



1. Introduction

This report is part of the SOLLA to increase access to justice and provide free legal aid for vulnerable and economically deprived groups in Somaliland. The legal aid services provided to SOLLA includes free legal representations to all levels of Somaliland courts such as district, regional, appeal, supreme courts and Military courts. The SOLLA legal aid services focus to provide free sustainable legal services for the vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, aged people, disabled, IDPs, refugees, minorities in the criminal and civil case, carry out prisons and police custody visits and provide free legal assistance and representation for individuals in remand status, pre-trial detainee and representation of clients in appeal decisions; raise awareness among key justice stakeholders, project's benefices and civil society to legal aid, access to justice and available legal services to encourage the development and maintenance of just and fair criminal justice system.

Somaliland lawyers Association (SOLLA), who had operational offices and provisional members working as lawyer around all Somaliland regions for Legal services provided from Oct up to Dec,2021 to the Venerable communities in Hargeisa, Berbera, Burco, Lascanod, Cerigabo, Borama and Gabilay

2. Objectives

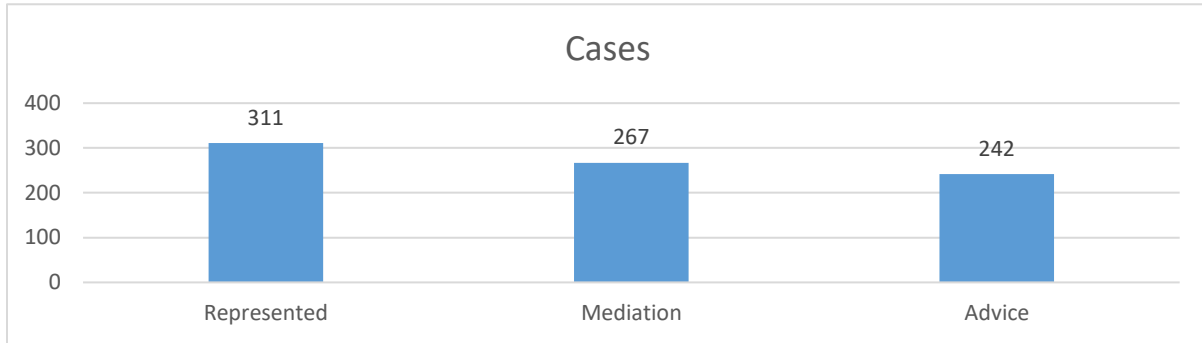
The main objective of the SOLLA is to strengthening access to justice, provision of legal aid and human right improvement to vulnerable people in Somaliland as well as to improve the capacity of the Somaliland legal professionals.

3. SOLLA legal aid service activities emphasizes

The SOLLA legal aid programs targeted the extremely vulnerable members of the communities within Somaliland like IDPs, Minorities, Women, Children, elderly people, people effected with HIV Aids, remanded and detainees, victims of human trafficking and victims of SGBV/GBV and victims of human rights violations and the poor people.

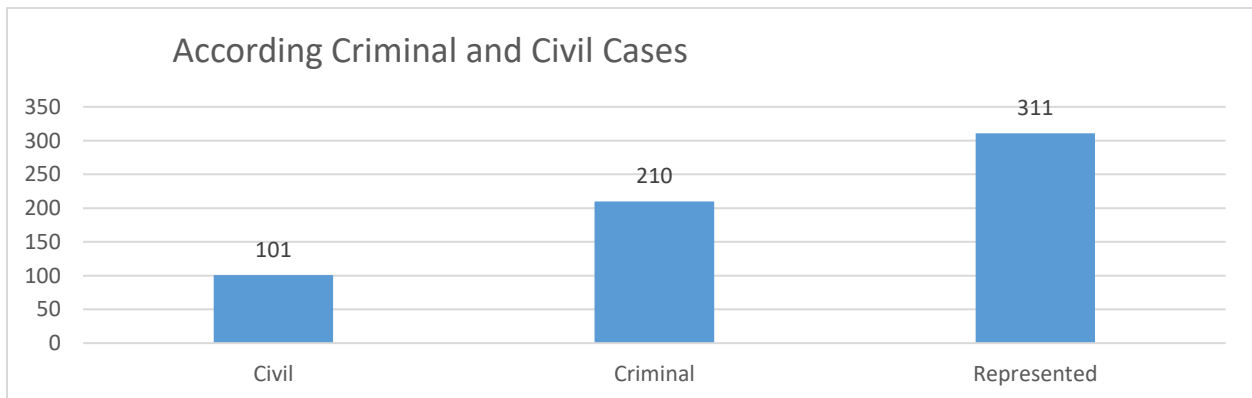
- **Clients provided legal aid assistance**

SOLLA legal aid lawyers and paralegals in the regions provided legal aid assistance to 820 clients. Of those, 311 clients were represented, 242 clients were advised, and 267 clients were settled through mediation (as detailed in Table 3 and 4 below).



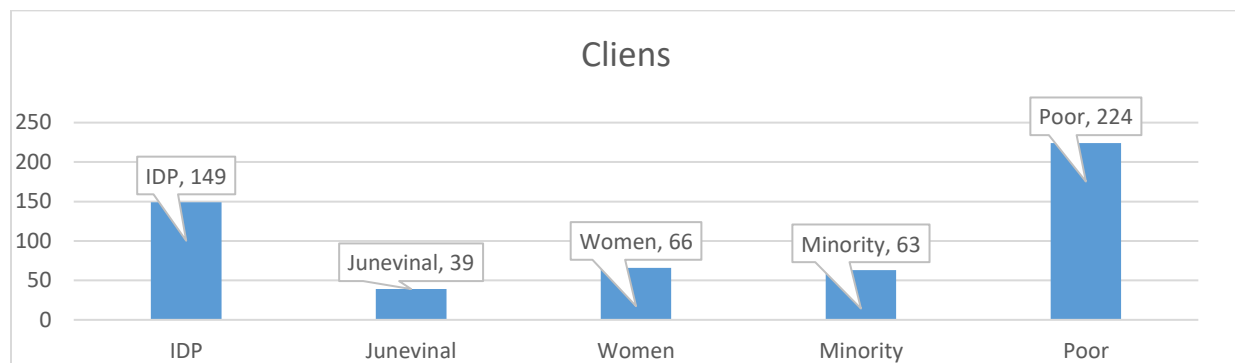
- **According Criminal and Civil Cases**

According to the types of the cases. As shown below table the number of the criminal case are more than civil ones.



- **Clients Categories**

SOLLA provided venerable legal assistance from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021, totaling 541 in different assistance, not limited to the represented court case, mediation, and advised case. where there are 149 IDP, 39 juveniles, 63 women, and 63 minorities. In addition, 224 poor people had been assisted and given access to justice in bases across Somaliland.



4. Legal Aid Data collection formats

SOLLA uses collecting legal aid data in excel format and hard forms. Therefore, legal aid data are stored in two format, once filled in hard and stored in hard and other one filled in soft excel format. in SOLLA Excel legal Aid data collecting format are shown in

5. Challenges

- The regional offices' facilities such as office furniture, computers, printers, and photocopiers, are too old and some of them do not function well without earlier support. This basic need identification will challenge the fitness of the regional office's working functioning support requirements, operations and legal aid lawyer monthly salary cost.
- SOLLA with limited to provide legal assistance to venerable people, but the challenges in terms of transportation and witness's transportation and a commendation.
- Legal aid expansion was challenged by limited comprehensive support and funding gaps that took more than five years to close. These gaps paralyzed the continuous efforts that broadened legal empowerment models, although these efforts do not play a larger role, than legal representation of criminal defendants. While these are not the community's primary activities, they do undertake some community awareness and outreach activities
- Social and cultural barriers: Legal aid providers in eastern regions report that most survivors are reluctant to pursue prosecution or civil cases against their attacker due to the social stigma associated with rape and survivors' fear of reprisals against themselves and their

families. It is generally agreed that sexual crimes are severely under-reported for these reasons

- Limited of female lawyers: There is a no female lawyers and limited female prosecutors in Somaliland regions. Female legal actors are best placed to assist female survivors of GBV
- Inaccessibility of rural and remote areas: Due to poor road infrastructure and lack of resources amongst SOLLA regional legal aid providers, the provision of legal aid is largely confined to urban areas.

6. Recommendation

1. We recommend to provide support to the SOLLA legal aid program to roll out in Somaliland regions legal aid service delivered via local justice promoters, trained in relevant knowledge to help justice users navigate the plural justice environment and the statutory justice chain. In addition, to raise our rule of law partner for financial assistance to extend CPD remaining eastern regions to enhance lawyers provisional development and further engagement fresh law gratuities for manifold internship and mentorship opportunities in Lascanod, and Cerigabo. This Program providing justice promoters for representative of communities' diversity and act in an accountable and inclusive manner to avoid reproducing patterns of exclusion and marginalization reproducing patterns of exclusion and marginalization.
2. Limited support of the legal aid providers have had numerous a challenging and in the difficult environment. However, there is more to be done if the system is to be changed in a way that will truly provide access to justice for survivors of GBV. It is critical that the international community provide the legal aid providers with continued and targeted support to continue to address these challenges, as well as to develop in a way that will enable them to push for systemic change. If this is done effectively, it could have a real impact on survivors of GBV. It could also prevent GBV offences. Now is the time to capitalize on the commitment and enthusiasm of the legal aid providers to ensure an increase in access to justice for survivors and accountability for perpetrators of GBV.
3. For a Justice vision to make a difference for all of Somaliland's citizens, especially the populations of the eastern regions, it will need input from communities outside urban centres.
4. To provide SOLLA a support for the regional offices operations cost, registered legal aid lawyers lawyer monthly salary cost with other cost including DSA and Support SOLLA regional offices' facilities , such as office furniture, computers, printers, and photocopiers.
5. To be support the venerable people that providing legal assistance to put the financial support in terms of transportation and witness's transportation and a commendation.