



Global
Standards
Local
Experience



**NGO, NON-PROFIT &
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
PRACTICE PROFILE**

WHO WE ARE

We Are African.

We believe in the African People, Markets and Solutions.

We are Focused on Impact and Africa-Driven Solutions.

TASLAF Advocates is a premier Ugandan law firm specializing in providing top-tier legal and advisory services designed to meet the distinct needs of NGOs, non-profits, and social enterprises, ensuring compliance, sustainability, and impact-driven success. Our team consists of highly specialized, forward-thinking legal and tax professionals who integrate global best practices with deep-rooted local insights to deliver exceptional solutions.

With a commitment to impact-driven solutions, we support organizations that seek to make a difference, helping them navigate complex regulatory landscapes while maximizing their social and financial impact. Our firm has successfully advised leading international NGOs, philanthropies, social enterprises, and impact investors across East Africa.

OUR EXPERTISE & SERVICE OFFERINGS

Strategic Legal Support for NGOs & Social Enterprises

TASLAF Advocates has built one of the most distinguished non-profit legal practices in East Africa. We understand the complexities of regulatory frameworks, compliance requirements, and the unique operational challenges that NGOs and social enterprises face. Our expertise spans across multiple practice areas, including corporate governance, regulatory compliance, tax advisory, employment law, and impact investment structuring.

We have strong working relationships with key regulatory authorities, including:

National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO Bureau)

Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB)

Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (DCIC)

Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO)

Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA)

Our multi-disciplinary approach ensures our clients receive comprehensive, strategic, and practical solutions that align with their missions.

1



NGO Formation & Legal Structuring

- Registration of Indigenous, International, Foreign, Continental, Regional NGOs & Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Advising on the most tax-efficient structures, including Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)
- Formation of non-profit corporations, charitable trusts, and social enterprises
- Registration of NGO branches and local entities
- Drafting governance policies, bylaws, and operational guidelines
- Legal support on fiduciary duties, ethical obligations, and best practices

3



Tax Advisory Services

- Advising NGOs and social enterprises on tax exemptions, incentives, and obligations under Ugandan law.
- Structuring tax-efficient special-purpose vehicles (SPVs) for impact-driven initiatives.
- Representing organizations in tax disputes, audits, and negotiations with the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).
- Advising on VAT, PAYE, and Withholding Tax compliance for NGOs and non-profits.
- Guidance on international tax considerations for cross-border grants and donations.

2



Compliance & Regulatory Advisory

- Filing NGO annual returns and renewal of permits
- Securing letters of good standing and bank recommendations
- Conducting regulatory audits and due diligence
- Policy development and advocacy for legal and regulatory reforms

4



Immigration & Work Permit Services

- Obtaining immigration codes for NGOs and social enterprises
- Securing entry permits (Class G1 & G2 work permits for foreign expatriates)
- Processing special passes, student passes, and dependent passes
- Citizenship applications, dual citizenship, and residence certificates

5



Data Protection & Privacy Compliance

- Registering organizations as data controllers, processors, or collectors
- Annual renewal of PDPO compliance certificates
- Developing and reviewing data protection and privacy policies
- Conducting staff training on data protection best practices

7



NGO Governance & Restructuring

- Conducting spin-offs of non-profit commercial enterprises
- Embedding social impact missions into corporate governance structures
- Structuring and financing non-profit restructurings
- Advising on dissolution processes, asset transfers, and regulatory filings
- Negotiating and drafting restructuring agreements

6



Anti-Money Laundering (AML) & Financial Compliance

- Registration of accountable persons with the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA)
- Filing annual AML compliance reports
- Developing and reviewing anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing policies
- Conducting organizational AML compliance training

8



Advisory on For-Profit & Non-Profit Collaborations

- Structuring legal relationships between for-profits and non-profits, including:
 - * Corporate foundations & giving programs
 - * Sponsorships of charitable activities
 - * Joint ventures between businesses & NGOs
 - * Philanthropic venture capital advisory
 - * Socially responsible investments

9



Employment & Human Resource Advisory

- Drafting employment contracts and workplace policies
- Advising on labor laws, employee benefits, and dispute resolution
- Structuring equitable compensation packages for NGO staff

11



Policy Advocacy & Thought Leadership

- Engaging with regulators to shape legal frameworks
- Advocacy for progressive policies supporting social enterprises and NGOs
- Knowledge partnerships and mentorship programs

10



Training & Capacity Building

- Board governance and fiduciary responsibility training
- Training for social entrepreneurs and impact-driven organizations
- Legal training for accelerator programs and social impact fund beneficiaries



OUR EXPERIENCE & WORK HIGHLIGHTS

TASLAF Advocates has had the privilege of working with leading NGOs and non-profits across various sectors. Some of our notable engagements include:

Policy Advocacy & Public Sector Development

- Acting as Legal Advisor for a Grant Thornton-led Consortium contracted by the World Bank Group and the government of Uganda (Ministry of Finance) to; assess the legal and institutional framework for Public Private Partnerships (PPP) originating at the Local Government level in Uganda, develop Local Government specific (PPP) guidelines, facilitate PPP consultation workshops with key government stakeholders and enhance the skills of local governments in regards to PPPs.
- Conducting an in-depth assessment in collaboration with BDO FMA for the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, evaluating the framework for strengthening fiscal sponsor networks to support Uganda's civil society. Our assessment provided a comprehensive analysis of the applicability and effectiveness of existing fiscal sponsorship networks in Uganda, identifying key challenges, gaps, risks, and opportunities for improvement. The findings aimed to enhance funding mechanisms and operational support structures for non-profits and civil society organizations across Uganda.
- Acting for Mercy Corps International in conducting a legal assessment and regulatory feasibility study for a humanitarian energy-focused financing facility in Uganda. Our role involved a preliminary legal analysis, a comprehensive review of the existing regulatory framework, and stakeholder engagement to assess the feasibility of the proposed facility. We successfully presented our findings at a stakeholder workshop before compiling and delivering a detailed final report outlining regulatory considerations and compliance pathways.
- Served as Legal Advisor for USAID/GAPP on a Technical Advisory Project focused on structuring the Northern Uganda Regional Development Forum (NURDEF). This project included gathering input from over 21 districts across Northern Uganda, drafting a constitution, and ensuring its validation by key participants, including government bodies. Additionally, TASLAF played a pivotal role in the creation and development of the NURDEF Development Strategy for 2020/21-2034/35.
- Karamoja Regional Development Initiative (KRDI): Legal Advisor to USAID/QED on the formulation of governance documents for the Karamoja Regional Development Forum.
- South-Western Regional Development Forum (SWRDF): Legal Advisor on the formation and legal registration of the entity.

Structuring and Regulatory compliance support

- Providing regulatory compliance advisory and support services to leading NGOs and non-profits in Uganda; including but not limited to NGO registration, filing NGO Annual Returns, renewal of NGO permits of operation, compliance with the personal data protection office (PDPO), compliance with the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) and immigration support. Some of the NGOs and non-profits we support/have supported include: Mercy Corps, SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Church World Service (CWS), Village Enterprise Fund, American Bar Association (ABA), Human Trafficking Institute (HTI), Jhpiego, Johanniter Unfall Hilfe, International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Swiss Church Aid (Heks/eper), Agency for Cooperation in Research and Development (ACORD), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), AVSI Foundation, OneWorld Health (OWH), Imprint Hope, Medical Teams International, Forgotten Children World Wide, Grameen Foundation, War Child-Holland, Chapter Four Uganda, Human Rights Network, Handicap International, among others.
- Providing a detailed legal opinion to SNV Netherlands Development Organization on its corporate structure and ongoing compliance with key regulatory bodies, including the NGO Bureau and URSB. SNV is a global development organization working across Africa and Asia to transform agri-food, energy, and water systems.

- Providing legal advisory services to CivSource-Africa, one of the leading philanthropy organisations in Africa, on the establishment of its fund, CivFund - a non-profit registered in Uganda to implement some of its strategies. Led governance advisory on board setup, donor relations, and ongoing compliance, ensuring effective management and strategic implementation of CivFund's social justice funds through grant-making, special initiatives, and fiscal hosting.
- Assisting Every Shelter Inc. in setting up its operations in Uganda as an International Non-Governmental Organization. Every Shelter Inc., headquartered in the USA, designs shelter solutions for refugees and displaced families. The organization operates in over 44 refugee settlements globally, including Uganda, where it runs shelter depots in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement and Nakivale.
- Supporting OneWorld Health (OWH) with the review of its NGO type from a foreign NGO to an International NGO in Uganda. OWH builds facilities that provide a full scope of medical services that are designed to be affordable and accessible. The Organization has established over 9 medical centres in Uganda, and has to date, provided care and treated more than 800,000 patients in Uganda, Nicaragua, and Honduras.
- Advising the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) on restructuring its governance framework following its transition from an INGO to a local entity. Drafting a new Board Charter aligned with the revised structure and overseeing the review and redrafting of the ACORD Constitution and transition policies.
- Reviewing the registration status of Urban Refugees (UR) as an International Organisation and providing support and guidance on all the administrative processes required by UR as an INGO. Reviewing and advising on all the UR Organisational Policies
- Conducting a review of the data protection and privacy policy, Information Technology policy, and safeguarding policy for Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC), a regional technical assistance and learning partner for development agencies.
- Developing a comprehensive gender policy and a data protection and privacy policy for African Humanitarian Action (AHA), an international NGO that has supported over 25 million people in 20 African countries through humanitarian relief, recovery, and advocacy.
- Providing legal and compliance support to leading INGOs working to support, protect and empower refugees in Uganda such as Village Enterprise, Refugee Rising and AVSI Foundation, in permit renewals and regulatory compliance with the NGO Bureau and URSB.
- Assisting Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, with renewing its NGO permit and ensuring continued compliance with Uganda's NGO Bureau regulations. Jhpiego specializes in transformative healthcare solutions to improve maternal and child health.
- Assisting in the registration of the Uganda Biodiversity Fund (UBTF) as a charitable trust, a conservation grant-making fund addressing Uganda's biodiversity resource funding gaps.
- Advised Millennium Promise Alliance Inc. on its corporate restructuring and the Millennium Villages Project in Uganda. Assisted in registering the organization as a not-for-profit entity and securing the necessary permits for its operations in Uganda.
- Obtaining and renewing visas, passes and work permits for foreign expatriate workers, volunteers and their dependents for some of the various NGOs we serve.
- Advising several International and Local NGOs on employment and staff-related matters.
- Advising, drafting, and reviewing human resource manuals and employment agreements and contracts for several international and local non-profits.

Social Enterprise support and Social Impact

- Advised Tulima Solar, an Energy Service Provider supported by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) and the Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa (BGFA), which is a EUR 126.3 million multi-donor programme aiming to bring clean and affordable energy access to over 6.5 million underserved people in Sub-Saharan African rural and peri-urban areas by 2028. Provided legal support in developing a data protection policy and registering with the Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO). Tulima Solar, a social impact business, has been delivering customized irrigation systems and essential services to farmers since 2019, promoting resilience against erratic rainfall and rising fuel prices.
- Provided corporate governance support to the Blockchain Association of Uganda (BAU), a company limited by guarantee dedicated to advancing blockchain technology in Uganda and the East African region. Assisted in strengthening governance structures by developing a comprehensive governance and operational manual to enhance best practices. BAU serves as a key platform for individuals and organizations advocating for blockchain adoption, ensuring policymakers, regulators, enterprises, and tech-focused startups have access to essential resources.
- Advised Water for People Uganda, a leading NGO, on its pilot project to strengthen Faecal Sludge Management Services in Uganda. Supported the formation, registration, and licensing of 12 pit-emptying social enterprises in Kole Town, Pallisa Town, and Nansana Municipality. Additionally, developed sanitation by-laws for Pallisa Town Council and facilitated capacity-building sessions for the town council's technical team, guiding them through the drafting process for eventual district council approval.
- Advising Yunus Social Business Foundation (YSBF) Uganda on the registration of its USD 20 million fund with the Capital Markets Authority of Uganda to support social businesses. Additionally, facilitating the legal structuring and operationalization of debt facilities totaling up to USD 1 million, extended to approximately 10 social businesses. YSBF is a subsidiary of Yunus Social Business, a nonprofit venture fund founded by Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus in 2011 to provide patient capital and long-term business support to high-impact social enterprises.
- Advising SIDI, a French social enterprise, on the setup of its investment fund and commencement of financing activities in Uganda
- Co-ordinated and executed structured training and workshops on the legal and regulatory landscape for Small and Growing Businesses (SGBs) in Uganda in partnership with organisations such as; GIZ, Open Capital Advisors (OCA), Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE), Oxfam International, Capital Solutions Limited, Challenges Uganda, The Innovation Village Uganda, among others.
- Co-ordinated the provision of legal advisory and tax support on a continuous basis to over 100,000 startups as part of a partnership with The Innovation Village.
- Advised and trained over 100 Women led social enterprises supported by Capital Solutions on their legal and tax compliance requirements.
- Trained over 50 Small and Medium Enterprises in partnership with GIZ - Creating Perspectives Business for Development (East Africa) focused on addressing standard internal and external legal and tax challenges for Ugandan SMEs in the manufacturing sector.
- Co-ordinated and acted for six (6) export-oriented companies for 6 months in relation to Trade and Export Readiness with regards the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) funded by GIZ Uganda.
- Advising and training over 31 Small and Medium Enterprises supported by Challenges Group on their legal and tax compliance requirements. Provided legal and tax support trainings to various social enterprises on a pro bono basis in partnership with major incubators in Uganda.

KEY CONTACTS



STEPHEN TUMWESIGYE MANAGING PARTNER

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Stephen is a distinguished legal advisor specializing in the non-profit, social enterprise, and impact finance sectors. As a founding partner at TASLAF Advocates and the head of the firm's NGO, Non-Profit, and Impact Finance Department, he provides strategic legal counsel to a broad spectrum of local and international organizations, including NGOs, social enterprises, impact finance funds, international foundations, large non-profit organizations, civil society organizations, charities, and philanthropic entities.

A pioneer in non-profit and social impact law, Stephen possesses deep expertise in the regulatory, governance, and policy landscape shaping the NGO and social enterprise sectors in Uganda and across East Africa. Under his leadership, TASLAF provides

cutting-edge legal solutions, advising clients on compliance, governance restructuring, transactional matters, cross-sector partnerships, and policy advocacy. His work has been instrumental in shaping legal frameworks that enable social enterprises to thrive while ensuring their alignment with both regulatory compliance and impact-driven objectives.

In addition to his advisory role, Stephen is a leading proponent of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and has successfully represented both local and multinational clients in resolving complex disputes in areas such as employment, taxation, immigration, and public law. His ability to navigate multi-jurisdictional legal environments has made him a trusted legal partner for organizations operating in Uganda and beyond.





KEVIN AYEBARE
ASSOCIATE PARTNER

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Kevin Ayebare is an Associate Partner at TASLAF Advocates, heading the firm's Employment & Labour Law Practice as well as the Litigation, Arbitration, and Dispute Resolution Department.

He is a seasoned employment law expert, having advised and represented leading multinational corporations, international NGOs, and private sector organizations on a wide range of employment matters, including contract structuring, workplace policies, compliance, dispute resolution, collective terminations, and governance advisory. His clients include Medical Teams International, African Hu-

manitarian Action, Mercy Corps, and Spouts of Water, among others.

Kevin has successfully litigated, mediated, and arbitrated major employment cases, ensuring favorable outcomes for his clients. Beyond employment law, Kevin is an experienced litigator and dispute resolution specialist, handling commercial, corporate, and tax-related disputes. His expertise extends to corporate governance, where he advises boards on regulatory frameworks and organizational structures.





RUTH NANJOBÉ
SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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Ruth is a Senior Associate at TASLAF Advocates, specializing in Corporate Finance, Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity, and Legal & Regulatory Compliance for both NGOs and companies. Her practice also encompasses Immigration Law, Pro Bono Services, and General Corporate Advisory, making her a well-rounded legal professional with a strong focus on regulatory and transactional matters.

With extensive experience advising a diverse client base, ranging from local startups to multinational corporations. Ruth provides strategic legal counsel on corporate governance, regulatory compliance, immigration law, and nonprofit sector obligations.

She is particularly skilled in anti-money laundering (AML) compliance, data protection, and corporate structuring, ensuring that clients operate within the legal and regulatory frameworks of their respective industries.

In the corporate finance space, Ruth plays a key role in structuring and facilitating transactions, including mergers & acquisitions, private equity deals, and debt and equity financing. Her expertise ensures that transactions are executed seamlessly, mitigating risks and aligning with compliance requirements.





ALISON NAKIGOZI MUGULUMA LEGAL ASSOCIATE

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Alison Muguluma is a Legal Associate at TASLAF Advocates. She specialises in Legal and Regulatory Compliance for NGO's and Companies, Immigration, Employment, Pro Bono practice and general Corporate Advisory. Alison has gained comprehensive experience working with diverse clients, ranging from local start-ups to large multinational corporations.

Committed to legal excellence and impactful advisory, Alison is dedicated to helping businesses, NGOs, and social enterprises navigate complex legal landscapes while fostering sustainable growth and compliance.



SAMALIE LIZ NAKASIGA LEGAL ASSOCIATE

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Liz is a Legal Associate at TASLAF Advocates, specialising in legal and regulatory compliance, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and private equity.

She advises multinational organisations, social enterprises, development partners, and investment funds on navigating Uganda's legal and regulatory landscape, with a strong focus on market entry, corporate structuring, and regulatory engagement with government authorities. Her experience spans NGO and non-profit regulation, company compliance obligations, licensing and permits, data protection and privacy, immigration, deregistration processes, and ongoing statutory filings, supporting organisations to establish and maintain compliant and sustainable operations.

In addition, Liz is actively engaged in corporate finance and impact investment transactions, including legal due diligence, equity and financing transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and fund structuring for impact-driven and private investors operating in Uganda.

Liz also plays an active role in the firm's SME Legal Facility, an initiative dedicated to strengthening small and growing enterprises through tailored legal advisory and capacity-building support. Through this platform, she works with founders and emerging businesses to formalise operations, enhance governance and compliance structures, improve investor readiness, and position themselves competitively within regulated and rapidly evolving markets.

WHY TASLAF ADVOCATES?

1. Unparalleled Expertise

Our team brings together legal, tax, and financial specialists with vast experience advising NGOs, non-profits, and social enterprises.

2. Local Knowledge, Global Standards

We combine a deep understanding of Uganda's legal landscape with internationally recognized best practices to provide world-class legal solutions.

3. Impact-Driven Approach

We are passionate about supporting mission-driven organizations. Our approach ensures that legal solutions are aligned with the impact goals of our clients.

4. Strong Networks & Regulatory Relationships

Our established working relationships with key government agencies enable us to provide timely, efficient, and compliant solutions for our clients.

5. Comprehensive & Tailored Solutions

From registration to governance, compliance, and restructuring, our holistic service offering ensures that NGOs and social enterprises can focus on their mission while we handle the legal complexities.





About TASLAF Advocates

TASLAF Advocates provides blended legal and tax services to the most impactful entities operating in Uganda & East Africa. We are driven by a desire to create social impact and harness the interconnectedness of the African eco-system in our provision of blended legal & tax services. Our clients include leading private equity/impact funds, construction and oil & gas companies, tech companies, leading non-profits/NGO's and social enterprises looking to set up or expand in Uganda and East Africa.

Our team combines a breadth of experience, education, and training in the best institutions in the world. We are always on the lookout for the most talented and ambitious professionals to join the team. With a mix of lawyers and accountants across the board, our service offerings are unequaled in both tax & legal assignments.

Our pro-bono arm provides free legal services to leading SME's and social enterprises in Uganda helping them to save legal fees and create impact in their areas of operation.

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