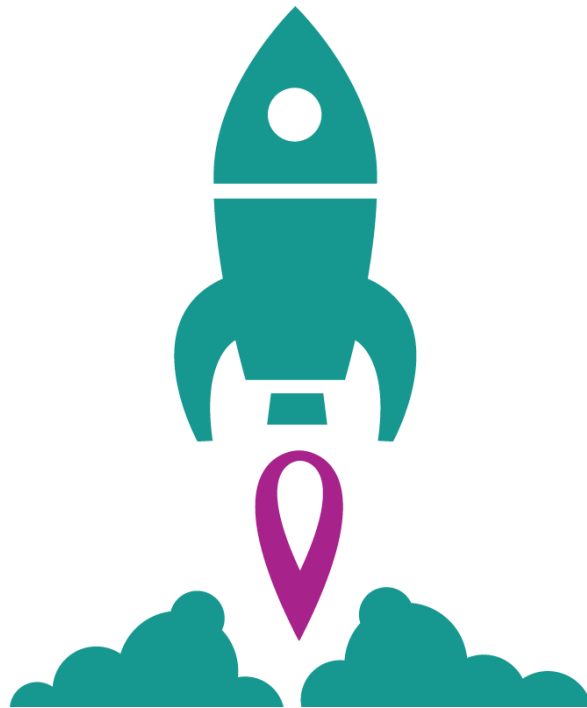


OUR STORY



Our starting model

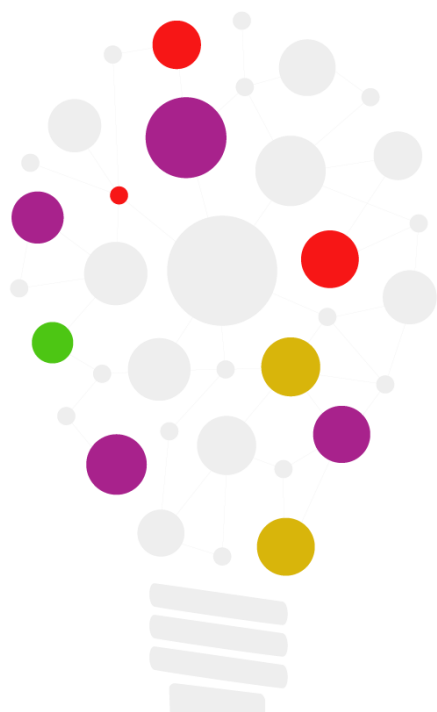
In 2010, HURIDOCs partnered with IHRDA to develop **The Case Law Analyser (CLA)** (<http://caselaw.ihrda.org>), allowing open access to human rights case law from all African regional bodies, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Court, the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice, and SADCT.

Scaling success, sustainably

The tool was a success, and we were approached by several NGOs to develop something similar catered to their needs.

Instead of redeveloping CLA software for each partner, we've tried another approach: empower NGOs and organizations to create and share their own libraries on-demand. Because of our track record with innovation, UwaziDocs has been generously supported by the MacArthur Foundation (<https://www.macfound.org/>).

But many people and organizations are interested to share their knowledge, not just our partners. So that's why we've made UwaziDocs open source and available to everyone online, on any device. We're taking open source principles and transparency to heart by sharing every part of the development we can on our Roadmap (</roadmap/>).





Our foundation: relationships and feedback

The inception workshop: identifying the need

Before starting development, we set out to find out what potential users would find most valuable. At an event in September 2015 (Sponsored by the PIL Network, Kenya), we invited 21 organizations to learn about their work and goals, including what kinds of documents they want to share, what format those documents are in, what they're already sharing, and how they're sharing it.

What we learned

It wasn't a surprise, but various document types, formats, and platforms were used among the pilot participants and even within singular organizations. We heard about hefty challenges to publish documents: a lack of cohesive systems and structures, scattered and unaccounted for information, and the nuanced burdens of archaic platforms. Participants agreed: there was no easy way to publish large document collections. We had found our challenge.

Our challenge: turn clutter into clarity

Next, we asked what their ideal platform for publishing and sharing large collections of documents would be like. Their feedback laid the groundwork for UwaziDocs' features. Follow their development on our Roadmap (</roadmap/>).

Preparing to launch

More in-depth user testing and demos began early May 2016, and we're prepping for an official launch late May / early June 2016.

Our pilot partners

We couldn't have done this without support from our pilot partners (we wouldn't have wanted to, either).

An NGO network: *the Public Interest Litigation Network in Kenya*

National caselaw publishers: Kenya Law (<http://kenyalaw.org>), SaflII (<http://www.saflii.org>), African LII (<http://www.africanlii.org>)

NGOs: Justice Project Pakistan, CLEEN (<http://www.cleen.org/>) in Nigeria

Universities: University of Pretoria Human Rights Center (<http://www.chr.up.ac.za>), Private Universities Research Consortium of Kenya