



African Centre for Treatment and  
Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)

# A WORLD FREE FROM TORTURE



ANNUAL REPORT  
2015

**COVER PAGE:**

**Awareness by ACTV of Police recruits at Kabalye, Masindi District**



**African Centre for Treatment and  
Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)**

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## Message from **THE CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**ENG. DR MOSES MUSAAZI**  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) is humbled to present to you the 2015 Annual Report that gives an account of the activities undertaken by ACTV from January 2015 to December 2015. It reflects on the lessons learnt in the period, the challenges faced and the future plans we have in an effort to deliver our mandate.

The year 2015 marked the end of the ACTV Five-Year Strategic Plan for 2011 to 2015 and we continued to provide quality holistic care to survivors of torture as well as advocating its prevention and prohibition at both our two centres located in Kampala and Gulu.

ACTV still remains the only centre in the country that provides rehabilitation services to survivors of torture that include medical, psychological, social and legal services to torture survivors. On this note, let me thank all the ACTV staff for the tireless efforts they have made to ensure that survivors of torture are rehabilitated.

In the same spirit, I, on behalf of the Board, also thank our development partners, especially the Democratic Governance Facility, the European Union, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Fund for Global Human Rights, the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and the Centre for Victims of Torture for

the financial and technical support rendered to ACTV which has enabled us to achieve our set goals.

In developing the next Five-Year Strategic Plan (2016-2020), ACTV included another strategic objective, namely “To empower survivors of torture through socio-economic projects to enable them to integrate in society” to add on to the four already existing ones. These are: First, to provide quality holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to survivors of torture; second, to advocate the prevention of torture and the implementation of the anti-torture law; third, to undertake research and documentation on torture; and last, but not least, to build the institutional capacity of ACTV to deliver on its mandate. Our past interventions in the area of treatment and rehabilitation of survivors of torture led to a realisation of the importance of assisting in the area of livelihoods so that a contribution is also made to catering to the basic needs of the survivors of torture during and after treatment, hence the new strategic objective.

However, it is important to note that despite these efforts by ACTV, torture is still a major human rights violation both in Uganda and the surrounding countries. Torture is a grave offence and the cruellest of all to mankind. To-date, the perpetrators of torture still commit acts of torture with impunity and go scot-free. We advocate the effective implementation of the anti-torture law so that survivors of torture can receive justice since prosecution is another form of rehabilitation. This then poses a challenge to us to continue massive

awareness-raising sessions amongst the alleged perpetrators of torture.

Let me take this opportunity to once again thank the staff of ACTV on behalf of the Board for successfully completing the year 2015. We again thank our development partners and stakeholders in the justice, law and order sector for their partnership in dealing with this vice.

## Message from THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**SAMUEL HERBERT NSUBUGA**  
Chief Executive Officer

Once again, the Annual Report is presented to you and we remain eternally grateful for your support in treating and rehabilitating survivors of torture, both Ugandans and refugees and advocating against torture.

The year 2015 was the last year of the ACTV Five-Year Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and, once again, we surpassed our target of 5,000 new survivors of torture we registered and treated over the five-year period. The 5,000 (1,000 per year) target of new survivors of torture was surpassed by the end of the fourth year of the strategic plan and by the end of the fifth year, we had registered 6,563 new survivors of torture, 1,563 clients above the planned target. This clearly shows that torture is still prevalent in Uganda and the Great Lakes region and there is still a lot of advocacy required to deal with it.

A new Five-Year Strategic Plan has been developed for the period 2016 to 2020 and in order to work towards our vision of a world free of torture, this plan has a number of additions.

First, another strategic objective has been included to assist in the rehabilitation process of the survivors of torture whom we treat. The component of livelihoods is a gap which we have now recognised and found difficult to ignore.

Second, ACTV needs to expand its legal

mandate. Currently, the ACTV legal officers only offer legal advice to the survivors of torture and refer them to other organisations which represent the latter in tribunals and/or in courts of law. We now plan to have our legal officers represent the survivors of torture in courts of law or any other jurisdiction which will greatly assist our clients in accessing justice. This would also help us to effectively implement the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act or anti-torture law because the legal officers will utilise every opportunity to refer to it, thereby also creating awareness among their colleagues in the judiciary, the public, as well as the members of the justice, law and order sector (JLOS).

Since we were ending one strategic plan and entering another, an organisational capacity assessment of ACTV was done and a number of recommendations were made, including clearly demarcating the Medical Department and the Mental Health Department. Torture has both physical and psychological effects, and even though ACTV is a one-stop torture treatment and rehabilitation centre, for effective interventions, these two areas have been separated, with the Medical Department being headed by a Medical Co-ordinator and the Mental Health Department being headed by the Mental Health Co-ordinator. Furthermore, ACTV will continue to train medical and legal professionals about the Istanbul Protocol guidelines to effectively document torture so that the clients are able to access justice using the medical reports developed. These medical and legal professionals will be our ambassadors even in the far-flung areas of Uganda to identify torture occurrences so that

they are dealt with to add on to our ACTV Kampala and ACTV Gulu medical centres.

In addition, a research study, *The Situational Analysis on Prevalence of Torture in Uganda*, was done in 2015 and the findings brought out clearly that we need to create awareness about what torture is and its definition. Advocacy in its various forms needs to be done to create awareness about torture so that all and sundry join hands to mitigate it.

Let me conclude by thanking our development partners who have provided not only financial support but also guidance as ACTV performs its mandate, the members of the Coalition against Torture (CAT) and the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), as well as our referral partners for always being with us in this fight against torture. Furthermore, members of the justice, law and order sector (JLOS) and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) for the meaningful collaboration in realising our mandate.

Last but not least, I wish to thank the Board members of ACTV for the wisdom and guidance they have offered to steer the ship and the staff for their commitment as we pursue the noble cause of ridding the world of torture.

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACTV	African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
CAT	Coalition Against Torture
CAR	Central African Republic
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CVT	Center for Victims of Torture
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EU	European Union
FDLR	Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda
FGHR	Fund for Global Human Rights
IRCT	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
JLOS	Justice, Law and Order Sector
JRS	Jesuit Refugee Service
LASPNET	Legal Aid Service Providers' Network
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MIS	Management Information System
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PPTA	Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RRU	Rapid Response Unit of Police – now the Special Investigations Unit (SIU)
SOTs	Survivors of Torture
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UPF	Uganda Police Force
UPS	Uganda Prisons Service
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Forces
UNCAT	United Nations Convention against Torture
UNNGOF	Uganda National NGO Forum
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNVFVT	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
VCCU	Violent Crime Crack Unit

## HOW WE OPERATE

ACTV has clear strategies which it employs in implementing its activities for the realisation of the organisation's objectives and working towards a world free from torture.

**REHABILITATION OF TORTURE SURVIVORS:** Torture continues to be a global challenge and there is need for rehabilitation efforts. Therefore, ACTV provides quality holistic services to torture survivors to help them in the recovery process. The holistic services include medical treatment, physiotherapy, psychological counselling, psycho-social support and legal advice.

**ADVOCATING AGAINST TORTURE:** In order to work towards the achievement of a world free from torture, mechanisms for the prevention of torture need to be instituted and accountability sought for. Therefore, ACTV engages in advocating against all acts of torture and for the implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012.

**CAPACITY BUILDING:** For the effective implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, it is imperative that the capacity of the key actors and stakeholders is built on the law but also on the effective documentation of torture. This is one of ACTV's key strategies in contributing towards the implementation of the law.

**COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING:** ACTV works through networking and collaboration at the international, regional and national levels for effective advocacy against torture.

## Summary of Our Achievements in 2015

<p>PROVIDING QUALITY HOLISTIC TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES TO SURVIVORS OF TORTURE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACTV treated 1,277 new clients, 127.7% of the annual target of 1,000 new clients</li> <li>• Seventy-two per cent of the new clients treated were Ugandans.</li> <li>• ACTV provided 142 new clients with psychological rehabilitation out of the targeted 194 survivors of torture (SOTs)</li> <li>• 180 new clients were provided with psycho-social support</li> <li>• 151 new survivors were offered physiotherapy</li> <li>• 92 new survivors of torture (SOTs) were provided with legal services</li> </ul>
<p>ADVOCATING THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACTV trained 5,006 police personnel and 86 Uganda People’s Defence Force (UPDF) personnel</li> <li>• ACTV trained 72 community resource persons</li> <li>• ACTV trained 14 legal and 15 medical professionals in the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012 (PPTA) and in the effective investigation and documentation of torture</li> <li>• ACTV distributed 7,702 information, educational and communication (IEC) materials which included posters, brochures, pens, stickers, popular or simplified anti-torture law booklets, banners, ACTV 2014 Annual Reports and fact sheets</li> </ul>
<p>RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACTV conducted a situational analysis of the prevalence of torture in Uganda</li> <li>• ACTV documented information on the 1,277 clients in the ACTV digital management information system</li> </ul>
<p>ORGANISATION CAPACITY STRENGTHENING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACTV developed a new Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020</li> <li>• An organisational capacity assessment was done and recommendations suggested for capacity enhancement</li> </ul>

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) is a unique non-governmental organisation (NGO) that was established in June 1993 in Kampala, Uganda by African professionals drawn from different walks of life under the guidance of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). ACTV is dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights with emphasis on advocacy against torture as well as the treatment and rehabilitation of survivors of torture by state and non-state actors.

ACTV is accredited by the Uganda Ministry of Health to operate two medical referral centres that provide physical and psychological treatment in support of the rehabilitation process of torture survivors in Uganda and the neighbouring countries. Despite efforts made by ACTV and its partners to end acts of torture, this vice is still one of the leading human rights violations in Uganda. In 2015, ACTV continued to play an important role in advocacy against acts of torture and the provision of services to torture survivors. This report highlights our key achievements, challenges and lessons learnt in the year 2015.

## 1.1 Our Work

ACTV is the pioneer provider of services to survivors of torture in Uganda. ACTV is accredited by the Ministry of Health to operate two medical referral centres that provide physical and psychological treatment and rehabilitation of torture survivors in Uganda and the neighbouring countries.

## 1.2 Our Vision

“A World Free from Torture”

## 1.3 Our Mission

“To advocate against torture and provide holistic care to survivors”

## 1.4 Our Programmes

Our work is organised to achieve five strategic objectives:

1. Holistic care: To provide quality holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to survivors of torture.

2. **Advocacy:** To advocate the prevention of torture and the implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012 or the anti-torture law.
3. **Research:** To undertake research and documentation on torture.
4. **Empowerment:** To empower survivors of torture through livelihood programmes to integrate in society.
5. **Organisational strengthening:** To build the institutional capacity of ACTV to deliver on its mandate.

## 2. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2.1 Provision of quality holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to survivors of torture

Under this objective ACTV committed itself to providing quality holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to at least 1,000 new torture survivors in 2015. ACTV provided such services as planned, including medical care, physiotherapy, psychological rehabilitation, psycho-social support and legal redress.

These services were extended through an extensive outreach programme which included visiting detention places, including prisons, in Uganda and urban refugee camps to “walk-in” clients at both ACTV medical centres in Gulu and Kampala, and through referrals for cases that could not be locally handled at ACTV. A detailed account of our performance in delivering each of the above services is presented below.

#### 2.1.1 Medical treatment

In 2015, ACTV reached out to 1,277 new survivors of torture with medical treatment; 916 of the survivors were male while 361 were female. This means that ACTV achieved 127.7% of the total annual target in this period, as shown in the table below.

**Table 1: Number of new survivors of torture received in 2015**

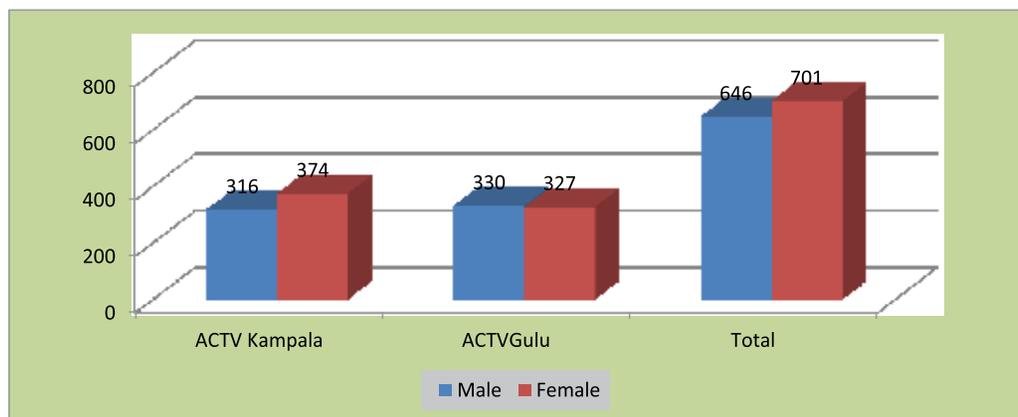
Month	ACTV Kampala			ACTV Gulu			Total			
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
January	3	20	23	20	1	21	23	21	44	
February	3	20	23	37	13	50	40	33	73	
March	8	20	28	5	5	10	13	25	38	
April	83	20	103	74	8	82	157	28	185	
May	25	6	31	69	41	110	94	47	141	
June	82	15	97	59	16	75	141	31	172	
July	74	10	84	74	10	84	92	23	115	
August	13	15	28	64	69	133	77	84	161	
September	62	13	75	18	5	23	80	18	98	
October	53	26	79	21	2	23	74	28	102	
November	15	9	24	9	5	14	24	14	38	
December	3	2	5	42	0	41	45	2	47	
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1277</b>	
Percentages	47.8%					52.2%		71.7%	28.3%	100%

Of the 1,277 new torture survivors received in the year 2015, ACTV- Gulu and ACTV-Kampala registered 47.8% (610) and 52.2% (667) respectively. Males constituted the biggest percentage of clients received in both Gulu and Kampala centres, comprising 71.7% of the total number of clients as compared to 28.3% for females. The new clients received had undergone different forms of torture and manifested various effects, both physical and psychological. This required various interventions which were offered as part of the holistic care offered by ACTV.

### 2.1.2 Client reviews

Reviews for old clients were also made to monitor progress and aid in the administration of appropriate corrective therapies, both physiologically and psychologically, at different levels of treatment.

**Figure 1: Reviews of clients**



Source: ACTV MIS, 2015

A total of 1,347 clients were reviewed at least once, of whom 646 were male while 701 were females, as indicated in Figure 1 above. Client reviews were carried out through community outreach, prison visits and at ACTV medical centres. The reviews showed that most of the clients were having significant improvements both physically and psychologically as a result of the rehabilitation services received. Below is a quote captured during a review session from one of our clients who benefited from ACTV skills-building activities,

“ ACTV has really loved us,’ ‘Our lives have greatly improved ever since Mama Peace (ACTV social worker) encouraged us to form this group. I never believed in savings, but with the small savings we made we learnt how to make bags out of nylons, even though it hurt our hands.” **A member of one of the groups ACTV is rehabilitating**

“Mama Peace, you showed us better ways on how to make good bags out of beads, and our hands are no longer hurting, and they are easy to make. We shall sell these bags and will be able to meet our day-to-day needs,” said the chairperson of the group.

### 2.1.3 Nationalities of new clients

ACTV serves survivors of torture irrespective of their nationality as shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Nationalities of new clients**

Nationality	Total	Percentage
Uganda	983	77
DRC	240	18.8
Burundi	41	3.2
Somalia	6	0.5
Rwanda	5	0.4
Ethiopia	2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ACTV MIS, 2015

The majority of clients received were Ugandans (77%) and refugees from the Great Lakes region, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (18.8%), Burundi (3.2%), Somalia (0.5%), Rwanda (0.4%) and Ethiopia (0.1%). The persisting political conflicts in these countries and governance issues have continued to fuel human rights violations, including the abuse of people's freedom from torture. The DRC has over the years contributed largely to the numbers of new clients received at ACTV. Now the unrest that broke out in Burundi in 2015 has also become a significant factor. ACTV used community outreach and an effective referral system with partners to ensure that urban-based refugee survivors access ACTV services within their settlements.

### 2.1.4 Service outlets

ACTV continues to use a multi-pronged approach in ensuring increased access to services by torture survivors. Our Gulu and Kampala centres continue to be the major service points for the clients backed up by community outreach, prison visits and referrals as illustrated in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Service outlets**

Centre	Community outreach	Partner referrals	Self (walk-ins)	Peer support workers/ community leaders	Prisons (inmates)
ACTV Gulu	249	3	39	3	318
ACTV Kampala	235	137	26	17	250
Total	484	140	65	20	568

Source: ACTV MIS, 2015

As shown above, community outreach and prison visits continue to be the major service outlets where clients access ACTV services (1,052). There is also a significant number of survivors of torture (SOTs) referred by partners (140). However, only three SOTs were referred by partners in Gulu centre, namely Victims Voice International (VIVO), Human Rights Focus (HURIFO) and the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) which calls for more efforts to build networks with partners in the Northern region. The persistent low number of walk-ins (65) also calls for more media and community campaigns targeted towards awareness-creation about our available services to SOTs.



An ACTV medical doctor listening to the clients during the medical outreach in the Kisenyi community.

## 2.1.5 Age of clients

Youth aged 19 to 35 years comprise 71.03% of the total number of new clients received at ACTV in 2015. This age group has often been used by politicians in demonstrations, riots and various confrontations with security officers, which on many occasions result in them being tortured. No children below 10 years were registered at both ACTV medical centres in the year 2015, as shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Age of clients**

Age group (years)	ACTV Gulu	ACTV Kampala	Total	Percentage
10-18	15	25	40	3.13%
19-25	255	174	429	33.60%
26-35	215	263	478	37.43%
36-45	104	151	255	19.97%
46-55	16	38	54	4.23%
56-65	5	8	13	1.02%
66-75	0	5	5	0.39%
DK	0	3	3	0.23%

## 2.1.6 Alleged perpetrators of torture

State agencies, security operatives and militia associated with the state continue to be the major perpetrators of torture as observed over the years. As per the statistics in Table 5 below, the Uganda Police Force (41.1%) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) counted among the the highest number of alleged perpetrators of torture by clients received at ACTV in the year 2015. Even though the LRA war led by Joseph Kony ended, ACTV continues to receive survivors of the war who manifest psychological effects from torture many years later. Militias due to political conflicts in DRC have also contributed largely to the influx of refugees, many of whom are survivors of torture. Of the new clients received, 16.3% alleged that they had been tortured by such militias. ACTV registered clients who cited a broad range of alleged perpetrators of torture, as indicated in Table 5 below.

**Table 5: Alleged perpetrators**

Perpetrator	Gulu	Kampala	Total	Percentage
Uganda Police Force	252	273	525	41.1%
Lord's Resistance Army	239	0	239	18.7%
Uganda People's Defence Forces	59	16	75	5.9%
Prison staff	8	13	21	1.6%
Inmates/ <i>Katikkiros</i>	6	5	11	0.9%
Local councils	19	14	33	2.6%
Crime preventers	25	0	25	1.9%
Kampala Capital City Authority	0	2	2	0.16%
Wildlife Authority	1	0	1	0.08%
Security/ unspecified)	1	0	1	0.08%
Rwanda government	0	5	5	0.39%
Militias in the Democratic Republic of Congo	0	208	208	16.3%
M23 rebels	0	32	32	2.51%
Interahamwe rebels	0	3	3	0.23%
South Sudan government	0	9	9	0.70%
Nkunda rebels	0	3	3	0.23%
FDLR rebels	0	6	6	0.47%
Burundi government	0	41	41	3.21%
Unknown	0	18	18	1.41%
Al- Shabaab	0	6	6	0.47%
Allied Democratic Force rebels	0	5	5	0.39%
Court brokers	0	1	1	0.08%
Ethiopian government	0	2	2	0.16%
Mai Mai rebels	0	5	5	0.39%

Source: ACTV MIS, 2015

### 2.1.7 Reasons for torture in 2015

ACTV received survivors of torture as a result of various reasons in 2015 as explained in Table 6 below .

**Table 6: Top 10 reasons for torture**

SN	Reason	Kampala	Gulu	Total
1	Suspected criminal	249	339	588
2	Rebel atrocities	92	105	197
3	Relationship with victim	95	2	97
4	Politician	61	6	67
5	Mistaken identity	31	7	38
6	Human rights defender	15	0	15
7	Tribal differences	6	0	6
8	Journalism	4	0	4
9	Gender minority	0	4	4
10	Rioting	1	1	2

### Forms of torture

In 2015, ACTV received survivors tortured in various ways, both physically and psychologically, as illustrated in Table 7 below.

**Table 7: Top eight forms of torture in 2015**

SN	Form	Number
1	Non-systematic beating	354
2	Kicking	239
3	Rape	160
4	Systematic beating	145
5	Public humiliation	140
6	Tying	111
7	Witnessing torture of others	81
8	Deprivation of communication	29

### Treatment and rehabilitation services offered

As mentioned earlier, ACTV reached out to torture survivors with various kinds of treatment and rehabilitation services, including medical treatment, psychological treatment, physiotherapy, social support, and legal assistance. This is explained below.

### 2.1.8 Physiotherapy

ACTV provided physiotherapy to 151 new torture survivors in 2015. Of these, 124 were male and 27 were female. Various appliances, including thoracic-lumber corsets, lumber sacral corsets, knee braces, cock-up splints, auxiliary crutches, elbow crutches and shoe raises were also provided to clients as and when required. Through continuous reviews of the treated clients, we noted good progress in terms of their physical ability, pains generally reduced and that the majority can now freely move their bodies and can now engage in routine activities normally.

#### Case of Torture

Client X (name withheld) reported to us from Mbarara Prison that in November 2014, she was arrested by the police in Mbarara and transferred to Kireka Criminal Investigations and Intelligence Department seven days after. She alleges that while there she was systematically beaten in order to get her to confess to a crime and, as a result, she developed lower back pain which led to weakness in her lower limbs and both urinal and faecal incontinence. She was not able to walk and sit for long. The ACTV physiotherapist assessed and treated her conditions.

### 2.1.9 Mental health care

A total of 181 new clients out of the planned 192 were offered mental health care through both individual and group counselling sessions. Activities such as prison visits, home visits, family therapy sessions and community outreach were used by our mental health team to approach these new survivors of torture.

#### Clinical supervision and mentoring of psychological counsellors

The ACTV mental health team completed a year-long capacity-building programme to strengthen service delivery in mental health care at ACTV.



*Mental health workers during five days' training in Nairobi, Kenya last year*

During this process, a manual was developed outlining an approach to psychological counselling in prisons, and Kigo Prison acted as a model for testing this approach. ACTV was also able to develop standard operating procedures for mental health clients addressing the intake and discharge processes. Assessment tools measuring progress for monitoring and evaluating mental health services were also developed in the process. All this work was closely supervised by a physiotherapist trainer posted to ACTV for a period of one year by the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) through the ongoing European Union-funded project being implemented by ACTV in partnership with CVT based in the United States of America and the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU) based in Kenya. Training sessions were also organised with participation from counsellors from partner organisations in both Gulu and Kampala, with four sessions at each centre being spread over four months from February to May 2015. Eight counsellors from Kampala were trained during these days as indicated in Table 6 below.

**Table 8: Names of trainees from Uganda**

N/s	Name	Position	Organisation
1	Ms Faith Bothuwok	Psychological Counsellor	ACTV- Kampala
2	Ms Eve Achan	Psychological Counsellor	Refugee Law Project (RLP)
3	Ms Leila Hassan Wakabi	Psychological Counsellor	ACTV- Kampala
4	Mr Kizito Wamala	Clinical Psychologist	ACTV- Kampala
5	Mr Isaac Ogwal Eyula	Clinical Psychologist	ACTV- Gulu
6	Mr Wilson Senyonyi	Psychological Counsellor	Oxfam, West Nile
7	Ms Jennifer Ateng	Psychological Counsellor	Oxfam, West Nile
8	Ms Alice Nora Kipwola	Psychological Counsellor	CCVS, Lira

### 2.10 Psycho-social support

The 2015 target was to provide psycho-social support to 180 new SOTs and out of this, 159 survivors were reached with these services by the end of the year. ACTV also trained 10 new Peer Support Workers (PSWs) from 21 to 24 April 2015 to strengthen referrals from communities and increase access to rehabilitation services. In addition, 16 existing PSWs were facilitated through refresher training and, furthermore, two psycho-social support groups (Hope and Learn Group and Maendeleo Group) were supported with skills-building activities in handicrafts-making. Members of these groups have since engaged in making handicrafts for sale as an income-generating activity for their families.



*ACTV trauma counsellor reviewing handicraft materials made by clients*

## 2.11 Legal Services

ACTV planned to provide legal assistance to 200 new SOTs in 2015 through legal redress, visiting detention areas, representing clients in UHRC tribunals, screening of cases and helping prosecute advocacy cases as well as making legal referrals. By the end of the year, 159 new survivors had received at least one or more of the above-mentioned legal services, as indicated in Table 9 below.

**Table 9: Legal services provided**

Legal service	Outputs
Legal advice	159
Prison visits (5)	5 visits (55 clients)
Follow-ups	30 clients
Referral for further redress	15
Tribunal hearing	6
Advocacy cases	1

ACTV, through its legal unit, also carried out public interest litigation in partnership with a number of other advocates willing, able and competent to support the struggle against torture. Public interest litigation brings to attention torture incidents among those concerned by speaking for the voiceless. It is done for a public cause to bring about social change. The cases ACTV has worked on in this regard include:

- a) Jasper Natukunda vs. Attorney General and Christopher Ruhunde, a police officer
- b) HCMC 77/14 Ahimbisibwe Moses v. Attorney General and Mutsunga Ali and Lubega Patrick HCMC 78/14
- c) Yahaya Lukwago and Four Others – HCMA 72/14

All these are still ongoing in court where ACTV has contracted Mr Ladislaus Rwakafuzi, a lawyer, to represent these torture survivors.

## Case of one of the litigation cases being handled

### **Jasper Natukunda vs. Attorney General and Christopher Ruhunde, a police officer**

Jasper was arrested during a peaceful demonstration in Rukungiri district and detained. He suffered a lot of injuries as a result of his alleged torture and reached out to ACTV for treatment, rehabilitation and redress. ACTV hired Rwakafuzi and Co. Advocates on behalf of Jasper Natukunda, who filed an action for damages against the Attorney General and the police officer who was involved in the acts of torture. Another prayer was made to court so that the accused could be deemed not fit and proper to serve the nation in the capacity of a police officer. This is intended to have a deterrent effect on reckless police officers who violate the law.

**The status:** The case is up for mediation before the High Court. The Attorney General has offered 10,000,000 Uganda shillings as compensation. The offer of ten million shillings has, however, been rejected and the advocate has stuck to 200,000,000 Uganda shillings as compensation. The major reason is that not even the original offer can treat the client.

## Prison visits

In 2015, the ACTV holistic team visited 13 prisons to extend services to torture survivors in detention. A total of 568 new survivors were registered in the process and 300 clients reviewed. The prisons visited include Kigo, Nakasongola, Katojo, Masaka, Mbarara, Gulu, Loro, Oyam, Kitgum, Pader, Kole, Apac and Lira prisons. Much as incidents of torture within prisons are low (only 1.6% of the new registered cases), 44.5% of the total number of new clients registered by ACTV were met in prisons. This is so because the majority of survivors in prisons alleged that they had been tortured by the police during arrest before confinement into the prison cells.

### 2.12 Referrals

ACTV received referrals from various partners for different cases, as shown in Table 10 below.

**Table 10: Referrals from partners**

Partner	Male	Female	Total
Prisons	530	38	568
Community outreach (northern Uganda)	89	70	159
Bondeko outreach	25	27	52
Jesuit Refugee Service	23	29	52
Peer Support Workers	19	29	48
Refugee Law Project	23	24	47
Self/Walk-in	28	16	44
HIAS	22	21	43
Mengo Kisenyi	5	22	27
Makindye outreach	7	15	22
PADEAP	8	1	9
UHRC	6	0	6
Others	131	69	200

During the reporting period, ACTV referred clients for specialised treatment to other medical centres for services that cannot be offered locally within the ACTV centres. These include cases that required admissions, given the fact that ACTV operates only out-patient services at its premises.

**Table 11: Referrals for specialised care**

Service	ACTV Kampala	ACTV Gulu	Total
Laboratory investigations	23	1	24
Radiology	31	0	31
ENT	3	1	4
Psychiatry	3	0	3
Gynaecology	4	1	5
Neurology	2	0	2
Dentist	1	0	1
Orthopaedics	3	0	3
HIV	2	0	2
Scan	19	10	29
Medication	18	0	18
Surgeon	7	6	13
Cardiologist	3	0	3
Eye specialist	4	2	6
Reproductive health	2	0	2
Urologist	4	0	4
Total	129	21	150

### 3. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ADVOCATING FOR THE PREVENTION AND END OF TORTURE NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

ACTV was engaged in various advocacy and networking activities through 2015 to work towards the above mentioned objective. All these were aimed at increasing general awareness of torture and the PPTA, among all stakeholders as well as influencing policies to deter acts of torture.

#### 3.1 Community awareness and sensitisation

Over 1,000 community resource persons and law enforcement officers were sensitised regarding torture and the PPTA through various sessions. The sessions were held for criminal justice actors, crime preventers, community members and refugees in Northern, Eastern, Central and Rwenzori regions of Uganda. In addition to these sessions, ACTV also conducted community awareness-raising of torture at each of its outreach activities and through several media events as illustrated in Table 12 below.

**Table 12: Summary of community awareness sessions conducted**

Location	Target group	Number reached
Luweero and Kampala	Leaders, law enforcement	40
Soroti, Jinja, Mbale, Tororo	Criminal justice actors	140
Kampala Metropolitan	Crime preventers	120
Old Kampala Primary School	Refugee community	140
Fort Portal Town	Community members	Over 200
Ntoroko Town	Community members	Over 200
Bundibugyo Town	Community members	Over 200

#### 3.2 Security awareness sessions

ACTV statistics and other human rights reports continue to show that security agencies are the main perpetrators of torture in Uganda. In this regard, ACTV continued to conduct awareness-creation sessions with security institutions, including the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), the Uganda Police Force (UPF) and the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS). By the end of 2015, 120 police officers had been trained in the concept of torture and the PPTA. These were Division Police Commanders, Officers in Charge, Division Crime Investigation Officers, Field Force Unit Officers, Special Police Constables and Marine Officers. ACTV was also able to train 5,006 police personnel (4,218 probation police personnel and 788 police cadets) at Kabalye Police Training School in Masindi district.

Training of UPDF officers was also carried out in 4<sup>th</sup> Division Gulu (38 UPDF officers) which was singled out in the 2013 UHRC report for having allegedly violated the rights of freedom from torture. Similar trainings were carried out in Mbale for officers from Soroti and Rubongi barracks (40 UPDF officers) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Mbarara (48 UPDF officers), making a total of 126 UPDF officers trained, as indicated in Table 13 below.

**Table 13: Summary of security awareness sessions conducted**

Location	Category of persons	Number
Kabalye Police Training School	Probation police constables and cadets	5,006
Kampala Metropolitan Police Region	Police officers	120
UPDF 4 <sup>th</sup> Division Gulu (Northern Uganda)	UPDF officers	38
UPDF 3 <sup>rd</sup> Division Mbarara (South-western Uganda)	UPDF officers	48
Military Police Investigators – UPDF Muhooti Barracks (Western Uganda)	UPDF officers	70
UPDF training – Mbale and Soroti Barracks (Eastern Uganda)	UPDF officers	40



*ACTV staff facilitating a session on the PPTA with police officers in the Kampala Metropolitan Area*

### 3.3 Training of Legal and medical professionals in the documentation of torture (Istanbul Protocol)

The Istanbul Protocol is a non-binding document and the first set of international guidelines for the investigation and documentation of torture. It provides comprehensive and practical guidelines for the assessment of persons alleging torture. The purpose of the protocol is to guide medical and legal practitioners on how to recognise and document symptoms of torture to adduce valid evidence to be used in court. The Istanbul Protocol provides useful guidance for medical and legal professionals who want to investigate whether or not a person has been tortured and report the findings to the judiciary and any other investigative bodies. ACTV, trained 29 medical/legal professionals (14 lawyers and 15 doctors) from different regions of Uganda. The training aimed at enhancing access to the right to legal remedy by survivors of torture through effective investigation, documentation and reporting of torture.



*Trainees and facilitators at the Istanbul Protocol Guidelines training at Imperial Botanical Hotel, Entebbe*

### 3.4 Training of media practitioners

The media is fundamental to the attainment of the objectives of ACTV in the fight against torture. ACTV needs the media to advocate against torture, truthfully inform Ugandans about torture, its consequences, the government’s obligation to combat torture, as well as generate debate on issues related to torture and human rights. In this regard, ACTV trained 30 media practitioners from various regions of Uganda and media houses. This training aimed at providing knowledge of key issues in human rights abuses and improving the skills of journalists in identifying torture stories, investigating, and reporting them in a compelling way.



*One of the sessions during the media practitioners' training at Esella Country Resort in Wakiso District*

### 3.5 Training of health workers

ACTV trained 54 clinicians in the management of torture cases and the development of medical reports to aid torture survivors in seeking justice. This was conducted in three days and targeted health workers in Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) medical facilities and those from private or faith-based medical centres. This was partially aimed at strengthening referrals between ACTV and other medical centres as well as sharing experiences among clinicians on the management of torture survivors.



*The ACTV programme manager giving his remarks at one of the awareness sessions*

### 3.6 Production of information, education and communication (IEC) materials

ACTV produced and disseminated various IEC materials on torture and the PPTA to increase awareness and sensitise different stakeholders regarding torture. It is believed that increased awareness of torture will, in turn, increase seeking services among torture survivors and reduce the occurrences of torture as a result of potential perpetrators knowing about the PPTA. ACTV printed and disseminated several IEC materials in 2015; as indicated in Table 14 below.

**Table 14: Information, education and communication (IEC) materials disseminated**

No.	IEC Items	Disseminated
1	Posters	654
2	Brochures	721
3	Stickers	421
4	Notebooks	150
5	Pens	130
5	Simplified version of PPTA	5,560
6	Fact sheets	671
7	Banners	6
8	ACTV Annual Reports	776
9	Newsletters	2
10	PPTA booklets	1,282

#### Examples of IEC materials produced and disseminated

##### Stickers



## Fact sheet



## Facts about torture;

### What is Torture?

It is the intentional infliction of severe pain whether physical or mental on a person by any person whether a public official or other person acting in an official or private capacity for a specific purpose.

### Why Torture?

Reasons include: obtaining information or confession, punishing a person for an act he/she or another person has done or suspected to have done, intimidating or coercing the person or any other person to do or to refrain from doing any act or simply for gratification of those carrying out or observing.

### Who are the Perpetrators?

Everyone can be a perpetrator but most common are; security personnel (police officers, prisons officers, Local defense forces, Army, Intelligence agencies), people in authority (politicians and opinion leaders).

### Who are the Victims?

Anyone can become a victim of torture regardless of age, gender, religion, social class, ethnicity or level of education. Nobody should be considered immune, although being a member of a particular political, religious, or ethnic group or minority can very often be determining.

### What To Do When Tortured?

- Report to Police, Uganda Human Rights Commission office or any Courts of Law.
- For treatment and rehabilitation services (physical, psychological, social and legal), go to African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) or any health centre near you.



#### African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

Kampala: +256 312 263 918, Gulu: +256 392 833 598  
www.actvuganda.org, TOLL FREE LINE: 0800202791



### 3.7 Commemoration of the United Nations International Day in support of Torture Victims, 26 June 2015

ACTV, through the Coalition against Torture (CAT) in partnership with UHRC, headed the preparations for the commemoration of 26 June 2015 activities. Several activities were organised and conducted before, on and after 26 June with the local theme “Implement the anti-torture law”. Some of the activities conducted in commemoration of this day included:

## A media campaign

The campaign involved the use of print, broadcast and online media. These included airing of radio spot messages in five local languages, namely English, Luganda, Luo, Ateso and Runyoro-Rutooro. These were run by different partners across the country.

To augment the information provided using the spot messages, CAT and partners embarked on sharing responsibility in informing the public and generating public debate on the implementation of the anti-torture law, the situation of violations of rights in Uganda and efforts towards alleviating the abuse through TV and radio talk shows. Advertorials were run in two print media dailies with high readership (the *Daily Monitor* and the *New Vision*) by ACTV on behalf of CAT. The advertorials highlighted the plight of torture as well as detailed interviews with torture survivors and human rights defenders. The information was further made available on print media websites, thus reaching big numbers of targeted audiences.

## A press conference

This was held on 22 June 2015 to commence the commemoration activities and was attended by more than 50 journalists. The joint statement on behalf of CAT-UHRC and United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was relayed by the Secretary of UHRC, Mr G.T Mwesigye. The statement carried a general recommendation to all stakeholders to effectively implement the anti-torture law.

## A community dialogue

Owing to the overwhelming numbers of refugee torture survivors living in the urban areas, a community dialogue was held in an urban refugee community with the aim of raising awareness about torture and the law. The vulnerability of refugees exposes many of them to an environment and circumstances that sometimes breed torture. Many refugees are forced into prostitution as a coping mechanism and as a means of livelihood; hence many are beaten, harassed, raped and tortured.

The Association of Torture Victims (ATV) members in Kampala performed a song entitled “Survivor claim peace” and a play reflecting scenarios of refugee survivors of torture. The song and the play portrayed the effects of torture on families and communities. Further, the play depicted that victims/survivors need holistic treatment and rehabilitation.



*Members of ATV performing a skit on the effects of torture at the community dialogue*

### **Public dialogues on torture**

Two public dialogues were held in Kampala and Fort Portal under the theme: “The Role of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies in the Implementation of the Anti-Torture Law”. The purpose of the dialogues was to examine the gaps in the implementation of the anti-torture law and the perceptions of the institutions of law enforcement who are the most common violators of this non-derogable right as reported in the media and documented by human rights defenders and practitioners.

Panellists with expertise in legal and law enforcement circles were identified with discussants of similar repute for the subsequent sessions and the plenary.



*Panellists and discussants at the public dialogue in Kampala. Key note Speaker was Mr. Chibita the Director of Public Prosecutions.*

### 26th June commemoration and exhibition

The grand finale was a peaceful procession of the commemoration, with activities aimed at highlighting the need for holistic rehabilitation. The chief walker was the new head of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) in Uganda, Dr Uchenna Emelonye, and the procession was led by the police and prison brass bands.

The guest of honour was the Head of Delegation of the European Union in Uganda, His Excellency Ambassador Kristian Schmidt, who also represented the development partners and launched the translations of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (PPTA), 2012 into four major local languages. The translations were undertaken in order to enhance comprehension of the law. A cross section of participants were in attendance, including government officials, civil society organisations (CSOs), the media, faith-based organisations and policy-makers, among others. UHRC and other CAT member organisations exhibited their services, highlighting their contribution to advocacy against torture in Uganda.



## **4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: TO GATHER INFORMATION ON TORTURE AND DOCUMENT BEST PRACTICES IN THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES**

### **4.1 Documentation of client information**

An up-to-date digital management information system has been maintained that captures all the new and old clients' information. This has made management of client information easy, enabling timely analysis and generation of reports for effective decision-making in the treatment of survivors of torture (SOTs).

### **4.2: Situation analysis of the prevalence of torture in Uganda**

ACTV conducted a study in 2015 to establish the prevalence of torture in Uganda. After every two years, we embark on conducting a study in an area of interest basing on prevailing conditions to guide our programme towards addressing torture-related issues. The above mentioned study was carried out by ACTV staff together with a hired consultant. The findings of study, among others, indicated that torture is still a big challenge, with perpetrators being both state and non-state actors. The study also noted that many survivors are scattered across the country but cannot access treatment and rehabilitation services to address their needs. It was recommended that ACTV broadens its coverage through establishing a response network across the country through which ACTV services can be made available to torture survivors anywhere through service providers trained by ACTV. Advocacy for implementation of the anti-torture law was highly emphasised as one of the recommendations to ACTV and partners.

### **4.3 Programme/ finance/monitoring and evaluation field visits**

Quarterly support visits were carried out to ACTV Gulu, and implementation sites were also routinely visited for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Continuous tracking of ACTV's progress towards the achievement of set targets was contributed to through such visits and, as a result, an improvement in programme management and delivery has been realised. Better coordination of programme activities and tracking of results has been achieved, thus enabling routine planning in service delivery based on the lessons learnt.

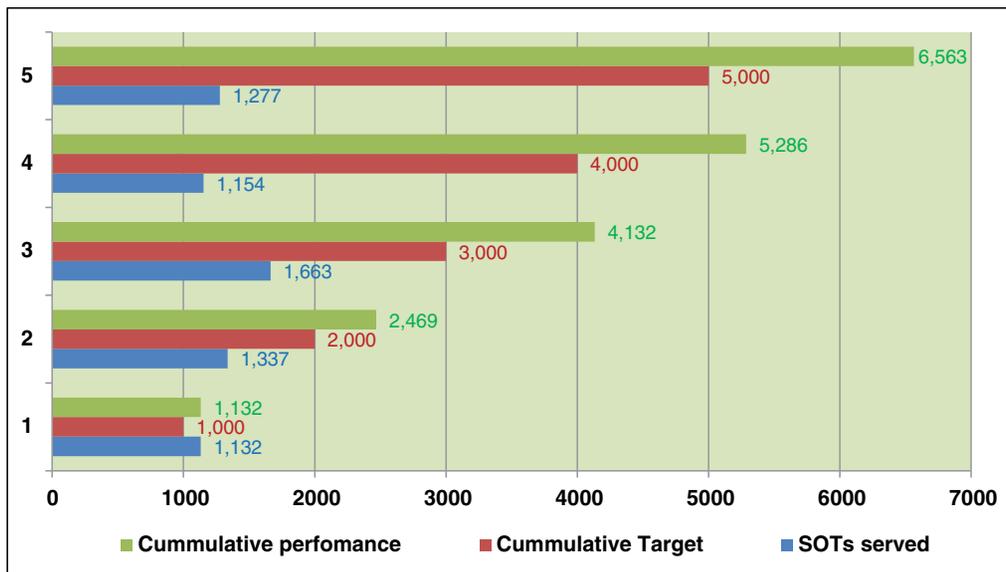
#### 4.4 Mid-term evaluation of the EU project

A mid-term evaluation for the “Strengthening and Enhancing Torture Prevention, Rehabilitation and Accountability in East Africa Project” was conducted in May 2015. This is a European Union-funded 30-month project being implemented by ACTV, Independent Medico- Legal Unit in Kenya and the Center for Victims of Torture, an American-based organisation. This evaluation was aimed at assessing performance of the project in terms of its implementation and the results achieved midway through its life span. The evaluation showed that ACTV and its partners were on course towards achieving the set project objectives and recommended an increase in the budget for advocacy activities.

#### 4.5 Evaluation of the 2011–2015 Strategic Plan

ACTV completed the implementation of its five-year Strategic Plan (2011-2015) at the end of 2015. It was, therefore, important to carry out an end-term strategic plan evaluation as one of the final activities in this strategic plan’s implementation to assess ACTV’s performance over the past five years and draw lessons for future programming. An external evaluator was, therefore, hired to take lead in this assessment and the evaluation identified ACTV to have surpassed its set targets along each strategic objective as illustrated in Figure 2 below. The evaluation also noted some gaps in ACTV operations, including lack of essential manuals and limitation in geographical scope. It recommended broadening of ACTV’s coverage to cater for torture by non-state actors, the establishment of a national response network for torture survivors, and the development of essential manuals, among others.

**Figure 2: New clients registered over the five-year strategic period 2011-2015**



As shown in the figure above, ACTV registered a total of 6,563 new torture survivors over the Strategic Plan period (2011-2015) compared to the targeted 5,000 during that entire period.

#### 4.6 Service review meetings

One service review meeting was held with 30 clients to obtain their input and views regarding the services they receive from ACTV. These were purposively selected to ensure representation of different categories of clients at the meeting. One meeting was also held with partners that work closely with ACTV through the referral of clients. These meetings were used for clearly specifying ACTV's mandate and agreeing on the modalities of strengthening the referral system between ACTV and its partners. Input into the organisation's programming was also made by both clients and partners who influenced better planning during the year 2015.

## 5. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF ACTV TO DELIVER

ACTV continued to strengthen itself in service delivery to torture survivors through many approaches, including the following:

### 5.1 Staff capacity-building

Staff members were facilitated by ACTV to undertake different training programmes through the year 2015 as indicated in the table below:

**Table 15: Summary of trainings attended by staff in 2015**

Sr No.	Name of staff	Course attended	Trainer/Training institution
1	All ACTV staff	Communication skills	Mr Deogratius Lukyamuzi
		Effective time management skills	Mr Jesus Cazorla (Center for Victims of Torture)
2	Michael O. Bamulangeyo	Conflict analysis	Democratic Governance Facility
3	Barnabas Matovu	Advocacy and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence	HIAS
4	Peace Avola	Including older refugees in SGBV prevention and response programmes	HIAS
		French language	Alliance Française de Kampala
5	Paul Mukalere Kirya	Mental health advocacy	Mental Disability Advocacy Centre (MDAC)
		Effective documentation and investigation of torture	ACTV
		Application of the human rights-based approach in implementing the Anti-Pornography Act, 2014 and the Public Order Management Act, 2013	ACTV, Human Rights Centre Uganda and The Uganda Human Rights Commission
6	Dr Ronald Lubega	Istanbul Protocol on effective documentation of torture	ACTV
		Training on torture treatment and handling with other health providers	ACTV
		Training on gender-based violence	Inter-Aid Uganda
		Protection and treatment of people with specific needs in the context of social exclusion	HIAS

## 5.2 Completion of the Organisational Capacity Assessment

ACTV went through an organisation capacity assessment exercise in 2015 and a number of recommendations were suggested to enable ACTV strengthen its capacity to deliver on its mandate. These included the establishment of a referral network for clients, adopting a new organisational structure, reviewing remuneration for ACTV staff and reviewing individual responsibilities for all positions at ACTV.

## 5.3 Development of a new Strategic Plan (2016 –2020)

We successfully finalised the implementation of the 2011 to 2015 strategic plan and embarked on the development of a new ACTV strategic plan (2016-2020). Evaluation of the previous strategic plan was done and through this it was found that we had, as an organisation, realised all the objectives we had set out for that period.

## 5.4 Human Resources

ACTV operations were overseen by a team of five committed Board of Directors. The Board provided strategic direction to ACTV through the year, holding quarterly meetings to discuss the organisation's business and approve policy. Table 6 below provides a list of the ACTV Board members:

**Table 16: List of ACTV Board members**

No.	Name	Designation on Board
1	Dr. Moses Kizza Musaazi	Chairperson
2	Ms. Judy Kamanyi	Member
3	Mr. Livingstone Okello-Okello	Member
4	Dr. Margaret Mungherera	Member
5	Ms. Margaret Sekaggya	Member

**Table 17: List of staff members as at 31st December 2015**

No.	Designation	Staff name(s)	Location
1	Chief Executive Officer	Samuel Herbert Nsubuga	Kampala
2	Finance and Administration Manager	Esther Ruth Akello	Kampala
3	Ag. Programme Manager	Michael O. Bamulangeyo	Kampala
4	Branch Manager ACTV Gulu	Alfred Okettayot	Gulu
5	Ag. Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Esther Nabwire Wasswa	Kampala
6	Accountant	Dan Lubinga	Kampala
7	Legal Officer	Juliet Anango	Kampala
8	Physiotherapist	Apollo Robinson Kinyera	Kampala
9	Physiotherapist	Godfrey Musangania	Gulu
10	Medical Officer	Dr Kenneth D. Bagonza	Kampala
11	Medical Officer	Dr Ronald Lubega	Kampala
12	Clinical Psychologist	Kizito Wamala	Kampala
13	Clinical Psychologist	Isaac Ogwal	Gulu
14	Psychological Counsellor	Leila Wakabi	Kampala
15	Clinical Officer	James Ogwal Opio	Gulu
16	Social Worker	Peace C. Avola	Kampala
17	Social Worker	Beatrice Acayo	Gulu
18	Nurse	Alex Kigoye	Kampala
19	Nurse	Annet Nantume	Kampala
20	Nurse	Susan Labeja	Gulu
21	Administration Assistant	Robinah Nabatanzi	Kampala
22	Office Attendant	Robinah Kibirige	Kampala
23	Office Attendant	Benon Kanyanzira	Kampala
24	Office Attendant	Santo Okaa	Gulu
25	Driver	Steven Mukama	Kampala
26	Driver	Fred Ngobi	Kampala
27	Driver	Charles Ayella	Gulu
28	Driver	Peter Opio	Kampala

## 5.5 International Seminars/Conferences

The Legal Officer participated in the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) conference in Banjul, The Gambia. ACTV, with other like-minded African torture treatment centres accredited to the International Rehabilitation Council of Torture Victims (IRCT), and , the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), developed a paper on the "Right to Rehabilitation" advocating to the African countries that the treatment and rehabilitation of survivors of torture has to be factored into the health budgets of African states.

## 5.6 Asset Acquisition

We had the following additions to assets in 2015

Asset Type	Asset Cost (UGX)
Desk top computer and UPS	3,000,000
Toyota Prado	Purchased by DGF

## 6.0 Outcomes, Lessons Learnt and Best Practices

ACTV has continued to position itself strategically as an organisation that provides holistic services to torture survivors in the region with an increase in survivors from the Great Lakes region seeking its services. In addition, the organisation has directly contributed towards the implementation of the PPTA roadmap that was developed in 2012 following the passing of the law.

This period saw ACTV strengthen its linkages with government institutions and agencies such as the UHRC, the Uganda Police, the Uganda Prisons Service, the UPDF, KCCA and the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI) from the training and awareness sessions held with them as well as strengthen the capacity-building interventions in the organisation.

As a result of its interventions, the following outcomes were realised and the organisation will build upon these in the following year.

### 6.1 Key Outcomes

#### 6.1.1. Increased public awareness and vigilance on torture

“Torture is barbaric, inhumane and degrading” is a message that ACTV maintained in the reporting period. From community dialogues, through the media campaign and through its partnerships, the message was delivered strongly. This contributed towards increasing public awareness and vigilance on torture. The training of media practitioners further enhanced this through their continued reporting on torture cases. The increase in numbers reported to ACTV and UHRC shows that awareness of torture is increasing among the public.

#### 6.1.2 Increased knowledge of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (PPTA)

As a result of the awareness training sessions of security agencies conducted by ACTV and its partners, the level of awareness and knowledge of the PPTA has tremendously increased. Human Rights Centre Uganda, in partnership with ACTV and UHRC, conducted a baseline survey in the districts of Mbale, Tororo, Soroti and Jinja from 19 January to 4 February 2015 and found that 90% (21% of whom were women) of the implementing officers indicated that they had received some information on the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012 (PPTA). Awareness-creation regarding the PPTA is a critical component of the implementation of the PPTA, especially with the realisation by security agencies that individual members of the agencies will be held liable for torture.

### 6.1.3 Draft regulations on the PPTA produced

ACTV participated in advocating for the development of regulations for the effective implementation of the PPTA. Draft regulations were developed by all stakeholders with the support of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR). We are optimistic that by the end of 2016 the regulations will be ready for implementation.

### 6.1.4 Improved rehabilitation among torture survivors

Through the provision of holistic services to torture survivors at ACTV, many survivors showed significant signs of improvement in torture-related illnesses. This is attributed to the treatment and rehabilitation services offered to the survivors. Often some of the survivors are fully incapacitated and are not able to engage in income-generating activities to support their livelihoods.

The psycho-social groups in Northern Uganda are having a positive impact on the lives of many torture survivors, especially the women. Many female group members have admitted full recovery as a result of the group support initiatives and are advocating for the strengthening of groups (see success story attached for more details of the impact).

#### Case story

**M**s Lillian Adiyo tried her luck at improving the lives of her family. She is one of those who survived the LRA atrocities and is supported by ACTV under a livelihood project. She is engaged in a group farming activity and also a Village Savings Scheme. As a result of ACTV's support with planting materials and seeds, Lillian now owns a two-hectare banana plantation, one hectare of simsim, and two hectares of groundnuts and rice. Life for Lillian has improved. She supports her late brother's children by paying their school fees and meets other needs for her children, especially regarding education and health. "I feel happy!" she exclaimed. "ACTV has supported me so much that I am what I am today." With perseverance, dedication and patience, Lillian was able to expand her livelihood project from group farming to individual farming, rearing of livestock and poultry keeping. Lillian is determined to make her new project grow. Apart from attending to her project, she has attended several trainings on Peer Support Work, business skills and agro-farming. With the convergence of women's groups and the Sustainable Livelihood Programme, Lillian enthuses that her family can now get together more often, eat a decent diet, that her children are all in school and that she can sustain the medication of her husband, too. Lillian says that the success of psycho-social recovery and the livelihood project depends on one's will to accept to let go of the past and embrace a new era. Determination and hard work will always push you to the next level of life.

### 6.1.5 Capacity of mental health staff of ACTV enhanced to deliver better mental health services

As a result of the intensive one-year training undergone by the ACTV mental health staff, services are being delivered in a more consistent, efficient and effective manner. The staff are now able to track the progress of the clients and measure the change in them. The staff at ACTV were also able to develop 17 tools for better delivery of mental health services. The following tools were developed:

- Document on the structure of the Mental Health (MH) Department of ACTV
- Guide to Psychological Care Services for Torture Survivors in Prison Settings
- Group Psychological Counselling Manual for Torture Survivors in Prison Settings
- Mental Health Case Management Procedure
- Mental Health Clinical Supervision Guide
- Case Discussion Protocol
- MH Service Intake Manual
- MH Service Intake Form
- MH Follow-up Assessment Form
- Psychological Interview Guide
- Client Eligibility Screening Form
- Individual Psychological Treatment Plan Template
- Session Plan Template of Individual Psychological Counselling Service
- Session Evaluation Template of Individual Psychological Counselling Service
- Case Presentation Template
- Individual Client Attendance Sheet of the MH Service
- Group Client Attendance Sheet of the MH Service

These tools have helped the unit to focus their work and also led to their personal and professional growth as attested to by the mental health staff.

...the period I underwent the one-year capacity building, I have learnt to imagine things, create a puzzle, work with the puzzle and put up some drafts for testing within practical work ... which has led to concrete plans, work procedures and results... (Kizito, Clinical Psychologist, ACTV)

### 6.1.6 Development of a new prison approach to the delivery of mental health services

A new prison approach to the delivery of effective and efficient mental health services in prison settings was developed at Kigo Prison. Through the delivery of 10 weekly sessions for both group and individual psychological counseling, the changes were tangible in the lives of the torture survivors in the prison. As a result of this approach, a guide to psychological care services for torture survivors and a group psychological counselling manual for torture survivors in prison settings were developed by the team. This clearly documented how mental health services can be delivered in a prison setting. The report produced after the assessment concluded by noting the following:



According to the findings, the Psychological Care Services...for Torture Survivors in Prison Settings (pilot experience at Kigo Prison) has proved to be highly effective in psychological rehabilitation of torture survivors, given that the comparison of the psychological condition of the clients pre- and post-treatment indicated a highly significant change in the direction of improvement at emotional, cognitive and behavioural levels. Therefore, this helps the clients to achieve positive self-esteem, positive coping mechanisms and to develop a sense of meaning for their lives which facilitates their adaptability to prison life and positive interactions with fellow inmates as well as the prison authorities.”



## 6.2 Lessons learned

### **Working in coalitions and partnerships is important:**

ACTV was able to advocate for the development of regulations to the PPTA working with the other partners. In addition, the capacity building initiatives with Prisons, Police and UPDF was enhanced.

**Importance of livelihoods for vulnerable torture survivors in their recovery journey:** As a result of the high level of vulnerability of some of the torture survivors, the provision of the holistic approach is paramount. Clients need to be facilitated with livelihood projects to enable them to recover holistically and achieve self-sustenance.

**Focus on community interventions:** In order to ably address torture, it is important to create awareness among the communities to ably define torture, and to identify and report cases to the relevant authorities. This we have realised as a result of the increased numbers of torture perpetrated by individuals.

**Minimum number of sessions in the provision of rehabilitation services to torture survivors:** For the full recovery of torture survivors, internationally acceptable standards of sessions administered to the clients should be clearly stipulated. This was achieved under the provision of mental health services where the minimum acceptable standards of 10 sessions were adopted.

**Litigation is a lengthy process:** Without a test case prosecuted under the PPTA during the reporting period, it is important for the key stakeholders to realise that litigation is a lengthy process and that results cannot be realised immediately. This calls for support from all the stakeholders and the development partners.

**Torture is still a reality:** With an increase in the number of cases registered at ACTV, torture is still a reality in Uganda, especially with a spike in the number of cases perpetrated by individuals. This calls for ACTV to re-strategise and conduct massive community awareness and sensitisation on torture.

## 6.3 Best Practices

### **Introduction of a case management system**

In order to better deliver holistic services to torture survivors, ACTV introduced a case management system. This clearly outlines the procedures to be followed when delivering services to torture survivors. The introduction of case managers has helped in mainstreaming the services delivered and in enhancing the recovery journey of the torture survivors.

## Formation of a national response network on torture

Following the recommendations from the Istanbul Protocol guideline trainings conducted by ACTV, the process of formulating a national response network in the country was instituted. This will bring together medical officers, legal officers, clinical psychologists, counsellors and human rights practitioners from all over the country through extensive capacity-building.

## Development of a mental health strategy for the provision of group psychological counselling in the prison setting

The development of this strategy streamlined the delivery of mental health services in the prison setting. The approach, which was piloted at Kigo successfully with a 90% recovery of the torture survivors, will be rolled out to all the prisons to which ACTV provides mental health services.

### 6.4 Challenges

Community members, including the leaders, still face challenges in identifying torture victims or survivors. “The question of who exactly is a torture survivor” is still a challenge despite the efforts of the team to clearly answer the above question based on the definition provided in the PPTA, 2012. As a result, many clients who do not qualify as torture survivors are continuously being referred to ACTV for services. Sensitisation regarding the definition of torture and the mandate of ACTV will be strengthened to deal with this challenge.

Implementation of the PPTA, 2012 was a challenge, especially in the absence of the final regulations for the effective implementation of the Act.

There was a challenge of inadequate staffing, especially in specialties like physiotherapy and legal services, during a large part of 2015. This limited the delivery of holistic services to SOTs.

### 6.5 The Way Forward

In an effort to enhance implementation during the next Strategic Plan Period (2016-2020) ACTV will seek to address the above challenges by:

- Strengthening the outreach service delivery approach to the prisons and communities as well as the referral system that have enabled many torture survivors to have access to ACTV services.
- Facilitation to disseminate the PPTA, 2012 the simplified version and translated versions.

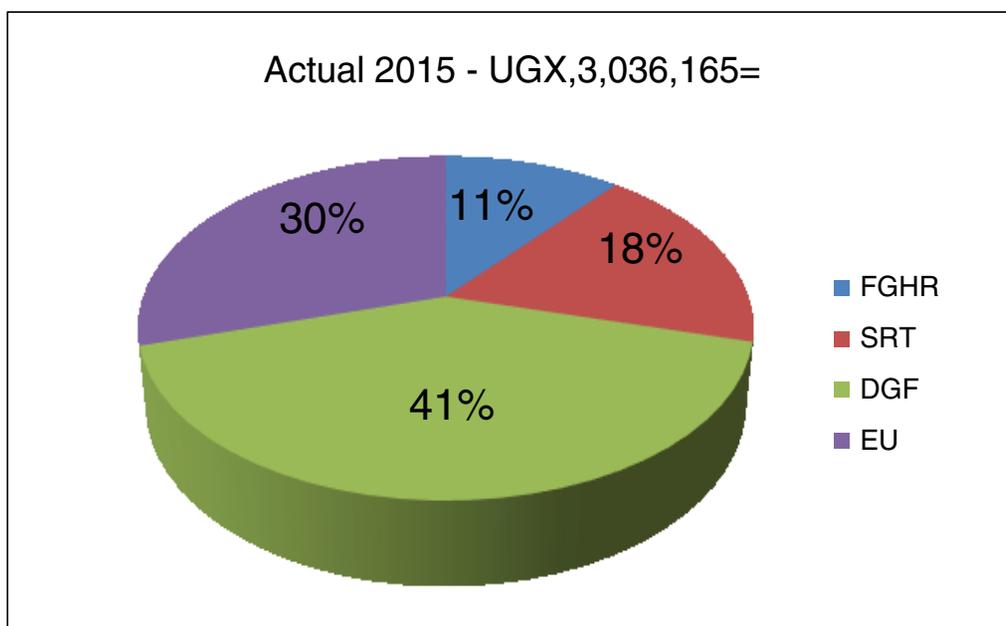
## 7. SUMMARY OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT –JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2015

ACTV is extremely grateful to its development partners who supported our activities with UGX 3,036,165 (three billion, thirty six thousand, one hundred sixty five Uganda shillings only) in 2015.

Special mention goes to the following development partners:

Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), European Union (EU), Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT) and Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR).

**Figure 3: Actual income and percentage committed for the year 2015**



**Table 18: Consolidated receipts and payments statement**

	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2014
Notes	UGX';000s	UGX';000s	UGX';000s
Receipts			
Grants	2,832,643	3,036,165	1,589,243
Other	100,684	137,576	103,057
Total Receipts	2,933,327	3,173,741	1,692,300
Less Payments			
Personnel costs	1,254,542	1,078,904	1,076,960
Consultancies	102,054	191,612	28,508
Governance	6,252	8,914	8,074
Office running costs	392,404	311,654	489,678
Treatment and rehabilitation	249,560	198,903	173,066
Public awareness, training networking	514,071	572,411	386,930
Documentation & information	90,158	141,128	66,004
Capacity-building	33,200	31,569	31,520
Reporting	89,403	88,996	83,608
Gulu treatment and rehabilitation	48,177	46,911	41,697
Bank charges	-	2,855	4
2014 advanced expensed IMLU	-		464,342
Total Payments	2,779,821	2,673,857	2,850,391
Surplus (Deficit)	153,506	499,884	-1,158,091

ACTV strives for accountable resource utilisation to deliver a world free from torture. We believe that a strong, sustainable ACTV is fundamental to delivering the quality holistic services to torture survivors.

In conclusion, ACTV remains eternally grateful to all our stakeholders, both national and international, who supported us not only financially but also by way of collaboration and partnership. There is still a lot of work to do, especially in effectively implementing the anti-torture law, and we will continue to pursue our vision to rid the world of torture.

## APPRECIATION

ACTV is extremely grateful to our development partners, namely the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), the European Union (EU), the Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT), the Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR), the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) who have provided not only financial support but also guidance to ACTV as it performed its mandate. We are also grateful to the members of the Coalition against Torture (CAT) and the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), as well as our referral partners and civil society organisations (CSOs) for always being with us in this fight against torture. Furthermore, members of the justice, law and order sector (JLOS), the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and government institutions for the meaningful collaboration in realising our mandate. Last but not least, we wish to express our deep gratitude to the Board members of ACTV for the wisdom and guidance they have consistently offered to steer the ship and the staff for their commitment as we pursue the noble aim to rid the world of torture.





### **HEAD OFFICE, KAMPALA**

Block No. 39, Plot No. 113 Owen Road (Off Tufnell Drive), Kamwokya  
P.O. Box 6108 Kampala, Uganda. **Tel:** +256 312 263918/ 312 263620.

**Fax:** +256 312 263 919. **Email:** [actv@actvuganda.org](mailto:actv@actvuganda.org)

**Web:** [www.actvuganda.org](http://www.actvuganda.org). **Toll Free Line:** 0800202791

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### **GULU OFFICE**

Layibi A and B Village Left Hand side on Gulu – Kampala Road

½ km after railway Crossing. Plot 16-18 Olanya Tony Road

Next to New Flora tailoring and Nursery School

P.O. Box 1076, Gulu

**Tel:** +256 392 174677/ +256 392 833598. **Email:** [actv@actvuganda.org](mailto:actv@actvuganda.org)

**Web:** [www.actvuganda.org](http://www.actvuganda.org)