

RWENZORI ANTI-CORRUPTION ANNUAL REPORT

RAC

2016



**RWENZORI ANTI-CORRUPTION
COALITION**
P.O.BOX 185, FORT PORTAL
077 2 558363
0483 422935
Email: rwenantico@gmail.com
rac@racuganda.org
Website: www.racuganda.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rwenzori Anticorruption Coalition (RAC) is a citizen led anti-corruption organization that was formed in 2002 with the core mission of empowering communities in the Rwenzori region to expose and cause action against corruption, as a means to improve service delivery and hence alleviate poverty and suffering. The coalition operates in the seven districts of the Rwenzori region, with over 450 grassroots community animators popularly known as the RAC monitors.

Causing action against the corrupt for improved service delivery is the gist of RAC's existence. In pursuit of this goal, various activities and programs were implemented within the course of the year with financial support from Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) as our main donor. More funds were obtained from CARE International to implement a one year project on Forestry governance; ACFIM for Election monitoring and Broederlijk Delen i.e BD for the governance cluster for the Rwenzori regional Framework which is chaired by RAC. RAC further partnered with other national organizations for advocacy at national level. These include; Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) for budget advocacy, ACFIM Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda, Directorate of Ethics and Integrity (DEI) and NGO forum among others.

At regional/district level, various engagements were held with the district leadership under the District Integrity Promotion Forum chaired by the respective RDCs. Members include, all district chairpersons, Chief Administrative Officers, Heads of Departments and sub-county representatives among others. These forums played a big role in responding and causing action for the various cases reported to RAC

The year under review marked the end of the 4-year DGF funded project – ***Strengthening Grassroots Capacity in Monitoring Health, Education, Agriculture and Environment sectors in the Rwenzori Region***, and the start of a new 18-month project – ***Rwenzori Local accountability Project (RWENLAP)*** funded by DGF too.

Key highlights of the activities implemented within the year include;

- Commemoration of the 2016 anti-corruption week
- Baseline survey on the perception of corruption in the Rwenzori region
- Radio magazines on the youth livelihood program, operation wealth creation and health
- Monitoring and case follow up
- Monitoring the performance of procurement committees in the seven districts of the Rwenzori

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY RESULTS

- Increased community understanding of corruption and where to report resulting from RAC's awareness campaign through media, community outreach programs, IEC material and forum theatre
- Increased number of cases reported and acted upon
- Increased involvement of youth in and out of school in the anti-corruption campaign

The above achievements notwithstanding, there are challenges that were faced through the year including; include; delayed response from state anti-graft agencies: as a whistle-blowing organization, RAC cannot single-handedly address corruption cases reported to her because the mandate to act against the corrupt lies with the state.

The other challenge faced was related to ethnic conflicts experienced in the districts of Kasese and Bundibugyo, causing delay in implementation of some of the planned activities. However, when calm returned in these areas, activity implementation was resumed.

It is also intricate for RAC to reach out to the entire region, considering its vastness, and the fact that the largest part of our programs is donor funded. With a restricted budget, RAC's major programs are confined to only 30 sub-counties of the Rwenzori region.

To counteract the above challenges, strategies with wide multiplier effects have been adopted. These include media campaigns that extend beyond RAC's borders of coverage, strategic alliances with like-minded organizations, mass sensitization and awareness creation and partnering with state organizations through PPP framework.

Joint monitoring of government projects is a key lesson that has been learned, as this has proved to guard against post mortem reporting.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Fellow Ugandans in the struggle against corruption, I wish to welcome you to yet another edition of the Rwenzori Anti-corruption Coalition annual report, where we take stock of our gains and shortcomings in 2016, in quest for a corruption free Uganda.

Our work has been fruitful for RAC and the communities in the Rwenzori region in several ways: the subject of corruption (and the anti-corruption struggle) has been popularized so much that grassroots are well informed of corruption scandals at national and local level; citizens have increasingly exposed corruption scandals through reporting to relevant agencies; government anti-corruption agencies have demonstrated some level of success. Through this crusade, RAC has contributed to averting loss as well as recovery of public funds, estimated to be in billions over the past years, hence contributing to improved service delivery by strengthening citizen vigilance.

These gains have not come easily but through a protracted struggle championed by RAC with assistance from several other actors including anti-corruption agencies of the Government of Uganda, the Local Government Authorities, the civil society fraternity, the local communities and the funding partners.

We further call upon the government through line Minister of State to follow up and ensure logical conclusion of corruption cases that RAC has exposed and forwarded to various anti-graft agencies with limited success.

For God and My Country

James Mwirima

Chairman Board of Directors

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RAC

Dear members of the RAC family and all citizens at large, allow me to extend my sincere gratitude to all the people who have supported us throughout 2016 namely monitors, BOD, government leaders at local and National level ,the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity (DEI) and all the members of the Inter-Agency Forum (IAF), Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), sister CSOs at National and local level, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) , ACFIM, Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) and members of the Rwenzori Governance cluster ,our development partners the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Care International , BD, and USAID .

RAC through joint efforts has been able to recover 1,089,334,000/= Shillings for the financial year 2016. Through joint collaboration efforts through monitoring, follow up, lobbying and advocacy and networking, we have been able to receive a total of 476 cases and solved 224 to logical conclusion . We have been able to sign MoUs with all the 7 district leaders to ensure that there is a framework of collaboration to achieve our anti-corruption goal.

However, conflicts in the region have led to the untimely implementation of our activities .We therefore relay out this Message of peace .Fellow Ugandans we must co – exist and peace must prevail in our region. We are all Ugandans with same blood and therefore must stop hate speeches, tribal conflicts and malicious murders.

I implore you all to join us in the fight against corruption to ensure improved service delivery for all Ugandans.

Thank you;

Angela Byangwa

Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

Exposing and causing action against corruption for improved service delivery is the fundamental reason for RAC's existence. Since it started active operation in 2003, RAC has been mobilizing and facilitating communities in the Rwenzori region to engage in anti-corruption work. It has built a network of 30 branches across the seven districts with 450 monitors and a number of partner CSOs. Through this network, RAC has unearthed several corruption cases and continues being a reporting centre for the entire region where communities including leaders openly or privately report cases for RAC to monitor and follow up. In turn, RAC has established strong and strategic linkages with the anti-corruption agencies such as the IGG, to whom it refers cases for further investigation and action. This has earned RAC a clout as a community process facilitator organization that champions the anti-corruption crusade and that has saved billions of shillings that would otherwise have been lost to corruption



FIGURE 1: DGF PARTNERS AND REGIONAL LEADERS DURING THE LEARNING EVENT AT MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON HOTEL IN FORT PORTAL

What follows in this report is therefore a narration of the 2016 programs and activities that were implemented within the year. Activity implementation was done in line with our five year strategic plan (2013-2016) in five main program areas i.e.

- Awareness creation
- Capacity Building
- Monitoring
- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Networking

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2016 OUTPUTS

- Received and followed up a total of 477 issues of service delivery that were reported to RAC for action
- Analyzed, simplified and disseminated the Sub County and district plans and budgets across the Rwenzori region, to enable the community to track funds and projects planned for their constituencies
- Engaged leaders at district and sub-county level through roundtable meetings for response and action on the cases reported to RAC
- Conducted 1 survey and produced a report on the perception of communities on corruption in the Rwenzori region
- Commemorated the 2016 Anti-corruption Week (ACW) across the seven districts in the region
- Monitored the performance of the District Procurement Committees in all the seven districts
- Produced and aired series of Radio Magazines on health, operation wealth creation and the youth livelihood program in Kabarole and Bundibugyo districts
- Carried out 7 joint monitoring visits with members of the District Public Accounts Committees in the seven districts of the Rwenzori region
- Caused recovery of funds worth 1,089,334,000/= out of the 4,252,217,000/= that was allegedly misappropriated in the 367 cases reported to RAC in the period under review.
- Co-opted RAC as an ex-officio to the entire district Technical Planning Committees and the sectoral committees of all the seven districts of the Rwenzori where RAC operates. This has strongly improved our collaboration with government agencies hence improved information sharing and monitoring of government programs.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

In pursuit of her vision, various activities that seek to address local accountability, corruption and service delivery at local government level were implemented through empowering the rights holders to demand for accountability and improved service delivery from the duty bearers, while at the same time hold duty bearers accountable for their actions. As detailed below, the programs implemented further enhanced a link between watchdog institutions like Inspectorate of Government, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Office of Auditor General and the local citizens so as to expedite action on corruption cases reported by citizens or unearthed by other agencies such as DPACs, and whistle blowers. Various segments of the community including women, children, youth, disabled and men in the districts of Rwenzori region benefited from the fruits of our work such as improved service delivery following the plugging of the loopholes occasioned by corruption.

AWARENESS CREATION

In order to build a critical mass that can demand for accountability and also carry on the anti-corruption message long after RAC's intervention, various awareness creation programs were implemented in the year under review:

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

In the period under review, the radio was used as one of the avenues for mass sensitization and awareness creation. Radio spots, endorsements and drama series with messages on corruption and service delivery were aired on four different local FM radio stations (i.e. Hits Fm and Jubilee Fm in Kabarole district, Kyenjojo fm in Kyenjojo district and UBC in Bundibugyo district) reaching out to over one million men and women in the Rwenzori region. The spots were used to raise awareness on the utilization of Community driven development (CDD) funds to enable the community to closely monitor their utilization and distribution, since fund misappropriation had become a common practice across the seven districts of the Rwenzori region. The drama series on the other hand laid emphasis on the community's role in ensuring better service delivery, as well as promoting transparent and accountable leadership. As a result of this awareness creation, cases involving abuse of CDD funds have been exposed and reported to RAC for action. Funds amounting to 104 million that had been given to ghost groups in the districts of Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko have been recovered through RAC's intervention, working with state agencies.

Radio magazines were also produced on key government programs including the youth livelihood program, operation wealth creation and the health sector

THE TRACK NEWSLETTER

The TRACK newsletter is a publication that RAC releases on a quarterly basis, as one of the strategies through which the organization reaches out to her target group. In the year under review, the TRACK newsletter was used to raise awareness about health and other government programs. Some of the articles in the newsletter included; success stories and general information on the health sector such as the drug supply chain of the National Medical Stores and the role of Health Unit Management Committees. Over 600 people were thus sensitized through the dissemination of these newsletters, and at the same time RAC's visibility within the region and beyond was increased. Another edition of the TRACK newsletter was published with a message to the President, calling him upon to act against all the pending corruption cases in the country that have been impeded serviced delivery. In the same message, RAC implored the president to desist from awarding jobs to officials implicated in any form of corruption or abuse of office.



FIGURE 2: AWARENESS CREATION THROUGH DRAMA

MONITORING

Under this program area, activities implemented produced the following results

PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF SIMPLIFIED DISTRICT AND SUB-COUNTY BUDGETS:

7 district budgets and 30 sub-county budgets were analyzed and simplified with the support of District planners and RAC staff for easier conceptualization and utilization by the monitors and the citizens of the Rwenzori. These were disseminated to all the 30 branches of RAC monitors in the seven districts to guide them in monitoring. Through these simplified plans and budgets, monitors were able to know and understand the different projects and programs in their respective sub-counties/districts – hence carry out effective and timely monitoring of projects to avoid postmortem reporting. A total of 120 monitoring reports (30 reports per quarter) were thus submitted to RAC by the monitors, highlighting the progress on implementation of new/ongoing projects. The monitoring reports further highlighted key gaps in the various service delivery points for action by the relevant stakeholders. Monitoring was done in the areas/sectors of health, education, works, the youth livelihood program, production/operation wealth creation and natural resources. The simplified plans and budgets played a critical role in guiding the monitors to track the funds released for the various projects/program to not only determine value for money but also verify if expenditure was done according to plan. The monitoring reports submitted indicate a high level of misappropriation of the Youth livelihood program funds across the region with very poor recovery rates.

In Bundibugyo district for example a total of ten Youth Livelihood Projects in the sub-counties of Bubandi, Nyahuka and Ndugutu were monitored. Monitoring findings revealed that women are used for purpose of

fulfilling the government requirement of gender (inclusion of women). The women are brought on board as members but once funds have been given to the group, the women are left out. A case in point is where Bundipadhak youth group that comprised of 70% women was given funds worth 6,000,000/= to have a tailoring project but once the funds were released, the money was distributed between the chairperson and the treasurer(men), leaving out the female members of the group. More so the more feminine activity of tailoring was ignored and monies were instead used for cocoa growing to again benefit the men.

Other findings revealed that out of the 72,779,000/= given to the 10 groups in the Financial year 2015/16, only 3,377,500/= has so far been recovered. Following the assessment by Ministry of Gender, culture and social development Bundibugyo was ranked as one of the worst district in the region to recover these monies .RAC with the district leadership agreed to co facilitate the police to ensure full recovery of all the funds given. So far, a total of 25,000,000/= has been recovered. These cases are still under investigation and once done, all defaulting groups will be brought to book under the law.

In the period under review, a total of 476 issues of service delivery were reported to RAC for follow up and action. Out of these 92 cases were reported directly to our offices by members of the general community while others were reported during the different activities organized during the period under review including sub-county conferences, district dialogues and the commemoration of the anti-corruption week. Out of the 476 issues reported to RAC, 224 have been responded to and concluded and the remaining 252 are still under investigation and follow up by RAC and relevant authorities for action as seen in the table below:

CASES REPORTED AT RAC IN THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

District	No of cases reported	Estimated Monetary value	No. of cases Concluded/ responded to	Estimated monetary value	Cases at Court	No. of cases at Police	No. of cases at the District	No. of cases at IGG
Kabarole	71	818,156,000	39	279,000,000	9	10	13	6
Bundibugyo	92	902,144,000	49	299,000,000	13	19	11	3
Kyenjojo	60	260,121,000	26	188,980,000	2	11	21	0
Kyegegwa	51	201,500,000	18	49,000,000	2	7	24	1
Ntoroko	55	501,970,000	22	44,578,000	2	12	19	1
Kasese	70	701,113,000	35	108,799,000	4	15	16	2
Kamwenge	77	867,213,000	35	119,977,000	7	10	25	3
Total	476	4,252,217,000	224	1,089,334,000	39	83	129	

CASES REPORTED PER SECTOR

District	Health	Education	Production	Natural resources	Works	Human Rights	Others	Total
Kabarole	15	9	9	7	7	15	9	71
Bundibugyo	11	16	19	2	8	22	14	92
Kyenjojo	8	5	9	11	5	10	12	60
Kyegegwa	6	5	8	8	4	11	9	51
Ntoroko	4	10	8	0	6	10	17	55
Kasese	11	8	15	4	7	9	16	70
Kamwenge	6	8	13	8	11	14	17	77
Total	61	61	81	40	48	91	94	476

Key among the cases followed up was the unsatisfactory manner in which the Kabarole Youth Center was rented out to Kampala International University amidst protest by the intended beneficiaries (the youth). The youth center in question was handed over to the youth leadership by H.E the president of Uganda in February 2015 with the purpose of skilling the youth in several areas like entrepreneurship, computer skills, HIV/AIDS counseling, career guidance programs among others. The concerned youth reported this matter to RAC for intervention. RAC in return sought for response from the relevant stakeholders in charge of this youth center including the District Chairperson, the youth leadership, and the office of the IGG. RAC further reported the issue to the Minister of State for Luwero Triangle (from which the youth center funds were drawn) for intervention. In response, the Minister wrote back to the Kabarole District Chairperson to provide information on the status of the youth center in view of the complaint lodged. The same case was also presented for response by IGG during the commemoration of the Anti-Corruption Week in Fort Portal, where we were informed that it had reached logical conclusion. The final report provided by the IGG revealed that allegations of irregularities in renting out the youth center were unfounded because according to the IGG's investigation report, the right procedure and process had been followed. The case has thus been rested.



FIGURE 3: RAC IN A FOLLOW UP EXERCISE ON COMPLAINTS REPORTED BY ISANGO PWD IN BWERA, KASESE DISTRICT

Other cases followed up include; Mr.Kahaika Wesley a student of Fort portal school of clinical officers, whose results were held back by the school administration under unexplained reasons. The student alleged that one of the administrators was extorting money from him in order to enable him get his results. Wesley registered his complaint with RAC who then followed the case with the examination body for response. The results were eventually released and given to the complainant.

The above examples and many others have continued to restore hope among the citizens that truly corruption can be dealt with and hence improved service delivery. Our intervention in the complaint about the Kabarole youth center has encouraged more youth to join hands with RAC to fight the vice of corruption. In the period under review, RAC received 3 applications from youth groups, expressing interest to partner with us in a bid to fight against corruption. In addition, the number of youth who reported cases of corruption directly to RAC increased from 81 (in 2015) to 181 in 2016. Similarly, our effort to bring more women on board in the anti-graft fight has increased their participation from 21% percent (in 2015) to 39% in 2016. This is evidenced in the cases reported to RAC by gender and the zeal to participate in our activities like radio programs, discussions during meetings, taking up leadership positions within their branches and advocacy for inclusion in all our programs. In the past, women had to be coerced to take lead in some activities like reporting on behalf of the branch but today, over 50% of the RAC branches' have women in leadership positions. This is to say that their confidence in taking up leadership positions has greatly improved.



FIGURE 4: MONITORING A WATER PROJECT IN MUKONOMURA - KABAROLE DISTRICT

MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE OF DISTRICT PROCUREMENT COMMITTEES

7 meetings with the contracts committee were held across the seven districts. The purpose of the meetings was to understand how the different contracts committees work, their performance, achievements and challenges in order to support them in addressing some of the gaps faced. Each meeting was attended by the District Procurement officer and all the members of the districts contracts committee where the meetings were held.

In all the districts visited, procurement committees were found to be fully constituted and performing their functions as expected, despite the challenges faced.

Lack/inadequate funding for the contracts committee is one of the biggest challenges faced, hindering them to monitor projects they award. It was therefore recommended that RAC support the contracts committee to monitor projects awarded.

Other gaps identified in the procurement process include;

- Absence of a clear policy on security performance guarantee subjects government to financial losses since it is not mandatory for a contractor to submit one before a contract is awarded. Despite its relevance, request for performance guarantee is just a good practice but not a law.

- Huge price variances between project budgets and actual price awarded: there incidences where contracts awarded are way below the estimated value of a project. The question therefore remains – would the contractor of such a project deliver to the expected quality standards?
- Unclear guidelines on the expenditure of unspent funds of projects (in cases of variances between project estimates and actual awarded). This can lead to misappropriation/misuse of public funds

These findings were presented to PPDA during the Anti-corruption week for response and clarification.



FIGURE 5: THE RAC EDPRESENTING A PAPER ON PROCUREMENT DURING A MEETING ORGANISED BY PPDA AT KALYA COURTS IN FORT PORTAL

LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY

A total of 30 round table meetings with the leadership of all the sub-counties where RAC operates were held in a bid to understand the various projects planned within their localities within the year, while at the same time obtain response to some of the cases reported to RAC for action. A total of 30 sub-county plans and budgets were obtained and shared with our monitors for closer monitoring of the projects. Leaders during these round table meetings commended RAC for keeping a closer eye on public resources, a factor that has greatly contributed to the reduction in abuse of public resources. A total of 217 issues of service delivery were brought to the attention of the sub-county leadership during the 30 round table meetings for response and

action. Over 40% of the issues raised during the round table meetings were related to abuse of the youth livelihood funds and Operation Wealth Creation. Key gaps raised included delayed and poor quality supplies of agricultural products given, issuance of supplies to farmers without consulting them on preferred items – a case of Kyegegwa where they were supplied with cassava stems yet Kyegegwa is one of the leading producers of cassava in the country; un clear guidelines on the procurement process of Operation Wealth Creation resulting into various anomalies such as supplies lower than the quoted quantities – the case of apple seedlings in Mugusu sub-county in a joint meeting organized by RAC and RDC Kabarole where out of the 7,000 seedlings, only 4,000 were delivered, hence a deficit of 3,000 seedlings valued at 30,000,000/= (thirty million shillings). This issue was forwarded to police for further investigation and action. After the findings of this investigation, the supplier was directed to deliver the remaining seedlings, and these were given to the right beneficiaries, hence leading to the recovery of funds worth 30,000,000/= that would otherwise have been lost. From the round table meetings, a total of 98 issues were responded to, 65 were taken up for follow up by the sub-county leadership while the remaining 54 were deferred to the district leadership and other agencies for response and action. The round table meetings facilitated the dialogue between the community and the leaders to ensure improved service delivery

7 District dialogues held: a total of 7 district dialogues were held in the period under review, bringing together a total of 134 participants (44 women and 90 men) to respond to service delivery issues identified during the sub-county conferences. Participants included RAC staff, district coordinators, RDCs, LCV chairpersons, all district heads of departments and some technical staff. A total of 104 service delivery issues/gaps were brought to the attention of the leaders during these dialogues for response/action. In Bundibugyo district for example, high staff absenteeism at Bundibugyo district was reported during the sub-county conferences, and when reported to the leaders during the dialogue, an impromptu visit to the hospital by the LCV chairperson, District Police Commander, RDC and RAC staff was planned to verify the allegations. On the day of their visit, only 1 nurse was found on duty. She quickly tipped off her colleagues who came running to the hospital. A meeting between the visiting team and the hospital staff was later held within the hospital premises to discuss the challenges faced at the hospital. The staff were highly cautioned on the issue of absenteeism and assured that anyone does not report on duty once identified will be penalized. In a quick follow up after 2 weeks of this intervention, RAC found that that the issue of staff absenteeism had stopped, and the only staff not found on duty were officially off. This intervention made by the leaders and RAC has greatly improved the services at Bundibugyo district, and RAC has been highly commended for this.

District Integrity Promotion Forum (DIPF)

28 District Integrity Promotion Forum (DIPF) meetings (7 per quarter) were held across the seven districts of the Rwenzori, bringing together a total of 102 regional leaders/duty bearers to cause action/respond to some of the cases reported to RAC. A total of 76 service delivery issues were presented to the leaders on this forum for response. Out of these, 19 were responded to while the remaining 57 were taken up for further investigation and action. Joint monitoring by RAC and members of the DIPF was also done in selected areas/projects to verify some of the issues reported to RAC. In Kasese district for example a joint monitoring visit was made to Kamaiba Primary school where pupils had for long suffered without running water at the school. This was due to disconnection in July 2015 for failure to pay their water bill worth 340,000/= .RAC raised this issue during the DIPF meeting in Kasese. Members resolved to engage Kasese Municipal Authorities over this issue to ensure that water is restored at the school. Pressure was mounted on the municipal authorities who in return engaged the school authorities to ensure reconnection of the water. In a

joint monitoring visit to the school during one of the DIPF meetings in December, it was realized that water had been restored at the school premises. The school head-teacher and the PTA chairperson commended RAC and the entire DIPF membership that had intervened to restore running water at the school. The parents too pledged to take up the responsibility of meeting the school's monthly water bills to avoid any further disconnections.

In Bundibugyo district, members of the DIPF in a joint monitoring move paid site visits to 10 group beneficiaries of the Youth Livelihood Program in four sub-counties. In Nyahuka sub-county for example, a site visit paid to one of the alleged projects was never existent. DIPF during their monitoring failed to meet any of the members of the said group. When consulted, the Community Development Officer (CDO)–Nyahuka together with the town clerk who is a signatory to the group account confessed that she had never seen the group members of this project. The documents indicated that funds worth 8,800,000/- were released to this group to start up a salon but on paying a site visit, it was discovered that what was called a salon was only a video library. The monitoring DIPF team, through the CAO thus directed the CDO together with the town clerk to explain in writing why funds were given to a group they had no clue about. Failure to provide satisfactory explanation led to a penalty of deducting their salaries in order to recover the funds given out to this group.

The promotion forum meetings have greatly contributed to the timely handling of cases and providing feedback. In Kyegegwa district, RAC presented issues from our monitoring reports that indicated gaps in the health sector that required urgent attention. These included among others; sharing of a ward by male and female patients at Kyegegwa HCIV, stalled construction of maternity ward, inadequate supply of drugs by NMS, illegal fees charged for theatre operations among other challenges. The DHO in response to these issues clarified as to why the maternity ward construction had stalled, saying that the PHC funds that had facilitated the construction had been suspended by government. He said that as government, they were trying to solicit for funds to see that the ward is constructed to completion but also requested RAC and other stakeholders to lobby for funds to complete the ward from other development partners to enable the people of Kyegegwa access safe maternity services. On the issue of illegal charges, the DHO commended RAC for alerting them and pledged to track down the culprits. He however emphasized that RAC should join hands with them to see that the culprits are caught and brought to book.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION WEEK 2016

RAC in partnership with the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity spearheaded the regional celebrations of the Anti-Corruption Week 2016, bringing together 362 participants (142 women and 220men) from the region and national level. The climax of the week was held on December 06, 2016 at Buhinga grounds in Fort Portal Municipality, Kabarole district, graced by the Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity – Hon. Fr. Simon Lokodo as the chief guest. People from various walks of life participated in this colorful event: these ranged from political and civil servants in the seven districts of the Rwenzori region, members of DEI and the Inter-Agency Forum, CSO representatives, government bodies, students and the wider community. The week enabled RAC link regional advocacy issues to national advocacy whereby a total of 22 issues were taken by IAF members for investigation and action.



FIGURE 6: HON. LOKODO WAIVING OFF THE 2016 ANT-CORRUPTION WEEK

Various other activities were organized during the week in preparation of the D-day. These included;

Stakeholder meetings: these were held with women groups, youth and Persons with Disability across the seven districts of the Rwenzori region to understand their specific challenges in service delivery. These would then be presented to the leaders during the climax of the commemoration for action. The stakeholders meetings created an opportunity for the marginalized groups to air out their issues in a collective effort to ensure improved service delivery. In Kyegegwa district the disabled decried the unfavorable structures that deter them from accessing some of the public offices. Out of the 40 participants who attended this meeting in Kyegegwa, 14 were disabled. The platform provided an opportunity for the marginalized to air out their issues of concern, and at the same time draw sustainable strategies to address such gaps/needs. In Kabarole district, the youth during this meeting implored RAC to advocate for the improvement in the youth livelihood program, saying that the existing gaps within the guidelines are the leading causes of defaulting when it comes to repayment. Inclusion of youth leaders in planning and selection of group members should therefore be mandatory since it is a youth program.



FIGURE 7 GUESTS INSPECTING EXHIBITION STALLS DURING ACW

1 regional debate was also held in Fort Portal on December 02, 2016 at the Public Library, bringing together over 280 participants (100 women and 180 men) to discuss issues of service delivery in the region. The debate was organized jointly between RAC, KRC ,Kind Uganda and Toro development network, Ride Africa and KANCA who are members of the governance cluster. The debate provided a platform for the regional leaders to reflect on the vice of corruption and its impact on service delivery. This meeting brought together CSO for a collective voice against corruption. The invited leaders (including Rwenzori district chairpersons, CAOs, RDCs, area local councilors, religious leaders, and cultural leaders among others) to respond to some of the key service delivery gaps identified. Key among these were identified in Fort Portal Municipal Council, where abuse of office and non accountability of funds were sited. Joint monitoring and dialogues as a Joint advocacy strategy was adopted by government and CSOs leaders for promoting accountability and fostering service delivery in the region . A total of 39 issues were raised and responded to by leaders.

As part of our corporate social responsibility, RAC gave back to the community of Rwenzori region to prove to that we do not only look out for faults but rather, we also understand the existing challenges in service delivery and we are therefore willing to support public service. In each district, one service delivery point was identified and given items to address the identified gaps. In Kabarole district, rice and knickers were given to the female inmates of Katogyo prison while in Bundibugyo district, latrine doors were given to Bumate Primary school to provide privacy for the girl children., In Ntoroko, RAC in collaboration with the monitors, police, UPDF, the wider community and the staff of Karugutu HCIV participated in a joint cleaning exercise of the health facility. In Kyegegwa district, 2 shatters for the school latrine were provided to Kako primary school while in Kyenjojo district,5 bags of cement were provided to Kitahuka primary school

RAC was highly appreciated by the community for their generous giving and also looked at as partners in promoting service delivery than spies by the leaders.

Various results were realized from the 2016 commemoration of the ACW including;

- Recognition and award of Anti-corruption champions in each of the districts where RAC operates, hence motivating many others to emulate them. The awardees were very appreciative of RAC and pledged to carry forward the anti-corruption fight through whistle blowing, resisting any form of corruption as well as encouraging many others to support RAC in her struggle for a corruption-free region. The Ntoroko district RDC, as one of the awardees thanked RAC for having selected him from the crowd, and pledged to further intensify his efforts in fighting against corruption. He said that the award was a big motivation for him and therefore, will not let RAC down but rather, he will keep the 'anti-corruption flag' always high
- The 2016 ACW commemoration further provided a platform for all the members of the Inter-Agency Forum to clarify on various issues pertaining their way of work/operation, while at the same time responded to some of the pending cases raised in the RAC report. In cases where further investigations were required, the responsible leaders/IAF team pledged to follow them up and provide feedback to RAC in the shortest time possible. A total of 22 issues was presented to the leaders at this forum, out of which 9 were responded to and the remaining 13 were taken up for further investigation by the relevant bodies.
- Synergy building and collaboration between RAC and IAF strengthened
- RAC as a host of the governance cluster ensured strategic engagement of government as Csos jointly for issues of accountability and service delivery.
- The other key outcome was the signing of commitments to the 'Zero tolerance to Corruption Policy' by all the district leaders i.e. the Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), District Chairpersons and the Chief Accounting Officers in the Rwenzori region. By signing these commitments, the leaders pledged to;
 - ✓ Act on all the corruption-related cases reported to their offices
 - ✓ Cause action to address all service delivery gaps reported to them
 - ✓ Provide public information and feedback on service delivery to the citizenry
 - ✓ Offer all the necessary support to whistle-blowers, government and non-government agencies that seek to promote good governance, transparency and accountability in the Rwenzori region and the country at large.

SURVEY REPORT ON PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION PRODUCED:

A survey on the perception of corruption in the Rwenzori region was done in the period under review to map out the perception of women, men, youth and people with disabilities about corruption. Findings of the survey revealed that;

1. There is divergent understanding of corruption between the elite and the grassroots. Whereas the elite are very conversant with the definition and different forms of corruption, the grassroots have a rather general understanding of it. The effect of this is two-fold: in the first place the elite are likely to use their clear knowledge of corruption to engage in corrupt tendencies but cover their tracks so that they are not exposed. On the other hand, though, the grassroots are likely not report and provide very clear evidence about corruption incidents.
2. Only very little changes, if any, in the forms of corruption and sectors perceived as most corrupt have been registered in the last 10 years. Police and the judiciary remain the most corrupt institutions. Other forms of corruption such as shoddy works remain. However, improvements in human resource related forms of corruption have been registered. For instance, by 2016 there are fewer perceptions that government payrolls are full of ghosts. Instead citizens complain about absenteeism and related forms of corruption. Anticorruption agencies appear to have improved their relationship with key personnel in service delivery points and have instilled some level of fear in them.
3. There is no significant difference in the perception of corruption among the different demographic groups in the Rwenzori region. All of them are affected almost equally by the negative impacts of corruption.
4. Communities and stakeholders in the Rwenzori region have a fairly clear understanding of the drivers and consequences of corruption. They also have clear and well intentioned interventions which if well implemented could lead to impactful reduction of corruption. .
5. The Rwenzori region appears not to have many role models which the anticorruption agencies can emulate to drive forward the anticorruption agenda.

One of the major recommendations drawn from the survey is that communities and stakeholders need further guidance on how to tackle corruption which is ever changing its nature and forms. The survey findings and recommendations will thus form the basis of our intervention in the remaining period of project implementation to ensure that corruption in the Rwenzori region is brought at bay

NETWORKING

Strong partnerships and working synergies have been built between RAC and other key stakeholders i.e. government bodies/leaders, politicians and like-minded CSOs. Because of her continued effort to fight graft and contribute to improved service delivery in the Rwenzori region, RAC has gained popularity and as such support from key government and non-government anti-graft agencies in the region and beyond. RAC has thus become a referral hub for case follow up and action against all forms of corruption.



FIGURE 8: THE DPP MR. MICHAEL CHIBITA (L) DURING THE RAC AGM 2015

Working synergies and collaboration between RAC and state bodies strengthened: In a bid to strengthen our working synergies with state agencies, 3 meetings were held i.e.

- Inception meeting with RAC staff, district leaders and civil servants
- Meeting with District Public Accounts Committee
- Meeting with Procurement/Contracts committee

All the three meetings sought to understand better their (state agencies) working dynamics, gaps/challenges faced and recommendations/strategies to address the existing gaps for improved service delivery.

Most of the districts in which we work acquired new political leadership and in some areas, new civil servants were recruited after the February 2016 General elections: the meetings therefore sought to popularize RAC's programs amongst the new leadership while at the same time reawaken commitments drawn in the MoUs between RAC and the District Local Governments of the Rwenzori region.

Key outcomes from the meetings include among others;

- Adoption of RAC as an ex-official to District Technical Planning Committee Meetings, District Monitoring committees and District Executive Committees among others in all the seven districts of the Rwenzori region. This will enable RAC to closely monitor implementation of government plans and budgets to guard against diversion and misappropriation of resources. Our presence on these

committees will further encourage the state agencies to stick to plans, well knowing that there is a public eye watching

- Clear-cut recommendations to address the existing gaps drawn: these include among others; joint monitoring of government projects: RAC where possible will support the district in form of transport to jointly monitor ongoing project. This is because monitoring as a key aspect of project implementation is highly under-funded by government and therefore ignored most of the time. Joint monitoring will be done between RAC and DPAC, District Monitoring Committees and the contracts committee. This will greatly reduce cases of shoddy works, resource diversion and postmortem monitoring
- Periodic information sharing between RAC and the district should be emphasized to promote transparency
- RAC to be invited to participate at the launch of all new government projects to enable us monitor their implementation right from the beginning

WORKING WITH DPACs

Synergy-building meetings with DPACs: Synergy building meetings between RAC and all the seven District Public Accounts Committees were held with the objective of creating linkages between the two parties. DPACs are faced with various challenges, mostly emanating from limited facilitation. Other challenges faced include slow responsiveness to the recommendations drawn by DPAC and delayed submission of audit reports resulting into postmortem other than proactive action among other challenges. The synergy meeting thus sought to address some of the identified challenges, in a bid to improve the DPACs' performance. Commitments geared towards improved DPAC performance were drawn at the end of the meeting i.e.

- Sharing DPAC reports with RAC in order to influence implementation of the DPAC resolutions
- Joint monitoring and visits by RAC and DPACs to selected projects
- Allow for community participation in DPAC proceedings. The meeting resolved that DPAC sessions should be held in public venues to enable the community to participate in the discussion of the projects running in their areas. This will increase transparency and monitoring of their projects and to demand for accountability from the duty bearers.
- RAC to offer capacity building programs to DPACs in order to improve their performance

Once the above action points are implemented, the performance of DPACs will greatly improve, hence realize the purpose of their existence which is accountability for better service delivery.

In addition to the synergy meetings, joint monitoring for projects with DPACs was done in the districts of Kabarole, Kasese, Ntoroko and Bundibugyo. Projects monitored include Mukonomura road in Kabarole district, Nyamirami HCIV in Mahango sub-county and Rukoki-Mahango-Muhokya road in – Kasese district, Bubukwanga gravity flow scheme in Kirumya s/c in Bundibugyo district, Rwebisengo Rwangara road in Ntoroko district.

Key findings

- The following are some of the findings discovered at Nyamirambi HCIV:

- The Theatre has no water
- Power supply is not reliable
- Doctors house is not occupied so he commutes from Kasese town for about 35 km daily

In Kasese, on Rukoki-Mahango-Muhokya road, about 3kms of the road are in bad shape, not worked on

From the joint monitoring recommendations to address the existing challenges were drawn, with RAC tasked to carry on with their whistle-blowing role to ensure improved service delivery.

WORKING WITH OTHER PARTNERS...

RAC does not work in isolation but rather, we collaborate with like-minded organizations to strengthen our advocacy at regional and national level. In the year under review, RAC partnered with various organizations to implement some of her activities. These include;

- The Governance cluster of the Rwenzori regional framework:
- Civil Society Advocacy Budget Group
- ACFIM
- CARE International

THE GOVERNANCE CLUSTER

RAC is the regional host for the governance cluster of the Rwenzori Regional Framework. Member organizations under this cluster include; RAC, KRC, Kind Uganda, Toro-Dev and RIDE Africa among others. Activities implemented include;

REGIONAL BUDGET CONSULTATIVE MEETING

On August 17, 2016, members of the Rwenzori regional cluster met at Fort View hotel in Fort Portal to discuss budget proposals for consideration in the 2017/18 budget. In attendance were members of the Rwenzori regional cluster and members of the Civil Society Advocacy group (CSBAG). In total, the meeting was attended by 13 people – i.e. 5 women and 8 men.

CSBAG, a national budget advocacy CSO lobbied for Civil society participation in the Local government Budget Consultative workshops organized by Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. RAC as a CSBAG member was tasked to take lead on gathering views and budget proposals for the Rwenzori region, which would then be presented at the regional local government workshop for the Rwenzori region. It is upon this background that the one day meeting was organized.

The main objectives of CSO participation in the consultative budget workshops are two:

- To effectively influence the budget process
- To increase citizens ownership of government programs/projects; better focus their expectations and increase monitoring zeal

METHODOLOGY

As a guide for issue formulation, the following questions were asked:

- What are the critical issues in the sector that need urgent government attention and why
- What challenges have impeded the achievement of significant impact from the Government project/program interventions in the sector and what solutions do you suggest?

A report was compiled and presented to various stakeholders in a meeting organized by CSBAG at Mountains of the Moon Hotel in Fort Portal. Key recommendations drawn at this meeting include;

- Empower women to know their right of entitlement to all services
- Affirmative action – by the nature of their vulnerability, women deserve serious affirmative steps by government which enable women to assert themselves and demand for gender responsive service delivery
- Government should increase funding of centers which are near to service delivery so that rural people can easily access them
- The law and justice system must be corruption free

CONCLUSION

The success or failure in service delivery largely depends on the adequacy of funds invested, the effectiveness of the monitoring and evaluation systems as well as political will to fight the on-going massive theft of public resources that would go into service delivery.

Also, control of resources by the central government should be reduced and more resources sent to the local governments where the service delivery takes place.

CSBAG: CITIZEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST EXEMPTING MPs ALLOWANCES FROM TAXATION

Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition participated in a nation-wide campaign spearheaded by Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) and the Tax Justice Alliance Uganda. The campaign seeks to implore the President of Uganda to reject the proposal by Members of Parliament to be exempt from paying tax on their allowances.

Objectives of the campaign

- Create awareness of the community on the tax MPs campaign and why they should support this campaign
- Mobilize community members and citizens to participate in the campaign on taxing MPs at national and regional level.

In pursuit of the above activities, 3 major activities were implemented under this campaign i.e.

- a) Radio talk show
- b) Procession
- c) Public rally





FIGURE 9: SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS DURING THE RALLY

RADIO TALK SHOW

A one-hour talk show was held on a local Fm radio station – KRC Fm to sensitize the community about the income tax and why they should participate in imploring the president to desist from passing it. The show was attended by 3 panelists i.e. the district councilor for South division – Kabarole district, 1 RAC staff and a community member/teacher.

The talks show further aimed at popularizing the public rally, as well as mobilizing masses to attend and also sign the letters to the president.

The talk show was held on December 13, 2016 from 8:00p.m to 9:00p.m

Judging from the listeners who called in to participate, it is clear that the message was received with open hearts. All the 11 people (8 men and 3 women) who called insisted that the MPs, just like any other Uganda should pay their taxes

PROCESSION

A peaceful procession was led through the streets of Fort Portal town with people holding placards, banners and flyers with messages saying 'NO to the exemption of MPs from paying income tax. The procession was led by 40 boda boda riders, accompanied by members of the wider community including Civil society, the media, civil servants and local area councilors. The procession was held on December 13, 2015 starting at the public Library in Fort Portal town, riding through Fort Portal town. It was crowned off in Kisenyi – Fort Portal, where the public rally was staged



FIGURE 10: BODA BODA RIDERS DURING THE PROCESSION

PUBLIC RALLY

The rally was held on December 13, 2016 opposite Fuelex Petro station in Kisenyi, Fort Portal. The rally brought together over 150 people including men, women, youth in and out of school and the elderly. 3 key note speakers namely; the south division district councilor – Hon. Jorum Bintamanya, a RAC staff and Monitor addressed the gathering, taking them through the details of the campaign, and why it is necessary to implore the president to maintain his stand and say no to the exemption of MPs from paying taxes. The message was well received by the gathering and they pledged to support the campaign all through. This support was evidenced in signing the open letters to the president, collecting a total of 115 signatures.



FIGURE 11: A COMMUNITY MEMBER PERUSING THROUGH QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE INCOME TAX DURING THE RALLY IN FORT PORTAL



FIGURE 12: APPENDING SIGNATURE ON THE OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

CHALLENGES FACED

The major hiccup faced was the bad weather (heavy down pour) that started shortly after waving off the procession. The procession was thus halted for over 2 hours, causing delay in the start of the activity. Some participants also left and didn't return after resuming.

The second challenge faced was the unwillingness of most councilors and politicians who didn't want to show their open support to the campaign, saying they didn't want to openly attack their MPs for fear that they (the MPs) may in return starting fighting them. A number of them confessed to us that they support the campaign 100% but did not want to append their signatures on the open letter to the president. They however pledged to support the campaign from 'back stage' by talking to the community and encourage them to sign these letters

Finally, there are a number of people who deliberately refused to participate in the rally without being paid. Some people are used to hand-outs in form of transport refund and therefore, short of such money

CARE PROJECT ON FORESTRY GOVERNANCE

The main objective of this project is to foster improvement in responsiveness by Forest sector responsible government bodies. In the period under review, the following activities were implemented:

- **Monitoring the management of forests and chain of custody within the forest sector by community monitors:** 15 monitors were able to undertake the monitoring of chain of custody issues identified during the process of monitoring. In Kanyegaramire sub-county (curved from Bufunjo sub-county) monitors conducted 6 village based sensitization meetings and formed 6 forestry protection village committees with 8 members in each. These committees have enabled us to effectively monitor the forests and also produce evidence based reports for action .
- 9 Monitoring reports were made by the monitors during the course of the reporting period and a total of 10 cases were reported by the monitors ranging from encroachment, Timber cutting and connivance. There has been reporting on other sectors like education, Health and works .3 cases are from other sectors and 7 from forestry.
- RAC engaged stake holders during its District integrity promotion forums and these issues were shared with the Members of the Inter Agency Forum . A total of 7 issues were discussed and only 3 issues were resolved through these interventions. The remaining issues will be followed up with the relevant stakeholders for logical conclusion.
- One public accountability forum at the district was conducted to discuss some of the issues reported by the monitors. The meeting was attended by the RSA, 26 district officials and 3 staff from NFA. Issues discussed included;
 1. The existing land title in Nyantungo forest reserve by light star primary school
 2. Continued timber harvest in most of the CFRs e.g in Ibambaro and Kitecura
 3. Non-compliance of pitsaws with the license conditions
 4. The status of cases at police at court

It was agreed that the following be adhered to during the forum

- To convene a meeting with parties involved in the land title of Nyantungo forest reserve in the month of January
- To commence the process of revoking the existing land title in the CFR of Nyantungo
- Conduct a joint monitoring by the district forest officers, NFA, the community, RAC and JESE

CHALLENGES

- **Funding:** Inadequate funding has been one of the key challenges faced, impeding us from implementing us from implementing some of the recommendations drawn such as extension of our programs to other sub-counties. This demand has been made by the community and the leadership based on the fruits realized in the areas where RAC operates. However, this has not been adopted mostly due to the limited resource envelope that confines us to only 450 grassroots monitors in 30 sub-counties of the Rwenzori region.

- **Instability:** The recent insurgency in two of the districts (Kasese and Bundibugyo) where RAC operates affected us in a way; delaying/postponement of activity implementation
- Security for our monitors: Although RAC started up a security scheme for the monitors, the fund collection is still minimal and can therefore not support all the monitors affected when carrying out their work.
- Absence of a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer is still a great challenge faced by RAC. A lot of time is spent on implementation of program activities, but less time is spent on tracking and evaluating the impact of our work. This is largely as a result of a minimal human resource base. There is need to recruit an M&E officer to continuously track our impact, and evaluate the results of the program and activities implemented.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Joint effort to address cases of corruption is very important, as it leads to timely action against the cases reported
- Advocacy work requires concerted efforts, in order to maximize results, it is important to work with all the relevant stakeholders in the anti-corruption fight. .
- Baseline surveys at the beginning of the project, as well as continuous evaluation of the activities, is very key to determine if you are moving towards the attainment of the intended goals.
- Collaboration with government bodies is very paramount as it helps in timely action and response to issues of concern
- Evidence based reporting and monitoring is very important in order to gain credibility and support for our work
- Working with DPACs is instrumental in fostering accountability
- Signing memorandum of understanding with the district local governments is key in creating an enabling environment for accountability engagements
- Participation in government activities is necessary for strong partnerships
- Linking regional advocacy to national advocacy is necessary for better results
- Working with women youth and the disabled as the most vulnerable groups is very key



FIGURE 13: RAC MONITORS VOTING FOR THEIR NEW BOARD MEMBERS DURING THE 2015 AGM AT GARDENS RESTAURANT IN FORT PORTAL

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Name	Position on Board	District
Mr. James Mwirima	Chairperson	Kasese
Ms. Margaret Kateeba	Vice Chairperson	Kabarole
Hon. Flavia Rwabuhoro	General Secretary	Kyegegwa
Mr. Gerald Twebaze	Treasurer	Kamwenge
Mr. Sunday Justus	Partners' Representative	Kamwenge
Ms. Olivia Mutamba	Gender Representative	Ntoroko
Mr. Bagambe James	District Coordinator --	Bundibugyo
Mr. Agaba Moses	District Coordinator – Kyenjojo/	Kyegegwa
Mr. Kyaligonza Methuselah	District Coordinator – Kasese	Kasese
Ms. Bangirana Constance	District Coordinator – Kamwenge	Kamwenge
Mr. Manyindo George	District Coordinator – Kabarole	Kabarole
Hon. Alex Ruhunda	Patron	Kabarole
Dr. Fabias Byaruhanga	Advisor	Kamwenge

List of Staff members

No.	Name	Position
1.	Ms. Angela Byangwa Senabulya	Executive Director
2.	Mr. Dan. Katorogo	Accountant
3.	Mr. Muthabali Augustine	Advocacy Officer
4.	Ms. Victoria Namugga Busiinge	Communication and Documentation Officer-
5.	Mr. Byomuntura Meshach	Gender Officer
6.	Ms. Aisha Nassaka	Accounts Assistant
7.	Ms. MuhumuzaEdith	Administrative Secretary
8.	Mr. Isingoma Edward	ICT Assistant
9	Mr. Mugisha Paul	Driver

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Website

www.racuganda.org

RWENZORI ANTI-CORUPTION COALITION – RAC

Plot 24, Ruhandika Street,

P.O.BOX 185 Fort Portal

Tel: 0772-558363, 0483-422935

Email: rwenantico@gmail.com and rac@racuganda.org

Email: rwenantico@yahoo.com or rac@racuganda.org