

# VUMBUZI

MAGAZINE 2023



**REALISING PEOPLE-  
CENTRED, USER-FRIENDLY  
JUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA**

**“Vumbuzi”** comes from the Swahili word **‘Uvumbuzi’** which means innovation. We believe in advancing innovative solutions that challenge existing inequities, strengthening our common human need for peace and justice and in fostering people-centered justice pathways. We continue to do this by supporting startups that alleviate and resolve pressing justice needs in East Africa and creating an enabling environment for them. Vumbuzi represents our vision for justice in Africa; where by 2030, access to justice is easy, affordable and most importantly, user-friendly.

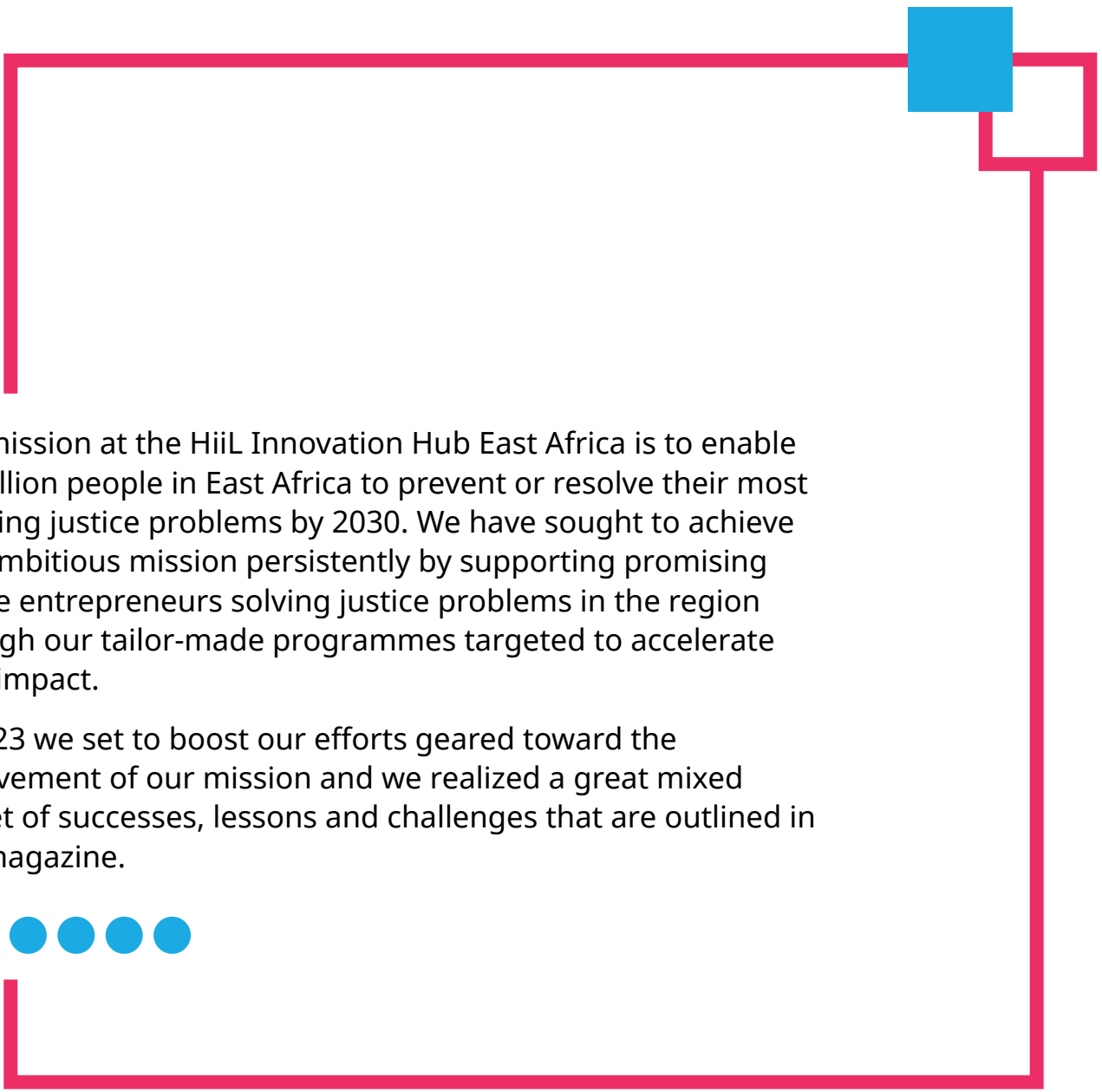


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Our mission at the HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa is to enable 50 million people in East Africa to prevent or resolve their most pressing justice problems by 2030. We have sought to achieve this ambitious mission persistently by supporting promising justice entrepreneurs solving justice problems in the region through our tailor-made programmes targeted to accelerate their impact.

In 2023 we set to boost our efforts geared toward the achievement of our mission and we realized a great mixed basket of successes, lessons and challenges that are outlined in this magazine.



# INTRODUCTION

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# VUMBUZI

## OUR 2023 STORY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Firstly, our 2023 story begins by giving an insight into the people-centered justice landscape challenges and opportunities in the region and continent.

Here we bring to light some useful data on the justice problems and justice journeys that East Africans and Africans encounter as well as the common pathways they have taken to resolve those problems. We also provide profound highlights of the justice innovation landscape to advance user-friendly and sustainable justice services in Africa.

In the middle section of the 2023 Vumbuzi story, we dive deep into the results achieved and the different programme interventions we implemented this year. Here we highlight some of the results in Kenya and Uganda where our programmes were run. Additionally, we draw attention to the unique experiences we had in the course of implementing our 3 programmes that is, HiiL Justice Accelerator, Justice Entrepreneurship School Incubation Programme and Jenga Haki Labs Ideation Programme.

Finally, the last section of the magazine features our shared learnings and engagements with the community, our supportive collaborators and the 2024 outlook. In this segment, we highlight some of the key community events we hosted and collaborated with our ecosystem partners, spotlight the ecosystem collaborators, and showcase the 2023 justice

entrepreneurs that we supported in the course of the year. Lastly, we forecast the exciting plans and opportunities we have in 2024.

We hope you are enthralled reading our 2023 story and are nudged to join us on this incredible journey to make people-centered justice a reality in East Africa and the African continent.

# FOREWORD



 **Eric Mwangi Kairuki**  
Head HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa

**Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.**  
– Henry Ford, Industrialist

It has been 3 years since we launched the HiiL Innovation Hub for East Africa with a bold vision to help 50 million East Africans prevent and resolve their most pressing justice problems. From the onset, we believed that by bringing together the elements of tech, data, research and entrepreneurship, we would create the right conditions for serendipitous innovation in the justice sector. Always anchored



under the imperative of people-centered and user-friendly justice, we endeavoured to find, fund and support impact-driven and evidence-based tech solutions that had the potential to scale while sustainably impacting more people.

As a result, we have been able to support more than 68 Startups, 170+ entrepreneurs across 5 countries in the region. Ran 17 programmes, hosted more than 40 community events and engaged and collaborated with more than 30 partners. Moreover, we managed to raise more than 150,000 euros in funding from development partners and foundations to support our work. Nevertheless, beyond the hard numbers are the conversations, the pleasant insights and surprises we have encountered and the wisdom we have shared with our many different stakeholders. This has resulted in building meaningful relationships with our entrepreneurs, other entrepreneur support organisations and funders as well as enriching our knowledge and expertise.

Whilst we have had many successes along the way, we have also encountered several challenges that we are continuously learning from. These lessons have been crucial in developing our skills, strengthening and adapting our programme interventions and reforming our theory of change. Our work is a true testament to the African resilience, human temerity, and compassion and alas my team's zealous commitment to excellence.

As we continue to build on past successes and lessons learned, we hope to expand our programming to other areas outside access to justice. One of the key gifts of our work is the insightful realization of the intersection between access to decent and dignified jobs and social justice. High unemployment remains a social economic impediment to many young people that has had devastating social consequences for individuals and communities. In the long run, it contributes to exacerbating a high number of the justice problems we encounter.

As Dr. Martin Luther King aptly put it: "It is a cruel injustice to tell a bootless man to pull himself up by his bootstraps." Therefore, it is our solemn belief and commitment to focus on youth unemployment in Africa in the coming years as we expand our approach to addressing justice problems in Africa. We believe decent and dignified jobs are an important fulcrum towards social and economic inclusion and prosperity, human flourishing and social justice. Hence we invite you to guide, advise and support us in fulfilling this important mission forward.

# BOLDLY BUILDING USER-FRIENDLY JUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA

by

**MORGAN GIKONYO**

Project Coordinator | HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa

Justice journeys are often longwinded, costly and incomplete for a majority of Africans and East Africans particularly. Notably, many people in the region are not able to resolve their most pressing justice and legal problems. This is a consequence of a largely complex, costly, and time-consuming justice system that is seldom accessible to most of the population and doesn't always deliver fair outcomes.

Only 64% of East Africans trust the court systems to deliver justice and 39% of East Africans perceived high levels of corruption among judges and magistrates in their region according to data from Afrobarometer<sup>1</sup>. "Out of those who had been to court, 47% could not understand the legal procedures, 30% paid a bribe to get assistance from the courts, 60% experienced long delays in their court case, 42% could not obtain legal counsel and 38% were unable to pay legal costs." Undoubtedly, this data paints a bleak picture of the effectiveness of our justice systems and it magnifies the glaring challenges Africans face when seeking to solve their legal and justice problems.

Moreover, across the continent, a significant majority of Africans prefer to resolve their justice and legal problems through informal channels or completely abandon pursuing justice for their problems rather than use the formal justice system. This is evidenced by the Afrobarometer's report where 7 countries

reported a strong preference for traditional leaders or local councils to resolve justice issues.<sup>2</sup> These countries are Senegal (40%), Mali (32%), Malawi (27%), Niger (24%), Côte d'Ivoire (20%), Guinea (20%), and Benin (16%).

Furthermore, only one in every 8 citizens or 13% of Africans reported that they or a family member had any kind of contact with government courts or tribunals in the five years preceding the report; whether in a civil, administrative, or criminal case according to Afrobarometer's data.<sup>3</sup> An examination by Afrobarometer of why Africans avoided courts and the formal justice system revealed the leading impediments to be high court costs, lawyers being too expensive, low expectation of fair treatment, low trust of courts, and the expectation that court cases take too long.<sup>4</sup> This data begs the question... What would an effective and people-centered justice system look like that appreciates the African citizen's justice journey?

<sup>1</sup>Ambitious SDG goal confronts challenging realities: Access to justice is still elusive for many Africans, Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 39 | March 2017 [https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/migrated/files/publications/Policy%20papers/ab\\_r6\\_policypaperno39\\_access\\_to\\_justice\\_in\\_africa\\_eng.pdf](https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/migrated/files/publications/Policy%20papers/ab_r6_policypaperno39_access_to_justice_in_africa_eng.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Ibid

<sup>3</sup>Ambitious SDG goal confronts challenging realities: Access to justice is still elusive for many Africans, Afrobarometer Policy Paper No. 39 | March 2017 [https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/migrated/files/publications/Policy%20papers/ab\\_r6\\_policypaperno39\\_access\\_to\\_justice\\_in\\_africa\\_eng.pdf](https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/migrated/files/publications/Policy%20papers/ab_r6_policypaperno39_access_to_justice_in_africa_eng.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>Ibid



Taking a look at East Africa, in Uganda for instance, 95% of Ugandans experienced at least one legal problem in 2023, with many of them reporting more than one problem according to HiiL's 2024 data.<sup>5</sup> The four most serious problem categories in Uganda were land problems, family problems, crime, and domestic violence and consequently, the three most common negative consequences were loss of money, stress-related illness, and loss of time. Moreover, 45% of all problems experienced by Ugandans in 2023 have not (yet) been resolved, with around 29% of the problems still ongoing and 16% abandoned. Notably, only 10% of Ugandans who take action to solve their

legal problems seek the help of a lawyer and/or end up in a formal court of law as they prefer informal channels to solve the problems.<sup>6</sup> Similarly, in Kenya where there are about 18 million legal problems every 4 years with crime and land as the leading problems, about 7.8 million of those problems are abandoned or go unresolved according to HiiL data.<sup>7</sup>

Further, just like in Uganda, Kenyans preferred informal channels of resolving legal problems

<sup>5</sup>HiiL Justice Needs and Satisfaction in Uganda 2024 <https://www.hiil.org/research/justice-needs-and-satisfaction-in-uganda/>

<sup>6</sup>Ibid

<sup>7</sup>HiiL Justice Needs and Satisfaction in Kenya 2017 <https://www.hiil.org/research/justice-needs-and-satisfaction-in-kenya/>





As HiiL Innovation Hub EA, we take cognizance of the arduous journey ordinary justice seekers undergo to access user-friendly and people-centered justice given the aforementioned barriers. However, there is a growing demand for people-centered justice services to meet the justice needs of people in the region and across Africa and we strongly believe in a multi-faceted approach. We aver that the provision of adequate access to justice to East Africans and Africans requires interventions that look beyond resolution in the formal legal system. Notably, many access to justice programmes and interventions have focussed on improving access to courts and legal aid. While these are great initiatives, they exacerbate the mentioned challenges. This is because they largely leverage the formal justice system that is already in effective in meeting people's justice needs. To fill this justice gap HiiL has adopted a 5-prong model to realize people-centered justice that encompasses;



as 50% of Kenyans use non-institutional dispute resolution mechanisms and the most frequently used institutional third parties are the chief and the police. Courts of law and lawyers rank low as formal justice options used by Kenyans since only 10% and 7% of Kenyans use them respectively.<sup>8</sup> Both Kenya and Uganda share common barriers to resolving legal problems as the leading barriers were the belief that a positive outcome would not be realized, not knowing what to do, and the high cost of resolving their problem in the formal justice system.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid

- *Data and research* to establish justice needs and satisfaction among East Africans by engaging them on their experiences and justice journeys.
- *Sharing of evidence-based practices* with justice practitioners to enhance their work in providing justice services that meet the people's needs in a user-friendly manner.
- *Scaling justice innovations* that provide accessible, affordable, and user-friendly alternatives to preventing and resolving legal and justice problems.
- *Engaging with policymakers and players in the ecosystem* to push for an enabling environment that supports user-friendly and people-centered justice solutions.
- *Building a community of people-centered justice champions* through convenings and community

activities geared to create awareness and inspire justice changemakers.

We have steadily implemented different people-centered justice interventions within our model in East Africa with the support of our partners. These have included progressive justice needs and satisfaction surveys in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia and multiple cycles of justice innovation programmes in Somalia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Moreover, we have engaged in policy discussions such as the Startup Bill with policymakers and ecosystem players. We continue to consistently build our community of people-centered justice champions in the region through community events and engagements.

Despite the emerging challenges in the region, we remain committed to supporting innovative justice entrepreneurs in the coming years while contributing to better and bigger entrepreneur support ecosystem in East Africa.





# HIIL INNOVATION HUB EAST AFRICA EXECUTING TEAM

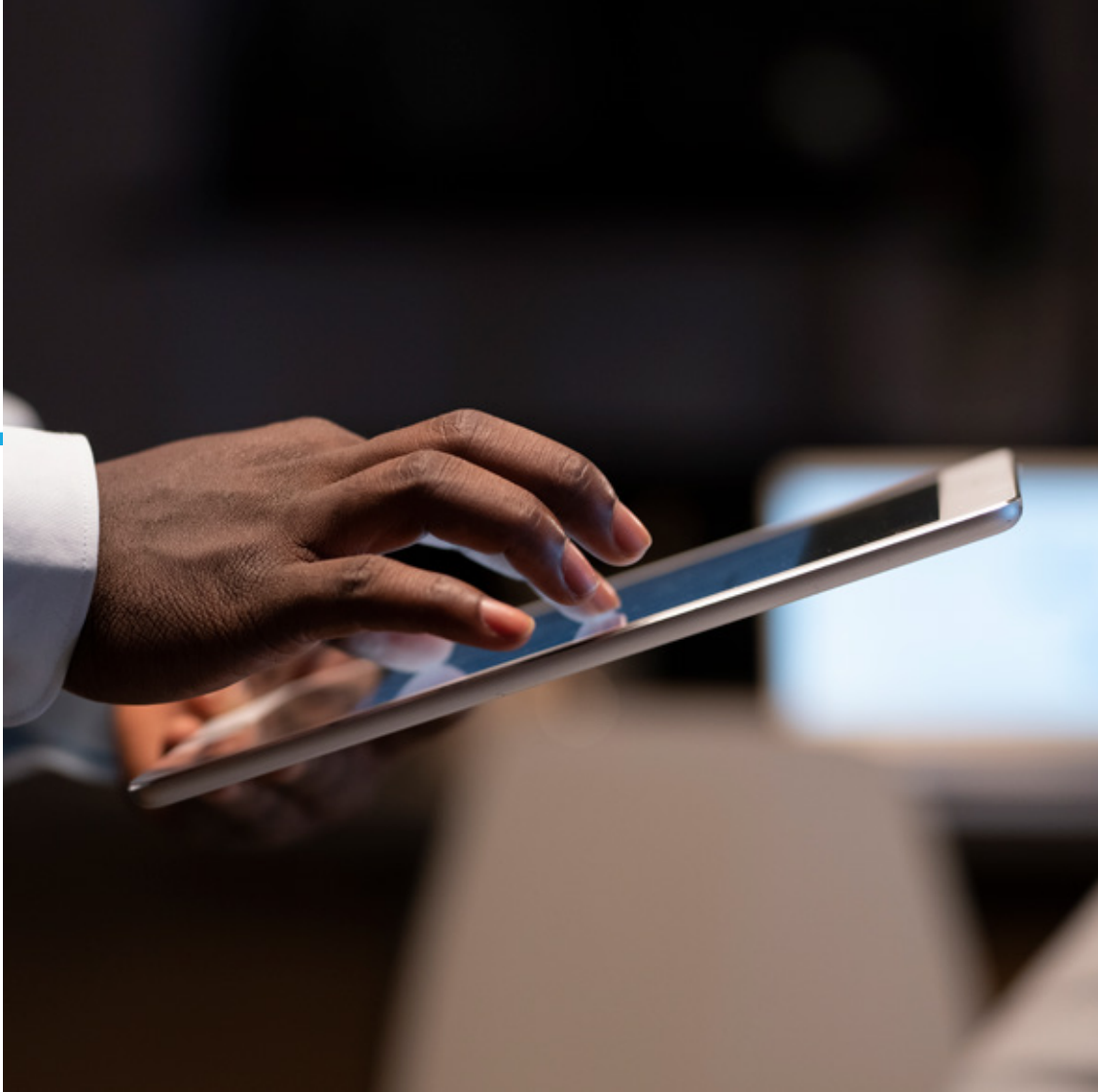


From Left to right; George Ogada (Programme Associate - Kenya), Eric Mwangi Kariuki (Executive Director), Morgan Gikonyo (Project Coordinator) and Leonard Businge (Programme Associate - Uganda) pause for a photo during the Justice Entrepreneurship Bootcamp in Nairobi, Kenya.









# THE JUSTICE INNOVATION LANDSCAPE IN EAST AFRICA

The current global justice gap of over 5.1 billion people unable to resolve their justice problems<sup>9</sup> gives a new impetus to reimagine justice delivery through innovation. Imagine a group of ambitious and driven entrepreneurs who create innovative solutions that leverage technology to deliver services which help people prevent or resolve their most people justice problems.

These solutions enable marginalised and vulnerable people to access justice affordably, quickly, and at scale. That is what we mean when we talk about Justice Innovation. Justice entrepreneurs developing and implementing impactful justice services through unique business models that are scalable and financially sustainable.

As such in the last couple of years the African innovation landscape has seen the emergence of various justice startups that are determined to tackle the access to justice gap in the continent. These Startups often fall into 7 main categories:

- *Community justice services* that help people with a simpler way to resolve problems, close to where they live, combining informal and formal justice.
- *Claiming platforms* that help people access vital government services, such as welfare or utilities.
- *User-friendly contracts* that make work relationships fairer and more secure for people and SMEs.
- *Online information and advice* that empower people with self-help and representation.
- *Prevention programmes* that protect people from theft, fraud and violence and make them feel safe.
- *New types of court* including *one-stop tribunals* for neighbour disputes, family justice and more.
- *Problem-solving courts* that are a promising way to deal with the most common types of crime such as domestic violence.

There are several examples of these game-changing innovations currently operating in Africa that Hiil has supported in the past. For instance, [Sheria Kiganjani](#) in Tanzania provides a digital legal platform that enables users to access various legal information and services remotely from their devices. In Uganda, [Barefoot Law](#) adopts innovative use of digital technology such as AI and USSD to empower people with free legal information so that they can use it to develop legal solutions for their justice needs. In Kenya, [Kiotapay](#) prevents disputes between landlords and tenants by providing a cloud-based property management system that automates key processes and embeds services for property owners and tenants thus creating efficiency and transparency in landlord-tenant relationships.

Additionally, in Rwanda, [E-Arbitrator](#) provides a digital platform where businesses, organisations and individuals anywhere can find and engage with qualified Arbitrators, Mediators or Alternative Dispute Resolution specialists, submit their case documents and have the issue resolved online. In Nigeria, [Sidebrief](#) is automating business compliance to make it simple, fast and accessible even for small and medium enterprises. In Tunisia, [Idaraty](#) provides a digital platform designed for people to access

administrative public services such as obtaining ID documents, social insurance and even post services easily and comfortably.

These emerging justice innovations are a good leap in bridging the access to justice gap by providing user-friendly alternatives. Furthermore, they complement already developing innovations in the public and private justice sectors in Africa such as e-filing court systems, transcription, case management systems, virtual courts, AI judicial systems<sup>10</sup>, legal practice management and analysis tools used by lawyers and AI legal research assistants.<sup>11</sup> While there is a great deal to celebrate with the emergence of these tech-based justice innovations, the justice sector is still rife with challenges that impact the growth and development of these solutions. They include:

- *Limited access to justice data to support justice service delivery* - There is a huge data gap on the justice problems, justice journeys and impact of available justice services in African countries that should

<sup>9</sup>Justice For All - The Report of the TaskForce on Justice, April 2019 <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/justice-all-report-task-force-justice-april-2019>

<sup>10</sup>UNESCO's dialogue on digital transformation and AI adoption across justice systems with Global South Experts <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-hosts-dialogue-global-south-experts-justice-digital-age>

<sup>11</sup>Lawyers Hub: State of LegalTech in Africa Report 2022 [https://www.lawyershub.org/Digital%20Resources/Reports/STATE\\_OF\\_LEGAL\\_TECH\\_IN\\_AFRICA\\_REPORT\\_2022\\_1.pdf](https://www.lawyershub.org/Digital%20Resources/Reports/STATE_OF_LEGAL_TECH_IN_AFRICA_REPORT_2022_1.pdf)

guide the access to justice strategies in those countries.

- *Low levels of digital literacy and tech adoption among justice practitioners and target citizen users* - The justice sectors in most African countries remain very conservative in their mode of operation as they maintain paper-based and manual operating models of delivering justice despite the growing use of technologies in other sectors of the economy. Moreover, a significant majority of justice practitioners and justice seekers are not digitally literate limiting their capability to effectively use these tech solutions.
- *Low levels of funding in the justice tech and innovation sector* - The justice tech and innovation sector in Africa has had very limited funding in comparison to other sectors such as fintech, healthtech and agritech which have enjoyed the lion share of funding and investment. This has greatly disincentivized potential Startup founders and slowed the development and growth of

alternative justice services adversely limiting the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 16.3 of Equal access to justice for all.

- *Restrictive and unfavourable regulatory policies in the justice sector* - Several policies and regulators in the justice sector such as legal bar associations in Africa heavily restrict the deployment of digital technologies providing legal services online. These restrictive policies and agencies stifle key innovations that would provide sustainable last-mile delivery of justice services that are accessible and affordable.
- *Limited access to tech infrastructure* - Most areas in Africa lack or have limited access to tech infrastructure as internet connectivity remains low in many regions and justice departments also have limited access to tech infrastructure to support the delivery of justice.

The challenges impacting justice innovation notwithstanding, the justice sector abounds with a plethora of opportunities to develop justice Startups







that have the potential to scale justice service delivery in Africa. HiiL has gained great insights from the delivery of its people-centered justice programme interventions that has revealed ripe opportunities to spur justice innovations. So what are the opportunities to stimulate justice innovation in East Africa and Africa include:

- *Regular research and data collection on citizens' justice needs and experiences to identify justice service delivery gaps* - This justice needs data will go a long way in informing the priorities for innovation and act as a guide for upcoming Startup founders.
- *Upskilling Justice Practitioners and Justice Seekers in Tech* - This will increase the adoption rates of tech-based justice innovations and enhance justice service delivery rates.
- *Provision of more catalytic funding and investments to support justice-tech innovations and provision of technical assistance support to justice innovators* - This will be integral in incentivizing entrepreneurs

to develop justice-tech innovations and derisking them to scale.

- *Collaboration with government and justice stakeholders for favourable justice innovation policies* - This will be crucial in ensuring a conducive regulatory environment for justice innovations to thrive.
- *Development of tech infrastructure to support increased use of justice services* - This will be instrumental in growing connectivity and supporting access to the justice innovations developed by justice practitioners and justice seekers.

We believe that by joining forces with us through the above opportunities to support justice startups, our collaborative effort will yield sustainable solutions that not only close the access to justice gap but also bring impressive social and economic benefits to Africa.





# A JUSTICE GAME-CHANGER

**ERICK MUKIZA**

ESS CREATIVE | Tanzania



“

**ESS Creative and Legal Foundation is a social enterprise that enables Tanzanian citizens access justice affordably through ESS Legal Assurance, a scheme that covers middle and lower class people who cannot qualify to get legal aid and cannot afford to hire private advocates, to access legal services and Alternative Dispute Resolution Services when they need it.**

***What is the name of your startup and what role do you play in the startup?***

The name of my startup is ESS Creative and Legal Foundation and my role is Founder and Executive Director.

***What problem does your startup solve?***

Inadequate legal representation for Tanzanians whose monthly income ranges from \$150 - \$500 (low-income earners), leading to social, emotional, and psychological trauma, as well as poverty to affected individuals and families, also causing a backlog of cases in courts.

***How big is the problem you are solving?***

Tanzania Network for Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP: 2017) report indicates that 60 % of Tanzanians lack access to legal advice and representation, which is nearly 33 million people.

***How does your startup work to solve this problem?***

ESS Creative and Legal Foundation's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Awareness Campaigns address the root causes of economic disparities, limited access to legal education, and the lack of legal empowerment by promoting ADR benefits and education. By changing mindsets, educating individuals about their legal options, and highlighting the advantages of ADR, we seek to create a more equitable and accessible legal system. This approach goes beyond symptom management and aims to tackle the systemic issues at the core of the problem.

***What motivated you to come up with the idea of your startup?***

I started this organization after my mother, a primary school teacher, became a victim of not being able to access justice affordably. In Tanzania, the cost of legal representation is very expensive and the provision of legal aid is limited. This experience planted a seed in



me and I became passionate about helping people access justice affordably.

### *How have you financially sustained your startup operations?*

Our business model is business-to-customer (B2C) and involves subscriptions that provide annual recurring revenue for a service. We create value through our extensive experience in engaging with the target customers at the local level, ensuring that our legal services are tailored to the needs of our clients. This approach ensures that customers receive the value needed. Our model is profitable because one Legal Assurance customer will likely get 1 case within a year, of which only 30% escalate to court cases. In contrast, 70% are resolved amicably/through mediation at our office, saving money in legal fees. The annual operations cost is 80% of total local revenue, and the remaining 20% is a profit.

### *How has your startup grown since inception and what positive impact has your startup had in resolving the problem for those affected by it in society?*

*Jobs Created:* 14 new jobs, 9 women and 5 men

*Revenue:* \$10,000 in 2021 to \$25,000 in 2023

*Business Spread:* Expanded services to include mediation services for civil cases and legal services for deaf women entrepreneurs.

*Market Expansion:* Expanded reach to more regions in Tanzania, like Kagera.

*Societal Impact:* We have 40+ peace-makers actively involved in educating people about mediation and offering other legal support services, 5 Million+ people have been reached by the peace-maker community and 1 Million+ disputes have been peacefully resolved through mediation by the peace-maker community.

You can learn more about ESS Creative and Legal Foundation's work on their website, <https://www.esscreativeandlegalfoundation.org/>.



2023 marked another successful year of supporting justice entrepreneurs and our achievements are as follows:



**5  
SUCCESSES**

Programmes successfully delivered in 2 countries i.e Kenya and Uganda.



**100+  
INNOVATORS**

Supported through the 5 justice innovation programmes.



**10+  
EVENTS**

Hosted by HiiL Innovation Hub



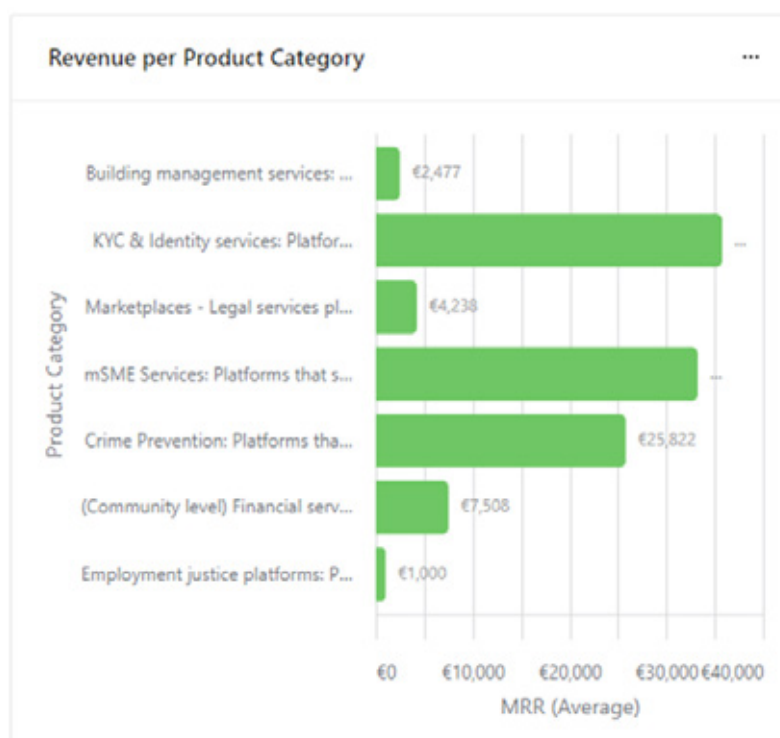
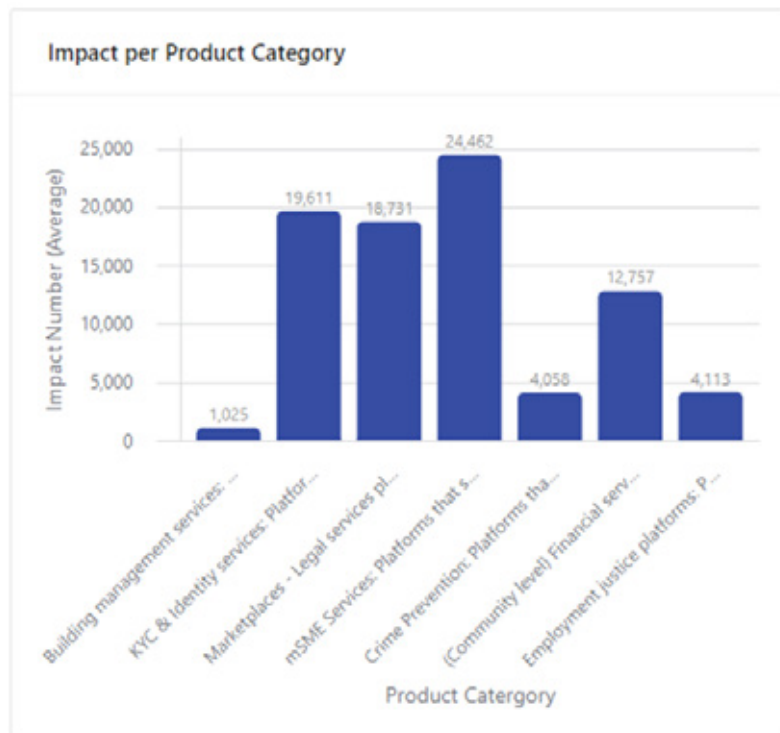
**60,000+  
EUROS**

Disbursed to support our justice entrepreneurs

# SNAPSHOT OF OUR 2023 RESULTS

# OUTCOME

The impact and revenue bar charts below showcase the the number of people who have accessed the services provided by startups in 2023 and the 2023 monthly recurring revenue generated by the startups that have gone through the HiIL Justice Accelerator programme, as reported by the startups themselves. It features the startups that have reported such data in 2023.

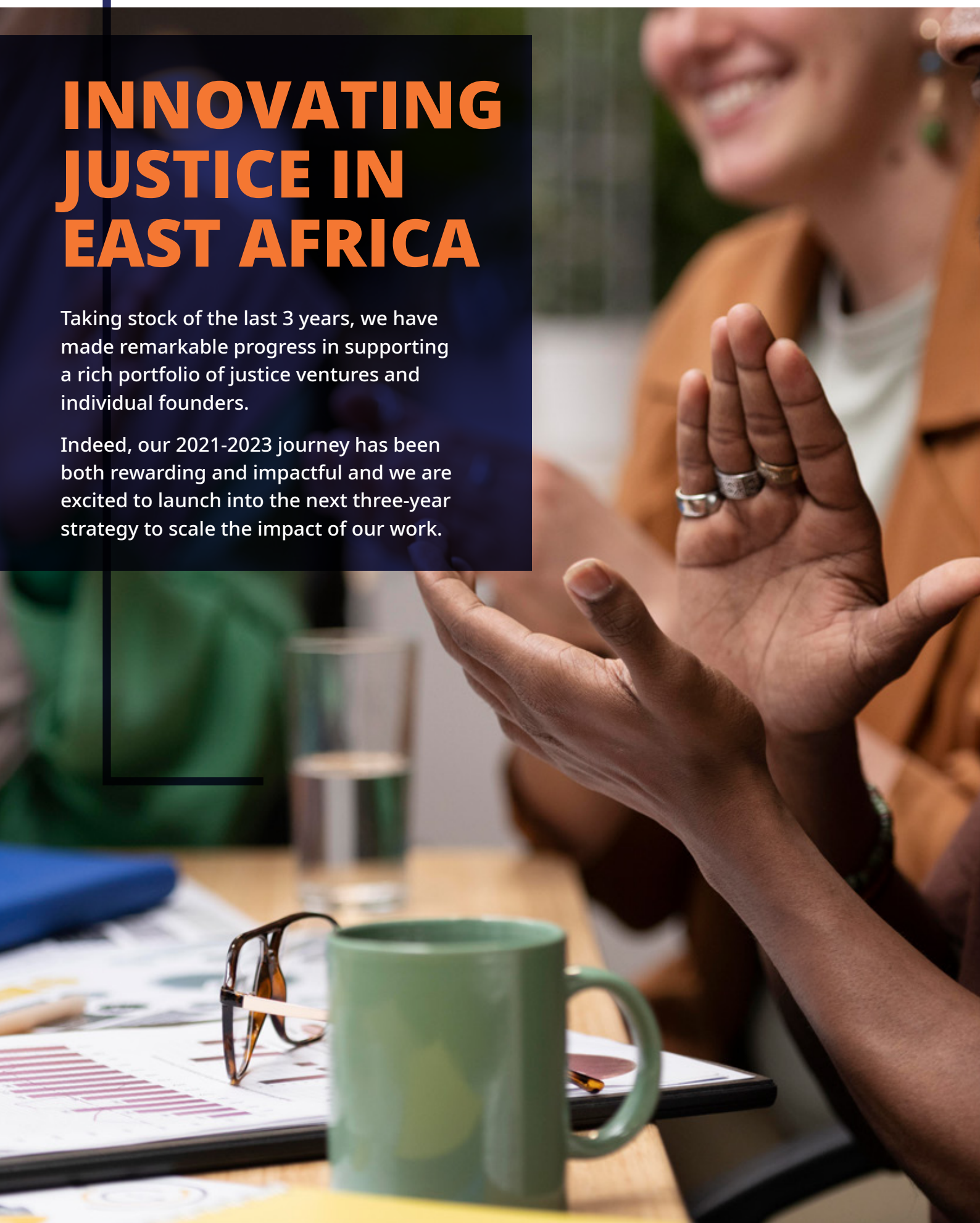




# INNOVATING JUSTICE IN EAST AFRICA

Taking stock of the last 3 years, we have made remarkable progress in supporting a rich portfolio of justice ventures and individual founders.

Indeed, our 2021-2023 journey has been both rewarding and impactful and we are excited to launch into the next three-year strategy to scale the impact of our work.



Here is our journey in numbers:

2021

2023

#### PROGRAMME



5 programmes in Kenya

5 programmes in Kenya and Uganda

#### ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME



1 Justice Accelerator Programme cycle in Kenya supporting 8 justice startups

1 Justice Accelerator Programme cycle in Kenya supporting 5 justice startups

#### INCUBATION CYCLE



3 Justice Entrepreneurship School (incubation) cycles supporting 16 early-stage justice startups

1 Justice Entrepreneurship School (incubation) cycle supporting 10 early-stage justice startups

#### IDEATION CYCLE



1 Jenga Haki Labs (ideation) cycle supporting 7 ideation teams in Kenya.

3 Jenga Haki Labs (ideation) cycles supporting 30 ideation teams in Uganda and Kenya



**250,000+**  
EUROS

Fundraised to support the justice innovation programmes in Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda in the 3 years



**100,000+**  
EUROS

Disbursed to support growth of justice startups in the region



**TEAM GROWTH**  
**5 MEMBERS**

Grown our team at Communitas to 5 team members across the East Africa region to support the active projects.

# ACCELERATING HIGH-GROWTH JUSTICE GAMECHANGERS IN 2023



by

DEYANA  
ABOUOUBEID

Programme Manager | HiiL Justice Accelerator

“

*The 2023 Justice Accelerator cycle has been a testament to the power of innovation, determination, and collaboration. We've worked with 17 remarkable startups from Kenya, Nigeria, and MENA who have successfully completed the program. We celebrate them as they gear up to shine at our Tech the Justice Gap event in Tunis in November, where they'll compete for the Innovating Justice Awards, featuring prizes of €20,000, €10,000, and €5,000. This cycle has reignited our belief in the profound potential for positive change in the realm of justice. We extend an open invitation for everyone to check out their transformative stories at the Tech the Justice Gap event.*

## OUR 2023 ACCELERATOR STORY



### *Successful Program Completion:*

All 17 startups from Kenya, Nigeria, and MENA successfully completed the program, showcasing their commitment and dedication to justice innovation.



### *Local and Global Synergy:*

The 2023 cycle seamlessly integrated global expertise with localized support in delivering more than 15 academy and coaching sessions, equipping startups to address both regional challenges and global best practices. This approach enhanced the relevance and impact of their solutions.



### *Community Engagement:*

In this cycle, startups, coaches and the accelerator team formed strong bonds. This fostered knowledge sharing, collaboration, and networking, creating a vibrant ecosystem for justice entrepreneurship. Such bonds help boost ongoing collaboration and idea exchange, magnifying the program's impact.







## WHY JOIN THE HIIL JUSTICE ACCELERATOR



*The Hiil Justice Accelerator offers a 5-month long programme that is a structured and multifaceted approach to support and nurture the growth of innovative justice-focused startups.*

*The programme is designed to equip entrepreneurs with the knowledge, tools, and connections they need to drive positive change in the justice sector.*

*The programme supports the startups by offering:*



**Non-equity Grants:** - At the programme's conclusion, participants receive a grant of EUR 10,000 to support their growth.



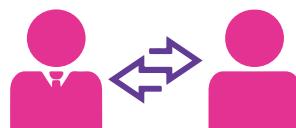
### **Capacity Building Academy Sessions:** -

Participants in the programme engage in both online and in-person academy sessions that cover a diverse range of topics essential for their growth. These sessions are interactive and include exercises, surveys, and worksheets to facilitate active learning.



### **Masterclasses and Community Engagement:**

- The programme fosters connections among participants, enabling them to network with like-minded entrepreneurs from different regions. It also facilitates interactions with the broader justice innovation community through in-person events facilitated by the regional teams, offering opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.



**Coaching and Mentorship:** - Regular bi-weekly coaching sessions ensure that participants have a platform to seek guidance and address their specific questions. The programme also connects entrepreneurs with mentors who volunteer their expertise to provide valuable insights and support.



**Demo Day and Awards:** - The programme concludes with a demo day, where participants can present their startups to potential investors, fellow entrepreneurs, and justice innovation enthusiasts. They compete for the Innovating Justice Awards, with the winners receiving additional grants of €20,000, €10,000, and €5,000, respectively.

by

**ERIC MWANGI  
KARIUKI****CITIUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS, FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER**

“

*For the last 6 years, I have had the amazing opportunity to work with a diverse group of Justice Entrepreneurs from across East Africa. Each year we go through the same peaks and troughs of navigating the entrepreneurship journey together and each year we emerge better social and business leaders. 2023 was no different. I had the privilege to mentor and coach five (5) ambitious, impact-driven driven, and adaptive entrepreneurs who embarked on a life-changing journey through our annual Justice Accelerator. At the end of the 5-month programme we saw them scale their businesses into new heights, challenge their own self-limitations and emerge as capable visionaries, executors, negotiators, and impact champions.*



*HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa Head, Eric Mwangi Kariuki, delivering a training session for the HJA 2023 cohort in Nairobi, Kenya.*

by

FRANCIS  
NJUE | Kenya

## Meet HPass Global

“The HiiL programme opened my eyes to see HPass Global from a different perspective. From refining the problem statement to thinking through the market from a new value proposition. It is now clearer than ever the direction the innovation needs to go. The coaching sessions with Eric were rich, practical and realistic. This is because Eric took the time to understand our challenges and could point them out more than we could from within. He also pointed me to the opportunities I had never thought of before. Going to Tunisia for the Demo day was a great experience too, especially meeting with fellow programme cohort members in person and sharing experiences. It was a great opportunity to network and create partnerships. Finally, the grant was a great financial boost, especially at the time we are finalizing our system upgrade to serve a wider market and open new revenue streams. My team and I are grateful for the HiiL programme and would like to continue being part of HiiL community moving forward.

- Francis Njue, Founder and CEO HPass Global



“HPass is a smart identity, security & access management solution that can be deployed for mass usage in homes, offices and smart cities to prevent crime such as theft and burglary.



You can learn more about HPass Global on

<https://hpassglobal.com/>




# Sneak Peak@2023

The 7th edition of the HJA programme in Kenya presented an opportunity to adapt the programme locally by injecting some collaborative local activities. We did this by having an inaugural welcome dinner at the beginning of the programme to facilitate entrepreneur connections and nurture camaraderie from the onset. Moreover, we delivered 3 in-person Academy sessions that were hosted by alumni of the programme and the entrepreneurs themselves. These sessions were on context-based issues such as regulation, taxation, growth marketing, and customer discovery.



In the course of the HJA programme delivery, we moved some coaching sessions offline where we got to interact with the entrepreneurs in their natural habitats with their teams. These field excursions were eye-opening and provided an opportunity to build better relations with the Startup teams and have a better understanding of some of the challenges they encounter on a day to day.

 The HJA 2023 cohort during the inaugural dinner in Nairobi where they had a meet and greet session.


Finally, the cherry on top was the opportunity for the entrepreneurs to travel to Tunis, Tunisia for the Demo day. The experience was both exhilarating and impactful providing the Kenyan entrepreneurs with boundless opportunities to experience a new culture, connect with other African entrepreneurs from Nigeria, Tunisia and the Middle East while interacting with key justice practitioners at a national and regional level. You can catch the Demo Day highlights and startup pitches in Tunisia below:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/S94\\_HIr\\_lWE?si=2DyoCFSL\\_ti4wvY2](https://www.youtube.com/live/S94_HIr_lWE?si=2DyoCFSL_ti4wvY2)

In conclusion, this year's programme focused on a Global approach to Startup support.

Challenging the entrepreneurs to think Global while contextualizing their products and services to local needs. As a result we noticed the entrepreneurs grew their leadership and business acumen, fostered collaborative relationships with each other and learned to appreciate the cultural nuances that interplay in a global market. Thus it is our commitment to continue exploring more local and international touchpoints to enrich the programme design while fundamentally remaining true to our Impact objective of helping 50 million East Africans prevent and resolve their most pressing justice problems.



 The HJA 2023 cohort during the inaugural dinner in Nairobi where they had a meet and greet session.





 The HJA 2023 global cohort in Tunis, Tunisia during the Tech the Justice Gap Demo Day in November 2023 where they pitched their solutions.



by

**GEORGE  
OGADA****LET'S InCuBaTe!**

“

*Please don't settle for happiness. It's not good enough. Of course, you deserve it, but if that's all you have in mind - happiness - I want to suggest to you that personal success devoid of meaningfulness, free of a steady commitment to social justice - that's more than a barren life. It's a trivial one.*

**- Toni Morrison**







**HiiL** | Innovation Hub  
user friendly justice East Africa

**Supporting East Africa's best  
Justice Game Changers**

“

*The 2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School Programme in Kenya was a thrilling and eye-opening experience for me. To get to witness 10 startup founders and their teams embrace the programme lessons and apply them within the programme duration and beyond has been very rewarding. The 2023 cohort gave of themselves fully in terms of their presence, attention and eagerness to learn and grow their justice startups. They were courageous enough to question their business structures, change their approaches and even pivot based on their learning from the JES Programme. It has been an honour to watch them grow from the lessons gained from the programme and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for them.*



*The Programme Associate- Kenya, George Ogada, delivering a training session for the JES 2023 cohort in Nairobi.*



The 2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School was an exciting and deeply rewarding experience. Getting to support an amazing cohort of 10 justice startups in Kenya and help them expand their justice reach as well as increase their users was very engaging.

# FORGING AHEAD





**9  
STARTUPS**

Solving justice problems in crime, land, housing and family were supported and trained through the incubation programme.



**PUBLIC  
DEMO-DAY**

9 startups successfully showcased their businesses at a public demo day attended by potential investors, business support professionals and entrepreneurs.



**3,000+  
EUROS**

Was disbursed to the 3 startups with the highest potential for growth.

**Hiil** | Innovation Hub  
East Africa  
user friendly justice

**JES** JUSTICE  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
SCHOOL

*Thank  
you!*

**JUSTICE INNOVATORS**

For applying for the  
2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School  
Programme - Kenya

**36 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

From A Target of 30

UP NEXT:  
**SELECTION PROCESS**

# WHY JOIN THE JUSTICE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHOOL



*The Justice Entrepreneurship School offers a 6-week long practical and immersive programme that is tailor-made to support the growth of early-stage justice startups that are fit for incubation. For startups that have a prototype or a minimum viable product (MVP) but little traction in the market, the programme is designed to empower them to improve their business models, enhance their founding teams, get their product into the hands of many users as fast as possible, and refine their Minimum Viable product from customer feedback received. This ultimately gets the justice startups to grow their traction in the market and increases their impact on the justice sector. The programme supports the startups by offering:*



## **Capacity Building Boot Camp Sessions:**

- Programme participants are taken through a week-long residential boot camp at a designated venue where they go through immersive training workshops covering a diverse range of topics and practical exercises essential to improve their business plan. The workshops are interactive and include exercises, surveys, and worksheets to facilitate active learning.



## **Masterclasses, Coaching & Mentorship:**

- The programme provides specialized weekly virtual masterclasses led by industry experts to the participants to address their emerging training needs as they attempt to sell their product in the market. This is also bolstered by one-on-one regular coaching and mentorship facilitated by business experts with the startup teams to spot their challenges and offer tailored support to increase their survival rate in the market.



**Lean Field Experiments:** - The programme exposes the participants to 2 weeks of practical field experiments in customer and partner discovery where they are challenged to aggressively sell their products to potential customers and engage potential partners in the marketplace to help them grow their market traction. These experiments are fun, challenging, and engaging thus sharpening the business development skills of the startup teams.



## **Demo-Day & Community Engagement:**

- The climax of the programme is a demo day, where participants get to present their startups at a public community event attended by potential investors, potential clients, business consultants, fellow entrepreneurs, and justice innovation enthusiasts. The event gives the participants a unique opportunity to exhibit their products to potential clients and investors as well as network with key business community experts who provide valuable advice, support services to improve their product.



**Non-equity Grants:** - At the programme's conclusion, the startups that demonstrate the highest potential of growth and commitment receive a grant of up to EUR 1,000 to support their growth.



by

## VINCE SILA | Kenya DATA LOCK



“

*Data Lock is a technology solution that provides smart id wrist bands which store motorcycle riders medical data and notifies next of kin via sms with google maps location in the event of an accident thus making it easy to identify motorcycle riders involved in accidents.*



*The Data Lock Founder, Vince Sila during Justice Entrepreneurship Bootcamp in Rongai, Kenya*

“

*I recently had the opportunity to attend the Hiil Justice Entrepreneurship School programme led by a team of incredibly knowledgeable and passionate instructors. Before the programme, I thought I had a pretty good understanding of business, but I was quickly humbled by the depth and breadth of knowledge that the instructors shared. The programme covered a wide range of topics, including:*

- *Business ideation and validation*
- *Market research and competitive analysis*
- *Customer development and sales*
- *Financial modelling and forecasting*
- *Pitching and fundraising*
- *Legal and regulatory compliance*

*The instructors were experts in their respective fields, and they took the time to clearly and concisely explain complex concepts. They also used various teaching methods, including lectures, case studies and hands-on exercises to keep the material engaging and interactive. In addition to teaching us the basics of business, the instructors also challenged us to think critically and creatively about our own entrepreneurial ambitions. They helped us to develop our business ideas, to identify and mitigate potential risks, and to create a roadmap for success. Throughout the programme, the instructors were also incredibly supportive and encouraging. They took the time to get to know each student individually and to provide personalised feedback. They were also always available to answer our questions and to help us with our work.*

*Overall, my experience at the Hiil Justice Entrepreneurship School was incredibly positive and rewarding. I learned a great deal from the knowledgeable and passionate instructors, and I feel much more prepared to start and grow my own business. - Vince Sila, Founder and CEO Data Lock*

You can learn more about Data Lock on <https://datalock.co.ke/>

# IT'S JUST THE START!

The 2024 Justice Entrepreneurship School cycle in Kenya presented another exciting opportunity to support the growth of a new cohort of innovative early-stage justice entrepreneurs as we sought bold justice change-makers with technology-based solutions solving pressing justice problems. The programme kicked-off with an exhilarating 5-day residential boot camp session where an energetic cohort of 10 entrepreneurs representing 10 startups participated and was hosted in Rongai on the outskirts of Nairobi. The boot camp was an intense and immersive training programme featuring a rich mix of lecture room training, practical exercises and one-on-one coaching on crucial areas of team building, lean startup, customer discovery, theory of change, money matters, partnerships, raising capital, self-leadership & management and the basics of developing and delivering a pitch. The goal of the boot camp is to help entrepreneurs analyze and challenge the viability of their business model in order to develop a viable business model. The cohort was also very vibrant throughout the boot camp week as they got to interact, challenge and ultimately build strong friendships and peer support systems through the formal and informal sessions.







01

*HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa Hub Head, Eric Mwangi Kariuki, welcoming the 2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School Cohort into the programme on Day 1 of the boot camp.*

02

*The HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa Team (Front row from left to right; Hub Head, Project Coordinator, Kenya & Uganda Programme Associates) together with the 2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School cohort.*



03

*The 2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School cohort practising their pitches during our Campfire Conversations.*

04

*The 2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School cohort communing around the campfire during our gratitude session.*



In addition to the boot camp, the entrepreneurs were engaged actively in fieldwork where they carried out lean experiments in customer and partner discovery that involved aggressive selling of their product to potential customers and mapping of potential partners for their businesses. It was indeed a thrilling and eye-opening experience for the entrepreneurs as they got first-hand feedback from customers and potential partners that helped them refine their products and business plans. These practical field exercises were supported by one-on-one coaching sessions and field visits by our team to handhold the startup teams through the process.

We also boosted the capacity building of the entrepreneurs in the course of the delivery with specialized virtual and in-person seminars that helped them develop their business plans and addressed emergent challenges from their fieldwork. The entrepreneurs had further peer-to-peer interactions and the climax of it was a gala dinner organized for them where they got to bring their team members, eat together and share their experiences as well as lessons learned from the programme.





01



02



03



- 01** The 2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School cohort during an in-person seminar in Nairobi, Kenya.
- 02** The HiiL Innovation Hub EA team, Justice Entrepreneurship School 2023 Cohort Founders and their teams networking and enjoying a meal during the Gala Dinner.
- 03** The HiiL Innovation Hub EA team, Justice Entrepreneurship School 2023 Cohort Founders and their teams.







04



05



06

**04** Q&A after a pitching session by Joel of Mwanangu App during the Justice Innovation Circle.

**05** Justice Innovation Circle attendees engage in group debates around the role of Technology and business talent in Startup Growth and success.

**06** The 2023 Justice Entrepreneurship School cohort with their Certificates of Completion.

To conclude the programme, the entrepreneurs had the opportunity to showcase their startup solutions at an in-person community event in Nairobi dubbed the Justice Innovation Circle. It was an exciting experience for the entrepreneurs as they actively engaged and networked with the audience of business consultants, entrepreneurs, potential investors, partners and customers while presenting their innovative solutions. They also benefited from on the spot feedback on their solutions as well as roundtable brainstorms with the business experts to resolve some of their pressing challenges in the market. Further, grant awards of 1,000 euros were made to the best 3 startups in the cohort that exhibited the greatest growth potential and had the highest engagement during the programme. These award winners were Charles Oduk of Beba Beggie, Vince Sila of Data Lock Ltd , and Kelvin Njoroge of iVoting. Congratulations to all the winners. The awards were well deserved!



# A JUSTICE GAME-CHANGER

**NEEMA MAGIMBA**

SHERIA KIGANJANI | Tanzania

“

*Sheria Kiganjani, a Swahili word that means “Law on Your Palm”. is a legal platform that is enhancing access to justice for low and middle-income earners in Tanzania by providing easily accessible legal consultation where users can engage with lawyers 24/7, access legal documents, and connect to nearby lawyers for effective assistance, and through their mobile application, users can formalize their businesses directly through the Sheria Kiganjani platform.*

*What is the name of your startup and what role do you play in the startup?*

The name of our start-up is SHERIA KIGANJANI. I am Neema Magimba, the co-founder and the Head of Legal in our startup. In these positions, I steer a team of vibrant and passionate tech and legal experts toward transformative innovative solutions, profoundly reshaping access to legal services and altering the legal landscape.

*What problem does your startup solve?*

Sheria Kiganjani bridges the access to justice gap through technology in the Tanzanian community, most specifically for low- and middle-income earners by providing convenient and affordable legal services through mobile phones.

*How big is the problem you are solving?*

22 million people in Tanzania cannot access justice easily and affordably because of geographical and financial constraints. 87% of lawyers are located in urban areas, leaving a vast number of people in rural areas without easy access to their services. Previous assessments



informed significant barriers for beneficiaries, especially women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disability in accessing justice. Global access to justice is still a concern with Tanzania ranking 103 out of 128 countries in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index. Language barriers further impede legal understanding, as 90% of Tanzanian laws are in English while 80% of the population speak swahili, making it harder for people to understand and exercise their rights and access justice.

### *How does your startup work to solve this problem?*

To solve the problem, in 2018, we developed the first Legal Tech platform known as "Sheria Kiganjani" Swahili for "Law on your palm" which is available through a website, mobile application, IVR technology and short code technology that caters to feature phone users. Through the platform, users are able to talk and chat with lawyers 24/7, get connected to lawyers closest to them through our in-built map, access templates of legal documents such as contracts, access over 8000 questions and answers which simplify complex provisions of the laws in Swahili language and with our latest business formalization feature, users can also formalize their businesses through our platform.

### *What motivated you to come up with the idea of your startup?*

In my career journey, I had an opportunity to work in an organization providing legal aid services in rural Tanzania where I experienced firsthand the existing barrier associated with time and costs between marginalized communities and access to legal services. It was consuming for people with

low income to access legal services. In co-founding Sheria Kiganjani, we ensured that marginalized communities can access legal services easily and affordably by integrating technology in providing legal services.

### *How have you financially sustained your startup operations?*

To financially sustain our operations, we are receiving funds and grants from partners and other stakeholders, also through the revenue generated from our services under business-to-business (B2B) partnerships with different access to justice organizations, assisting them in digitizing their services and leverage on innovation to enhance reach, we also have a business to consumers (B2C) model where consumers subscribe to access our services. We are effectively managing the costs and our limited resources to ensure there will be sustainable financial resources to support our operations in the long run.

### *How has your startup grown since inception and what positive impact has your startup had in resolving the problem for those affected by it in society?*

Over the past 5 years of our operations, Sheria Kiganjani has been able to grow in:

*Tanzanians Reached:* Over 2 million Tanzanians,

*Platform Users:* 55,000 application users, 560,720 website visits

*Cases Resolved:* Over 17960 cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution and courts, and connecting 930 people to nearby lawyers.

*Team Growth:* Our team has grown immensely over the past 5 years, from a small team of 6 co-founders to having a vibrant team of 15 vibrant youths, 70% being young women.

You can learn more about Sheria Kiganjani's work on their website; <https://www.sheriakiganjani.co.tz/>





by

## LEONARD BUSINGE AND GEORGE OGADA INSPIRATION CAFÉ



 The Programme Associate- Uganda, Leonard Businge, delivering a training session for the Jenga Haki Labs 2023 cohort at the Innovation Village in Kampala, Uganda.

“

The Jenga Haki Lab Programme 2023 was an eye-opening experience for me. Working with innovators, particularly those at the ideation stage, gave me unique insight into the challenges at the bottom of the innovation/entrepreneur pyramid, where a lot more hand-holding and equipping is required than any other stage. The juxtaposition of their hunger to bring their ideas to life with their struggle to take on and incorporate feedback on their solutions was quite revelatory to me.

“

**Where do new ideas come from? The answer is simple: differences. While there are many theories of creativity, the only tenet they all share is that creativity comes from unlikely juxtapositions. The best way to maximize differences is to mix ages, cultures, and disciplines.**

**- Nicholas Negroponte**



NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS FACED CAN BE CHANGED, BUT NOTHING CAN BE CHANGED UNTIL IT IS FACED.

## JAMES BALDWIN



“

*The 2023 Jenga Haki Lab programme was a labour of love for me. From selection to programme completion, getting to interact and shape these young minds was not only fulfilling but also a great learning experience. Not only were the cohort members eager to learn and grow, but they also brought unique perspectives to solving justice problems in crime. I was genuinely impressed by their technological expertise at such young ages and I cannot wait to see them excel in their chosen startup approaches.*

# NEW KIDS IN THE BLOCK



## 1<sup>ST</sup> JENGA HAKI LABS PROGRAMME CYCLE UGANDA



**52**  
**ENTREPRENEURS**

Aspiring justice entrepreneurs were supported and trained through the ideation programme.



**2,250**  
**EUROS**

Disbursed to the 3 best solutions addressing land problems.



**5**  
**PROTOTYPES**

Developed solving land justice problems in Uganda.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> JENGA HAKI LABS PROGRAMME CYCLE UGANDA



**52**  
**ENTREPRENEURS**

Aspiring justice entrepreneurs were supported and trained through the ideation programme.



**1,750**  
**EUROS**

Disbursed to the 3 best solutions addressing land problems.



**3**  
**PROTOTYPES**

Developed solving crime in Uganda.

## JENGA HAKI LABS PROGRAMME CYCLE KENYA



**36**  
**ENTREPRENEURS**

Aspiring justice entrepreneurs were supported and trained through the ideation programme.



**1,750**  
**EUROS**

Disbursed to the 3 best solutions addressing crime.



**6**  
**PROTOTYPES**

Developed solving different crimes in Kenya.

# ? WHY JOIN THE JENGA HAKI LABS?

The Jenga Haki Labs programme is a 4-week programme designed for aspiring justice entrepreneurs to explore solutions for a specific justice problem while using technology and aims to build a working prototype of a solution that solves a justice problem. For aspiring justice entrepreneurs with ideas of solutions to solve a specific justice problem but have no product and no team, the Jenga Haki Labs allows them to form teams and build a startup with a working prototype around that solution. The Jenga Haki Labs programme is premised on maximizing on different skill sets that potential justice entrepreneurs possess and bringing the most innovative ideas to life through solving justice problems such as crime, domestic violence, land, neighbour issues among others using technology. The programme has the following offers the following;



**Demo Day & Community Engagement:** - The programme culminates in a public demo day event, where participants demonstrate their newly developed solutions to an audience of potential investors, partners, fellow entrepreneurs, and justice innovation enthusiasts. They receive feedback from the audience and are judged by a jury as they compete for the winning grant prizes. They also benefit from networking with the community present at the event for additional technical support and potential investment opportunities.



**Product Development Marathons and Mentorship:** - Programme participants are engaged in intense product development sprints to complete a working prototype of the proposed solution. It is a two-week period within which the teams retreat to work on their prototypes and solution pitch decks. They are supported through regular mentorship and coaching sessions to ensure they meet their deliverables in the programme i.e work plans, pitch decks, and prototype development.



**Capacity Building at the Jenga Haki Weekend:** - This is a two-day in-person event where the participants form teams around specific justice challenges and are trained by industry experts on different aspects of startup and prototype building such as team formation, building effective startups/solutions that are data-based as opposed to 'building in a lab', market research, wireframes and pitching their solutions effectively. This increases the capacity of the formed teams to build strong tech solutions that resolve justice problems.



**Non-equity Grants:** - At the programme's conclusion, the best teams are awarded grant prizes of 1,000 euros to the winner, 750 euros to the first runners-up and 500 euros to the second runners-up to support the further development of their solutions.



by

## MARIA NAKIGANDA | UGANDA

### RecyclePay

Team RecyclePay (winners of the first cohort on land justice) led by their team lead, Maria Nakiganda, with members of the judging panel during the Jenga Haki Festival demo event at Innovation Village in Kampala, Uganda.



“

Social media offers abundant opportunities. What began as a LinkedIn post by HiiL Uganda seeking ideas to promote land justice has given rise to our innovative solution, “RecyclePay,” a digital environmental activist card, which mitigates land conflicts stemming from landfills and plastic waste dumping in underdeveloped areas. Since winning the hackathon, the prize money has enabled us to accomplish much. We’ve completed the first version of the RecyclePay mobile app, distributed cards to over 40 users, and, most importantly, redeemed school fees for at least 10 students despite resource challenges. This means over 1,000 Kg of plastics have been removed from our environment. We’ve also partnered with two landowners facing illegal dumping challenges to help resolve land conflicts arising from poor waste disposal practices.

- Maria Nakiganda, Team Lead, RecyclePay

You can learn more about RecyclePay on <https://recyclepay.ug/>

”

**RecyclePay is a land waste management solution that provides a digital environmental card which incentivizes underserved community members to collect plastics and earn points redeemable for essential services such as school fees and healthcare credits.**

by

OKOT  
AMOS | UGANDA

## TRAFFIC INTELLIGENCE ALERT SYSTEM (TIAS)

“

*As a medical lab scientist, my career has been deeply entrenched in the meticulous world of diagnostics and healthcare. However, I've long believed that the principles of scientific inquiry and the spirit of innovation should transcend the confines of the laboratory. This belief led me to an exhilarating experience at the Jenga Haki Labs, an event that opened a door to a world where my skills could be channeled toward reshaping the future of justice and crime prevention.*

*The hackathon was an intense learning experience. It provided profound insights into the intricacies of the justice system and highlighted the complex challenges that demanded innovative solutions. The commitment of our team and the support from mentors and the Hiil community were unwavering. We embarked on refining TIAS (traffic intelligence alert system) a project aimed at preventing car theft and enhancing road safety, considering user feedback and fine-tuning our project until it shone with the promise of making a difference.*

*Our journey reached its zenith when TIAS secured first place at the competition, recognizing the transformative power of innovation and collaboration. It was a moment of pure elation, signifying the validation of our commitment and the immense potential of TIAS. A testament to our resilience in the face of challenges and the spirit of innovation that connected individuals from diverse backgrounds. - Okot Amos, Team Lead, TIAS (Traffic Intelligence Alert System)*

You can learn more about TIAS on <https://tias-traffic-system.onrender.com/login>



Team TIAS (winners of the cohort on crime) led by their team lead, Okot Amos, with members of the jury panel during the Jenga Haki Labs Grant Winners Selection in Kampala, Uganda.

“

**Traffic Intelligence Alert System (TIAS) is a tech solution that provides a web platform for drivers to report and monitor stolen cars by leveraging on street cameras to enable car owners to track stolen cars thus preventing car theft.**

by

## MARYAM WANGESHI | KENYA SAUTI SALAMA

“

*Sauti Salama is a web platform where survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence can report SGBV cases and access legal and mental health resources.*

“

*AThis statement encapsulates my JENGA HAKI LAB 2023 experience. It was transformative for me as a Leader and an innovator. I had the privilege of working with a brilliant and passionate team of innovators who were just as passionate about creating positive social impact through crime justice. Together, we created Sauti Salama, a solution that bridges the gap in access to the justice chain, reporting feature and counseling for SGBV survivors. Sauti Salama is more than just an app, it's a platform that amplifies the voices of the marginalized and provides them with the support and resources they need to heal and thrive. We faced many challenges and opportunities along the way but never lost sight of our vision. We learned from each other, from the facilitators,*

*and from the masterclasses that were invaluable for our growth and development. We also had fun, laughter, and joy as we bonded mostly through late-night Google meetings over our common goal. Winning first place was just the icing on the cake of this amazing journey. I'm so proud of what we achieved and how we are on the path to making a difference in the world. I would highly recommend Jenga HaKi Lab to anyone who wants to learn, innovate, and create positive change in society.*

*- Maryam Wangeshi, Team Lead, Sauti Salama*

You can learn more about Sauti Salama on <https://sautisalama.org/>



*Team Sauti Salama (winners of the Kenya cohort on crime) led by their team lead, Maryam Wangeshi, with a member of the jury panel during the Jenga Haki Festival demo day event at Moringa School in Nairobi, Kenya.*

“

*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. - Eleanor Roosevelt*



# JENGA JUSTICE

After such a wonderful year for the Jenga Haki Labs Programme in 2023, selecting a few 'highlights' was always going to be a tall order. From the high number of applications received for the land cohort, to the eclectic mix of participants for both Jenga Haki Weekends, to the unique solutions that were pitched at the Jenga Haki Festival and Pitch day, 2023 had it all.

A total of 91 innovators were supported through both cycles of the programme. This means that 91 aspiring entrepreneurs were given an opportunity to develop their solutions to land and crime problems. Alumni channels for both cohorts remain active and indeed, some of them like RecyclePay have gone on to accelerate their entrepreneurial journey.



The grant-winning teams for the land cohort were RecyclePay, Land Locker and Smart Maps, while for the crime cohort, the grant-award-winning teams were TIAS (Traffic Alert Intelligence System) and Walkman Watch.

*Team Land Locker receive their certificate of completion at the Jenga Haki Festival in Kampala, Uganda.*

Two successful cohorts of the programme have been held this year, with over 188 applicants received for both cohorts. Indeed, for the first time, we supported a fully deaf team at the Jenga Haki Weekend, with all team members fully engaged in all the activities with the help of a sign language interpreter.



◀ Jenga Haki Labs Cohort members in Uganda taken through prototyping session during the Jenga Haki Weekend in Kampala, Uganda.

▶ Teams Recycle Pay, Smart Maps and Land Locker (Grant winners of the Land challenge) pause for a photo during the Jenga Haki Festival in Kampala, Uganda.



5 teams qualified for and were issued with grant awards of up to 4,550 Euros cumulatively. This effectively means that there are 5 working prototypes for land and crime justice problems that have been developed, with 3 solving land challenges while 2 are solving crime challenges. The winning team from the land cohort - RecyclePay, has since gone

on to redeem school fees for at least 10 students despite resource challenges, remove over 1,000 Kg of plastics from the environment, and partnered with 2 landowners facing illegal dumping challenges to help resolve land conflicts arising from poor waste disposal practices! Talk about justice game-changers! The sky is just the beginning.



2023 Jenga Haki Labs Uganda Cohort members during the Jenga Haki Weekend in Kampala, Uganda.





*Jenga Haki Labs Participants during the Jenga Haki Weekend in Kenya*



*Team She Is Safe Pitch their solution during the Jenga Haki Festival at Moringa School in Nairobi, Kenya*

## REMINISCING GREAT MOMENTS WITH THE JENGA HAKI LABS COHORT 2023 IN KENYA

The Jenga Haki Lab was a celebration of the potential of the youth in Kenya and their ability to come up with great innovations that solve crime. We received a record 71 applications surpassing our target of 60. Selecting the final 46 applicants to join the programme was a herculean task as the applicants displayed a wide range of skills and crime-solving ideas that had great potential.

This far we have already seen great strides by the members of all 6 teams, with some of them successfully being accepted into different programmes locally to expand their experience and knowledge and others getting recognition internationally. The sky is the limit as to where they are headed when it comes to innovation.



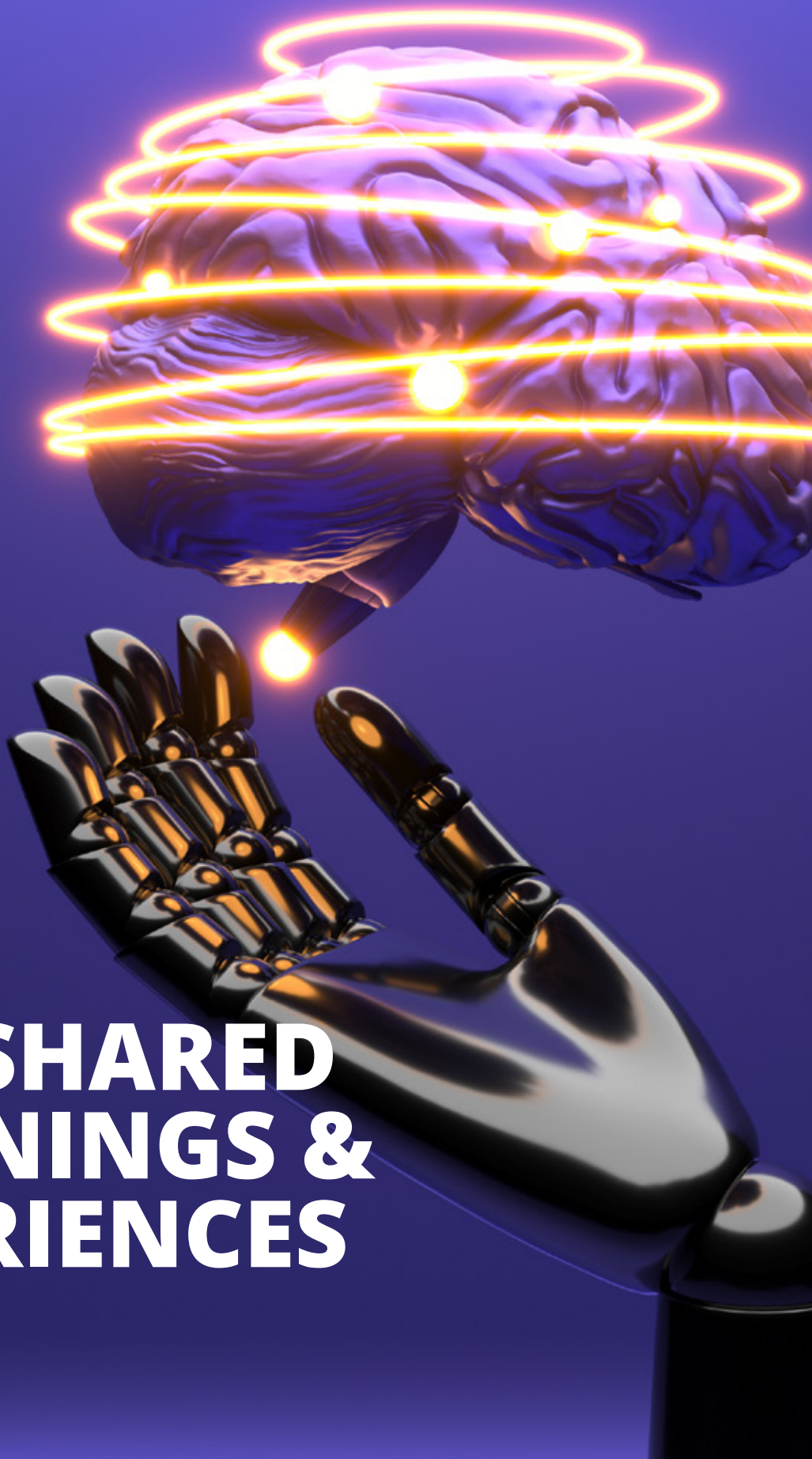
*The Jenga Haki Labs 2023 Cohort Kenya listen to a presentation by UNODC during the Jenga Haki Festival*



*2023 Jenga Haki Labs Kenya Cohort members during the Jenga Haki Weekend in Nairobi, Kenya*







**OUR SHARED  
LEARNINGS &  
EXPERIENCES**

# A THE ART OF SELLING STARTUP PRODUCTS & HANDLING REJECTION

In March 2023, we hosted a Twitter space conversation titled 'The Art of Selling Startup Products & Handling Rejection' moderated by our Project Coordinator, Morgan Gikonyo. This was a discussion addressing the challenges startup founders and their sales teams face when selling their products in the market and identifying practical selling strategies from experienced founders that have proven effective. Some of the key takeaways from the discussion were that successful sales strategies should incorporate relationship-building activities with potential customers, leveraging on strategic partners for leads, and embracing customer rejection as part of the process of finding the right customer. You can catch the conversation on <https://twitter.com/innojusticeEA/status/1638923673011728389?s=20>

**Hiil** | Innovation Hub East Africa  
user friendly justice

## STARTUP PAINS & GAINS SERIES

TOPIC: THE ART OF SELLING STARTUP PRODUCTS & HANDLING REJECTION!

			
<b>WAIHIGA K. MUTURI</b> Creator of Opportunities, Lets Create Africa	<b>MAGOTHE INNOCENT</b> Team Lead, Startinev	<b>NYAMBURA THEURI</b> Founder, Naomi's Favs	<b>MORGAN GIKONYO</b> Project Coordinator, Hiil Innovation Hub EA (Moderator)

THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH 2023 | HOSTED ON TWITTER SPACE | 6:30P.M EAT, 1HR DURATION

 @innojusticeea

## B UTA DO WHARRT?"

In March 2023, we hosted a LinkedIn event conversation titled 'Uta do wharrt?' moderated by our Hub Head, Eric Mwangi Kariuki. It was a conversation on the challenges entrepreneurs face when it comes to navigating debt and bad faith customers. It delved into the unpleasant experiences entrepreneurs go through as suppliers of services to bad faith customers who provide unfavourable payment terms or refuse to pay for goods or services provided to them and the remedies available for redress in such instances. Some key takeaways from the discussion were that entrepreneurs need to be extra vigilant in the contracting process when supplying potentially bad faith customers, have formidable supply contracts with clauses covering eventualities of non-payment by the customer, have a reliable legal team and screen big supply contracts carefully to avoid taking too much risk that may affect the business's debt position.

You can catch the conversation on <https://www.linkedin.com/events/utadowharrt7045060999883698176/>

## UTA DO WHARRT?

If you are a entrepreneur, business owner or debt chaser, lets talk.

### Navigating the pitfalls of

unpaid invoices, unfavourable payment terms or payment delays, mounting debts and bad faith actors who refuse to pay up for services rendered

#### Join Us

-  Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2023
-  8 - 9 PM EAT, 1 HR Duration
-  Live webinar on LinkedIn
-  @HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa

#### Speakers



**Karanja S. Maru**  
Advocate & Partner Maru & Njagi Advocates



**Maureen Amakabane**  
Serial entrepreneur & founder Nyayo Sales



**Eric Kariuki**  
Moderator



**Caroline Njoki**  
Entrepreneur



Innovation Hub East Africa



## C UJENZI WA TEKNOLOJIA ZA KISWAHILI

In August 2023, we hosted a LinkedIn event conversation titled '**Ujenzi wa Teknolojia za Kiswahili**' in partnership with Afrilabs as part of Pan-African Languages Week that was moderated by our Project Coordinator, Morgan Gikonyo. This was a discussion on the role of Swahili language in technology and innovation and its impact in the digital economy. Some key takeaways from the discussion were that technology developers should incorporate Swahili Language translations in the development of software, websites, and applications to make them easily accessible and user-friendly for Swahili-speaking users and that Swahili language plays a significant role in enabling trade in the digital economy in over 14 countries in Africa and Middle East.

You can catch the conversation on <https://www.linkedin.com/events/ujenziwateknolojiazakiswahili7088115017681707008/theater/>



# UJENZI WA TEKNOLOJIA ZA KISWAHILI

Nafasi ya Kiswahili katika Uvumbuzi wa Kiteknolojia!

 Jumatano | 23 Agosti, 2023

 8:00 usiku - 9:00 usiku EAT

 LinkedIn Space  (HiIL Innovation Hub East Africa)



Kelvin Roman  
Mwanzilishi  
iVoting



Chris Bwemo  
Mwanzilishi Mwenza  
Sheria Kiganjani



John Rexford Nzira  
Mkurugenzi Mtendaji  
Twende Hub



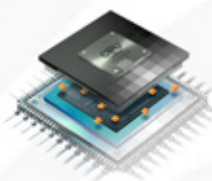
Morgan Gikonyo  
Mratibu wa Mradi  
HiIL Innovation Hub -EA



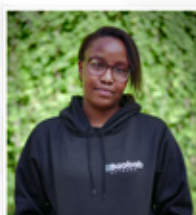

## NAVIGATING TURBULENT BUSINESS CLIMATE AS A TECH FOUNDER

In November 2023, we hosted a LinkedIn event conversation titled **‘Navigating Turbulent Business Climate as a Tech Founder’** in partnership with Baobab Network as that was moderated by our Project Coordinator, Morgan Gikonyo and Mimi Mundia from Baobab Network. It was a discussion addressing the difficult business climate witnessed in the year 2023 in Kenya and globally where tax experts and experienced entrepreneurs highlighted some practical tricks and tips on how tech founders can navigate an unfavourable business climate. Some key takeaways were that tech startups should adopt frugality and prudent financial management in their operations, consider revenue-share agreements where possible to cut costs, establish proper tax compliance structures and take advantage of tax incentives accruing to startups. You can catch the conversation on <https://www.linkedin.com/events/navigatingturbulentbusinessclim7126099089884069888/theater/>

### NAVIGATING TURBULENT BUSINESS CLIMATE AS A TECH FOUNDER



How can techpreneurs adapt to unfavourable business conditions?



**MIMI MUNDIA**

Brand and Marketing Manager,  
Baobab Network (Moderator)



**MORGAN GIKONYO**

Project Coordinator,  
HiiL Innovation Hub EA



**SIDI MAKOTI**

Senior Associate - Tax  
PwC Kenya



**PAUL MACHARIA**

CEO,  
Kiotapay Inc.



**JOY MIGWI**

Head of People, Culture &  
Operations - Pileza



8 - 9pm EAT



Tue - Nov 07, 2023



LinkedIn Spaces



**HiiL** Innovation Hub  
user friendly justice MENA

**Baobab**  
NETWORK

# ECOSYSTEMS EVENTS

## A) 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL HAGUE JUSTICE WEEK

In June 2023, we were honored to participate in the Justice Day event as part of the **2nd Annual Hague Justice Week** hosted by the Netherlands Embassy to Nairobi. The event brought together organizations and individuals from several sectors to discuss global challenges through the scope of justice. The theme for the justice week was *"Making Impact"*; and it focused on how the work being done to increase access to justice and transitional justice makes an impact at the local, national, and international levels with a focus on Somalia. We ran a breakout session on Commercial Justice highlighting the lessons and opportunities from running justice innovation projects in Somalia that was facilitated by our Project Coordinator, Morgan Gikonyo.





## B) DIGITAL & TECHNOLOGY WEEK: *HUBS OF INNOVATION*

In December 2023, we were privileged to be a part of the Digital & Technology Week. Our Programme Associate, George Ogada, was part of a panel titled **“Hubs of Innovation”** representing HiiL Innovation Hub East Africa as well as other Innovation Hub representatives from Startinev (Innocent Magothe), Baraza Media Lab (June Injete) and Impact Hub (Liz Kariuki). We got to discuss various issues about Innovation and the support we offer as hubs. These included how to foster collaboration among innovation hubs and their cohort members, how we leverage technology and innovation to address critical challenges and how we measure the impact of the work that we do as hubs. Key takeaways from this event were that there’s a lot more room for collaboration as Hubs to ensure the health of the startup ecosystem improves. The need to ensure that our reach goes beyond the urban areas where we are based was also key.

You can catch the Digital & Technology Week event on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3lhmG7hEDg&list=WL&index=22>





### C) ASSEK ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

In December 2023, we were privileged to participate in the ASSEK Annual Conference 2023. Our Hub Head, Eric Mwangi Kariuki, was part of the panel discussion on: **“The Rationale Behind The Startup Act”** moderated by Rachel Ndungu - the CEO and Founder of Biashara Africa that sought to put into perspective the Startup Act in Kenya and what it means for startups growth and sustainability. The panel consisted of: Victor Otieno Agolla – Digital Economy and Startups at Nairobi City County, Islam Elbeiti – Community Engagement Lead- i4Policy, Eric Kariuki – Head, HiiL Innovation Hub - East Africa. You catch the conversation on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2jSOd656kU>

We also participated in another panel on ‘Navigating IP Strategies and Commercialization in the Digital Age’ moderated by our Hub Head, Eric Mwangi Kariuki during the ASSEK 2023 Conference. The discussion explored the challenges, considerations, and best practices in translating innovative ideas into market-ready products or services. Key themes covered included the importance of developing robust IP strategies to protect

inventions, innovations, and digital assets. The Panelists for this session were: Wangechi Wahome – CEO and Founder of Anza Village and Associate Partner of Sisule Law, Alex Omanga – Kenya Copyright Board, Emily Masoka – Managing Partner, MM Law, Dr Emmanuel Kweyu – Strathmore University.





# CELEBRATING OUR 2023 DONORS, PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS





Our journey in 2023 was greatly supported by phenomenal partners who generously gave us their time, skill, experience, community and resources to make our projects successful.



**HiiL (The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law)** is a civil society organisation committed to people-centred justice. Its mission is that by 2030, 150 million people will be able to prevent or resolve their most pressing justice problems by stimulating innovation and scaling what works best.



**Anza Village** is a startup ecosystem enabler aimed at supporting startups by offering them long standing experience at all stages.



**Startinev** is an ecosystem enabler dedicated to fostering a culture of innovation and support for entrepreneurs, and believes that their hackathons and programs are an essential part of achieving this goal.



**Ygap Kenya** is an organisation that supports early-stage social impact ventures with locally-led solutions to local problems. They believe in the power of entrepreneurship as an effective way to make sustainable and equitable change in the world.



**Ongoza Accelerator** is an organization that exists to solve the twin problems affecting Kenya's youth: Unemployment and Small Business Failure.



**(The Association of Startup and SMEs Enablers of Kenya (ASSEK))** is an association that brings together and represents the interests of organizations supporting the development and growth of startups and SMEs.



**AfriLabs** is a dynamic innovation-focused organization empowering and building a community around innovation hubs and other stakeholders across various African countries.



**Moringa School** is a multi-disciplinary learning-accelerator committed to closing the skills-gap in Africa's job markets by delivering transformative tech-based learning to high-potential jobseekers; and on graduation connecting them to local and international employers who desire high-quality tech talent.



The **UNODC Regional Office for Eastern Africa** covers 13 countries: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. Their technical support is assisting East African Governments in tackling major challenges related to drugs, crime, justice services, health and terrorism, in a more comprehensive and focused manner.



**The Innovation Village** is an ecosystem builder in Uganda at the heart of an interconnected network of entrepreneurs, academia, private sector, government, investors, believers and doers deepening the application of technology in powering socio-economic prosperity.



The **Youth Startup Academy Uganda (YSAU)** works under the close collaboration between International Trade Center (ITC), Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME), the National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U) and Hive Colab to provide comprehensive incubation and facility to 1,000 young entrepreneurs with the aim to generate the first Unicorn startup in Uganda.



**Founders Lounge** is Uganda's biggest network of diverse startup founders helping each other to turn ideas into fundable startups, and startups into global businesses.





# WHAT

# NEXT

>>>





In 2024, we have set our sights on exciting innovation projects and community development goals as we expand our work in Kenya and venture into Rwanda and Burundi. Collaborate with us as we forge ahead with our 2024 plan;



## PROGRAMMES

Programmes



## COMMUNITY





# OUR 2023 **JUSTICE GAMECHANGERS**



## 2023 Hiil JUSTICE ACCELERATOR COHORT

STARTUP	DESCRIPTION
	<p><b>Tulix</b>, based in Kenya, caters to the global demand for transparent fund utilization in financial support for friends and family. The platform offers mobile money access for merchant payments through a digital wallet, eliminating the requirement for a local bank account or phone number. Introducing “Jars” for collaborative budgeting, Tulix ensures transparency, control, and accountability in remittance usage, fostering improved household financial health and preventing disputes and fraud.</p>
	<p><b>MALIPO CIRCLES LIMITED</b> addresses the limitations of paper-based accounting and financial constraints hindering access to core banking systems faced by domestic saving groups (DSGs) in Kenya. MALIPO CIRCLES LIMITED's platforms promote accounting transparency and reduce the risk of financial disputes.</p>
	<p><b>Kiotapay</b> is an end-to-end real estate platform that addresses the complexities of property law in Kenya, Africa. The platform automates billing, collections, payments, and other real estate processes upholding ethical standards and tackling justice challenges such as biased screening, unfair lease terms, and fraud between property businesses, tenants, and buyers.</p>
	<p><b>HPass Global Limited</b> addresses the pressing issue of compromised data privacy in Nairobi, where 9 out of 10 visitors registering to access buildings face risks of fraud and identity theft. With a mobile app and web solution, HPass generates unique identities for users, providing smart access and visitor management for homes, employee access tools for offices, and contributing to crime prevention in smart cities through widespread deployment.</p>



**Chamasure** addresses the reluctance of insurance companies to engage with small businesses and individuals in low-income communities due to informal structures, unpredictable payments, financial constraints, and limited information. The digital platform leverages local communities and streamlines the process, lowers costs, and enhances accessibility to insurance, contributing to financial inclusion and justice for underserved populations in Kenya.

### 2023 Hiil JUSTICE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHOOL COHORT



**Hao Finder** is a technology-enabled real estate due diligence and property marketing brand. They help prevent fraud in land and housing by leading the general population towards verified real estate.



**Data Lock Ltd** is a software solutions provider firm specializing in unique identification solutions for motorcyclists using wristbands.



**Beba Beggie** is a smart storage IoT e-lockers tech startup that provides secure, accessible, affordable and simple-to-use storage solutions countering the problem of insecurity, robbery (with violence), loss of property through theft, conning and inconveniences.



**iVoting** is a universal voting platform designed to be a lasting global solution to all voting modes Including surveys and opinion polls to achieve free, fair, credible, convenient and secure voting.



**Mwanangu** is a co-parenting platform specifically designed to support and enhance the co-parenting experience for parents in Kenya. The platform allows separated or divorced parents to effectively communicate, coordinate, and collaborate on matters related to raising their children.



**Residence Technologies** is a tech startup that has developed a smart address system to address the rising threats of cybersecurity attacks like Identity theft and cyberbullying associated with the rapidly growing e-commerce market in Africa.



**Tru ID** deals in an automatic identity verification system. They have automated the process of ID verification to minimize and eliminate the issue of identity theft, fraud and impersonation in business, hiring and transactions.



**WeiGo** aims to eliminate miscommunication, financial misappropriation, delays and costly disputes in the construction industry by empowering stakeholders to collaborate effectively, oversee projects in real-time, track progress and ensure quality assurance while experiencing stress-free construction projects.



**Easy House** is revolutionizing housing by providing an end-to-end experience for both renters and rental owners/managers.



**Hela Money** is Africa's web platform for trade and finance. They bridge traditional and digital finance so that businesses can build for the future. Using their global reach and local expertise, you can navigate the ever-changing world of trade and deal with insurance, payments and lending.



*The lightning  
spark of thought  
generated in  
the solitary  
mind awakens  
its likeness in  
another mind.*

*- Thomas Carlyle*





Innovation Hub  
East Africa