

PROJECT TITLE: STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT (SCEAP)

Period: March 2023 - December 2023

ACCU with support from the Royal Danish Embassy (RDE) is implementing the Strengthening Civil Society and Citizen Engagement in Accountability Project. The objective for the project is to contribute to improved transparency and accountability in Uganda.

The SCEAP project is being implemented in three regions and 9 districts; Luuka, Iganga and Mayuge for Busoga region; Terego, Yumbe and Madi-Okollo for West Nile region and Masindi, Buliisa and Kikuube for Mid-Western Region. It focuses on tackling corruption in critical service delivery sectors like health, education, justice, infrastructure, environment and agriculture, which directly affect ordinary Ugandans. Furthermore, the Project supplements efforts by government accountability institutions in the fight against corruption.

Key Project Outcome

The key intended outcome for the project is: *Strengthened civil society and citizen engagement with government on implementation of anticorruption laws, policies and accountability recommendations.*

ACCU work to achieve this outcome by implementing activities under the following output areas.

Output 1.1: Enhanced capacity of civil society and citizens to engage government on implementation of anti-corruption laws, policies and accountability recommendations.

Output 1.2: Partnerships for constructive and informed engagements between CSOs and citizens with state actors on influencing implementation of anti-corruption laws, policies and recommendations strengthened.

Output 1.3: Strengthened information sharing amongst stakeholders on anti-corruption laws, policies and recommendations.

Output 1.4: Strengthened media engagements for corruption exposure and improved implementation of anti-corruption laws, policies and recommendations.

Output 1.5: Coordination of CSO initiatives on key transparency and accountability issues strengthened.

Output 1.6: Monitoring and evaluation conducted for institutional learning.

ACCU shall engage in various activities, both at national level and in the 9 districts within the Project coverage area (Luuka, Iganga, Mayuge, Terego, Yumbe, Madi-Okollo, Masindi, Buliisa and Kikuube), including:

- Training of regional anti-corruption coalitions, women, youth and refugee focused organisations on accountability programming, policy analysis, strategic advocacy and civic engagement.
- Training of regional anti-corruption coalitions, women, youth and refugee focused organisations on harnessing ICT in transparency and accountability work and follow-up on application of acquired skills.
- Providing activity-based funding to selected Regional Anti-Corruption Coalitions to conduct anti-corruption campaigns at local level as well as activity/need based support (e.g Regional engagements, documentation and follow-up of accountability issues, media engagements)
- Mobilising and training young people (in education institutions and at sub-county level) and supporting formation of Youth Integrity Clubs to monitor public services and report corruption.
- Supporting Youth Integrity Club members to hold interfaces with government officials and demand for accountability.
- Holding strategic meetings with state and non-state actors for partnerships and collaborations on implementing anti-corruption laws, policies and recommendations.
- Holding strategic lobbying and policy advocacy meetings at local and national level focusing on implementation of anti-corruption laws, policies and recommendations.
- Working with other actors to coordinate the annual National Anti-Corruption Week including organising an Anti-Corruption Convention with other CSOs and state actors.
- Conducting a study to assess the status of implementation of the Access to Information Act and identify loopholes and challenges.
- Conducting 1 specific campaign on key policy implementation issues focusing on particular provisions in the Access to Information Act.
- Simplifying and disseminating recommendations from the Inspectorate of Government and Office of the Auditor General to CSOs, media, government officials and citizens.
- Working with other CSOs to follow up with Local Governments (LGs) at local level, and Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at national level on the implementation of recommendations from the Inspectorate of Government and Office of the Auditor General.
- Publicizing anti-corruption laws, policies and recommendations from accountability agencies at local and national level, particularly translating and simplifying the Access to Information Act 2005.
- Conducting investigative stories on key public accountability issues raised by sector working groups, coalitions or citizens and disseminate findings.
- Conducting media engagements (including; TV programs, radio programs, press conferences, radio jingles, social media campaigns, newspaper supplements, information materials), to expose corruption and rallying citizens' participation in anti-corruption work.
- Engaging media editors and practitioners on corruption reporting.
- Training journalists and media practitioners on reporting issues of governance, transparency and accountability.
- Conducting anti-corruption Sector Working Group (SWG) meetings for health, education, social protection/livelihoods sectors at national level to influence public accountability outcomes.
- Holding Regional Anti Corruption Coalitions (RACCs) Coordinators' forum meetings to coordinate interventions and building common voice.
- Convening and/or participating in civil society coordination meetings on emerging accountability issues.