

GJK

GLOBAL JUSTICE KENYA

Building Access to Justice

Mid-Year Impact Report
January–July 2026



About Us

JAN—JUL 2026

Global Justice Kenya (GJK) is an independent, women-led organization advancing access to justice for survivors of human trafficking, modern slavery and other gross human rights violations. Through our work at the intersection of labor migration and trafficking in persons, we strengthen access to justice across Kenya and East Africa.

Impact at a Glance

Access to Justice

REPATRIATIONS

5 Migrant workers successfully repatriated.

HIGH IMPACT CASES

2 cases filed on behalf of Migrant Workers before Kenyan courts.

UN COMMUNICATIONS

15 survivor claims filed before the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

62 SWORN DECLARATIONS

To be filed before UN treaty body mechanisms.

70+ RECIPIENT OF LEGAL SUPPORT

Legal advice, documentation, representation and case support.



Survivor Recovery

HEALING GROUPS

10 Albain Institute participants and 12 Trauma Healing Institute participants.

INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY

10 Survivors received individual psychological therapy.



Capacity, Systems & Policy

JAN—JUL 2026

Capacity Building

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF THE JUDICIARY

Training on Trafficking in Persons and Labour Migration justice.

TRAINING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Victims of Trafficking identification and referral pathways.

SPREADING GRASSROOTS AWARENESS

Community awareness programmes delivered.

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

69 stakeholders engaged through a national justice co-design workshop.



“Access to justice is not a single service. It is an ecosystem.”



Systems & Policy Reform

BLUEPRINT FOR A NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Co-designed, with national and international stakeholders, the blueprint for a National Community of Practice on Labour Migration Justice.

PARTICIPATION IN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Ministry of Labour Technical Working Groups.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES SUPPORTED

- Ratification of ILO Conventions No. 189 and No. 190;
- Counter-Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

Research & Partnerships

JAN—JUL 2026

Research & Global Engagement

PRACTICAL LEGAL RESOURCES DEVELOPED

Pathways to Justice Legal Roadmap; Documentation Toolkit; Simplified Guide to Remedies.

COMPARATIVE LEGAL RESEARCH

Ongoing collaboration with Thomson Reuters TrustLaw, including on the domestication and implementation of ILO Conventions No. 189 and No. 190.

INTERNATIONAL POLICY SUBMISSIONS

U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report; UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Trafficking in Persons.



Partnerships

35+ INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

National and international institutional partners engaged in the co-design of the Community of Practice on Labour Migration

ILO COLLABORATION

Concluded Phase 1 of the collaboration with the International Labour Organization, FAIRWAY Programme.

TRUSTLAW LEGAL RESEARCH

Ongoing Thomson Reuters TrustLaw research collaboration.

EXPANDING COLLABORATION

Growing regional collaboration in Africa, and beyond.



How We Create Impact

JAN—JUL 2026

Everything we do contributes to one shared objective: ensuring that victims can access effective remedies, recover with dignity, and benefit from stronger systems of justice.

Access to Justice

Legal representation, documentation, strategic litigation and access to remedies.

Systems & Policy Reform

Practical justice tools, stronger institutions and legislative reform.

Survivor Recovery

Psychosocial support, healing, protection and economic empowerment.

Research & Global Engagement

Evidence-based research and national and international policy engagement.

Capacity Building

Strengthening judges, lawyers, civil society organisations and communities.

Partnerships

Convening institutions and building sustainable alliances to advance justice.



A Milestone Year

The first half of 2026 marked a turning point for Global Justice Kenya. Beyond legal representation and survivor services, we expanded our work to strengthen the systems that make justice possible, transforming individual cases into systemic change through litigation, partnerships, research and policy engagement.

Meaningful access to justice requires more than legal aid. It depends on strong institutions, informed communities, effective laws and sustained collaboration. As we enter the second half of the year, our focus shifts to implementation: expanding services, deepening partnerships, advancing legislative reform and ensuring these systems deliver real improvements for migrant workers and survivors of trafficking and modern slavery.

Pursuing Justice, Supporting Recovery

JAN—JUL 2026

“Every case we document tells us something about the system. Every reform we pursue begins with a survivor’s story.”

For many migrant workers, exploitation does not end when they leave an abusive employer. Returning home often marks the beginning of a difficult journey of recovery, livelihood rebuilding, and justice-seeking. At Global Justice Kenya, we believe survivors deserve more than sympathy—they deserve meaningful access to justice.

During the first half of 2026, we provided survivor-centred legal assistance to more than 70 migrant workers and their families, offering legal advice, case assessments, and representation. Our case management team supported survivors in documenting violations, preserving evidence, identifying appropriate remedies, and connecting them with institutions that could assist.



Survivor-centred case support



Coordinated support and repatriation

Our work spans the entire justice pathway, from administrative and judicial remedies to compensation mechanisms, victim support programmes, international human rights procedures, and, where needed, repatriation assistance. By documenting cases to international evidentiary standards, we strengthen survivors' claims while identifying patterns of abuse that inform advocacy, strategic litigation, and policy reform. Because for us, justice is about restoring dignity, protecting rights, and creating lasting change.

Recovery is part of accountability

Survivors of trafficking and labour exploitation often face lasting psychological, emotional, and social challenges long after they return home.

Throughout these months, we supported 32 survivors through integrated psychosocial services delivered in partnership with specialized organizations. These services provide safe spaces for survivors to process trauma, rebuild confidence, strengthen resilience and reconnect with supportive communities.

Sustainable recovery requires economic independence, so we are also developing a livelihoods program and will share updates later this year.



Psychosocial recovery partnership

Advancing Accountability

JAN—JUL 2026



International legal collaboration

At present, two high-impact cases are progressing before the Kenyan courts. Although arising from individual experiences of exploitation, these proceedings raise broader legal questions concerning accountability, labour migration governance and access to effective remedies. Their outcomes have the potential to clarify important aspects of Kenyan law and contribute to stronger protections for migrant workers in the future.

Working alongside students from the International Human Rights Clinic at the University of San Francisco School of Law, under the supervision of Professor Lindsay Harris, Global Justice Kenya completed 15 individual communications that were filed before the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on behalf of women survivors seeking international remedies.

Our commitment to accountability also extends beyond national borders.

Together, we also prepared 62 sworn declarations in support of additional communications to be submitted to United Nations treaty body mechanisms.



Legal education and collaboration



Institutional engagement



Legal education and collaboration

Shaping Law and Policy

JAN—JUL 2026



“Effective access to justice begins long before a case reaches a courtroom.”

We contributed technical expertise to legislative and policy processes to strengthen protections for migrant workers and trafficking survivors. Our goal is to ensure survivors' experiences shape the laws and policies designed to protect them.

U.S. TIP Report

Drawing on our legal and field experience, we submitted recommendations to the 2026 United States Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report to strengthen access to justice, victim protection, and responses to trafficking and modern slavery.

ILO Conventions 189 & 190

We contributed legal expertise as a member of the Ministry of Labour's Technical Working Group, supporting the public participation process on Kenya's ratification of ILO Conventions No. 189 and No. 190. We also conducted comparative legal research, identifying gaps and good practice in preparation for implementation.

United Nations

GJK contributed to a global consultation led by UN Special Rapporteur Professor Katarina Schwarz, providing recommendations on evidence collection, access to justice, survivor-centred responses, and regional cooperation to strengthen global efforts against trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery.

Counter-Trafficking framework

GJK submitted recommendations during the public participation process on the Counter-Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2025, to align it with international standards.



ILO C189 & C190 public participation



Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act review

Strengthening Institutions

JAN—JUL 2026

“Strong institutions are the foundation of effective protection, accountability, and access to justice.”

Judiciary

In March, GJK delivered specialized training for judges of the Employment and Labour Relations Court (ELRC) on the legal framework governing trafficking in persons and labour migration. The programme covered emerging trafficking trends, cross-border jurisdictional challenges, and the contractual and legal aspects of labour migration to strengthen survivor-centred and rights-based judicial responses.



Judicial Capacity-Building for 17 ELRC Judges

Community Engagements & Capacity Building

Global Justice Kenya strengthened trafficking prevention through community engagement and frontline capacity building. We trained partner civil society organizations to identify trafficking indicators, preserve evidence, strengthen referral and reporting mechanisms, and improve collaboration, enhancing survivors' access to protection, legal assistance, and justice.

We also conducted community awareness programmes on safe labour migration in Baba Dogo and engaged young single mothers on the risks of child trafficking and exploitation, equipping vulnerable communities with the knowledge to identify risks, prevent exploitation, and make informed migration decisions.



Community engagement at Baba Dogo



Capacity building for young mothers

Collaboration as Strategy

JAN—JUL 2026

“Sustainable access to justice cannot be achieved by one organization alone.”

Our work this year has been strengthened by an expanding network of partnerships across Kenya and internationally.

Throughout these seven months, Global Justice Kenya worked alongside government institutions, the International Labour Organization, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the National Employment Authority, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, the Judiciary, the Law Society of Kenya, universities, legal aid clinics, trade unions, survivor-led organizations and international partners committed to advancing labour rights and access to justice.



GJK, ILO and LSK



GJK, ILO, CSOs, survivor advocates and trade unions



GJK & MKU School of Law



GJK & NEA



GJK & FIDA Kenya

Each partnership brings different expertise, perspectives and opportunities for collaboration.

We believe that sustainable change is achieved when institutions work together, share responsibility and remain committed to a common vision of justice.

Join Us in Advancing Justice

JAN—JUL 2026

“Justice begins when survivors are believed—but it only succeeds when institutions are prepared to act.”

How You Can Partner With Us

Governments & International Organizations

Partner with us to strengthen justice systems, legal tools, institutional reform, and protection for migrant workers.

Universities & Research Institutions

Collaborate on research, legal education, and evidence-based policy solutions.

Foundations & Development Partners

Invest in legal aid, survivor recovery, strategic litigation, and policy reform.

Law Firms & Legal Professionals

Support strategic litigation, legal research, and pro bono assistance.

Civil Society & Survivor-Led Organizations

Join our growing Community of Practice to identify victims, strengthen referrals, coordinate legal responses and collectively advance justice for migrant workers.

Our priorities

Expand legal representation and strategic litigation.
Operationalise the Community of Practice.
Strengthen legal aid and institutional capacity.
Expand psychosocial and livelihoods support.
Research, documentation, reform & regional collaboration.



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Thank you.

To every survivor, staff member, volunteer, institution, community leader, donor and partner who invested in justice and believed in our mission.

Together, we are building a future where migration creates opportunity rather than exploitation, and where every migrant worker can access justice when their rights are violated.