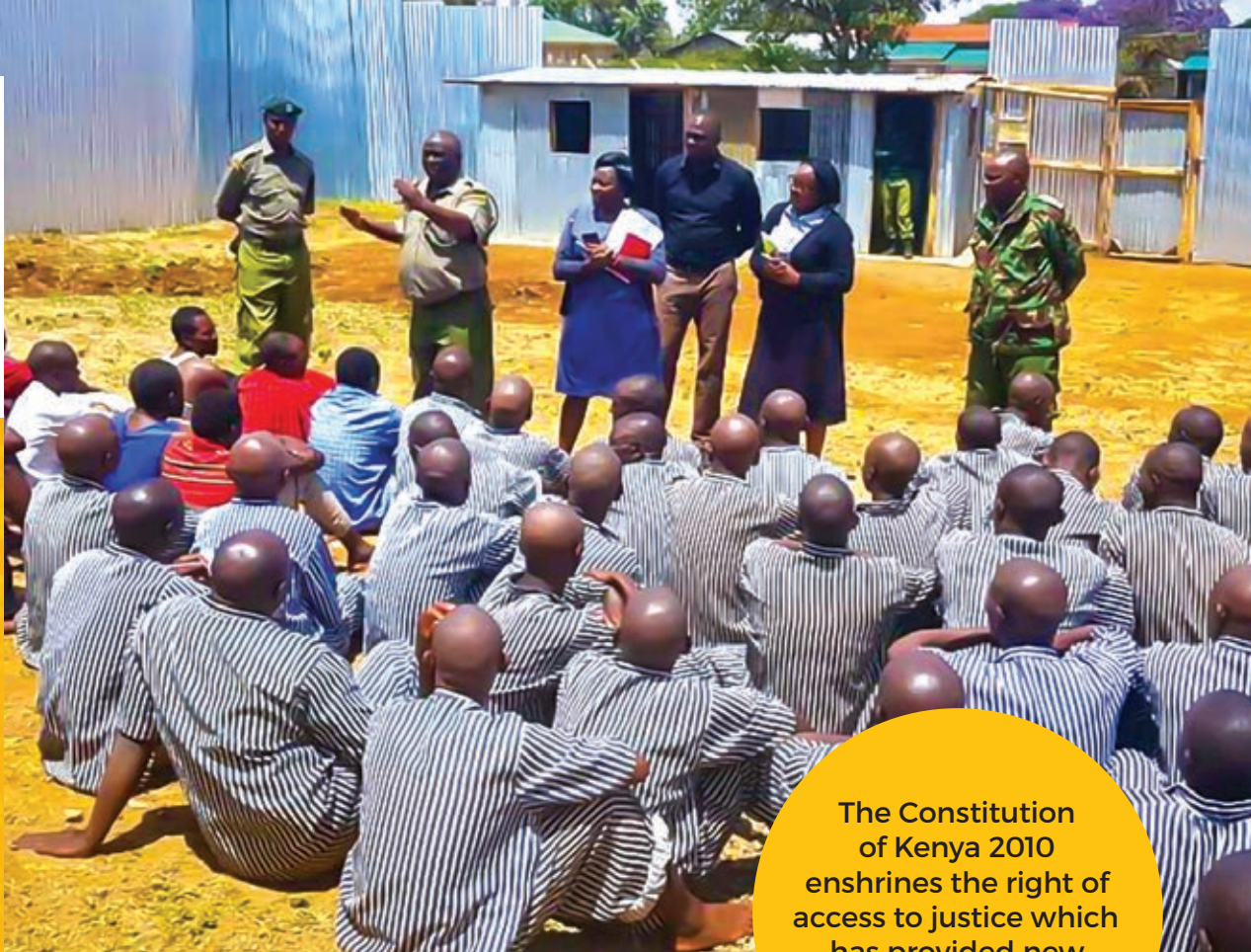




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The Constitution of Kenya 2010 enshrines the right of access to justice which has provided new impetus for justice sector reforms

Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya - PLEAD

Improving access to justice

Settlement of disputes

Delivery of justice services

Use of alternatives to imprisonment



SIAYA PROBATION
FEMALE HOSTEL

About PLEAD

Despite progress, access to justice remains a challenge in Kenya. Obstacles are impeding equitable justice.

These include:

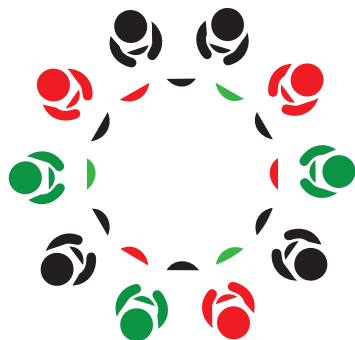
- A serious backlog of court cases leading to prolonged trials
- The often prohibitive cost of legal advice and representation
- Significant distances that citizens must travel to reach the courts in some counties
- Effects of corruption and discrimination which undermine citizen faith in the criminal justice system
- Limited use of bail, bond and alternatives to imprisonment which has left prisons overstretched beyond capacity
- Prevalance of alternative and informal justice systems that are not compliant with the Bill of Rights
- Low citizen awareness of their rights and over-use of legalistic terms which are inaccessible to many
- Limited capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to provide legal aid services.

Too many Kenyans are in custody who need not be there, including petty offenders who simply cannot afford to pay fines. Further, a lack of understanding of the services offered by key criminal justice institutions is limiting the ability of these institutions to deliver on their mandates.

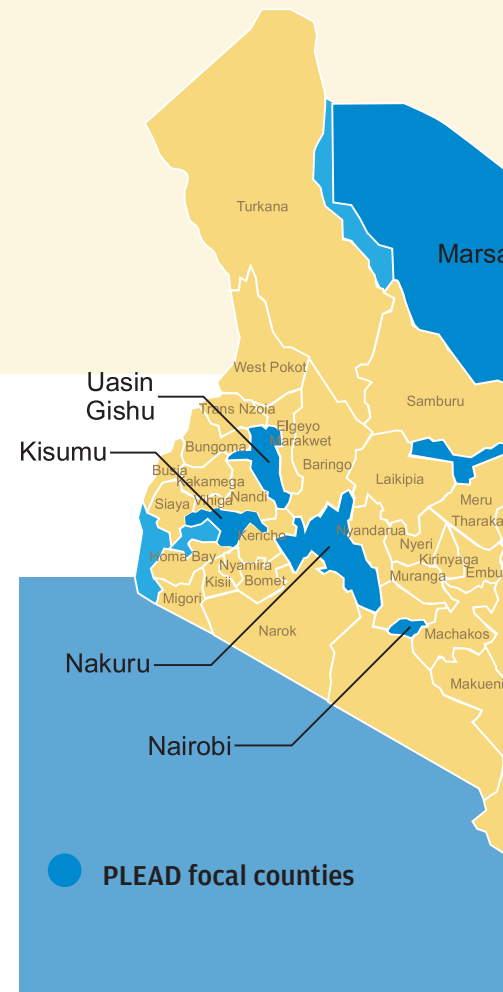
The Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya (PLEAD) is a partnership involving the Government of Kenya, European Union, United Nations and civil society that is improving the delivery of justice services, settlement of disputes and use of alternatives to imprisonment.

Launched in 2018, PLEAD is anchored in Kenya's Vision 2030 and supports government reforms that aim to transform the criminal justice sector for the benefit of all citizens. The KES 4.2 billion (EUR 34.15 million) programme is the European Union's largest in the justice sector in Sub-Saharan Africa and complements significant investment by the Government of Kenya.

PLEAD partners



PLEAD features six criminal justice institutions – National Council on the Administration of Justice, the Judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Probation and Aftercare Service, Department of Justice and Witness Protection Agency – the European Union, UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and more than 20 CSOs currently being selected. The partnership is co-implemented by UNODC and UNDP.



Outcomes

PLEAD partners seek four main outcomes for Kenyans:

Target

Achieve a
50%
reduction in the
backlog of criminal
cases in Kenya
by 2022

- ▶ **1. Improved access to justice especially for the poor and vulnerable, focused on legal aid** – Includes training and technical support for the Department of Justice; for CSOs in the 12 focal counties and delivering complementary legal aid services and information via Amkeni Wakenya.
- ▶ **2. Strengthened court administration and case management** – The implementation of active case management will reduce the backlog and tackle corruption. Policy design (including Kenya's first Alternative Justice System policy and guidelines), training and provision of vital office equipment are also part of support for the Judiciary.
- ▶ **3. Increased quality and efficiency in the criminal justice system** – Includes support for strategic planning, policy design, training curriculum, sensitization and procurement of equipment for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Probation and Aftercare Service, and Witness Protection Agency to improve service delivery and enable wider use of alternatives to imprisonment.
- ▶ **4. Improved coherence and cooperation throughout the justice sector** – Strategic planning and other technical support to empower the National Council on the Administration of Justice to fulfil its mandate and to augment collective efforts made to address challenges affecting the delivery of justice.

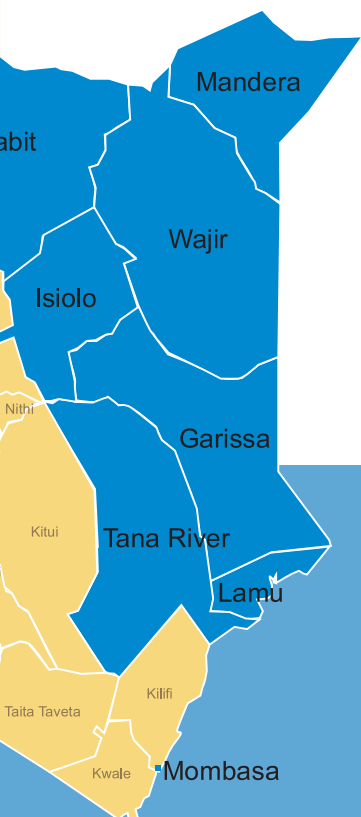
PLEAD supports progress towards Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by contributing to building effective, accountable and inclusive justice institutions. Strengthening the administration of justice will further assist Kenya to sustain a favourable business environment that will promote investment and job creation.

Ultimately, PLEAD brings hope to all Kenyans so they can have greater confidence in their formal and informal justice systems.

Focal counties

While aiming for national impact, PLEAD targets 12 counties:

- The five largest urban centres – Kisumu, Mombasa, Nakuru, Nairobi and Uasin Gishu;
- Seven marginalized counties – Garissa, Isiolo, Lamu, Mandera, Marsabit, Tana River and Wajir.



Justice without imprisonment

Target

Achieve a
30%
reduction in the number
of pre-trial detainees by
2022 to reduce prison
overcrowding

Access
to justice is a
human right and is
crucial for tackling
the root causes
of poverty and
vulnerability



© Allan Gichigi/UNDP

PLEAD embraces a broad definition of the justice system which includes formal and traditional means used to access justice

Low public awareness of alternatives to imprisonment, coupled with a slow uptake of these measures by judicial officers, prosecutors and the police, has led to over-reliance on incarceration. PLEAD partners are working to change attitudes and demonstrate that justice can take many forms.

Options such as diversion and plea bargaining give citizens a second chance rather than a criminal record, and prioritise rehabilitation over punishment, especially for first-time offenders.

By supporting local CSO partners in marginalized counties, PLEAD is empowering communities on equitable access to justice. This includes sensitization on interacting with the justice and law enforcement system, provision of legal aid assistance through trained paralegals and training on human rights-based approaches.

Those in custody while awaiting trial or upon sentencing are also being supported through PLEAD to access legal representation and empowerment.

Target

Ensure at least
15%
of men and women
surveyed in 12 marginalized
counties who seek justice
can access it.



“By supporting local CSO partners in marginalized counties, PLEAD is empowering communities on equitable access to justice. This includes sensitization on interacting with the justice and law enforcement system, provision of legal aid assistance through trained paralegals and training on human rights-based approaches.”



Programme for Legal Empowerment and Aid Delivery in Kenya – PLEAD



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UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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Follow the PLEAD partnership:
#PLEADyetu
#HakilweNgao

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