

Justice For All



Improving the Service Delivery of Security and Justice Agencies

Introduction

The interventions of the Justice for All (J4A) programme in Lagos State are aimed at improving the service delivery of security and justice agencies (both formal and informal). J4A's support focuses on improving human rights and increasing access to justice for the poor and disadvantaged members of

society including women and children.

In the past three years J4A has supported various government and stakeholder agencies in the security and justice sector. The support to improving the collaboration amongst the criminal justice agencies in the state is delivering results especially

in the area of sexual/gender based violence (S/GBV). The programme's methodology is based upon the establishment of models of best practice with the intention of encouraging replication and dissemination across the state and beyond.



Enhanced Investigative Skills in Juvenile Welfare Centre

The Juvenile Welfare Centres in Lagos State have made positive changes as a result of the investigative skills course that was facilitated by J4A in collaboration with the Nigeria Police Force (NPF).

As part of the establishment of the Model Police Stations (MPS) in the state J4A supported the training of 62 officers in the Juvenile Welfare Centres across the three pilot sites. The training was aimed at enhancing investigative skills and ensuring that best practice is used during the investigation of sensitive and complex cases.

As a result of this intervention cases such as rape, gender based violence, child abuse, etc. are now investigated properly and victims are interviewed in

a confidential and private environment. They are also treated with care so as not to reinforce the trauma they might have experienced. The use of these new skills has led to an increase in the number of cases charged to court. A total of 29 cases have been charged to court after proper investigation.

One major impact of this initiative is the adoption and replication of the training by the NPF training school. To date the NPF training school has replicated the training to 13 police stations across the state. The stations include Pen Cinema, Elere, Abbatoir, Dopemu, Oko Oba, Acpol Golf, Alakuko, Victoria Island, Ikoyi, Ebute-Ero, Lion Building, Oke-Odo, Ikeja.

“The training I received has really helped me to understand how best to interview victims, especially children, and to be sensitive to their feelings and concerns.”

Family Support Unit Inspector
Roseline Ilekhue

Improved Collaboration between the JWCs and the Mirabel Centre

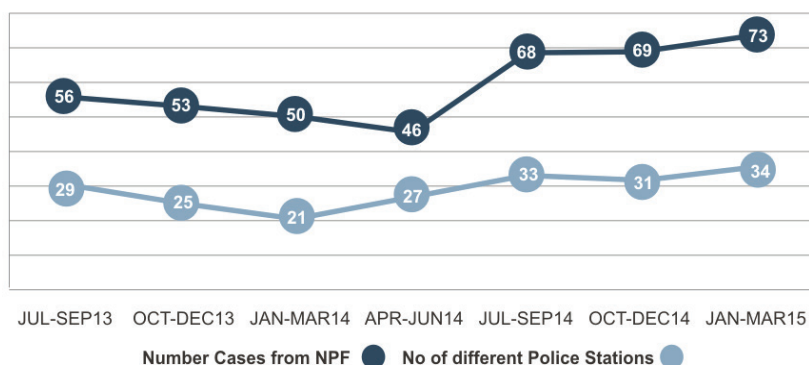
Part of the intervention provided by the J4A programme to the JWCs is to encourage collaboration with other stakeholders in the fight against gender based violence.

As a result of the improved skills and knowledge gained from this support JWCs are now collaborating with other state and non-state actors especially the Mirabel Centre. By the end of April 2015, 456 cases had been referred to the Mirabel Centre by the police. Over 60 police stations in Lagos State have referred one or more sexual assault case to the SARC.

“I believe that the training of JWCs is making a noticeable difference as there has been an increase in the number of referrals from the police to the Mirabel Centre.”

Juliet Olumuyiwa-Rufai,
Mirabel Centre manager

Victims referred by NPF to Mirabel SARC by quarter and number of Police stations referring



Mirabel FARC Data, 2015

CSP Promotes Safety and Peaceful Co-existence in Pilot Communities

Community Safety Partnerships with the support of the J4A programme are delivering safer and more peaceful communities for the citizens of Lagos State in pilot locations.

In Agege, the Community Safety Initiative has undertaken a local safety audit and set up three different working groups which are responsible for resolving various issues affecting the community.

The CSP has resolved a number of issues which has brought about changes in the community. These include:

Increase in the surveillance, patrol and raiding of hoodlums and criminal hotspots within the Agege community.

Computer appreciation training for jobless youths. This is aimed at reducing their participation in criminal activities.

The deployment of extra patrol and voluntary policing groups to resolve traffic congestion and sanction motorists who disobey traffic laws in the community.

Increased the awareness of the work of the Family Support Unit in the Isokoko MPS thereby leading to an increase in the reporting of sexual/gender based violence cases and child abuse.

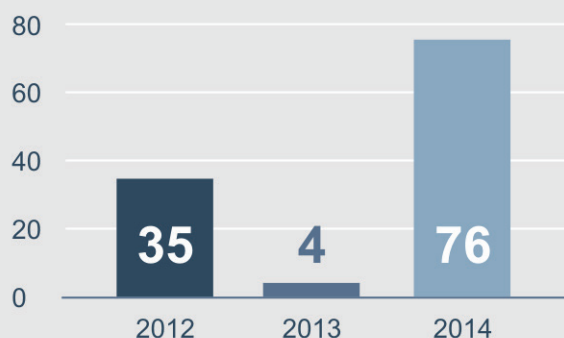
Quicker Access to Justice in the Commercial and Fast Track Courts in Lagos State

Through the Lagos State Judiciary the J4A programme is providing support to Fast Track Commercial Courts in the state so as to ensure efficient and effective delivery of justice.

This intervention has brought about the creation of designated fast track commercial courts in the state; trained judicial officers on case management who are now using their acquired skills; the establishment of the monthly judges' seminar where experiences and lessons are shared and a case monitoring and tracking mechanism put in place. All of these have led to a reduction in the number of days it takes to complete a case.

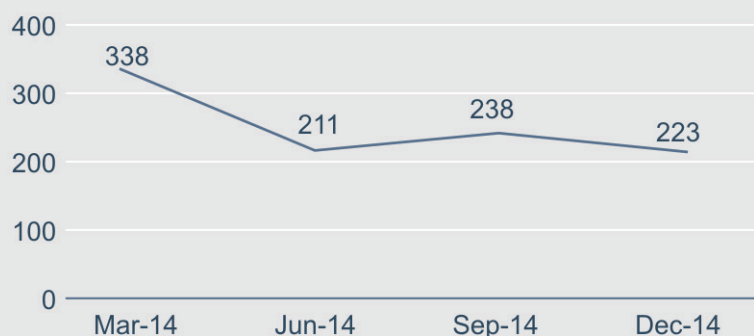
For instance between July and September 2014, data from the Fast Track Court revealed that 19 cases were disposed of at an average of 238 days per case while the period between October to December 2014 revealed that a total of 32 cases were disposed of at an average of 223 days per cases. This clearly shows a significant improvement when compared to an average of 583 days before the intervention.

No of Cases Handled by the Fast Track Courts



Fast Track Court Data, 2014

Duration (Days) of Cases closed by the Lagos Fast Track Courts



Fast Track Court Data, 2014

Increased Efficiency and Satisfaction with CMCs in Lagos State

J4A's supported reforms at the Citizens Mediation Centres (CMCs) in Lagos State have continued to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and user satisfaction levels with the centres across the state.

There is an improvement in service delivery as a result of the interventions aimed at enhancing the capacity of CMC staff. For example, the analysis

from data shows that there has been an increase in the number of disputes being resolved by the mediators. In 2014, 52% of complaints were resolved compared to 46% and 47% in 2012 and 2013 respectively. The improved performance of the mediators in resolving disputes has increased the credibility of the CMC in a number of ways:

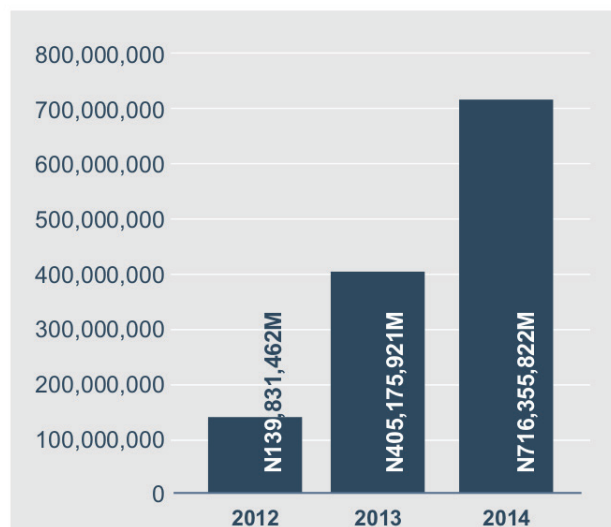
- In 2014, over N700m was recovered for clients from financial related disputes. This represents a 77% increase on 2013 and a 400%

increase on the 2012 level.

- The number of disputes brought to the centre has increased by over 52% between 2012 and 2014. 98% of clients were satisfied with the overall services provided while 97% confirmed that they would recommend CMC to friends and relations.

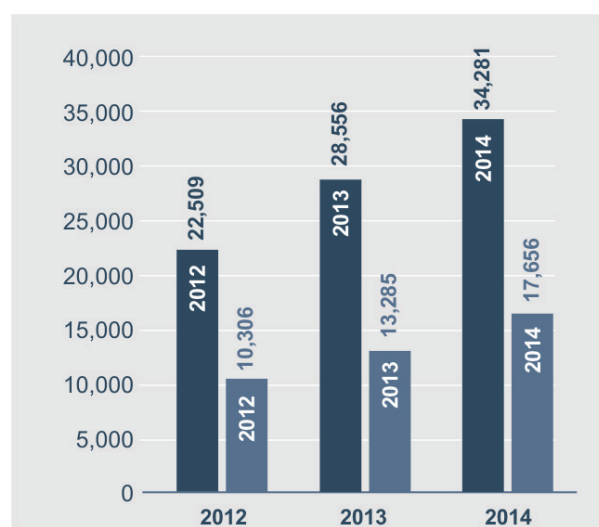
Worthy of note is the fact that other CMCs across the country are being motivated by the success in Lagos State.

Value of Money Recovered from Debt Related Cases by CMCs



CMC Data 2014

No of Cases Handled and Resolved by CMCs



CMC Data 2014

Legal Scheme Protecting the Rights of the Poor in Lagos State

As a result of the successes from the implementation of the legal scheme initiative in the Isokoko police station, J4A with the collaboration of the Commissioner of Police is supporting the roll out of the scheme across Lagos State.



The scheme which has begun full implementation in at least one Area Command of the state is aimed at offering free legal advice and support to help protect the entitlements and rights of suspects.

This initiative which provides external oversight on the treatment of suspects has proved to be very effective in changing the behavior of police officers towards suspects in detention. As a result of this support, suspects in the stations particularly the poor now

have access to free legal advice while in police custody. The visiting lawyers are also able to assess the legality of the detention and the condition in which the detainees are being held. Any infringement of the rights of the suspects is brought to the notice of the senior officer for immediate action. A 70 year old detainee in Idimu whose bail was secured at 11pm one night said "God will bless your organization people are not aware of this good work without payment".

"The legal advice scheme being run in selected police divisions in Lagos State has improved the consciousness of the police officers in the station. They abide by the law and respect the human rights of suspects particularly if the officer concerned hears that J4A has an interest in the case."

Nathaniel Ngwu
Legal Resource Consortium,
Coordinator Mushin Division

A More Vibrant Voluntary Policing Sector

Following the J4A supported intervention with the Voluntary Policing Sector (VPS) in Lagos State, community satisfaction with the services of VPS has continued to increase year on year. There has been a 6% increase in female satisfaction (every year) with the services of VPS in the state.



DPO Lukman Aliu, addressing community members at one of the forums.

The VPS is now seen as a group that can mobilize community members towards achieving a particular goal. For instance, they were able to organize community members to collect their Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) and advocated on the need for a violence free 2015 elections.

VPS in the state have now taken further steps to institutionalize the Community Accountability Forum (CAF) as a result of the successes and achievements recorded so far. They are currently rallying the support of local governance structures such as the Traditional Institutions, Community Development Associations (CDAs) and Local Governments to get buy-in for formalizing the CAF across the state.

"The CAF dialogue has united us as one family. I see ASP Mustapha as Mustapha not 'that policeman' he is now part of us and we see no barriers."

Alhaji Amusa Olayiwola
Chief Imam of Isokoko

The Mirabel Centre

The Mirabel Centre also known as the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) has helped a total of 660 victims since its inception in July 2013. The centre which is known for its role in providing assistance to the victims of sexual assault in Lagos State has also helped 16 male victims.

The centre which has been recognized by the Lagos State criminal justice system has received 456 referrals from various police stations across the state while 481 forensic reports have been sent to the police as evidence to be used for prosecution in court. 439 cases have been referred to the social

welfare in the state. In total 29 cases have currently been charged to court.

As a result of its success, this J4A supported initiative has now been replicated by the Eight Foundation in Lekki, Lagos State. The foundation which started its operations on the

23rd of March 2015 provides counselling and medical assistance to victims of sexual and gender based violence. They hope to scale up on their services to emulate that of the Mirabel Centre in the future.



Achievements so far

- 52% of cases were resolved in 2014 compared to 47% of cases that were resolved in 2013.
- Case Management training conducted for all the judges of the Lagos State High Court by the US National Centre for State Courts.
- Review of the operations of the Registries and subsequent training of Registrars, Sheriffs and Bailiffs of the Lagos State Judiciary
- A stakeholders' forum on "Lagos High Court Fast Track Court Rules and Procedure" to evaluate the fast track court system in Lagos State
- The Lagos CMC have launched their 2015-2018 strategic plan
- The CMC recovered a total amount of N716, 355,822 from debt related cases
- 29 police stations have replicated J4A initiatives
- A total of 456 cases have been referred by the NPF in Lagos State to the SARC. 43 of these cases were from the Isokoko MPS
- The Voluntary Policing Sector managed Community Accountability Forum (CAF) has resolved 69 community safety issues since its inception in Lagos State
- There was a 7% increase in client satisfaction with the response of police in the Isokoko MPS between 2013 and 2014
- There was a 21% increase in the number of cases reported at the Isokoko MPS between 2013 and 2014
- As a result of increased awareness on S/GBV issues amongst citizens the Ministry of Justice, Lagos State received a total of 91 cases between October 2014 and March 2015 for legal opinion and prosecution.

Success Story

NAME:

Mama Shadeke (not real names)

PROFILE:

Mama is single and sells kola nuts at the railway in Agege motor road located in Ikeja where she lives. She has three great grandchildren whom she cares for and they are also street hawkers. Ijani B (not real names) is one of the three great grandchildren who was raped.

STORY SO FAR:

Ijani a nine year old hawker was going about her daily business when she went missing. The search party that was sent to look for her was directed by neighbors to a dark corner shop where she was found crying. Upon interrogation she confessed that she was tied up by two men who raped her in the shop. The search party examined her and found that she was bruised, could not walk and was covered in male fluid. As a result Mama confronted one of the accused persons and he assaulted her during the confrontation.

Mama then took the case to the Isokoko police station where Ijani was examined and it was ascertained that she had been raped. The FSU police officer took her to the SARC where she was tested for HIV and other STDs,

treated and counselled. After proper investigation the case was charged to court and Ijani is now under the care of the Lagos State Government who have promised to send her to school or send her to learn a trade. Mama said:

“The police are now working compared to 10 years ago when I last visited this same Isokoko police station. They are now serious with their investigation and I was astonished by their behavior. The most surprising thing was that they did not ask me for money and they are very truthful unlike the last time.”

NAME:

Adeniran Iyiade

PROFILE:

Mr Adeniran is a retired military man who manages a security company with the Federal Government of Nigeria in Ibadan, Oyo State.

STORY SO FAR:

Mr Adeniran's son was arrested in Ibadan and taken to Lagos State by the police where he was remanded in the station for money that was wrongfully deposited into his bank account. While in detention he came in contact with a J4A supported lawyer who enlightened him about his rights.

In an interview with Mr Adeniran he revealed that his son was granted bail as a result of the help received from the J4A supported lawyer. He said:

“My son told me that while in detention he was not maltreated by the police officers and that the J4A supported lawyers visited the police station regularly to assess their prison conditions.”

Mr Adeniran praised J4A for their help and the pro bono service it is facilitating.

Our impact reports capture the positive changes brought about by our activities.

For more information visit: www.j4a-nigeria.org

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