



...Promoting Human Rights

LAWYERS ALERT DOCUMENTATION TOOL (LADOCT) TRANSFORMING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS INTO EVIDENCE FOR ACTION

SYNTHESISED THEMATIC IMPACT NARRATIVE

ABOUT LADOCT

‘...data presented in clear, accessible, and visual formats, when properly interpreted, can strengthen understanding of the realities faced by vulnerable populations and provide compelling evidence to inform government action, policy reform, advocacy, and other targeted interventions’.

Over the past 10 years, Lawyers Alert has pioneered the generation of evidence-based data to support effective interventions addressing human rights violations affecting marginalised and vulnerable populations in Nigeria. Through its work defending the rights of vulnerable communities, the organisation identified a significant gap in the availability of credible, verifiable, and scientifically generated data on key human rights issues. This gap limited the ability of government institutions, civil society organisations, development partners, and communities themselves to understand the scale, patterns, and drivers of violations and to respond effectively.

To address this challenge, Lawyers Alert developed the Lawyers Alert Documentation Tool (LadocT), a web-based platform designed to monitor, document, analyse, and present human rights violations experienced by vulnerable and marginalised populations, including women, girls, persons with disabilities (PWDs), people living with HIV (PLHIVs), key populations, and other underserved communities across Nigeria. The LadocT platform was established on the premise that data can become a tool for effective development interventions only when it is available, accessible, and easy to understand and read.

The development of LadocT was guided by an inclusive and participatory approach that brought together stakeholders across the demand side, service delivery systems, and accountability mechanisms. Their experiences, priorities, and perspectives were incorporated into the platform's design and functionality to ensure it reflected the realities of those most affected by rights violations.

Stakeholders engaged in the development process included vulnerable populations and community representatives such as persons arrested for petty offences and other vulnerable groups (PATBs), persons with disabilities (PWDs), people living with HIV (PLHIVs), people who inject drugs (PWIDs), female sex workers (FSWs), men who have sex with men (MSM), LGBTQI+ persons, women, and girls. The process also involved accountability institutions and technical partners, including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), UNAIDS, Heartland Alliance, legal practitioners, civil society

organisations, development partners, healthcare professionals, and other human rights experts.

The development of the platform was initially supported through grant funding from AmplifyChange. Over time, additional development partners and donors have supported the platform's expansion, enabling it to capture and monitor a broader range of human rights issues and thematic areas.

THEMATIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION/EXPANDING THE EVIDENCE BASE

Today, LadocT documents and analyses violations across four key thematic areas:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- HIV
- Petty Offences and Criminal Justice



The platform has achieved nationwide coverage, generating data from all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory across Nigeria's 774 Local Government Areas. Information is sourced from a wide range of actors and institutions, including the police, the Legal Aid Council, civil society organisations, vulnerable communities, the SRHR Movement, the Strategic Justice Network (SJN), the Legal Support Network, the DeCRIM Petty Offences initiative, media reports and target communities.

Collected data are systematically analysed by location, trend, age, sex, type of violation, indicators, and other relevant variables, enabling the identification of emerging patterns and priority areas for intervention.

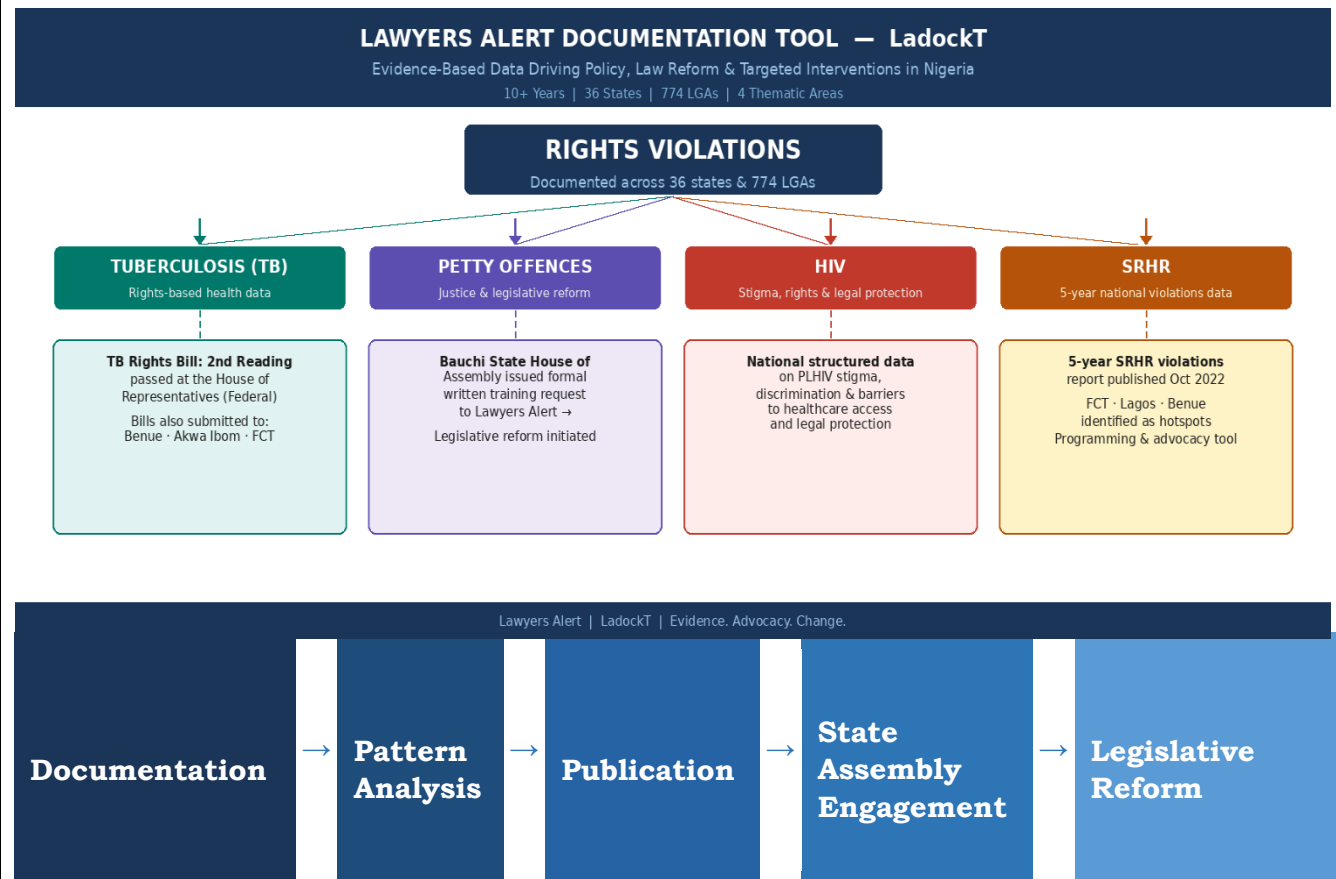
The value of LadocT extends beyond data collection and documentation. Recognising that survivors of rights violations often require immediate support and redress, Lawyers Alert established a multidisciplinary team of legal professionals who provide pro bono legal assistance to affected individuals.

Where necessary, these interventions are followed by dedicated legal representation, referrals, and case management services coordinated by Lawyers Alert to ensure that survivors can access justice, remedies, and protection of their rights. Targeted advocacy is conducted using evidence generated by LadocT.

Through continuous documentation, verification, and analysis, LadocT has transformed individual accounts of human rights violations into credible evidence that informs advocacy, programming, policy development, and accountability efforts.

The data generated through the platform are utilised by government institutions, civil society organisations, development partners, researchers, and policymakers to strengthen decision-making, improve resource allocation, identify systemic gaps, and promote accountability. By making the experiences of vulnerable populations visible and measurable, LadocT has contributed to more informed responses to human rights challenges and strengthened efforts to advance equity, justice, and the protection of human rights across Nigeria.

Theory of Change



04 | SRHR

National Evidence Base → Programming & Advocacy Tool

Context & Evidence Gap

LadocT is currently one of the most comprehensive national evidence bases on SRHR violations in Nigeria, covering all 36 states and 774 LGAs. Prior to this, data on SRHR

violations affecting women, girls, and key populations were fragmented and isolated, with no identifiable linkages to inform decision-making or identify patterns for interventions. There was also no unified national dataset to inform trends, hotspots, and structural drivers. While vulnerable communities were willing to report these violations, systems to effectively capture them and turn them into insights were lacking.

Following the deployment of the LadocT to document SRHR-based rights violations, Lawyers Alert published, in October 2022, a five-year compilation of SRHR violations (2017–2022), one of the most comprehensive assessments of SRHR challenges in Nigeria.

The report identified key geographic hotspots and population-level trends in SRHR violations across Nigeria, highlighting the FCT, Lagos, and Benue States as the most affected locations. The findings also revealed the populations most affected by SRHR violations, with Persons Living with HIV (38%). The full report of the analysis can be found on the Lawyers Alert website. Specifically,

1. The SRHR data generated by using the LadocT has contributed to establishing Nigeria's most comprehensive national SRHR violations dataset across all 36 states and 774 LGAs for a period of nine years.
2. LadocT has synthesised evidence on which local and international development intervention strategies in Nigeria are based. NGOs, CSOs, and development partners can design geographically prioritised interventions.
3. Structured referral and case tracking mechanisms embedded in LadocT support legal representation for survivors
4. Evidence base contributed to reshaping Nigeria's broader SRHR response architecture

02 | TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

Rights-Based Health Data → Federal Law Reform

TB-related stigma, discrimination, and rights violations have persisted long before Lawyers Alert commenced its work on data evidence on TB violations during the implementation of the TB-CRG project deployed by the organisation at the regional and national levels.

To drive legal representation for persons whose rights are violated and to strengthen the CRG component of TB interventions, Lawyers Alert expanded the LadocT to address violations suffered by PATBs nationwide. Subsequently, LadocT produced the first structured, rights-based dataset on Persons Affected by Tuberculosis (PATBs) in the country, fundamentally shifting how TB is understood, from a public health issue alone to a combined health and human rights concern requiring legal and policy protection.

The TB violations report was mutually endorsed by Persons Affected by Tuberculosis (PATBs), TB survivors, State TB Programs, the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), civil society groups, and activists working to address stigma and discrimination

against PATBs in Nigeria, giving the evidence exceptional legitimacy and national institutional weight and ownership.

Documentation was structured around four mutually agreed categories of violations affecting PATBs, reflecting the full spectrum of rights abuses experienced across health, social, economic, and family life domains:

The TB violations report endorsed by PATBs, TB Survivors, State TB Programs, the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), Civil Society Groups, and Activists dedicated to addressing stigma and discrimination for PATBs in Nigeria, giving the evidence exceptional legitimacy and national institutional weight.

TB violations documentation

The following is a summary of findings that reflects the proportional breakdown of TB violations documented through LadockT, based on the four agreed categories:

Stigma and discrimination dominated at 53%, reflecting how limited public understanding of TB, poverty, cultural beliefs, and poor confidentiality practices in health facilities combine to make social exclusion the defining rights challenge for PATBs. Broken conjugal rights follow closely at 21%, a direct downstream effect of stigma fracturing employment, finances, and intimate relationships.

Healthcare violations account for 20% of cases, driven largely by segregated appointment systems that publicly identify PATBs. Wrongful social and economic practices remain below 9%, not because they are rare, but because PATBs consistently underreport them, believing socioeconomic harm will resolve once the primary violations are addressed.

01

Stigma & Discrimination

Highest reported category — 53% of all violations

02

Broken Conjugal Rights & Family Disruption

Second highest — 21% of all violations

03

Violations in Medical & Healthcare

Third — 20% of reported violations

04

Wrongful Social & Economic Practices

Fourth — less than 9% (significantly underreported)

Legislative Milestones

LadockT's TB violations data directly informed the drafting and submission of TB Rights Bills at both the national and sub-national levels. A clear demonstration of the evidence-to-law pathway.

Federal Level	TB Rights Bill passed Second Reading at the House of Representatives, a landmark milestone in institutionalising rights-based protections for PATBs in Nigeria.
Benue State	TB Rights Bill developed and submitted to Benue State Assembly based on LadockT evidence; legislative process initiated and ongoing
Akwa Ibom	TB Rights Bill was developed and submitted to the Akwa Ibom State Assembly, informed by documented TB violations in the state.

The passage of the TB Rights Bill through Second Reading at the House of Representatives the most significant legislative achievement directly traceable to LadockT-generated evidence translating a decade of documentation into national law reform.

Summary of Impact

- First structured, mutually endorsed national dataset on TB rights violations in Nigeria, validated and adopted for use by NTBLCP, CSOs, TB survivors, and state programs.
- National TB Bill passed Second Reading at the House of Representatives
- TB Rights Bills submitted to Benue State and Akwa Ibom assemblies; legislative processes initiated.
- TB data adopted as a key national reference for programming, stigma reduction, and rights enforcement by government agencies, CSOs, and development partners.

03 | HIV

Stigma, Criminalisation & Rights Protection

Context & Evidence Gap

For over nine years, Lawyers Alert has implemented rights-based HIV interventions across Nigeria. During this period, significant gaps were identified in the availability, quality, and credibility of data on human rights violations experienced by Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV). Information on the trends, frequency, and nature of violations remained fragmented and largely underreported, limiting stakeholders' ability to design targeted legal, policy, and programmatic responses. As a result, the social and structural drivers of vulnerability among PLHIV were insufficiently documented and poorly understood.

Many PLHIV requiring legal support were also unable to effectively pursue justice due to limited awareness of their rights and the absence of documented evidence of the violations they experienced.

LadocT was developed to address this gap by systematically documenting and analysing violations experienced by PLHIV and other vulnerable communities. The platform was designed to generate evidence that would inform responsive legal interventions, strengthen advocacy efforts, and support the development of awareness and information resources to help communities understand, protect, and exercise their rights.

Evidence Generated

Types of Violations Documented	Outcomes & Responses
• Healthcare access exclusion • Workplace discrimination • Community-level stigma • Criminalisation-related barriers	• Strengthened rights-based HIV advocacy • Legal protection mechanisms developed • Improved health system accountability • Multi-sectoral legal-health collaboration

Impact of LadocT on HIV interventions

- The first 5-year report by LadocT was the first to generate national data on structural drivers of HIV vulnerability with regard to rights and violations.
- Strengthened advocacy for rights-based HIV programming and legal protection
- Informed targeted legal aid interventions addressing rights violations linked to stigma and exclusion
- Contributed to more integrated HIV prevention, treatment, and rights protection approaches.
- Lawyers Alert's input into the draft HIV anti-discrimination law of Akwa -Ibom State was developed with evidence generated from LadocT.

01 | PETTY OFFENCES

Data → State Response → Legislative Reform Pathway

Before LadocT, Lawyers Alert treated petty offences as largely isolated criminal justice matters without a consolidated evidence base to demonstrate systemic abuse, geographic concentration, or disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations.

Following the introduction of the tool and subsequent documentation across states, LadocT generated verifiable evidence of recurring patterns of arbitrary arrest, profiling, and rights violations linked to the enforcement of petty offences.

The FCT and Bauchi State were identified as high-burden locations for petty offences-related violations. Following the publication of this report, the Bauchi State House of Assembly formally engaged Lawyers Alert through a written request for technical support and training on petty offences and their legal implications, representing a direct institutional acknowledgement of the evidence generated by LadocT.

These developments demonstrate how Lawyers Alert's evidence, generated through LadocT, translated into institutional recognition, policy engagement, and broader justice sector reforms, specifically,

1. The evidence generated on petty offences informed the Bauchi State House of Assembly's formal request for technical support and capacity strengthening on petty offences and their legal implications.
2. Documentation of petty offences violations contributed to ongoing efforts toward the development of a state-level legislative and policy framework to improve the regulation and enforcement of petty offences laws.
3. LadocT data has strengthened national advocacy efforts on decriminalisation, access to justice, and criminal justice sector reform on petty offences by providing credible evidence of patterns of abuse and vulnerability.
4. The evidence helped shift discourse on petty offences from isolated criminal acts to a broader human rights and social justice issue, highlighting their disproportionate impact on poor and vulnerable populations.

05 | POLICY & LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

From Evidence to Law: How Ladock Shapes National and Sub-National Reforms

A defining measure of LadocT's value is not only the evidence it generates, but how that evidence has been adopted, institutionalised, and acted upon by government bodies, legislative assemblies, and national institutions. Across its four thematic areas, LadocT data has directly triggered formal policy engagements, legislative processes, and institutional training requests at both the state and federal levels.

1. Petty Offences: Bauchi State House of Assembly Engagement

LadocT's documentation of petty offences violations across Nigeria revealed Bauchi State as one of the states with the highest incidence of petty offences-related rights violations. This was not anecdotal; it was structured, verifiable data generated through systematic documentation across all 36 states and 774 LGAs.

This engagement initiated structured dialogue between Lawyers Alert and the Bauchi State House of Assembly, resulting in:

- Request for technical training by the Bauchi State legislators on petty offences and their human rights and legal implications.
- Formal discussions on the development of a state-level legislative framework to address misuse and harmful application of petty offences laws

- An institutionalised pathway for data-driven legislative reform at the sub-national level, establishing a replicable model for other states

At the national level, LadocT petty offences data continues to underpin advocacy for decriminalisation and reform of laws that disproportionately criminalise poverty and vulnerability in Nigeria's justice system.

2. Tuberculosis: National TB Bill & Sub-National Legislative Processes

The TB Violations Report, generated through LadocT, is jointly owned and endorsed by the Government of Nigeria, Persons Affected by Tuberculosis (PATBs), TB survivors, State TB Programmes, the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), civil society organisations, and TB rights advocates. This broad-based endorsement has given the evidence significant legitimacy, institutional ownership, and policy relevance.

Over the past three years, the data have informed policy development, rights-based interventions, and Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) programming for tuberculosis in Nigeria and beyond. By establishing the first structured national evidence base on the human rights violations experienced by PATBs, LadocT transformed largely undocumented experiences into actionable evidence. This evidence directly informed the development and submission of TB Rights Bills at both national and sub-national levels, providing a foundation for legislative efforts to protect the rights and dignity of persons affected by tuberculosis.

Level	Jurisdiction	Status & Action
Natio nal	House of Representative s	TB Bill passed Second Reading, a landmark milestone in institutionalising rights-based protections for PATBs in Nigeria.
State	Benue State Assembly	TB Bill developed and submitted the legislative process, initiated and ongoing
State	Akwa Ibom State Assembly	TB Bill developed and submitted; informed by LadocT's documentation of TB violations in the state.

The passage of the TB Rights Bill through Second Reading at the House of Representatives marks the most significant legislative achievement directly traceable to LadocT-generated evidence, translating a decade of documentation into national law reform.

3. SRHR: Evidence Adopted for National and Sub-National Programming

The LadocT Legacy

A Decade of Transforming Evidence into Action

LadocT's five-year SRHR violations report (2017–2022) has been adopted as a reference document for national and sub-national SRHR programming in Nigeria. The evidence has shaped how government agencies, development partners, and civil society organisations identify priorities, allocate resources, and design targeted interventions.

- Five-year SRHR violations report published in October 2022 and adopted as a national evidence reference
- Structured referral and case-tracking mechanisms in LadocT embedded within legal aid and survivor support services
- Evidence used by NGOs and CSOs to design geographically targeted SRHR interventions across high-burden states
- Data informs Nigeria's broader SRHR response architecture, linking evidence to policy dialogue and accountability mechanisms

Through a decade of systematic documentation, LadocT has fundamentally transformed Nigeria's rights-based data environment. By converting isolated, anecdotal reports of violations into structured, verifiable, and actionable national evidence, the platform has directly driven policy reform, legislative action, programming improvements, awareness, and advocacy gains across four critical thematic areas.

Key Achievements

- TB Rights Bill: Second Reading at the House of Representatives
- Bauchi State Assembly: Formal technical engagement request
- 5-Year SRHR Report: Published October 2022
- TB Bills submitted: Federal, Benue, Akwa Ibom
- HIV Anti-Discrimination Bill, Akwa-Ibom State

Who Uses the Data

- Government institutions & state assemblies
- Civil society & development partners
- Legal practitioners & advocacy groups
- Researchers & policymakers

LadocT remains one of the most comprehensive rights-based data systems in Nigeria, generating evidence that informs programming, advocacy, legal support, policy reforms, and national development responses for the country's most marginalised populations.

