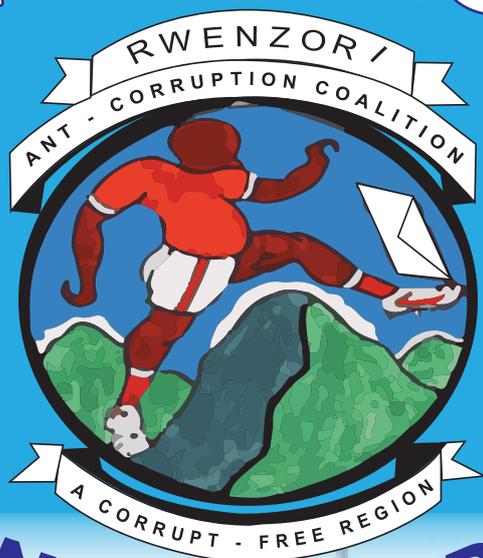


# The TRACK



Issue 25

## NEWSLETTER



**E-MAIL:**

rwenantico@gmail.com  
rac@racuganda.org

**WEBSITE**

www.racuganda.org

**TOLL FREE:**

0800110066WHATSAPP:  
(0782360325)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook : racuganda  
Youtube : racuganda



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## From the Editor

It's here once again! Our exciting quarterly Newsletter – the TRACK brings you updates of RAC's interventions amidst COVID 19.

*While the country was under lockdown, RAC, due to her nature of work could not put down her tools. . Keeping track of government programs and service delivery is in itself an essential service because staying at home and do nothing would create a loophole for the unscrupulous men and women to abuse public offices for their selfish gain.*

*In this issue, we bring you highlights of activities conducted by RAC in the quarter under review (April – June 2020) and; stories of change that resulted from the sweat of individuals determined to defeat corruption in all its forms.*

*Several relief items and donations were given to nearly all the districts in Uganda to support the most affected citizens and; to prevent the spread of the Corona virus. In this issue, we bring you highlights of the donations received and the distribution of items received by Kabarole district in the fight against the Corona Pandemic.*

*Happy reading!*

*Victoria N. Busiinge*

## Monitoring service delivery amidst COVID 19

When the Corona Virus Disease broke out in Uganda, the country went under lockdown, putting a halt to several services and activities. At RAC, we could not bring all our activities to a standstill; although some activities that required mass gathering of people were suspended, we carried on with our monitoring of service delivery and reporting through our social media platforms like the Whatsapp groups, facebook, email and toll free line among others. Case follow up with duty bearers was also done during the lockdown to ensure that justice is attained even though the country was under lockdown. When the lockdown was partially lifted, RAC embarked on her suspended programs but with strict adherence to the government Standard Operational Procedures to prevent the spread of COVID 19. We therefore would like to extend our appreciation to all the RDCs (listed below) and their deputies in the Rwenzori region for the support accorded to us during the implementation of our activities.

RAC further appreciates the district leadership in the Rwenzori region for the timely response and action upon some of the cases reported to them. Special thanks go out to the Chief Administrative Officers of the Rwenzori region who took some time off their busy schedules to respond to queries raised by RAC and the wider community.

*When the lockdown was partially lifted, RAC embarked on her suspended programs but with strict adherence to the government Standard Operational Procedures to prevent the spread of COVID 19.*

No	DISTRICT	RDC
1.	KABAROLE	ASIIMWE STEVEN
2.	KAMWENGE	MUCUNGUZI GODFREY
3.	KITAGWENDA	Reuben Nyakatemba
4.	BUNYAGABU	ASIMWE JANE
5.	KASESE	JOY WALUSIMBI
6.	KYENJOJO	APOLLO BWEBALE
7.	KYEGEGWA	KAWAMARA MESHACK
8.	NTOROKO	ELIJAH BIRYABAREMA
9.	BUNDIBUGYO	KAKWEZA ASIIMWE GRACE



*Kabarole district RDC giving out relief items to the citizens of Kabarole*

## COVID 19 Grants and Donations - Kabarole District Task Force accounts

In pursuit of a transparent and corruption free society, RAC wrote to all the RDCs and CAOs of the Nine districts where we operate, requesting for accountabilities pertaining COVID 19 budgets, grants, donations and expenditures. This was aimed at promoting transparency and accountability while at the same time give confidence and satisfaction to those who extended a helping hand during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Among the districts that provided accountability was Kabarole district Local Government that shared a written report with RAC, detailing the COVID 19 relief donations received and expenditures made.

The Kabarole District COVID19 Task force

received among other things;

- Ninety one Million, six hundred fifty thousand Shillings only (91,650,000/=)
- 2,474 litres of fuel (Diesel)
- 16,135 kgs of Maize flour
- 7,287 bunches of Matooke
- 53 Hand washing facilities
- 500 litres of liquid soap
- 9,500 pieces of medical gloves
- 4,050 pieces of face masks
- 150 pieces of reusable aprons
- Beans, laundry soap, wheat, rice, sugar, yams, salt, sweet potatoes, cassava flour fresh cassava among others were also received but in smaller quantities

The donations received by Kabarole District task force were distributed as follows:

**Cumulative distribution of relief donations**

The cumulative distribution of relief donations as of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 is as follows:

No.	LLG/Recipient	No. of Beneficiaries/ Households	Maize Flour (Kgs)	Matooke (Bunches)	Other
1.	Fort Portal Municipality	6,978	9,765	6,697	Liquid soap, hand washing containers, yams, sweet potatoes, cooking oil, Yams etc.
2.	Karago Town Council	160	800	--	Soap and hand washing containers
3.	Kijura Town Council	160	800	153	Soap, hand washing containers and Salt
4.	Mugusu Town Council	160	800	---	Soap and hand washing containers
5.	Kiko Town Council	160	800	---	Soap and hand washing containers
6.	Kasenda Town Council	160	800	---	Soap and hand washing containers
7.	12 Other Sub counties	--	--	---	24 Hand washing containers (2 for @ sub county)
8.	Social Groups with Unique Challenges ( 40 Home guards, 50 Street vendors, 119 car washers, 20 security guards, 76 journalists, 150 YES HIV/Families), 52 special hire drivers	507	790	166	Rice, 78 litres of Milk, macrons, cooking oil, beans
9.	Individuals with Unique Challenges	28	130	28	Beans, sugar, soap, cassava, yams, ovacados, sweet potatoes, cassava flour, soap, sugar, rice.
10.	Health Department	---	---	---	13 cartons of wheat, sugar, cooking oil, 5

					spray pumps, Disinfectant Jik, Medical gloves, face masks
11.	District Headquarters	----	---	---	Hand washing containers and Liquid soap.
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,313</b>	<b>14,685 kgs</b>	<b>7,044bunches</b>	
<b>Children Centers</b>					
12.	<b>Centre</b>	<b>Children &amp; Caregivers</b>	<b>Maize flour (Kgs)</b>	<b>Matooke (Bunches)</b>	<b>Other items</b>
	Tooro Babies Home	63	--	--	Macrons, powder soap, Lato Milk, toilet soap
	SOS Children's Village Fort Portal	139	---	30	Yams, cassava, 95 Litres of Milk.
	Fort Portal Remand Home	109	---	100	Pumpkins, potatoes, yams, cassava, sweet potatoes, fresh beans, avocados, 128 Liters of milk.
	Manna Rescue Home, Kasusu	35	---	10	Macrons, powder soap, bathing soap, Milk.
<b>Total</b>		<b>346</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>140</b>	

## RAC INTERVENTIONS DURING THE OUTBREAK OF COVID 19



*Kabarole RDC together with RAC ED case follow up in Nyanpaboma in Kabalore District*

When the Corona Virus was first pronounced in Uganda, various interventions, just like elsewhere in the world were undertaken to prevent death and further spread of the disease. Notable among these was the pronouncement of a lockdown, with only a few essential services permitted to run.

At RAC, the lockdown did not stop us from carrying on with our routine activities. However, changes in the mode of implementation were made to protect our foot-soldiers

while at the same time working to safeguard public resources from being abused.

By and large, all planned activities were implemented but, with extra caution to observe the Standard Operational Procedures i.e. limiting numbers to no more than 30 people per activity with protective gear (face masks) and social distancing among others.

Various interventions were thus undertaken by RAC during the quarter under review. These include among others;

### **Round table meetings:**

A total of 63 Roundtable meetings were conducted in the period under review, bringing together a total of 1654 men, 727 women, 271 youths, 1990 adults, 182 elderly and 44 PWDs. The meetings provided a platform for citizens to engage their leaders on issues pertaining to service delivery in their localities. During the round table meetings, leaders were able to respond to the concerns raised by the community, committing to address all the concerns raised. Key among the concerns raised during this period was the inadequate study material distributed by the government, forcing parents to inject in money to photocopy the few available study materials. This concern was raised to the respective duty bearers' right from sub-county to district level (including LCIII Chairpersons, Town clerks, DEOs and RDCs among others who worked together with RAC and raised this concern to the

respective institution in charge of distribution of the study material – Uganda Curriculum Development Center – these informed us that the study material sent was meant for the vulnerable poor while the rest that could afford to photocopy the study material, they were encouraged to do so since government could not afford to print copies for everyone. This information was passed on to the community during our community feedback meetings, hence clearing the false allegations against some officials who were falsely accused of manipulating the community.

Feedback reports were also shared to the communities to ensure they are updated and aware of the actions the leaders had taken on the issues they raised



*Citizens participating in a community feedback meeting in Kamwenge district*

## Monitoring and case follow up:

In the period under review, a total of 598 cases were reported by RAC monitors for action. These were presented to the respective leaders and duty bearers for response and action through various forums including sub-county conferences, District Integrity Promotion Forum and individual case follow up meetings with anti-graft agencies like the office of IGG, police, and the judiciary among others. Out of the total 1,194 cases reported in the period under review, 656 were responded to and concluded while the remaining 538 were responded to but are still under investigation.

RAC has been able to monitor over 63 health centers in the region to ensure services are running well amidst COVID 19 outbreak. Most of the facilities monitored were fully functional with good attendance of the health workers. However several issues were identified including; Lack of transport for mothers to hospital and lack of COVID 19 protective gear for health workers; to mention but a few.

Key among the issues followed up in the quarter under review were cases related to misappropriation of COVID 19 relief support meant for the vulnerable citizens during the COVID 19 outbreak. The COVID 19 pandemic in Uganda caused hunger for

several communities in urban and rural centers. To address their plight, the Government of Uganda and other good Samaritans offered food and other relief items to support the most affected communities. However, there were allegations of corruption in the distribution of food to the people as officers who were tasked to distribute food are alleged to have taken the food themselves while others allegedly asked for bribes from the vulnerable in exchange for food. In Kitagweda district (formerly part of Kamwenge), three officers were interdicted over allegations of corruption as mentioned below;

- a. Mr Mwesigye Adolf – a health Assistant of Kanara Sub county was interdicted by the CAO - Kitagwenda District under CRB 157/2020 on allegations of Bribery.
- b. Ms Tumuhimbise Divavance – Parish Chief Kakasi parish, Buhanda sub-county was interdicted on allegations of Abuse of office and soliciting bribes under KTG CRB 174/2020.
- c. Ms Kabahuma Scola Rusaara Parish chief Nyakasenyi Parish Buhanda sub county was interdicted on allegations of Abuse of office and soliciting bribes under KTG CRB 174/2020. RAC upon receiving reports of these allegations engaged the respective duty bearers for action to ensure that justice is attained.

## Monitoring and case follow up by the RAC District Focal Persons

The District focal persons in the period under review participated in various council meetings to track the extent to which the district leadership was addressing service delivery concerns in their respective districts. The focal persons further used the council meetings as platforms to identify cases that required more attention, and these were taken on by RAC for expedited response and action by the respective agencies. A case in point is the Town Clerk of Rwimi Town council who had been accused of

abuse of office; the Focal Person – Bunyangabu brought this case to RAC after being tabled on the floor of council. RAC closely followed up the investigation of this case up to the time it was concluded, to ensure that justice prevails; at the end of the day, the Town Clerk was exonerated.

The district focal persons further participated in the COVID 19 District task force meetings to track the donations awarded and distributed to ensure that transparency and accountability prevails.



RAC engaging the community during the round table meeting

## Social audits:

In the period under review, a total of 15 social audits were conducted in seven out of the total eight districts where RAC operates. The social audit in Bundibugyo district was postponed to next quarter due to inadequate time to conduct all the activities. A lot of time was lost during the lockdown. During the social audit, a total of 30 projects were monitored across the seven districts of the Rwenzori (save for Bundibugyo); the audits provided a platform for RAC and the district leadership to jointly monitor government projects. The monitoring team was composed of technical staff who provided technical advice and interpretation of the quality/status of projects, hence drawing relevant recommendations pertaining to the status of the projects. In Kyegegwa district for example, several defects (including cracked floor, bent columns and poor mixture of cement/sand) had been observed in the construction of a classroom block at Ngangi Primary school during our social audit. The monitoring team thus recommended that the contractor corrects the defects on the building at his own

cost. The district engineer – as the project manager was tasked to follow up with the contractor and ensure that the defects are corrected. In our subsequent follow up visit, it was observed that the defects had been corrected and the contractor recommended for payment for his final instalment.



RAC staff, focal person and Kabarole district duty bearers during joint monitoring in Kabarole district



## DPAC meetings

A total of 15 meetings were conducted with members of DPAC, together with Internal Audit department, Procurement unit and other district statutory bodies i.e. District Service Commission and Land-board. These platforms were used to assess the extent of implementation of DPAC recommendations by council while at the same time assessing the challenges and achievements realized. In addition, the meetings provided a platform for the district CAOs to share reports on responses to queries raised in the Auditor General's reports of their respective districts. Overall, a total of 86 audit

queries out of the 128 queries from internal audit and Auditor General's reports in the 8 districts where we operate were addressed by the CAOs in their respective districts. For the pending audit queries, the CAOs pledged to have them addressed by the respective staff, short of which punitive action will be taken against them. The pressure amounted by RAC to the duty bearers to act on the audit queries has resulted into recovery of misappropriated and unaccounted for funds by staff



*The RAC ED together with Kyenjojo DPAC members and other technical staff during joint monitoring of the multi-purpose hall in Kyenjojo TC*



RAC Secretariat during their weekly staff meetings



Monitoring health services in Kamwenge District



Governance cluster members during a joint monitoring visit at Kyakaramata



Rac monitors tracking implementation of Government programs in Bundibugyo District



The Rac ED Pays a courtesy call to the DPP



The RAC ED and advocacy officer during case follow up in Kamwenge District



The Kyegegwa District focal person poses for a photo with OWC beneficiary in Kyegegwa during OWC survey



Kibiito RAC monitors during a meeting



Kibiito RAC monitors during a meeting

## District Integrity Promotion Forums:

A total of 14 meetings were conducted in the period under review, with two meetings (Kasese and Bundibugyo) postponed to next quarter due to limited time. The DIPF meetings brought together a total of 493 participants i.e. 389 men, 104 women, 67 youths, 381 adults, 42 elderly and 7 PWDs to address pending issues from community feedback meetings, round-table meetings, DPAC, Social audit and cases reported through our online platforms, toll

free line and radio programs among others. A total of 206 issues were presented during the DIPF, out of which 101 were responded to and concluded while the remaining 105 are still under investigations.

Through the above platforms, citizens were able to obtain clarifications and responses from duty bearers to issues raised.



Participants during the DIPF meeting

## Radio talk-shows:

Two radio talk-shows (HITS FM in Kabarole district and UBC in Bundibugyo) were conducted in the period under review. The talk-shows provided a platform for the leaders of the two districts to inform the citizens about the ongoing government projects and programs during the lockdown. This was intended to enable the community to monitor these programs even though the country was under lock-down to avoid cases of shoddy works. The radio talk shows provided a platform for the leaders to account for the COVID 19 donations and grants.



Kabarole District Focal person and the Kabarole district Deputy CAO during a radio talk-show in Fort Portal

## Media briefs

RAC further conducted two media briefs to update the media on the various activities conducted and responses/actions undertaken by the duty bearers on the cases reported by

RAC. The media was implored to widely disseminate this information for the benefit of the citizens.

### Quarterly review meetings

Two quarterly review meetings were conducted to obtain feedback on all the activities conducted in the period under review. Selected duty bearers were invited to participate in this review meetings with the aim of obtaining feedback from government officials on our method of activity implementation and recommendations for improvement.



RAC staff and monitors pause for a photo after their reflection meeting

### Reflection meeting with the governance cluster

In the period under review, two quarterly reflection meetings were conducted with governance cluster members, bringing together a total of 48 participants i.e. 14 female and 34 male. In the meeting, members agreed to monitor the Agri-led program under OWC to ensure that funds are not misappropriated and that the intended goal of the program is realized. With Fort Portal becoming a tourism city, a number of changes

are anticipated. It was therefore agreed in the meeting that guidelines to govern the city be obtained by the members to continuously monitor the new changes and ensure that the citizens are not denied quality service delivery. Members further agreed to obtain the disaster management plans for all the districts where we operate and ensure that they are operationalized to avoid grave effects of disasters like floods that have continuously affected the people of Bundibugyo and Kasese

### Quarterly research

A Quarterly research on the performance of duty bearers at district and sub-county level was also conducted and a report compiled. Findings and recommendations from this research will be used as a lobbying and advocacy tool to address the gaps identified for better service delivery

Ntoroko district leadership in a joint monitoring venture with RAC



## Citizens' participation in planning, budgeting and monitoring processes

RAC through her community meetings sensitized the citizens about the importance of participating in planning and budgeting meetings. During the budget planning meetings, RAC mobilized citizens to participate in these

planning meetings right from village to district level to ensure that their priorities are taken on.

A total of 60 Participated in the planning and budget conferences conducted in 54 villages, 6 sub-counties and 2 districts which had not participated in quarter 4 of 2019. A total of 143 priorities were identified out of which 677 were adopted in the approved sub-county/district plans and budgets for the Financial Year 2020/2021



## Studying at home... are the alternative means to access education under lockdown effective?

When COVID19 broke out in Uganda, the country went under lockdown, shutting down various sectors and service delivery. The education sector, like many others was not spared; the children were sent back home until such a time when the country will be declared secure to have them back at school. Government, in a bid to carry on with education came up with alternative means for the children to access education. Distribution of study material through the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) across the country was just one of the many proposed alternative means for the children to carry on with their education despite the lockdown.

This move was appreciated by many; for despite the fact that they were not at school, it was hoped that learning would be carried on in a new normal way.

Distribution of the study materials was however marred with challenges – the major one being their inadequacy. According to the Director of the National Curriculum Development Center, study material for only 25% of the 12 million school-going children was printed, leaving a huge gap for the remaining 75% to inject in their own funds to access the education packages.

In Burambagira Parish in Bundibugyo district, they only received 8 copies of each of the study material distributed, with parents charged 5,000 shillings for photocopy – a cost considered to be too high for the vulnerable poor with more than one child. In some districts like Kyenjojo, it is alleged that some areas didn't receive study material at all.

During our community engagement meetings, there was a loud outcry from the citizens, begging the government of Uganda to increase the quantity of the study material distributed to enable those that cannot afford to print/photocopy access them for free.

Teaching children through Radio is yet another alternative means through which pupils were to access education under lockdown. However, our monitoring findings revealed that this was not very effective due to the fact that lessons begin early and yet these children are involved in domestic chores. Some of the learners, especially those in the rural set up go for gardening as early as 6:00am to 1pm yet this is the time at which radio lessons are conducted. Many learners are as result of this schedule left out. They therefore appealed to government to reschedule these lessons to the afternoon when the learners are through with their domestic chores for inclusive learning.

## Health services in Kasese affected by floods

In the month of March 2020, Kasese District experienced heavy rains, occasionally leading to flooding in various parts of the District including health facilities;

Four health centers were left devastated after the floods filled up hospital admission wards, damaging and destroying expensive equipment and paralyzing the health system in those communities.

Kilembe Mines Hospital was completely obliterated. The flooding of the major rivers left a lot of damages to infrastructure with impassable roads and open bridges which also has been the cause of some of the major accidents lately with 1 (One) child drowning while trying to cross to Kilembe and another elderly man breaking his legs in Kiraru while trying to cross the bridge. The New Vision Newspaper recently reported a grandmother and a mother with her two children that drowned as they tried to cross the river to their garden. Generally floods have impacted on women and their gender roles, making them face more challenges as they try to get these roles done.



*Kilembe Hospital medial wards remaining empty after evacuation of patients*



*Kilembe Hospital Silted*



## COVID 19 – Child Marriages and Defilement cases on the rise...

Rwenzori is still grappling with Child Marriages and these have increased amidst COVID 19. Several cases have been reported to police and probation office amidst COVID19 where several girls have been impregnated for survival reasons due to poverty.

Marriage remains one of the celebrated moments and a key milestone among families across the world. Sadly, there is no more cause of celebration today because of the high cases of child marriages in the region. Some of the districts affected by high defilement cases are Kasese, Kamwenge and Bundibugyo. Lately, several villages in Kasese are reportedly dotted with child mothers.

RAC is following up these cases of defilement as most of them are marred with corrupt tendencies; as parents are not willing to cooperate with the probation officers to have the culprits brought to book.

RAC through its forums has sensitized the public on how to handle cases of defilement and also assured them support to follow up these cases right from police to court and Director of Public Prosecution.

## CHANGE STORIES

### 5,230,000/= SAVED THROUGH RAC'S INTERVENTIONS

On December 3rd 2019 RAWUTHA AGENCIES SMC LIMITED was awarded a contract sum of 19,950,000 to renovate a 2 class room block with an office at Bundibugyo Muslim Primary school within a period of 3months (January – March, 2020). Works were executed and assumed completed. According to the certificate of completion issued on 28/02/2020, a total sum of 18,050,000/= was paid to the contractor.

However, during RAC's joint monitoring visit with selected leaders to the project site, it was observed that some of the contract works were not executed. According to the BoQs, the contractor was supposed to demolish and renovate the floor of the two classroom blocks and the office at a total sum of 5,230,000/=. However, this had not been done yet the contractor had been paid and awarded a certificate of completion. Our monitoring findings were shared with the Kasese District CAO and the Engineer. Based on our findings, the CAO instructed the contractor to immediately have the all the works done to which he complied.

A follow up visit was made to the project site and we were happy to find that this time round, all the works had been done to completion, and the building well painted. RAC was highly appreciated by the CAO and other stakeholders for their timely intervention short of which the district would have lost funds worth 5,230,000/= to the hands of selfish individuals

### RAC INTERVENES TO CAUSE CORRECTION OF DEFECTS ON RWESENDE PRIMARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

In the month of January 2020, Mwimu Engineering Services was awarded a contract (under School Facility Grants (SFG) to construct a library at block at Rwesende SDA primary School in Kyabarungira Subcounty - Kasese district.

The contract sum was 96,000,000/= for a period of 6 Months.

On March 11, 2020, RAC together with members of Kasese District Public Accounts Committee conducted a Joint Monitoring visit to Rwesende SDA primary School to determine the extent of works under construction. Our monitoring findings revealed that the building was at roofing level. However, a total number of 12 major cracks in the walls were observed on the building during our monitoring visit.

The monitoring team thus brought these findings to the attention of the CAO for action during the Kasese District Stakeholders' Meeting organized by RAC. The monitoring team recommended that the contractor must fix all the defects before roofing.

Following these recommendations, the CAO instructed the contractor to fix all the defects on the building before roofing to which he complied - the defects were fixed and thereafter, the contractor proceeded with the roofing and completion of the construction works. By July 10, 2020 the library was fully constructed and ready for handover.



RAC AND DPAC TEAM  
THE LIBRARY

BEFORE RAC INTERVATION



1CHAIRPERSON DPAC  
OBSERVING CRACKS IN THE WALLS

AFTER RAC INTERVATION



FRONT VIEW  
OF THE LIBRARY



BEHIND VIEW OF THE LIBRARY



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE LIBRARY

**Vigilant Monitors intercept shoddy works in Bundibugyo**

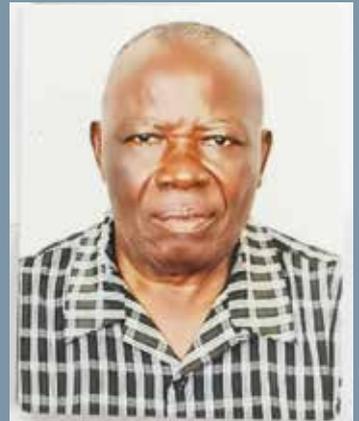
The outbreak of the Corona Virus Disease in Uganda and the world all over has had far-reaching effects, not only health-wise but also economically, socially, psychologically and politically

Following the President’s directive for Uganda to go under lock-down, the ‘gospel’ of ‘stay at home and only move if you must!’ was preached. With road works being one of the few permitted essential services to be carried on during the lock down, some unscrupulous people decided to take advantage of the situation for their selfish gain. In Bundibugyo district, the town council road gang supervisor allegedly authorized the dumping of poor quality gravel on Muramya-Kalekera road in Katanga cell. Upon realizing that the gravel being used was of poor quality composed of soils mixed with sand and burnt bricks, the LC II chairperson – Mr. Lumumba Patrick and Chairman LC 1 Mr. Kalekera mobilized the community, and also called a RAC official to intervene, in a bid to intercept the shoddy works. Because of the community’s vigilance, the Town Clerk was contacted and informed of the situation; she in return instructed that all the works be halted until further notice. Works were later resumed and completed but this time round, with good quality gravel. Hadn’t it been for the community’s vigilance coupled with their leaders’ commitment, the people of Muramya and Bundibugyo were heading for doom, while the tax payers’ money goes down the drain in the hands of a few unscrupulous people

# RAC District Focal Persons



Mutamba Olivia  
Ntoroko District



Byaruhanga Archangel  
Bunyangabu District



Bagenda Theodore  
Kyenjojo District



Emmy Manyindo  
Kabarole District



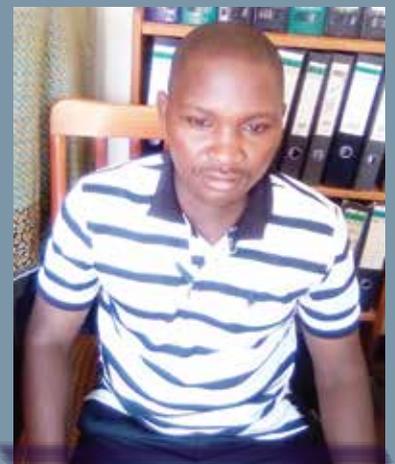
Gerald Twebaze  
Kamwenge District



Marion Kaliisa  
Kyegegwa District



Bagambe Moses  
Bundibugyo District



Mupango Robson  
Kasese District