

PROJECT TITLE: STRENGTHENING STATE RESPONSIVENESS AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

FUNDING PARTNER: NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE (NDI)

Starting July 2022, Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) implemented a 6-month project worth USD 70,324 in 4 districts of Wakiso, Kalungu, Kasanda and Kalangala, which were selected based on audit issues arising from the Auditor General's report. However, twelve other Local Governments (LGs) where ACCU's partner organization's/members work will be considered for the assessment on implementation of audit recommendation. These include; Kabarole District Local Government, Fortportal City, Soroti, Katakwi, Hoima, Masindi, Kabale, Rubanda, Apac, Oyam, Lira District and Lira City.

Project Objectives

- 1) To increase the number of accountability recommendations implemented by selected MDAs and DLGs by November 2022.
- 2) To increase citizen participation in demanding for transparency and accountability from state agencies by November 2022.

This project was also implemented at the national level in conjunction with selected government Departments and Agencies (MDAs) which include; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda National Roads Authority and Ministry of Works and Transport.

For ACCU in terms of implementation of the project, concentration will be in four districts Wakiso, Kalungu, Kasanda and Kalangala. This project will contribute to the state and non-state actors' ongoing efforts in the fight against corruption by focusing on addressing two of the aforementioned challenges i.e.:

- i. To address the challenge of poor implementation of recommendations from the accountability institutions, ACCU worked hand-in-hand with these institutions, (especially the Inspectorate of Government and the Office of the Auditor General)

to obtain information concerning the recommendations they have made, especially at the national level.

At the local level, ACCU utilized the capacity of grassroots Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with whom it had a prior working relationship (including Uganda Eyenkya, Southern Buganda Anti-Corruption Coalition and Kalangala NGO Forum) to conduct follow ups on the status of implementation of the recommendations from the Inspectorate of Government and Auditor General's offices. The information obtained was shared with responsible technical and political personnel and feedback obtained.

ii. To combat apathy among the citizenry, ACCU conducted media engagements at the national and local level, embedding journalists in most project activities. This was complemented by the advocacy engagements held to disseminate information and reports. Through these platforms, ACCU pushed for citizen engagement in demand for accountability while emphasizing the platforms, spaces and mechanisms that they can utilize.

The project activities also advocated for and made recommendations towards the implementation of anti-corruption laws and addressing of gaps within the current anticorruption legal framework. The project was successfully wound up in January 2023.