

The Track

Newsletter

July - September 2020



Issue

26



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From the Editor...



It's here once again! The TRACK Newsletter - a bulletin that brings you up to speed with our interventions implemented within the quarter while at the same time sharing with you stories of change that have resulted from the sweat of our committed volunteers - the RAC monitors and activists.

Despite the outbreak of COVID19 pandemic, RAC carried on and implemented all her planned activities, but of course following the Standard Operating Procedures of the Ministry of Health to prevent the spread of the disease.

In this edition of the TRACK Newsletter therefore, we bring you highlights of activities implemented in the third quarter; July - September 2020, plus our engagements with the duty bearers and the Governance Cluster.

Your views and comments are of paramount importance to us; we'll be happy to hear from you

Happy reading!

Bridging the Gap between the citizenry and the duty bearers... our interventions

Bridging the gap between duty bearers and the citizenry for improved service delivery and better livelihood is the center of RAC’s interventions. At RAC, we believe that an active citizenry that is able to hold their leaders accountable is the key to better service delivery.

It is for this reason that RAC has set up various platforms for the citizens to engage with their leaders for accountability and access to better service delivery.

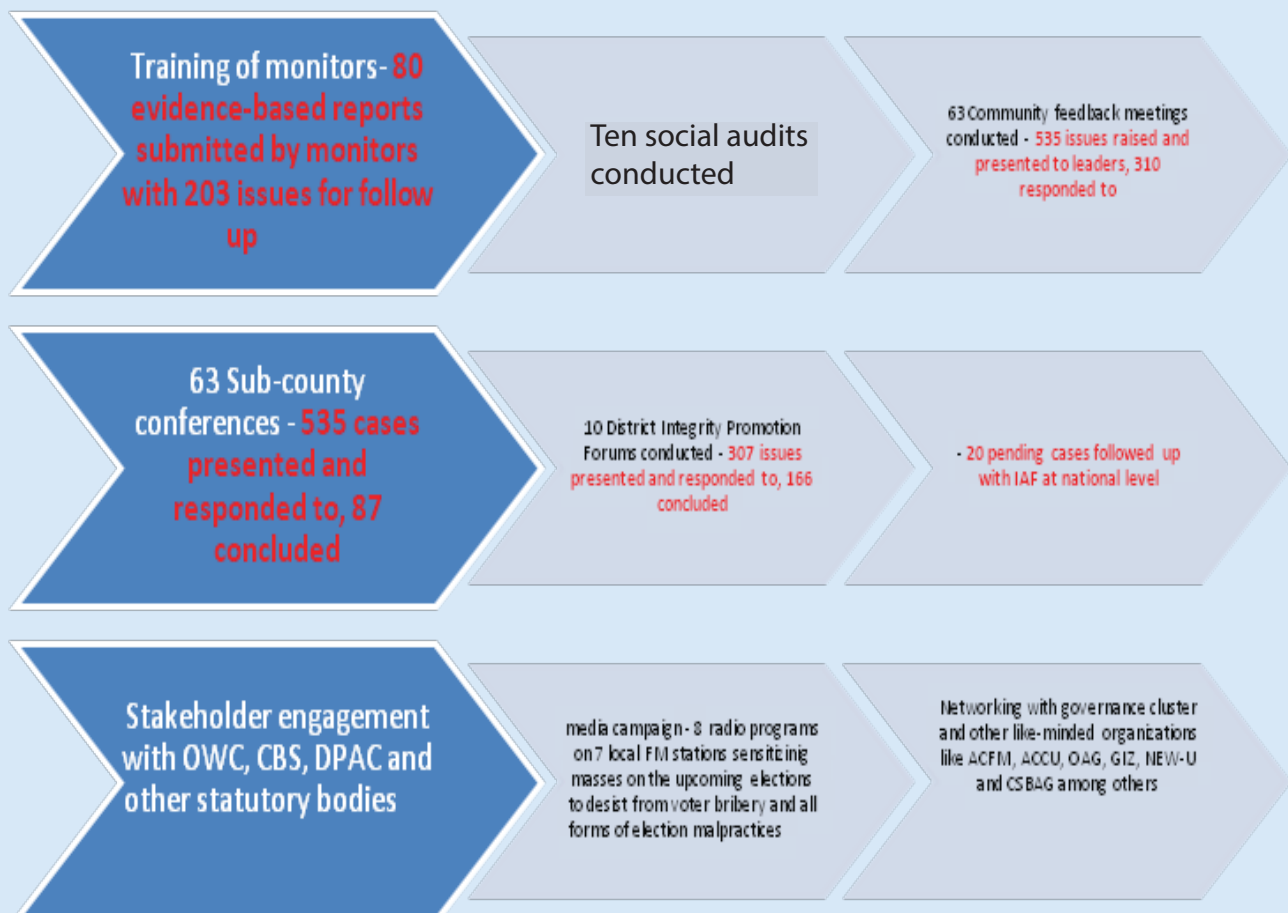
RAC on a quarterly basis conducts various activities that bring citizens and duty bearers on the same table to ask, report and

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respond to service delivery concerns raised by the community.

From the routine monitoring done by our grassroots community animators to national level engagement of the duty bearers, our bottom-up interventions have greatly contributed to increased number of citizens reporting cases of corruption to RAC and other agencies, increased number of citizens participating in planning and budgeting processes, empowered community that is able to hold their leaders accountable and as such resulted into improved service delivery in the Rwenzori region.

Figurative summary of activities conducted in the period under review (July to September 2020)



Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) stakeholders Meeting

District-based meetings with OWC stakeholders were conducted across the eight districts of the Rwenzori region with the objective of understanding the OWC program, achievements, challenges and recommendations to address the identified gaps. The meetings further provided a platform for the beneficiaries to share their experiences from the OWC program.

In Kyenjojo district for example, the District Production and Marketing

Officer shared the various achievements realized through the OWC program. This was witnessed by several beneficiaries who also participated in the meeting. Mr. Nduhiro Daniel – a beneficiary of the OWC program for example testified that he has accumulated wealth from OWC which he joined way back in 2011 under NAADS. He has been able to pay school fees for his daughter up to University level, built a house, a strong dairy project and a vehicle among others achievements.



Some of Nduhiro's benefits...
(source: presentation by Sekyanzi Shem)



Piggery project by Nyakana Ann

Mr. Sekyanzi during his presentation shared other achievements of the OWC program in Kyenjojo district...



Model farmer of Mukunyu sub-county



Nyakana Ann with poultry..she is a youth who has benefitted from OWC in Kyenjojo

Despite the above achievements, the OWC program is still faced with the following challenges:

1. **Pre-assessment criteria:** failure to carry out a proper beneficiary pre-assessment has resulted into loss of technologies awarded. In some other incidences, some of the selected beneficiaries were given heifers yet they lacked the capacity to sustain them i.e. purchase of drugs, feeds and construction of shelter.
2. **Gender, Equity and Equality issues:** the response of youth in OWC is still low. Most of the youth and women have no land to implement such projects hence limiting their participation.
3. **Poor quality supplies vs. pests and diseases:** several beneficiaries lament about the quality of the seedlings given, which sometimes take long to germinate.
4. **Limited follow up Vs. Inadequate staffing:** a number of challenges faced by the beneficiaries may be attributed to limited or lack of follow up by the technocrats – a factor that has greatly contributed to huge losses. The production department is said to be understaffed
5. **Climate change Vs. off-season/delayed deliveries:** due to climate change, there is a prolonged dry spell (January to June) hence affecting proper production of crops. There is also a tendency of delivering supplies to farmers in dry seasons, making it difficult to plant, causing some farmers to turn seedlings into food, while others exchange them for alcohol
6. **Politicizing OWC:** there have been incidences where politicians have incited the community to reject supplies without genuine reasons, while in other incidences, selection of beneficiaries was reportedly done based on political inclinations. There was a tendency of sidelining some persons who did not support certain personalities during campaigns
7. **Poor information flow:** incidences

of dumping supplies have been reported on several occasions, where inputs are dumped at the sub-county head-quarters without prior information to the beneficiaries and leaders. The seedlings hence end up in the wrong hands (those who had not applied), causing the intended beneficiaries to miss out.

8. **High Costs of Inputs Vs. Limited market for agricultural produce:** some of the beneficiaries decried the poor market, low and fluctuating prices for agricultural produce which demoralizes farmers, a factor that affects sustainability of their farms

To avert the above challenges, it is recommended that;

- The criteria of selecting the beneficiaries should be revised. Only people with adequate land should benefit to avoid wastage of materials.
- Extension workers should also be involved in the registration of beneficiaries and distribution of inputs. This will avoid cases of ghost beneficiaries.
- Identification and distribution of supplies should be done in consultation with the stakeholders/target beneficiaries to determine community priorities
- Intensify follow up of beneficiaries after distribution
- Local purchase of technologies to ensure compatibility with the environment
- Government should subsidize prices of herbicides and pesticides for affordability by poor farmers.
- OWC team should inform in time key stakeholders about the deliveries of supplies
- Ensure timely delivery of seedlings to avoid drought and pests
- There is need for proper planning, assessment and training of beneficiaries on the supplies given to avoid losses, wastage and mismanagement
- Supplies given should meet the demand of the beneficiaries/capacity of their gardens
- Proper assessment of heifers before delivery to confirm if they are in-calf.

Social Audits

Every quarter, Rwenzori Anti-corruption Coalition undertakes social audits with selected duty bearers to monitor identified projects. The monitoring is intended to

assess if the selected projects are implemented as planned. In the quarter under review, a total of 17 projects were monitored across the 8 districts of the Rwenzori region where RAC operates.

Kyenjojo Social Audit – Visit to Kijwiga Industrial Hub

On September 10, 2020, a team of RAC staff, focal person, board member together with the team of technical staff, and councilors paid a visit to Kijwiga Industrial hub. The project is funded by the State house. It is intended to build industrial hubs for women and youth across the Rwenzori region in the districts of Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Bunyangabu, Ntoroko and Bundibugyo

The project is contracted to Flexihome.

The objective/target of the project is;

- Skill development for youth and women
- Product additional value to crops and other products

The project was started in February 2020; it was supposed to end in August 2020 but was extended to November 2020. The project hand-over is expected to be done early next year.

The visit to this project was proposed by the district leadership to show-case some positive interventions in the district. According to the LCV chairperson – Mr. Kaija, the district has got very many projects and therefore suggested that this time round, we go and appreciate the positive initiatives .

Our monitoring visit revealed that project works are at 75%; and the quality of works is impressive.

The project has the following workshops:

- Tailoring and Knitting
- Shoe making
- Welding
- Carpentry
- Coffee processing
- Maize processing
- Stone cutting and block work
- **Bakery**

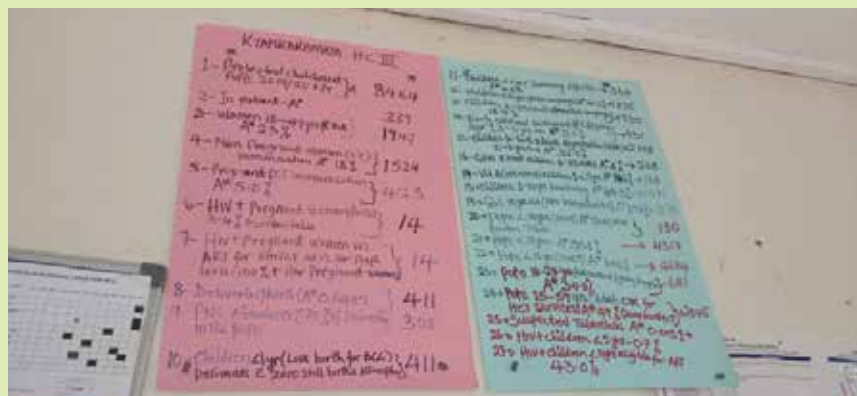




JOINT MONITORING: THE GOVERNANCE CLUSTER VISITS KYANKARAMATA HCIII



On July 22, 2020, members of the governance cluster conducted a joint-monitoring visit to Kyakaramata HCIII, in Kyenjojo district, to monitor service delivery at this facility. The monitoring team was composed of Kind Uganda, KRC, RAC, RWEPOTA and KDC among others.



Display of clients handled at Kyankaramata HCIII

At the facility, we were received by the Health Center In-Charge – Mr. Niyonzima Innocent who shared with us highlights of the Health center’s operations and challenges faced in execution of their work.

In his remarks, Mr. Niyonzima revealed to the shock of members that every week, the facility receives about 3-4 cases of gender-based violence which has sometimes resulted into death – a case in point is where a man reportedly hacked and killed his wife in Hakiti village. The case was reported to police and is still under investigation.

Functionality of the Health Unit Management Committee (HUMC)

According to the In-Charge, the HUMC conducts meetings and make reports on a quarterly basis.

KYANKARAMATA H C III 19/20

PHC NON WAGE RECEIVED 2019/20

QUARTER	RECEIVED	ACCOUNTED FOR
JULY - SEPT 2019	2,000,000 =	2,000,000 =
OCT - DEC 2019	2,000,000	2,000,000
JAN - MARCH 2020	2,000,000	2,000,000
APRIL - JUNE 2020	2,000,000	2,000,000

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE PREVIOUS QUARTER 4

1- Staff Allowances (Immunist)	872,000
2- Sanitation / Infection Control	300,000
3- Motorcycle maintenance	270,000
4- Stationery / Photocopying	138,700
5- Curtain	42,800
6- Electricity maintenance	120,000
7- Fuel / Paraffin	256,500
	<u>2,000,000 =</u>

General challenges faced by Kyakaramata HCIII



Cluster members moving around the newly constructed building

- **Inadequate staff:** Kyakaramata has a total of 10 staff but the daily attendance is about six staff per day making it difficult to execute works as required.
- **Staff absenteeism:** staff absenteeism is so rampant; this coupled with a lean staff undermines the quality of service delivery at this facility. From the staff attendance register, Mwesige Agnes – the porter was reported to have absconded from duty for the months of January, February and April 2020, without reporting for duty at all! The in-charge had no choice but to clean his office by himself. When asked, Agnes said that she resides from far, making it difficult for her to report for duty on a daily basis.

Although the In-Charge put in place mechanisms to track staff attendance, absenteeism at this facility is still very rampant, knowing that no serious punitive action

will be taken against the absentee staff. They believe that the in-charge has no authority to take any action against them; well knowing that all powers to take punitive action lie with the CAO. The In-charge labored to report these cases of absenteeism to the Human Resource Officer but no action was taken.

- **Inadequate drugs and medical supplies:** although Kyakaramata is a Health Center III, PHC funds, drugs and other medical supplies received are for HCII, making it difficult to meet their clientele demand.

- The facility is further faced by the challenge of inadequate operational space; the new administration block is still under construction.

Monitoring the Administration block under construction

The monitoring team took a walk around the administration block under construction; although its completion was delayed, works were near completion at the time of our monitoring visit.



Taking a closer look at the ongoing works at Kyankaramata

Politicizing government programs... a key hindrance to attainment of the set goals

Political influence by some elected leaders has been blamed for failing a number of government programs. This was revealed by various actors during the stakeholder engagement meetings organized by RAC. The Operation Wealth Creation, Youth Livelihood Project and Uganda Women Empowerment Program (UWEP) among other programs were initiated by the government of Uganda to improve citizens' livelihoods. Unfortunately, the programs are marred with a number of challenges that have greatly

hindered realization of the set goals.

Political influence is one of the leading factors that has stood in the way of attaining the set goals. During our stakeholder engagement meeting with the CBS department, a number of Community Development Officers decried the selfish manner in which some politicians force them to take on groups that do not meet the set standards and as a result, several other challenges tend to emerge shortly after funds are given to

such groups; some divert from planned projects, others run away with the funds while in other incidences, the group disintegrates, causing internal conflicts and rivalry and as such, recovering the funds within the stipulated period under such circumstances becomes a dream far from reach!

Politicians and all the other actors involved in such acts of influence peddling should desist from these vices, for they do not build but rather break the society and as such retard development.

Pictorial Summary



Officials from OAG and GIZ meeting with RAC staff



Round table meeting



School-going girls now involved in food vending due to lockdown



The RAC board, staff and members of the Governance cluster in a joint monitoring visit to Kasese



The RAC ED and the Communications Officer at DEI during case follow up



The RAC ED presenting the CSO position paper during the Regional Budget Consultative meeting



The RAC focal person - Kamwenge making a presentation during the DIPF meeting in Kamwenge



Bundibugyo district RDC addressing participants during the District Integrity Promotion Forum



Community meeting at Kabonero Subcounty in Bunyangabo district.jpg



Community feedback meeting in Kasitu Subcounty Bundibugyo district.jpg



Training of monitors in Bundibugyo Town Council



RAC staff with Bunyangabo district leaders during the Social Audit of the Kabonero HC III Latrine.jpg



Officials from DEI and CIID pay a courtesy call to RAC

STORIES OF CHANGE

RAC intervenes to cause recovery of misappropriated funds in Bundibugyo District

As a Civil Society Organization that seeks to promote transparency and accountability, RAC on a periodic basis review and assesses the extent of implementation of District Public Accounts Committee and Auditor General's reports by the Accounting officers of the districts where we operate.

In reviewing the Bundibugyo Auditor General's report of June 2019, it was discovered that a total amount of Thirty Six million three hundred and sixteen thousand five hundred eighty five)(UG36,316,585/=)was over paid to M/S STK and Brothers Co.Ltd by the Chief Administrative Officer Mr Franco Olaboro for the construction of latrines at Bubandi and Bundingoma primary school in Bundibugyo district. In his recommendation, the Auditor General in his June 2019 report directed the Accounting Officer i.e. the Bundibugyo Chief Administrative Officer to recover the funds in question or else have it paid back and banked at Bundibugyo district local government general collection.

With keen interest into this issue, RAC through wide consultation with various stakeholders discovered that not even a coin had been

recovered or paid back.

With deep concern, RAC opened up a General Enquiries File (B/GYO GEF 03/2019) at Bundibugyo Police Station with the aim of causing recovery of the misappropriated funds. A deeper investigation into this case was conducted by police. From the findings of the investigation, several officers including the Chief Finance Officer, Supervisor of Works, the District Planner and the CAO were implicated in this case and were therefore charged with Causing financial loss to government

Upon completion of the investigation, the file was submitted to the RSA for advice on 1st November 2019. The RSA consented to and advised that all those implicated recover the funds or else be prosecuted in the courts of law.

The accused opted to recover the funds from the contractor to avoid facing the wrath of the law. The recovered funds were deposited on the District General Collection Account as follows:

RECEIPT NUMBER	AMOUNT
419	4,000,000
420	1,000,000
421	4,000,000
422	1,000,000
556	8,050,000
555	7,050,000
565	11,216,585
TOTAL	36,316,585

THE POWER OF ROUND TABLE MEETINGS



Round Table meetings are just one of the various platforms that RAC uses to bridge the gap between the citizens and their leaders at sub-county level. Through such meetings, community concerns reported to RAC are presented to the leaders/duty bearers for response and action.

The meetings have indeed proved to be effective in addressing several community concerns and as such contributed to improved service delivery in the region.

A case in point is Karambi HCIII in Kasese district that had for a long time halted admission of patients (save for expectant mothers) simply because the facility's places of convenience (latrines) were inadequate. This facility was therefore being under-utilized on one hand and on the other, the prevailing circumstances had not only become a death trap (since patients that needed admission had to either be transferred or sent back home) but also, the users of this facility were greatly inconvenienced as they had to spend more money

to move to other facilities in other sub-counties in search for medical treatment.

When this concern was tabled before the leaders of Karambi sub-county during the round table meeting in Karambi, the duty bearers pledged to do everything within their powers to ensure that a functional latrine is put up at the facility. True to their word, a total amount of One Million Three hundred Shillings (1,300,000/=) was allocated by the sub-county for the construction of a latrine at Karambi HCIII.

In a subsequent round table meeting held in the month of August 2020, the Karambi Town clerk informed members that construction works for a 2-stance latrine and a urinal at Karambi HCIII had been constructed and was at 90% completion.

On October 8th 2020 in yet another Round table that sat at Karambi HCIII, the sub-county chief could not conceal his joy when he informed members that the new latrine was ready for hand over to the management of the the facility. The sub-county leadership is now soliciting for more staff for the facility and it is hoped that by December 2020, admission of patients at Karambi HCIII will be resumed, to the benefit of the citizens of Karambi whose access to better health services will have been improved.



The latrine at Karambi HC III under construction in August 2020



Cracks on the latrine before RAC intervention

The case of Kabonero...

Just like Kasese, Bunyangabu district was faced with similar concerns of defects on the Kabonero HCIII latrine. Like Kasese, the defects on the Latrine were reported by citizens during the round-table meeting organized by RAC in Kabonero sub-county, Bunyangabu district. There was a loud outcry from the community over the huge crack that developed on the verandah and wall of the latrine shortly after its construction. The community therefore appealed to RAC and the district leadership to intervene immediately, for the lives of the users of this facility were at a high risk

Bowing to their plea, RAC organized a joint monitoring visit to Kabonero HCIII, to verify if the allegations were true.

From our monitoring visit, the following findings were revealed:

- Kabonero HCIII latrine was constructed in the FY 2018/19 with funding from DDEG
- The latrine rooms were generally good looking; but, the curtain wall was on the verge of falling, with huge cracks observed, posing a high risk danger to the users and the entire facility.
- In addition, the sock pit surface was seen to be peeling off, hence exposing it to further damages

Moving forward, the CAO appointed the Roads

Engineer to make a technical report on the entire construction project, from which a decision on the next steps would be taken. From the assessment report, it was resolved that the latrine be demolished and constructed afresh. In a follow up visit to Kabonero, it was discovered that the process of reconstructing a new latrine had started.

At the time of our visit, the old latrine had been demolished as proof that construction of the new latrine was on the way.

We appeal to the leadership of Bunyangabu to expedite the construction of the new latrine to improve service delivery at Kabonero HCIII



RAC and Bunyangabu district leadership in a joint monitoring visit to Kabonero HCIII



Latrine during construction to correct defects

Karambi Health Center III... Dilapidated latrine abandoned, new one constructed

Karambi Health center III staff are forever grateful to the RAC monitors of Karambi for without their efforts, obtaining a functional latrine had become impossible...

It was during their routine monitoring that the Karambi RAC monitors discovered that the latrine at Karambi Health Center III was on the verge of sinking in, with huge cracks on the walls. The monitors and the community at large were deeply concerned about the risk of accidents and loss of lives that could easily arise from the cracked walls. When asked, the In-Charge said this concern had on several occasions been reported to the district

leadership but their plea to have these defects corrected always fell on deaf ears.

The monitors thus tabled this concern to the sub-county leadership of Karambi during the round table meeting but still, nothing much was done, for this mantle could only be handled by the district.

RAC in a bid to bring the district leadership on board organized a joint monitoring visit with the district leadership of Bunyangabu to prove if the allegations stated were true. During our social audit (visit) to Karambi Health center III, the leaders, including the RDC and the technical team realized that the latrine was indeed in a bad shape; and

recommended that a technical assessment be made to decide whether the latrine should be repaired or have a new one constructed. The technical assessment was done and the report recommended that a new latrine be constructed since the old one was beyond repair.

This recommendation was thus implemented and a new latrine constructed; it is now functional. The Karambi HCIII staff are forever grateful to RAC for it is through their support that the district was able to construct a new latrine for the health center, for their pleas had for a long time fallen on deaf ears.

RAC's intervenes to cause correction of Defects on Kiburara market

In the month of March 2020, Kabarole District Local Government signed an agreement with Cornerstone Civil Works Ltd to construct a 22-store market at Kiburara in Hakibale sub-county – Kabarole district, at UGX 21,969,760/=

Shortly after its construction however, there was a loud outcry from the surrounding community of Kiburara, saying that the newly constructed market stalls had several defects that required immediate intervention. It's upon this background that RAC, together with other district officials visited Kiburara Road side market to monitor progress of the construction and verify if the allegations raised by the community were actually true. From the findings of the joint monitoring, it was revealed that;

- The slab was weak and had developed cracks which is attributed to substandard materials and disproportionate cement-concrete mix applied
- The market floor and Ramps were wearing off due to the disproportionate cement-concrete mix
- Entrance steel doors were not fixed firmly with enough anchorage to the walls
- The finishing around the steel doors to the entrance and the lock ups was not done well



Just like the community members, the monitoring team was perturbed by the findings and henceforth recommended for immediate action to correct the defects observed by the respective duty bearers. RAC presented the findings and recommendations of the monitoring team to the duty bearers during the Kabarole District Integrity Promotion Forum. The recommendations included among others; to demolish the slab and have it newly constructed. Several follow up engagements were also made with the Kabarole District RDC and CAO to ensure implementation of the recommendations made.

Because of the pressure mounted by RAC and other stakeholders, the contractor was instructed to demolish and redo the slab. In a recent follow up visit to Kiburara by the RAC team, it was observed that under the supervision of a new sites foreman, the market floor and ramps were demolished and reconstructed using the correct cement-concrete proportions specified under the BoQs. A concrete mix of 1:2:4, aggregate size of 10-15mm, reinforcement steel of Y10 spaced @150mm c/c as specified under the BoQs has been applied.

In addition, steel doors were removed and weld on long steel anchors and refixed to the walls embedded in a concrete mix of 1:2:4 as specified in the BoQs.

The community of Kiburara are thus forever grateful to RAC and all the key players that pushed for the correction of defects on this road side market Before RAC's Intervention.

Pictorial Summary of activities implemented



Defect on the entrance steel door



Entrance steel door not properly fixed



Cracks towards the worktop slab



Cracks on the worktop slab



Portion of outside finishing that went off with just a touch citing low cement applicability



Wearing off of the Ramp floor

After RAC's Intervention



Worktop being re-constructed



Slab being reconstructed



Ground floor being demolished for reconstruction



Lining expansion on the slab to prevent any cracks



Slab being reconstructed

TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN MONITORS

*To our departed monitors, time may pass and fade away,
but your contribution towards the fight against
corruption will always be remembered.*

May the souls of our foot soldiers;

***Rubarema Christopher**
from Nkoma branch in Kamwenge District*

***Kyakurwenda Sam**
of Karugale branch in Bundibugyo District.*

Rest In Eternal Peace

