



KICK CORRUPTION OUT OF UGANDA (KICK-U)

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a. LIST OF ACRONYMS

KICK-U	KICK CORRUPTION OUT OF UGANDA
ACODE	ADVOCATES COALITION ON DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
UDN	UGANDA DEBT NETWORK
DIPF	DISTRICT INTEGRITY PROMOTION FORUM
ACFIM	ALLIANCE FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE MONITORING
NCHRD-U	NATIONAL COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS - UGANDA
LG	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CSO	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION
DGF	DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FACILITY
HCIII	HEALTH CENTER THREE
N/A	NOT APPLICABLE
CSBAG	CIVIL SOCIETY BUDGET ADVOCACY GROUP
NDI	NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE
ACCU	ANTI CORRUPTION COALITION UGANDA
MoFPED	MINISTRY OF FINANCE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AA	ACTION AID
AAIU	ACTION AID INTERNATIONAL UGANDA
UNNGOF	UGANDA NATIONAL NGO FORUM
DENIVA	DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF INDEGENOUS VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS
AFIC	AFRICAN FREEDOM INFORMATION CENTRE
SEATINI	SOUTHERN & EASTERN AFRICA TRADE, INFORMATION AND NEGOTIATIONS INSTITUTE
DEI	DIRECTORATE OF ETHICS & INTEGRITY
OAG	OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
IG	INSPECTORATE OF GOVERNMENT

EOC	EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION
PIPFM	INCLUSIVE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE IN FINANCE MANAGEMENT
SCENE	STRENGTHENING CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT IN ELECTIONS
GRA	GLOBAL RIGHTS ALERT

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HON. NINSIIMA RONAH RITA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

CHAIRPERSON'S WORD

I take the opportunity to appreciate my fellow Board Members for the tireless efforts to keep the Agency operational through the last year that was challenging, but managed to get through. I would like to thank the secretariat headed by the Executive Director Mr. Kakuru Robert Byamugisha for supporting the organisation with or without salaries or allowances. The staff kept on even when there was nothing to sustain them.

Special thanks to GIZ supported by EU, UNNGOF and CSBAG who have stayed on with us amidst challenges. This is a true meaning of partnership. KICK-U is proud of you for building her Governance structures and Strategic planning. Under GIZ support, a number of Policy documents have been reviewed like the Constitution, Board Policy, and Staff Performance Appraisal while others have been developed like the Communication strategy by the Board, updating our Website. We are now better and reliable.

KICK-U was validated and received a certificate of Incorporation, which is a mandatory requirement, making it a legally operating Governance Advocacy organisation in region. It was registered as an NGO with Uganda National NGO Bureau under Registration No. 10775, was also certified by Financial Intelligence Agency (FIA), and is now clear to operate with no doubts cast financially.

KICK-U has maintained its Regional Partners like Uganda National NGO Forum, Action Aid International Uganda, Transparency International Uganda, Advocate Coalition on Development and Environment (ACODE), Alliance for Campaign Finance monitoring (ACFIM), Anti-Corruption Coalition of Uganda (ACCU), DENIVA, CSBAG, AFIC, GRA (Global Rights Alliance), TJAU (Tax Justice Alliance Uganda) and UCMC (Uganda Contracts Monitoring Committee). All these have engaged us on different occasions and in different activities.

Our annual revenues have continued to increase as per the reports and the projects running and we hope this trend will continue to take a positive trend.

KICK-U was a brain behind the formation of COVID-19 task force a platform for sharing and coordinating campaigns against COVID-19 in the Kigezi Region. This gave birth to the formation of Kigezi Civil Society Forum aimed at strengthening CSOs coordination. This had been one of KICK-U's plans.

Despite several challenges encountered along the way, KICK-U plans to expand the activities to other regions and increase the operational capacity, mobilize more resources to stabilize the operational efficiency and continue to build capacity of Board and Staff Members as well as bringing new partners and donors on board.

At this point, I would like to once again wish to sincerely thank, appreciate, and thank you our beloved collaborates for committing your time and resources towards achieving the KICK-U mandate. Please stay safe endeavor to supplement government and Global efforts in sensitizing masses using your different platforms in your areas of Operation to stop the spread of COVID-19

HON. NINSIIMA RONAH RITA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON



**BYAMUGISHA ROBERT
KAKURU**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FORE WORD

INTRODUCTION

KICK-U is a registered anti-corruption coalition of indigenous Civil Society Organizations, special interest groups and individuals in Uganda, working in partnership with public and private institutions to fight against corruption and abuse of fundamental human Rights to access vital development services. KICK-U governance and management/administrative structure consists of: A General Assembly, a Board of Directors and Secretariat. The Secretariat is headed by Executive Director assisted by four program and two administrative staff. At the sub-national level, the coalition operates in the all the Kigezi region districts of Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Rukiga and Rubanda, at the national level the coalition links with national level advocacy organisations like ACCU, UDN, UNNGOF, AAI(U), CSBAG, GRA, NCHRD-U. The coalition also collaborates with accountability state institutions like IG, OAG, EOC, and DEI.

Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) embarked on implementing a six year strategic plan that potentially changed the KICK-U focus of civic empowerment from basic sensitization to empowerment to take action in the demand for good governance and accountability. The plan revolved around innovative ways of working where emphasis was put on partnership building and constructive engagement with state and non-state actors at all levels. It drew its strength from putting citizens in the driver's seat while playing a central facilitator and intermediary.

a. VISION

A Corruption – Free Society

b. MISSION

Facilitating Communities to demand for Accountability and Good governance for improved Service delivery.

c. OBJECTIVES

- To fight Corruption and promote Good Governance and Accountability.
- To Sensitize and Empower Communities to demand for Accountability
- To promote and protect Human Rights
- To promote Partnership and Networking with other Development Partners.
- To build a vibrant Anti-corruption Coalition.

GOAL

Empowering citizens to fight corruption and promote Human Rights in Uganda.

To achieve the above objectives and the overall organisational goal, KICK-U, continues to pursue nine Key Result Areas (KRAs). These will include:

KRA1: Enhanced Capacity of the KICK-U Secretariat to deliver on its core mandate and contribute to national development

KRA2: Better coordination among and improved functioning of civil society organisations in the Kigezi region.

KRA3: Increased civic awareness and effective participation of citizens in the Kigezi region in the local area development agenda

KRA4: Strong collaborative partnership between civil society and local governments within in the Kigezi region, with improved responsiveness of government to citizens' concerns

KRA5: Youth and women effectively participating in political leadership and in monitoring of development programs

KRA6: Effective anti-corruption mechanisms in place and citizens actively engaged in the anti-corruption agenda, corruption cases decisively resolved and general decline in corruption practices in both the public and private sector.

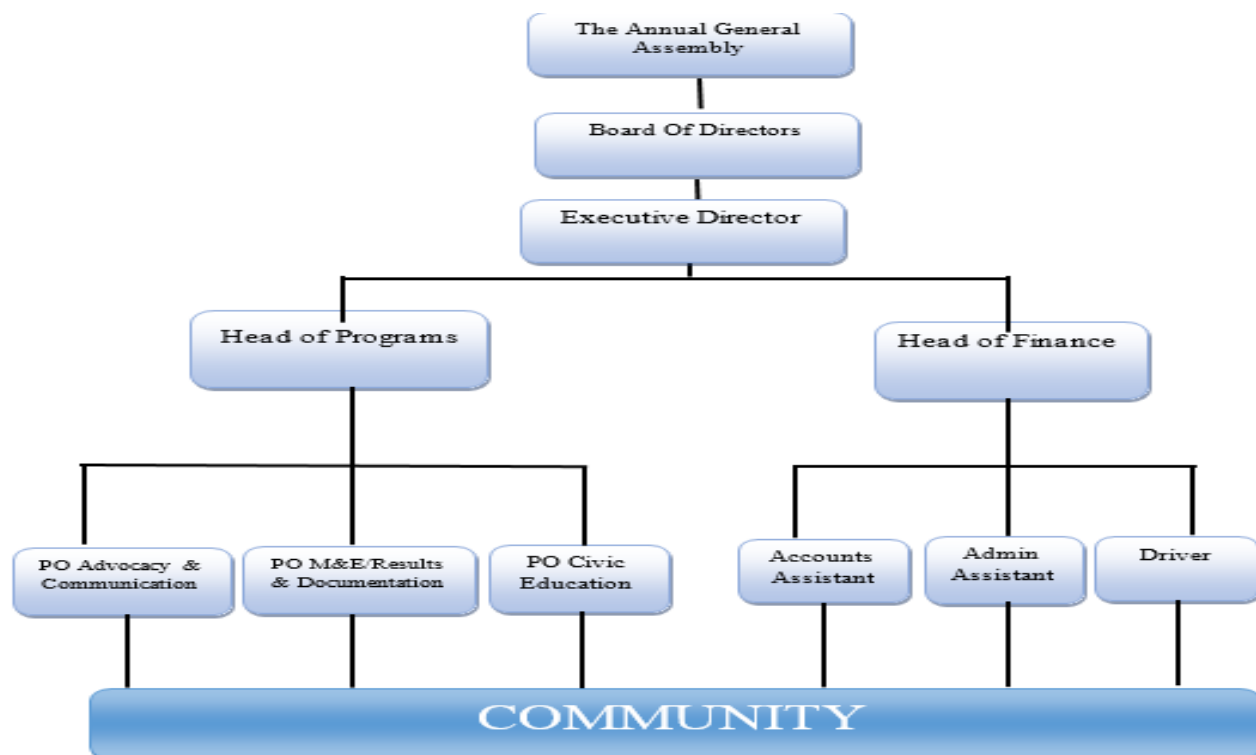
KRA7: Mechanisms for resolving land conflicts in place and sound natural resources management and utilization strategies in place.

KRA8: Local empowerment through effective service delivery and mobilisation of poverty reduction by local civil society.

KRA9: Strengthened government mechanism for dialogue, communication, consultation and negotiation on key policies.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

KICK-U governance and management/administrative structure consists of:



A General Assembly at the apex of the management structure, which is made up of delegates from the Member organisations and networks. This is the supreme Policy making Body.

Board of Directors which is made up of 9 members recognised in Administration and Leadership elected to run for three terms at an annual General Meeting and;

Secretariat: Executive Director heads management and administration functions including a Secretariat. Below the secretariat, there are community monitors at community level who monitor service Units and projects.

PARTNERSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENT

KICK-U in partnership with, ACODE, ACCU, OAG, IG, CSBAG, MoFPED, AAIU, UNNGOF, DENIVA, AFIC, SEATINI, DEI, GIZ, NDI among others for a period of 12 months (January-December 2020) in the 6 Districts of Kabale, Kisoro, Rubanda, Rukiga, Rukungiri and Kanungu in Kigezi Sub Region worked hand in hand to further the agenda of the agency through several activities that were conducted in the Region and the Nation as a whole.

Under this period, KICK-U managed to implement SCENE (TOPOWA and Fireplace Conversations), with the support of USAID/UNNGOF, Service Delivery and Budget Monitoring with the Support of DGF/CSBAG, Election Observation with Support from DGF/ACFIM and NDI and OPEN CONTRACTING in partnership with AFIC. These components were conducted in all the 6 districts mentioned above.

This report is an output of activities implemented under KICK-U in the above mentioned six districts in partnership with the citizens, district political and technical leadership.

KICK-U would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Support of GIZ for the Policy Documents Review, AGM, Board Meeting, and Governance issues at KICK-U.

DGF/CSBAG, USAID/UNNGOF, DGF/ACFIM, and NDI in form of funds to facilitate the activities in Kigezi Sub region as mentioned above.

KICK-U also appreciates the contributions of the KICK-U Board members, District-based researchers/Assessors across Kigezi Sub –Region which made these activities a success.

At the District level, KICK-U is particularly indebted to the offices of the District Chairpersons, Speakers of District Councils, the Chief Administrative Officers, RDCs, District Councillors, Heads of Departments, Media, DIPF members and the Clerks to Council for the support and information you provided during the project implementation period.

KICK-U is also grateful to the citizens/members of various communities, who provided different pieces of information that are part of this report.

In a special way KICK-U would like to greatly thank Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) and USAID contributing partners for providing funding for several activities implemented in Kigezi Sub Region.

ANNUAL ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

There were major projects implemented during the year of 2020 i.e. good governance and social accountability, Election Observation, SCENE, Quarterly Board Meetings and an Annual General Assembly, Partnership engagement meetings, Radio Talkshws.

Good Governance and Social accountability were all about enhancing quality and volume of service delivery to the population by duty-bearers through promoting and strengthening transparency, accountability, ethics and integrity in local governments on the one side and empowering communities through information provision, exposure, confidence building to participate in decision-making and effectively demand for accountability from duty-bearers on the other hand. Focus was put on stimulating and sustaining the practice of self-assessment, self-reflection and problem identification and solution finding from within local governments, through peer-to-peer learning mechanisms, electoral activity observation using the Long and Short Term Observers. The activities used problem solving approaches that generated action that emerged from within leading to more sustainable change, as opposed to actions and change

that is externally driven. It promoted partnerships between rights holders and duty-bearers in identifying performance gaps in the service delivery chain and formulating strategies for addressing the gaps.

KICK-U was involved in several meetings concerning governance, accountability, leadership and planning.

MAIN REPORT

Over the years, Uganda witnessed a steady growth of civil society organisations in Uganda most of which are community based such as women groups, youth groups, farmers associations, burial groups, savings and credit associations and district civil society networks. In Kigezi region, KICK-U mainly focused at addressing basic needs of local citizens and especially built the capacity of citizens to demand accountability and service delivery from government. This was evidenced in increased involvement of civil society organisations in local government planning processes and service delivery monitoring.

KICK-U also noted that collaboration amongst civil society organisations had also not been enhanced due to limited capacity within district civil society networks especially the time of COVID-19 and its effects on the activities, but also due to internal weakness within civil society organisation, more especially district networks. Most of the district networks also had had challenges with internal accountability, which prevented them from demanding for the same from government. KICK-U positioned herself to continue building the capacity of her members to first address their internal challenges as a pre requisite to engage government to improve on service delivery under the support of GIZ.

ORGANISATION ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

KICK-U believes that governance assessment outcomes and recommendations are more accepted when the process is underpinned by strong participation of local stakeholders.

Her involvement directly targeted local organizations, institutions and Departments of local Government such as the Police, Judiciary, RDC, DISO, District council (Youth, women, elderly persons and PWDs representatives), the service delivery infrastructure (CAO and heads of department), DPACs, CSOs- networks, district media associations and private sector associations. KICK-U ensured gender representation and participation, informed by the context of current sex representation in the various Departments and institutions.

DISTRICT COVID-19 TASKFORCE

KICK-U was largely involved in the activities of COVID-19 prevention that were taking place in Kabale. It was chosen to represent the CSOs in the District where GIZ was also a partner in the development process. A few items were given to different Government Agencies involved in the fight. It was successful because of the efforts invested in. KICK-U was responsible for mobilizing other CSOs in the fight against COVID-19 through agreed upon means and ways. KICK-U organized Radio talk shows to sensitize public on COVID-9 prevention measures as well as governance and Accountability issues.

POLICY INFLUENCING DIALOGUE ON PETROLEUM FUND MANAGEMENT

This was a dialogue between Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, Policy Makers and CSO leaders for the concerned sector. It was meant to deliberate on the application of the Petroleum fund and the strategy in place for the fund in relation to Priority Setting and national Development. It was also focused on the revenue from oil and gas production that was emphasised on the development of other sectors. This called for a discussion on the management of revenues, which is to be based on facts and figures not assumptions.

KICK- U realised that the revenues from oil and gas production was not properly appropriated and the intended usefulness of the same fund was not clearly documented and presented for accountability. This was a result of the fact that there was no transparency in the management, which calls for accountability of the revenue usage, strengthening the capacity of CSOs to do ground work that is recommended and advocate for accountability. It was also observed that the revenues needed to also be appropriated for social economic development.

THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS ENGAGEMENT

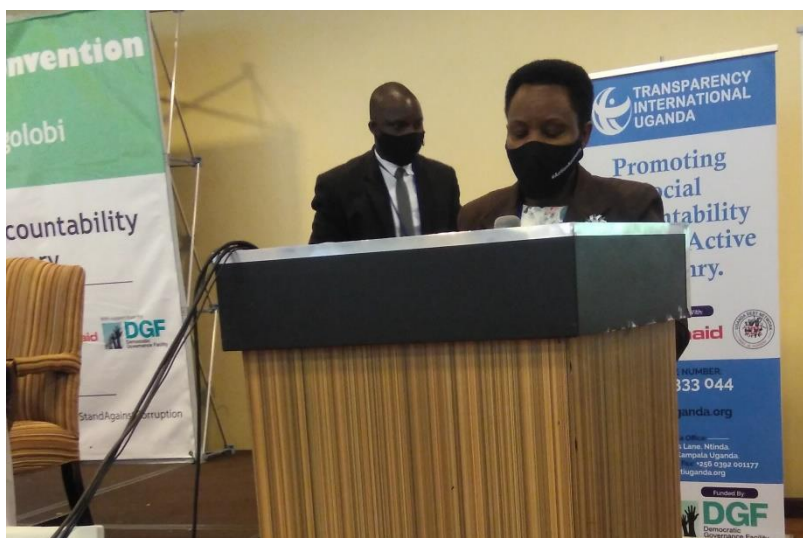
KICK-U was involved in this strategic meeting held in consultations with the representative from ministry of Finance and other stakeholders from other for a to look into the ways of how to make our engagements with Policy Makers work so as to achieve the desired results. The ultimate objective was to ensure that the methods in place are improved to get better results.



Taremwa Albert – Head of Programs attending one of the Education Sector Working Group Meetings at Hotel Africana (Photo by KICK-U, November 2020)

THE ANTI CORRUPTION WEEK

KICK-U was involved in the Anti-Corruption week in partnership with Anti- Corruption coalition of Uganda. SHACU (State House Anti-Corruption Unit) through their Leader Col. Edith Nakalema took part in the launch for Anti-Corruption Week which started with an Anti-Corruption Convention at Royal Suites Bugolobi in Kampala. She highlighted the achievements of the Unit in the Last two years and asked CSOs to partner with the State in the fight against Corruption.



SHACU Team Leader Col. Edith Nakalema giving her remarks. (Photo by KICK-U, December 2020)



Members of the National Anti-Corruption Teams in attendance at the Convention (Photo by KICK-U, December 2020)

NATIONAL INTEGRITY CHAMPIONSHIP

KICK-U in Partnership with Action Aid Uganda coordinated the nomination exercise for the 2020 National Integrity and Service Delivery Award to promote integrity, stewardship, transparency, and accountability in public service for inclusive growth, development, and democratic governance.

To provide space for citizens to fight against corruption by nominating men and women who are icons of integrity in their communities who had demonstration of selflessness and stewardship in delivery of quality public services to the citizens of Uganda.

To champion a public crusade in the fight against corruption and integrity in public service for a democratic governance in Uganda.

KICK-U succeeded concerning human resource particularly for technical support, linkage and coordination of the nomination processes at sub regional and national levels.

Worked with identified media house, which was VOICE OF KIGEZI FM ltd to ensure adequate coverage and participation of citizens in the nomination process, which was very successful.

Jointly coordinated the event/ project preparation with Action Aid International Uganda, which made the whole exercise run smoothly.

Two of the three successful Nominees from Kigezi got National Awards and these were ; Rt Rev. Eng. George Bagamuhunda, the Bishop of Kigezi Diocese and Ms. Eudia Mutabazi Akomuhangi the Town Clerk of Muhanga Town Council.



The Pictorial View of the Integrity Awards at Royal Suites, Bugolobi (Photo by KICK-U, December 2020)



Ms. Eudia Akomuhangi Mutabaazi (r) from Kigezi Region who came as second runners up in the Management Category (Photo by KICK-U, December 2020)

Shared the recommendations from the different sub regions with the local and central governments for Transparency purposes.

Key Activities Implemented

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

- Budget Monitoring and Implementation follow up
- Engaged in Electoral Financing sensitizing communities on the dangers of Money in Politics. 15 Activists that distributed the leaflets where Males – 6, Females – 9, Number of leaflets distributed to community amounting to 4986. Areas of distributions (District, constituencies, sub counties, parishes, and Villages). **Rukiga District, Kabale District, Rubanda District, Rukungiri District** Youths - Males - 600 Female – 715, PWDs - Males – 23 Females – 21, Adults - Males – 1608 Females – 2019. In some of the areas especially the peri urban, the responses were harsh as some people were used to receiving handouts and they thought we were agents giving money. Some had to tear the fliers because to them, they did not make sense. However,
 - ✓ Most of the people confessed that when the politicians bring money they would have to take it because they are hungry.
 - ✓ It was however not a smooth exercise because some of the recipients did not give attention to what we were explaining to them because we came empty handed. Most of the recipients did not want photos taken or even videos because they thought they were going to be put on radios and persecuted. I would recommend that a relatively bigger budget be allocated so that our activists can cover a wider area.
 - ✓ We would also have a Radio talk show or two to enlight the communities of our presence and objectives.



Rural Business women discussing the Flier that enlightens the need to fight the use of Money in Politics (Photo by KICK-U, July 2020)

Conducted 5 quarterly Joint budget monitoring with duty bearers and communities in the five Sub counties of Kamuganguzi, Kitumba, Buhara, Southern Division and Kaharo. 10 service delivery centres/offices monitored, 02 sectors of Education, and Health Monitored where 87/100 PBCs and 14/15 CBA's participated in the community budget monitoring in the Five sub counties of Kabale.



Front and side view of Constructed VIP latrine at Kasheregyenyi P/S Kamuganguzi Subcounty.(Photo by KICK-U, December 2020)

CONDUCTED JOINT COMMUNITY BUDGET MONITORING WITH DUTY BEARERS.

Kick Corruption out Uganda (KICK-U) in partnership with Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) conducted 3 Community joint community budget Monitoring with Duty bearers in the five Subcounties of Kamuganguzi, Kitumba, Buhara, Kaharo and Southern Division for three quarters i.e. January -March, July September , and October-December 2020. Joint Community Budget monitoring was done in sectors of Health, Education and Social Development. A total of 28 Service Units / offices were Monitored i.e. 12 Primary schools, 11 Health facilities and 5 Social Development offices. Schools monitored were Kansinga, Kaharo, Kicumbi, Kasheregyenyi, Mwisi, Bukoora, Kiniogo, Bugarama, Muyebe, Nyamukyengyere, Buhara and Bushuro primary schools. In Health, monitored health facilities were; Kafunjo HCII, Rwene HCII, Kamukira HCIV, Ndorwa Prison HCIII, Kaharo HCIII, Burambira HCII, Kakomo HCIV, Kabindi HCII, Kijurera HCII, Katenga HCII, and Kasheregyenyi HCIII and five Social Development offices were monitored. The January-March Joint community monitoring was conducted on 5th, March 2020 in the five Subcounties of Kamuganguzi, Kitumba, Buhara, Kaharo and Southern Division. Participants in the monitoring were duty bearers, Community Budget Advisors and Participatory Budget Club Members and a total of 116 (63 male and 53 female) took part.

CONDUCTED SUB COUNTY BUDGET CONFERENCES.

Five Subcounty budget conferences were conducted in the five sub-counties of Buhara, Kamuganguzi and Kitumba, Kaharo and Southern Division. The aim of the budget conferences were to provide platforms for citizens to participate and influence the sub county government budget priorities. A total of 182 participants attended of which 81 were male and 101 were female who were Sub county chiefs, LC3 Chairpersons, LC2s, LCIs, CDO, Parish chiefs, Subcounty Agricultural officers, and communities. These are highlighted in the Subcounty budget conference report.



Niwarinda Denesi- KICK-U-CSBAG Focal person presenting position paper during Southern Division budget conference on 2nd November 2020 (Photo by KICK-U, Nov 2020)

Conducted two Quarterly community Budget Dialogues which PBCs CBA and community members meet to validate the findings obtained from the monitoring process while seeking for Community Inputs for various service gaps that affect their community in which they live. During the quarter joint Budget Dialogues were held in the Five sub counties beginning with Kamuganguzi on 16th March, Kitumba on 17th March, Southern Division on 18th March, Buhara and Kaharo on 19th March, 2020. Participants attending the Community Budget Dialogues were 92 PBCs, 15 CBA's and 152 Community members totaling to 259 participants (122 male and 147 female).

CONDUCTED SUB COUNTY BUDGET INTERFACE MEETING

Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) in partnership with CSBAG organized 01 Quarterly community interface meeting for that was held in each of the five Sub counties of Kabale that is Kamuganguzi and Southern Division, Buhara, Kitumba and Kaharo. The objective of Community Interface meetings was to provide a platform for Duty bearers and citizens dialogue on the findings of the budget monitoring, service delivery, and solicit commitments from Duty Bearers to address the service delivery gaps.

Kick Corruption out of Uganda in partnership with Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) with the support of the USAID organized a regional Civic Agency Learning Fellowship for civil society stakeholders and government actors in the Kigezi Region which took place on Friday 12th July, 2019 at Kirigime Guest House.

The main objective of the Civic Agency Learning Fellowships was to contribute towards improved collaboration and shared learning amongst civil society organizations engaged in electoral and political processes in the regions across the country. Other objectives included;

- Identify areas of collaboration between civil society actors;
- Build synergies within civil sector work on elections in the regions for improved results;
- Introduce the Strengthening Citizens' Engagement in Elections (SCENE) Activity to civil society stakeholders and government actors in the region where 30 members were in attendance.
- Conducted Community radio talk shows and promotional jingles on Good governance and social Accountability.
- Conducted 24 quarterly meetings to influence local government leaders to give accountability on health and education social services.

Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) in partnership with Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) implemented 20 Topowa Forums and fireplace conversations in Kigezi Region in 2020.

The main objective of the Topowa Forum was to contribute towards active participation of citizens (especially youth and women) in electoral processes.

Other objectives included;

- Identifying the main community concerns with the electoral process
- Agreement on actions to mitigate electoral challenges and encourage citizens' participation in electoral processes.

The forum was conducted in sub-counties /areas of Kamunganguzi, Kitumba, and Kyanamira with Neighborhood assembly in Muyumbu and Ekibina Kyengozi in Nyakahita, Mazibasubocunty, and Kabale Municipality with the Slum Dwellers association where each Forum/Ekyoto Fire conversation is always of 30 and above participants but always targeted 30 participants.

Key community concerns with the electoral processes

- Ranking issues according to the most critical.
- Underlying causes of those concerns.
- Practical actions that can be taken to mitigate these challenges.
- Politics and leadership:

How leadership work for us

- How will community look like if we got leaders that work for us?
- What we need to do to get there

Elections in Uganda:

- General perspectives on elections
- Making the citizen's vote count
- Fighting use of money in elections

The Uganda National Dialogue

- What issues should we talk a bout
- How do we get Uganda that works for us?
- The Ekyoto fire place conversation and Topowa forums implemented by Kick Corruption out of Uganda- in the Kigezi Region. The Activities were conducted in Maziba, Kyanamira, Kitumba, Kamunganguzi and Kabale Municipality.

The main objective of the fireplace conversation was to contribute towards active participation of citizens (especially youth and women) in electoral processes.



One of the Fire place (Ekyoto) conversations in Kitumba Subcounty – Kabale District (Photo by KICK-U, March 2020)

Other objectives included;

- i). Disseminate the electoral commission roadmap and key activities there in with citizens and their formations
- ii). Agree on actions to disseminate the information about the verification of the voters register and re-arrangement of polling centres
- iii). Inspire interest and commitment from the citizens and their formations to engage with the electoral commission roadmap ahead of the 2021 elections
- iv). Share the CSO leaderships message to citizens on electoral reforms and agree on key actions to take the message forward.

Summary of key issues Discussed:

- Follow up on actions from conversations in the previous quarter
- Disseminating information about key activities in the electoral commission Roadmap
- Raising awareness on the Civic society message to electoral commission among the citizens
- Groups agreements on action to mobilize more citizens to engage with the process.

KICK-U was involved in monitoring the Campaign Financing in the region of Kigezi specifically in Kabale and Rukungiri where the Campaign spending was followed up through the campaign process. Many people were found not to have taken their own decisions but rather influenced by the money that was given to them. This was an activity that was done in partnership with ACFIM, a Partner involved in monitoring money in elections.

INSTITUTIONAL AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING

KICK-U attended 24 networking and information sharing meetings with its partners and donors. These included; ACCU, ACODE, DNI, CSBAG, GIZ, SEATINI, AFIC, AAIU, ACFIM and UDN.



KICK-U represented at the panel of discussion during the Anti-corruption Convention organised by ACTION AID, TIU and ACCU at Royal suites Bugolobi (Photo by KICK-U, December 2020)

BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF KICK-U STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS

KICK-U Staff and Capacity of Board Members in Governance & Leadership strengthened under the CUSP Project of GIZ.

Four KICK-U staff were facilitated to participate in external workshops that have promoted networking and information sharing with other partners, through this synergy building is encouraged amongst partners for more efficiency and effectiveness in various initiatives.



KICK-U and other Anti-Corruption Agencies After Launching The Education Sector Report At Hotel Africana Organised By ACCU and TIU – Kampala (Photo by KICK-U, November 2020)

FACILITATING QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS.

Three (3) quarterly board meetings were conducted and all the 7 (3 Females and 4 males) board members attended the prepared board meetings to deliberate on issues to facilitate the smooth running of the project.

CROSS CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Procurement of office equipment/Assets.

KICK-U acquired a Laptop and two MIFI Gadgets to help in communication and project implementation from GIZ to support the implementation of CUSP activities.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED ACHIEVEMENTS.

1. Citizens were trained on how to conduct Community engagement meetings (CEMs) and come up with community action plans to address the prioritised needs to their respective leaders for collective action.
2. KICK-U developed a monitoring and evaluation plan to keep monitoring the project achievement registered and advise where accordingly.
3. KICK-U will keep monitoring the implementation of Local Government Budgets developed by citizens and give advice where necessary.

CHALLENGES.

As we work with key district stakeholders, we did not anticipate that some of them (political and technical officials) like the RDCs, CAO, LCV Chairpersons, DPCs, and Operation Wealth Creation officials would come along with escorts and drivers in meetings who need to be catered for in terms of meals and transport refund. This compromises the attendance of these officials. However, KICK-U managed to elaborate the operation design, which they appreciated but have continuously recommended that their support staff be catered for in the subsequent meeting arrangements.

There is still high expectation from stakeholders beyond what KICK-U can afford in terms of facilitation. KICK-U has continuously created awareness among the stakeholders that it is their constitutional duty to participate in development processes.

There were issues of accreditation to KICK-U from the Electoral Commission which interrupted much of the Election Observation activities as had been planned.

The major challenge was low response of community members during budget dialogue meetings and interface meetings.

Secondly, community apathy caused by slow response to implement the actions by duty bearers demotivates the community members. Some PBCs and CBA's who have joined need some training. Because there are always changes in the tools used to monitor, participatory budget club members and CBA's complain that they should at least have a day for training and then the day for monitoring. Training as they go for monitoring has been a challenge to them since they have to travel long distances.

LESSONS LEARNED

Kick Corruption out of Uganda has learnt that multi-stakeholder involvement in monitoring public goods and services improves service delivery. Local Government should effectively plan and budget for district joint monitoring for sustainability purposes.

KICK-U continues to appreciate and learn more about Local Government operations, systems and how civil society and LG can complement each other to achieve a common goal. Local Government departments are beginning to appreciate the need and importance of organized systems which will enable them track performance, as well as improved accountability and record keeping. This should be adopted as a continuous learning process to help them build

their capacity in as far as strengthening the supply and demand sides of accountability for effective leadership and improved service delivery is concerned.

Kick Corruption out of Uganda learnt that the direct interface between citizens and duty bearers through the joint monitoring has bridged the gap whereby there's an improvement in information sharing which is helping leaders to respond to service delivery gaps for action. Such engagements should be made continuous for purposes of information sharing which facilitates effective leadership and improved service delivery.

KICK-U learnt that most of LG departments operate in isolation. However departments should work and complement each other for effective leadership and improved service delivery therefore there's need for continued interventions that bring them together.

KICK-U also learnt and felt that the presence and involvement of the Board members in promoting the vision, mission and objectives of the organization improves partnership and collaboration with other development agencies. It is important to strengthen governance systems which contribute to institutional growth and development.

KICK-U appreciated the need for regular skills development of staff as this builds their capacity to deliver on their tasks effectively and efficiently as well as the confidence and skills to do so.

KICK-U appreciated the importance of capacity building and support from its partners (UNNGOF, CSBAG and AFIC) towards project implementation where this has helped mitigate the would-be challenges, hence leading to the good progress of the projects. It is important to network and collaborate for synergy building in Kigezi region.

Local government's budgets are small and revenue collection is very low because people have no incomes. This limits funding of service delivery in local government. Also the policy does not allow Sub counties to fund health and education services, and even if the policy allowed, the Sub counties have no capacity to fund them due to underfunding. For instance, a Sub county cannot manage the construction of two toilet facilities within a year or build a classroom block. There is a problem of the wage bill which affects staffing in local government. Local government role has been that of advocacy also, submitting priorities to district and pushing for some projects to be done. Budgets are not decentralized. I also learnt commercialized politics have caused a serious problem, Community members response in participating in development

meetings is low for instance during budget conferences the number of community members were low, and mostly participants were Chairperson LCIs who also were bitter for not getting transport refund. Some Sub-counties have even no facilitation for refreshments during budget conferences which makes those who come once not to come again.

LCs do not know the issues affecting service delivery in education and health and duty bearers, including teachers, Head teachers, in-charges who are at the centre of service delivery do not participate in these budget conferences. For instance the issues of Rwene Health Centre II were not captured in the 2020/2021 budget simply because PBCs, from Rwene parish did not attend the budget conference that took place a date before finalizing the 1st Quarter reporting.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Local government departments should work and complement each other for effective leadership and improved service delivery therefore there's need for continued interventions that bring them together

There is need for continued interventions that can bring departments together like DIPFs, DPACs that are more or less nonfunctional.

Continued need to strengthen governance systems, which contribute to institutional growth and development through corporate governance capacity building.

Regular skills development and capacity building of staff capacity is paramount and therefore required.

Local Government should effectively plan and budget for district joint monitoring for sustainability purposes which can only be achieved through all level inclusiveness in the process.

Paying PBCs, Duty bearers, and CBA's signing on payment sheets caused conflicts and bias for community members who said they were being used only as others were getting money.

The new system of beyonic payments where all register on attendance sheets only has to some extent harmonized the conflict and compared to previous meeting, there has been some improvements in the turn up.

SUCCESS STORY

THE ELECTION STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM

Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) in partnership with Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) organized and conducted the Regional Elections stakeholders Forum in Kigezi Region on 7th august 2020. The Regional Election stakeholders' Forum was held at Kirigime Guest House –Kabale Municipality.

The main objective of the Stakeholder Forum was to contribute to public discourse on the debate around the revised electoral commission roadmap and campaign guidelines.

Specifically, the Regional stakeholders' forum was to;

- i. Create awareness about the revised electoral commission roadmap and campaign guidelines and the implications to citizens' participation in electoral processes.
- ii. Identify citizens' perceptions and views on the revised electoral commission guidelines and roadmap.
- iii. Generate regional consensus on the form and substance of engagement in the 2020/21 general elections.

The stakeholders Forum was also broadcast live on Voice of Kigezi FM (V.O.K) in Kabale District Southwestern Uganda - the most popular local radio station with a bigger listenership of about 2 million people from within Kigezi region, and from regions of Ankole, Region, Eastern Congo, Northern Tanzania and Rwanda.

The Elections stakeholders engagement facilitated by key thought individuals (Panelists) identified by KICK-U who were; Dr. & Senior lecturer from Kabale University, a lawyer from Bikangiso & Co Advocates, District returning officer-Electoral commission office-Kabale, and one CSO leader (Executive Director Kick Corruption Out of Uganda).

Participation

The stakeholders' forum pulled an audience of twenty six (26) participants. These were disaggregated as follows; District returning officer/Register-Electoral commission for Kabale, Representatives from civil society organisations in Kigezi region, leaders of major political parties (NRM&FDC), critical stake holders such District leaders- including political and civic council leaders, members from religious community, Journalists, Civic mentors and Forum conveners, representative from Development partner (UNNGOF) and other stakeholders in the Region attended.

The Forum was organized in the context of COVID-19 and so, its preparation took into consideration the observance of the Standard Operating procedures (SOPs) as guided by MOH. Masks were provided to all participants, hand sanitizing as well as social distance was all observed as the preventive measure for corona virus- pandemic.

Participants who attended the forum included both male and female as categorized according to gender and age as shown in the table.

The forum was guided by the program with itemized events, which started with introduction, prayer and opening remarks.



A Panel of Discussants and a Modulator L-R(Counsel Nabimanya Erasmus– Lawyer, Taremwa Albert (HOP-KICK-U), Byamugisha Robert (ED-KICK-U) and Dr. Barigye Godfrey (Senior lecturer at Kabale University) (Photo by KICK-U, August 2020)



Participants taking notes during the discussion. (Photo by KICK-U, August 2020)