



**MAPENZI YA DUNIA
FOUNDATION**

"Restoring Hope"

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF PRISONERS' FAMILIES IN THE KAMPALA, WAKISO & MUKONO DISTRICTS

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About Mapenzi Ya Dunia Foundation

Mapenzi Ya Dunia Foundation (MYDF) is a non-governmental organisation registered under the laws of the republic of Uganda and domiciled in Seguku, Wakiso district. The organisation aims to enhance the welfare of prisoner's families through direct and indirect interventions in the areas of Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts of Uganda. The organization's programs are aimed at promoting:

- Primary Health Care;
- Maternal, Neonatal and child health,
- Rehabilitation and resettlement support, and;
- Mental health care and psychosocial support.

MYDF activities include:

- Provision of education support to children of prisoners;
- Counselling and career guidance for children of prisoners;
- Provision of health and medical support to prisoners' families;
- Provision of mental health and psycho social support to prisoners' families;
- Provision of resettlement and rehabilitation support to prisoners' families;

Mapenzi Ya Dunia Foundation was founded in 2020 during the COVID-19 lock down by Ms. Christine Namitala Balaale after personally encountering numerous cases of prisoners' families struggling with issues of daily sustenance and nutrition, mental health challenges, social alienation and stigma, primary health care challenges and maternal and child health, among others. The organisation was founded to provide direct and indirect interventions that address these needs.

Executive Summary

This needs assessment investigates the welfare challenges faced by the families of prisoners in Uganda, examining their psychosocial, financial, legal, and social needs. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the support required by these families to alleviate the hardships caused by the incarceration of a loved one. Data collection for the needs component was carried out using qualitative methods from 19 to 29 November 2024 in 8 prisons facilities in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono areas.

Key Findings:

Psychosocial and Emotional Strain:

Families of prisoners experience high levels of emotional distress, including anxiety, depression, grief, and trauma. The stigma associated with having a family member in prison leads to social isolation and feelings of shame, particularly among spouses and children.

Children of prisoners suffer from emotional and psychological challenges, including bullying, stigma, and academic struggles.

Financial Hardship:

The imprisonment of a family member often leads to a significant loss of income, particularly if the prisoner was the primary breadwinner. Many families struggle with poverty, and the additional costs of prison visits, legal fees, and communication with the prisoner exacerbate financial strain.

Women, in particular, bear the brunt of these economic challenges as they often become the sole caregivers for children and elderly relatives.

Limited Access to Legal Support:

Families of prisoners face challenges navigating the legal system, with many unable to afford legal representation or access information about their loved ones' cases. This leads to uncertainty about legal proceedings, delays, and limited opportunities for appeal or sentence reduction.

Social Isolation and Stigma:

Families often face exclusion from their communities due to the social stigma of having an incarcerated family member. This isolation contributes to increased mental health problems, reduced access to social services, and a lack of support networks.

The stigma is particularly damaging for children, who may face bullying or discrimination in school.

Lack of Support Services:

There is a shortage of formal support systems for prisoners' families, including mental health counseling, peer support groups, or family reintegration programs. The absence of structured assistance leads to feelings of helplessness and disempowerment.

Recommendations:**Psychosocial Support:**

Establish community-based mental health services and counseling programs tailored to the needs of prisoners' families. Peer support groups should be encouraged to reduce isolation and provide emotional support.

Special programs for children of prisoners, offering counseling and educational support, should be prioritized to address their unique needs.

Financial Assistance and Economic Empowerment:

Develop income-generating programs, such as vocational training and microfinance opportunities, to empower families financially. These initiatives should particularly target women and youth, who are most vulnerable to economic hardship.

Provide subsidies or financial aid for legal fees, prison visitation costs, and communication expenses to ease the financial burden on families.

Legal Support and Awareness:

Improve access to legal aid services for prisoners' families, including free or subsidized legal representation and information on the legal processes.

Implement community-based legal literacy programs to help families understand their rights and the justice system, reducing confusion and anxiety.

Combating Stigma and Isolation:

Launch public awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and increase understanding of the challenges faced by prisoners' families. These campaigns should promote empathy and community support.

Strengthen community engagement and create networks that facilitate the inclusion of prisoners' families in social, educational, and religious activities.

Support for settlement and Reintegration:

Develop post-imprisonment reintegration programs to assist both prisoners and their families in adjusting to life after prison. These programs should include counseling, job placement, and family therapy.

Support ex-prisoners with employment opportunities and skills development to ensure they can contribute to family income and reintegrate into society successfully.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Conduct regular assessments of the needs of prisoners' families to ensure that interventions are meeting their needs and adjust support programs accordingly.

Conclusion:

Families of prisoners in Uganda face a multitude of challenges that impact their emotional, financial, and social well-being. Addressing these challenges through comprehensive psychosocial support, economic empowerment, legal aid, and community engagement is essential to improving their welfare. By taking a holistic and multi-sectoral approach, Uganda can better support the families of prisoners, reduce stigma, and contribute to the rehabilitation of both prisoners and their families, leading to stronger communities and a more just society.

Introduction

This report is the first needs assessment commissioned by Mapenzi Ya Dunia Foundation with the objective of identifying, framing and addressing the welfare needs of prisoners' families in the Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono metropolitan areas of Uganda.

Uganda had the longest COVID-19 lock down starting in March 2020 and ending in February 2022. This prolonged lock down period brought to the fore gaps and weakness in the welfare of prisoners' families as many of them struggled alone with various challenges. Whereas the Ugandan justice and law sector policies endeavor to uphold prisoners' welfare and rights, little attention has been paid to the welfare of prisoners' families especially in cases where the breadwinner is the one imprisoned. The prisoners' families left behind often find themselves struggling to meet basic needs which include food and nutritional security, mental health and psychosocial challenges, maternal, neonatal and child health, and resettlement and rehabilitation. Whereas some community based organisations (CBOs) exist to provide support to prisoners' families, the needs gap is very wide, and compounded by the fact that most of Uganda's justice and law sector policies are only concerned with prisoners, with little to no regard for the families they leave behind.

Uganda does not have specific laws or policies to follow up and promote the welfare of prisoners' families once their loved ones are committed to prison. There are a few non-governmental organisations stepping in to provide support to families of prisoners but these are up against a daunting task characterized many families with diverse needs and limited resources to support them all sufficiently.

Table 1: Total Number of prisoners in Uganda as of June 2022

Category	Age	Male	Female	Total
Convicts	18-30	18,357	418	18,775
	31-45	9,654	634	10,288
	46-60	3,134	162	3,296
	Above 60	1,403	296	1,699
	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>32,548</i>	<i>1,510</i>	<i>34,058</i>
On Remand	18-30	17,383	712	18,095
	31-45	12,619	43	12,662
	46-60	3,681	239	2920
	Above 60	386	127	513
	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>34,069</i>	<i>1,621</i>	<i>35,690</i>
Debtors	18-30	78	23	101
	31-45	106	35	141
	46-60	83	14	97
	Above 60	28	4	32
	<i>subtotal</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>371</i>
Total		66,912	3,207	70,119

The table above shows that men comprise the largest percentage of Uganda's prison's population as of June 2022. The challenges that arise from the imprisonment of loved who was a bread winner impact all spheres of the family's life as members struggle to cope with both the absence of a loved one and continuous living demands such as house rent, school fees for children and medical care concerns. Prisoners' families are forced to relocate and settle in new communities to escape social stigma which impacts their mental health. In some, members of families of prisoners resort to high risk lifestyles such as child labour, drug use, theft, and prostitution in order to cope with their financial, health and psychological challenges.

Mapenzi Ya Dunia Foundation commissioned this needs assessment to identify the various needs of families of prisoners in the Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts of Uganda. Defining the welfare needs of prisoners' families was complex, the research premised it on a basic needs and rights-based approach.

Overview of Prisoners' Families in Uganda

The Ugandan population is the youngest in the world with 83% of the population below 50 years. The Annual Prisons Report 2022 puts the average age of prisoners in Uganda at 29.6 years. Majority of Ugandan prisoners are young men of productive age (see table 1) age who often leave behind young families when committed to prison. The average prisoner age of 29.6 years is pivotal as this is when most young people are establishing themselves as independent persons by earning a living and building families of their own. A sudden change in fortune resulting in the imprisonment of these young people means that their young families are left to fend for themselves while navigating various social and mental health issues such as depression, stigma and single parent homes superintended over by young single parents.

Uganda is a poor country with a high unemployment rate and finding a family with two or more income sources is rare. For the families interviewed, the employed partner responsible for providing for the family is the one imprisoned. When this happens, families of prisoners are left behind struggle to provide for their basic needs such as food and shelter, medical care, education and mental health support. The lack of resources to regularly visit their imprisoned loved ones often sinks the family members into a depressive state which further threatens the cohesiveness of the family. The absence of livelihood support systems to enable families left behind to earn a living means that young children fall out of school which in many cases sets them off on a path to high risk lifestyles such as child labour, petty theft and robbery, prostitution, early marriages and drug use as a means of coping with their challenges.

Many of those imprisoned in the Kampala, Wakiso & Mukono areas come from faraway villages looking for employment opportunities in central Uganda's commercial hub. They settle their families down in the central region and these families must continue to pay living expenses such as rent, feeding, school fees and health care costs if they are to live at the current locations which is often impossible with the loss of income by the prisoners. The extended families of prisoners back in their home villages also struggle to, and rarely provide support to the families left behind. This exacerbates the hopelessness of the prisoners' immediate families. The feeling of being abandoned and alone leads to depression and mental health challenges, especially among the young children, which often go undiagnosed and untreated due to a lack of resources.

Family members of prisoners suffer stigma which limits their community involvement. This isolation puts them at risk of depression and acting out. *We interviewed the wife a prisoner in Kitalya Mini Max named John (surname withheld to protect his privacy)* and her case brings this issue to the fore. John's primary school going children, Leonard and Joyce, faced stigma at their school as other children didn't want to play with them at break time. Leonard in particular was disturbed that other children kept referring to his younger sister, Joyce, as "a prisoners' daughter" and in a fit of anger he lashed out at one of the bullies picking on his sister. Leonard was expelled from school when in the candidate Primary Seven (P.7) class which meant he had to forfeit the entire full school year as he could not find another school to join at the school fees rate that his mother could afford. Leonard later refused to return to school for fear of being bullied as a child of a prisoner. Leonard currently works as a child labourer at construction sites and the money he earns is used to support both his mother and younger siblings while the father is away in prison.

Uganda does not have a policy framework for supporting the welfare of prisoners' families. Families are left to cater for their own needs once their member has been committed to prison. There currently exist no specific laws and policies to protect prisoners' families from societal stigma. In many cases, family members struggle to afford travel expenses to visit their loved ones in the prisons which is distressing to both prisoners and members of their families and affects their mental wellbeing. *We interviewed the wife a prisoner in Luzira Maximum Prison named Severino (surname withheld to protect his privacy). Severino's case* highlights the impact family visits have on the lives of both prisoners and their families. Severino was sent on remand to Luzira maximum prison. He attended court for mention of his case in the months that followed but none of his family members were able to visit him to provide emotional support due to financial constraints. His father, mother, siblings, wife and children stayed in his village near Katosi landing site in Mukono district and were unable to afford the transport and accommodations required to come attend his court appearances at the High Court in Kampala. The court offered Severino an opportunity to obtain bail but his family was unable to come up with the Ushs. 5 million (USD 1,375) cash bail requested by the court. Severino felt alone and became depressed, and committed suicide in Luzira maximum prison. Upon hearing the news of his death, his father suffered a stroke and died. Severino's father suffered from HIV/Aids, diabetes and high blood pressure and had been unable to keep up with his medication ever since Severino was imprisoned and no longer able to send his father money to buy the drugs needed manage his ailments. Severino's father's monthly medication cost was Ushs. 170,000 (USD 45). Severino's children have since dropped out of school due to a lack of school fees and his older two children are engaged in drug abuse and prostitution activities to support their mother and younger siblings. Severino's wife gave birth to a special needs child while he was still in prison. The child's development was affected by nutrition and health challenges that the family endured when their primary breadwinner was sent off to prison and stopped providing for them. In the case of Severino, his imprisonment, the lack of funds for his bail and to transport his family members to Kampala to provide moral support led to a multi-faceted tragedy that has caused some members of his family's Katosi community to avoid interacting with his family because they consider them cursed. Severino's family members have not received any mental health and psychosocial support to help them cope with the misfortunes they have faced. Severino's wife and mother suffer from depression and cannot afford anti-depression medication which costs about USD 25 cents a pill.

In cases where prisoners have served their sentence and are released back into the society, they often find their families broken up and their income earning opportunities limited by their current status as convicts. In some cases, the released prisoners lack transport means to get back to their family members especially for those with family far away from central Uganda. These prisoners often fall into a depressive state, take up use of narcotic drugs so as to forget their challenging circumstances which leads them back into criminal activities and back to prison as repeat offenders. The absence of a national policy framework that provides support to families of prisoners and comprehensively reintegrates and resettles released prisoners have occasioned Mapenzi Ya Dunia Foundation to step up and address these challenges.

Objectives of the needs assessment

The main objective of the needs assessment was to identify the welfare needs of prisoners' families to guide Mapenzi Ya Dunia Foundation's resource mobilization efforts and intervention activities. Targeted populations were families of prisoners currently serving their sentences at (a) Kigo Main Prison, (b) Kigo Women's Prisons, (c) Luzira Upper Prison, (d) Luzira Women's Prison, (e) Kitalya Mini Max Prison, (f) Kitalya Farm Prison, (g) Kasangati Prison, and; (h) Kauga Prisons. All these prisons are found in the Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono districts of Uganda.

Specific objectives of this needs assessment were:

- 1) Identify health and social care needs of the prisoners and their families especially in areas concerning (i) primary health care, (ii) maternal, neonatal and child health, (iii) rehabilitation and resettlement support, and; (iv) mental health care and psychosocial support.
- 2) Enhance service delivery through identifying the direct and indirect interventions to enhance the welfare of prisoner's families;
- 3) Inform policy and resource mobilization and allocation through evidence based recommendations that address the existing gaps and areas of improvement;
- 4) Foster collaborative approaches that draw upon the synergies of existing players in the field of prisoner's families' welfare;
- 5) Monitor outcomes and effectiveness through establishing baseline data for continuous evaluation of the welfare of prisoners' families.

Scope of the study

- The needs assessment study was conducted with members of families of prisoners currently incarcerated in eight prisons facilities in Uganda namely: (a) Kigo Main Prison, (b) Kigo Women's Prisons, (c) Luzira Upper Prison, (d) Luzira Women's Prison, (e) Kitalya Mini Max Prison, (f) Kitalya Farm Prison, (g) Kasangati Prison, and; (h) Kauga Prisons. Members of the research team visited the prisons and obtained permission from the prisoners before contacting their families for purposes of this study.

Methodology

The needs assessment exercise was carried out in a participatory and consultative manner to encourage participation of the targeted persons. Face to face interviews were conducted with members of prisoners' families. The objective of the face to face interviews was to obtain information with respect to needs gaps as far as the respondents welfare was. To capture the feedback efficiently, an interview tool was developed, designed to suite the assessment needs. The Interview tool is annexed to this Report as "A". This tool was however only used as a guide to facilitate the conversation.

The key informant interviews were qualitative in nature and provided one-on-one assessments that enabled that capture of insights about the welfare needs of the respondents and identified their welfare gaps in addition to establishing existing misconceptions and misinformation about the welfare of prisoners' families. A total of 34 respondents were interviewed.

Furthermore, a desk top review and analysis of available information on the of welfare of prisoners' families was conducted. Key aspects of the desktop review included but was not limited to:

The assessment was conducted in adherence to strict confidentiality and voluntary participation protocols. Translators were available for respondents who preferred to use other languages than English.

Ethical considerations

Conducting the needs assessment called for ethical consideration. Permission was be obtained from the Commissioner General of Uganda Prisons to visit prisons facilities and to ask prisoners for contact details for their families for the interviews. Informed consent or assent was sought from all respondents after explaining the goals and objectives of the data collection, confidentiality safeguards, and the potential risks and benefits of the process.

Findings of the assessment

Profile of respondents

The assessment targeted family members of prisoners currently serving their sentence in selected prisons in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono areas. The assessment targeted members of prisoners' families. In total 34 respondents were interviewed and included 32 female and 3 male heads of households of prisoners' families. Respondent interviews were conducted using a mix of English and Luganda languages to best suit the language proficiency of each individual. The levels of education of the respondents varied as some were university degree holders and others only had a basic primary school education.

Results of the needs analysis

The table below shows the welfare needs of families of prisoners according to the respondents.

Welfare need	Respondents interviewed	Gender of respondents	Challenges identified that need to be addressed
Mental health and psycho social support	34 heads of prisoners' families	3 Male	79% identified emotional distress due to inability to regularly see and communicate with their imprisoned loved ones; 68% lived in fear of stigma and reprisal from community members for the crimes of their loved ones 97% did not receive any counselling and psychosocial support to cope with the imprisonment of their loved ones 47% did not receive any form of assistance from extended family members 44% reported that members of their families exhibited mental health challenges as a result of the imprisonment of their loved ones
		31 Female	
Income and livelihoods	34 heads of prisoners' families	3 Male	91% struggled with loss of household income; 82% could not afford to travel and visit their imprisoned loved ones at least 4 times a year 74% struggled to meet their family's day to day nutritional and sustenance needs 53% reported that their children had dropped out of school due to a lack of fees 65% had to relocate due to inability to afford housing rents and living expenses in their former location
		31 Female	

Welfare need	Respondents interviewed	Gender of respondents	Challenges identified that need to be addressed
Health care	34 heads of prisoners' families	3 Male	82% reported decline in their physical & mental health due to imprisonment of their loved one 65% faced health challenges that went untreated due to lack of money to pay for medical help; 91% relied on inadequate free medical care services provided at government health facilities;
		31 Female	
Access to support resources and social services	34 heads of prisoners' families	3 Male	47% did not receive legal support to help their imprisoned loved ones navigate the legal system; 88% did not receive any livelihood support to cope with the financial strain 97% reported not receiving any child care and education support for the children of their imprisoned loved ones 27% reported lack of rehabilitation and reintegration support which caused their loved ones to become repeat offenders 47% reported divorce / separation after a loved one was imprisoned
		31 Female	

Distribution of respondents by age:

Age group	Number of respondents	Female	Male
19-30	9	7	2
31-45	16	15	1
46-60	7	7	0
Above 60	2	2	0

Recommendations

Improving the welfare of prisoners' families in Uganda is crucial for both the well-being of the families and the rehabilitation of prisoners. Given the challenges faced by these families, the following recommendations can help address their needs and improve their overall welfare:

1) Provide Psychosocial and Mental Health Support

Mental Health Counseling: Establish community-based mental health programs offering individual and group counseling to help families cope with the emotional stress, anxiety, depression, and trauma associated with having a loved one in prison.

Family Therapy: Implement family therapy programs to strengthen relationships and provide emotional support, particularly for children and spouses who may face emotional and psychological strain.

Peer Support Groups: Create support groups where families of prisoners can meet, share experiences, and provide mutual support, reducing social isolation and stigma.

2) Economic Empowerment and Financial Assistance

Vocational Training and Skill Development: Offer vocational training programs to help families develop skills that can provide income-generating opportunities, particularly for women and children, who are often most impacted financially.

Small Business Grants or Loans: Provide small grants or micro-loans to families to help them start businesses or sustain existing ones, improving their financial independence and reducing the economic burden caused by the imprisonment of a family member.

Subsidies for Legal and Visit Costs: Offer subsidies or financial support for families to cover the costs of legal representation, visiting their loved ones in prison, and communication expenses. This would reduce the financial strain caused by long-distance travel, legal battles, and communication barriers.

3) Combat Stigma and Social Isolation

Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch public awareness campaigns to reduce stigma against families of prisoners. These campaigns should focus on educating communities about the challenges faced by families and encourage empathy and support.

Community Integration Programs: Promote the inclusion of families of prisoners in community activities, such as local support groups, social events, and educational programs, to reduce the feeling of isolation and foster social inclusion.

Support from Religious and Cultural Leaders: Engage religious and cultural leaders to provide spiritual guidance and support, and to help combat stigma within communities, encouraging acceptance and empathy for prisoners' families.

4) Provide Legal Aid and Support

Free or Subsidized Legal Aid: Provide free or low-cost legal services to families of prisoners, particularly those who cannot afford private representation. This could help them navigate the legal system, assist in appealing sentences, or explore alternatives such as reduced sentences.

Legal Literacy Programs: Conduct awareness programs to educate families about their legal rights, the justice system, and how to advocate for their loved ones. This knowledge can empower them and reduce feelings of helplessness.

5) Support for Children of Prisoners

Educational Support: Offer scholarships, school supplies, and tutoring for children whose parents are incarcerated. This would help ensure that children of prisoners continue their education without being burdened by the stigma or financial strain associated with their parent's incarceration.

Child-Focused Psychosocial Programs: Provide counseling and therapeutic services to children who are affected by the imprisonment of a parent. This will help them process their emotions and provide support for their mental well-being.

Foster Care and Guardianship Support: For children who are placed in the care of relatives or foster families, provide support to these caregivers through training and resources to ensure the children's emotional and practical needs are met.

6) Improve Communication and Access to Prisoner Welfare

Improve Communication Systems: Facilitate better communication between prisoners and their families, including reducing the cost of phone calls, providing free communication opportunities, and allowing more regular visits to ensure emotional connection and support.

Regular Updates: Establish systems within the prison to provide families with regular updates on the status of their loved ones, including health, legal proceedings, and any changes in their prison conditions. This can alleviate anxiety and uncertainty.

7) Post-Incarceration Reintegration Support

Reintegration Programs for Released Prisoners: Develop comprehensive reintegration programs to help both released prisoners and their families adjust to life after imprisonment. This could include job placement services, counseling, and reintegration workshops aimed at rebuilding family relationships.

Job Creation and Skill Development for Released Prisoners: Partner with businesses, NGOs, and government agencies to create job opportunities for released prisoners, ensuring they can support themselves and their families, and reduce the likelihood of re-offending.

Community-Based Reintegration Initiatives: Foster support networks within communities to help reintegrate former prisoners and their families. This could involve local leaders, organizations, and community groups in providing mentorship, guidance, and social support.

8) Government Policy and Legal Reform

Implement Family-Centered Policies: Advocate for policies that recognize the importance of family support in the rehabilitation of prisoners. This should include policies that encourage family visits, communication, and participation in rehabilitation programs.

Reform Sentencing Practices: Advocate for sentencing reforms that prioritize rehabilitation over punitive measures, particularly for non-violent offenders. This could reduce the number of incarcerated family members and lessen the burden on their families.

Family-Friendly Prison Policies: Encourage the adoption of family-friendly policies within the prison system, such as allowing children to visit parents, improving conditions for family visits, and providing educational or vocational programs for prisoners' families.

9) Health and Social Services

Access to Healthcare: Provide access to affordable healthcare services for the families of prisoners, especially for those suffering from stress-related illnesses, mental health problems, or chronic conditions exacerbated by financial insecurity.

Domestic Violence Prevention and Support: Provide support services for families experiencing domestic violence or abuse, which can sometimes increase due to the stress and financial strain of having a family member in prison. This can include counseling, safe housing, and legal support.

10) Monitoring and Evaluation

Data Collection and Research: Conduct regular research and data collection on the needs of prisoners' families to understand the scope of their challenges and tailor programs to better meet their needs.

Impact Assessment: Continuously evaluate the effectiveness of welfare programs, using feedback from families and relevant stakeholders to improve and refine interventions.

Conclusion

To improve the welfare of prisoners' families in Uganda, a comprehensive approach is needed that addresses emotional, financial, social, and legal challenges. Government, non-governmental organizations, religious leaders, and the community all have a role to play in supporting these families. By providing physical and health services, economic opportunities, legal aid, and social support, Uganda can significantly improve the well-being of prisoners' families and, in turn, contribute to the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners back into society.

References

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Appendices

- **Appendix A:** Individual interview guide tool.

Appendix A

Needs assessment interview tool for heads of households of prisoners' families

Section 1: Demographic Information

1. **Name of Respondent** (optional):
2. **Gender:**
 - ☐ Male
 - ☐ Female
3. **Age:**
 - ☐ 18-30
 - ☐ 31-45
 - ☐ 46-60
 - ☐ Above 60
4. **Marital Status:**
 - ☐ Married
 - ☐ Widowed
 - ☐ Separated / divorced
5. **Relationship to the imprisoned person:**
 - ☐ Spouse
 - ☐ Parent
 - ☐ Sibling
 - ☐ Child

- Other (please specify) _____

6. Location (district):

- Wakiso
- Kampala
- Mukono

7. Type of family structure:

- Nuclear family
- Extended family
- Single-parent household
- Other (please specify) _____

Section 2: Economic Impact of Imprisonment

8. What is your primary source of income?

- Employment (formal)
- Informal work (e.g., small business, farming)
- Support from the imprisoned person
- Support from family/friends
- Other (please specify) _____

9. How has the imprisonment of your family member affected your household's income?

- Significantly reduced income
- Slightly reduced income
- No change in income

- Income increased (please explain) _____

10. Are you able to meet your family's basic needs (food, shelter, medical care, clothing)?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes (please specify) _____

11. Have you faced difficulties in accessing education for children or dependents since the imprisonment?

- Yes
- No
- Occasionally (please explain) _____

12. What kind of support do you need to improve your economic situation? (Check all that apply)

- Financial assistance
- Vocational training
- Small business support
- Employment opportunities
- Educational support for children
- Counselling and mental health support
- Medical care
- Other (please specify) _____

Section 3: Emotional and Psychological Well-being

13. How has the imprisonment of your family member affected your mental health?

- Very negatively

- Somewhat negatively
- No impact
- It has improved our well-being (please explain) _____

14. What emotional challenges are you currently facing? (Check all that apply)

- Stress and anxiety
- Depression
- Shame or stigma
- Fear for the future
- Isolation or loneliness
- Anger or frustration
- Other (please specify) _____

15. Have you had access to any psychological support or counseling services?

- Yes
- No
- If yes, was it helpful? (please explain) _____

16. What kind of emotional or psychological support would be most helpful to you? (Check all that apply)

- Counseling or therapy
- Peer support groups
- Family therapy
- Stress management workshops
- Other (please specify) _____

Section 4: Social Support and Community Impact

17. Do you feel supported by your community since your family member's imprisonment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes (please explain) _____

18. Have you experienced any form of stigma or discrimination because your family member is in prison?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Occasionally (please explain) _____

19. What types of community-based support do you need most? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Social or peer support
- ☐ Legal support (e.g., understanding legal rights)
- ☐ Financial assistance
- ☐ Access to healthcare
- ☐ Access to educational resources
- ☐ Family care programs
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

20. How would you rate the overall support available to families of prisoners in your community?

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good

- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Non-existent

Section 5: Access to Legal and Prisons-related Services

21. Are you able to visit your family member in prison?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ If no, what prevents you from visiting? (Please specify) _____

22. Do you face any challenges in accessing legal support for your family member in prison?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Sometimes (please explain) _____

23. What types of support do you need to improve your access to legal services or prison visits? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Legal assistance (e.g., understanding the case)
- ☐ Transportation to visit the prison
- ☐ Information on prison rights and regulations
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Section 6: General Needs and Suggestions

24. What other challenges do you face as a family member of a prisoner? (Open-ended)

25. What types of assistance or programs would make the most difference to you and your family? (Open-ended)

26. Are there any other comments or suggestions you would like to share? (Open-ended)

Instructions for Use:**1. Data Collection Method:**

- This tool can be administered through face-to-face interviews, telephone surveys, or online surveys, depending on the context.
- It is advisable to ensure privacy and confidentiality to help respondents feel comfortable sharing personal information.
- The questionnaire can be translated into local languages (e.g., Luganda, Luo, Runyankore) to increase accessibility.

2. Target Respondents:

- The target respondents are immediate family members (spouses, parents, children) of prisoners. Depending on the assessment's scope, responses from extended family members may also be included.

3. Ethical Considerations:

- Informed consent must be obtained from all respondents.
- Ensure that respondents are aware that participation is voluntary and that they can skip any question they are uncomfortable with.