



FIDA-Uganda Success Story 1

Resilience in the face of administrative injustice

FIDA-Uganda selected one of our Community Legal Volunteers (CLV), Molly Wambi, a vendor in Kalerwe Market to join the Program Manager, Jackie Osuna at the GRRIPP Project colloquium final event that was held in Pretoria, South Africa from 29th to 31st August. However, there were various administrative hurdles which Molly needed to overcome in order to take up this opportunity. Molly did not have a passport at the time of her selection for participation in the colloquium. She also did not have a national ID as this was lost when her handbag was stolen from her while she was using public transport earlier in the year.

Molly took the necessary steps to obtain a letter from NIRA, to confirm her ID number, with the support of FIDA-Uganda. However, she was not helped at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and was requested to present no fewer than four of her relatives, in order to confirm her Ugandan nationality. FIDA-Uganda supported Molly by setting up a meeting with a senior official working in the passport office. The official insisted that there was nothing more to be done as Molly's citizenship could not be confirmed. At this point, FIDA-Uganda felt that we needed to step back until Molly was able to obtain a new National ID. We advised Molly to continue with the process, but prepared her to take up another travel opportunity as there were not many days left to apply for a visa in order to travel to South Africa.

But Molly would not give up, she displayed immense resilience by returning to the passport office again and again and again and doing all in her power to meet all the requirements that were presented to her during her visits. Finally, she was able to persuade the passport office of her Ugandan nationality and she obtained a passport, just in time to apply for a visa to travel to South Africa.

At the colloquium, Molly spoke passionately about her work in addressing GBV at Kalerwe market and how FIDA-Uganda has enabled her agency and voice to advocate against GBV and hold stakeholders accountable. She used this opportunity to Network with other participants across Africa, Latin America and the United Kingdom. Since the GRRIPP colloquium, Molly was invited by ILAW Kenya to speak during and African Commission Side



Event in Arusha – an opportunity she was able to take up due to the experience that she has gained in participating in the GRRIPP colloquium and because she obtained a passport.

When asked about her tenacity in ensuring that she obtained a passport she said: 'I wanted to practice what FIDA has been teaching me. Standing on my word and committing myself'.

As an organisation, we depend on our Community Legal Volunteers to address and refer human rights violations in their communities. They are therefore our 'ears' and 'eyes' at the grassroots. They have been very effective at this role and according to our statics, the CLVs handle approximately 40% of the total number of cases we register annually. The use of CLVs is our strongest sustainability mechanism across projects. We believe that supporting our community legal volunteers to attend and speak up in both National and International fora will make them more bold to speak up in their communities, interface with duty bearers and stakeholders at all levels and easily navigate any hurdles they may meet in promoting and protecting women's rights.



Molly making a presentation during the GRRIPP Project Colloquium final event in Pretoria, August 2023



Molly participating in a side event to African Commission session hosted by ILAW Kenya in Arusha on 22nd October 2023.