

Justice for All: Making a difference in Enugu State

Increasing access to justice in rural areas

Name:
Josephine

Profile:
Josephine is a member of the Eha Amufa community in Isi-Uzo local government area. She is a direct beneficiary of the J4A supported Community Paralegal and Village Mediators Project (CPVMP).

The story so far:
Josephine was a victim of violent abuse by her husband. She got pregnant and married before she had completed training as a beautician. Brutality started soon thereafter. Josephine asked the Igwes, the traditional rulers, to help. They told her husband to return her dowry and leave Josephine alone but he did not obey them. In the end, she left her husband and returned

to her mother, taking the three year old child with her. The husband then abducted the boy and Josephine did not know where the boy was for one week. The traditional rulers instructed her husband to return her son within a week. Again, he disobeyed them. Josephine heard about the CPVMP through someone in the town. The community paralegals helped her to visit welfare services, get her child back safely and then helped with her dowry. Josephine says that she believes that she would never have got her son back without the help of the community paralegals.

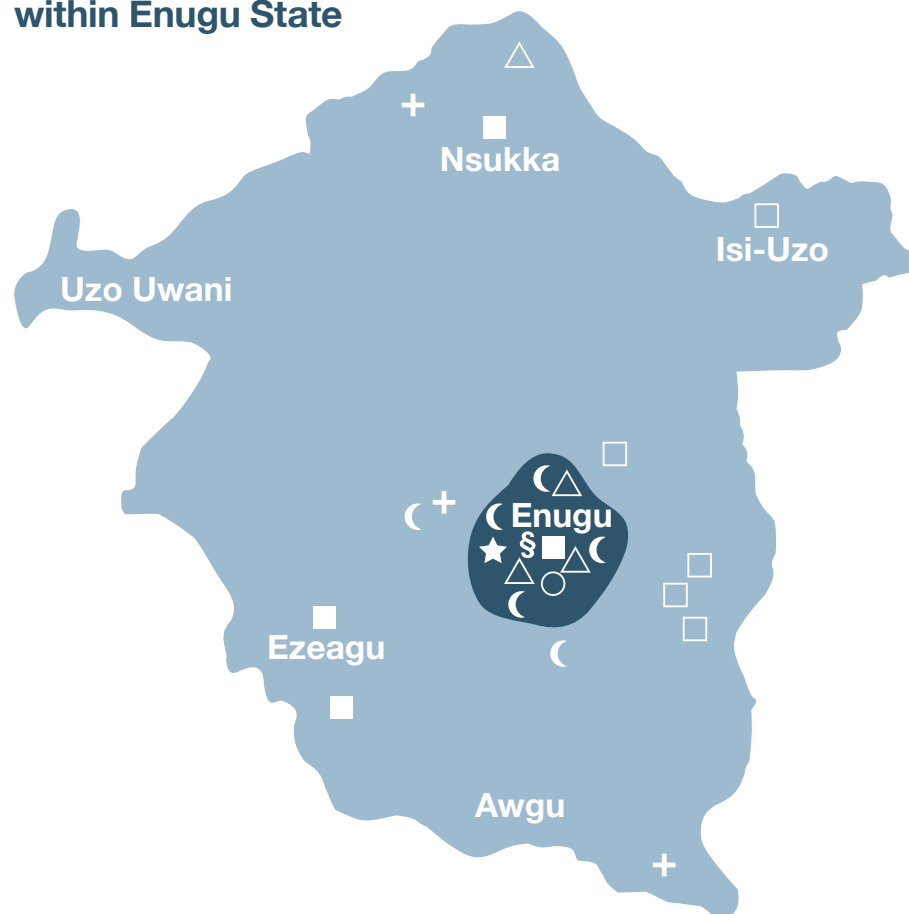
What happens next?
J4A will continue to work with the state government and monitor the outcome of the push for the opening of mediation centres in all 17 local government areas

of Enugu State. This will build on the J4A initiative on community level dispute resolution undertaken in five communities in Enugu State.

‘...I will come back to seek the services of the CPVMP if I have another opportunity because of the satisfaction I got in the way my case was handled. I have even referred three cases to the community paralegals since then.’

Beneficiary, Eha Amufu Community

A map of J4A interventions within Enugu State



Key

§	Model police and five pilot sites
□	Voluntary Police Sector interventions
■	Prison interventions
□	Community Paralegal and Village Mediation projects
★	Tamar Centre, Sexual Assault Referral Centre
△	Customary court interventions
○	Magistrate court interventions
☾	Civil Society Grant disbursements
+	Umuada dispute resolution interventions
□	Justice Reform team state-wide interventions

Increasing access to safety, security and justice across Enugu State

Name:
Honourable Anthony Ani

Profile:
Attorney General,
Enugu State, Ministry of Justice

The story so far:
In a recent interview, the Attorney General identified some major changes in the justice sector.

The Attorney General said that J4A support to establish a computerised case management system has made the biggest impact in the criminal justice system in the state. He further said that the process has helped to establish an effective oversight mechanism and improved the collaboration between key stakeholders in identifying long-term cases of awaiting trial prisoners.

He revealed that the ministry uses the case management system to keep track of all files and cases in the courts. The Attorney General also

said that the Customary Courts have become more effective as a result of J4A's intervention and that the state government is now replicating the process across the state.

What happens next?
J4A will continue to mentor the chairmen and staff of the Customary Courts.



Justice For All



Impact Report: Delivering security and justice in Enugu

Issue 1: October 2014

www.j4a-nigeria.org

Our impact reports capture the positive changes brought about by our activities. We publish a series of impact reports every six months.

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

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Delivering security and justice in Enugu

The Justice for All (J4A) programme is engaging at multiple levels across Enugu State to improve security and justice services for all citizens. The programme is delivering nine initiatives and has also provided grants to four civil society organisations (CSOs). J4A's work cuts across all aspects of justice delivery from criminal justice in the High Courts to traditional justice in rural villages.

As a result of our work, millions of Enugu residents have more avenues through which they can resolve disputes and have access to previously unavailable services. Community safety has been enhanced through our work with the police and the voluntary policing sector and the justice sector reform team continues to influence the strategic development of the sector.

We focused our work on improving the situation of the poor and disadvantaged community members in Enugu State. We have worked to introduce alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as legal aid services to rural communities, and improve existing structures such as mediation within the traditional justice system. The programme has also assisted long-term awaiting trial prisoners that cannot afford legal representation.

Many of the initiatives are complementary, working in the same geographical areas. The Enugu State Government has been closely involved in all of the work and along with the Enugu State Justice Reform Team (ESJRT) provides the glue that links all of our work together.

J4A has helped build the capacity of more than ten state level justice service providers and is supporting the development of mechanisms to ensure that citizens can hold them accountable. The result is a more responsive sector that is striving to meet the needs of citizens.

The Attorney General of Enugu State has supported the programme's efforts throughout and is actively working on extending the impact of the work by the creation of a state-wide network of

mediation centres that will provide free legal advice and mediation services to citizens. The government is also a pivotal stakeholder in the sexual assault referral centre that opened its doors in April and has already helped over 100 victims of sexual assault.



Criminal justice reform changing lives in Enugu

J4A is partnering with the Police (Model Police Stations), courts, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), prisons and relevant CSOs to enhance their capability to drive reform initiatives. The Enugu Justice Sector Reform Team (EJSRT) acts as a sector co-ordinator.

Case management system

As part of the Speeding Up Criminal Justice Initiative, J4A supported the establishment of a case management system (CMS) in five justice institutions. The CMS is a key tool in identifying and resolving issues that are slowing down criminal justice in the state.

The CMS in the Ministry of Justice is being used as a strategic tool for taking decisions on how to resolve individual overdue cases and to keep lawyers focused on their cases. In the Police

Force, supervisors are using it as a means of tracking, monitoring and managing cases, which is helping to reduce the time spent on each case. In the prisons, the CMS has helped to locate overdue cases, which are above five years without formal proceedings. The system highlighted the case of Mr Hyginus Ajibo who had been awaiting trial for over 16 years and has since been granted bail. From its inception until March 2014, a total number of 80 awaiting trial prisoners have been released.

The ESJRT has used the CMS to produce performance data and overdue lists, which contain lists of ongoing, closed and stalled cases. The CMS is also used as a platform for collaboration with other agencies in identifying and resolving issues jointly. CSOs are able to use the list to identify awaiting trial prisoners and link them up with pro bono lawyers. This has resulted in a **17 per cent reduction in the average time an inmate spends in prison awaiting trial.**

Speeding up criminal justice

Prisons	Courts	Police	Ministry of Justice
↓	↓	↓	↓
Collaborative case management systems			
Identifies overdue cases of awaiting trial prisoners	Provides details for better decision making	Manages information gathered on each case	Tracks cases and focuses lawyers
Reduction in the number of awaiting trial prisoners	Nine per cent increase in satisfaction with High Courts	Reduces duplication and time spent on each case	Speeds up cases and reduces stalled cases

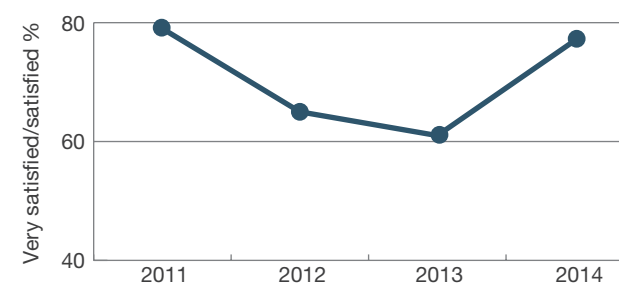
'The computerised CMS has made the biggest impact in the criminal justice system in Enugu State. It has improved the collaboration between the Ministry of Justice, the Prisons and the Courts in identifying long-term cases of awaiting trial prisoners.'

Honourable Attorney General, Enugu State, Anthony Ani

Customary courts meeting customers' needs

There are over 140 Customary Courts in Enugu State. J4A has been supporting them to provide more user friendly and efficient services since 2011. This included the enhanced treatment of court users, case management systems to improve efficiency and initiatives to improve the quality of decision making. This has led to a **12 per cent increase in user satisfaction** in three years. The impact of this work has been recognised by the Enugu State Government, which has pledged to improve the technical capacity of the Courts by ensuring that all 'Heads of Courts' are qualified lawyers and by introducing a structured salary system for them (where previously they were unpaid).

User satisfaction with the service provided by customary courts



Alternative dispute resolution is increasing access to justice for the poor

The community paralegal and village mediation project

J4A provided grants to a local CSO, the Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDoC), to train and mentor community paralegals and village mediators.

The project was aimed at increasing access to justice by providing an alternative dispute resolution mechanism for disadvantaged community members.

The two-year project was implemented across five pilot communities. The project trained and mentored **20 community paralegals and 150 village mediators** to provide basic legal assistance, mediation, and human rights services in prisons, courts and police stations at no cost.

The project sensitised 4,207 people on human rights and dispute resolution systems through campaigns and events. A radio show with an audience of around 14 million raised awareness across the south-east states.

At the end of the project in March 2014, a total of 180 cases were registered for mediation with an 88 per cent success rate. A total of 1,042 community members had benefited directly from mediation services.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between CIRDDOC and the controller of prisons to allow community paralegals to provide legal services to awaiting trial inmates and assistance for bail. If the programme is harnessed by the formal justice system, it is anticipated that the backlog of cases would be significantly reduced thereby demonstrating significant cost savings to government in delivering justice.

'The work of the community paralegals in invaluable. Since they started coming to the police station (Amagunze), the workload and the congestion in our cells has reduced considerably. They help us to locate the family of suspects in detention for bail. I cannot quantify the benefits of the project.'

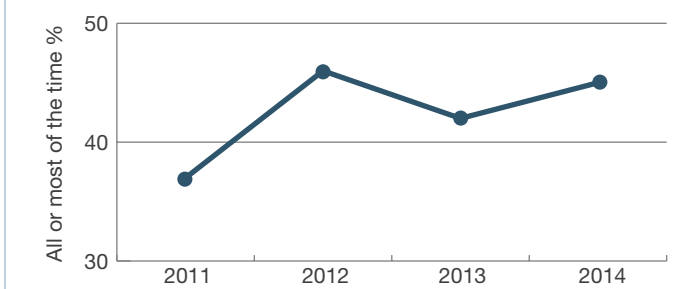
Divisional Police Officer, Amagunze

Umuadas: a trusted traditional dispute resolution mechanism for rural women

In Enugu State, four communities have benefited from J4A support to develop the capacity of umuadas (first daughters) to ensure that there is proper respect for human rights in the way they settle disputes. The Umuadas are an important dispute resolution avenue for women, especially in rural settings. They have been used for centuries and are highly respected by community members. Working with the umuadas allows the old customs of the traditional justice system to be maintained, while at the same time embracing the principles of modern human rights. **Over 200 umuadas were trained and mentored** by a local CSO, Women Action Research Organisation (WARO), and are now able to handle disputes in a more structured way.

Women's access to justice

Are women treated equally by the justice system?



	All or most of the time			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Are women treated equally by the justice system?	37%	46%	42%	45%
Police	38%	30%	33%	42%
Courts	65%	44%	58%	50%
Ministry of Justice	60%	41%	57%	49%
Prisons Service	56%	44%	53%	47%
Legal Aid Council	47%	39%	53%	43%

Snapshot of achievements in Enugu

Level of satisfaction with criminal justice agencies

Police	42%
Courts	50%
Ministry of Justice	49%
Prisons	47%

Sexual assault referral centre

98	victims of sexual assault have been assisted.
5	suspects in sexual assault referral centre cases have been referred to court.

Customary Courts

More women are bringing cases to the Customary Courts as a result of awareness raising efforts:

Increase from **9%** to **33%**