



# CIDD-UG NEWSLETTER

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## CIDD-UG & CECU ENGAGE CITIZEN ON CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION IN BUKEDI FOR SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT ON POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL PROCESS

### HOW? AT A GLANCE

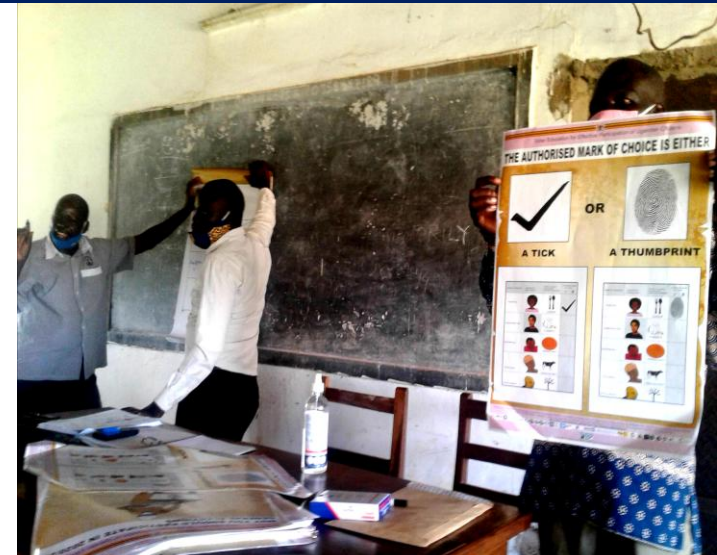
- 24 volunteers trained to conduct VE in six districts
- CIDD-UG sensitized and reached 5,215 voters through voter education campaign in Bukedi and Bugisu sub-regions
- 5,000 Voter Education IEC materials from CECU distributed in 4 districts to influence citizens to participate in voting process
- 3,700 voters sensitized through media
- 811 sensitized using door-door VE in Pallisa and Kibuku districts
- Enhanced knowledge and self confidence among 8,037 youth and women beneficiaries on effective and meaningful youth and women participation in the 2021 general elections as voters and candidates.

### OVERVIEW

CIDD-UG launched voter education (VE) campaign in December 2020 to disseminate voter information to citizens in Bukedi and Bugisu sub regions in Eastern Uganda. The campaign helped to empower citizens with the information and knowledge to effectively and meaningfully participate in governance and take on leadership roles in political and electoral processes. As a strategy for VE campaign, CIDD-UG developed formal and informal networks to increase information sharing that built citizens self-confidence for their active participation in the 2021 General Elections within COVID-19 context.

### How CIDD-UG Delivers voter education

**Door- Door.** Using structured approach, CIDD-UG continued to use this strategy with support from trained community voter educators to sensitize voters on the importance of participating in the electoral process in the COVID-19 context. The unique facet of this strategy is that it has quick multiplier effect in information reach and appreciation of the campaign at grassroots level. Ultimately, this supported CIDD-UG to reach over 811 eligible voters, something that contributed to reducing apathy of voters during electoral cycle in the region.



EC and CIDD-UG officials during voter education activity-Pallisa

Some of the trained Voter Educators (with IEC materials & their Bicycle) during Door to Door sensitization of voters to actively participate in 2021 General Election



**24 Voter Educators (VE)  
Trained**

**1**



**5,000 IEC VE Materials  
Disseminated**

**2**



**3,964 Youth Reached**

**3**



**4,073 Women Reached**

**4**



## **PUBLIC DRIVES:**

Between the period of January- February 2021, 10 public drives were conducted by CIDD-UG in the districts of Kibuku, Budaka, Butebo, Pallisa and Mbale City and 5,000 IEC materials shared across these district with support from **UPIMAC** and **CECU**. The public drives were aimed at sharing critical information on electoral activities in the run up to the 2021 general elections and COVID-19 SOPs. The public drives were not partisan drives but rather method of disseminating election messages to secure effective and meaningful citizens' participation.

## **MEDIA CAMPAIGNS:**

In this period under review, CIDD-UG also continued to use both electronic and print media as powerful tools for sensitizing, educating and informing citizens on various governance issues and effects of COVID-19 on the electoral processes. The media campaign reached over 3,700 people in Bukedi and Bugisu sub regions. Our radio programs continue to give CIDD-UG an opportunity to amplify our voter education messages and share information that focused on citizen's active participation and created a platform for political debates and accountability discussions.

## **CIDD-UG Voter education saves dozens of young people from violent action during the recently concluded national elections SUCCESS STORY 1**

**"My name is Oluk Denis I am 25 year old From Pallisa town council, I thank CIDD-UG for their mass voter education in our area "Ever since I started voting in this country, I have never concluded campaigns and or elections without being arrested for violent actions in my constituency let alone getting beaten by security officers. Most of the elections in my**

district witnessed some form of elections violence and this has always affected me and my family members once I am arrested and detained by security operative. The election violence has normally affected mostly young people who act in an election with limited knowledge of the electoral offences for instance; I quite remember that Pallisa Town Council was again ranked number 2 by electoral commission/Police in elections

related violence in Pallisa district in 2016 general elections despite heavy police deployment.

Consequently, in 2021 general elections, I am quite happy that I exercised my rights in the electoral process for the very first time without witnessing any violence and without being beaten by police. This has been made possible by CIDD-UG activity of voter education in Pallisa Town Council. It was not until late last year 2020 that I interfaced with CIDD-UG through both Rural Democracy Ride and



**I have not been arrested or trodden Oluk Denis from  
Pallisa District**



Voter Education information dissemination team on majorly election offences that enlightened me about the value of participating in election activities in a peaceful and responsible manner. I remember one of CIDD-UG riders informed people that there is life after an election, and that young people should be keen to live their life in a responsible manner. This struck me and I started thinking of my life beyond an election. It is from here that I started saying no to violence in elections as a young person.

I want to appreciate CIDD-UG Voter Education with her educative and empowering opportunities given to us young people and community members, you have given me a ray of hope. In the next election I want to contest as youth councilor to the district and my message is that youth are leaders, not just violent people as many in the community could be thinking. It all begins with how much information is available to the young people for them to act on. All young people should support me to create change in youth politics, to enable the youth lead a better life”.

## SUCCESS STORY 2

### Rising from community to political leader

My name is **Jane Frances Okanya** I am 43 years old from Limoto parish. At first, I was mere housewife who could rarely take any decision at both family and community levels

for long time. I have suffered from low self-esteem (“*okwenyoma*”), I was not able to speak up on any of the service delivery challenges in my sub



Jane (standing) said that “At the time of civic and subsequent voter education program & RDR helped me to develop self-confidence and public speaking skills to support my already endorsed candidature for sub county woman councilor representing Limoto Parish in Puti-Puti Sub County – Pallisa

county and could not even participate in the electoral process in my area. I have realized that this happened in that way because I lacked information on civic and voter education just like many other women in my community. I have now been able to witness great improvement in my life style after interfacing with civic and voter education by CIDD-UG where I even became one of the CIDD-UG Rural Democracy Rider (RDR) in Puti-Puti Sub County. As a result of my new boldness which was like fun to many, the community peer trainers selected me as community mobilizer for my parish of Limoto. The civic and subsequent voter education program in my community helped me to develop self-confidence and public speaking skills which supported my already endorsed candidature for sub county woman councilor representing Limoto Parish in Puti-Puti Sub County.

During CIDD-UG community engagements, I also learnt about qualities of good leader and how women need to participate in leadership regardless of age and gender. At this point, I started speaking for women economic empowerment and girl child education as issues that affect my community. The voter education introduced by CIDD-UG in 2021 also exposed me to my voters and I now know my roles and responsibilities.

Additionally, because of CIDD-UG voter education, I was able to disseminate effective campaign messages to my electorates and rally voters to defend and guard votes to guarantee my victory as Sub county woman councilor for Puti-Puti Sub County for 2021-2026, rising from housewife to sub county leadership. I now strongly believe that women can change with critical information available to them. Don’t undermine civic education” said **Jane Frances Okanya**.

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