



# 2016 East African Litigation Surgery

One year on, has MLDI achieved the longer term outcomes it planned for?



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# Contents

1. Background and rationale.....	2
2. Evaluation questions .....	2
3. Methodology.....	2
4. Limitations .....	2
5. Findings.....	3
6. Conclusions .....	11
7. Recommendations and next steps.....	13

## 1. Background and rationale

In 2016 MLDI delivered its second East African Litigation Surgery (EALS) in Kampala, Uganda between the 8 -11 August 2016. The EALS was a training project which aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of lawyers in East Africa, enabling them to provide legal defence to journalists, bloggers and media outlets. This was to enable them to challenge freedom of expression violations in national and international courts.

12 participants attended the training from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The planned outcome objectives for the project were:

- (1) identify more lawyers able to litigate freedom of expression cases before domestic and/or international forums;
- (2) build long-term working relationships with lawyers undertaking such cases, resulting in, amongst others, the joint litigation of strategic cases; and
- (3) equip the participant lawyers with the necessary skills and knowledge about international human rights mechanisms available to them to pursue freedom of expression cases in East Africa; and the potential litigation strategies that could be adopted before these mechanisms.

## 2. Evaluation questions

This evaluation sought answers to the following questions:

- Have the improvements in knowledge and skills reported immediately after training been retained?
- How have participants applied their learnings from the training?
- How effective was the training in meeting the objectives outlined above?
- What can MLDI do to improve future trainings?

## 3. Methodology

The evaluation was carried out approximately one year after the training in order to consider the long term results of the project. MLDI used three data collection methods to inform this evaluation:

- (1) Data extracted from MLDI's grant request and case management database. This included data on requests and cases handled by trained participants and from the region in general. Data was extracted on 17 November 2017.
- (2) A short survey was sent to all 12 participants which explored their experiences and activities in relation to litigating freedom of expression cases since the training. This survey was open from 25 August 2017 to 11 September 2017. All questions in the survey were optional.
- (3) In depth interviews were carried out either face to face or over the phone with some participants, exploring their experience in more depth.

All data was collected and analysed by MLDI's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Officer.

## 4. Limitations

There were some limitations to the research, mainly in the geographical spread of the participants involved. No participants from Uganda completed the survey or an in-depth interview. Although the Tanzanian participants completed the survey, none of them engaged in an in-depth interview and only one Rwandan lawyer took part in the interviews. This means that the experiences of the Kenyan lawyers were slightly over represented in this study.

The crack down on civil society and freedom of expression in Rwanda not only prevented further engagement beyond the survey from some participants, but it is also likely to have had an effect on the extent to which the lawyers have been able to apply their learnings.

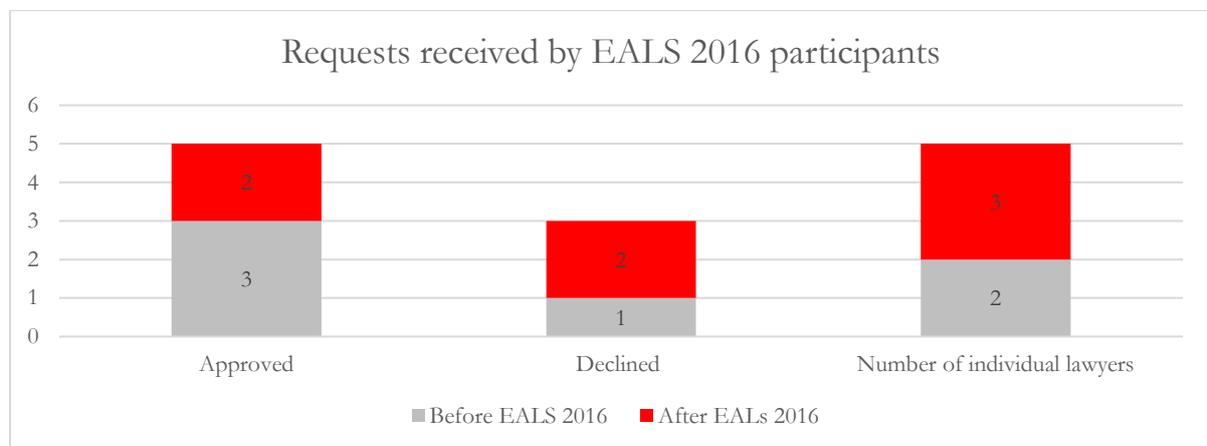
Finally, as research was carried out by MLDI directly, we are unable to remove the risk of bias from participants who might also be receiving or seeking financial support from MLDI.

## 5. Findings

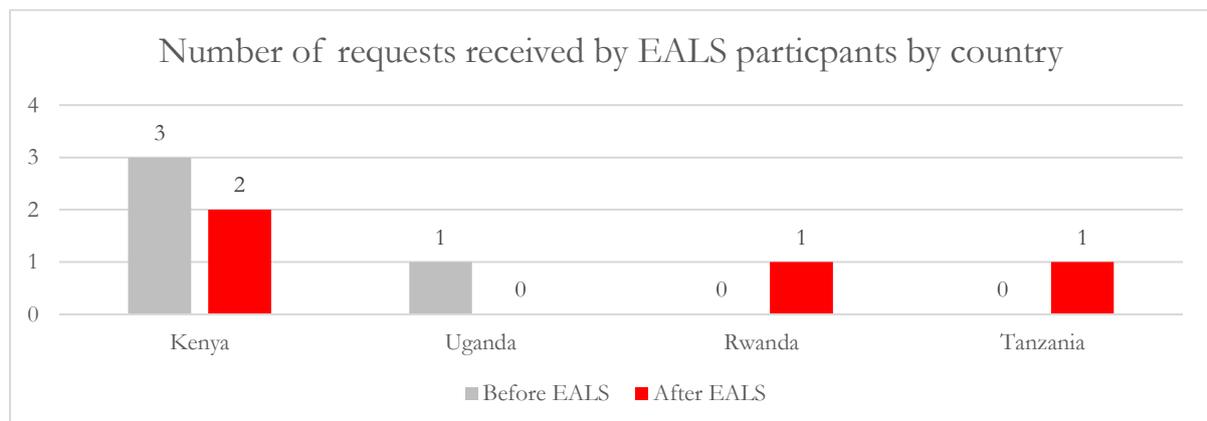
### 5.1 Grants and case database data

MLDI's grants and case database provides data on the number of requests received and cases approved for MLDI's support that have been solicited by the EALS 2016 participants.

The data indicates that there have been eight requests for support from MLDI's legal defence fund from participants trained at the EALS. Four of these requests occurred before the training and four of these occurred after the EALS.



Of the cases approved after the EALS, one was from a lawyer MLDI already had existing cases with, and the other was a new lawyer MLDI had not previously handled cases with. This is also true for the cases declined after the EALS. Out of the three individual lawyers MLDI has received requests from since the training, two were lawyers MLDI had not previously engaged with, one of which was approved and the other declined; these were from participants in Tanzania and Rwanda.



There was no increase in the number of cases MLDI supported in East Africa (Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya) when comparing the 12 month period before and after the 2016 EALS.

It should also be noted that one of the trainees from Uganda works at Human Rights Network Uganda, one of MLDI's partners who receives a 'National Defence Centre' grant to provide legal defence to journalists, and thus would not be submitting additional requests to MLDI outside of this role.

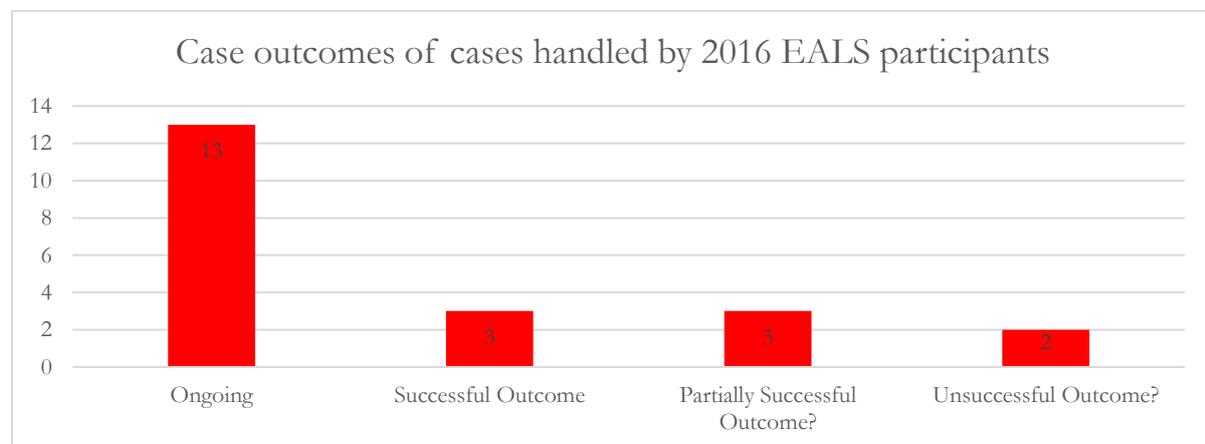
## 5.2 Survey findings

The survey had a 67% response rate, with eight out of the 12 participants responding. Unfortunately no participants from Uganda participated in the survey. Answers to each survey question are summarised below.

Since attending MLDI's litigation surgery in 2016, how many new cases relating to freedom of expression and/or the protection of media freedom have you litigated? And how many of these are: ongoing; have had a successful outcome; partially successful outcome; unsuccessful outcome?

Respondents reported they were litigating a total of 17 cases concerning freedom of expression and protection of the media. This equates to approximately two cases per respondent, with responses ranging between zero and four. When asked for the outcome status of the cases handled, the majority (13) of the cases were still ongoing; three were successful; three were partially successful and two were unsuccessful; this would suggest a 75% success rate (successful or partially successful outcome) of the cases that have come to a close. Unusually, the number of cases counted for in the outcome status equate to more than the number of total cases reported; although these figures provide an indication as to the success rate of the cases handled by participants, they are not statistically accurate.

While carrying out the in-depth interviews with the participants, it became clear that some of the cases counted under this question began before the EALS training, or were carried out in conjunction with other participants. Therefore the total is likely to be less than 17 cases. However where this was the case, participants also stressed that the training had improved how they were handling these older cases.

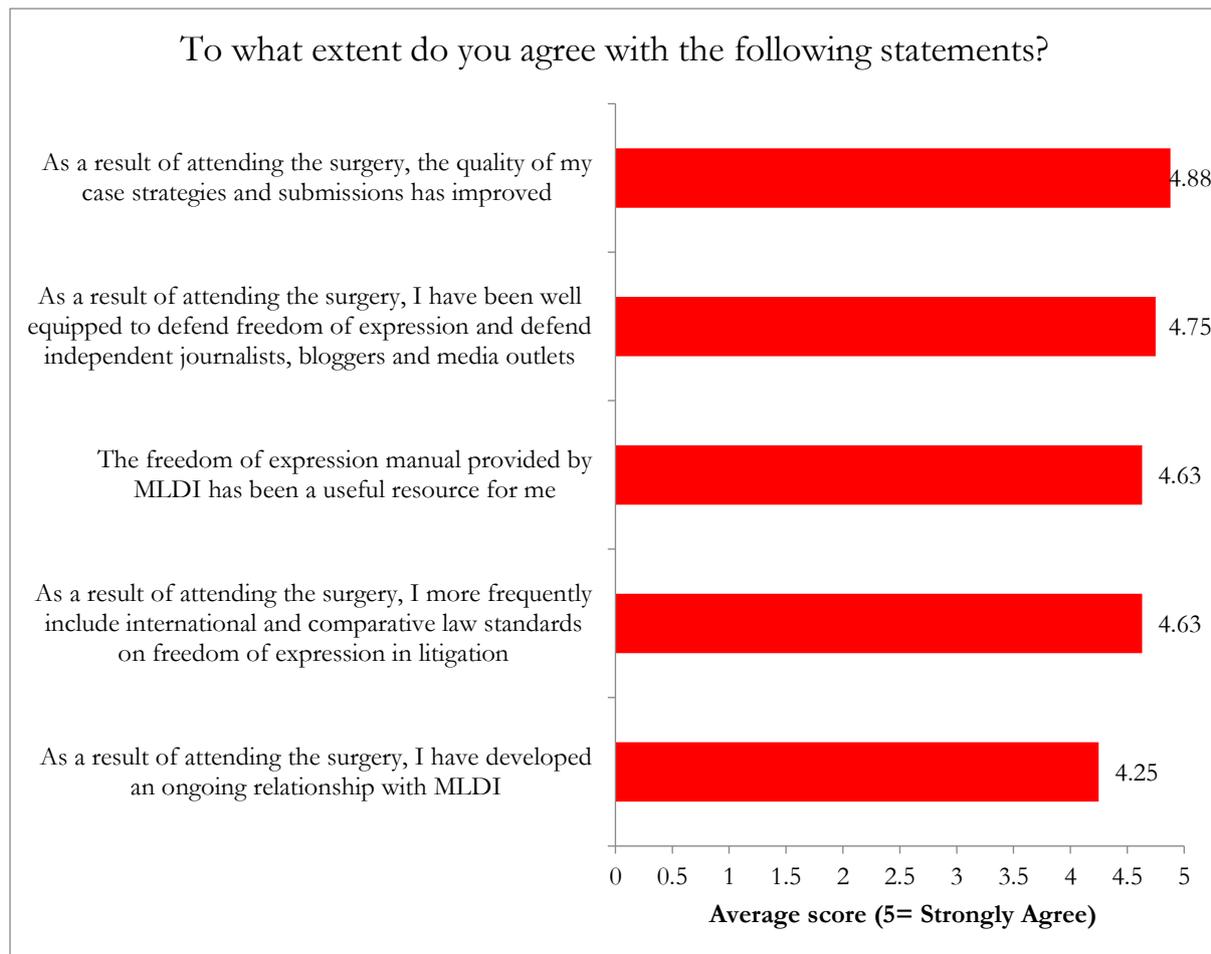


To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Respondents were asked to mark on a scale the extent to which they agree with the following statements which were based on MLDI's training objectives:

- As a result of attending the surgery, I have developed an ongoing relationship with MLDI.
- As a result of attending the surgery, I more frequently include international and comparative law standards on freedom of expression in litigation.
- The freedom of expression manual provided by MLDI has been a useful resource for me.
- As a result of attending the surgery, I have been well equipped to defend freedom of expression and defend independent journalists, bloggers and media outlets.
- As a result of attending the surgery, the quality of my case strategies and submissions has improved.

Respondents could choose from the following options: strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, strongly agree. As detailed in the chart below, respondents largely agreed or strongly agreed with the statements (a score of five indicates strongly agreed and a score of one indicates strongly disagreed). The highest score went to the statement “as a result of attending the surgery, the quality of my case strategies and submissions has improved”, with only one respondent choosing “agree” rather than “strongly agree”. The lowest score was for “As a result of attending the surgery, I have developed an ongoing relationship with MLDI” with only three respondents indicating they strongly agreed with the statement, four agreed and one neither agreed nor disagreed, however the average score was still above four (agree) for all questions.



What changes (if any) have you made to the way you litigate cases on media freedom/freedom of expression, as a result of attending the litigation surgery?

Five respondents gave concise answers to the above question, including:

- “I have learnt how to build strong arguments in defending freedom of expression cases which has changed the way I litigate”.
- “I have been more aware of the defences against libel/defamation and justifications against the same [defamation]”
- “It enhanced my research capacity”
- “It has improved my attention to detail, especially concerning international jurisprudence and case laws”
- “I have made use of the East African Court of Justice”

Have there been any barriers that have prevented you from litigating freedom of expression cases or applying the learnings from the surgery?

Six respondents answered this question, with two indicating there have not been any barriers to applying the learnings from the surgery. One indicated that local courts do not appreciate international comparative law; one indicated the courts and judges have become barriers due to dismissing their cases; and two indicated country specific barriers (Rwanda), citing the heavy repression from the state, high risk involved in taking freedom of expression cases as well as lack of awareness from the media in their country that they are able to support them.

Is there anything else you would like to add about your experiences of the training and/or implementing learnings from the training?

A range of comments were provided from respondents:

“The training has helped me to build confidence in litigating at international courts”

“It was a good opportunity to learn from other jurisdictions and network with journalists and lawyers from East Africa”

“I am now organising an ‘internet and the law’ training in Kenya due to my MLDI experience”

“The training should be more frequent”

“Implementing our experience is not easy because we lack funds to meet those in problems”

“I really liked the method of learning, the interactions between participants and trainers, sharing each other experiences and contexts!! It was for me, a good way of learning”

### **5.3 In depth interviews findings and case studies**

In the survey, respondents had the opportunity to opt-in to a follow up interview to get a better understanding of their experience and their implementation of EALS learnings. Although, all eight survey respondents opted in to the follow up interviews, only four were carried out (three from Kenya and one from Rwanda). The lawyers from Tanzania did not respond to the invitation to carry out the interviews. One lawyer from Kenya was not able to make time for the interview and the other respondent from Rwanda initially accepted the invitation but later decided it might put them at risk. Two of the interviews were carried out face to face and two were carried out over the phone.

The interview findings are presented as short cases studies below:

## Mugambi, Kenya



Mugambi works with bloggers who are often arrested based on what he refers to as ‘flimsy reasons’ intended to harass them into silence, so he felt the MLDI training would support him in this area of his work – and he says he got exactly what he hoped for out of the session.

The training, “has improved my use of comparative jurisprudence and provided me with a lot of useful information”. Mugambi also has a close relationship with the Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE),

with whom he delivers training seminars to bloggers and lawyers. Mugambi feels that the level of training he is now able to provide in Kenya to junior lawyers would not have been possible without having attended the EALS in Uganda.

Mugambi has not taken on many new freedom of expression cases in court as most disputes or issues are able to be resolved quickly due to the flimsiness of the arrests –“it is mostly just attempts to harass them”, adding that the space for freedom of expression has improved recently in Kenya. Mugambi has not taken any cases to regional courts either, explaining that he “has not had the need due to having a progressive constitutional court in Kenya”.

Mugambi has shared the training manual with other lawyers he knows who are working on similar cases and also shared it in a recent training session with junior lawyers in Mombasa. He also uses the manual “constantly” when a freedom of expression issue comes up in his work.

For future trainings he suggests MLDI includes information on issues that are increasingly coming up in the region such as cyberbullying, revenge porn, internet shutdowns, and fake news.

MLDI has since funded BAKE to deliver freedom of expression trainings to junior lawyers. Mugambi developed the training plan and also led the training. Although he had already delivered this sort of training before with BAKE, he feels that this time round, as a result of the increased knowledge and confidence in freedom of expression law and standards, the training will be more impactful as he has included more information and in depth analysis of international and comparative law which he did not provide in previous trainings.

Since attending the training, Mugambi has been supported by MLDI to attend Internet Governance Forum 2016 in Mexico.

Case Study Summary	
<b>Motivation</b>	Actively works with bloggers who are arrested
<b>Application &amp; Key Learning</b>	Providing training to junior lawyers and journalists Improved use of comparative jurisprudence
<b>Barriers</b>	Less need in Kenya to take cases to regional courts
<b>Collaboration with other EALS Participants</b>	None, but has attended IGF with MLDI since the training to meet more lawyers to collaborate with
<b>Recommendations</b>	Inclusion of cyberbullying, fake news, shutdowns and revenge porn

## Louis, Rwanda



Louis heard about the EALS training through social media and signed up because he thought it would be a good way to learn more about freedom of expression and cybercrime issues that he encountered a lot in his former work place, Lawyers for Hope.

**“The training has advanced our knowledge in an area that is lacking in East Africa at a time when these issues are most acute”**

He was grateful for the training which he felt impacted his work by teaching him the fundamentals of freedom of expression and strategic litigation and making him more aware of different aspects of the law and cybercrime legislation. “The training has advanced our knowledge in an area that is lacking in East Africa, and at a time when these issues are most acute” he says, also adding that it was very timely, given the internet shutdowns that happened in the months following the training.

He also felt that the training “upgraded” his knowledge on regional laws and mechanisms, especially on how to present cases at the African Commission and African Court. Unfortunately Rwanda has withdrawn from some regional human rights mechanisms, which has is a major barrier for him taking these kinds of cases.

Most important for him however, was the network of lawyers across East Africa that it created. Since the training, Louis has been working closely with one of the Tanzanian lawyers he met at the training and helped on some of his cases. He has become very active in a Tanzanian media forum, providing legal advice and guidance to journalists on how to deal with harassment, demands to disclose sources and on new cybercrime laws. He thinks this would not have happened if he did not attend the EALS and met the other lawyers there. He also keeps in touch with the other lawyers informally to share tips and advice.

**“Overall the training was great for a young lawyer like me”**

Going forward, Louis mentioned that it would be useful for MLDI to provide more updates on case law and jurisprudence and to build a database they can refer to for freedom of expression matters. Also, he said that having regular webinars or skype conferences between participants would be beneficial to keep the momentum going and to share updates and learning.

He speaks positively about the training manual provided, finding it very informative, specific to his interests and which he often refers to when drafting legal documents for freedom of expression cases that he is collaborating on. “Overall the training was great for a young lawyer like me”.

Case Study Summary	
<b>Motivation</b>	Encountered many freedom of expression and cybercrime related cases at his work place
<b>Application &amp; Key Learning</b>	Improved his knowledge on regional laws and mechanisms Providing advice and support to journalists online
<b>Barriers</b>	Rwanda withdrew from regional mechanisms High risk to take cases
<b>Collaboration with other EALS Participants</b>	Works with one participant from Tanzania on a number of cases
<b>Recommendations</b>	Provide a case law database for freedom of expression cases Follow up webinars or events with other participants

## Eric, Kenya



Eric heard about the training through a senior lawyer at his firm (who also attended the training) and who encouraged him to apply as they thought it could be helpful to his practise.

He felt that the training met his expectations, especially in the area of freedom of expression. He notes that his filings and submissions for the defamation cases he works on have become richer and more persuasive. The training also opened his mind to new issues such as the right to privacy. He began his Masters degree last year, and his enhanced freedom of expression knowledge has enriched his thesis and confidence in arbitration.

### **“It [training manual] is my first point of reference for freedom of expression related cases”**

Eric has not led on any new defamation or freedom of expression cases since the training but he does provide support to colleagues that handle these types of cases at his firm. Since the training he has not been able to take on any new freedom of expression cases, due to the commitment required for his Masters degree, however he intends on approaching his colleagues at Article 19 to embark on some cases in the New Year.

While he has not been able to collaborate with lawyers that he met at the training (outside other attendees at his firm), he has met up with them at conferences in East Africa and follows key updates on the WhatsApp group. He notes the Ugandan participants especially are particularly active, but the Tanzanian lawyers are ‘a little bit quieter.’

Eric also commented that there has not been any real impetus for collaborating on cases with colleagues in Tanzania and Uganda even though he says there are plenty of clients and cases that could be taken. He thinks they all just need to be more proactive to make this happen, but he is confident that the network would be there should they ever need help from them.

Before the training he did not know about MLDI; now he is more aware of the organisation and has been involved in some of their cases that his firm is handling. Eric suggests that follow up trainings organised by MLDI would help to provide more guidance on next steps. It would also be a useful way for lawyers to update each other on freedom of expression related issues.

Case Study Summary	
<b>Motivation</b>	Encouraged by colleagues
<b>Application &amp; Key Learning</b>	More persuasive filings and submissions on defamation cases Enriched his Masters thesis
<b>Barriers</b>	Lack of impetus from group Personal commitments (Masters)
<b>Collaboration with other EALS Participants</b>	None outside of those at his law firm, but has seen them at regional meetings
<b>Recommendations</b>	Follow up trainings/meetings MLDI to facilitate more collaboration between participants

## Christine, Kenya

Christine was motivated to attend the training as it was very common at the time for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and journalists in Kenya to be targeted with arrests and charges that violated their freedom of expression. The NGO she works for received many cases referred from CSO's so she wanted to be able to support these.

### "Because of the training, I know how best to use these arguments"

According to Christine, the training met her expectations and provided her with the knowledge and skills that she needed. She says the legal arguments and case law she learned during the training have been useful in developing arguments in other cases concerning the right to privacy, expression or freedom of assembly. "Because of the training, I know how best to use these arguments". She also finds the manual provided by MLDI to be quite useful and incorporates arguments from it into her work and has also shared it with other lawyers working on freedom of expression cases.

### "I'm sure the learnings will remain relevant for me in my work, considering many of the issues that are coming up at the moment around freedom of expression in the country"

The NGO she works for has not received many new cases concerning the protection of journalists so has not litigated any new cases in this area and has not sought any out, but she has carried on working on some existing cases. "I'm sure the learnings will remain relevant for me in my work, considering many of the issues that are coming up at the moment around freedom of expression in the country".

Christine also appreciates the network of journalists that the training provided and while she admits she has not been able to collaborate with lawyers outside of her organization, she is still part of the WhatsApp network and follows developments on freedom of expression in East Africa.

Case Study Summary	
<b>Motivation</b>	Works with many CSO's on freedom of expression related cases
<b>Application &amp; Key Learning</b>	Better use of freedom of expression arguments in freedom of expression, privacy and freedom of assembly cases
<b>Barriers</b>	Firm hasn't taken on many new freedom of expression cases
<b>Collaboration with other EALS Participants</b>	None outside of those working at her firm
<b>Recommendations</b>	None

## 5.4 Case Studies Analysis

In analysing the case studies and in-depth interview data we can see some consistencies as well as some variations across the case studies as detailed below.

Consistencies:

- **All interviewees indicated they had a demonstrable need for training and knowledge on freedom of expression cases** - with their expectations being fully met. This suggests that MLDI's recruitment and selection process was successful in advertising and selecting participants which were likely to benefit from and apply the training.
- **All interviews reported specific (but different) ways in which their legal work has improved as a result of the training** - for example, more persuasive submissions, better use of comparative jurisprudence, knowing how best to use freedom of expression arguments as well as increasing awareness and knowledge of regional laws and courts.

- **The training manual is consistently referred to as a valuable and useful resource by all interviewees** - engaging with it for all freedom of expression related work they carry out and sharing it with others.
- **There is some indication that the EALS training could be producing a sort of ‘snowball effect’ in regards to upskilling local lawyers** - with all interviewees sharing the training manual with other lawyers in their network working on similar issues. One interviewee provided more in depth analysis of international and comparative case law on freedom of expression in their trainings to lawyers.

Variations:

- **There has been variation in the extent to which trained lawyers have collaborated with each other** – the Rwandan interviewee’s collaboration with the Tanzanian participants and providing advice to journalists in the East African region online was largely attributed to the EALS training. Other participants seemed to express less impetus to collaborate with the other participants outside of the lawyers that were already part of their network.
- **For some, the training has influenced other areas of their work** - such as training of journalists on freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and right to privacy.

## 6. Conclusions

### 6.1 Have the improvements in knowledge and skills reported immediately after training been retained?

The data collected as part of this evaluation suggests that the improved knowledge and skills gained at the training in the areas of litigating freedom of expression and media cases has indeed been retained by those who participated in the follow up evaluation and are being applied in a different way.

The survey data indicates a consistent response that suggests participants are using more comparative and international law in their freedom of expression cases; improved their case strategies and submissions and feel equipped to handle freedom of expression cases, which is attributed to their attendance at the EALS. This is confirmed in the in-depth interviews, all of which cited specific details of how it has improved their knowledge and skills in freedom of expression work such as using more comparative jurisprudence, more persuasive arguments in filings, increased knowledge of interacting with regional mechanisms as well as remaining relevant for their privacy and freedom of assembly work.

MLDI’s training manual also stand out as a strong influencing factor in maintaining and improving knowledge and skills. It is regarded as an ongoing useful resource in the survey but also cited as a go-to resource any time the trained lawyers work on freedom of expression cases. Some also cited sharing this resource with other lawyers which may indicate that the participants value the quality and applicability of the resource.

### 6.2 How have participants applied their learnings from the training?

The survey findings largely suggest that the participants have applied their training learnings to their existing areas of work, including freedom of expression, privacy, freedom of assembly and research, and have enhanced their practise as discussed in section 6.1. The survey data also suggests that all respondents continued to support freedom of expression related cases, with 17 cases reported. It remains unclear how many new cases were taken on after the training as well as how many were providing direct legal representation in court as opposed to other legal actions e.g. advice.

It is a positive indication that the respondents are still engaged and active in the areas of freedom of expression and the protection of journalists, and the training has remained relevant and is being applied by all that responded. This continues to be true for participants who are operating in countries such as Rwanda where there is a high risk attached to engaging in this type of work. This arguably indicates

MLDI's success in recruiting 'the right' participants that would actually use the training as well as a success in the quality of the training itself.

It is also interesting to consider the range of activities that were mentioned in the survey and in-depth interviews that the skills and knowledge from the training have been applied to – this included:

- Legal representation at national and regional courts
- Training junior lawyers on freedom of expression
- Research
- Providing advice and support to journalists

The Rwandan lawyer interviewed as part of the research is an interesting example of how participants may overcome country specific barriers by engaging with media and journalists in other countries in the region.

### **6.3 How effective was the training in achieving the planned outcome objectives?**

*Identify more lawyers able to litigate freedom of expression cases before domestic and/or international forums*

Due to maintained engagement from the trained lawyers and continued application of freedom of expression law as discussed in 6.1 and 6.2, there is evidence to suggest that MLDI has been successful in identifying more lawyers to litigate freedom of expression cases before domestic and/or international courts, and those that were trained do feel more 'able' to do so.

The context of the different countries has impacted the amount of strategic litigation carried out at regional courts i.e. in Rwanda this is no longer possible due to withdrawal from these mechanisms, and in Kenya there is less demand due to progressive constitutional courts. The extent to which the 'ability' to litigate before domestic and international courts has led to actual litigation remains to be seen.

*Build longer-term working relationships with lawyers undertaking such cases, resulting in, amongst others, the joint litigation of strategic cases;*

The number of requests MLDI has handled by the trained lawyers would suggest that the training has had little impact on the number of cases MLDI has supported. This indicates that there is little evidence that it has resulted in the joint litigation of strategic cases. The survey did indicate that most participants felt they had developed an ongoing relationship with MLDI as a result of the training, with many displaying a keenness to continue their relationship with MLDI. However without leading to more cases it is difficult to say what this really means in practise for MLDI's relationship with the participants.

One of the case studies (Mugambi, Kenya) does indicate a very positive example of the potential relationship building the EALS training can have. Mugambi has since been sponsored to attend digital rights conferences by MLDI and also delivered training to junior lawyers with the Bloggers Association of Kenya under a project funded by MLDI.

There is also little evidence to suggest the lawyers are carrying out joint litigation of strategic cases between each other. Although most interviews mentioned the EALS Whatsapp group was available to them and that they engaged with the group, many indicated they had not collaborated with other lawyers at the training on a practical level (with the exception of the interviewee from Rwanda who now has an ongoing relationship with one of the Tanzanian participants).

*Equip the participant lawyers with the necessary skills and knowledge regarding the international human rights mechanisms available for pursuing freedom of expression cases in East Africa, and the potential litigation strategies that could be adopted before these mechanisms.*

Both the survey and the in-depth interviews suggest that the participants have been well equipped with the skills and knowledge regarding international human rights mechanisms in East Africa, yet there is little evidence to conclude the extent to which they are actually being pursued.

The majority of respondents agreed strongly with the statement ‘As a result of attending the surgery, I more frequently include international and comparative law standards on freedom of expression in litigation’. One response from the open-ended question ‘What changes (if any) have you made to the way you litigate cases on media freedom/freedom of expression, as a result of attending the litigation surgery?’ indicated they had made more use of the East Africa Court of Justice and one of the participants interviewed also explicitly mentioned that the training had “upgraded” his knowledge on regional laws, especially on how to present cases at the African Commission and African Court.

The positive reviews and ongoing use of the training manuals which contain information and guidance on accessing regional mechanisms are also a promising indication that MLDI will have equipped the trained lawyers with the necessary skills and knowledge.

The evidence to suggest that MLDI has been successful in achieving this objective is promising, but not conclusive. There are some concrete examples of participants making more use and having a better understanding of the regional mechanisms available to them, as well as improved inclusion of international standards in their litigation strategies, however the impact of this remains somewhat unknown.

#### **6.4 What can MLDI do to improve future trainings?**

It can be argued the training was generally successful, with respondents indicating that their expectations had been fully met. Some participants recommended specific suggestions that would improve the training such as including more digital related issues (cyberbullying, shutdown etc.); and providing a database of case law and key updates as resources for the trained lawyers.

Based on feedback in the survey and interviews, many commented that there should be more updates, more communication or facilitation from MLDI after the training or more support following the training provided from MLDI. This ongoing support or coordination would likely increase MLDI’s main objectives for the training by improving their relationship with MLDI, creating more of a network between the lawyers and helping to provide some of the impetus to engage in joint strategic litigation and ultimately taking on more freedom of expression cases, possibly at regional courts.

## **7. Recommendations and next steps**

Based on this evaluation, MLDI should consider pursuing the following:

- MLDI may want to consider how it recruited the 2016 EALS participants and repeat these strategies for future trainings. However it also became clear that three of the lawyers trained were from the same law firm, which has impacted the extent to which the lawyers from this firm have been apply learnings and actually litigate on freedom of expression cases – MLDI should consider if this could be a potential barrier for applying learnings.
- The training manual stands out as a key success for this project – this may be something MLDI could build upon for future training, roll out further and adapt for other regions.
- The most important factor for MLDI to consider is how to continue to maximise on the impact of future trainings by ensuring it maintains communications with participants and how it can ensure the network created and the newly energised participants take practical steps to provide

legal defence to journalists and media, collaborate and make use of regional human rights mechanisms.

- MLDI should consider how it can improve engagement in its evaluation activities, considering there were no survey responses from the Ugandan participants and no in-depth interviews from Tanzanian participants.
- MLDI may also want to consider carrying out further research and/or reviewing how best to collect data on the number of cases litigated by participants and their outcomes.