

RWENZORI ANTI-CORRUPTION COALITION (RAC) ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Background

The Rwenzori Anti-corruption Coalition (RAC), which brings together anti-corruption actors, was founded in 2002 to empower communities to expose and cause action against corruption in the Rwenzori Region. The coalition operates in Fort Portal City and the 9 districts of the Rwenzori region i.e. Kabarole, Bunyangabu, Kasese, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Ntoroko, Kitagwenda and Bundibugyo where it has established branches in 63 sub-counties, each comprising 15 RAC monitors and anti-corruption activists

Vision

A transparent and corruption free society

Mission

To contribute to poverty reduction in the Rwenzori region by empowering citizens to expose and cause action against corruption

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of Board of Directors and on my own behalf, I wish to welcome you to the RAC 2022 Annual General Meeting. I must congratulate everyone for successfully completing 2021 despite some inevitable challenges. I also thank God for having spared our lives from COVID 19 pandemic to date and thank our government leaders for the fight against the disease.

With a lot of enthusiasm, I acknowledge the overwhelming contributions by my colleagues - the Board of Directors towards serving Rwenzori Anti-corruption Coalition unreservedly. I am very much humbled and privileged to appreciate the self-sacrifice by our monitors and activists who have voluntarily produced results that have attracted attention from Districts, Region and Central authorities about corruption cases.

On a special note allow me thank our self-motivated staff led by a patriotic, committed and responsible Executive Director, RAC must appreciate and acknowledge that we are blessed to have madam Angela as our ED. I appreciate the entire secretariat including District focal persons for the cooperation towards obtaining tangible results that have left RAC a unique and incomparable NGO in the region and central government. I wish to inform our stakeholders that our M & E officer Anthony left for further studies by the end of February 2022 and RAC considered a new staff to replace Anthony.

On a sad note I extend my sincere condolences to the family of our monitors who lost their dear ones. As I told AGM last year, we **lost our board member Mr Mugisha Elias coordinator Kamwenge District**. May the Soul of the deceased rest in peace. I convey my heartfelt sympathy to the families that have suffered enormous challenges of accidents, diseases among others. May the Lord continue to comfort and protect you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I must in a special way appreciate DGF for the consistent funding for our staff salaries and administrative costs despite the sabotage that emanated from the central government, we continue to pray that government should put to value the great work DGF has been facilitating towards fighting corruption. Without DGF, RAC would not be what we are today.

In a special way I thank GIZ for funding of our activities in Fort Portal city and Kitagwenda district previously and have promised to roll over funding activities in the entire sub region for the coming six months. We are very grateful to BHC for the six months contract funding in the entire sub region which brought the youth on board.

Bravo to our other development partners for their direct program funding like; IG with DRDIP program being implemented in Kyegegwa Kyaka 2 refugee camp and CSBAG in Kasese among others. RAC has been in good working relationship with many development partners at both regional and national level like; the Governance Cluster, ACFIM, ACCU, SEATIN UGANDA to mention but a few who have been paramount in the struggle against corruption. Ladies and Gentlemen at the moment we don't have any running donor whom we have signed contract for our usual activities and this means we are depending on our local sources, but we pledge continued fundraising until we access more funding for the organization.

It would be unfair if I forget to thank the district leaderships, (technical and political) in the Rwenzori sub region in particular; Kabarole, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kasese, Bunyangabo, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo and Kitagwenda districts and Fort Portal City. I also thank the IGG, Auditor General, Uganda police, Judiciary, media/press, all government Agencies and the Citizenry for the support and good work towards fighting corruption.

RAC registered excellent executions against corruption through; Branch monitoring, Sub county conferences, community dialogues, District integrity promotion fora, Social Audits, Inter Agencies Monitoring, Anti-corruption week, regional and national meetings. These have enabled RAC to tackle enormously both small and big corruption cases exclusively. It is on this basis that I continue to thank the former State Minister for Ethics and Integrity the late Hon FR Simon Lokodo (May his Saul rest in peace) for his priceless work executed in the Rwenzori region with other Agencies like; the State House Anti-corruption Unit, PPDA among others. Similarly I appreciate the commendable work done by RDCs, District Chair persons, DISOs, CAOs and other stakeholders in the Rwenzori sub region.

Dear colleagues, as earlier said our second term of office was disturbed by the lockdown hence down playing our original dream of beginning construction of our RAC house in 2021. Having secured a plot of land, Land title and a site plan, I thank you dear monitors for this sustainability project and please do not give up. I call up on you to continue supporting the project to its completion and we shall strengthen our lobbying for funds to support RAC home dream.

I believe our collaboration with government has grown stronger and we shall continue to follow up government pledges to RAC. In 2022 we shall continue to explore new strategic partnership for fundraising and sustainability. However I encourage members to remain conscious of COVID 19 and encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

Dear RAC family, I wish to inform you that in this AGM we are conducting elections for the Coordinators of Kamwenge and Bundibugyo districts. I wish you good deliberations.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Agaba Moses', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Agaba Moses

RAC Board Chair person

COMMUNICATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's with great pleasure that we share with you our 2021 annual report!

In this report, we share with you the various activities implemented throughout the year 2021, achievements realized, most significant stories of change that have impacted the lives of men, women, youth and the elderly; challenges faced, lessons learned and recommendations that we believe will ultimately reduce corruption and hence better service delivery in our region and the country at large.

Special thanks go out to our development partners; the British High Commission, GIZ, CSBAG and the Democratic Governance Facility [DGF],

More thanks go out to our various partners and key stakeholders with whom we have continuously worked together in a bid to stomp corruption out of the region. These include among others; the Inter-Agency Forum under the Directorate of the Ethics and Integrity, state anti-graft agencies i.e. police, the judiciary, office of the IGG, Office of the Auditor General and the judiciary, civil servants including Chief Administrative Officers and district heads of departments, political leaders at district and lower local government, member organizations of the governance cluster of the Rwenzori regional framework, the RAC monitors as well as like-minded CSOs at regional and national level. It is because of your collaboration and continued support that timely response and action to some of the cases reported was made possible.

In the year under review, a total of Six Hundred Sixty Seven Million, Seven Hundred Eighty One Thousand, One Hundred Eight Shillings (667,781,108/=) was saved/recovered as a result of our continuous follow up and engagement with leaders for response and action against cases reported to RAC. The funds saved/recovered were in form of redo of shoddy works, return of misappropriate resources and completion of stalled projects among others.

In the year 2021, RAC got new development partners who supported two new projects i.e. GIZ and the British High Commission. The GIZ project was a six month project that was implemented in Fort Portal and Kitagwenda, while the British High Commission was a five month project implemented across the entire Rwenzori region.

Our new partnership with the British High Commission enhanced our working relationship with the youth, as the project sought to strengthen youth involvement in local accountability. Under this project, we worked with the youth in higher institutions of learning, youth leaders and monitors across the Rwenzori region

In the year 2022, RAC will continue to empower citizens to actively and effectively use accountability spaces to demand for transparency and accountability. We shall continue to work with partners and relevant government institutions to augment accountability voices. Priority will be accorded to bringing more women and youth aboard the anti-graft campaign since corruption tends to affect them more. We shall also work to strengthen our efforts in monitoring and working with local government accountability organs and continue to mobilize communities to double their efforts in the fight against corruption in the Rwenzori region

Finally, I implore all our leaders at district and sub-county level to continue working closely with RAC for quick response to avoid post mortem reporting and action.

For God and My Country



Angela Byangwa

Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

What follows in this report is a highlight of activities implemented in the year 2021, achievements realized, stories of change, challenges faced, lessons learned and recommendations drawn by our partners and key stakeholders in order to realize the organization's goals.

This year, RAC implemented two new projects funded by GIZ (DIPF for Kitagwenda District and Fort Portal City) and the British High Commission (BHC – Strengthening Youth Involvement in Local Accountability). The former was implemented in Fort Portal city and Kitagwenda district while the latter was implemented across the entire Rwenzori region.

Several activities were implemented in the year under review. These included among others; mass awareness creation through media campaign, engagement meetings with state and non-state organizations through district dialogues, sub-county conferences and District Integrity Promotion Forums, monitoring the performance of government programs, capacity building programs for the citizenry, case follow up of issues reported by monitors and commemoration of the Anti-Corruption Week 2021 among other activities.

ABOUT THE GIZ-FUNDED PROJECT -

The main aim of the GIZ funded project - *DIPF for Kitagwenda District and Fort Portal City* was to enhance improved service delivery in the district of Kitagwenda and Fort Portal City. Key results emanating from this project included among others;

Correction of defects/project variations: through our interventions defects reported on some projects were corrected. In Ntara Sub-county at Ntara HCIV in Kitagwenda district, RAC through our project monitoring and case follow up tasked the district leadership to correct the variations at Ntara HCIV. Contrary to use of terrazzo on the floor of the mortuary, the contractor, under the influence of the district engineer had deviated from the BoQs to use tiles instead of terrazzo on the mortuary floor. When RAC observed these variations during our PPDA contract monitoring of projects, we brought it to the attention of the leaders for action. After several engagement meetings and follow up visits with the duty bearers and the respective stakeholders, the contractor was instructed to remove the tiles and replace them with terrazzo as quoted in the BoQs. The Health In-charge of Ntara HCIV expressed his gratitude to RAC for her intervention and efforts that caused the redo of the floor.

In a related development, RAC's joint monitoring visits with key stakeholders further contributed to improved service delivery at Ntara HCIV. During one of the joint monitoring visits to Ntara HCIV, the in-charge brought to our attentions some of the challenges that were gravely affecting the quality of service delivery. They included among others;

- Inadequate water supply at the health center, with a non-functional water tank
- Poor sanitation at the health facility with rubbish littered around the compound and the toilets littered with faeces
- Inadequate staffing at for the health center, hence creating heavy work-load for the available staff. The health in-charge, due to lack of another doctor at the facility at one time was forced to work and operate on patients even when he was infected with COVID19, pausing a high risk for his life and the patients worked on.

The above, and other concerns when shared with RAC were brought to the attention of the CAO for address. The CAO pledged to address all the concerns raised within the shortest time possible. During our subsequent monitoring visit to Kitagwenda district and Ntara health center, we were pleased to find that all the above concerns had been addressed. The DHO had been posted at the health center to

support the doctor. In fact, at the time of our visit, the in-charge had gone for his leave, something he had not received in a very long time. The compound and lavatories were all clean with supply of clean water for the entire facility. RAC has been greatly appreciated for their support and follow up without which most of the challenges reported would probably still be existing.

Improved monitoring and reporting: the mentoring and training sessions offered to the youth, monitors and activists in IG concepts, PPDA contract monitoring and analysis, interpretation of internal audit reports greatly increased their knowledge and ability to monitor and report cases of corruption to RAC and duty bearers. The knowledge obtained from these trainings has further contributed to their ability to engage duty bearers for accountability and at the same time report cases of corruption when sited.

Response and action taken upon cases reported: Various cases were reported to RAC and these were forwarded to leaders for response and action. In Kitagwenda district for example, a number of projects were reportedly stalled due to diversion of funds worth UGX 450,000,000/= (Four Hundred Fifty Million Shillings) by some unscrupulous district officials including the District Chief Finance Officer, Principal Assistant Secretary and the Human Resource Officer among others. Upon receipt of these reports by our grassroots monitors, RAC engaged the Kitagwenda District CAO for verification of allegations raised. The CAO confirmed that the first quarter internal audit report had revealed that funds amounting to 450million had been misappropriated and as such, officials implicated in this saga were tasked to account or refund the monies in question but they failed. RAC therefore mounted pressure on the CAO to take further action – the officials were thus interdicted to pave way for further investigations. RAC engaged several stakeholders including the State House Anti-Corruption Coalition (SHACU), the Local Government monitoring unit, and police, for intervention into this matter. RAC further requested the Auditor General to institute a forensic audit into this financial saga. As a result of our interventions, SHACU, the Local Government monitoring unit, and police went down to Kitagwenda for further investigations. The accused were arrested and later interdicted. The findings from the forensic audit will inform the next step of action. This and several other cases reported to RAC during project implementation have earned RAC community trust that the cases brought to her attention can be followed up to logical conclusion.

Strengthened collaboration with state agencies and duty bearers: Our interventions further strengthened synergies and collaboration with the duty bearers, a factor that has greatly increased expedited response to issues reported by the citizens. In addition, RAC's continued follow up of cases for response by the relevant duty bearers, in addition to the various platforms created for leaders to respond to citizens' issues have contributed to increased responsiveness of government towards citizens' concerns. In Fort Portal city for example, a number of concerns raised during our social audit were addressed. These include; Degradation of Buhoiga Green Belt by one; Haji Wakhab. During our social audit with Fort Portal City stakeholders, it was resolved that Haji Wakhab is served with a restoration order to recover the lost vegetation and at the same time stop the illegal activities that were going on in this area. In a follow up visit and stakeholder engagement, we were informed that Haji Wakhab had complied; all the illegal activities had been stopped, the eucalyptus trees planted in the wetland had been removed and the drainage channels had been blocked. Similarly, Karambi-Nyakarongo and Kangama swamp that had for a very long time been degraded by one –Musa Swaib – a resident of Karambi was restored after our recommendations during the joint monitoring visit to the area, whereby the monitoring team tasked the environment officer together with the office of the RCC to intervene and stop the illegal activities here. Following our recommendations, the Physical Planning Committee visited the area and advised Mr. Swaib on how best to utilize the area in question and he has since been compliant, and the illegal activities were stopped.

The above achievements were realized as a result of the following activities implemented:

Engagement of District leaders on DIPF concept

Two engagement meetings were held with district/city leaders from Kitagwenda district and Fort Portal Tourism City on the DIPF Concept.

The two meetings were conducted with selected stakeholders of Fort Portal city and Kitagwenda district. The main objective of the meeting was to introduce the new GIZ-funded project to the key stakeholders of Kitagwenda and Fort Portal in a bid to woo their support for better realization of the intended project objectives.



Figure 1: Fort Portal RCC addressing participants during the engagement meeting with Fort Portal city stakeholders on DIPF concept

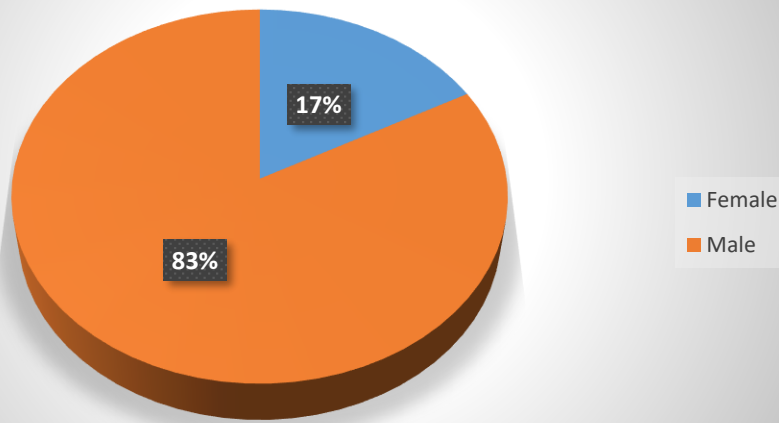
Also, the meeting provided a platform for RAC and the district leadership of Kitagwenda and Fort Portal city to sign an MoU as commitment to collaborate and support each other in the fight against corruption for better service delivery in Fort Portal, Kitagwenda district and the Rwenzori region at large.



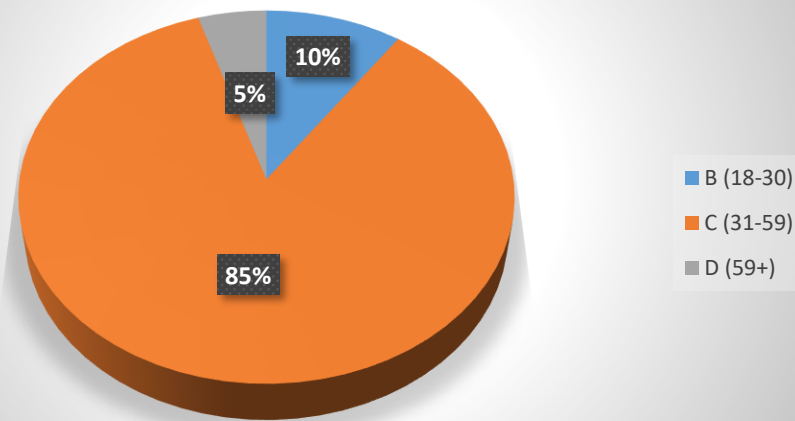
Figure 2: Kamwenge district leaders signing the MoU after the engagement meeting

Through the engagement meetings, a total of 41 individuals were engaged on the DIPF concept. Below is a distribution of individuals by gender and age.

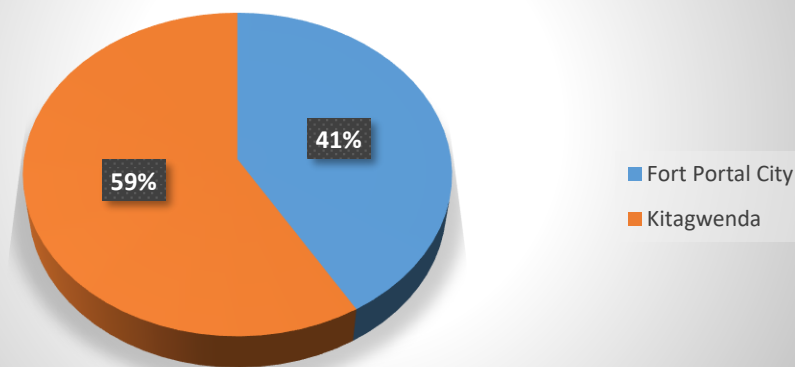
Distribution of individuals by sex



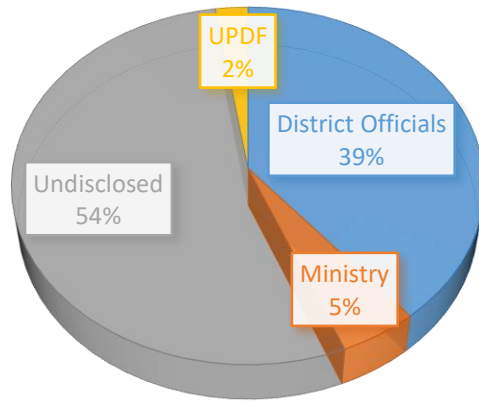
Distribution of Individuals by Age



Distribution of Individuals by district/city



DISTRIBUTION OF INDIVIDUALS BY STATE REPRESENTATION



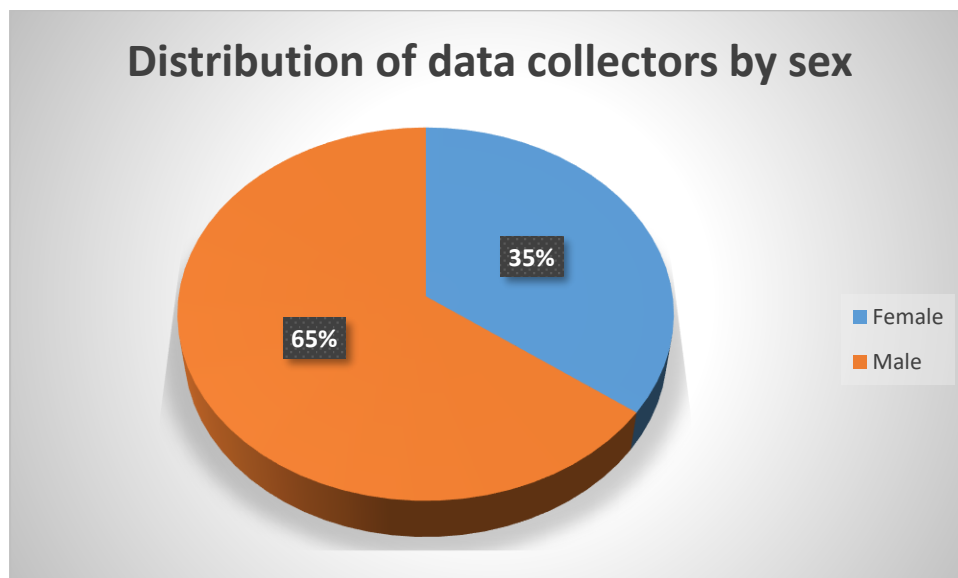
Data collection and analysis

A total number of 94 citizens were engaged in data collection from the 2 districts/city. These were basically community monitors and Activists. These were able to submit 16 evidence based reports to RAC for analysis. From the monitoring reports submitted, a total of 97 service delivery gaps were reported and all these were presented to the respective leaders for response and action during the round table meetings conducted at sub-county level. Some of the outstanding issues raised by the data collectors include;

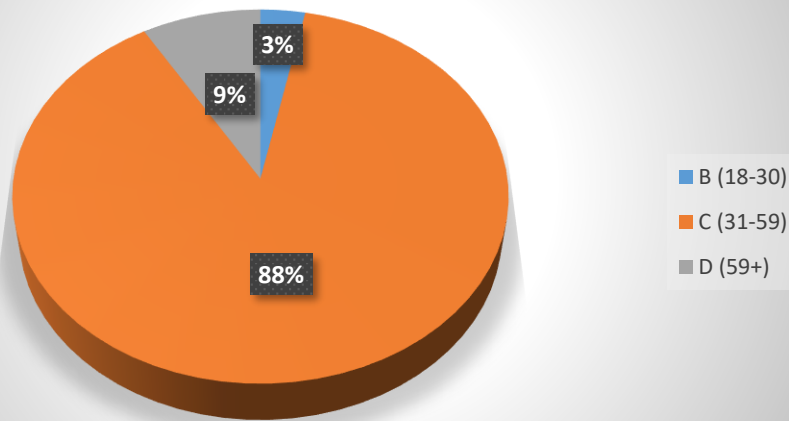
- Poor management of garbage at Kacwamba Market
- Illegal sale of land in Bukuku by the former council without the approval of the district land board
- Deforestation at Kashyoha-Kitoomi Reserve Forest.
- Poor state of roads in Fort Portal city (Kibimba and Saaka ward)

All the above issues raised by monitors were presented to leaders for response and action during the sub-county level meetings, while those that were not responded to at this level were forwarded to the district and regional leadership during the DIPF meetings.

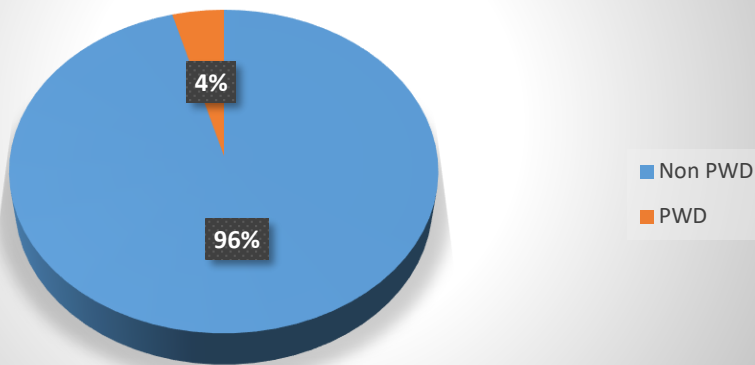
Below is a portrayal of the distribution of data collectors by different categories.



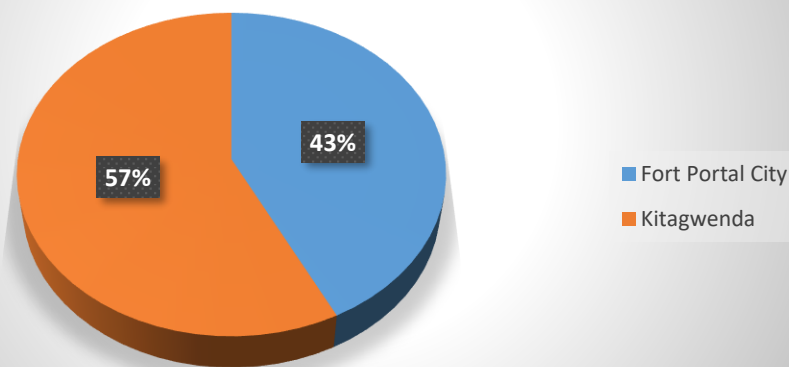
Distribution of data collectors by age



Distribution of data collectors by disability status



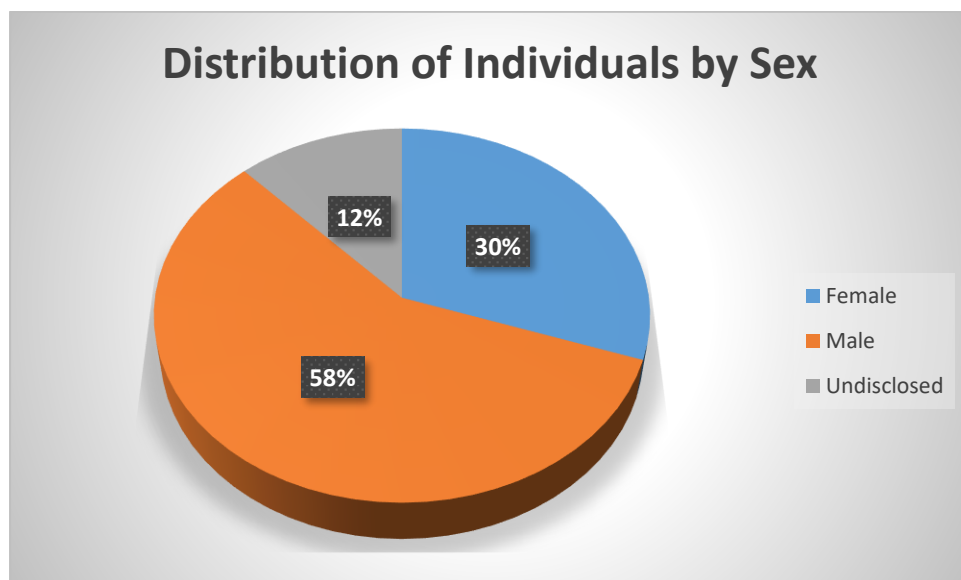
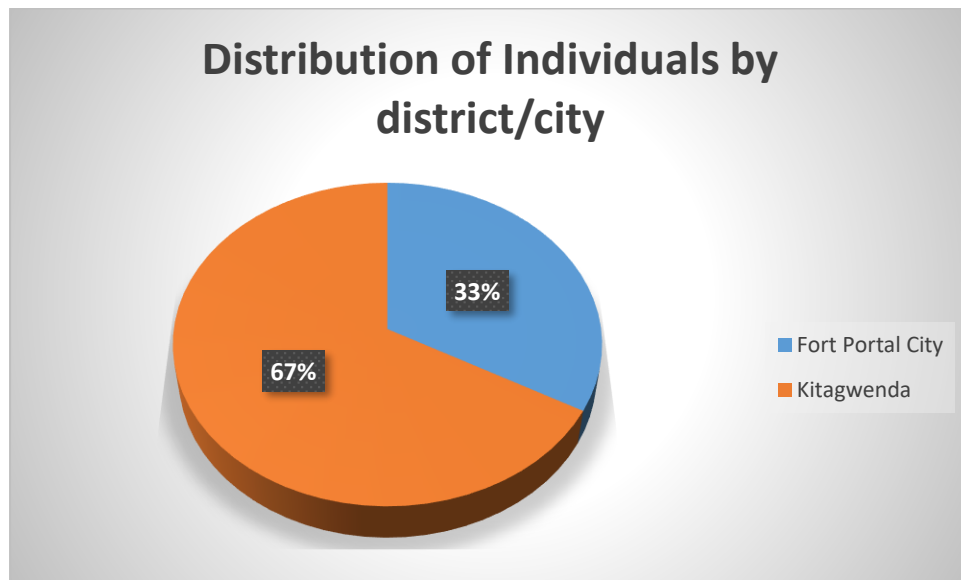
Distribution of data collectors by district/city



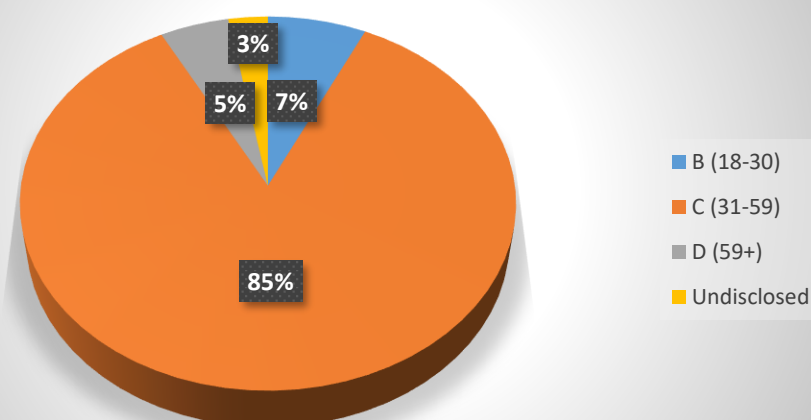
Sub-county level meetings/Baraza

A total of 16 Sub-county level meetings were organized in under this project. 10 of these were organized in Kitagwenda and the rest (6) were organized in Fort Portal City. The meetings were organized for leaders to respond to the issues generated from the monitoring reports submitted to RAC by the data collectors. The meetings provided a platform for leaders to respond and clarify on a

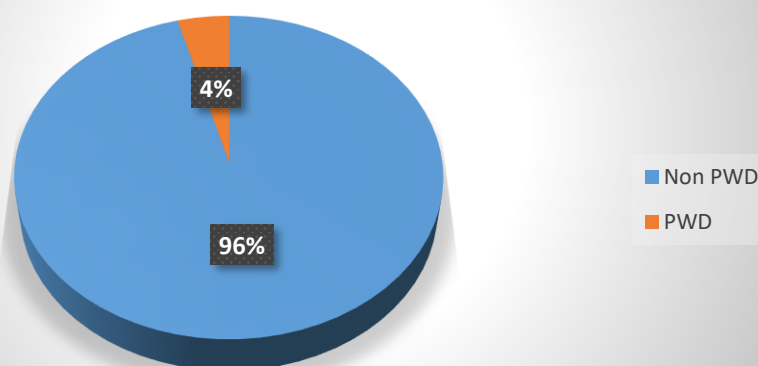
number of issues raised by the community. During the sub-county level meeting in Karambi – North division for example, members were concerned about the Emyooga funds, where they claimed that funds had been released but the beneficiaries had been stopped from withdrawing the money. In response to this concern, the CDO informed members that the move to halt withdraw of emyooga funds was to prevent misappropriation and abuse of the funds since the country was under lockdown. It was risky to let group members withdraw the funds yet most businesses were at a standstill. However, when the COVID19 cases subsidized and business returned to normal, the beneficiaries were allowed to withdraw the money and use it for the intended objectives. The sub-county level meetings were attended by a total of 248 individuals who are distributed under different categories as shown below.



Distribution of Individuals by Age



Distribution of Individuals by Disability status



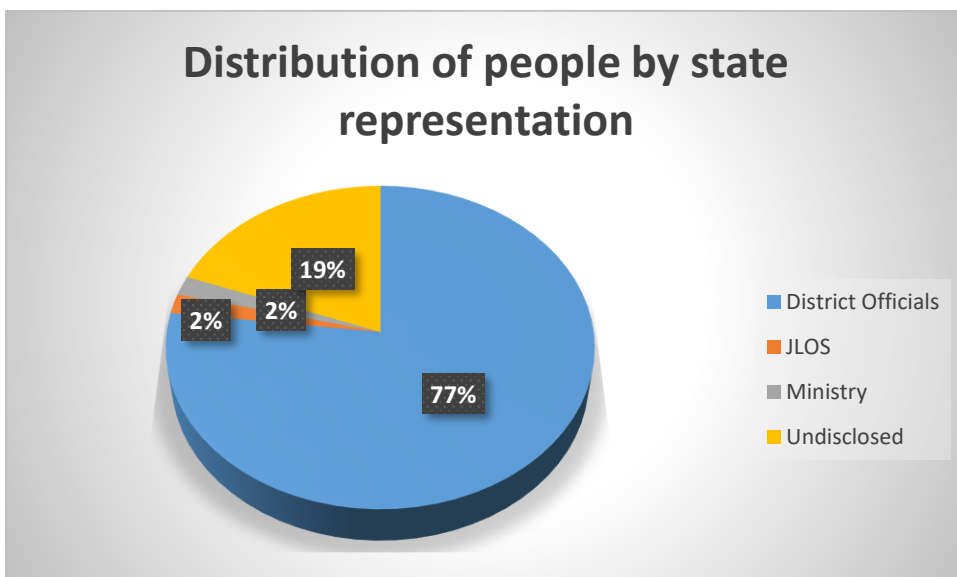
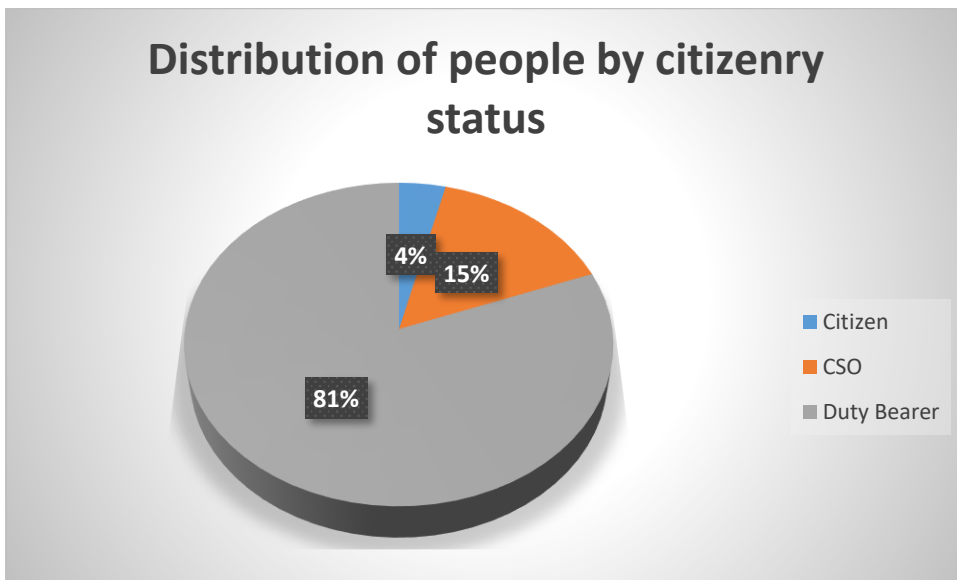
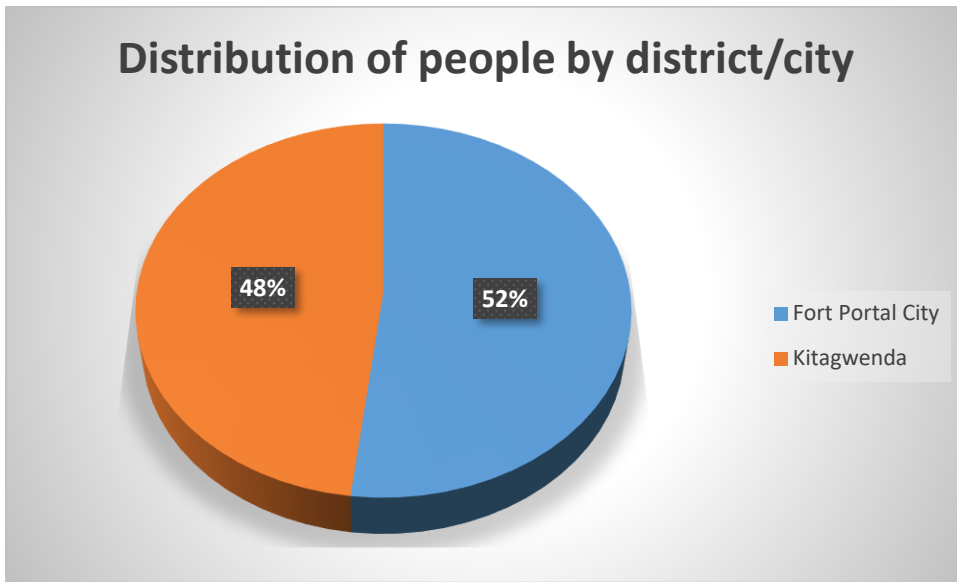
District Public Accounts Committee Meetings

Four District Public Accounts Committee Meetings were held in Fort Portal City and Kitagwenda district in the year under review. These were organised to ascertain the degree of implementation of recommendations from PPDA and Internal Auditor by the respective parties. Some of the pertinent issues identified during the meetings include;

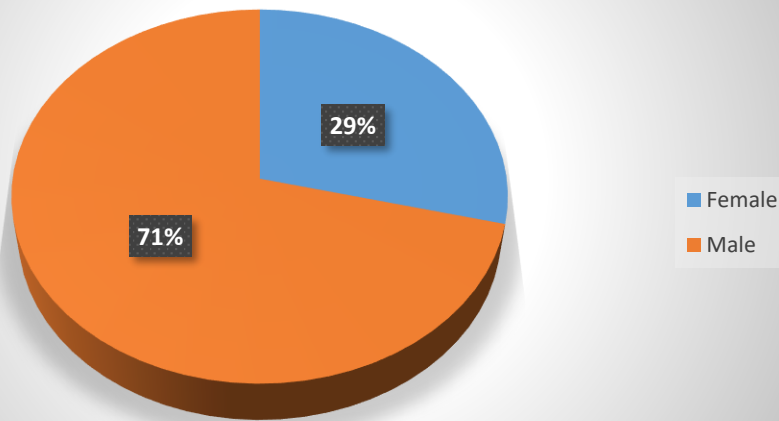
1. Inadequate constitution and facilitation of the Procurement and Disposal Unit in Kitagwenda district – the Procurement Officer informed members during the meeting that this concern had been addressed. The unit was however still faced with the challenge of inadequate staffing which the CAO promised to address
2. Co-mingling of funds from one vote to another without following the right procedure in Fort Portal City – the responsible officers were cautioned to desist from such actions and always follow the legal procedures whenever they are implementing activities.
3. Failure to communicate correction of arithmetic errors to bidders during the procurement for construction of Kitagwenda Town Council Office block – during the DPAC engagement meeting in Kitagwenda, the Procurement Officer informed members that this concern was addressed and corrected

4. Delayed payment of Gratuity and Pension to retiring servants in Fort Portal city. During the DPAC meeting in Fort Portal, the City Clerk informed members that this was as a result of inadequate staffing in the personnel office. He however pledged to have this concern addressed by recruiting another Human Resource Officer.

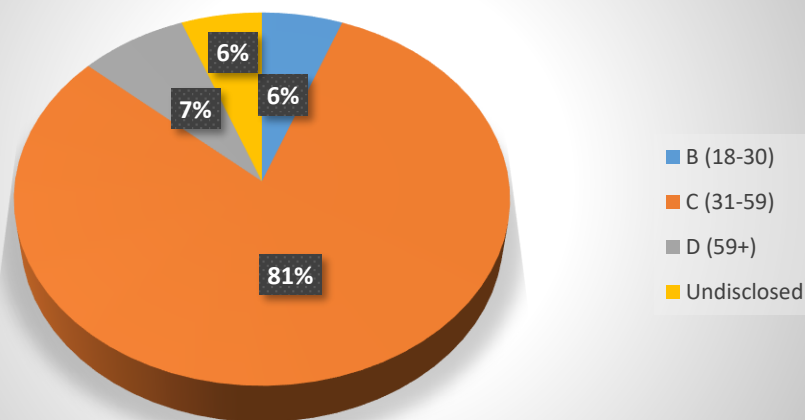
The above, and many other concerns were responded to with commitments to have them addressed by the respective duty bearers



Distribution of people by sex



Distribution of people by age



Joint Monitoring Visits to Case sites (Social Audits)

Four joint monitoring visits to case sites were conducted in Kitagwenda district and Fort Portal City. The monitoring Teams visited different sites in Fort Portal City and Kitagwenda district. Some of the sites visited include; Kicheche Primary School, Kanyaburara Primary school, Ntara HC IV, Rwenjaza HC II in Kitagwenda, Karambi Fort Petrol Station, construction of water channels in Fort Portal City along Mpanga market road, Moslem Supreme council land in Kabundaire and Buhoiga Green Belt in Boma, Fort Portal city



Figure 3: Fort Portal stakeholders during the joint monitoring visit of projects in Fort Portal (construction of water channels in Fort Portal)

Issues identified from our joint monitoring visits include among others;

Variation during the construction of the mortuary, where the contractor at the instruction of the project manager used tiles instead of terrazzo, cracks in the newly constructed water channels in Fort Portal city, bush burning in Buhoiga Green belt and Karambi-Nyakarongo and Kangama swamp among others. All the issues raised during the monitoring were addressed as per the recommendations drawn by the stakeholders during monitoring.



Figure 4: The monitoring team visting part of the degraded land in Karambi-Nyakarongo swamp in Fort Portal

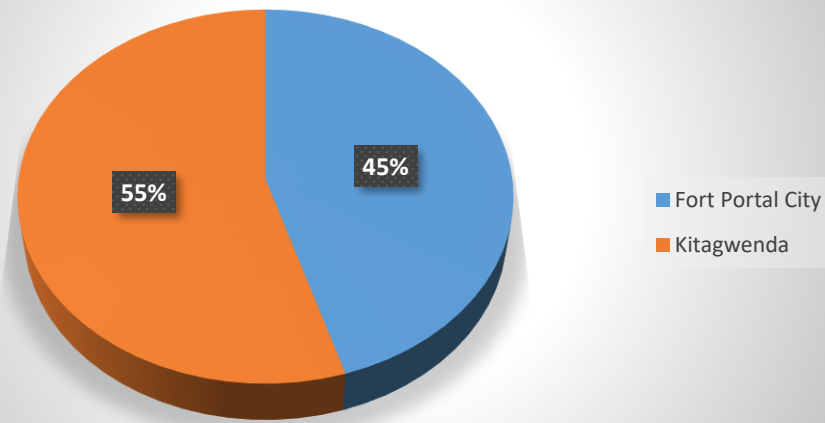
DISTRICT INTEGRITY FORUM MEETINGS

Four District Integrity Promotion Forum meetings were conducted in Kitagwenda district and Fort Portal Tourism City under the GIZ project. These meetings were organized to address issues that had not been responded to at the lower level meetings i.e. Round table meetings, DPAC and the joint monitoring. A total of 102 people attended the DIPF meetings in Kitagwenda and Fort Portal Tourism City. A total of 87 issues were brought to the attention of leaders for response, out of which 19 were responded to and concluded while the remaining 45 were responded to but are still under investigation

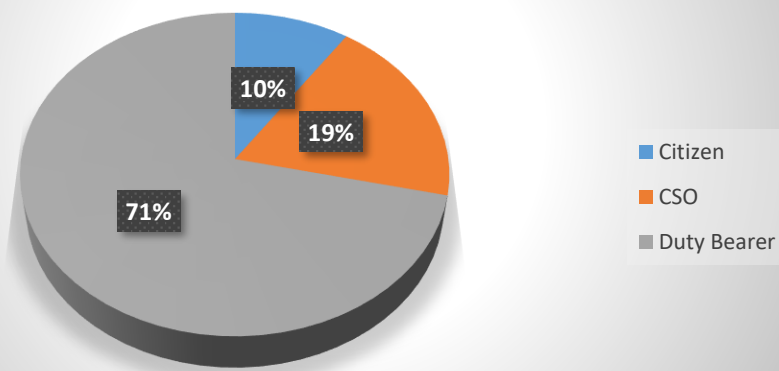


Figure 5: Kitagwenda district RDC addressing participants during the DIPF meeting in Kitagwenda - Right is the CAO Kitagwenda

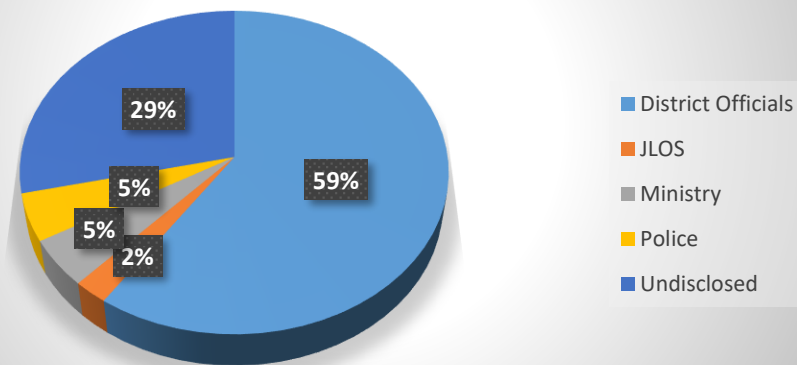
Distribution of People by District/City



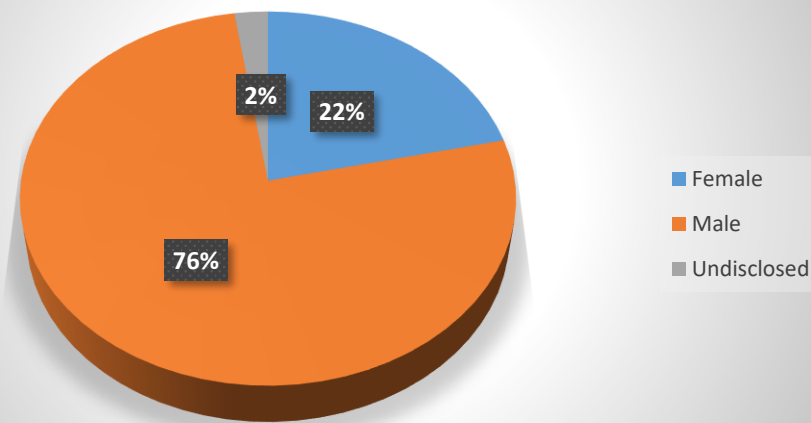
Distribution of People by Citizenry status



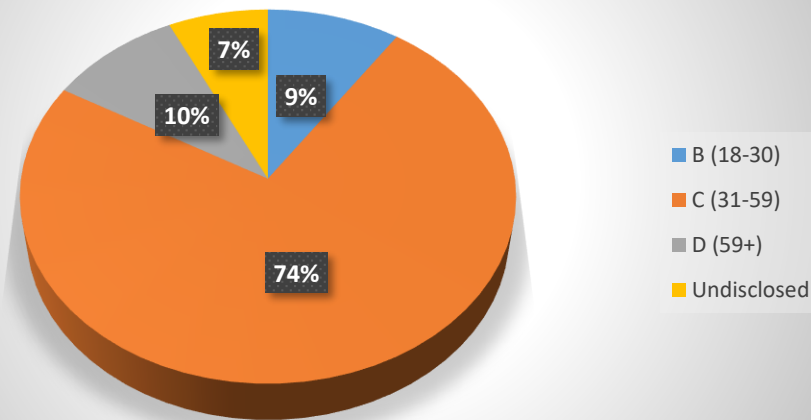
Distribution of People by State Representation



Distribution of people by sex



Distribution of People by Age



Referral of complex cases to higher level

Under this project, RAC referred a total of 13 cases to national stakeholders for response and action. These cases had earlier been presented to district and regional leaders but were not conclusively addressed. It was therefore recommended that these be referred to national level for action. At the national level, a total of 5 stakeholders were engaged including;

1. The State Minister for Ethics and Integrity
2. The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
3. The PS – Directorate of Ethics and Integrity
4. Advocacy and Capacity Building Manager – Inspectorate of Government
5. The PRO –Natural Forestry Authority



Figure 6: The RAC ED pauses for a photo with the State Minister for Environment during case follow up in Kampala

The cases referred include;

1. Mismanagement of funds by some district technical staff of Kitagwenda, leading to a financial loss of 450million Shillings
2. Illegal mining and lumbering at Kashyoha-Kitoomi Forest Reserve in Kitagwenda district
3. Degradation of Buhoiga Green Belt:
4. Degradation of Karambi-Nyakarongo and Kangama swamp
5. Alleged acts of managerial corruption done by the former City clerk of Fort portal City Mr. Ahimbisibwe Innocent
6. Alleged illegal construction of petrol stations in Fort Portal city
7. Murder Vide Kitagwenda CRB 472/2020, Fort Portal Court AA-342/2020
8. Alleged cases of embezzlement and financial mismanagement in Kitagwenda district

The stakeholders met clarified on the concerns raised, and promised to investigate them deeper for action and logical conclusion.

Public awareness activities/Radio talk show

A total of 11 Radio talk shows were conducted during project implementation. The topics discussed during the radio talk shows include; The Planning and Budget Cycle, The new Parish Development Model, Functionality of District Task Force amidst VCOVID 19; accessibility of Health services amidst COVID19 – Focus on Buhinga regional referral hospital and; The Emyooga Program and COVID relief in Fort Portal City among others. The programs were conducted at a time when the country was under lockdown due to the outbreak of the second wave of the COVID 19 pandemic, among others. A number of programs had come to a standstill due to the lockdown and as such, RAC deemed it necessary to use various media platforms to implore the community to continue monitoring government programs to prevent unscrupulous individuals from taking advantage of the lockdown to divert public funds. The talk shows further provided a platform for leaders to clarify on a number of community concerns pertaining to COVID19 and other government development programs

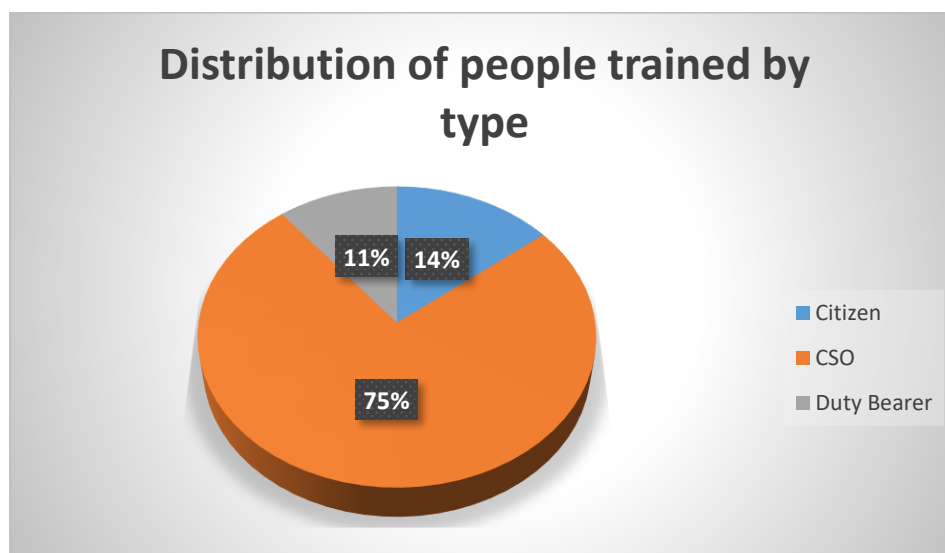
In addition to the talk shows, radio jingles were run on VOT and Voice of Kamwenge with the aim sensitizing the community to hold their leaders accountable, and at the same time report cases of corruption to RAC and other state anti-graft agencies like IGG and Police among others

ToT Training Using IG Methodology

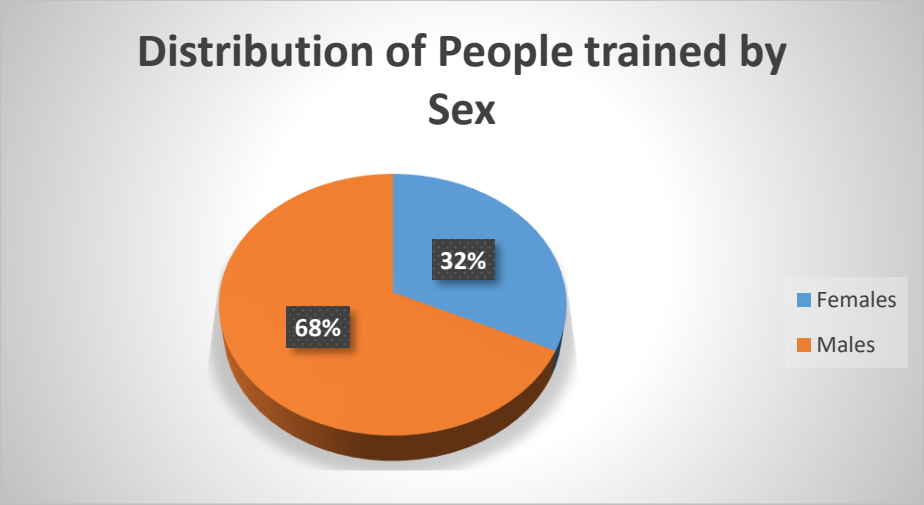
One online ToT training in using IG methodology was conducted via zoom. A total of 28 ToTs were trained in a number of areas including;

- ✓ How and where to lodge a complaint to IG
- ✓ How investigations are conducted by IG
- ✓ Methodologies used by IG
- ✓ How CSOs work with IG
- ✓ Types of audits undertaken by OAG
- ✓ How audits are sanctioned
- ✓ Government Procurement Portal Usage
- ✓ Procurement cycle and the roles of different stakeholders in the procurement process
- ✓ Contract monitoring and the role of CSOs in Public Procurement among others.

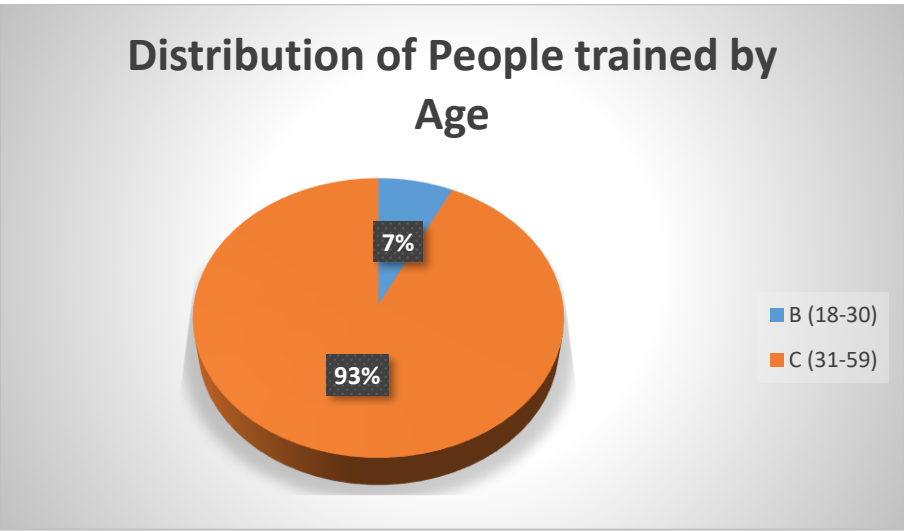
The trainers included officials from PPDA, IGG and OAG. The training was conducted on zoom due to the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic.



From the figure above, the highest proportion of people trained in the quarter under review were CSOs with 75%, followed by Citizens with 14% and the rest (11%) were duty bearers.



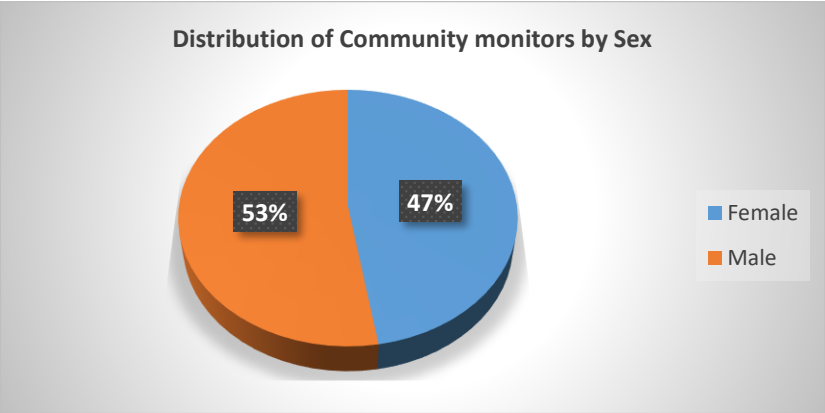
From the figure above, majority of the people trained in the quarter under review were males with 68% and the rest (32%) were females.



From the figure above, majority of the people trained in the quarter under review were aged 31 to 59 years with 93% and the rest (7%) were aged 18 to 30 years.

Training of Community Monitors

Eight trainings about the same concepts as reflected under activity 13 were extended to 98 community monitors in Kitagwenda district (5) and Fort Portal City (3). This training was intended to enhance their capacity to monitor government programs for better service delivery. These were disaggregated as stipulated below.



From the figure above, majority of the community monitors trained in the quarter under review were males with 53% and the rest (47%) were females.

PPDA Contract Monitoring and data reporting

Four PPDA Contract Monitoring visits were conducted in Kitagwenda district during project implementation; a total of 16 projects visited. These include;

- ✓ Construction of Administration Block at Kitagwenda District Headquarters
- ✓ Construction of Water borne latrine at Ntara HC IV
- ✓ Construction of Ntara HC IV Mortuary
- ✓ Construction of Rwenjaza Market Pit Latrine
- ✓ Renovation of Rwenjaza HC II
- ✓ Renovation of Nyabbani S/C Council Hall
- ✓ Construction of Toilet at Kanyamburara Primary School
- ✓ Construction of Toilet at Ntara Primary School
- ✓ Construction of Toilet at Kichwamba Quaran
- ✓ Construction of Kanara Piped Water System
- ✓ Opening of Ruchinga-Buhumuliro Access road in Kanara Sub County
- ✓ Construction of Kitagwenda Town council Offices Phase 2

A number of defects/gaps identified were addressed. These include among others; Ntara Health center IV mortuary, Kitagwenda District Head-quarters and renovation of Rweenjaza HCII. However, some gaps (the case of Kanara piped water project) had not been addressed because the funds meant to work on these projects had been misappropriated by staff

Also, during the monitoring, it was observed that some of the projects were ineffectively implemented, beneficiaries were not engaged at inception which leaves the projects' sustainability in balance, designs were changed during the course of project implementation, gender aspects were not incorporated within the projects, and among others.

As a result of these visits, some of the projects especially where design specifications were altered in the course of implementation have had to be demolished and reconstructed at the Contractor's Cost. A case in point is the Construction of Ntara HC IV Mortuary where tiles had been used instead of terrazzo floor designs as initially specified in the bills of quantity.

STRENGTHENING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Project – Strengthening Youth Involvement in Local Accountability was implemented by RAC in the Rwenzori region with financial support from the British High Commission.

The project sought to engage 1,016 youth and 657 RAC monitors in monitoring government programs, evidence-based reporting and involvement in decision making processes i.e. district and sub-county budget conferences and council meetings.

The project further sought to train, mentor and support youth to demand for accountability and improved service delivery from the duty bearers through various engagements.

The project further sought to use the existing structures of integrity clubs of institutions of higher learning and the youth councils at district and sub-county level from each of the 66 sub-counties of project implementation

A significant number of activities were undertaken by RAC during project implementation; yielding the following achievements:

PROJECT INCEPTION MEETINGS:

These were carried out across the 9 districts of the Rwenzori region and Fort Portal city. The purpose of the inception meeting was to introduce the new project to all the key stakeholders right from the start for ownership and effective implementation. The meetings were attended by various participants including; the District Youth Chairpersons, district male and female youth councilors, RAC monitors (chairpersons of RAC branches), district heads of department, the RDCs, District Chairpersons, CAOs, RAC board members and focal persons, the media and RAC staff. The meetings brought together a total of 432 participants including 310 male, 122 female, 166 youth, 253 adults, 8 elderly and 5 undisclosed age.

During the inception meetings, the new project was introduced to the target beneficiaries and as such, they (beneficiaries) appreciated RAC for the initiative to bring the youth on board, considering the fact that they are the majority. The inception meetings were significant in increasing ownership of the project by the target beneficiaries and as such, they were able to draw recommendations for better realization of project results, and laid a strong foundation for effective implementation of the project. Some of the recommendations drawn include;

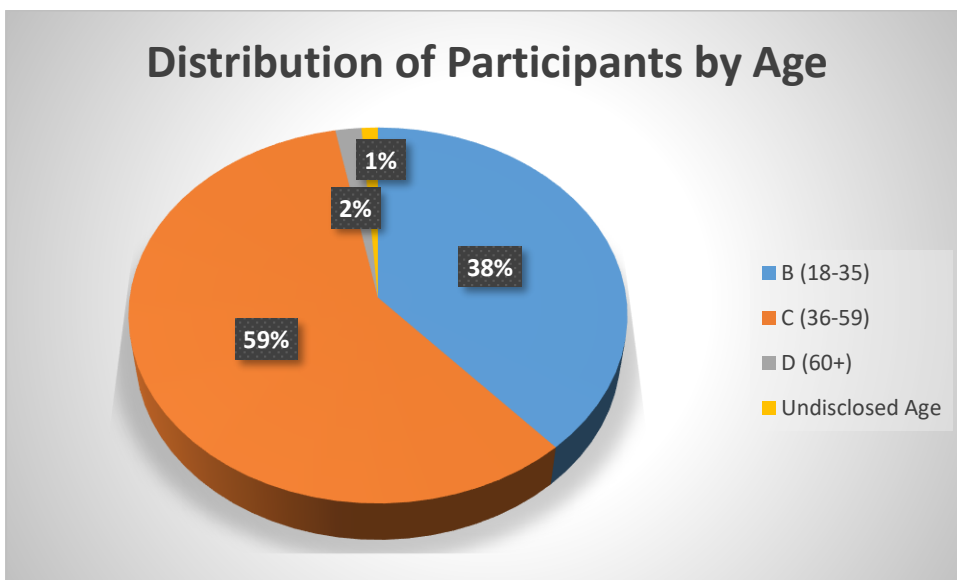
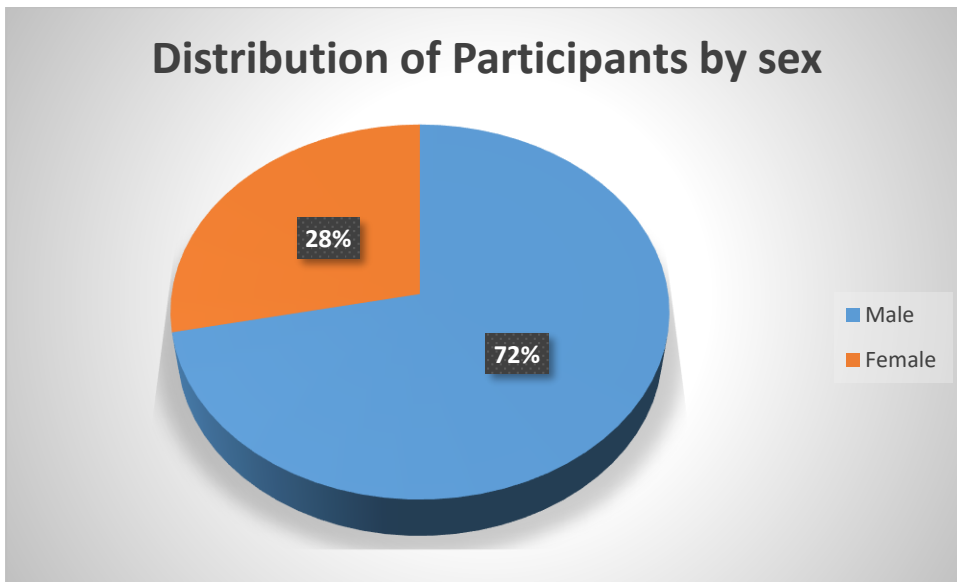
- i. During the planned trainings, CDOs should be brought on board to sensitize the youth about existing government programs to enable them benefit from them. It was further recommended that programs like the new Parish Development Model should be simplified and disseminated to the youth to acquaint themselves about its modalities
- ii. The youth should be trained in mindset change and financial literacy to enable them become innovative
- iii. The youth were advised to act with etiquette and professionalism whenever they need information from leaders. They should not demand for information with arrogance but rather put their request in writing in a formal way to avoid antagonism with leaders/duty bearers.

In addition, the meetings provided a platform for reconciliation between the election losers and winners; RAC emphasized the fact that she is non-partisan and as such was willing to work with all parties, regardless of their political affiliations. Peace and reconciliation messages were emphasized during the meetings.

The inception meetings further provided a platform for the youth to engage with their leaders and as such enabled them to know/understand who to approach when looking for information at the district level

In addition, the RAC monitors and the youth were able to interact and got to know each other and exchanged contacts; paving way for further interaction in preparation for other activities. This helped to level the ground for the upcoming activities like mentoring sessions of the youth by monitors

Distribution of participants by different categories



Note: during the inception meetings, most of the duty bearers/heads of department who attended the meeting were adults, and that is why they appeared to be the majority.

YOUTH TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP:

RAC successfully mobilized, trained and mentored **1,876** youth to advocate for anti-corruption reforms to achieve demonstrable results as testified by some of the youth who participated in the trainings

“Working with RAC has increased my confidence in reporting... I used to think that people who come up to report cannot be helped but RAC changed this mindset when I reported a case and they followed it up...” Kasoro Patrick Natasha

The training offered to the youth increased their confidence to engage duty bearers to demand for accountability. A case in point is where the youth of Karambi – in Central Division Fort Portal city where some of the youth upon their monitoring of roads in Fort Portal realized that Binta road, despite the budget allocation of over 15,000,000/ had not been worked on. The youthful whistle-blower reported this case to RAC who then brought it to the attention of the division clerk – Northern division. The Town clerk explained that only 5 million had been released, with the remaining 10 million still on the account. A special Audit was commissioned by the City clerk and directed the Division clerk to handle the issues raised. Several follow ups were made and as a result, proper accountability for the funds in question provided to RAC and the whistle blower. Due to the pressure mounted to the leadership of North division, works on the road in question resumed and are now near completion.

Compilation of the councilors’ data base:

As the primary target for the project, a data base for all the district youth chairpersons, members of the youth councils as well as the male and female youth representatives in the 66 sub-counties of project implementation was developed for ease of communication and implementation of the project. We now have a one stop center with all the data for the youth council members of the 66 sub-counties of project implementation. With the data base in place, communication with the key youth as the target project beneficiaries and mobilization for participation in activities and follow up was eased. The youth are easily mobilized and are flexible in that they are called upon when need arises to follow up cases. The availability of the data base has also increased consistency in participation of our activities by the target group and as such strengthened channels for information flow. Also, our geographical coverage has been increased as we were able to bring on board 3 new sub-counties in Kasese district. Although RAC has no monitors in these new sub-counties, a team of 33 youth were brought on board and are in position to monitor government programs and report service delivery gaps to RAC and other duty bearers for response and action. The solidarity exhibited by the youth has fostered the monitoring and reporting of corruption cases.

SUGGESTION BOXES

A total of 24 suggestion boxes were produced with Messages of key reporting lines for RAC and Youth mobilized to use them for reporting after their installation in the selected 24 sub-counties in Fort Portal city, Kabarole and Kasese district. A total of **24** reports were submitted to the secretariat for follow up and action on. The reports included allegations of corruption cases and service delivery gaps. A case in point is the high staff absenteeism and late reporting amidst High volume turn up of clients at Kitswamba HC III. This issue was presented to the In charge and DHO who promised to intervene and ensure staff report early and are consistently available for the patient’s needs. There was another issue of payment of monies meant for Karambi Health Centre III in Kasese district, but were instead erroneously paid to Karambi Health Centre III in Kabarole for two years. RAC upon receipt of this anomaly advised the in-charge to write formerly to the permanent secretary and copy in various stake holders which he did and as such, the funds were channeled to the right health centre. Efforts to recover the funds paid to the health center Kabarole health centre are ongoing. Also, there were some complaints about cases reported to police not followed up; this concern was shared with the Regional Police Commander, and the Regional CID and the District Police Commander – Kabarole. All these pledged to follow up to ensure that the pending cases are acted upon. Another concern was raised about corruption among the parents of defilement victims and the accused who usually come together to negotiate for payment hence promoting defilement in the area. RAC working together with the office of the Community Development Officers have as such embarked on sensitising the masses on the effects of defilement on the victims and how the negotiations deny victims justice.

MAINTAIN WHATSAPP GROUPS:

Using the data base, the data compiled was used to create whatsapp groups for all the monitors and youth with smart phones. Duty bearers i.e. CAOs, RDCs, and District chairpersons of the respective districts were added on the respective whatsapp groups to create linkage between the leaders and the monitors/youth. A total of 11 whatsapp platforms were created (one per district/city and another group created for youth in higher learning institutions i.e RAC debate forum). The whatsapp groups have provided a platform for linkages between youth, monitors and leaders to report issues of service deliver. An example is after the training in Fort Portal city, the youth were added on a Whatsapp group created by RAC to engage their leaders and demand for accountability on one hand and on the other, enable the leaders to account and respond to the concerns raised by the youth. Some of the youth expressed their dissatisfaction with the state of Binta road that had been discovered during their monitoring i.e. the works were abandoned and there was no value for money; it was alleged that funds meant to work on this road had been misappropriated and as such, required a detailed explanation for the funds in question.

One trained youth raised the issue on the Whatsapp group; In response to this concern raised through the Whatsapp group, RAC engaged the division clerk for response on the above allegations to which he responded with clarifications. That Binta road is funded by Uganda Road Fund, and work executed under force on account. It was budgeted for 14,000,000/= to do gravelling. The division clerk further stated that the road was partially worked on due to the heavy rains. He further added that the road equipment from the district was received towards the rain season and could therefore not favor completion of the road works. There were other allegations that the engineer – James Bulorero did not effectively execute the works as was expected i.e. proper accountability was not done, and the allowances for the workers were not paid. The Engineer alleged that as the project manager, he never made a requisition for funds yet funds were withdrawn from the account. He stated that he was given 1m shillings which was handed to him in a hotel parking lot by the treasurer. He stated that he accounted for the million he had received, but the other monies in question should be accounted for by the division Clerk and Treasurer.

As a result of the above gaps, works on Binta road were stalled and abandoned. The City clerk ordered for an audit and audit findings revealed some monies were not accounted for .The city clerk has ordered the division clerk to complete the works and properly account for the monies received, which he did. Subsequently, the works were resumed and completed.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION WEEK 2021

In commemoration of the anti-corruption week 2021, two stakeholder engagement meetings were conducted. The first meeting was conducted in Kitagwenda with district councilors, heads of department, the CAO, RDC, RAC staff, media, regional IG, members of the wider community. The meeting in Kitagwenda was presided over by the Deputy IG – Dr. Patricia Achan Okiria on behalf of the Inspector of Government – Ms. Betty Kamywa who failed to make it due to other state obligations. Kitagwenda district was selected due to the various corruption-related cases/fund misappropriation by some district officials. These include among others;

- Alleged misappropriation of funds worth **356,000,000/=** meant for development projects for health, Education, water and Roads, hence halting the intended projects including Kanara water project, Kikazi-Ntara road among others, thereby denying the people of these areas access to clean water and quality service delivery.
- Alleged misappropriation/diversion of funds worth 50 million and unaccounted for funds (**266,285,000/=**) by some staff of Kitagwenda District Local Government, hence causing financial loss to the district.
- It was further alleged that a total of UGX **15,000,000** was budgeted under staff recruitment services in the statutory bodies vote code 138203, but, **UGX 53,372,000** was advanced to Mr. Ssozi Chris the PHRO to conduct recruitment exercise. However, the excess of **UGX 38, 372,000** was not budgeted for. Similarly, staff training under capacity building for Higher Local Government was budgeted for **UGX 4,877,000** but **UGX 15,390,000** was paid for training of head teachers in signing performance

contracts at 10,820,000 and UGX **4,570,000** for training of rewards and sanction committee.

The meeting provided a platform for the IG to understand these cases deeper so as to expedite their action and conclusion. Dr. Patricia in response pledged to follow up these cases to ensure that they are concluded and; appropriate action taken. The Regional IGG office has completed the file and are awaiting for the final decision to be taken on the culprits on the misappropriation of funds in Kitagwenda district.

In addition, the Auditor General after the convention made a statutory audit, and the recommendations drawn will be used to inform the steps for the next action.

In Fort Portal, the regional convention of the Anti-Corruption Week was commemorated at Kalya Courts, bringing together regional and district leaders including RDCs, District Chairpersons, CAOs, chairpersons of the sub-county youth councils and the female youth counselors from the 66 sub-counties in all the 10 districts where RAC operates, members of the IAF, the media, selected RAC monitors, RAC district Focal persons, Board and staff among others.

Like Kitagwenda, various pending cases that had stalled for a long time were presented to the duty bearers for response and action. These include;

- a. Alleged acts of managerial corruption done by the former City clerk of Fort portal City Mr. Ahimbisibwe Innocent.
- b. Alleged illegal construction of petrol stations in and around the region but most commonly in Fort portal city.
- c. Alleged illegal (mechanized) Pozollano mining in Kabarole District
- d. Continued corruption allegations within the Uganda Police Force

The Convention provided a platform for the duty bearers to respond to the above cases, with commitment to expedite their investigations and logical conclusion. All the above cases have been acted upon and others are still pending in court. The issue of the Former town clerk engaging Trino consulting company Ltd that was contracted by Fort Portal City to construct Ruhandika street and Kaboyo road but the Company gave fake payment guarantee from Equity Bank is in court at hearing stage while the issue of the illegal petrol station in Fort Portal; the National physical planning authority intervened and halted construction of all petrol, stations until it gives new guidelines for their construction. The RDC has intervened in the issue of illegal mining of pozolana, bringing the culprits to book. Through the convention, regional issues were linked to national issues and as such, quick response and action to the cases reported.

Further still, reawakening messages on the evils of corruption were resounded through drama and presentations by different actors, imploring the participants to desist from corruption tendencies.

The convention also provided a platform for the youth to engage with their leaders on service delivery gaps that affect them such as the high unemployment rates, unfavorable terms and conditions for government programs, among other concerns. The youth were in return encouraged to approach their leaders for all the support required. The leaders pledged to continue supporting the youth whenever approached for assistance.

YOUTH-LED DEBATE:

As part of the commemoration of the Anti-Corruption week, one students' debate was conducted with the integrity club of Mountains of the Moon University. The Debate was conducted under the theme ***Promoting Active Citizen Participation in Social Accountability***, under the topic - **'Youth have a bigger role to play in social accountability than the state anti-graft agencies'**. As a result of the debate, the youth were able to gain confidence to articulate accountability issues. Also the debate enabled the youth to understand the underlying causes of corruption and what needs to be done to address them. Also, the youth were inspired through the debate and gained more confidence to participate in public speech

TRAINING AND MENTORING SESSIONS OF YOUTH IN EVIDENCE-BASED REPORTING USING THE PPDA NEW CONTRACTING TOOL PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN MONITORING AND KEY ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICIES

In the month of December, RAC conducted a round of 66 trainings across the 66 sub-counties of the Rwenzori region. The participants included the RAC monitors, RAC focal person, board members, the Town Council/Sub-county CDOs, the Executive Committees of the Youth Council in the selected 66 sub-counties, the male and female youth councilors, as well as RAC staff.

Through the training, the youth were equipped with skills in evidence based monitoring and reporting, as well as engagement of duty bearers on service delivery concerns.

The youth and monitors were further trained on the key government programs like the new Parish Development Model, and how they can participate and benefit from such programs. During the question and answer session, the Community Development Officers as the co-trainers explained in detail the available government programs that the youth can tap in so as to benefit. Inspirational messages to the youth for mind-set change were emphasized during the training, imploring the youth to get out of their comfort zone to become better leaders and change agents.

At the end of the training, the participants (youth and monitors) testified that they felt more confident to engage their leaders for response on service delivery concerns and accountability. They further testified that they were in a better position to report cases of corruption since they understood better the true meaning of corruption and its negative effects.

Also, the practical skills offered to the new monitors (the youth) by the old monitors increased their ability and confidence to monitor government programs like Uganda Women Empowerment Program (UWEP), infrastructure development like construction of classroom blocks, health centers and roads, Emyooga, Youth Livelihood Project (YLP), UWA revenue sharing fund, health and education services among others through asking for the right information, the stakeholders to engage when monitoring, and the particular services offered at a given service delivery point (such as the different levels of health facilities). After the practical mentoring on monitoring, each of the 66 sub-counties trained was able to produce evidence-based monitoring report, highlighting the service delivery gaps observed during the monitoring, and recommendations for better service delivery.

The training further increased the youth and monitors' knowledge on anti-corruption policies and laws. The knowledge obtained has enhanced their ability to hold their leaders accountable, and at the same time, they know where to report cases of corruption.

The training offered to the youth and monitors has increased the number of evidence-based reports brought to the secretariat from 124 in the quarter of January to October 2021 to 221 from November 2021 to March 2022. In Bundibugyo district for example, the youth counselor after the training submitted a report to RAC, raising various service delivery concerns in Bundibugyo. The concerns raised were presented to the CAO for response and action. A case in point is a youth from Bundibugyo who after the training wrote to the CAO, detailing service delivery gaps and accountability issues, and as such demanding for his action

ROUND TABLE MEETINGS:

A total of 66 round table meetings were conducted across the 66 sub-counties of project implementation. In attendance were selected youth leaders, monitors, sub-county leaders, RAC focal persons and staff. The round table meetings provided a platform for leaders to respond to service delivery concerns raised through the monitoring reports by the youth and monitors. In Fort Portal city for example there was a loud outcry on the poor state of roads and poor drainage systems. The division mayor in response provided an update on the plan to work on some of the roads within the city in the current financial year

RADIO PROGRAMS

A total of 9 radio programs were conducted in the districts of Kyegegwa, Kasese, Bundibugyo, and Fort Portal city. In attendance were the RAC focal person, CDOs, and selected youth leaders from the aforementioned districts. The talk-shows provided a platform for the youth to air out their service delivery concerns for response by the respective duty bearers. Pertinent issues raised include among others the high unemployment rate among the youth, the youth dubbed as rebels/opposition whenever they demand for accountability from their leaders, lack of vocational skills to enable them indulge in income generating activities, lack of capital and collateral security to access bank loans for development, effects of COVID 19 among other concerns. The CDOs offered response and guidance to the youth in regard to the concerns raised, and advised them to always engage the duty bearers for assistance on how to address their concerns. One of the concerns raised was the lack of information by the youth on the available government programs; in response, the CDOs welcomed the youth to their offices to get information on all the available government programmes but also talked about opportunity for the youth to access 30% under the new Parish Development Model (PDM) funds.

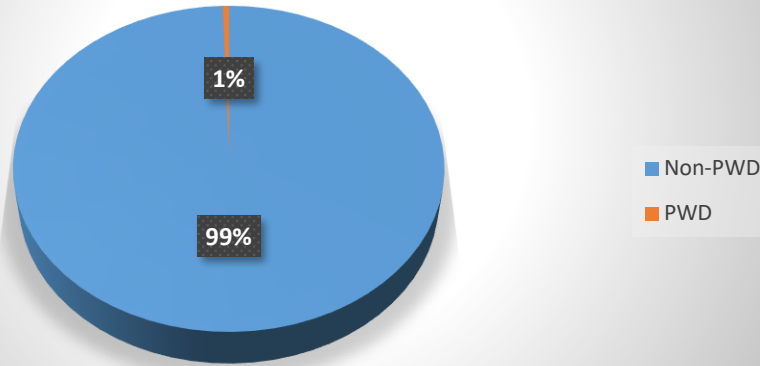
The radio programs further enhanced youth skills and confidence in public speech and expression of their concerns. A total of 9 youth participated in each of the Radio programmes held on various radio stations. Youth have encouraged other youth to join anti-corruption work and engage their leaders a case in point is where it was alleged that the Sports in-charge of the guild of Mountains of the moon University had mismanaged some funds during the sports event; several youth raised a petition and recovered 800,000/= that was misappropriated. RAC encouraged the youth leaders to be accountable first before holding others (leaders) accountable.

MONITORING, REPORTING AND CASE FOLLOW UP:

Considering the fact that the issues reported to RAC by the youth have been followed up, RAC has received several other cases of defilement in Kasese and has subsequently supported the communities in following up the various cases that mainly affect the youth with various stake holders. A case - SD ref; 34/26/08/2021 that had been mishandled by police at Bwera police station was reported to RAC for follow up. RAC followed up the matter and the file was called for by the RSA in Kasese.

Also, during the monitoring exercise by the youth in Kasese, they observed absence of a hand washing facility at Nyakatonzi HC11 and when they enquired from the in charge as to why this wasn't in place, he replied that the facility had no water source. The youth therefore engaged the Sub county chief during the round table meeting, who then made a directive to the in charge to contact NWSC to provide BOQS for water installation at the Facility. The In charge filled in application for connection forms and submitted to the NWSC for connection.

Distribution of Participants by Disability status



CONCLUSION

In implementing our programs, RAC worked closely with state and non-state actors including like-minded organizations i.e. Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), ACFIM, the Governance cluster, as well as the state agencies including Police, office of the Auditor General, Inspectorate of Government, District Public Accounts Committees, Directorate of Ethics and Integrity and elected and technical leaders/duty bearers. It is because of this collaboration that cases reported to RAC were responded to and acted upon

Challenges:

Our achievements notwithstanding, a couple of challenges were faced during the year of activity implementation

- At the commencement of the GIZ project, the country went into the second phase of lockdown due to the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic. Due to the lockdown, participants had to walk long distances to come for the meeting since public transport had been banned. Those that managed to obtain travel permits had to pay exorbitant fees to reach the meeting venue. In addition, activities like the ToT trainings were conducted virtually instead of the physical meetings that had been planned. This therefore denied the participants a chance to interact on a one on one' basis.' In addition, some participants were affected by unstable network in some places hence missing some training sessions. The training materials were however shared to enable for further reference and at the same time obtain any information that may have been missed due to the poor network.
- Suspension of DGF our partner affected implementation of most of our activities

LESSONS LEARNED

- Having signed MoUs with the district local governments enhances access to information and strong working relations.
- Inception meetings are key in promoting ownership of projects by the key stakeholders.
- Joint monitoring between CSOs and Government facilitates expeditious action on cases

Stories of change

RAC INTERVENES TO CAUSE CORRECTION OF DEFECTS ON NTARA HCIV

In Ntara Sub-county at Ntara HCIV in Kitagwenda district, RAC through our contract monitoring discovered that the contractor, under the influence of the district engineer had deviated from the BoQs to use tiles instead of terrazzo on the mortuary floor. RAC brought it to the attention of the leaders for action. After several engagement meetings and follow up visits with the duty bearers and the respective stakeholders, the contractor was instructed by the CAO to remove the tiles and replace them with terrazzo as quoted in the BoQs. The Health In-charge of Ntara HCIV expressed his gratitude to RAC for her intervention and efforts that caused the redo of the floor. He thanked RAC for having solved such a health hazard in his argument he stated that adhesive used to fix tiles would easily be corroded by the jik used to wash the mortuary and therefore recommended the use of terrazzo as stipulated in the contract.

In a related development, RAC's joint monitoring visits with key stakeholders further contributed to improved service delivery at Ntara HCIV. During one of the joint monitoring visits to Ntara HCIV, the in-charge brought to our attentions some of the challenges that were gravely affecting the quality of service delivery. They included among others;

- Inadequate water supply at the health center, with a non-functional water tank
- Poor sanitation at the health facility with rubbish littered around the compound and the toilets littered with faeces
- Inadequate staffing at for the health center, hence creating heavy work-load for the available staff. The health in-charge, due to lack of another doctor at the facility at one time was forced to work and operate on patients even when he was infected with COVID19, posing a high risk for his life and the patients worked on.

The above, and other concerns when shared with RAC were brought to the attention of the CAO for address. The CAO pledged to address all the concerns raised within the shortest time possible. During our subsequent monitoring visit to Kitagwenda district and Ntara health center, we were pleased to find that all the above concerns had been addressed. The DHO had been posted at the health center to support the doctor. In fact, at the time of our visit, the in-charge had gone for his leave, something he had not received in a very long time. The compound and lavatories were all clean with supply of clean water for the entire facility. RAC has been greatly appreciated for their support and follow up without which most of the challenges reported would probably still be existing.



Figure 7: Engagement meeting with selected stakeholders to address concerns of Ntara during the social audit

Figure 8: Engagement meeting with selected stakeholders to address concerns of Ntara during the social audit



Figure 9: Tiles being removed and replaced by terrazo



Figure 10: Mortuary floor with new terrazo

RAC'S COLLABORATION WITH STATE AGENCIES CONTRIBUTES TO EXPEDITED ACTION UPON CASES REPORTED

RAC's continued follow up of cases for response by the relevant duty bearers, in addition to the various platforms created for leaders to respond to citizens' issues have contributed to increased responsiveness of government towards citizens' concerns. In Fort Portal city for example, a number of concerns raised during our social audit were addressed. These include; Degradation of Buhoiga Green Belt by one; Haji Wakhab. During our social audit with Fort Portal City stakeholders, it was resolved that Haji Wakhab is served with a restoration order to recover the lost vegetation and at the same time stop the illegal activities that were going on in this area. In a follow up visit and stakeholder engagement, we were informed that Haji Wakhab had complied; all the illegal activities had been stopped, the eucaliptus trees planted in the wetland had been removed and the drainage channels had been blocked. Similarly, Karambi-Nyakarongo and Kangama swamp that had for a very long time been degraded by one –Musa Swaib – a resident of Karambi was restored after our recommendations during the joint monitoring visit to the area, whereby the monitoring team tasked the environment officer together with the office of the RCC to intervene and stop the illegal activities here. Following our recommendations, the Physical Planning Committee visited the area and advised Mr. Swaib on how best to utilize the area in question and he has since been compliant, and the illegal activities were stopped.

RAC STAFF AND BOARD 2021

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1. Agaba Moses – Board Chairperson
2. Bangirana K. Constance – Vice Chairperson
3. Kyaligonze Methuselah – Secretary
4. Tusiime Yahaya Yakub – Treasurer
5. Wanchan Zaituni – Gender Representative
6. Kyampaire Kellen – Partners’ Representative
7. Koom Constant– Kasese District Coordinator
8. Happy Andrew – Bundibugyo/Ntoroko District Coordinator
9. Kakooza John – District Coordinator

RAC Secretariat

1. Angela Byangwa – Executive Director
2. Dan Katorogo – Accountant
3. Laurence Tumwesige – Advocacy Officer
4. Victoria Namugga Busiinge – Communication & Documentation
5. Anthony Kusiima - Data Manager/Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
6. Meshach Sunday Byomuntura – Gender/Research Officer
7. Aisha Nassaka – Accounts Assistant
8. Edith Muhumuza – Administrative Officer
9. Mugisha Paul – Transport Officer
10. Nkwanzi Agnes – Project Assistant
11. Ismael Birungi - Volunteer