

CIDD-UG NEWSLETTER

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Hon Kirabo Agness youth Member of Parliament Central Region hands over a certificate of recognition to CIDD-UG for successful implementation of youth community leadership programme in eastern Uganda.

Message from executive director

Dear Reader, Greetings from Citizen Initiative for Democracy and Development Uganda (CIDD-UG). We are pleased to present to you yet another edition of our Quarterly Newsletter for the period April to June 2023. At CIDD-UG, we have doubled our effort towards building partnership and collaborations with Government and CSOs to push for more inclusive development processes right from community to national levels. We are quite aware that development is essentially a locally driven political process, for which matter Governments have the unique responsibility to lead sustainable development and to uphold human rights. Their efforts however cannot be successful without the inclusive and equitable participation of all actors. With continued CSO mistrust and shrinking Civic space there is urgent need to rebuild the trust to enable CSOs to play their part. At this point, we present to you actions of our deliberate continued efforts to strengthen civil society and Local Government partnerships for trust Building but also to create an enabling environment for CSO operations so as to cause desired change in the lives of local people. We hope you will enjoy reading!!!!

“Development is essentially a locally driven political process”



POLICY ADVOCACY FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN UGANDA

During the quarter, CIDD-UG successfully conducted **one education improvement** policy advocacy engagement meeting. The meeting, whose objective was to ignite and influence the leaders' attitudes towards prioritizing inclusive education in Pallisa and Budaka, was attended by a cross section of **35 female and 37 male** technical, political and other key education stakeholders in the respective Districts. Altogether **72** leaders benefited from this engagement in the two districts. Education and Sports Sector has the country's mandate to offer education as a basic human right. The core objective is to equip learners/students/trainees with relevant knowledge and skills necessary for socio-economic transformation and development. This is in line with the fourth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) which emphasizes inclusive and quality education for all as well as the promotion of lifelong learning. The sector embraced inclusive education and evidently committed itself to bringing about inclusion of learners at every level of education regardless of their strengths or weaknesses. Despite achievements registered, a number of challenges not limited to Financing and data on learners with disability for appropriate planning; the data mostly captured for learners with disabilities refers to children with visual or hearing impairments. Data on learners with intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities or psychosocial disabilities among others is not often captured and this affects planning for their needs.



Mrs Kaidu Ketty Gender officer Kibuku DLG

It was against such background that CIDD-UG during the period under review, through her strategic policy influencing project, planned and conducted policy advocacy for inclusive education in the eastern region. The immediate outcome of these meetings were action plans drawn on how and when to generate data for learners in the District to inform planning apart from conducting joint CSO and Government service inspection to enhance education service delivery in the two Districts including those with special needs.

“I want to thank CIDD-UG for the wise idea of embanking on challenging government to enhance inclusive education. For it's a fact that Local Governments have not invested in ensuring that there is available data on the learners with Disability. We have continued to plan for disability but without accurate data. This in itself is misleading because it is not possible to plan where there is no data. I request CIDD-UG to continue to help me push for this, only then shall we be able to adequately respond to the unique needs of these learners”. Said Kaidu Ketty, Gender officer Kibuku District

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN CSOS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

During the reporting period, CIDD-UG was able to build new partnership with Action aid and Namutumba District Local Government. The organization has continued being deliberate on creating and nurturing partnership with Government for strategic purposes of enabling civil society participation and addressing shrinking operating space. As development is essentially a locally driven political process, Governments have the unique responsibility to lead sustainable development and to uphold human rights. But their efforts cannot be successful without the inclusive and equitable participation of all actors. Like civil society organizations, the private sector, it was for such reasons that CIDD-UG during the period under review deliberately continued to strengthen civil society partnerships for enabling CSO participation in development processes, beginning with planning and continuing through implementing and monitoring national and local development strategies.



CSO members' Courtesy visit to Principal Planner Namutumba DLG

NURTURING DEMOCRACY THROUGH CIVIC DEBATE



Participants during Citizen Governance improvement debates

CIDD-UG during the period under review conducted leaders- citizen Governance improvement debates in Bukedi sub region. One such engagement hosted a cross section of 60 leaders in Bukedi sub region in the category of District political

heads, Chief Administrative officers, District and sub county planners, District speakers, District internal security officers, District police commanders, Resident District commissioners, opinion, cultural and religious leaders, CSO representatives among others. It was purposed to influence leader's attitude and practices towards embracing citizen participation in development planning for their views to be integrated into development plans to ensure that unique needs of the vulnerable groups are catered for. The activity that benefited 25 females and 35 males, was premised on the fact that without active citizen participation or involvement in public affairs, democracy only becomes empty faced. As a result of this engagement leaders were able to appreciate the need for citizen participation but also committed to prevail over public officers to ensure that their development plans reflect citizen's voices and their unique needs.

“If Local Governments are to improve on the services to the local population, there is an urgent need for proper revenue mobilization, management and appropriation. Since our region is endowed with valuable natural resources, I push that a percentage of revenue generated from endowments be retained to help in timely response to the unique demands from the local people”. Said Hon Maziga Muzamilu Speaker of Kibuku District Council during the engagement held at Pallisa District.

“Public servants should be focused on serving the public - not any special interest group, and good governance should be an expectation - not an exception”

Abigail Spanberger



Hon. Orone Derrick MP Gogonyo County Pallisa District presenting during the regional citizen engagement on constitutional and political reforms

During the period under review, **CIDD-UG** in collaboration with **FWODE**, planned and conducted the Regional

citizen engagements to enhance and popularize Citizen demand for political and electoral reforms in Uganda. The objective of these engagements was to push for needed political and electoral reforms ahead 2026 General elections to improve on the level of acceptance of electoral outcome and as well work towards improving the credibility of elections in Uganda. Free and Fair elections are the hallmark of a well-functioning democracy and the foundation of a legitimate and stable government. The general election system including the model of the election management body, the nature of electoral laws, levels of civic consciousness, and the way candidates raise and spend funds during campaigns all have a significant bearing on the kind of elections a society is bound to have and broadly affect the democratic operating environment. The regional meeting that engaged over **100** key election stakeholders in the region decried commercialization of politics as being one of the issues that have inhibited active and meaningful participation of citizens in democratic process, especially women, young people and persons with disability because majority of them are vulnerable

and cannot afford to pay for votes though they can make good leaders. The regional debates inspired the citizens to demand that government strengthens and vigilantly enforces laws against voter bribery and commercialization of politics, demilitarizing electoral processes and allowing free political party involvement to ease meaningful participation of all categories of people in the process.

As an outcome of this engagement, a cross section of participants in Bukedi expressed the need for adoption of constitutional and electoral reforms that will improve both allocation of resources for service delivery and promotion of good governance as well as reduction of societal inequalities from the national perspective. One of them for example stressed that:

"We urge the Ugandan government to prioritize the process of constitutional reforms, ensuring that all stakeholders are consulted and represented. We call upon civil society organizations, members of parliament, political leaders, and citizens at large to actively engage in the process and advocate for a constitution that upholds the rule of law, protects human rights, and reflects the aspirations of all Ugandans. It is time for meaningful reform that strengthens democracy, ensures a sustainable future, and fosters prosperity for all." **Adome Anthony, opinion leader from Kaukura sub county Pallisa District.**

CIDD-UG will continue nurturing collaborative arrangements with CSOs and Government to ensure that people's voices and aspirations are tabled for consideration

STORIES OF CHANGE

CIDD-UG youth leadership programme ignites self awareness and causing change among young people in eastern Uganda.

Meet Outa Samson



He is 29 years old computer scientist. Outa after his course was still struggling to identify his area of strength until he one day met his opportunity where he was enrolled onto CIDD-UG nine month young people's leadership programme, where he gained skills in various aspects of life.

"This nine month leadership programme by CIDD-UG has helped me understand myself and recognise my potential. The programme has not only encouraged me to acknowledge and explore my own authenticity as well as understand and appreciate the differences of others, but has equally helped me develop a sense of purpose. Now I am

able to inspire and encourage other youth as well. Through this knowledge and skills, I have been able to mobilize and inspire **326** youth through various platforms to engage in meaningful activities and mostly leadership in their communities.

My deliberate action to inspire young people has made me to be viewed as a valuable asset in my community. For sure Self realization sessions are key for transforming young people". A testimony from Outa Samson, a beneficiary of CIDD-UG youth leadership programme.



Meet Ivan Adakun



Ivan is a 28 year old young professional engineer from Pallisa. After his graduation Ivan started meditating what Government and his country had to offer Him. His mindset was only changed when he was considered to be part of the nine month leadership mentoring programme by CIDD-UG. It was through this training that Adakun Ivan improved his thinking to start asking what he could offer to his Government, country and community. With the enterprising and leadership skills gained from the programme, Ivan set up a computer café and started

training young people from his community in maintenance and repair of computers as well as some basic computer skills and offering others employment opportunities. He also set up a music studio for creating awareness about social issues affecting young people using music and empowering them to work together if they are to change their living conditions. Through his innovate thinking CIDD-UG willingly retained him and he is currently a youth Focal person at CIDD-UG.



“His mindset was only changed when he was considered to be part of the nine month leadership mentoring programme by CIDD-UG”

“Together
we can
make a
difference”

CIDD-UG YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT IN PICTURES



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