

FREE STATE ACCESS TO JUSTICE CLUSTER PROJECT 2010 AND 2011

1. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

The law clinic entered into a co-operative agreement with the AULAI trust in 2010 in terms of which training and support legal services are being provided to community based paralegal practitioners in the Eastern Free State.

2. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FSAJC

The overall objective of the FSAJC is to increase access to justice to rural and indigent communities in the Free State.

The specific objectives are:

- The provide trustworthy legal services to all individuals and groups whose fundamental rights have been abused;
- To improve the professional capacities of paralegals, students, counsellors, social workers, candidate attorneys and attorneys, equipping them to deal with cases of abuse and exploitation;
- To undertake legal and democracy workshops aimed at informing communities of their rights and duties, thereby empowering them to counter exploitation and abuse;
- To publicise the plight of abused people and the seriousness of crimes against them.



3. AREA COVERED BY THIS PROJECT

The clinic operates within the confines of donor funding (as outlined above) and its services are therefore concentrated within the greater Mangaung area (Bloemfontein and the surrounding informal settlements). The Free State Province is as vast as it is dense and access to justice in the rural poor and farm communities is limited. Legal Aid South Africa has 5 permanent offices and 3 satellite offices to serve the entire Province. From the latter statement it is clear that access to justice for the rural communities is limited. The cluster however provides the opportunity for the clinic to establish a network of legal assistance for the rural poor and farm

workers. Many of the community that is served through this cluster project cannot attend the Law Clinic or an office of Legal Aid South Africa due to poverty and lack of transport. At this stage the clinic is serving the Eastern Free State and the specific centres covered through this project include:

Advice Office	Town	Community Partner and Contact number
Bethlehem Advice Centre	Bethlehem	Tello Hadebe 0782310662
Ficksburg Advice Centre	Ficksburg	Nomaswazi Tshabalala 0728054009
Harrismith Paralegal and Advocacy Centre	Harrismith	S Hadebe 0742452645
Hertzogville Community Advice Office	Hertzogville	Motlatsi Taole 0728154009
Khubetswana Advice Centre	Clarens	Mbhengu Tshabalala 0739246904
Mangaung Advice Centre	Bloemfontein	Ben Thang 0791717208
Maokeng Advice and Resource Centre	Kroonstad	Tommy Mabena 0720584168
Qholaqhwe Advice Centre	Bethlehem	KS Mosikili 0829742872
Rouxville Advice Centre	Rouxville	David Shasha 0723465862
Sasolburg Advice Centre	Sasolburg	Mrs. Mosela 0722039879
Sekwele Advice Centre for Social Reflection	Bethlehem	Michael Pienaar 058 3031459
Sun Rise Resource	Bethlehem	David Molaba 0723340425
Thusanang Advice Centre	Phuthaditjhaba	Jessie Nhlapo 058 7136074



4. THE LAW CLINIC AS SERVICE PROVIDER

The UFS Law Clinic is acting as the secretariat of the FSAJC and is responsible for all the administration and financial management of the Cluster. The FSAJC through the clinic provides back-up legal services to the community; is responsible for capacity building and awareness raising workshops for both the paralegals and members of the community; is responsible for information dissemination; responsible for strengthening and expanding stakeholder network and for the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The Law Clinic of the University of the Free State, is acting as the secretariat of the FSAJC, and handles both the administrative and financial administration of the Cluster. The financial administration is done in accordance with the policies of the University of the Free State.

5. OPERATIONAL PLAN

ACTIVITY	SPECIFIC ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
ACTIVITY ONE: Back up legal services	Legal teams attend circuit; Provision of legal services and support.	Project Attorney
ACTIVITY TWO: Capacity-building and awareness-raising workshops for both paralegals and members of the community	Identify training needs of paralegals; Develop training material; Attending to training needs through workshops; Identify training needs of communities through Paralegal Advice Offices; Conducting community workshops.	Project Team
ACTIVITY THREE: Information dissemination	Publish cluster newsletter.	Project Team
ACTIVITY FOUR: Strengthen and expand stakeholder network	Identify potential stakeholders to the cluster; Introduce identified stakeholders to FSAJC; Attend Access to Justice Cluster Forum Meetings.	Project Team
ACTIVITY FIVE: Monitoring and evaluation	Collate case statistics for data base and research; Report back to AULAI Trust and Faculty of Law.	Project Manager