EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this reporting period, FJDI implemented two projects aimed at promoting debate and dialogue on transitional justice (TJ) in Uganda.

In partnership with the Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ) and other TJ actors, FJDI worked to reawaken the debate on TJ and follow up on ongoing TJ processes. Through this project, FJDI conducted profiling meetings aimed at documenting TJ actors and issues in northern and Western Uganda, disseminated the TJ policy, and conducted victim-duty bearer interface meetings to provide victims with a platform to voice their issues and concerns to relevant duty bearers, policy makers, and stakeholders.

In partnership with the Field Outreach Office of the International Criminal Court (ICC), FJDI monitored the trial of Dominic Ongwen, a former Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) commander accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed during the conflict in northern Uganda. FJDI helped to conduct outreach and keep communities informed about the trial through video screenings and radio talk shows.

In addition, FJDI partnered with different like-minded partners to monitor the case of Thomas Kwoyelo, another LRA commander who is on trial domestically in Uganda. Kwoyelo is battling 93 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity before the International Crimes Division (ICD) in Uganda. FJDI partnered with Avocats’ Sans Frontières (ASF) to produce a TJ manifesto, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) to engage TJ actors on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) to conduct capacity building on human rights defenders, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) to engage stakeholders in forming working groups to monitor human rights issues in the region, and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) to train stakeholders on UPR process. FJDI also worked with Action Aid to follow up on the TJ policy.

The Covid-19 pandemic obstructed program implementation due multiple country-wide lockdowns, but FJDI managed to accomplish all project activities.
About FJDI

The FJDI works with children, youth, women and communities to promote justice, development and economic recovery in northern Uganda. FJDI seeks solutions to the long-term impacts of the conflict which ravaged northern Uganda by advocating for the redress of human rights violations and atrocities committed during the conflict, implementation of sustainable development initiatives, and promotion of economic empowerment through livelihood programs. We believe in the concept of holistic justice grounded in the notion that judicial mechanisms of redress go hand in hand with development and economic empowerment of victims.
Strategic Priorities 2021 - 2025

Program Areas

**Democracy, Governance and Transitional Justice Program**
This program area focuses on the implementation of relevant transitional justice programs in conflict-affected communities to bolster northern Uganda’s recovery from the debilitating impacts of the conflict.

**Education, Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment Program**
FJDPI works to empower vulnerable and special interest groups such as children, youth and women. We achieve this through implementing educational, livelihood and economic empowerment initiatives for these special interest groups.

**Children, Youth, and Women’s Program**
Children, youth and women continue to be the biggest victims of human rights abuses in post-conflict northern Uganda. FJDPI, therefore, implements programs in this area with a special focus on children, women and youth as the most vulnerable categories.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Wellspring Philanthropic Fund</td>
<td>Fostering Victim-Responsive Transitional Justice (TJ) in Uganda</td>
<td>November 2020 - January 2022</td>
<td>Northern/ western Region</td>
<td>100,000$</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Field Outreach Office of the International Criminal Court in Uganda, with funding from the Danish Embassy in Uganda</td>
<td>Access to Justice</td>
<td>January – December 2021</td>
<td>Achoi Sub-Region</td>
<td>10,000$</td>
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FOSTERING VICTIMS-RESPONSIVE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN UGANDA

FJDI in partnership with the Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ) implemented a project entitled: Fostering Victim-responsive Transitional Justice (TJ) in Uganda. The goal of the project was to re-ignite regional and nationwide dialogues on victim-led and responsive TJ. The project employed a three-pronged approach. First, it focused on profiling grassroots TJ-focused civil society organizations (CSO) and other actors in the Rwenzori and Northern regions, and at the national level for the purpose of building a legitimate and broad-based national force to advocate for the implementation of the National TJ Policy. Second, the project focused on profiling and contextualising TJ issues, including, inter-alia, supporting activities of victims’ associations such as local level memorial events. Lastly, the project undertook both regional and national level TJ advocacy campaigns using media and interest-based engagements.

Profiling Transitional Justice Actors and Issues in Uganda

FJDI successfully conducted two regional profiling meetings in Gulu and Lira in which several TJ issues affecting the two regions were profiled. The regional meetings took place on February 4 and 10 respectively, bringing together 80 participants. During the meetings, the participants listed several TJ actors, their roles and issues that need to be addressed in the TJ policy. On February 18, 2021, FJDI together with RFPJ conducted a national profiling meeting in Kampala. The meeting was aimed at profiling Transitional Justice issues and actors.

Media Outreach

FJDI conducted 12 radio talk shows aimed at popularizing the national transitional justice policy. While the talk shows achieved their objectives of mass sensitization, many listeners decried the delay in the passing of the TJ policy. Listeners also offered their perspectives on reparations and compensation, with a high preference for individual, rather than collective schemes.

Regional TJ Dissemination Meetings;

On April 23, 2021, FJDI conducted a regional meeting to disseminate the profiled TJ policy issues. The meeting was conducted at Global Friendship Hotel, Gulu City, and it was attended by 40 participants including the religious, cultural leaders, the RDC, victims’ representatives, media and CSOs.
**National TJ Dissemination Meeting;** On May 14, 2021, FJDIN in Partnership with RFJP conducted a National meeting to disseminate the profiled TJ issues and actors. The meeting took place at Piao Restaurant in Kampala and was attended by 30 stakeholders including religious leaders, victim’s representatives, media, Members of Parliament and different CSOs. Some of the reactions to the report included.

**Meeting with Greater North Parliamentary Forum;** On August 20, 2021, FJDIN attended a meeting organized by RFPJ in collaboration with the Greater North Parliamentary Forum, ASF, RLP and MERCY CORPS. The purpose of the meeting was to find ways of strengthening legal frameworks that address drivers of conflict.

**Sub-Regional Meetings to Popularize the TJ policy;** FJDIN conducted 2 sub-regional meetings on October 29, and November 30, 2021, respectively to popularize the TJ policy. Collectively, the meetings brought together over 100 participants from all over greater northern Uganda who received updates and progress on the development and implementation of the TJ policy.

**Sub-Regional Victim-Duty Bearer Meetings;** FJDIN successfully conducted 2 meetings bringing together victims and duty bearers with the ultimate objective of providing victims with platforms to amplify their voices and take lead in bringing their needs and interests to the attention of duty bearers mandated to further TJ in their respective regions. Collectively, the meetings brought together over 100 participants including representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister, cultural, religious leaders, and different CSO representatives. Victims were able to voice their issues and concerns.

**Strengthening Victims’ Associations;** FJDIN worked with victims associations in northern Uganda to strengthen their organizational capacity through mentorship and capacity building activities. A total of 4 mentorship meetings were conducted on between February and November 2021 in Gulu and Lira, bringing together over 150 victims’ leaders and representatives who received training in group formation and dynamics, and how to sustain their groups.
ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Monitoring the Trials of Dominic Ongwen and Thomas Kwoyelo

FJDI in partnership with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other stakeholders monitored the trials of former LRA commanders Dominic Ongwen and Thomas Kwoyelo. The trials occurred simultaneously before the ICC in The Hague, and the ICD in Uganda. FJDI actively participated in monitoring the trial of Thomas Kwoyelo. Kwoyelo is facing 93 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed between January 1995 and December 2005 in northern Uganda. The main phase of his trial started on September 24, 2018. The hearing continued until March 19 but was indefinitely adjourned due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Screening and Radio Listening clubs and Stakeholder’s Meetings; In collaboration with the ICC, FJDI conducted video screenings and radio listening clubs to keep the public updated about the ongoing trial of Dominic Ongwen at The Hague. Radio listening clubs bring together members of a community to receive updates on trial proceedings. FJDI conducted a total of 9 radio listening clubs between February and November 2021, bringing together over 1000 community members. From 06 - 07 May, 2021, FJDI facilitated an ICC stakeholders’ meeting to reflect on the pronouncement of Dominic Ongwen’s sentencing.

Community Outreach Dialogues; From May 28 to 31, 2021, FJDI in Partnership with ASF conducted community dialogues in Amuru District to understand how the delay in the trial of Thomas Kwoyelo at the ICD had affected the community. During the dialogues, the community expressed profound frustration with the delay in Kwoyelo’s trial and an overwhelming recommendation that he be committed to the ICC. Some of the community members also complained about the criteria used to select the witnesses saying that most of the key witnesses were left out.

Left to Right: Screening of Dominic Ongwen’s trial proceedings in progress
ADVOCACY and NETWORKING

Through internal and external visits, meetings, workshops and other events, FJDI can articulate victims’ concerns, interests and needs. Our advocacy events rotate around two main pillars: external visits to FJDI and attendance and participation in meetings and other networking events. This ensures that FJDI’s activities are visible and known to the public, thereby creating a support base and audience for the promotion of the organization’s activities.
Learning & Exchange Visits

On March 03, 2021, FJDI together with venture Uganda and a team from the University of Manchester conducted a video coverage with the victims in Lukodi with the aim of digitalizing information to enable the students from the University of Manchester to acquire more knowledge on the post-conflict in Northern Uganda. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the students were not able to come and participate physically, so the team opted for digital information is to help them with their learning.

Left: Students of Manchester University on a visit to Lukodi Community Memory Center. Right: A project review meeting at the Lukodi Community Memory Center
Workshops and External Events

- **Workshop on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); Kampala, February 24 - 26, 2021:** To collect CSO perspectives for inclusion in the UPR report for Uganda.

- **Launch of the Education Justice and Memory Network (EDJAM); Kampala, February 24 - 26, 2021:** To sensitize CSOs about EDJAM, an inclusive, participatory and interdisciplinary network that builds capacity on research, and promotes a culture of peace and non-violence.

- **Dialogue on Women’s Land Rights and Access to Justice, Gulu, March 01-05, 2021:** Discussion platform on women’s land rights and access to justice in Northern Uganda.

- **Dialogue on Protection of Civic Space, Kampala, March 8-12, 2021:** Sensitization of CSOs on protection of civic space.

- **Training on Anti-money Laundering by Defender’s Protection Initiative (DPI), Gulu, March 15-19, 2021:** Capacity building meeting to sensitize CSOs on money laundering.

A mentorship and capacity building session for victims’ associations in progress.
Our Donors & Partners
FJDI's work in 2021 was made possible with the support of the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.
Geographical Location

FJDI has presence in the northern Uganda regions of Acholi, Lango, Teso and the West Nile.

Our districts of operation include: Gulu, Nwoya, Omoro, Amuru, Kitgum, Pader, Agago, Lamwo, Lira, Otuke, Kole, Oyam, Soroti, Ngora, Amuria, Ajudmani, Arua, and Moyo.
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