting awareness-raising through the SOLLA regional offices in Lasanod, Erigavo, Burao, Borama, and Hargeisa about the availability of mobile courts and legal aid services in order to ensure that there is increased access to the formal justice system. These offices need to increase budget and personnel as well as conduct capacity-building seminars and training for lawyers at the mobile courts throughout Somaliland. These offices could need to support outreach initiatives aimed at promoting awareness.