

KAMPALA, UGANDA

THE PROBLEM

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

A poor woman in Uganda not only has to contend against the challenge of eking out a living in harsh conditions, but also with the threat of violence to her and her family if she attempts to stand up for her rights.

Since 2004, IJM worked from the Kampala office to serve widows and orphans in nearby Mukono County, where more than a third of widows reported experiencing attempts to take their land. From 2012–2017, IJM partnered with local authorities to build the capacity of the justice system to effectively combat land theft in Mukono County. In a study conducted at the conclusion of the project, we found a nearly 50% reduction in the prevalence of land theft, as well as increased knowledge among widows of their inheritance rights. The team is now focused on designing a national program that will combat violence against women and children across the country.

IJM KAMPALA PROGRESS SINCE 2004



1,200+

restored to their homes and land



10,000+

police, judges, churches, communities and others trained on land theft



96

perpetrators arrested for land theft crimes



THE FACTS



More than **115 million widows** live in extreme poverty around the world—with half a billion children depending on these widows for survival.¹

An estimated 90% of rural sub-Saharan Africans have no proof of ownership for land where they live and work—leaving them vulnerable to violent land theft.²

Nearly 1 out of 3 widows in Mukono County reported that her land had been stolen in her lifetime, and nearly 1 in 5 victims reported a murder attempt on her life.³



“Thank you so much. Thank you for bringing hope. Thank you for listening to God and saying, ‘let’s rescue the widows and the oppressed.’”

–Harriet

How IJM Kampala Combats Violence Against Women and Children

We rescue widows and children from violence and help Local Council leaders (the community-level representatives of the justice system), police and courts to provide support, investigate crimes and handle cases appropriately. This can mean moving women and children into safe houses while we work to stop the threats.

We bring criminals to justice by working with police and prosecutors to take them to court. IJM attorneys help build strong cases by gathering evidence that will expose the criminal's actions.

We restore survivors by providing counseling, ensuring that children can go to school, and helping women begin income-generating projects. Once families are safe, we empower them through training and by providing resources to rebuild their lives.

We strengthen justice systems by working with police, courts, land authorities and other local leaders to dramatically improve the justice system response to land theft so women and children are safe. IJM has helped establish and train specialized land theft prevention officers in local police stations, and we raise awareness through media and radio campaigns.

IJM KAMPALA MILESTONES

2004

IJM KAMPALA OPENS

2012

PROJECT EMPAANYI

We launch a partnership with local authorities to end land theft in Mukono through collaborative casework and capacity building.

2017

IJM CONCLUDES SYSTEM REFORM PROGRAM

From 2012 to 2017, IJM partnered with law enforcement and the judiciary to provide training and improve the handling of land theft cases.

2018

50% REDUCTION IN LAND LEFT MEASURED

An external evaluation found the reduction in land left was connected to IJM's capacity building and mentoring of the public justice system.



FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR JAMES FOSTER

James is an attorney who spent the past 4 years at New York City's Emergency Management Department. Prior to his service with NYC James spent a year in The Hague working in the Appellate Chamber for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, then at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. James joined IJM in 2017, leading the Kampala team to protect women and children from violence.



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INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

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