



# CENTER FOR FOOD AND ADEQUATE LIVING RIGHTS.

## DIVE DEEPER





## Message from the Executive Director



Dear friends and partners of CEFROHT.

We congratulate you all upon the milestones you reached during the year 2022. We thank you for supporting our work at regional, national and community level. In the year 2022, CEFROHT was able to launch and roll out several interventions and approaches from community legal empowerment, policy formulation, legal analysis, enforcement and support to communities and individuals facing multi violations for adequate living rights.

Allow me to highlight some of the key achievements during the year 2022 including: The first parliamentary nutrition week held with the members of parliament who made commitments on accelerating the use of legal tools to promote healthy diets and prevent NCDs; at East African Community level, we promoted and protected the right to livelihoods, biodiversity and food security by holding partner states involved in the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project accountable; we reached ,942,735. People with legal support and offered 16 women legal support. This promoted sustainable access to justice for the vulnerable people especially women in rural communities: ; We increased the Food and Agriculture Uganda Law Society Cluster to 65 lawyers; the food law clubs in universities increased to three and have maintained a national multisectoral platform for the legal and regulatory measures to prevent unhealthy diets and Non Communicable diseases . We launched an Agroecology learning centre, entered into Memoranda of understanding with two local governments and established levy free agroecology food markets. Through the use of a Human Rights-Based Approach, we started a four in one model where we use agroecology for women income inclusion, environmental health, food security and adaptation to climate change.

I am glad to inform you that CEFROHT together with other CSOs formed a national agroecology collaborative which uses the science, law and human rights-based approach to promote the transformation of our food system to sustainable ecological practices.

I wish to acknowledge and appreciate the significant support we received from our partners, donors and other key stakeholders in the right to adequate food work that enabled us realise major milestones. We look forward to greater collaboration with you all as we advance to yet another year of impact on the lives of the communities we serve. For a greater purpose.

Thank you

Kabanda David  
Executive Director



## List of Acronyms

<b>AEF</b>	- Agroecology Fund
<b>AG</b>	- Attorney General
<b>ALRs</b>	- Adequate Living Rights
<b>CAGs</b>	- Community Advocacy Groups
<b>CEFROHT</b>	- Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights
<b>CJP</b>	- Community Justice Program
<b>EACOP</b>	- East African Crude Oil Pipeline
<b>HRBA</b>	- Human Rights Based Approach
<b>HREA</b>	- Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019
<b>IDLO</b>	- International Development Law Organisation
<b>LESA</b>	- Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability
<b>MAAIF</b>	- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
<b>MoH</b>	- Ministry of Health
<b>NCDs</b>	- Non Communicable Diseases
<b>NPM</b>	- Nutrient Profiling Model
<b>OSJI</b>	- Open Society Justice Initiative
<b>PDM</b>	- Parish Development Model
<b>PELUM</b>	- Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
<b>SEATINI</b>	- Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
<b>UCC</b>	- Uganda Communications Commission
<b>WHO</b>	- World Health Organisation



## Acknowledgements.

Our work was made possible by the generous support and contribution from our donors and partners below:

### Donors

- International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) - Community Justice Program
- International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) - Global Recap
- Agroecology Fund (AEF)
- Both Ends - CSOs facing shrinking civic space
- Both Ends -Hot Spot
- Both Ends - Human Rights Violations of women in investment schemes
- FAO Head quarters
- Validity Foundation

### Networks and collaborations

CEFROHT indebted to its partners and collaborations both at individual and institutional levels

**CEFROHT greatly indebted to the partners and collaborations below:**

- Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI)
- Slow Food Uganda
- Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI).
- Women's Probono Initiative (WPI)
- Food Rights Alliance (FRA)
- Witness Radio
- GRAIN
- Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)
- Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (ACSA)
- Agency for Integrated Rural Development (AFIRD)
- Embrace Kulture
- The Consumer Education Trust (CONSENT)
- Kulika Uganda
- World Vision Uganda
- Center for Ecological Research and Development (CERD)
- Center for Strategic Litigation
- Natural Justice Kenya
- African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)
- The Hunger Project Uganda
- International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
- Makerere School of Law
- Makerere School of Public Health



## Government Institutions and Departments

Throughout the year, CEFROHT collaborated with and received support from a number of Government Institutions and Departments, which contributed to a successful year. Some of the government institutions that we directly engaged are:

- Judicial Training Institute
- Uganda Law Society
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Ministry of Trade and Cooperatives
- Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- Kampala Capital City Authority
- Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
- Local governments in districts of operation
- The Parliament of Uganda
- Office of the Prime Minister





CEFROHT is an indigenous not-for-profit legal advocacy and action-research organization using a Human Rights-Based Approach to promote food, and adequate living rights. CEFROHT's mission is to use legal tools for food justice, and adequate living through integrated programs; that is, Social justice and Strategic Litigation, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment.

CEFROHT's work is directed towards food justice and promoting adequate living. These include utilizing legal tools to ensure realization of land rights, food security, food safety and nutrition, livelihood rights, environmental health, and mainstreaming a food systems approach. Therefore, CEFROHT's efforts are targeted towards a sustainable food system, environmental health, nutrition, and economic rights which affect vulnerable populations such as women, children, orphans, people living with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, and the youth. CEFROHT is a center designed for rights on food and livelihoods.

CEFROHT is working on two thematic areas: **FOOD JUSTICE** and **SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**.

### **FOOD JUSTICE;**

This is pursued under the food systems approach impacting laws, policies, and practices of both duty bearers and rights holders from farm to fork. We mainly work to make the entire food chain healthy and sustainable-stretching from preproduction, production (regenerative agriculture), post-harvesting, processing, marketing, and consumption. All these are pursued using a Human Rights Based Approach of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, human dignity, empowerment, and rule of law.

### **SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**

Under sustainable livelihoods, CEFROHT works on two sub-themes. That is, Climate change adaptation and Land and smallholder farmers.

Climate Change Adaptation. CEFROHT engages stakeholders at local, national and regional level to promote sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity conservation. CEFROHT promotes Agroecology as a practice and science for climate change adaptation. Particularly, CEFROHT targets small holder farmers, local Government leaders and policy makers at national level to come up with legal and policy frameworks; sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity. It engages in legal empowerment of both vulnerable communities and their leaders including financial inclusion avenues.

CEFROHT uses legal platforms at local Government level to enhance financial inclusion and economic justice through establishment of Agroecology earth markets,

Under land and small holder farmer's sub-theme, CEFROHT engages duty bearers at local and national level to promote sustainable access to land rights justice. In this, CEFROHT uses the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019 as a tool and easy to use procedures for redress.



This is because land access, usage, and ownership rights for smallholder farmers and indigenous communities is a central component of CEFROHT's work. Many vulnerable persons especially women, children, youths, and PWDs are CEFROHT target beneficiaries. CEFROHT uses the law (especially the Human Rights Enforcement law) to push back and support redress mechanisms for persons and communities who face illegal and inequitable land evictions from political elites and corporate elites who are in pursuit of large land acquisitions.

## Cefroht strategic approaches

### **A. Human Rights-Based Approach:**

CEFROHT understands that unequal power relations and social exclusion deny people their human rights and keeps them in poverty. Therefore, uses Human Rights Based Approach to empower rights-holders to claim their rights, and support duty-bearers to meet their obligations. In this, CEFROHT identifies who has rights (rightsholders) and what freedoms and entitlements they have under the law, as well as the obligations of those responsible for making sure rights-holders are enjoying their rights (duty-bearers). Enforcing a “circle of accountability” throughout the policy cycle which helps to ensure that policies and programs are responsive to the needs of rights-holders.

### **B. Legal empowerment and social accountability:**

CEFROHT strategically uses legal empowerment, especially the vulnerable for their adequate living rights. CEFROHT pursues a process of systemic change through which the poor and excluded in communities become able to use the law, the legal system, and legal services to protect and advance their rights and interests as citizens.

This approach is used towards building accountability that relies on individuals and community engagement i.e. in which the ordinary citizen or CSOs participate directly in exacting accountability. CEFROHT engages communities, individuals, duty bearers,

and civil society organizations [CSOs] in actions aimed at holding the State to account, as well as efforts by government and other actors [media, private sector, donors] to support and respond to these actions.

## Programmes

### **1. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND STRATEGIC LITIGATION:**

Under this program, CEFROHT uses litigation and legal research as tools to promote and protect the right to adequate food, climate, and economic justice. The program does legal and policy analysis of food, environment, and livelihood issues.



Under this program, CEFROHT does public interest litigation on issues concerning food, environment, and livelihoods including food safety and security. This program, is working towards pioneering the justiciability of the right to food in Uganda, the development of jurisprudence food rights in the East African region. The program, does legal empowerment for all including communities and leaders at all levels. The Litigation Program, does trade and investment laws analysis and their effect on food rights and health. Emphasis is put to food rights accountability from duty bearers at all levels and providing redress for health and food rights and health violations.

## **2. ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS:**

Under this program, CEFROHT does action research to build evidence for advocacy on issues of food safety and health. The research is published and disseminated to communities and duty-bearers for action. CEFROHT does legal and policy scrutiny of government ventures using a human rights-based approach including international approaches to public service delivery like the Private, Public Partnerships and how they affect the social aspects of people especially, the vulnerable. It is through this program, that CEFROHT engages duty bearers at the national level and local government levels for the promotion of policies and action plans for nutrition, safe food practices, early childhood development, prevention of non-communicable diseases, and engaging the court of public opinion on all cases being litigated by CEFROHT. Under the program, we also engage and participate in strategic partnerships, coalitions, and movement building for the realization of the rights to health and food.

## **3. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT:**

This program is delivered through a Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability approach using the right-to-participation methodologies. Under this program, CEFROHT trains communities and local governments about their entitlements, and obligations. The program engages community members to advocate for their rights to food and health and do awareness building on nutrition, agribusiness, food safety in communities, prevention of non-Communicable diseases, and aflatoxins prevention using community advocacy.



## Introduction

The 2022 Annual report is a consolidation of CEFROHT's key interventions, milestones, challenges, lessons and recommendations.

During the year, CEFROHT continued to strengthen and have close collaboration with key government line ministries and agencies and other key partners on the right to adequate food. During the year, CEFROHT held the first parliamentary nutrition week with the members of parliament making commitments on accelerating the use of legal tools to promote healthy diets and prevent NCDs.

In the same year, CEFROHT promoted access to justice for the vulnerable people especially women in rural communities. This has been made possible through the empowered Community Advocacy Groups (CAGs).

We got the first win where the right to food was recognised in Uganda. This was in the COVID-19 case where the trial judge acknowledged that the right to adequate food is one of the rights that are protected under the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The judge also sighted several other cases that link the right to adequate food to the right to livelihood that is essential for Ugandans.

During the year, CEFROHT also promoted agroecology among the vulnerable in communities using a Human Rights-Based Approach for a sustainable food system. In the same year, CEFROHT together with other like-minded CSOs formed a national loose collaborative that uses science, law and human rights-based approach to promote agroecology.

We are grateful to all our partners that supported CEFROHT towards the realisation of outstanding success and milestones that were registered in the year as summarised in the subsequent sections below.

## Highlights of the key achievements in 2022

**Strategic objective 1: Frame and promote adequate food, agriculture and investment justice as constitutional entitlements.**

- CEFROHT registration as a legal aid service provider
- CEFROHT developed a statement of human rights claim which vulnerable persons use to institute cases of human rights violations in magistrate's court under the HREA.



- 2 judgments received from public interest cases
- 15 Magistrates trained on the use of the HREA to address ALRs claims
- 30 court officers, clerks and out of court mediators trained on redress mechanisms under the HREA
- 1 public interest case instituted challenging the constitutionality of Section 56 of the Employment Act.
- Litigated the ongoing 9 public interest cases.

**Strategic objective 2: Trade and investment systems promote public interests, social inclusion, economic justice, and human rights.**

- 2 levy free organic/earth markets established in Kiboga and Kasangati Town Councils.

**Strategic objective 3: Enhance the legal empowerment of communities and capacities of duty bears and other stakeholders in economic rights, and the right to adequate food, nutrition, and health.**

- A national loose agroecology collaborative formed on the use of science, law and human rights-based approach to promote agroecology
- A policy brief on utilising human rights and law to promote sustainable agri-food systems in Uganda
- National dialogue held on law, agroecology and human rights to create awareness on using the HRBA to promote agroecology for sustainable agri-food systems and for market access. The national dialogue was attended by over 12,754,295 participants both online and physically.
- CEFROHT held 12 scientific trainings on agroecology management practices
- CEFROHT held 12 exchange learning for the beneficiaries to learn from agroecology model farms, and translate the knowledge to their households to produce safe food using agroecology.

**Strategic objective 4: Duty bearers at both Local and National Governments are accountable for economic rights, rights to food, nutrition, and health especially the vulnerable groups including women and children.**



- 12 commitments made by members of parliament on accelerating the use of legal tools to promote healthy diets and prevent NCDs
- Lawyers trained on the right to adequate food. A coalition was formed to develop policies that support establishment of food reserves to promote food security
- Young lawyers engaged on regulatory and fiscal measures that promote healthy diets.
- Food and Law club formed and launched at Makerere University School of law to facilitate early engagement of students into understanding adequate food as a fundamental human right and an underlying factor to the enjoyment of other rights and to train young lawyers in public interest litigation to protect the rights of the vulnerable in society.
- Worked with Ministry of Health to develop the NPM – a tool for the government to identify unhealthy products use public policies to discourage their consumption.
- Worked with Ministry of Health to develop physical activity guidelines
- CEFROHT made an analysis on the mandate, governance structures and practices on the areas of food and Agriculture
- 12 community baraza held on promoting access to justice for adequate living rights
- CAGs engaged duty bearers through district council meetings on the progress of local government budgets and plans towards promotion of adequate living rights.

**Strategic objective 5: Justiciability of economic rights, the right to food, nutrition, and wellbeing developed, and persons who experience violations of their rights to adequate living have access to justice.**

- 15 probono cases for women filed using the HREA. These cases have 76 beneficiaries who are children
- 9 of the 15 probono cases have been concluded and 6 pending judgement
- 900 women engaged on the use of the HREA for access to justice
- 3 legal aid clinics held for rapid legal aid services on violations of land and property rights, the right to livelihood and economic rights using the HREA
- CAGs identified and resolved 1,131 cases on violations of adequate living rights in communities.



**Strategic objective 6: To grow an organization that operates in an effective, efficient, professional, and accountable manner.**

- Staff capacities built in monitoring and evaluation, gender mainstreaming, project management, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and partnership building
- 5 staff joined CEFROHT with varied experience in various capacity areas
- 8 policies amended and approved by the board
- 4 new policies introduced to advance CEFROHT's institutional growth
- CEFROHT hosted 4 partners/donors at the secretariat to discuss avenues strengthening the partnerships

**Strategic objective 1: Frame and promote adequate food, agriculture and investment justice as constitutional entitlements.**

Under this strategic objective, CEFROHT seeks to promote the right to adequate food, agriculture and investment justice by empowering justice actors, pursuing public interest litigation and engaging policy makers on framing laws and policies that promote adequate living rights.

**Legal Aid Service provision:**

During the year, CEFROHT registered as legal Aid service provider. With the functional legal aid clinic, CEFROHT can ably represent vulnerable persons in communities in both pro bono and public interest litigation cases. This is a milestone in our work of legal aid service provision to frame and promote the right to adequate living.

**Statement of human rights claim:**

In order to promote sustainable access to justice of adequate living rights, CEFROHT developed a statement of human rights claim which vulnerable persons use to institute cases of human rights violations in magistrate's court under the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019. Different vulnerable women and children have used this statement of human rights claim to access justice of their adequate living rights.



## Launch of the Magistrates Manual:

CEFROHT developed the Magistrates manual on handling adequate living rights under the HREA. The manual details the procedures on framing adequate living issues as human right issues and redress mechanisms on solving adequate living claims from a human rights perspective. The manual has been a guiding document in all trainings for the judicial officers, court officers and appointed court mediators.



## Capacity building of Justice Actors:

### i. Magistrates trained on the use of the HREA to handle cases

During the year, CEFROHT trained 15 Magistrates from Kiboga, Buyende, Wakiso and Kyankwanzi Magisterial areas on the use of the new Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019 to address adequate living rights claims. It is through these trainings that their capacities to handle adequate living rights cases using the HREA was enhanced. As a result 9 of the 15 probono cases filed by CEFROHT were concluded. The 6 cases are pending judgement.





## ii. Court officers, clerks and out of court mediators trained on redress mechanisms under the HREA.

CEFROHT also trained 30 court officers, court clerks and out-of-court mediators on human rights and redress mechanisms under the HREA. The training was premised on the Human Rights-Based Approach in realizing adequate living rights and redress mechanisms under the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019. These trainings increased the capacity of court officers and case mediators to advise clients on settling issues of adequate living rights through redress mechanisms laid down in the HREA. 50 cases were resolved and settled by the out of court mediators using procedures laid in the HREA during the year.



## iii. LC chairpersons engaged on adequate living rights and the novel opportunities for seeking redress under the HREA.

CEFROHT held six (6) workshops for 164 LC chairpersons and equipped them with knowledge on how land entitlements can be framed and claimed as human rights and how to use the HREA to refer adequate living disputes from their local courts to the formal justice system. These trainings have built the capacity of the LC chairpersons to on the understanding of human rights entitlements and how to settle violations on adequate living rights using the HREA.





## Public Interest Litigation

CEFROHT has a total of nine (9) on-going strategic cases. During the year, CEFROHT filed one public interest case to challenge violations on the right to adequate food.

### i. Breast feeding case

CEFROHT instituted a suit in the Constitutional court of Uganda against the Attorney General challenging the constitutionality of Section 56 of the Employment Act as it contravenes different provisions of the Constitution that provide for the right to life, right to food and the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health. CEFROHT argued that failure to provide supportive structures for breastfeeding at workplaces is a human rights issue as it is a violation of different human rights such as the right to life, food and health.

Therefore CEFROHT sought that the constitutional court makes orders that Section 56 of the Employment Act be struck out, Government amends the Employment Act to provide for breastfeeding at workplaces in Uganda and/ or Government develops guidelines or regulations to provide for supportive structures for breastfeeding mothers at workplaces in Uganda. The filing of this case has yielded tremendous positive results as it put pressure on Government and therefore the Employment (Amendment) Bill has been tabled before the parliament for first reading.

## Litigating on-going cases

During the year 2022, CEFROHT litigated the ongoing public interest cases as highlighted below:

### i. Sugar Sweetened Beverages Case

CEFROHT filed a human rights public interest case in the High Court of Uganda against Attorney General and the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) for Government's failure and omission to regulate nutrition labelling and restrict marketing, broadcast and advertisement of food high in salt, sugar and fats to children. in Uganda.

The case is intended to compel the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Communications Commission to ban the marketing, broadcast and advertisement of foods high in sugar, salt and fat to children in Uganda, amend the advertising standard of Uganda.

In the case, CEFROHT argues that the Government's failure and omission to restrict marketing, broadcast and advertisement of foods high in sugar, salt and fat to children in Uganda threatens and is a violation of their rights to adequate food, health and safety as guaranteed in the constitution and the Children's Act. That the advertising standards are a threat and in violation of children's rights to safety, health and adequate food contrary to the provisions of the law. That government's failure to regulate nutrition labelling threatens and is a violation of the right to health, safety and adequate food in Uganda. The case is at judgement stage. We hope that the ruling is delivered soon as this is a matter of public interest which greatly affects the right to food and health of children and all Ugandans at large.



## ii. Boarder Closure case

CEFROHT appeared before the East African Court of Justice in the Boarder closure case to promote economic justice for women that suffered violation as a result of the closure of the Uganda-Rwanda Border. CEFROHT filed a supplementary affidavit in the case and also shared signed scheduling memorandum with the respondents. CEFROHT further drafted, filed and served written submissions in support of the case. Hearing of this case closed and CEFROHT is waiting judgment which will be on notice.

## iii. EACOP Case

CEFROHT together with other CSOs from East Africa; instituted a public interest case at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) against the Attorney General of the Republic of Uganda, the Attorney General of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Secretary General of the East African Community for authorising the operation of the EACOP without fulfilment of the required procedures in construction of trans-boundary project like EACOP. The case followed the signing of the host and inter-government agreements to construct the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) with Total Exploration and Production Limited (Total E & P) as the main developer of the pipeline between the governments of Uganda and Tanzania in September 2020. The construction of the pipeline is yet to commence and it is intended to transport crude oil from an inlet flange at the Kabaale pumping station in Hoima District in Uganda to an export flange at a proposed marine storage terminal at Chongoleani in Tanga District, at the East African coast of the United Republic of Tanzania.

On the 11th November 2022, CEFROHT legal team appeared before the East African Court of Justice for the scheduling of the case where facts were agreed upon between the applicants and the respondents, issues to be argued were also discussed and the nature of evidence to be adduced.

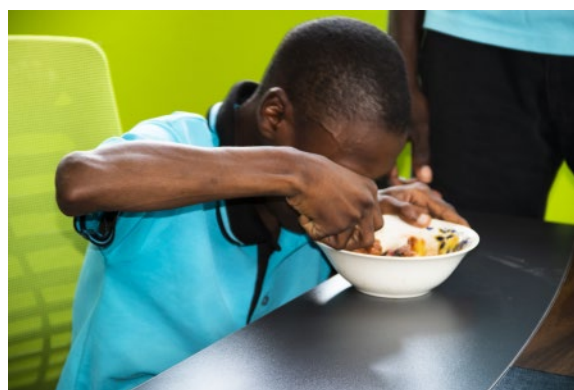




## Judgements received during the year

### i. A win for persons living with Autism Spectrum Disorder

CEFROHT registered a win on the rights of persons living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Uganda in a case which challenged the failure of the Government of the Republic of Uganda and Buyende Local Government to provide early detection, rehabilitation and habilitation services at the primary health care level for persons living with ASD. On the 15th of March 2022, the High Court of Jinja issued a judgment in favour of Perez Mwase in which court ordered the Government to develop clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Patients with ASD in primary health Care within two years from the date of the judgment. This judgment realized the rights of Persons living with Autism Spectrum Disorder such as the right to health, right to equality and freedom from Discrimination and freedom from cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment in Uganda.



### ii. The first win for the Right to food – The COVID-19 food case

In 2020, CEFROHT instituted a suit in the High Court of the Republic of Uganda against the Attorney General (Misc. No. 75/2020) for Government's failure and omission to issue guidance on the access to and availability of food during the COVID-19 pandemic, the failure and omission to regulate the prices of food during the COVID-19 pandemic and guidance on food reserves in the country. CEFROHT also sought to hold the government accountable for its failure to establish national food reserves as required by the constitution.

At the High court, the trial judge; Hon. Justice Esta Nambayo, acknowledged that the right to adequate food is one of the rights that are protected under the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The judge also sighted several other cases that link the right to adequate food to the right to livelihood that is essential for Ugandans. However, she held that the government had issued adequate guidelines to protect the right to adequate food by giving out food aid in particular areas and leaving the agricultural sector to continue operation.



The Attorney General and the Judge acknowledged that the government of Uganda had not established national food reserves, however despite this, it was the judge's ruling that the government had established a contingency fund and had taken initiatives to improve storage of food in rural places.

CEFROHT has since lodged an appeal (Civil Appeal No. 91 of 2022) in the Court of Appeal against the whole decision of the trial judge. In this appeal, CEFROHT argues that the learned trial judge erred in her decision and contends that Government's failure and omission of the Government to issue guidance on food access and availability for vulnerable people around the whole country during the COVID-19 pandemic is a violation of the right to adequate food and that the omission of the Government to establish food reserves is a violation of the right to food.

The appeal is yet to be heard and we hope that is heard as a matter of public interest to promote food justice for the people of Uganda.

### **Strategic objective 2: Trade and investment systems promote public interests, social inclusion, economic justice, and human rights.**

Under this strategic objective, CEFROHT seeks to promote a Human Rights Based Approach in trade and investment systems as a strategy to promote participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and rule of law.

#### **Levy free organic/earth markets**

CEFROHT engaged the local governments of Kiboga and Kasangati town council to establish levy free organic/earth markets where farmers can sell their organic produce. This is an initiative to promote the right to adequate food and sustainable livelihoods for rural vulnerable agro ecological farmers especially women. The organic/earth market is an avenue for safe food and a contribution towards the fight against the sky rocketing NCDs.

The two earth/ organic markets were established and launched in Gayaza- Kasangati town council, Wakiso district and in Kiboga town council, Kiboga district in December 2022.

These earth markets have provided an avenue through which agroecological farmers sell their products hence contributing to the continuity of agroecology practice by small scale farmers.

### **Strategic objective 3: Enhance the legal empowerment of communities and capacities of duty bears and other stakeholders in economic rights, and the right to adequate food, nutrition, and health.**



Under this strategic objective, CEFROHT seeks to legally empower communities and duty bearers and other stakeholders in advancing sustainable food systems for adequate food, nutrition and health.

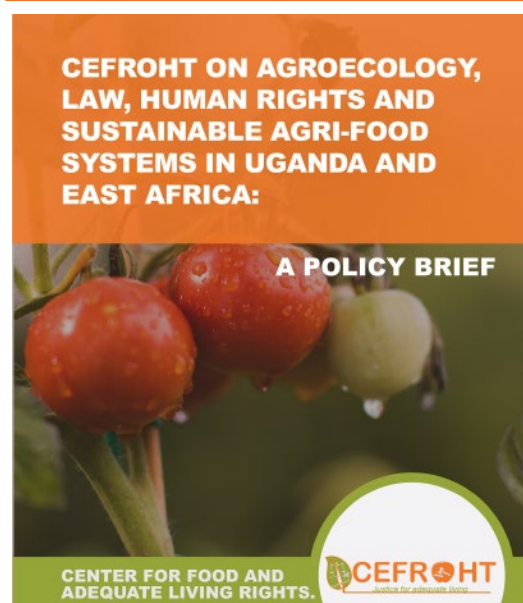
### National loose agroecology collaborative.

During the year, CEFROHT together with other like-minded CSOs (Slow Food Uganda, SEATINI-Uganda, CONSENT, ACSA, Action Aid Uganda, IIRR, and The Hunger Project among others) formed a loose collaborative on agroecology and human rights in Uganda. This collaborative uses the science, law and human rights-based approach to address the unequal power imbalance in communities hindering agroecology. These conduct joint advocacy and sensitization of the general public to promote agroecology. The collaborative is hosted at the secretariat.



### Policy Analysis to promote agro ecology

During the year, CEFROHT developed a policy brief on “Utilizing human rights and the law to promote sustainable Agri-food systems in Uganda”. The policy brief highlights the need for review of legal and policy frameworks and the need to have a law to regulate the agricultural sector and promote agroecology. The policy brief has been disseminated to CSOs, policy actors, media and the general public.





## National Dialogue on law, agroecology and human rights

CEFROHT held a national dialogue on law, agroecology and human rights to create awareness on using a Human Rights-Based Approach to promote agro ecology for a sustainable food system and fair market access. During the dialogue, over 12,745,295 persons were engaged both physically and through CEFROHT's online platforms on the role law and human rights to promote agroecology. The dialogue also created awareness among consumers on healthy diets and dietary food choices for an adequate standard of living. From this, a policy brief on ***“Utilising Human rights law to promote agroecology for sustainable agri-food systems in Uganda: A Policy Brief”*** was launched.



## Human rights based approach to agroecology practices

CEFROHT has engaged women and youths in Kiboga in Kiboga, Wakiso and Mukono on a Human Rights-based Approach to agro ecology. The training equipped the participants with resilient, regenerative and equitable food systems practices.

## Agro ecology scientific trainings

CEFROHT conducted a scientific training on agroecology in Kiboga and Wakiso District where small scale farmers were trained on the interactions between plants, animals and the environment, the companion planting where multiple kinds of plants are planted together for mutual benefits and they were also trained on making organic fertilisers and how to make environmentally friendly pesticide from materials within the ecosystem. These trainings helped women and youths produce food agro ecologically without causing harm to the environment and their health.





## Exchange learning for agro ecology farmers

CEFROHT held exchange learning visits for farmers in Kiboga and Mukono Districts on farms where agroecology is being practiced. Through these farmer exchange visits, farmers acquired knowledge which they translated their households to produce food using agroecologically. These facilitated sustainable production of safe food for the organic/earth markets.

## Strategic objective 4: Duty bearers at both Local and National Governments are accountable for economic rights, right to food, nutrition, and health especially the vulnerable groups including women and children.

Under this strategic objective, CEFROHT seeks to create a multi-sectoral approach at the local at national levels using a human rights based approach to achieve economic rights, right to food, nutrition and health especially among the vulnerable.

## Legislators engaged on using the law to address Non-Communicable Diseases.

CEFROHT held a first national parliamentary nutrition week to sensitize MPs on their role in promoting regulatory and fiscal measures for promoting healthy diets and physical activity to prevent NCDs in Uganda under the theme ***“Utilizing legal tools to promote healthy diets and prevent Non-Communicable Diseases”***. From this engagement, twelve (12) commitments on advocacy for reforms towards creating a healthy food environment were made by the legislators in attendance.



## Lawyers trained on the right to adequate food

CEFROHT together with Uganda Law Society Food and Nutrition Cluster convened a lawyer's training where lawyers were equipped with knowledge on their role in using the law to promote the right to adequate food and the need for policy review to push for establishment of food reserves as provided for in the national and international laws that Uganda is party to. A coalition was formed to develop policies that support the establishment of food reserves to promote food security.



## Young lawyers engaged on regulatory and fiscal measures that promote healthy diets, physical activity and the right to health

At the start of the year, CEFROHT organized a seminar on “Promoting Healthy Diets through legal empowerment and social accountability mechanisms”, using a human rights-based, participatory, and multi-sectoral approach at the School of Law, Makerere University. The seminar was facilitated by lecturers of the School of Law, who equipped participants with legal and advocacy knowledge on regulatory and fiscal measures to promote healthy diets and physical activity. As follow-up actions to the training, advocacy strategies and initiatives were agreed upon to continue involving students and usher in a new breed of young lawyers who use the law to promote healthy diets and the right to health. CEFROHT facilitated the students to form a Food and Law Club at the University for students to continue advocating for the right to food and promotion of healthy diets. The club was launched to facilitate early engagement of students into understanding adequate food as a fundamental human right and an underlying factor to the enjoyment of other rights and to train young lawyers in public interest litigation to protect the rights of the vulnerable in society.



## Development of the Nutrient Profile Model (NPM)

Having a safe food environment and promoting healthy diets necessitates an objective method of categorizing foods that are components of a healthy diet and those that are less likely to be constituents of a healthy diet. CEFROHT together with the WHO and Ministry of Health have made contributions towards the development of the Nutrient Profile Model **a tool for the government to identify unhealthy products and use public policies to discourage their consumption**. These are intended to adapt the WHO NPM for the African Region to Uganda's context and facilitate the classification of the commonly processed foods into healthy and unhealthy foods depending on the package labels and nutrient content. In the same regard, CEFROHT has continuously engaged WHO and Ministry of Health on the adoption of guidelines on restriction of marketing of unhealthy food products to children.



## Physical Activity Guidelines

CEFROHT together with the MoH, MoES and KCCA drafted the national physical activity guidelines for MoH. The launch has been planned to take place both at national and regional level. CEFROHT is committed to support and participate in the launch to create awareness of the public on the physical activity guidelines.

## Analysis on the mandate, governance structures and practices on the areas of food and Agriculture.

CEFROHT made an analysis of the existing regional and sub-regional organizations in sub-Saharan Africa with mandate related to agriculture and food security. The analysis indicates that food and agriculture are central to the missions and objectives of the African Union. The findings also indicate that there is a continuous need to define and refine existing and new standards and frameworks to provide a robust basis to enhance food security through political dedication towards promoting the agricultural sector, including with support from modern technologies.

## Social accountability at district and Community levels.

### i. Community Women Baraza

During the year, CEFROHT held twelve (12) women community baraza on promoting access to justice for adequate living rights. Through these women community baraza, the duty bearers were held accountable for their inaction towards promotion of adequate living rights. These duty bearers' responsiveness towards vulnerable needs in communities was enhanced from. These barazas created a learning platform for both duty bearers and vulnerable women since CEFROHTs legal team provided rapid response on the human implications on specific human rights concerns in communities.





## ii. District Council meetings

CEFROHT guided Community Advocacy Groups (CAGs) on the development of advocacy plans which were used as a benchmark for local government plans and budgets. The gaps that were identified formed actions for advocacy. The CAGs therefore attended the district council meetings to track local government budgets and plans towards promotion of adequate living rights. The CAGs developed follow-up plans to ensure that their ideas are taken into consideration in the final district plans and budgets.

### **Strategic objective 5: Justiciability of economic rights, the right to food, nutrition, and wellbeing developed, and persons who experience violations of their rights to adequate living have access to justice.**

Under this strategic objective, CEFROHT seeks to conduct action legal research, pro bono and public interest litigation to highlight the justiciability of economic rights, right to food and economic well being.

### **Women engagement on the use of the HREA for access to justice.**

CEFROHT conducted 6 women workshops in Buyende, Kiboga and Kyankwanzi Districts to equip women with knowledge on human rights and as well as the procedures laid down in the HREA for access justice. The workshop sessions also aimed at enhancing the capacity of vulnerable rural communities to claim land, agriculture, business, labour and social aspects of life as human rights entitlements as a result, 30 cases were identified and reported by the women. These cases were subsequently resolved.



## **Community Advocacy Groups (CAGs)**

In 2021, CEFROHT mobilized and constituted CAGs to carry out community advocacy for purposes of creating strong voices and work as a team for purposes of claiming Adequate Living Rights and seeking redress in case of violations as well as hold



duty bearers accountable in case of inaction.

During the year, CAGs were empowered on adequate living entitlements and how to frame and claim them as human rights. The CAGs have been able to identify human rights violations in their communities, settle cases under the Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism. The CAGs have been able to identify 1,131 cases of human rights violations in their communities, resolved and referred to the formal justice actors. They have carried out community advocacy, created strong voices and worked as a team to create ALRs.



## Legal aid clinics

CEFROHT held three legal aid clinics in Kyankwanzi, Kiboga and Buyende districts for communities to access rapid legal aid services on violations of land and property rights, the right to livelihood and economic rights using the HREA. The legal aid clinics provided a platform for the empowered CAGs to engage with the lawyers and communities on recording, fact-finding, and provide quick legal responses to the cases and the use of the developed statement of human rights claims to file the identified cases. A total 179 persons were offered legal advisory services and 5 identified cases were resolved.





## Legal Representation

During the year, CEFROHT received and 1,992 cases of violations of adequate living rights in Kiboga, Kyankwanzi and Buyende Districts. These were through phone calls on the toll free line, mobile legal aid clinics held, walk in clients, cases reported to CAGs, LCs and court officers.

### i. A vulnerable woman regains her land for livelihood in a record time of one month.

CEFROHT instituted a case on behalf of a vulnerable woman and her seven (7) children against her husband and the purchaser of their family land for violation of the right to property, adequate living rights and the right to a livelihood. Her husband had maliciously refused to provide maintenance for their children. The children had all dropped out of school, the house they were staying in was not habitable as the roof had fallen off. The husband did not stop at this, he went ahead and sold the only piece of land where the woman used to grow crops as food for her children without her consent. This left the vulnerable woman and her children helpless since they had nowhere to stay and no source of livelihood.

The case was seeking declarations that the failure to provide maintenance to the children was a violation of their right to adequate living and the right to livelihood and that the selling of family land without his wife's consent was a violation of right to property. Upon filing of the case, CEFROHT continued sensitizing communities about ALRs and the use of the HREA to claim for these rights in Kiboga District where all the parties to this case reside. When the case came up for court mediation, the husband and purchaser of the land informed the court mediator that through CEFROHT's sensitizations in Kiboga district, they had recognized that they were wrong and desired to settle the matter at mediation. The respondent agreed to look after his children and the purchaser of the land agreed to transfer back the land for the benefit of the applicant and her children be paid back his money by the father of the children and subsequently, a consent judgment was entered and implemented during the year. This particular case was concluded in a record time of one month as a result of the simplified procedure provided under the HREA.

### ii. Use of the HREA as a tool to promote adequate living right for vulnerable women and children

In May of 2022, through one of our Community Advocacy Groups (CAGs) members in Kyankwanzi District, CEFROHT identified another vulnerable woman whose rights and those of her children were violated when their father deliberately refused to fulfill his parental obligation of providing for their basic needs.

The father of the children had deserted the wife and children with no source of livelihood. He had denied them a chance to use the available land and neither did woman have a source of income for a source of livelihood.



The woman and her children were left at the mercy of well-wishers who occasionally provided food and a few basic needs.

Using the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019, CEFROHT's legal team instituted a suit on behalf of the vulnerable woman and her children in the Magistrate's Court of Kiboga against the father of the children for his failure to provide maintenance to his children thereby violating their rights to livelihood, an adequate standard of living and adequate food.

After serving the case upon him, the father of the children contacted CEFROHT through our toll free line, he informed CEFROHT's lawyers that he was one of the beneficiaries of CEFROHT's sensitization on adequate living rights in Kyankwanzi District, he stated that

***"I did not know that my actions were human rights violations of my children but CEFROHT opened my eyes." said the father of the children."***

During the mediation meeting, respondent apologized to his wife for having abandoned her and children. He committed to provide maintenance of the children and also transferred one acre of land to the wife's name so that she can cultivate crops for the children. This was followed by entering the consent judgment on court record. The woman went ahead and planted maize and beans on the land she was given for food and to also sell and get money for the benefit of the children.

Just like in this case, CEFROHT continues to raise awareness of adequate living rights and how to access justice using the quick and easy procedures and the redress mechanisms provided for under the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019.



## Strategic objective 6: Institutional Development

This strategic objective seeks to grow an organization that operates in an effective, efficient, professional, and accountable manner.



### i. Strengthened governance structure

During the year, CEFROHT continued to strengthen its governance structures and functions and as such two board meetings were held at the beginning and mid-year. Through these meetings, a total of eight (8) policies were amended and approved for implementation going forward. These include: The financial policy, Human Resource policy, Procurement policy, Publication policy, Communications Policy, Community Engagement guidelines, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and the Gender policy. In the same year, four (4) new policies were introduced in the organization. These include: The Cyber Security, Operations, Human Rights and Climate Change policies.

### ii. Strengthened partnerships

We are glad to have hosted key partners in our work during the year 2022. These range from donors to strategic partners like CSOs in the sector of food systems strengthening and adequate living.

CEFROHT hosted Daniel Moss; the Executive Director Agro Ecology Fund. We shared experience on the use of legal tools and a human rights based approach in promoting agro ecology among small scale farmers in Ugandan communities to build back better and greener with agro ecology post COVID-19



CEFROHT also hosted and engaged the team from Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) on the use of the law to promote and defend human rights of people at individual, community and national levels



We also hosted partners from International Development Law Organisation to discuss possibilities of strengthening access to justice for the vulnerable persons in communities.



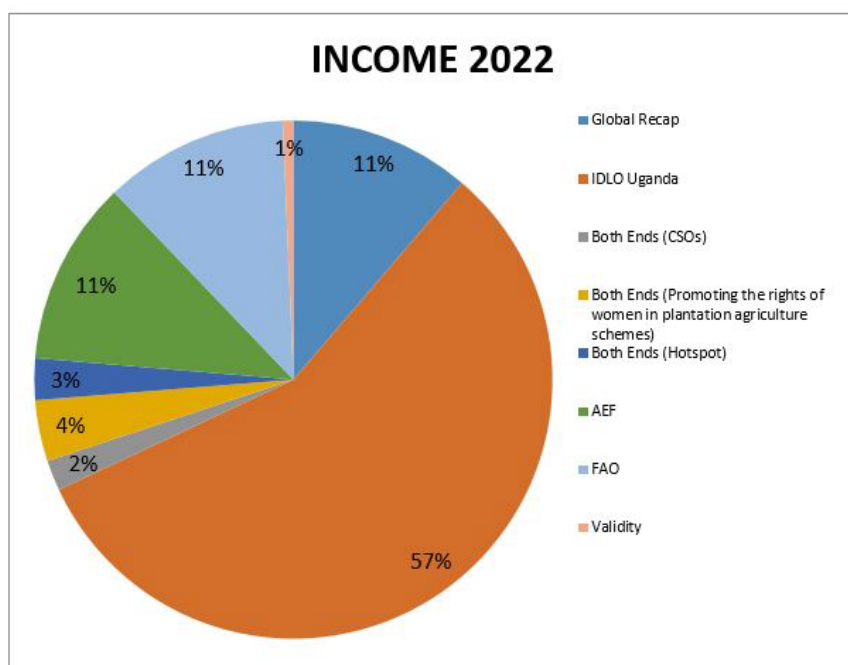
## Staff capacity building.

CEFROHT held two (2) staff retreats at the beginning and midyear to provide opportunity for staff to reflect on achievements, lessons learned and challenges from the previous work done. This was time set aside for the team to review work plans and budgets and set priorities for the year and remaining period of the year. The work plans and budgets developed were approved by the board.

During these retreats, staff were engaged on monitoring and learning to deliver adequate living rights approaches and the relevance of gender mainstreaming in project implementation. The staff were also engaged on building lasting impact in communities and on the relevance of partnership building.



## CEFROHT Financials.



## Main challenges

- CEFROHT experienced some resistance on the new law (Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2019). The lawyers need to understand this new law such that they contribute to the discourse of sustainable access to justice.

- Climate change effects such as prolonged dry spells and erratic rains continued to affect smallholder farmers

## Lessons learnt

- It's important to always align our work with national level frameworks to increase our relevance on the right to food, based on the country's, regional and international priorities as enshrined in the NDP III and Uganda's vision 2040, Africa 2063 development agenda, SDGs.



- Partnership building at all levels is key for successful advocacy engagements as evidenced during the Parliamentary nutrition week
- Movement building can be attained through collaborative fundraising. This has helped CEFROHT explore engagements with partners that work on unique focus areas that has informed all-encompassing partnerships.
- There is need to make good use of existing good working relations and MoUs with key MDAs, LGs and CSOs.

## CEfroht Campaigns





## Staff members 2022

CEFROHT had a total of 18 staff members.

NO	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Kabanda David	Executive Director
2.	Ms. Nyapendi Janet M	Programs Coordinator
3.	Ms. Nyadoi Suzan	Finance Officer
4.	Ms. Babirye Moureen	Accountant
5.	Ms. Nankinga Catherine	Operations Manager
6.	Mr. Obbo Geoffrey	Program Manager (Research and Grants)
7.	Mr. Lubega Jonathan	Program Manager (Advocacy and Partnerships)
8.	Ms. Nakijoba Shamia	Program Manager (Community Empowerment)
9	Ms. Anako Rachael	Program Manager (Social Justice and Strategic Litigation)
10	Ms. Nabbaale Tracy	Program officer – Social Justice and Strategic Litigation
11	Mr. Wamala Benjamin	IT & Communications Officer
12	Mr. Masego Shamiru	Program officer – Community Empowerment
13	Ms. Awidi Catherine	Program officer – Community Empowerment
14	Mr. Ssebuuma Dissan	Monitoring and Evaluation officer/Quality Assurance
15	Ms. Namugaya Sylvia	Accounts Assistant
16.	Ms. Nakaddu Mastula	Admin. Assistant
17.	Mr. Mawejje Ronald	Logistics Officer
18.	Mr. Mutyaba Tadeo	Security Officer