



**AFRICAN
CENTRE FOR
TREATMENT AND
REHABILITATION
OF TORTURE
VICTIMS (ACTV)**

2023
ANNUAL REPORT



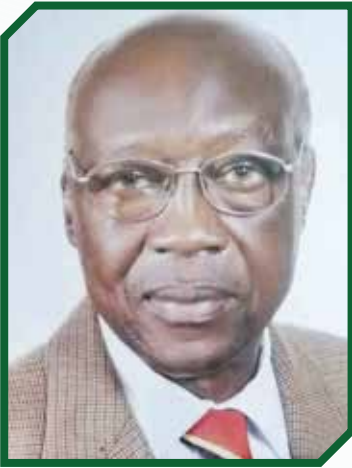
**YEARS OF REBUILDING
LIVES OF SURVIVORS
OF TORTURE**





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MESSAGE FROM THE

THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

John Livingstone Okello-Okello
Board Chairperson

Dear ACTV Partners and Friends,

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) marked 30 years of impactful rebuilding of lives of survivors of torture since its establishment in 1993. After 30 years of existence, ACTV remains the only organisation in Uganda and in the region that provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to survivors of torture. This mandate has provided us with an opportunity to learn and utilise the lessons to effectively advocate and influence policy for improved torture prevention and response at the national, regional and international levels.

As we take stock of the momentous year 2023, we acknowledge the highs and lows experienced and the many transformational stories and successes achieved in 2023. As an institution, ACTV grew stronger by acquiring land in Kampala City where it intends to construct a modern state-of-the-art rehabilitation centre for survivors of torture and violence. The rehabilitation

centre is purposed to strengthen ACTV's service delivery to survivors of torture, as well as enhance research on torture and violence leading to sustainability of the organisation. Additionally, ACTV became a member of the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), one of the world's biggest networks of organisations committed to ending torture in the world, and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons in Uganda (CAITP-U).

ACTV's unique approach and expertise contributed to the efforts that made a tremendous impact on improving the quality of life of the survivors of torture and violence, where 1,235 survivors of torture and gender-based violence were empowered with holistic rehabilitation services. In addition, ACTV played a significant role in advocating for torture prevention through capacity-building of 450 state and non-state actors, awareness-raising in the community and holding transformative dialogue meetings with state agencies. Working together with the Uganda Police Force and the Office of the Director Public

Prosecutions, ACTV developed the first checklist for the investigation and documentation of torture cases in the criminal justice system.

ACTV's tailored livelihood programme empowered over 60 survivors of torture and violence to create income generation activities, build self-reliance and resilience, and overcome the psychological and physical trauma experience of torture. Furthermore, the organisation's inimitable legal aid services supported 379 survivors in their pursuit for justice, with three (3) survivors having their cases successfully completed.

ACTV's innovative research, which included research on prisons, livelihood, GBV and medico-legal documentation among police health workers, led to a significant increase in the knowledge that informed programming and advocacy. Key to note was the research on medico legal documentation by Police Health Workers that led to the design of a novel training programme for the police health workers. This will go a long way in empowering police health workers to

effectively document torture cases and give expert witness through the justice system.

There is no smooth path to achieving success in human rights. There are bottlenecks, hills and valleys. Amidst the successes achieved, ACTV faced significant challenges that related to a shrinking civic space and limited funding. Nevertheless, the ACTV team, together with its partners, relentlessly continued pursuing its mandate to advocate against torture, gender-based violence and other forms of violence, and to provide holistic care to survivors.

ACTV applauds all its partners, stakeholders, the staff and well-wishers for the generosity, dedication and major contribution towards its vision. The organisation commits to inclusively continuing to reach out to the most marginalised and vulnerable survivors of torture and violence, and to be the voice of the voiceless while advocating for torture prevention and accountability at the national, regional and international levels.



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1,235

Survivors of torture and gender-based violence



MESSAGE FROM THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Samuel Herbert Nsubuga
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Partners in the fight against torture,

The year 2023 was the middle of the ACTV 2021–2025 Strategic Plan and ACTV is extremely grateful for the support and collaboration from our partners and stakeholders over the years. The organisation is going through a mid-term review of its Five-Year Strategic Plan to see how best to improve the provision of its services. ACTV is still facing funding constraints resulting from the ceasing of support from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) in September 2022, which also led to a reduction of 25% of the organisation's human resource.

However, ACTV thanks the following Development Partners who ensured that we continued to implement the six Strategic Objectives spelt out in our current 2021 to 2025 Strategic Plan, namely the Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY), Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (WPF), the WPF Human Rights Defenders Project (WPF-HRD), the Embassy of the Kingdom

of the Netherlands (EKN), the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), DefendDefenders and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Unfortunately, torture is still prevalent in Uganda. Therefore, my message this year and beyond shall focus on enhancing our legal framework to improve prevention and prohibition measures against torture. We continue to advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), the enactment of both the Legal Aid and the Witness Protection Bills into law and effective implementation of the existing Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (2012) and the Human Rights Enforcement Act (2019). ACTV has had minimal impact from the two latter laws but ACTV takes the progress as a marathon and not a sprint, with a step at a time as our measure in this challenging civic space we are dealing with.

We have embarked on the journey to acquire a new permanent home to provide services to survivors of torture and we wholeheartedly thank WPF for the first steps of this journey. We shall remain eternally grateful. Let me take this opportunity to humbly request you to be part of this journey of building the aforementioned ACTV new home to help us as much as possible in our sustainability strategy.

On behalf of the staff and management, I thank the Board of ACTV for the constant wisdom and guidance given to us as ACTV continues to strive to rid the world of torture. I also thank the staff of ACTV for being able to navigate through the challenges of human resource and funding constraints as well as to implement the planned activities for the year 2023.

ACTV thanks its fellow Coalition Against Torture (CAT) members and fellow civil society colleagues, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), the Uganda Police, the Uganda Prisons Service, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and stakeholders we have worked with in fighting the heinous vice of torture.

Special appreciation goes to the Development Partners, as well as embassies locally, regionally and internationally for their support as we strive to rid the World of Torture.

“

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Enhancing

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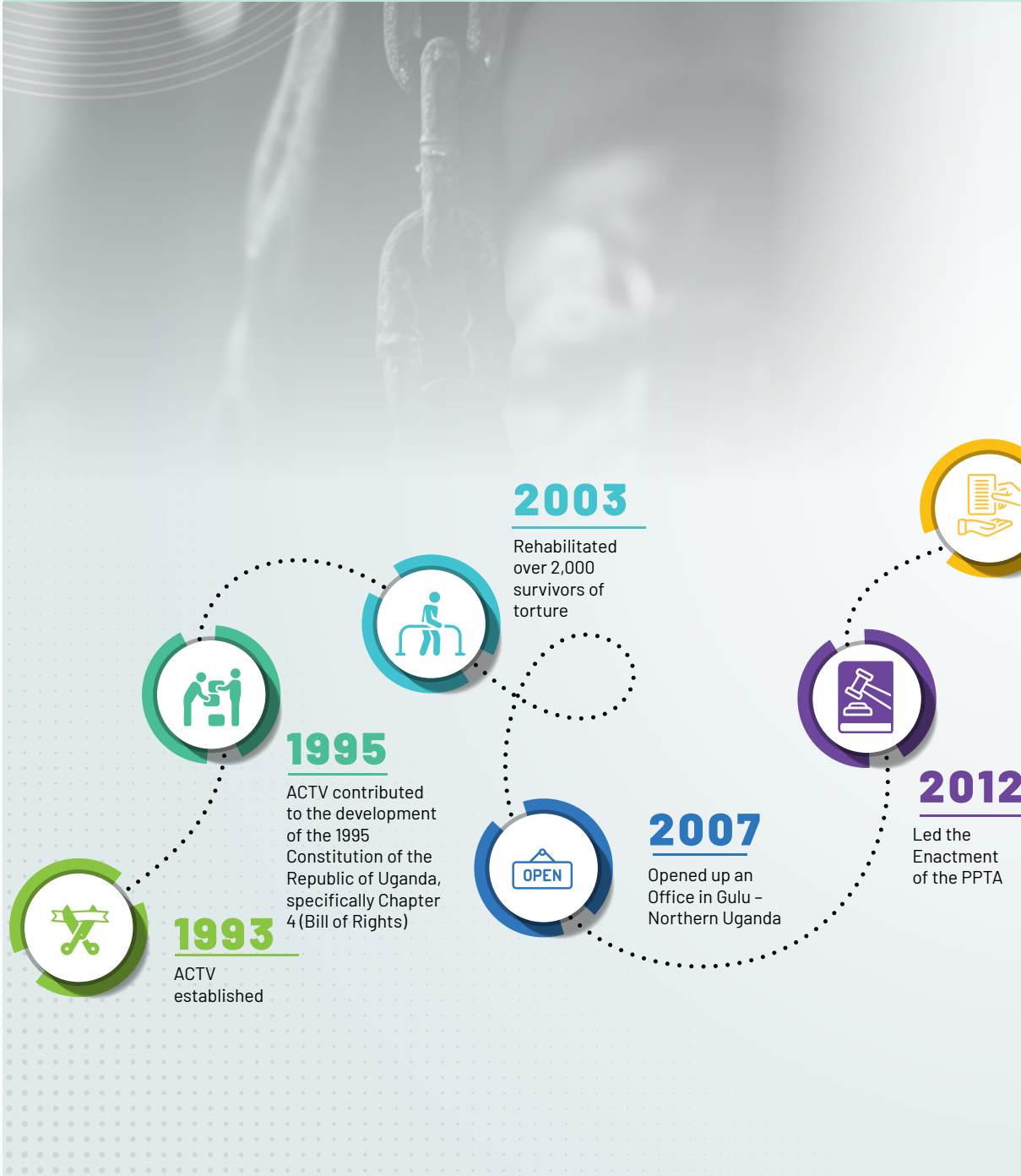
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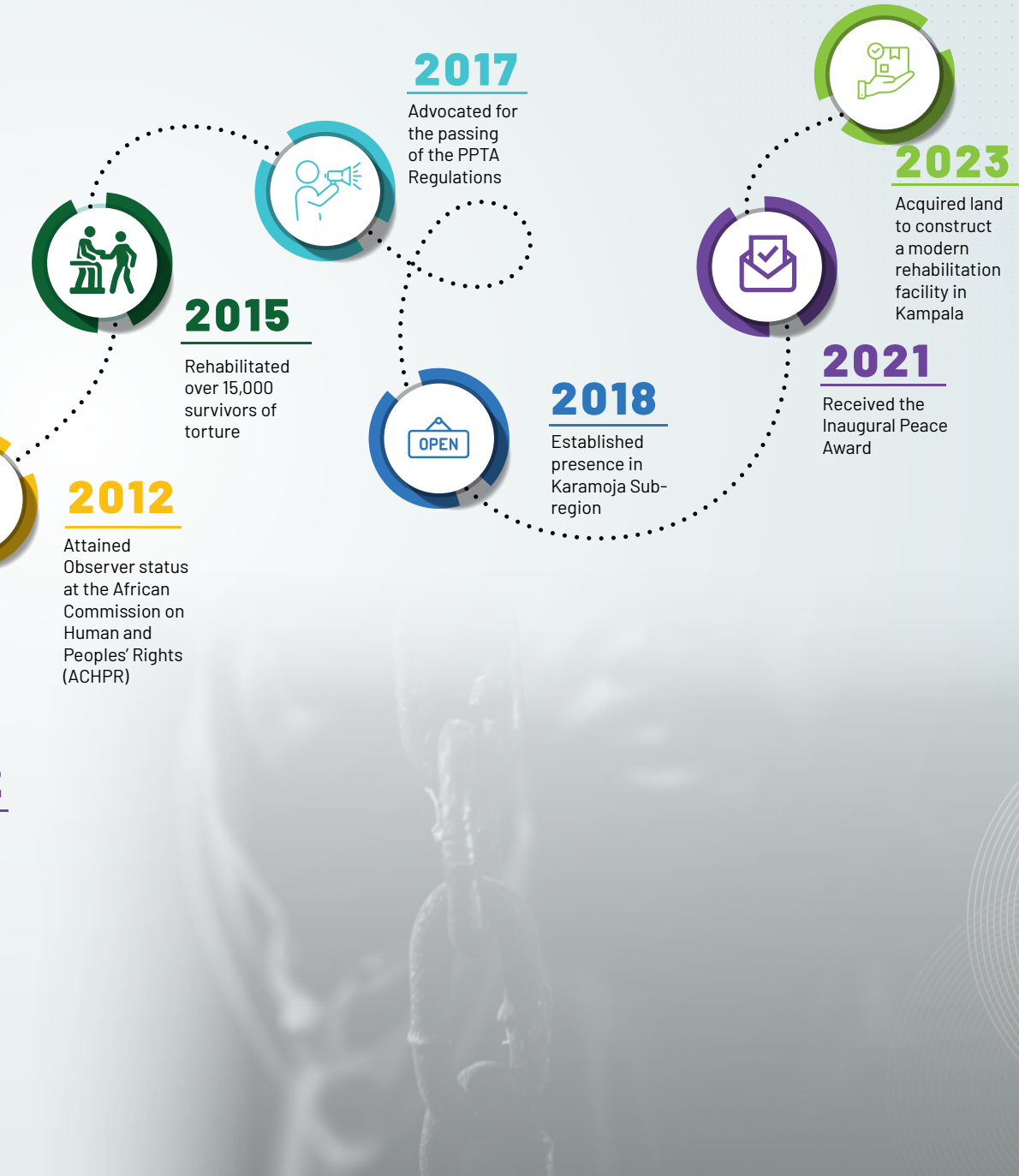
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
ACTV	African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
CAFOMI	Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants
CAT	Coalition Against Torture
CATIP-U	Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons in Uganda
CFLI	Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives
CMI	Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence
CPTA	Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa
CSVR	Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation
DIGNITY	Danish Institute Against Torture
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GBV	Gender-based violence
IRCT	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
NUP	National Unity Platform
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture
PPTA	The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act
PSWs	Peer Support Workers
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RLP	Refugee Law Project
SOTs	Survivors of torture
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UNCAT	United Nations Committee Against Torture
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNVFVT	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Forces
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association

ACTV through the 30 years of rebuilding lives of survivors of torture





Summary of Milestones Made by ACTV in 2023



Acquired a property for the construction of a modern state-of-the-art rehabilitation centre for survivors of torture and violence.



Enhanced the wellbeing of 1,235 survivors of torture and GBV (1,167 torture and 68 GBV) through the provision of holistic rehabilitation services. 12% of these attained full recovery and can actively participate in the daily living activities.



Contributed to the improvement of investigation and documentation of torture cases by developing a checklist for the documentation and investigation of torture cases by the criminal justice actors.



Increased awareness about torture and available redress mechanisms through sensitisation of 1,144 (636 male and 508 female) community members.



Increased capacity (knowledge and skills) of 450 (299 male and 151 female) stakeholders that included police CID, police health workers, state prosecutors, human rights defenders and community volunteers on their role under the PPTA 2012 and its 2017 Regulations, mental health and self-care.



Conducted relevant research that informed our programming and advocacy. These included:-

- o The prevalence and root causes of GBV in Kasese.
- o Assessment of knowledge, attitudes and practice of police health workers in the documentation of torture cases.
- o Assessment of the prevalence of torture in prisons.
- o Impact analysis of the changes registered among survivors of torture as a result of livelihood support.



Successfully concluded the first criminal case of torture: Uganda vs. ASP Mukukwa Kenneth and ASP Namulonda Eva CRM 0393/2018 charged under the PPTA 2012.



Formalised two social support groups, developed their constitution, registered them at the district and had them linked to relevant government programmes.

ACTV Geographical Coverage in 2023





MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING ACTV COVERAGE



Key:



ACTV LOCATIONS

-  Eastern Region
-  Central Region
-  Western Region
-  Northern Region





1.0 Introduction

The year 2023 marked 30 years of ACTV's existence, with a theme 'celebrating 30 years of rebuilding lives of survivors of torture'. The theme was a remembrance of the journey ACTV has walked in pursuit of its mandate of advocating against torture and providing treatment and rehabilitation services to survivors of torture. In addition, it is the third year of implementation of the ACTV 2021 – 2025 strategic plan. This report, therefore, highlights the key programme achievements, challenges and lessons learnt during the year of implementation.

1.1 OUR WORK: Doing what we do best

ACTV work is hinged on six **pillars** with six strategic objectives.

PILLAR 1	Holistic Treatment and Rehabilitation S01: Promote access to holistic treatment and rehabilitation services to survivors of torture, GBV and other forms of violence.
PILLAR 2	Advocacy for Torture Prevention S02: Advocate for the prevention of torture and the effective implementation of the anti-torture law.
PILLAR 3	Research and Documentation S03: Strengthen research and documentation on torture and other forms of violence.
PILLAR 4	Livelihood Support S04: Empower survivors of torture, GBV and other forms of violence through livelihood support.
PILLAR 5	Legal Aid S05: Strengthen legal support to survivors of torture, GBV and other forms of violence through professional litigation services.
PILLAR 6	Enhance Institutional Sustainability S06: Improve resource mobilisation, financial sustainability, human resource capacity and organisational systems of ACTV.

2.0 Operating Environment

The incidence of torture remained high, with most cases arising from land wrangles, especially in Central and Northern Uganda, and police brutality during arrests and interrogations and in managing public demonstrations (the brutality observed when the police stopped opposition women Members of Parliament from holding Women's Day celebrations, when stopping medical students from taking their petition to the Speaker of Parliament). In addition, torture happened owing to the disarmament and cattle rustling in the Karamoja sub-region. The bulk of the alleged torture was perpetrated by security agencies, especially the police and the army.

Furthermore, there remained continuous allegations of enforced disappearances of persons. Although the government presented a report about the matter, the opposition leaders refuted it and provided alternative reports that showed otherwise.

The absence of a Witness Protection Act, a National Rehabilitation Policy for survivors of torture and a Legal Aid Act has continuously posed a challenge to survivors in accessing rehabilitation services and justice. This is due to the limited access to the holistic rehabilitation centres for survivors and the fear of reprisals when survivors come out to report cases of torture.

The UN Office for Human Rights was closed when their mandate in Uganda was not renewed. This UN Office provided technical support in the areas of training and creating awareness about the prevention of human rights violations in general and torture in particular.

3.0 Achievements

3.1 Changing lives of survivors of torture and violence

The highly experienced ACTV team of experts worked untiringly to contribute to the improved change in the quality of lives of survivors of torture and violence through the promotion of access to holistic treatment and rehabilitation services. In 2023, a total of 1,235 (761 male and 474 female) survivors of torture and violence were reached through medical outreach, tele-services utilising the ACTV call centre, home visits to the survivors' homes, field investigations and referrals to the ACTV medical centres. Through the life-changing services, survivors of torture and violence greatly improved their physical and psychological wellbeing, and rebuilt the social fabric that had been lost due to the torture experiences. Among the survivors seen, at least 12% (148) survivors attained full recovery and functionality and could ably live an independent productive life.

From a destitute life to a queen of herself; a story of a single mother

Rose (not real name) was 28 years old, a single mother with 4 children; she worked as a private security guard before the torture incident by the police in 2022. *"I was a strong woman, working and took care of my children before the police tortured me on allegations of theft,"* Rose commented.

When Rose was tortured, her life drastically changed; she developed severe physical and psychological challenges, lost her job, and the community she lived in did not want to associate with her. *"My life became worthless, I hated myself, I could barely do anything for myself, I had streams of nightmares and spent sleepless nights, I lost my job, my children dropped out of school, and it pained me that as young as they were, they were the ones taking care of me,"* Rose stated.

ACTV found Rose in a destitute condition with no support, and she had lost hope, *"when Rose came to ACTV, she was in severe pain, could not walk due to a tear of her ankle ligaments, had generalised body pain, hopeless, suffered from PTSD and meeting her basic needs was close to impossible,"* commented the ACTV physiotherapist.

Rose was enrolled for ACTV holistic rehabilitation services that included medical treatment, physiotherapy, psychological counselling and social support services. After a period of one year, Rose registered total recovery and her life tremendously changed; her physical and psychological wellbeing was restored, she started a business with the capital that ACTV provided, she enrolled her children back in school and she gained hope for the future. *"Right now I am a king of myself, I have a job and can take care of all my needs. Those who thought that they had shattered my dreams with torture, they are put to shame because now I am more energised and stronger than they can imagine,"* Rose commented with zeal and hope.

3.1.1. Restoring the physical wellbeing of survivors

Medical treatment and physiotherapy services were offered to 1,229 (757 male and 472 female) who had suffered the physical effects of torture and violence. The physical effects most presented by the survivors included wounds, fractures, hypertension, general musculo-skeletal pain, respiratory infections, urinary infections, skin infections, dislocations, chest trauma and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Active reviews were undertaken to monitor progress, 782 (506 male and 276 female) survivors attended review sessions. 143 (84 male and 59 female) survivors presented with complicated conditions and were referred to other specialists for further management. Furthermore, 10 medical outreach activities were carried out to reach survivors within their communities.

Table 1: Medical outreach activities carried out

Location/ District	No. of Medical outreaches activities	Survivors reached		NO. Total
		Male	Female	
Amuru	1	26	58	84
Kaabong	3	198	83	281
Omoró	1	6	16	22
Luuka	1	20	16	36
Kasese	2	42	27	69
Kampala	1	3	4	7
Kayunga	1	7	1	8
Total	10	302	205	507

Comments from survivors

"I sustained a fracture of the left arm after being severely beaten by army men who accused me of being part of the tribal fighting for the land in Apaa, Amuru District. I am very grateful to ACTV who came to my rescue and offered medical treatment. My hand was operated upon from Lacor Hospital and I continued with other treatment and physiotherapy at the ACTV Centre in Gulu. I have now recovered and I can use my arm without any pain. I resumed the digging which is my main source of income and food," *said a survivor after going through a series of treatment sessions with ACTV.*

"To me ACTV is a God-sent angel! After experiencing torture, I lost two teeth, I suffered chest and back pain and a broken left arm. I spent about one month without medical treatment because I could not afford a specialist to work on me. It was until the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) referred me to ACTV. ACTV offered professional medical services for all my physical ailments, including facilitating my surgery of the arm at CoRSU Hospital," *a survivor gratefully commented.*

"My relatives took me through an extremely gruesome torture incident when they wanted to take over my land; they severely beat me, cut me with knives and left me helpless. Thanks to ACTV that I was able to receive medical treatment for the physical pain I was suffering; they treated my wound that had started rotting," *said a female survivor who had suffered torture from his brothers who wanted her land that she had inherited from her parents.*



Figures 1 and 2 (left-right): Survivors taught exercises to relieve back pain during medical outreach in Karamoja sub-region



Figures 3-6 (left-right): ACTV team offering treatment services at the community level and during home visits



Figure 7: A survivor with a smile after receiving the recommended modern crutches to aid her movement

3.1.2. Enhancing survivors' mental health

Torture destabilises the psychological wellbeing of survivors as well as that of their families. As such, it requires intensive psychological support for them to be able to recover. During the year, 310 (228 male and 82 female) survivors were enrolled for mental health services. The enrolled survivors presented with symptoms of depression, PTSD, anxiety disorders, suicidal ideations, personality disorders and aggressive behaviour. Mental health services that included individual and group counselling were offered to the survivors to address the overwhelming psychological effects of torture and violence.

Table 2: Summary of the mental health services offered to survivors

Intervention	Male	Female	Total
Individual counselling	185	57	242
Group counselling	80	39	119
Brief family therapy	12	06	18 ¹
Referral for specialised counselling	04	02	06

Note: There are survivors that received more than one service depending on their condition

¹ 225 (119 male & 106 female) secondary survivors and family members were reached out to

Counselling changed my life

I used to experience sleepless nights and nightmares of the incident when I witnessed my husband's brutal arrest, helplessly beaten and dragged like a chicken on the floor. I was always terrified thinking that the same soldier will come back. I had constant headache, no appetite and a feeling of sadness and anger. I started drinking alcohol to get sleep and which later affected my work. I was so disgusted with life and continuously blamed myself, my husband and everyone around me. When the ACTV psychologist visited our home, I asked to have a private session with her. I was enrolled for individual counselling sessions where I was taken through a series of intensive sessions therapy that included recollecting my traumatic memories and acceptance, reconnection with myself and aspirations, forgiveness, among others. After the counselling, I became a changed person, I stopped drinking alcohol which had made me a nuisance, stopped experiencing nightmares, and I enjoy working.

Another survivor commented, "Through group psychological counselling I was able to gain confidence to share my torture ordeal. I no longer isolate myself and learnt how to relate with and trust others."



Figures 8 and 9 (left-right): ACTV mental health team with the Speaker of Parliament during the Mental Health Week

3.1.3. Emergency response to the attack on students at Mpondwe, Kasese

On 16 June 2023, Allied Democratic Force (ADF) rebels attacked Lhubiriha Secondary School located in Mpondwe Sub-county, Kasese District and killed 43 individuals, including 37 students and 6 community members. The attack caused a lot of terror, fear and grief among the community members, especially the family members of victims and survivors. This led to ACTV in collaboration with Trans Psychosocial Organisation (TPO) offering emergency psychological services, which was key to addressing the overwhelming community psychological distress that emerged as a result of the attack. A total of 235 (97 male and 138 female) community members (48 directly affected persons and 187 that suffered secondary effects) received psychological first aid offered by the ACTV community volunteers in Kasese. Among the 48 direct survivors, 29 had lost their children owing to the attack, 10 had their children missing, and 9 had witnessed, survived and /or suffered physical injuries.



Figure 10: Debrief session for TPO-ACTV volunteers



Figures 11 and 12 (left-right): ACTV team of community volunteers providing psychological first aid to the people affected by the rebel attack in Mpondwe Kasese district.

3.1.4. Rebuilding the broken social fabric of survivors of torture and violence

In the year 2023, ACTV, through the social support interventions, offered social services to 451 (248 male and 209 female) survivors, of whom 242 were newly enrolled and 209 were continuing survivors. The services included social counselling, linkage to other services, provision of basic needs to 18 (13 male and 5 female) of the most vulnerable survivors that included food support and accommodation, which enabled them to continue with their rehabilitation process without hindrance. In addition, 16 home visits were conducted in Masaka, Bugiri, Luuka, Mukono, Kampala, Lamwo, Amuru, Kitgum, Kwanja, Lira, Kaabong and Wakiso. A total of 131 (73 male and 58 female) survivors and 239 family members were reached.



Figure 13:



Figure 13 and 14: ACTV staff during a home visits to a survivor

3.1.5. Responding to torture and violence through the community support network volunteers

In the year 2023, the community support structure of volunteers in Kasese was enhanced to increase access to basic rehabilitation services and facilitate making appropriate referrals for severe cases of torture. The network members reached were 398 (145 male and 253 female) with basic rehabilitation services in Kasese District and the Karamoja Sub-region.

Table 3: Capacity-building initiatives undertaken for community volunteers

Category	Training	Participants		Total
		Male	Female	
Peer support workers (PSWs)	Basic social counselling and making appropriate referrals for SOT	12	10	22
Peer support mentors	Skills for support supervision for PSWs	05	01	06
Community counsellors	Problem Management Plus (PM+) approach	06	04	10
PM+ Supervisors – community counsellors	Supervision skills for PM+ helpers	03	00	03
Community facilitators	Skills in awareness-raising about torture, identification of torture and making appropriate referrals	07	08	15
Rapid response networker	Management and referral of survivors of torture and violence	08	08	16
Community health workers	Refresher training on identification, management, documentation and referral of torture survivors	09	06	15
Total		50	37	87

Table 4: Survivors reached by specific category of volunteers

Category	Male	Female	Total
Peer support workers	70	86	156
Community counsellors	38	83	121
Community health workers	73	53	126

Saved from suicide by ACTV peer support worker: The story of a survivor from Kasese

*I was a royal guard and was arrested in 2016 after the attack on the Omusinga Rwenzururu Palace. I was tortured and later taken to prison, where I spent 7 years. After my release I came back home and there was nothing, my wife had gone and married another man with my children, my relatives had sold my piece of land where I used to farm, the community was laughing at me and did not want to associate with me. **I was in a state of total despair and hopelessness.***

This situation overwhelmed me and I decided to kill myself. I bought poison for me to commit suicide. As I was moving back home, I found one of the community facilitators talking about the work done by the ACTV community volunteer among a group of youth. I told him that I needed someone to talk to and he referred me to someone whom I later got to know to be a peer support worker.

When I showed him the poison I had bought, he immediately contacted the ACTV technical team, who referred me to a psychologist in Kasese, where I was enrolled for counselling sessions for the trauma and frustration I was going through. After 5 sessions, I had regained hope, and with the subsequent 5 sessions I had lost the thoughts of committing suicide, I was positive about life and committed to rebuilding myself.



Figure 15: District officials and ACTV CEO during the handover of bicycles and items to community volunteers in Kasese

3.2. Empowering survivors to establish livelihood ventures

A total of 68 (37 male and 31 female) survivors were enrolled and supported with different livelihood ventures. This empowered survivors to be self-reliant, significantly contributing to their physical and psychological wellness as they obtained income for their livelihood. Among the survivors enrolled, 17 (08 male and 09 female) were trained in book-keeping and financial management. Two social support groups were formed and supported to develop group constitutions, and were legally registered within their respective districts. This was envisaged to enhance the groups' integration and the sustainability of their socio-economic wellbeing. This helped them to attain

self-reliance and improved their capacity to cope with the effects of the torture they suffered.

Table 5: Summary of the livelihood interventions undertaken in 2023

Livelihood support	No. of survivors involved		Total
	Male	Female	
Social groups and VSLA (5 groups formed)	28	22	50
Capital for small-scale businesses	08	05	13
Tailoring training	01	04	05
Total	37	31	68

Survivors' testimonies from the livelihood interventions

"Tailoring training has been of tremendous help to me! It has given me skills because of I have secured a job with MJ General Uniforms. I used to find it hard to talk to people after my release from the police cell, but the tailoring training gave me friends to associate with." "With the tailoring skills I got from ACTV, I am able to meet my daily needs, something I couldn't afford before. On top of selling the clothes I make, I also train others in my village and I am paid for it. I am glad I was chosen to be trained and empowered with these skills. I no longer have sleepless nights or the worst memories of my torture that used to disturb me."

"The doctor told me to eat food supplements that were needed to heal my back pain. These were very costly and I couldn't afford them. If it was not for the support I received from ACTV, where would I have gotten them? Because I run a business, I was able to buy all the items that the doctor had recommended and now I am better with no back pain."

"I am able to pay house rent and afford to feed my family. Therefore, I called my wife back from her brother's place and we reunited as a family again. Three months later our baby fell sick and the hospital needed over 800,000/= to save my child's life. We were able to meet the medical bills because of the business ACTV empowered us to start."

"I tried to commit suicide several times, even the counselling was not helpful. I could not stand the thoughts of not being able to support my family and the memories of the torture experience. With the business that ACTV gave me, life changed. We get food and rent for the house, I can take care of my family, I no longer have suicidal thoughts, I am now a happy man." "Looking at the designs I sometimes make, makes me feel emotionally satisfied and gives me hope for a better tomorrow."

"The social support has given me happiness because I am in a family - mothers and sisters. Interacting with fellow social support group members enabled me to cope with the anxieties I had. Sharing of the experiences we all underwent and the counselling they gave me helped me heal." "The social support group has given me a sense of belonging. We treat each other like brothers, and it has improved my interpersonal relations, it has given me a purpose again."



Figures 16 and 17 (left-right): The piggery project of Twisitukilamu Association in Luuka District



Figure 18: A survivor trained by ACTV in tailoring at her tailoring workshop

3.3. Supporting survivors on the journey of justice through legal aid

Torture is a crime and a human rights violation under both international and national laws. Consequently, there is need for justice for survivors who suffer the horrendous acts of torture. In 2023, a total of 379 (264 male and 115 female) SOTs, including 255 survivors who were newly enrolled, were provided with legal aid services that included legal advice, case follow-ups, field investigations, referrals and medico-legal documentation.

Table 6: Summary of the legal aid services offered to survivors

Service	Number of people/cases supported		Total
	Male	Female	
Legal advice	264	115	379
Case follow-ups	44	09	53
Field investigation			05
Referrals			16
Medico-legal documentation			09
Expert witness			06

Cases in which ACTV offered expert witness

- Mirigan Ratib vs. Taban Amin UHRC 131/2007
- George W. Mayanja vs. Attorney General UHRC 181/2011
- Ssemakula Ismail vs. Attorney General UHRC 160/2009
- Uganda vs. Ocan Geoffrey and Omara Vincent vide Court Case Number 049/2023 arising out of CRB 97/2023 in the Chief Magistrates Court of Kitgum Holden at Lamwo District
- UG vs. Okot Quinto Criminal Session No. 201/2023 arising from UPDF /GCM/ 030/2021 at Chief Magistrates Court of Kitgum held at Kitgum
- Kasujja Abdul vs. Leaven Holdings Ltd. Civil Suit 225/2022 at Chief Magistrates Court, Makindye

Although the justice system was slow, through the legal aid intervention, success was attained in the cases below:

For the first time, a high-ranking police officer was convicted of a crime of torture under the PPTA 2012 through public prosecution in the case **Uganda vs. ASP Mukubwa Kenneth and D/ASP Namulondo Eva Criminal Case 0363/2018** at Chief Magistrates Court of Mukono. ACTV played a key role in supporting the survivor by offering treatment and rehabilitation, which enabled him to consistently attend court sessions and also facilitated prosecution witnesses to attend court sessions that went on for close to 05 years from 2018.

A ruling was given in **Twesigye Robert vs. Attorney General Civil Suit No. 20/2017** and an award of US\$. 50,000,000 (fifty million shillings) was given to the complainants. ACTV was fundamental in providing legal advice and medico-legal documentation in the case, which aided the court to make the subsequent decision.

An out-of-court settlement was reached between ACTV Client No. ACTV/K/3319/2021 and the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, where the client was compensated for an act of torture meted out to him by a UPDF soldier.

3.3 (a) Prison visits

During the year 2023, 13 prison outreach visits were carried out with 465 (450 male and 15 female) inmates who had suffered the effects of torture. These were provided with rehabilitation services and referrals were made to the UHRC for follow up on the legal matters presented by the inmates.

Table 7: List of prisons visited in 2023

Name of prison	No. of times visited	Number reached		Total
		Male	Female	
UG Prison Muinaina (Male)	01	84	00	84
UG Prison Kaweeri	01	42	03	45
UG Prison Kigo	01	25	00	25
UG Prison Kitalya	01	46	00	46
Kitgum Prison	02	93	06	99
Kotido Prison	02	51	02	53
Loro Prison	01	48	00	48
Patongo Prison	02	30	04	34
Pader Prison	02	31	00	31
TOTAL		450	15	465

3.4 Advocating for the prevention of torture

ACTV maintained its transformative approach to advocacy where ACTV continuously worked with both state and non-state actors through dialogue, significantly contributing to strengthening torture prevention and accountability. The advocacy agenda for 2023 included advocacy for a National Policy for the Rehabilitation of Survivors of Torture, a Witness Protection Act and improved documentation, investigation and prosecution of torture cases. As a result, ACTV, in collaboration with the ODPP and the Police CID, developed a checklist for the investigation and documentation of torture cases. This will be a reference point for the police and state prosecutors in following up on torture cases. In addition, ACTV joined the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and SOS Network, and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons in Uganda (UCATIP) to play a major role in strengthening the organisation's advocacy initiatives.

3.4.1 Engaging with stakeholders on policy and laws

In 2023, ACTV held 9 high-level engagement meetings with different state and non-state actors at local and national levels, where the voices of survivors were captured and torture prevention and accountability issues discussed.

Table 8: Summary of the engagement meetings held in 2023

Date	District	Institution	Topic of discussion	Number of participants		
				Male	Female	Total
28 th February 2023	Kasese	Kasese local district leaders	Needs assessment for a new project in the district	09	05	14
21 st March 2023 and 28 th March 2023	Kampala	ODPP and Uganda Police Force (CID)	Development and discussion of checklist for investigating and documenting cases of torture	04	05	09
31 st July 2023	Kampala	Leadership of ODPP and Uganda Police Force	Review and adoption of the checklist for investigating and documenting cases of torture	03	04	07
9 th November 2023	Kampala	Uganda Prisons Service	Validation of findings of an assessment on the prevalence of torture and access to rehabilitation services in prisons	07	03	10
28 th September 2023 and 18 th December 2023	Kampala, Entebbe	Ministry of Health	National Rehabilitation Policy on Survivors of Torture	05	03	08

Date	District	Institution	Topic of discussion	Number of participants		
				Male	Female	Total
27 th September 2023	Kampala	Security agencies	Implementation of the UN CAT recommendations and observations to Uganda	11	04	15
13 th November 2023	Kasese	District leaders	Project progress and strategies to address torture and violence in the communities	52	22	74
19 th October 2023	Kasese	District leaders	Development of a community awareness plan	8	05	13
25 th October 2023	Gomba	District leaders	Inception meeting with the district leaders	12	06	18
4 th November 2023	Kaabong	District leaders	Inception Meeting with the district leaders	30	09	39



Figures 19 and 20 (left-right): Representatives from security agencies during an engagement meeting on UNCAT recommendations

3.4.2 Training and building capacity of state and non-state actors

During the year, 11 capacity-building trainings were conducted, benefitting a total of 450 (299 male and 151 female) participants, 389 were from state agencies and 61 from non-state actors.

Table 9: Summary of the trainings carried out in 2023

Date of the training	Title of training	Target group	Location	Number of participants		
				Male	Female	Total
State Agencies						
11 th – 13 th September 2023	Application of the PPTA 2012, its 2017 Regulations and integration of trauma-informed approach in investigation and litigation of torture cases	CID Police officers and state prosecutors	Kampala	9	12	21
14 th September 2023	The PPTA 2012 in UPDF work	UPDF officers	Entebbe	39	15	54
29 th September 2023	The PPTA 2012 in UPDF work	UPDF officers	Buikwe	42	18	60
12 th December 2023	The PPTA 2012 in UPDF work	UPDF officers	Kampala (Kawempe)	54	30	84
13 th December 2023	Investigation and documentation of torture cases	CID Police officers in Eastern Uganda	Jinja City	33	9	42
14 th December 2023	The PPTA 2012 in UPDF work	UPDF officers	Kampala (Kasangati)	57	24	81

Date of the training	Title of training	Target group	Location	Number of participants		
				Male	Female	Total
15 th December 2023	Investigation and Documentation of Torture Cases	CID Police officers in Northern Uganda	Gulu City	28	19	47
Sub-total				262	127	389
Non-State Actors						
21 st -24 th April 2023	Stress Management and Self care	HRDs	Gulu City	12	3	15
16 th -18 th October 2023	Stress management and self-care	HRDs	Hoima City	8	7	15
30 th - 31 st October 2023	Stress management and self-care	HRDs	Lira City	8	7	15
23 rd October - 6 th November 2023	Problem management plus (PM+) approach	Community counselors	Kasese	9	7	16
Sub-total				37	24	61
Total				299	151	450



Figures 20 and 21 (left-right): Training of CID Police officers and state prosecutors in Jinja and Kampala



Figure 22: Group photo during the UPDF training in Entebbe

3.4.3 Awareness-raising campaigns

ACTV fervently believes in working with local communities to effectively prevent and respond to torture and violence, and the key approaches used are capacity-building of local structures, holding community dialogues and awareness-raising campaigns through the media. ACTV developed a community awareness plan to be utilised by community volunteers in raising awareness in their communities. A total of 7 community dialogues were carried out and reached out to 1,144 (636 male and 508 female). In addition, 10 radio talk shows and other media campaigns were carried out to increase awareness about the prevention and prohibition of torture and other forms of violence.

a) Community engagement and dialogue meetings

Table 10: Summary of the community engagement and dialogue meetings carried out in 2023

Date	Location	Male	Female	Total
28 th March 2023	Luuka District	51	25	76
24 th June 2023	Wakiso District in Kitukutwe	93	26	119
30 th June 2023	Gulu City	92	96	188
31 st August, 2023	Bwaise 1 Market, Kawempe Division, Kampala District	55	35	90

Date	Location	Male	Female	Total
31 st August 2023	Lamwo District	42	62	104
10 th - 11 th November 2023	Kasese District (Maliba and Bwesumbu Sub-county)	135	128	263
Community members reached by community volunteers	Kasese District (Maliba and Bwesumbu Sub-county)	168	136	304
Total		636	508	1,144



Figure 23: A community dialogue session with women in Mengo Kisenyi Kampala City



Figures 24 and 25 (left-right): Community dialogue in Cubu Acoyo village, Laroo Pece Division

Auma Betty, Vice Chairperson LC1, Madioppe Sub-County, Lamwo District remarked: "Thank you for coming and for giving us all this knowledge on torture. We are grateful because we have so many people here who have been tortured and they did not know where they can get help. With this awareness now they can ably walk into the different offices and get help."

A participant in a community dialogue in Kasese commented, "We have learnt a lot, I have benefited. I now know where to report cases of torture in order to get justice. I have also realised how important it is for survivors of violence to be rehabilitated."

The CDO Bwesumbu, Kasese District observed, "After the awareness-raising session that was conducted in our sub-county, I started receiving many people, including men, coming to report cases of gender-based violence to my office."

b) Media campaigns



Figure 26: ACTV Gulu branch manager and Legal Officer, Gulu holding a talk show in Favour FM in Gulu City

Table 11: Media activities carried out in 2023

Radio talk shows	Social media campaigns	Newspaper supplements
<p>10 radio talk shows were held in 2023 and 200 spot messages aired</p> <p>Stations used</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio One FM 90 Kampala • Rupiny Radio Gulu • Favour FM, Gulu • Pacis FM, Arua • Radio Nine FM, Bukwo • Bukedde FM, Kampala • CBS 89.2 FM, Kampala • UBC Ngeya FM, Kasese • Light FM, Kasese • NBS FM, Jinja City • KFM, Kampala <p>Issues discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torture and press freedom on World Press Freedom Day • Documentation, investigation and reporting of torture cases • Mental health • Torture prevalence and reporting mechanisms 	<p>People reached out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 108,079 on Twitter with 274 new followers • 25,286 on Facebook <p>Online statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02 online statements on Janani Luwum Day and International Women’s Day <p>Campaigns managed</p> <p>3 campaigns managed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health awareness • UN Day in Support of Survivors of Torture; #StopTortureUG23 • 16 Days of Activism 	<p>03 newspaper supplements were published in the New Vision with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to rehabilitation • The work done by the Netherlands in supporting the human rights in Uganda • The work done by the European Union in supporting human rights in Uganda

3.4.4 Commemoration of International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

7 events were conducted as part of the commemoration of the UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims: an anti-torture football gala in Kampala²; radio talk shows; a community dialogue in Gulu; a psycho-social medical camp in Gulu; a national public dialogue in Kampala; a social media campaign under the hashtag #StopTortureUG23; and the publication of a newspaper supplement. The UN Day was commemorated under the theme: **“Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies Critical for Torture Prevention and Sustainable Development in Uganda”**. A total of 435 (256 male and 197 female) participants were reached through the anti-torture football gala, community dialogue and public dialogue. The commemoration activities enabled the voices of survivors of torture on their plight to be shared with the public, and called upon stakeholders to actively participate in torture prevention and accountability.



Figure 27: Stakeholders that attended the national public dialogue to discuss torture prevention and accountability on 26th June 2023 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala

2 Rights Kampala journalists' Association won the Anti-Torture Gala Cup 2023



Figures 28 and 29 (left-right): Football gala during the commemoration of the UN Day in Support of Survivors of Torture

3.4.5 Regional and international advocacy

On 20th January 2023, ACTV joined over 30 global CSOs in London and signed the Shoreditch Declaration calling upon the United Nations member-states to pass a torture-free trade treaty. **“Torture destroys the dignity and personalities of people. It has grievous effects on people and society and a treaty would play a tremendous role in assuring that we preserve human dignity,”** said the ACTV Head of Programmes during the signing of the declaration.

ACTV attended and participated in the 75th and 77th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR in May and October 2023, respectively. During the sessions, ACTV submitted position statements on the gaps and recommendations on the investigation and documentation of torture cases in Uganda. Additionally, as Uganda was set to be reviewed during the 77th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR, ACTV submitted a shadow report to the ACHPR Secretariat, highlighting the status of torture in Uganda with reference to Article 5 of the African Charter. The submitted report highlighted key recommendations for follow-up and implementation by Uganda for the enhanced promotion, respect and protection of the right of freedom from torture.



Figures 30 and 31 (left-right): The ACTV team at the 77th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR.



Figures 32 and 33 (left-right): ACTV standing with other organisations globally at Amnesty International Landon Office to advocate for a torture-free trade treaty.

3.5 Alleged survivors of torture registered for ACTV services in 2023

Table 12: Number of survivors registered for ACTV services at our centres

ACTV Centre	Male	Female	Total
Kampala	245	79	324
Kasese – Field Office	52	31	83
Gulu	272	321	593
Karamoja – Field Office	192	43	235
Total	761	474	1235

In 2023, ACTV registered a total of 1,235 (761 male and 474 female) survivors who sought treatment and rehabilitation services. The majority of the survivors were from the Gulu centre, mainly due to the high level of trauma-affected persons resulting from the LRA war. There was a high number of survivors registered in the Karamoja sub-region due to the then ongoing disarmament operations. It should be noted that there was a 54.8% increase in the number of cases registered in 2023 compared to those registered in 2022.

Table 13: Trend for the three ACTV strategic years, 2021 – 2023

ACTV Centre	2021	2022	2023	Total
Kampala	396	269	324	989
Kasese – Field Office	79	10	83	172
Gulu	472	221	593	1286
Karamoja – Field Office	204	298	235	737
Total	1,151	798	1,235	3,184

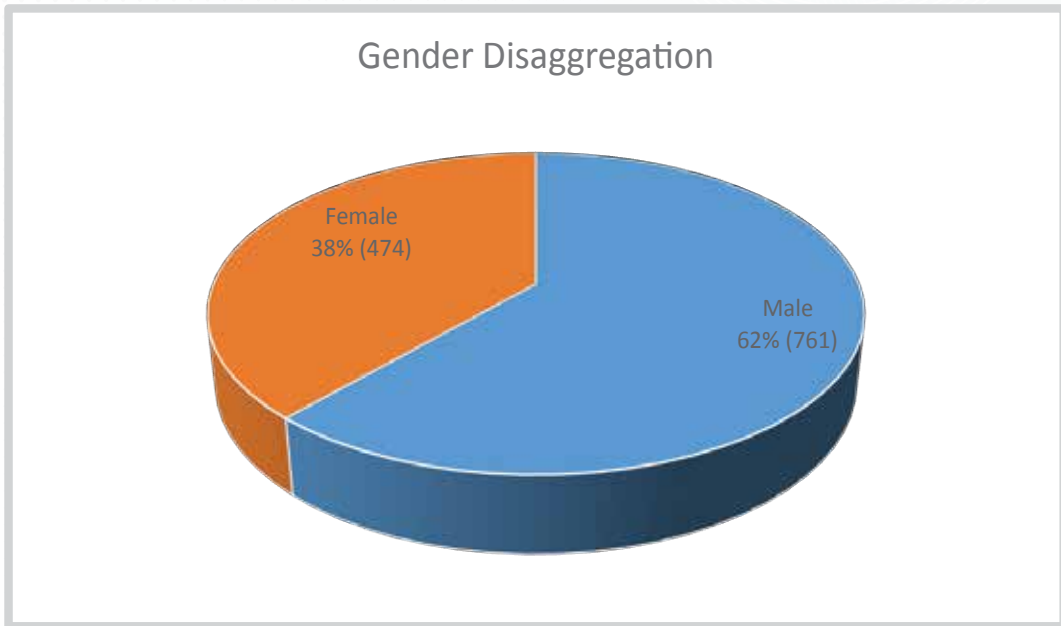


Figure 34: Gender of the registered survivors in 2023

There was a 3% increase from 35% in 2022 to 38% in 2023 among women who received services at ACTV. This significant increase is an indication that women, who often suffer primary and secondary effects of torture, are progressively breaking the barriers hindering them from accessing rehabilitation services.

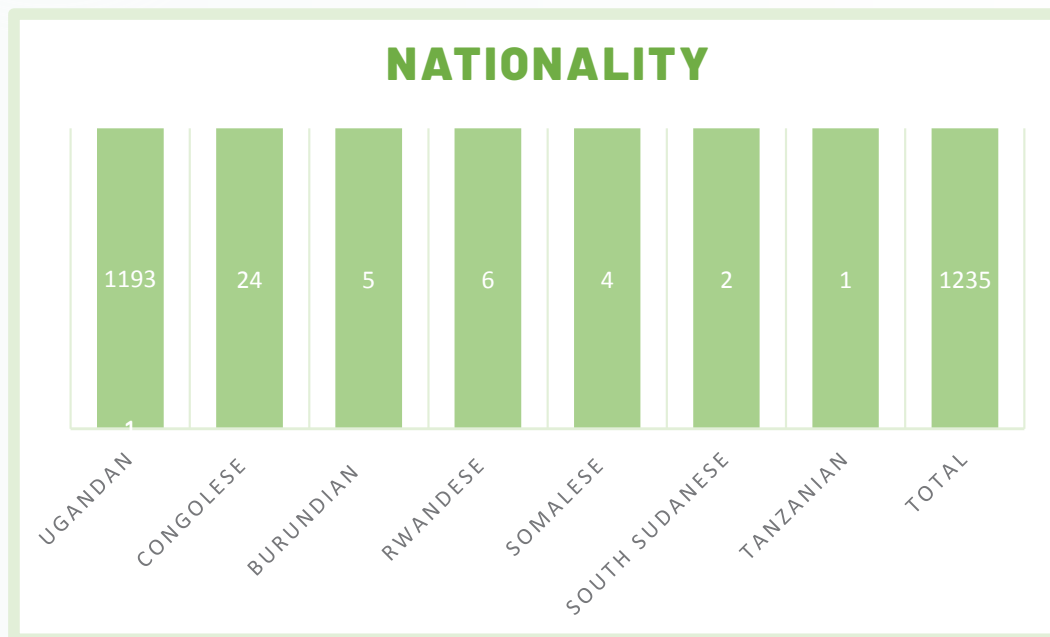
Table 14: Age categories of the survivors registered

Age Group	Number of Survivors			
	Male	Female	Total	%ge
0 - 17	11	14	25	2%
18 - 30	184	103	287	23%
31-35	214	163	377	31%
36-58	258	132	390	32%
59+	94	62	156	13%
Totals	761	474	1,235	100%

The youth aged between 18-35 years formed the majority of the survivors, with 54% (664) registered. Most importantly, there was an increase in the number of child survivors aged 0-17 years registered from 1% (04 cases) in 2022 to 2% (25 cases) in 2023. This implies that there is a need for targeted interventions to combat torture among the youth and children.

Nationalities of survivors registered

Table 15: Nationalities of survivors registered



Ugandans were the majority of the survivors that were seen in 2023, with 1,193 (740 male and 453 female) (96.6%) survivors registered. Refugees and asylum seekers formed 3.4%, of whom the majority were Congolese, with 24 (11 male and 13 female) survivors. The relative peace witnessed in the Great Lakes Region led to a reduction in the number of refugees that came into the country, contributing to a reduction in the number of refugees registered.

Points where survivors were contacted

Table 16: The point where survivors were contacted

Contact	Point of Contact				
	Kampala	Gulu	Karamoja	Kasese	Total
Community outreach	50	254	182	69	555
Prison visits	149	100	53	00	302
Home visits	07	171	00	06	184
ACTV Static centres	109	33	00	08	150
Call centre	05	35	00	00	40
Field investigation	04	00	00	00	4
Total	324	593	235	83	1,235

Community outreach was the point where the majority of the survivors were contacted (555 survivors – 364 male and 191 female), followed by prison visits. These interventions enabled survivors to access services in the communities where they lived, which would not have been possible owing to the effects of torture. 150 (60 male and 90 female) survivors were referred to ACTV centres by partners and referrals from the ACTV clients who were satisfied with the services. In addition, owing to the increase in awareness campaigns, there was a noticeable increase in the number of walk-in clients through self-referrals.

Table 17: Referral partners that referred survivors to ACTV

Referrals from partners and other sources					
Source	Kampala	Gulu	Karamoja	Kasese	Total
ACTV clients	27	28	4	0	59
Self-referrals	8	13	5	8	34
Community support network	1	0	0	14	15
Friends/family	12	0	0	0	12
Jesuit Refugee Services	9	0	0	0	9
Refugee Law Project	6	1	0	0	7
Human rights defenders	4	0	0	0	4
Member of Parliament	0	2	0	0	2
Private lawyers	2	0	0	0	2
National Unity Platform – Secretariat	1	0	0	0	1
UHRC	0	1	0	0	1
Human Rights Focus		1	0	0	1
CoRSU Hospital	1	0	0	0	1
CAFOMI	1	0	0	0	1
Juakali Initiative	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	73	46	9	22	150

Table 18: Alleged perpetrators of torture

Perpetrators						
Perpetrator	Kampala	Gulu	Karamoja	Kasese	Total	
Security Agencies						
UPDF	49	54	228	44	375	28%
Uganda Police Force	144	62	21	34	261	19%
Prison Officers	9	26	18	0	53	4%
CMI	20	0	0	3	23	2%
Flying Squad	5	5	0	0	10	1%
Military Police	5	0	0	0	5	0%
Total	232	147	267	81	727	54%
Non-Security Agencies						
Lord's Resistance Army	0	201	0	0	201	15%
Private individuals	85	51	5	9	150	11%
Katikkiros in prisons	7	26	11	0	44	3%
Cultural leaders	0	40	0	0	40	3%
Unknown	13	20	0	5	38	3%
Mob justice	9	15	0	10	34	3%
Karamojong warriors	0	0	14	0	14	1%
Local Council leaders	2	3	0	1	6	0%
Total	116	356	30	25	527	39%
GBV Cases						
Husband	5	49	5	8	67	5%
Wife	0	1	0	0	1	0%
Total	5	50	5	8	68	5%
Other Regions (Refugees and Asylum Seekers)						
DRC rebels	6	0	0	0	6	0%
DRC soldiers/government	5	0	0	0	5	0%
Al Shabab	1	0	0	4	5	0%
Rwandan gov't (soldiers and police)	4	0	0		4	0%
Burundian police	2	0	0	0	2	0%
ADF rebels	0	1	0	0	1	0%
Sudanese soldiers	1	0	0	0	1	0%
Total	19	1	0	4	24	2%

Alleged perpetrators of torture and violence

54% (727) of the survivors registered alleged that they were tortured by security agencies. The majority of these – 28% (375) – alleged that the UPDF was the culprit, especially in the Karamoja sub-region where a disarmament operation and operations against cattle rustling are ongoing. The Uganda Police Force (UPF) had 261 (19%) cases alleged against them, most of which were from the Central Region. Other security agencies against which allegations of torture were levelled included the Uganda Prisons Service, especially in connection with prisons in Gulu and Karamoja, the Flying Squad, which is an outfit of the UPF, and the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence (CMI). The non-security agencies had 527 (29%) cases alleged against them. It is significant to mention that there is an increasing number of torture cases perpetrated by private individuals and through acts of mob justice. Cultural leaders, especially in Northern Uganda, the LRA, Karamoja warriors and local leaders are some of the other non-security actors that were reported to have perpetrated acts of torture and ill treatment.

Table 19: Reason for torture as given by survivors

Reason	Context and Reason for Torture				
	Kampala	Gulu	Karamoja	Kasese	Total
Punishment	154	93	10	20	277
Forced confession	87	68	71	14	240
Disarmament process	0	0	210	0	210
Rebel atrocities	0	201	0	0	201
Sowing fear	39	51	24	4	118
Extraction of information	42	47	23	13	125
Intimidation	45	41	21	10	117
Unknown	16	9	6	0	31
Land wrangles	0	71	0	0	71
GBV	7	49	4	8	68
Election violence	56	0	0	0	56
Humiliation	17	12	0	0	29
Family/personal conflict	0	19	0	0	19
Dispersing social gathering	4	0	0	13	17
Tribal conflicts	0	14	0	4	18
Others	12	9	0	1	22

The majority of survivors were tortured during punishment (277) for the crimes alleged against them, followed by forced confessions (240) and then by torture during the disarmament process in Karamoja (210). Other significant reasons were land disputes, election violence, extraction of information, rebel atrocities, and tribal conflicts, among others.

Table 20: Forms of torture survivors went through

FORMS OF TORTURE					
Form	Kampala	Gulu	Karamoja	Kasese	Total
Physical torture					1,016
Beating (blunt trauma)	260	120	45	3	428
Positional torture	89	33	26	0	148
Crush injuries	46	11	87	0	144
Medical amputation	18	0	0	0	18
Penetrating injuries	31	4	12	6	53
Sexual torture	39	32	0	0	71
Chemical exposure	9	0	0	0	9
Conditions of detention	23	35	64		122
Burns	7	0	0	0	7
Deprivation of normal sensory stimulation	6	10	0	0	16
Psychological torture					493
Accentuating feelings of helplessness	137	21	34	1	193
Witnessing torture of others	41	16	8	0	65
Threats	62	16	6	0	84
Humiliation	64	1	13	0	78
Sexual torture	39	34	0	0	73

Physical torture was used on most of the survivors registered (1016), with beating resulting in blunt trauma being the highest (428). 493 survivors reported having suffered psychological forms of torture, which included accentuating feelings of helplessness, witnessing the torture of others, threats, humiliation and sexual torture, characterised as gender-based violence.

3.6 Staff Capacity Development

Table 21: Capacity development trainings carried out in 2023

S/No.	Capacity-building Initiative	Participants	Organiser/ Facilitator
1.	Training on performance management, including performance objective setting	All staff	Consultant
2.	Training on strategic communication for social justice	Management and heads of units	Consultant
3.	2-day refresher training on outcome harvesting	All staff	ACTV M&E Unit
4.	One day training on basic data analysis	All staff	ACTV M&E Unit
5.	Training on effective documentation of survivors using the revised Istanbul Protocol	ACTV – Holistic team	DIGNITY
6.	Training on monitoring of places of detention and prison health	ACTV – Holistic team	DIGNITY
7.	Training on digital safety and security	All ACTV staff	ACTV IT Administrator
8.	Training on management of sexual violence cases against men	Medical Coordinator	Refugee Law Project
9.	Global partnership engagement meeting with all DIGNITY-supported organisations	All ACTV staff	DIGNITY
10.	Advocacy strategies utilising the mechanisms of the African Union	Legal Officer and CAO	DIGNITY
11.	Training on the Abidjan Rules on reporting torture to the CPTA	Legal Coordinator	CPTA
12.	EMDR approach for treating psychological trauma	Mental health staff	
13.	Training on Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT)	Clinical psychologists	CVT
14.	Training on trauma-informed and organisational wellbeing	11 selected staff	CSVN



Figures 34: ACTV with participants from other African organisations in Arusha after a training on Advocacy strategies utilizing the mechanisms of the African Union.



Figure 35: ACTV team during a get together event at Penel Beach Hotel in Entebbe

4.0 Challenges

Increased fear among survivors, that limits reporting and leads to failure to seek rehabilitation services. This calls for an increase in trust-building and for the state to enact the Witness Protection Law that would give confidence to survivors to report cases of torture.

Limited knowledge among criminal justice actors about the investigation and documentation of torture cases, which affects the prosecution of cases of torture, hence no accountability. This contributed to frustration and apathy among survivors who sought justice.

The high level of bureaucracy within government institutions slows down mobilisation for implementation of some of the programme activities.

Increase in NGO operational compliance requirements. During the year, another compliance element (beneficial owners registration) was required in all organisation's operational aspects including banks. This slowed down operations, especially on the ACTV Gulu account.

The demise of an ACTV member of staff in the Karamoja Sub-Field Office was shocking and this left a gap in the Karamoja Region which affected the implementation of planned activities.

5.0 Best Practices and Lessons Learnt

Partnership and collaboration played a fundamental role in reaching out to survivors and also strengthening advocacy initiatives for torture prevention.

The community support network volunteers constitute a magnificent model for building trust among survivors of torture and creating awareness about the available services, hence improving help-seeking behaviours among survivors.

Having strong mechanisms to continuously monitor the operating context and flexibility to adjust programmes to respond effectively to emerging issues. This was a lesson from the emergency response intervention that was carried out in response to the attack on a school in Mpondwe, Kasese District.

6.0 Going Forward

Expand the community support network so as to increase the capacity to identify, respond and make appropriate referrals for survivors of torture.

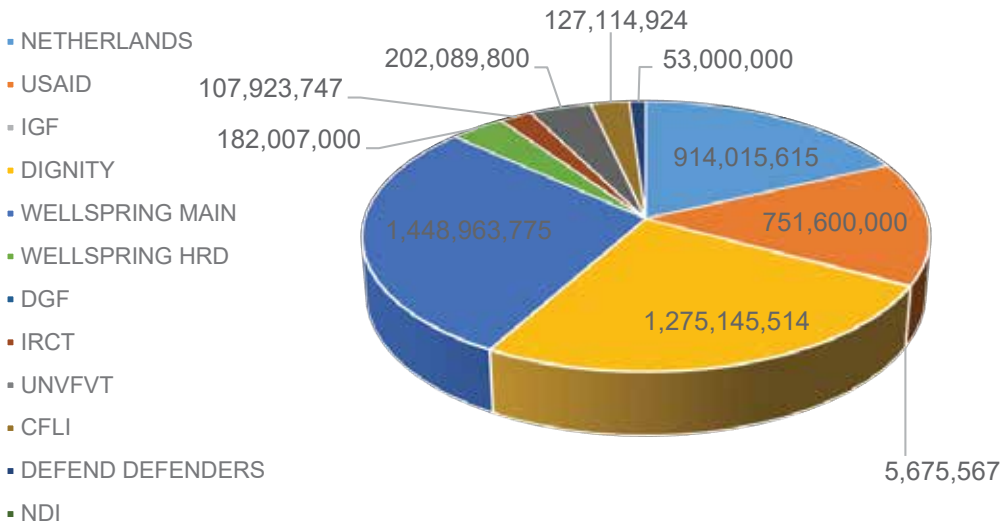
Continue advocating for the ratification of the OPCAT, Witness Protection Law, Legal Aid Law and the National Policy on Rehabilitation of Survivors of Torture.

Roll out a training of judicial officers on the PPTA 2012 and its 2017 Regulations so as to increase the capacity of the criminal justice actors in the application of the said laws.

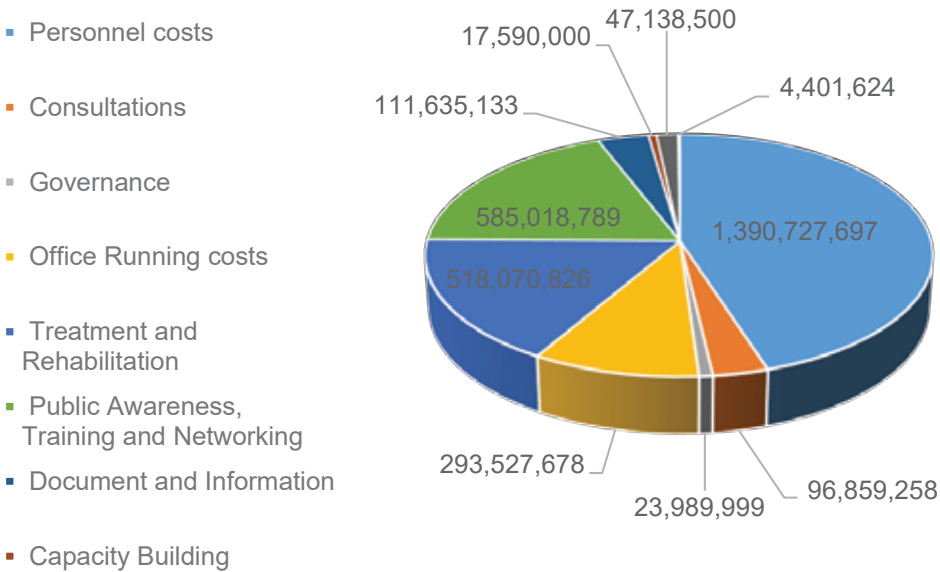
Continue with training of police CID officers, police health workers and state prosecutors on effective investigation, documentation and prosecution of torture cases by utilising the PPTA 2012 and its 2017 Regulations.

Integrate technology into rehabilitation and advocacy for torture prevention.

7.0 Financial Statement 2023



2023 Expenditure



Trends for the last 3 years – 2021, 2022, 2023

Donor	Actual 2023	Actual 2022	Actual 2021
IGF	5,675,567	119,410,695	44,076,000
DIGNITY	1,275,145,514	961,975,179	641,050,000
WELLSPRING GENERAL SUPPORT	1,448,963,775	515,128,577	561,368,000
WELLSPRING HRD	182,007,000	174,279,000	174,279,000
DGF		652,896,075	274,774,000
IRCT	107,923,747	121,465,825	86,454,000
UNVFVT	202,089,800	193,539,500	133,369,000
CFLI	127,114,924	112,822,144	91,309,000
NDI		149,383,155	
DEFEND DEFENDERS	53,000,000		
NETHERLANDS	914,015,615		
USAID	751,600,000		
TOTAL	5,067,535,943	3,000,900,150	2,006,679,000

ACTV Staff in 2023

Samuel Herbert Nsubuga, Chief Executive Officer

Sophia Achan, Head of Finance and Administration

Alex Kigoye, Head of Programmes

Alfred Okettayot, Programme Manager, Gulu

Grace Namatovu, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager

Thomas Aquinas Lokol, ICT Administrator

Dan Lubinga, Accountant

Dr. Portia Busingye, Medical Doctor, Kampala

Joel Ochora, Medical Doctor, Gulu

Leila Wakabi Hassan, Mental Health Coordinator

Isaac Ogwal, Clinical Psychologist, Gulu

Baker Isabirye, Counselling Psychologist, Kampala

Juliet Anango, Legal Coordinator

Jordan Megolonyo, Legal Officer, Gulu

Beatrice Acayo, Social Worker, Gulu

Apollo Robinson Kinyera, Medical Coordinator/Physiotherapist, Kampala

Andrew Olwedo, Physiotherapist, Gulu

Paul Kirya Mukalere, Communication and Advocacy Officer

Brenda Mary Kemigisa, Communication and Advocacy Assistant

Susan Labeja, Nurse, Gulu

Angella Kunihira, Nurse, Kampala

Robinah Nabatanzi, Accounts Assistant, Kampala

Augustine Nkurunziza, Accounts Assistant, Gulu

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Emmanuel Risa Bole, Project Field Officer, Kaabong

Dr. Sulaiman Nsanja, Part-Time Medical Doctor, Kampala

Volunteers

Morris Muhindo, Field Officer, Kasese

Albina Lochora, Social Worker, Kaabong

Patrick Bosco Oola, Monitoring and Evaluation, Kampala

Winnie Nakiwolo, Nurse, Kampala

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Reverend Canon Augustine Musiwuufu Magala

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Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga

Appreciation to Partners

ACTV extends its sincere appreciation to all the Development Partners and stakeholders who have extended support to ACTV throughout the year. In a special way, ACTV thanks Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (WPF) for the generous support it has provided for the last 17 years that has enabled ACTV to make great milestones, the Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY) for the continuous support and for strengthening our capacity to pursue our mandate. Furthermore, we are grateful to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT), the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) and DefendDefenders for believing in us and supporting us to advocate against torture, GBV and other forms of violence, and provide holistic care to survivors.

The Coalition against Torture in Uganda (CAT) that has continued to advocate against torture in Uganda

No. Organisation

1. African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)
2. Muslim Centre for Justice and Law (MCJL)
4. Human Rights Focus (HURIFO)
5. Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF)
6. Chapter Four - Uganda
7. Human Rights Centre - Uganda (HRCU)
8. Refugee Law Project (RLP)
9. Kumi Human Rights Initiative (KHRI)
10. Women of Uganda (WOU)
11. Uganda Prisoners Aid Foundation (UPAF)
12. Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNJ)
13. Association of Human Rights Organisations in the Rwenzori Region (AHURIO)
14. Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)
15. Coalition of Uganda Private Teachers Association (COUPSTA)
16. The Uganda National Medical Alliance for Prisoners Support (TUNMAPS)
17. World Voices
18. Torture Survivors Association of Uganda (TOSAU)
19. Penal Reform International-Uganda (PRI)
20. Women Human Rights Defenders' Network

Partners:

No.	Organisation
1.	National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders – Uganda (NCHRDs)
2.	Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
3.	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
4.	Uganda Journalists’ Association (UJA)
5.	Centre for Victims of Torture (CVT)

Tribute to Giovani Angella (Our deceased staff)



Giovani, when the call came to serve the marginalised and the needy, you never hesitated, you courageously stood up and diligently played your role until your last day on earth. You worked with passion and love for survivors of torture and vulnerable people. You always fought for social justice. Your wisdom and the impact created in Karamoja Region will always be remembered.



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