



**Anti  
Corruption  
Coalition  
Uganda**



# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

**SEPTEMBER 2024**



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## Message From The Chairperson



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I present to you this annual report, which highlights our work covering the period July 2023 to June 2024. I acknowledge and congratulate everyone who has contributed to making this a success.

First, I am particularly grateful to my colleagues on the Board of Directors who continued to provide leadership and oversight, to the organisation throughout the year.

I thank all our development partners during this period; Royal Danish Embassy, World Wide Fund for Nature – Uganda Country Office and United National Democracy Fund. I also appreciate all our member organisations and the dedicated team at the Secretariat.

We have continued pursuing our mandate of seeing a Uganda free from corruption. During this period, a lot has been achieved in the areas of; research, advocacy, capacity building for citizens, awareness creation, monitoring and reporting on service delivery and engagement with stakeholders at different levels.

Several studies were conducted which informed policy proposals to government. ACCU organised and participated in advocacy engagements throughout this period. We continued using mainstream and social media to expose corruption and engage our audiences. We have also fulfilled the statutory requirements for operation as an NGO.

During this period, several challenges were encountered including: Limited funding sources; Changing donor dynamics and priorities due to contextual issues and; Shrinking civic space as evidenced by increased scrutiny and huge regulatory compliance obligations.

Moving forward, ACCU will continue seeking new partnerships and piloting new approaches. We will continue building on our successes, while finding workable solutions to the challenges we face. We will continue working with like-minded state and non-state actors to address corruption in its ever-changing forms.

Once again, I thank you all for the support during the previous year. I welcome your ideas and suggestions on how we can take the Coalition forward.

**JOHN ISABIRYE | CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



## Message From The Executive Director



I greet you all and with gratitude, I present to you our Annual Report for the period July 2023 – June 2024. To begin with, I acknowledge the support and guidance from the Board of Directors throughout this period.

I also acknowledge and appreciate financial support from our development partners; The Royal Danish Embassy, World Wide Fund for Nature and United Nations Democracy Fund. The generous support from our development partners, has ensured continued implementation of our activities, projects and programmes. I also appreciate all our member organisations, my colleagues at the secretariat and all our indispensable stakeholders.

During this period, a number of milestones were registered including: Training 90 CSOs on policy advocacy, communication and mainstreaming accountability; Engaging 42 media editors and practitioners on corruption reporting; Training 57 journalists on corruption reporting; Conducting 116 Media Engagements on different media platforms on emerging accountability issues and; Mobilizing and forming 146 Youth Integrity Clubs comprising of 3,895 youth. The youth were trained on corruption monitoring, reporting and engaging leaders.

In addition: We engaged 158 actors in the ENR sector on environmental governance; Organized and held 31 strategic advocacy engagement meetings with key stakeholders on key accountability issues; Engaged 101,128 people through social media campaigns; Engaged key stakeholders during the annual Anti-Corruption Convention and; Reached 2,509 people through printed materials.

During this period, we also encountered challenges including; shrinking civic space, reducing funding for accountability work and increasing apathy from key stakeholders.

Going forward, we will continue harnessing research to support our strategic advocacy engagements. We will work with like-minded actors to push for anti-corruption reforms. We will uphold already existing partnerships and explore more strategic collaborations with different stakeholders.

I thank you all for being a part of this journey thus far, and wish you well in the ensuing period.

**MARLON AGABA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# List of Acronyms

<b>AAIU</b>	Action Aid International Uganda	<b>MoFPED</b>	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
<b>ACCOB</b>	Anti-Corruption Coalition of Busoga	<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>ACCU</b>	Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda	<b>NDA</b>	National Drug Authority
<b>ACW</b>	Anti-Corruption Week	<b>NFA</b>	National Forestry Authority
<b>AGM</b>	Annual General Meeting	<b>NGO</b>	Non- Governmental Organisation
<b>BoD</b>	Board of Directors	<b>NMS</b>	National Medical Stores
<b>BUCONET</b>	Bukedi Civil Society Organizations Network	<b>NNTG</b>	Ndangara Nyakyiyanja Tutungukye Group
<b>CAO</b>	Chief Administrative Officer	<b>OAG</b>	Office of the Auditor General
<b>CFM</b>	Collaborative Forestry Management	<b>PDM</b>	Parish Development Model
<b>CFR</b>	Central Forest Reserve	<b>PPDA</b>	Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority
<b>CIDD-UG</b>	Citizen Initiative for Democracy and Development	<b>PTF</b>	Partnership for Transparency Fund
<b>COBRA</b>	Corruption Brakes Crusade	<b>RAC</b>	Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition
<b>CRM</b>	Collaborative Resource Management	<b>RACC</b>	Regional Anti-Corruption Coalition
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization	<b>RDE</b>	Royal Danish Embassy
<b>DIPF</b>	District Integrity Promotion Forum	<b>TAACC</b>	The Apac Anti-Corruption Coalition
<b>ENR</b>	Environment and Natural Resources	<b>TAC</b>	Teso Anti-Corruption Coalition
<b>GCIC</b>	Government Citizen Interaction Centre	<b>TIU</b>	Transparency International Uganda
<b>IG</b>	Inspectorate of Government	<b>UDN</b>	Uganda Debt Network
<b>KACC</b>	Karamoja Anti-Corruption Coalition	<b>UNDOC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>KICK-U</b>	Kick Corruption out of Uganda	<b>UWA</b>	Uganda Wildlife Authority
<b>LG</b>	Local Government	<b>WECIGO</b>	West Nile Civil Society Organisation for Good Governance
<b>MACCO</b>	MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition	<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature
<b>MDAs</b>	Ministries, Departments and Agencies	<b>YIC</b>	Youth Integrity Club
<b>MIRAC</b>	Mid-Western Region Anti-Corruption Coalition		
<b>MoES</b>	Ministry of Education and Sports		

# About ACCU

## Organizational Background

Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) was founded in January 1999 and registered as a Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) under the NGO Statute in 2004 with the sole objective of providing a forum through which various anti-corruption actors can enhance their capabilities and act as one strong voice and force that can effectively engage government on issues of corruption. ACCU brings together like-minded organizations and individual actors whose pre-occupation is exposure and advocacy in the fight against corruption in Uganda.

ACCU works with national Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engaged in the accountability sector. At the local level ACCU works with and through Regional Anti-Corruption Coalitions (RACCs) that are spread out in the various parts of the country and of recent grassroots member organizations.

These include: Anti-Corruption Coalition of Busoga (ACCOB), Citizen Initiative for Democracy and Development (CIDD-UG), Corruption Brakes Crusade (COBRA), Kanungu Community Efforts for Rural Transformation (KACOERT), Karamoja Anti-Corruption Coalition (KACC), Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U), MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition (MACCO), Midwestern Anti-Corruption Coalition (MIRAC), Bukedi Civil Society Organizations’ Network (BUCONET), Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC), Southern Buganda Anti-Corruption Organisation (SBACO), Teso Anti-Corruption Coalition (TAC), The Apac Anti-Corruption Coalition (TAAC), Tororo Anti-Corruption Coalition (TACC) and Uganda Eyeenkya (UE).

ACCU’s interventions are aimed at empowering masses to sustainably and actively demand accountability at all levels. ACCU empowers citizens to effectively engage local governments on issues of governance and accountability. Together with national-level partners, ACCU spearheads the fight against corruption at the national level.

ACCU also works closely with a myriad of other partners including; the media, religious leaders, individual activists, academicians, and relevant government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. ACCU’s work is premised on the programmatic areas of: Research and Advocacy; Information and Communication; and Membership and Capacity Building.



### VISION

A transparent and corruption-free society.



### MISSION

To empower citizens to actively and sustainably demand transparency and accountability from the public and private sectors.



### CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Non-discrimination
- Justice
- Solidarity
- Objectivity
- Working with others

## Strategic Objectives

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

01

- To influence state and non-state actors in the effective implementation of transparency and accountability laws, policies, programs and budgets in Uganda by 2028.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

02

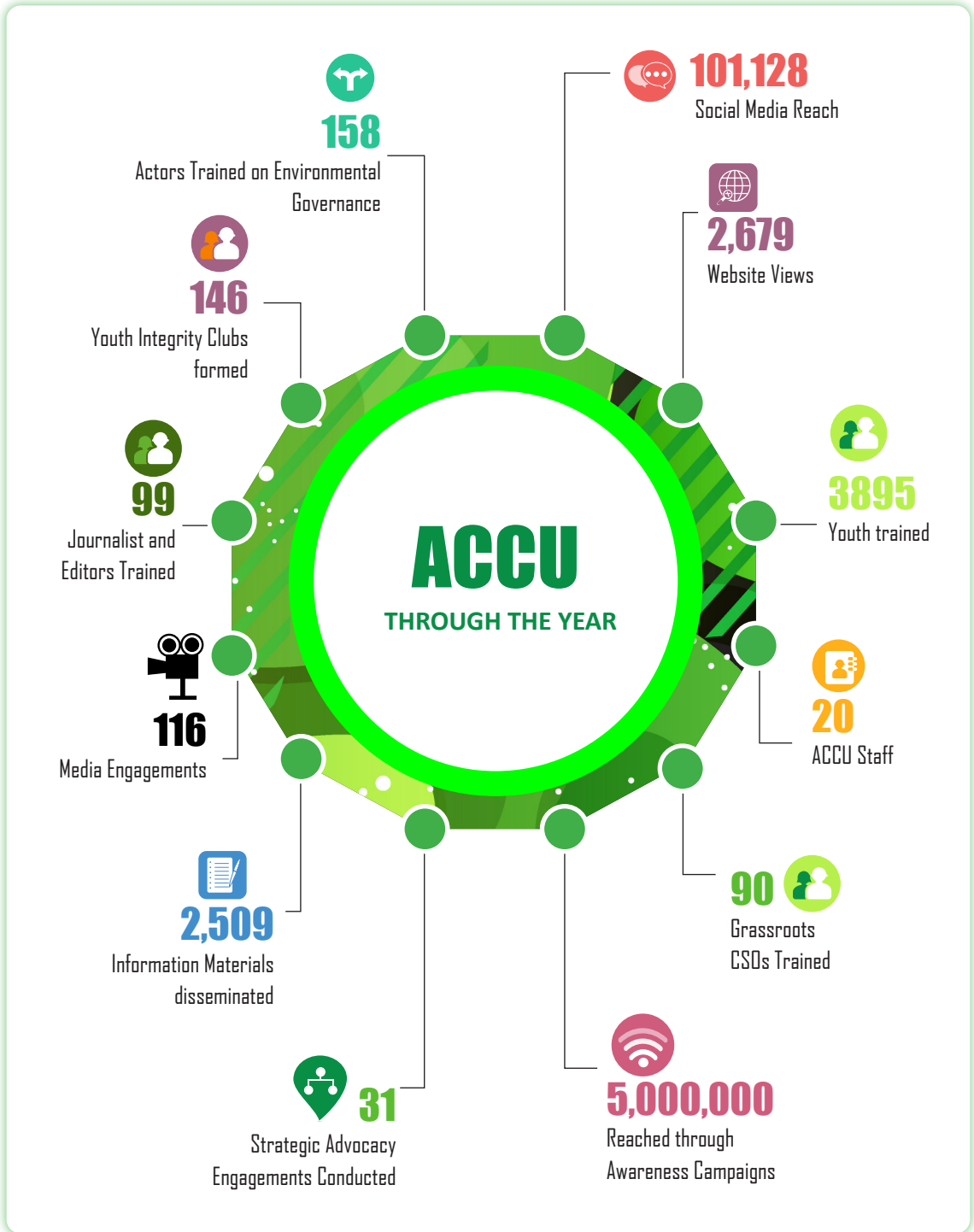
- To empower citizens to effectively demand for transparency and accountability from duty bearers in Uganda by 2028.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

03

- To strengthen ACCU secretariat and member organizations in the fight against corruption in Uganda by 2028.

# ACCU through the year 2023



# CHAPTER ONE

## MEMBERSHIP AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### 1.1 CAPACITY BUILDING

#### Civil Society Training on Accountability Programming

During this period, ACCU conducted two capacity building trainings for 3 of her members and 90 partner CSOs. The trainings were undertaken for members and CSOs in each of the subregions of Bunyoro, West Nile and Busoga on accountability programming, policy analysis, strategic advocacy, civic engagement and harnessing ICT in transparency and accountability work.

These strengthened CSOs and citizen engagements with government on implementation of anti-corruption laws, policies and accountability recommendations. The trained CSOs were able to implement 73 initiatives out of the 189 committed during the capacity building initiatives. ICT initiatives included: creating and using of social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube for accountability work.

Additionally, the CSOs are capable of accessing government portals for public information. Advocacy initiatives included monitoring and sensitization of masses on corruption in public service delivery through radio talk shows and barazas.



*Mr. Marlon Agaba training participants on accountability programming, policy analysis, strategic advocacy and civic engagement at Kolping Hotel in Hoima district.*



*Participants during the training on accountability programming, policy analysis, strategic advocacy and civic engagement at Heritage Hotel in Arua district.*

#### Training of Journalists on Corruption Reporting

Two trainings were conducted for 99 media editors, journalists and media practitioners from national and sub national level on reporting issues related to governance, transparency and accountability. This raised appreciation of the role of the media in the fight against corruption and ultimately strengthened media engagements.

From the trainings, participants gained a deeper understanding of corruption and accountability and have consistently provided information on public sector corruption where governmental activity is opaque by design or by default. The media editors and journalists have also carried out investigations and published anticorruption information across the different media houses. Below are beneficiaries from these trainings;



One of the trainees, **Mr. Muhairwe Ramson** from NBS TV reported that: *“The perception on corruption keeps changing, the training exposed me to different techniques of investigation, approach, sourcing and telling stories on corruption.”* He added that, *“the stories I am currently publishing are more informative and my career has greatly improved. I have also mentored fellow journalists at my work place. I have published a number of stories on Afro Mobile and Nile Post digital media platforms, NBS Twitter account as well as TV. One of the top stories is “Former LoPs Ogenga, Kiiza say Mpuuga’s cash award lacks legal backing.”*



**Miss Josephine Ndagaano**, an editor from Radio One FM said *“I am able to write balanced anti-corruption stories through inquiring from different parties involved on the corruption issue. After the training, I have endeavored to cover a lot of stories through contacting several governance and anticorruption organizations. The stories covered include: calling upon government to readily avail information to the public as per the provisions of the Access to Information Act of 2005; Civil Society Organisations calling upon government to amend the Access to Information Act to bridge gaps that hinder access to public information by Ugandans; an article calling upon the Ministry of Health to investigate the stalled construction of Mayuge Town Council Health Centre IV Mortuary in Mayuge district which was allocated funds in the financial year 2022/2023; article on the arrest and charge of Mitooma Court Chief Magistrate, Sylvia Nvanungi on allegations of soliciting a bribe of 2.5 million shillings; an article of the soaring debt burden of about 100 trillion shillings, calling for the swift restructuring of the government to eliminate wasteful expenditure among other stories. I have also shared the knowledge with my workmates.”*

### Training District Actors on Environmental Governance

In order to reduce issuance of illegal land titles in Central Forest Reserves and other protected areas, ACCU trained 30 District Land Board committees and Area Land Committees from the districts of Bushenyi and Rubirizi on the National Tree Planting Act 2003, Uganda Wildlife Act 2019, and illegal surveys.



As a result of the capacity building initiative, chairpersons of the Area Land Committees currently indicate on the applicants' files to the District Land Board that the land neighbors a forest, river or national park and recommend further verification before issuing land titles to such.



*The District Natural Resources Officer- Bushenyi District, Mr. Cyril Mugenyi making some remarks during the training of District Land Board committees and Area Land Committees from the districts of Bushenyi and Rubirizi.*

The District Natural Resources Officer- Bushenyi District, Mr. Cyril Mugenyi making some remarks during the training of District Land Board committees and Area Land Committees from the districts of Bushenyi and Rubirizi.

### Training Youth on Corruption Monitoring and Reporting

During the reporting period, ACCU mobilized and formed 146 Youth Integrity Clubs comprising of 3,895 Youth in and out of school from Bunyoro, West Nile and Busoga Sub regions. These were equipped with knowledge and skills on how to monitor and report accountability and service delivery gaps. The youth have since participated in monitoring service delivery gaps and reported to their leaders or the Regional Anti-Corruption Coalitions. Their findings informed engagements between the youth and local leaders during the regional engagements in these areas.



*The facilitator, Mrs. Clare Arinitwe conducting a training for out of school Youth Integrity Clubs on monitoring service delivery gaps and reporting corruption at Heritage Courts Hotel in Arua.*



*A Participant (standing) raising a question on how to how to fight bribery during a training of in school Youth Integrity Clubs on monitoring service delivery gaps and reporting corruption at Colline Hotel Mukono.*



**Empowering Community Groups In Forestry Governance**

Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) and Collaborative Resource Management (CRM) are some of the structures that were put in place by National Forestry Authority and Uganda Wildlife Authority respectively to co-manage conserved areas with adjacent communities. ACCU has been supporting these structures through trainings and supporting different reporting and engagement platforms with their leaders on governance and accountability issues.

During the reporting period, 36 members from six Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) groups adjacent to Kalinzu and Kashoya Kitomi Central Forest Reserves and Queen Elizabeth National Park in the districts of Bushenyi, Rubirizi and Buhweju were trained on identifying governance issues, analyzing, reporting and engaging duty bearers. They were also sensitized on the reporting platforms available for reporting forestry and wildlife governance illegalities.



*Some of the CRM and CFM members making inquiries during the training on identifying governance issues, analyzing, reporting and engaging duty bearers at Western Meridian Hotel, Bushenyi.*



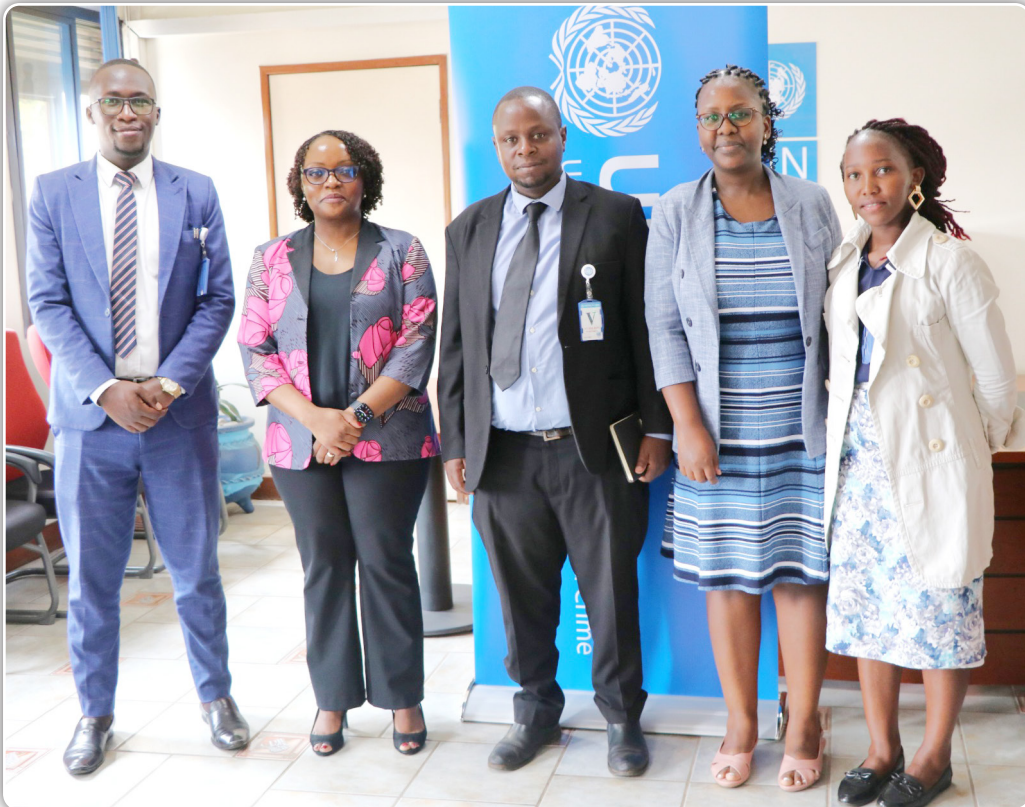
*The UWA community Conservation Manager giving feedback during the training on identifying governance issues, analyzing, reporting and engaging duty bearers at Western Meridian Hotel, Bushenyi.*

## 1.2 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Strategic partnerships and collaborations are key for pushing forward the national advocacy agenda. They facilitate constructive and informed engagements between CSOs and citizens with state actors on influencing implementation of anti-corruption laws, policies and recommendations.

During the reporting period, four collaboration meetings were held with several state and non-state institutions. We held collaboration meetings with the Inspectorate of Government on partnership during anticorruption week and empowering Youth Integrity Clubs in schools; with Office of the Auditor General on implementation of audit recommendations, Next Media on corporate social responsibility in promoting accountability, transparency and fighting corruption; and Ministry of ICT to do quality assurance of the simplified Access to Information Act and Regulations and promoting citizen access to information.

These resulted into successful strategic meetings on implementing anti-corruption laws, policies and recommendations at local and national level including the Anti-Corruption Week. Consequently, 137 government representatives were engaged during the regional engagements on monitoring findings from the regional coalitions and partner CSOs and during the regional and national anticorruption week commemoration engagements.



*ACCU team meets with Lisa Nyembe (2nd from the left) to discuss areas of collaboration in combating corruption and advancing accountability in Uganda.*

# CHAPTER TWO

## RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

### 2.1 RESEARCH

ACCU conducted 3 research studies during the reporting period including;

#### **Assessing the Status of Implementation of the Access to Information Act (2015) and Access to Information Regulations (2011)**

ACCU conducted one study to assess the status of implementation of the Access to Information Act (2015) and Access to Information Regulations (2011), highlighting the barriers to realization of the right of access to information and recommendations for action.

Findings from the study revealed that most of the information requests lodged by citizens under the Access to Information Act are declined on technical and other grounds; for instance, adherence to formal or appropriate formats. These declines resulted into a general decrease in the number of information requests made by citizens.

The study also found out that citizens prefer to use informal platforms to access information. According to the study, citizens prefer to use social media platforms of MDAs to request for information with the e-citizen platform, the Government Citizen Interaction Centre (GCIC), call centers and social media.

The report recommended that;

- a. Government should align the Access to Information Act with the recently passed Government of Uganda communication strategy.
- b. Consider amendments to the Access to Information Act 2005 to reduce on the current broad scope of exemptions in the Law (consider limitations as per Article 41 of Uganda's Constitution as amended).
- c. Parliament to insist on Ministerial compliance with section 42 of the Act ie submission of the annual report as one of the preconditions for consideration and approval of ministerial statements.
- d. MDAs to invest in training and capacitating their officials on the Access to Information Act and the importance of the right to citizens to access information held by government.
- e. CSOs to collaborate with the different MDAs in order to explore opportunities for collective promotion of the right of access to information.

#### **Analysing the Extent of Encroachment and Issuance of Illegal Land Titles Within Central And Local Forest Reserves**

ACCU conducted research to investigate the extent of encroachment and issuance of illegal land titles within Central and Local Forest Reserves in Uganda, establish and document individuals and companies who possess such titles and share recommendations on streamlining the land titling process to deal with encroachment on forest reserves.

The study which was carried out in the Budongo Ecosystem range (Hoima and Kikuube), South Western Range (Bushenyi, Mitooma, Rubirizi, and Buhweju districts) and Lake Shore range (Kayunga, Wakiso and Mpigi), established that there was a reduction in encroachment in Central Forest Reserves in the said districts due to the uptake and implementation of tree planting permits and licenses managed by the NFA.

However, 6 out of 11 forest reserves in Budongo range had illegal land titling issues. The South Western Range was free from illegal land titles except Kyamuhunga Local Forest Reserve, which measures over 10 hectares of land that had 2 land titles and there were several encroachments. In the lake shore range, Kitubulu CFR had 22 illegal land titles measuring 48.726 Ha and a number of encroachment activities were documented in Wakiso district.

The research recommended increase in information sharing, enforcement of policies, NFA staff trainings, citizens' education and sensitization, decentralizing permit issuance and establishing an online system for issuance of permits among others.

### Media Investigation on the Extent of Drug theft/leakage along the Supply Chain

ACCU conducted a media investigation on the extent of drug theft/leakage along the supply chain in Uganda. The investigation conducted in December 2023 and published in the Daily Monitor newspaper and on NTV Uganda, was based on the fact that Uganda has high cases of drug theft and sale of counterfeit drugs in the makeshift markets.

Patients are frequently forced to purchase drugs from the black market despite being entitled to free drugs from the government facilities and yet these drugs are often counterfeit. Through the investigation, it was discovered that medical staff, law enforcement officers and private individuals are the culprits involved in the drug theft. The drugs are repackaged and sold to consumers and others smuggled to borders like in Kenya, South Sudan and DRC.

A medical superintendent of Bugiri, Dr. Abubakar Nakendo went on the run following being accused of theft of drugs, maladministration and extortion of patients. The stolen government medical supplies were being sold in his private medical store where they were discovered by police. The medical supplies including blood were marked "Government of Uganda, Not for Sale" yet Bugiri General Hospital, a government facility lacked these supplies."

The investigation further revealed that the distribution and delivery of drugs to health centers was digitized but there are loopholes in the system which has been taken advantage of by cartels to steal the drugs. Medical facilities on the other hand, are still using manual systems that involve a lot of paper work for distribution of medicines and this record keeping is often inefficient leading to loopholes for drug theft.





Description

Appalling health service delivery to cost Uganda heavily | PANORAMA

3

Likes

570

Views

29 Dec

2023

#NTVTonight

#NTVWeekendEdition

#NTVNews

Uganda's health sector remains extremely fragile, with crumbling facilities and appalling service delivery to millions of patients in the countryside. The patient-to-doctor ratio stands at 1:25,000, significantly below the recommended standard by WHO. Yet, another issue afflicting the health sector is the rampant theft of drugs across the country.

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A screenshot of the video that was posted by NTV on the NTV YouTube channel following the drug theft investigation in December 2023.

MONITOR

Subscribe

Drug theft cripples service delivery in Busoga, says IGG

Sunday, January 21, 2024



A worker of National Medical Stores off loads essential medicines and medical supplies at a public health facility. PHOTO/FILE



By **Yahudu Kitunzi**  
Reporter  
Daily Monitor

The theft of government drugs by cartels across the country has placed the lives of



to benefit, in

A screenshot of the article from the drug theft investigation that was posted on the website of the Media House, The Daily Monitor.

## 2.2 ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENTS

### Advocacy Engagement

ACCU organized and held 31 (17 National and 14 Regional) advocacy engagement meetings with key stakeholders including: Inspectorate of Government, Office of the Auditor General, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Service, Ministry of Local Government, Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority, Leadership Code Tribunal, District Local Governments of Luuka, Iganga, Mayuge, Buliisa, Kikuube, Masindi, Madi-Okollo, Terego and Yumbe, Media Houses, and CSOs, among others to discuss and present key accountability issues under the health and education sectors and to follow-up on the status of implementation of Auditor General’s recommendations.

### Community Based Monitoring

Following the capacity building initiatives that were provided by ACCU to the CSOs and youth groups, ACCU provided activity-based funding/support to 8 CSOs and 3 Youth Integrity Clubs in Bunyoro, Busoga and West Nile sub-regions to monitor the sectors of Education, Health, Infrastructure and Livelihoods. Consequently, the CSOs and youth groups identified 67



*The Resident District Commissioner, his deputy, Town Council and ACCOB staff during a follow up on Parish Community Association Model performance with Igamba Atambula Empola group.*

accountability issues and through three regional interface meetings with government officials 26 issues were resolved.

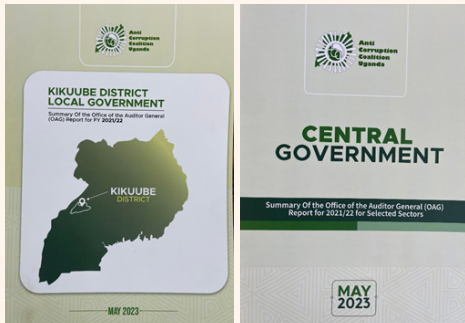
Under the forestry sector, 40 forestry illegality cases were reported to NFA through the NFA call center supported by ACCU from different districts across Uganda. The cases reported were all resolved by the responsible duty bearers at NFA and UWA. The cases included: cattle and goat grazing in Bajo and Ibambaro Central Forest Reserves in Kayunga district and Kyegegwa district; inquiries about the process of acquiring licenses in Mbarara, Gulu, Kampala and Hoima; and inquiries about availability of free tree seedlings in Masindi, Jinja, Dokolo and Mbale among others.

### Follow-Up on the Status of Implementation of Auditor General’s Recommendations

ACCU conducted 10 advocacy engagements to follow-up on the status of implementation of the Auditor General’s recommendations (FY 2021) in 9 Local Governments and National

level. The engagements were also used to disseminate the simplified reports of the audit recommendations for 2020/21 for the respective Local Governments and Central Government. Through these engagements, ACCU identified policy issues which are being followed up with relevant institutions for their action and implementation.

The issues include: the need for better coordination between Ministry of Finance (MoFPED) and the PDM Secretariat to harmonize the PDM program implementation; automation of the database for all teachers and streamlining of the validation process; and better coordination



*A photo of a simplified copy of the OAG report for Kikuube district and Central Government for the financial year 2021/22.*



*The general overview of the participants during the engagement of the follow up on the Auditor General's recommendations for Kikuube District.*



*District leaders (two from the left Mr. Vuyaya Vuni Mathew Deputy RDC and Mr. Abibu Ozuga Juma the DISO of Yumbe) during the engagement on the follow up of the Auditor General's recommendations for Yumbe District.*



*Mr. Josephat Nuwabeine, Assistant Director - Engagement at the Office of the Auditor General responding to issues raised at the national meeting on implementation of the Auditor General's recommendations.*

between the Auditor General and other agencies like the Inspectorate of Government, to effect more apparent and deliberate action in terms of prosecution of corruption cases.

### Regional Advocacy Engagements

During the reporting period, ACCU conducted 6 regional advocacy engagements between Local Governments officials and CSOs, Women, Youth and Refugee focused organisations. Three engagements discussed service delivery monitoring findings by the trained and supported CSOs, Women, Youth and Refugee focused organisations in Busoga, Bunyoro and West Nile



while another three addressed emerging accountability issues and rallied CSOs, Women, Youth and Refugee focused organisations and citizens to participate in the commemoration activities of the international Anti-Corruption Week.

Consequently, 26 issues out of 67 accountability issues identified were resolved. The resolved issues include: constituting of Luuka district procurement committee to fast-track road construction projects; fast tracking the construction of Buwanda Seed school; and renovation of the class room block with a blown off roof at Bukanga Primary School in Luuka district, Busoga Sub region.

In West Nile sub region, the addressed issues include: fast tracking the construction of the power extension project to Madi Okollo; the procurement of road equipment and receipt of a pickup for transport in Madi Okollo among others.



*Dr. Alex Afeti (Buliisa District Health Officer) responding to key health service issues raised during the regional advocacy engagement.*



*Ms. Biira Ever (Woman Council Kikuube district) highlighting key health and education service delivery issues during the regional advocacy engagement.*

In Bunyoro sub region, vacant medical positions were filled following guidance from Ministry of Health; interventions were put in place to control medical staff absenteeism like joint monitoring of health facilities; open book registration as well as use of electronic registration; and establishment of construction monitoring units working closely with CSOs to monitor construction projects.

### Forestry and Wildlife Governance

Two engagement meetings were conducted between duty bearers and communities adjacent to Kalinzu and Maramagambo Central Forest Reserves and Queen Elizabeth National Park in Bushenyi and Rubirizi districts respectively to discuss environmental governance challenges hindering conservation.

The engagements were attended by 78 participants from the National Forestry Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority, District Local Governments, CSOs, and 18 Collaborative Forest and Natural Resource Management groups.



Key issues discussed include: Charcoal burning, timber and charcoal transport, encroachment, timber cutting, illegal mining, unmarked boundaries of Central Forest Reserves, connivance between UWA, and NFA staff, expired CFM agreements, dumping of waste in the forests, debarking of trees for herbal medicine, illegal collection of hand hoe sticks, vermin destroying gardens and injuring people, dissemination of guidelines for recruiting conservationists, land titles within wetlands, government land, and central forest reserves, delayed and nonresponse by UWA staff to community concerns among others.

Duty bearers have since resolved most of them. For instance: 48KMs of Kashoya Kitomi CFR boundary has been surveyed and demarcated with 240 concrete pillars; forty-five suspects of various illegal activities have been arrested and three suspects convicted for illegal timber cutting in Kalinzu CFR by the Bushenyi Magistrate Court and; Rubirizi district has recovered more than 1000 hectares of wetlands through evicting encroachers.

In addition: NFA and UWA have been adopted to the District Security Committees of Rubirizi and Bushenyi to provide platforms for them to interface with different stakeholders and present forestry and Wildlife issues; Magistrate courts in the districts of Bushenyi and Rubirizi have designated some days for hearing wildlife cases; and UWA, NFA, district leaders, and CSOs have shared their personal contacts with communities for easy communication.

In addition, ACCU hosted one national level strategic meeting to discuss key forestry and wildlife governance issues that arose from the scoping study and community engagements at local level. The meeting was attended by 25 participants from MDAs and CSOs. Through the meeting several accountability and policy issues were discussed to enhance conservation.

**These issues include:** failure of registration and renewal of CFM and CRM groups; absence of NFA offices in most of the districts neighboring forest reserves; limited engagements between NFA and UWA and local communities; poor implementation of wildlife and Forestry laws and policies; non-payment to the patrolmen and 4 groups that participated in the weeding of 560 hectares of restored land in Kashoya Kitomi CFR and; limited knowledge about reporting platforms available at UWA and NFA by the communities.



*A Representative from Ministry of Water and Environment responding to some of the issues highlighted by ACCU at the National Strategic meeting at Hotel African Hotel Kampala*



*Mr. Gaster Kiyingi from Tree Talk Plus giving his submission at the National Strategic meeting at Hotel African Hotel Kampala.*

The other issues included: delayed / non-responsiveness by mandated agencies to issues reported by communities; expired National Forest management plan; delayed approval of revised National Forestry Policy and the National Environmental Management Policy; misuse of licenses issued by NFA; and inadequate staff at NFA. Through the engagement, duty bearers made commitments to address these challenges. So far, NFA has cancelled all charcoal permits in the South Western range.

**Harnessing Sectoral Working Group Meetings**

ACCU held 2 sector working group meetings (health and education) bringing together responsible Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society Organisations and partners to discuss key policy and accountability issues affecting the two sectors. The discussions were focused on service delivery issues including the poor infrastructure in schools, water, sanitation and hygiene (wash) facilities, health infrastructure, staffing levels in the health sector, drug management and supplies among others. Through the engagements, several recommendations were made to address accountability and policy implementation issues.

Four actions were undertaken as a result of the Sector Working Group Meetings. Following the Education Sector Anticorruption Working Group Meeting, the Local Government Finance



*Mr. Solomon Musitwa, the Executive Director Uganda National Medial Alliance for Prisons Support making a submission during the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Working Group at Hotel Africana.*



*A cross section of participants during the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Working Group at Hotel Africana.*

Commission issued a letter to all CAOs to provide information about the status of school structures and a list of schools was published in the newspapers for infrastructural improvement.

From the Health Sector Anticorruption Working Group Meeting, the ban on recruitment of public servants was lifted by the Ministry of Public Service. Additionally, a circular was issued to District Health Officers to map Health Centre IIs which need to be elevated to Health Centre IIIs and a circular was issued by NMS to ensure delivery of medical supplies on a quarterly basis.

**Commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Day**

ACCU held the Anti-Corruption Convention in commemoration of the International Anti-Corruption Week/Day 2023 under the theme “Strengthening Partnerships in the war against Corruption.”

The commemoration was attended by 175 participants drawn from; Local Governments, Central Government Agencies, Media, Development Partners, Civil Society and Citizens.



*Ms. Kirstine Primdal Sutton giving Official Opening Remarks on behalf of the Royal Danish Embassy during the 2023 annual Anti-Corruption Convention.*



*State actors from ODPP, OAG, PPDA, IG and LCT discussing and presenting their contributions towards the fight against corruption during the 2023 Anti-Corruption Convention.*

Issues discussed included; poor implementation of the legal framework like the whistle Blowers’ Protection Act and the Ant Money Laundering Act that were enacted to protect citizens that report corruption and improve financial systems respectively. Implementation of the whistle Blowers’ Protection Act has been particularly poor due to lack of a whistle blowers’ protection mechanism.

Other issues included strengthening partnerships for joint plans and process activities. Three similar engagements in commemoration of the Anti-Corruption Week were held at regional level in Busoga, Bunyoro and West Nile.

### Advocacy Campaigns

Two campaigns were conducted from August 2023 to December 2023 to enhance citizens and civil society engagements in accountability. These campaigns included; Citizens’ Access to Information and an online campaign to sensitize citizens and create awareness about the International Anti-Corruption Day Commemoration of 2023.

The Citizens’ Access to Information campaign was informed by a study on the extent of implementation of the Access to Information Act 2005 and the Regulations 2011. The campaign exposed procedures and avenues through which citizens can access information from key state agencies. It also unleashed the fact that citizens’ access to information is an important tool in the demand for accountability and the fight against corruption.

The online campaign to sensitize citizens and create awareness about the International Anti-Corruption Day Commemoration of 2023 was based on the year’s theme “Strengthening Partnerships in the war against Corruption”. The campaigns were conducted through various communication mediums including; social media, audio and visual media platforms. The

# CHAPTER THREE

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

campaign involved; social media engagements on Twitter (X) and Facebook to discuss the year’s theme and access to public information.

The purpose of the campaigns was to enhance state and non-state actors’ buy-in into the anti-corruption agenda. The campaigns also acted as a platform to share knowledge, experience, and take stock on key achievements in the war against corruption. The campaigns involved state and non-state actors who shared referral pathways for corruption reporting, ways of citizen feedback on corruption components and also creating a platform for dialogue between citizens and state actors.

*A flier for a radio talk show on KFM on the topic of shrinking civic space attended together with Center for Constitutional Governance.*

*A flier for a radio talk show on CBS FM on the topic: Strengthening partnerships in the war against corruption.*



### 3.1 MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS CONDUCTED



*CSO representatives (from Left, Mr. Peter Wandera-TIU, Mr. Marlon Agaba-ACCU, Mr. Xavier Ejoyi-AAIU and Ms. Christine Byiringiro-UDN presenting the CSOs press statement during the Joint CSOs Press Conference.*

*CSO representatives from left Ms. Lillian Ssentza from TIU, Mr. Marlon Agaba from ACCU and Ms. Christine Byiringiro from UDN addressing the press on the Access to Information Act of 2011.*



A total of 116 media engagements were conducted during the reporting period. These included radio, TV, social and digital media engagements.

#### Radio Talk Shows

A total of 15 radio talk shows (6 radio talk shows at national level and 9 talk shows at regional level) were held during this period. The talk shows focused on discussing the fight against corruption at the regional and national level through advocating for corruption monitoring, and implementation of anti-corruption laws and policies to improve public service delivery.

The talk shows also publicized the Auditor General’s recommendations and anticorruption week activities at regional level. The talk shows were held on Radio One, KFM and Central Broadcasting

# 90 percent of information requests are denied by government – Agaba

Last month, the Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda published a report criticizing ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) for their refusal to disclose information upon request from various individuals and civil society organizations (CSOs).

The Observer spoke with Marlon Agaba, the executive director of the Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), to discuss the motivations behind the recently released report.



Marlon Agaba, the executive director of Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda

**Why did you author this report; was there a gap?**

We have been monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption laws in the country. Previously, we assessed the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Act, the Whistleblowers Act, and the Leadership Code Act. What motivated us is the realization that while we have been enacting laws in this country, our primary weakness has been in their implementation. Therefore, we wanted to understand the extent to which these laws have been implemented and identify the loopholes that have hindered their effective enforcement.

**What laws have you assessed?**

We have evaluated the Access to Information Act of 2005 and the Access to Information Regulations of 2011, in addition to other laws, because citizens cannot effectively combat corruption without access to information. Having access to information is crucial if they are to be actively involved in fighting corruption.

**Are there gaps in the laws?**

There are significant gaps and technicalities in the implementation of these laws. For example, the Access to Information

Act mandates the release of information based on a specific form outlined in the regulations, and it requires individuals to state why they need the information. These technicalities have been used as a basis to deny people access to information, leading to a decline in information requests.

Another issue is the role of the information officer, as designated by the Act, which is often assigned to accounting officers. These officers are generally preoccupied with other responsibilities and often delegate the task to subordinates who lack the authority or willingness to release information. As a result, people don't get the information they need. There's also a longstanding culture of secrecy within our public service, dating back to colonial times. This is compounded by laws like the Official Secrets Act of 1964, which require public servants to take oaths not to disclose public information. Such laws hinder the effective implementation of access to information.

Furthermore, public awareness of the law is limited. Many citizens are unaware that they can request information and are entitled to receive it.

Lastly, the costs associated with accessing information are prohibitive. The charge is

Shs 100 per A4 page, making it expensive for ordinary Ugandans to access large volumes of information. The challenges are indeed numerous.

**Who did you engage in government agencies?**

The agencies were interviewed to provide their perspectives, and their comments have been included in the report. While I cannot mention each agency specifically to protect our sources, what I can say is that a staggering 90 percent of information requests are being denied across various agencies. Only 6.5 percent have been successful. This has led to apathy among citizens, who now believe that making a request is futile since they are unlikely to receive the information they seek.

In particular, the Inspectorate of Government has not been forthcoming

with the declarations of wealth that Ugandans have been requesting. This is especially ironic given that the same Inspectorate advocates for citizen involvement in the fight against corruption. How can citizens engage effectively without access to pertinent information? Corruption flourishes in secrecy; without access to information, combating corruption becomes virtually impossible.

**What informs the denial of information requests?**

The culture of secrecy in public service has deep historical roots, dating back to colonial times. This tradition has persisted, even affecting the release of basic information such as work plans and other activities. The issue fundamentally comes down to lack of will to disclose information. If there was genuine willingness to be

transparent, there would be no reason to withhold such information from the public.

**You have released the report, what is your next step?**

We plan to engage with other stakeholders involved in this issue.

We will launch a media campaign encouraging the public to request information and will publish some of our recommendations to ensure they reach the appropriate stakeholders for action. We also plan to hold engagement meetings to explore potential solutions to the challenges we've identified. We recognize that achieving greater transparency is a long-term endeavor, not something that can be accomplished overnight. Our efforts will build on existing initiatives, aiming for a future with much more open disclosure of information.

**What should the government do to promote access to information?**

The government needs to align its actions with the international frameworks it has signed, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes access to information as a fundamental right. Despite having a constitution that protects this right under Article 41, and having enacted the Access to Information Act in 2005 along with regulations in 2011, there are still barriers to accessing information.

The responsibility for releasing information should be delegated to communications officers. The Ministry of ICT has already coordinated the establishment of communications units within ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), and these units should be empowered to release information rather than leaving this task to busy accounting officers. Making information easily accessible on social media and websites would also benefit the public.

The government should address existing weaknesses in the law, ensure that these units are functional, and raise public awareness about the law. By doing so, citizens will be better positioned to utilize the information they obtain.

## Official secrecy fuels corruption – Report

**FROM PAGE 4**

The ongoing lack of compliance with the Act raises questions about the government's commitment to transparency and citizen participation. "The culture of non-disclosure is not a sign of propriety. Often, it's a smokescreen for questionable activities," Sendugwa concluded.

Mumira Ali, the spokesperson for the Inspectorate of Government,

stated that they have not yet received the report in question. "I haven't read the report. I need to consult with other colleagues who were involved at the directorate level, as well as understand the context in which the report was authored. Only then will I be able to respond," she said.

Moses Watasa, the Public Relations manager at the ministry of ICT, emphasized that government

agencies should provide any information that is permissible under the law, unless it falls under non-permissible categories.

"The ministry of ICT is in the process of developing a comprehensive policy that will require government agencies to disseminate information not only to the media but also to the public at large," Watasa stated. "People have a right to understand government

policies, programs, priorities, and projects because everything the government does is on behalf of Ugandans."

He further said that the proposed policy aims to intensify internal sensitization within the government. "Agencies shouldn't only be compelled by law to share information. As the communication arm of the government, our role is to coordinate and ensure

that government agencies are transparent about their activities. Under the new policy, we will lay out the procedures for how agencies should release information."

Watasa also warned of consequences for non-compliance. "We are proposing administrative sanctions for agencies that fail to comply with sharing information with the public," he concluded.

A photo of one of ACCU media appearances published in the Observer, 2023.



www.monitor.co.ug

## Auditor General report 2021/2022

**Corruption.** The report indicates that accounting officers said the issue of ineligible employees was beyond them since the appointment and posting is done by the Education ministry.

BY JOAN SALMON  
jsalmon@ug.nationmedia.com

# Govt loses Shs19 billion in payroll irregularities

The government lost about Shs19b due to payment of salaries to ineligible persons in 129 local governments, the Auditor General report 2021/2022 has revealed.

Reviewing a file of teachers from the Education Service Commission (ESC), the Auditor General report noted that 609 secondary school and tertiary institution employees used forged minutes to access government payroll.

"The individuals had been on the payroll for several years, ranging from 1 to 39 with some even approaching retirement. The payments contravene section (B-a) (1) & (2) of Uganda public service standing orders, 2021 requiring public officers to be appropriately appointed," the report reads in part.

The report also revealed there were irregularities in the recruitment of parish chiefs. For instance, in Butaleja District Local Government, 15 out of the 39 parish chiefs recruited, had forged academic documents, resulting in loss of government funds worth Shs12m.

Mr Marlon Agaba, the executive director of Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), says the issue of ineligible and ghost employees is an age-old problem.

"We have had ghost workers in the army, health sector, as well as ghost pensioners. The issues mentioned in the Auditor General report highlighted a small section of the problem leading to losses. Additionally, these vices are supported by the corrupt environment in the country," he says.

With government salaries and other enumerations forming the biggest part of government expenditures, Mr Xavier Eyo, the country director of Action Aid International Uganda, says it is unfortunate as the government is losing a lot.

"The practice is aided by collusion among different stakeholders. I would say, the Minister of Public Service or Public Service Commission is in the know of how this is happening. Sadly, many government institutions are understaffed, some at less than 50 percent personnel rate hence unable to deliver. The scenario also means poor quality services are delivered and taxpayers are being defrauded," he says.

Speaking about the findings, Dr Denis Mugimba, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) spokesperson, says in 2021, Ms Janet Kataha Museveni, the Minister of Education and Sports commissioned the ESC to conduct a headcount of all government MoES employees.

"The commission completed that exercise around April 2022, and presented their findings. One of these was there were more than 600 ineligible persons accessing that payroll. It is from this investi-



Speaker of Parliament, Anita Among (right), receives the annual audit report from the Auditor General, Mr John Muwanga at Parliament on January 19, 2023. PHOTO: DAVID LUBOWA



"We have an automated electronic document management system containing information about all the teachers and non-teaching staff within the education services. Nonetheless, it is only for those under government secondary schools, tertiary institutions, and primary schools under KCCA."

**Dr Asuman Lukwago, Secretary to the Education**



"We have had ghost workers in the army, health sector, as well as ghost pensioners. The issues mentioned in the Auditor General report highlighted a small section of the problem leading to losses. Additionally, these vices are supported by the corrupt environment in the country."

**Mr Marlon Agaba, executive director, Anti-Corruption Coalition.**

the human resource can detect and weed out documents, we should not be having any illegal person or unlawful person on the payroll," he says.

He adds that there was a proposal to get an online integrated payroll system but it has never done what it was mandated to do.

Mr Gerald Ibanda Rwemulikya, the Ntoroko County Member Of Parliament, who also sits on the Public Accounts Committee for Local Government throws the blame back to MoES as he recounts a recent interaction with the Nakaseke local government officials.

"We were told that when the district officials wrote asking for guidance regarding some teachers who were not in the database, someone from the ministry acknowledged them. Unfortunately, this happens in other districts causing huge losses to the government. That made us to believe there may be some mafias in MoES," he says.

### Effects

With the ESC investigation, Dr Lukwago says many fraudulent cases were weeded out. However, Mr Agaba says it does not make the payroll foolproof as there is a high rate of connivance in these offices.

Dr Rwemulikya says the practice has messed up the recruitment system and students receive poor education.

Mr Julius Mukunda, the executive director of Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) decries the high rate of corruption in Uganda that causes grave losses to the national coffers.

"This is partly due to the delay in cleaning up the payroll of the deceased and retired, which has cost the government a lot of money. That is not forgetting the transferred personnel that may appear twice. There is a need to seal these glaring leakages," he adds.

### Efforts by MoES

Dr Lukwago adds that the minister instructed the CAOs to present the names of those on their payrolls. It was agreed that each district submits the payroll for the respective schools every month.

"That way headteachers would validate their employees as many did not know who was on their payroll. When ESC issues appointment minutes, they will be not only to the MoES but also to the Minister of Local Government whose permanent secretary will circulate them to CAOs and other administrators," Dr Mugimba says.

under government secondary schools, tertiary institutions, and primary schools under KCCA.

"The rest are handled by their respective local government district service commission," he says.

Dr Lukwago adds that they have previously informed the Attorney General that this system, for security reasons, is not interfaced with other systems, such as the Human Capital Development Management System, and the e-recruitment system.

"It is not a web-based system as it stores confidential internal documents relating to teachers at the commission. Therefore, they have the challenge of being unable to confirm the posted teachers."

However, it also means the master documents cannot be accessed for fraudulent activities," he says. Nonetheless, the ESC provides those minutes in a manual form.

### Rotten system?

While there is an ideal way the recruitment and payment system should work, Dr Mugimba says wrong elements get illegal access to the payroll and forge documentation depending on the phase.

"You cannot be appointed unless you reference an ESC minute. So they could forge the minutes and deployment letters," he says.

This raises red flags as civil society advocates see this as another loophole for inputting ineligible employees into the payroll.

According to Dr Mugimba, the government payroll is privy to the human resource department. Therefore, he believes that this is where the issues start. "However, if

**129 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAD PAYMENT IRREGULARITIES**

gation that the Auditor General is filing his report," he says.

Dr Mugimba explains that in case of vacant positions, the need is expressed by the school through the local government, which can be a district, city, or municipality to MoES.

"Thereafter, the ministry compiles the list which is sent to the ESC to advertise. The commission also interviews the selected candidates and sends the list of successful candidates to the ministry for deployment. However, that is assuming everything is working well," he says.

### Beyond control

The report indicates that ac-

counting officers explained the issue of ineligible employees was beyond them since the appointment and posting is done by MoES.

"I observed that the inability by the local governments to validate the eligibility of the posting instructions was due to lack of an automated database in ESC containing minute extracts of all secondary school teachers," the report reads in part.

However, Dr Asuman Lukwago, the secretary to the ESC, says they have an automated electronic document management system containing information about all the teachers and non-teaching staff within the education services.

Nonetheless, it is only for those

A photo of one of ACCU media appearances published in the Observer, 2023.

Service FM at national level and Arua One and Pacis in West Nile; Spice FM and Kabalega FM in Bunyoro; and Eye FM and Apex FM in Busoga reaching over 250,000 people.

**Press Conferences**

Two press conferences were held: One press conference was held to rally people to participate in ACW activities. The press conference acted as a platform to increase awareness amongst citizens and duty bearers in the fight against corruption and building appropriate synergies to fight corruption.

Another press conference was held calling upon government to implement the Access to Information Act as per the Regulations 2011 on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Through the press conference, 32 media houses were engaged to create awareness on the gaps in and recommendations for improvement on citizens’ access to public information.

**Digital Media**

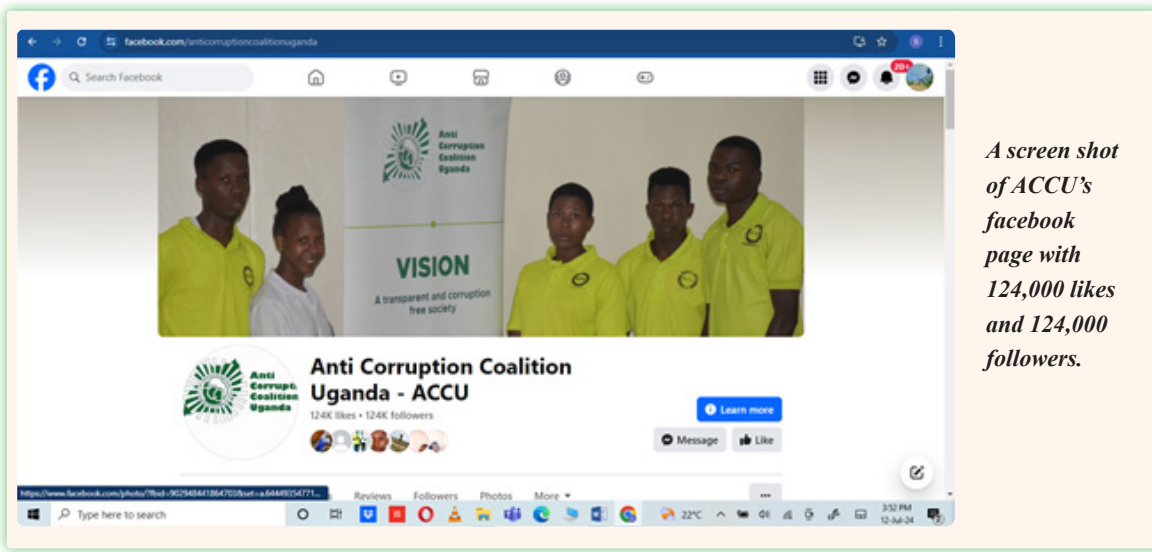
Four sets of digital media engagements were conducted. These engaged mostly the youth in using the online voices against corruption in Uganda and advertising the ACW campaign and Convention. The digital media reached approximately 100,000 people.

**Print Media**

ACCU published one newspaper supplement in the Observer on the limited implementation of the Access to Information Act 2005, including non-responsiveness to information requests, failure to meet legal obligations such as compiling a manual of functions and index of records, and failure to submit annual reports to parliament by government Ministries, Departments and Agencies among others.

**Radio Jingles**

A total of 9 sets of radio jingles (6 sets of radio jingles at regional level and 2 sets at national level) were aired sensitizing citizens to demand for improved social service delivery in sectors like health and education. The jingles were aired on Radio One and Pacis in West Nile; Spice FM and Kabalega FM in Bunyoro; and Eye FM and Apex FM in Busoga; and Central Broadcasting Service at national



*A screen shot of ACCU's facebook page with 124,000 likes and 124,000 followers.*





*A screenshot of a post from ACCU's Facebook page publicizing the Anti Corruption Convention 2023.*

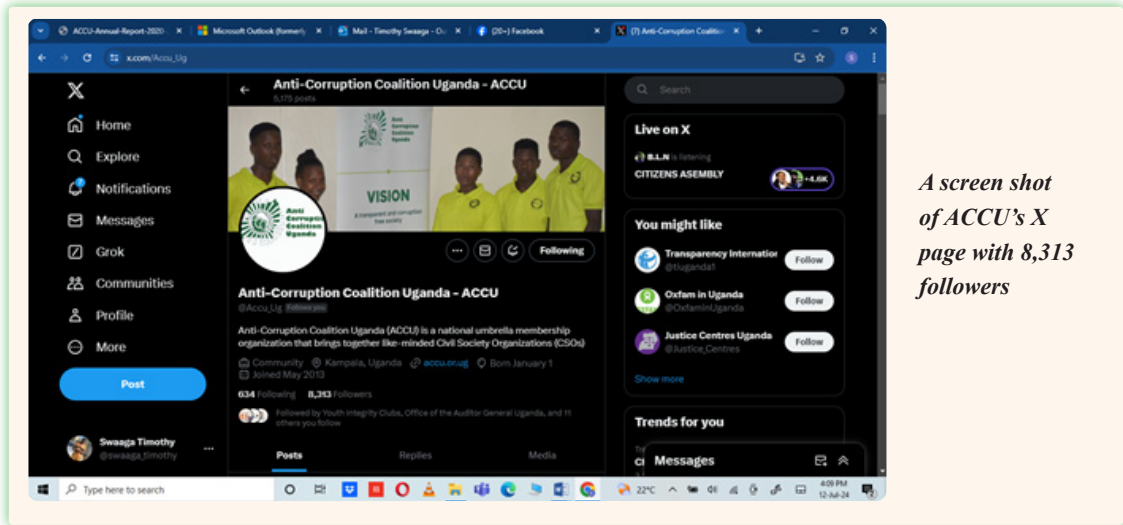


*A screenshot of a post on ACCU's Facebook page on a training of Youth Integrity Club leaders from Iganga, Namutumba and Bugweri on integrity and accountability.*

level from November 13<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. One set of radio jingles was run on Bushenyi FM calling upon communities adjacent to conserved areas to report forestry and wildlife illegalities.



*A screenshot of a post from ACCU's X(twitter) page on digitization of the procurement processes.*



*A screen shot of ACCU's X page with 8,313 followers*

### Media Appearances

ACCU was also invited to participate in 9 TV talk shows and 18 radio talk shows by various media houses to share expert knowledge on accountability-related issues in health, education and emerging accountability issues. As a result of the media engagements, 17 media stories/products were produced, including 3 television, 2 radio, 7 print and online media; and 5 international online media outlets.

### 3.2 SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

#### Social Media Campaigns

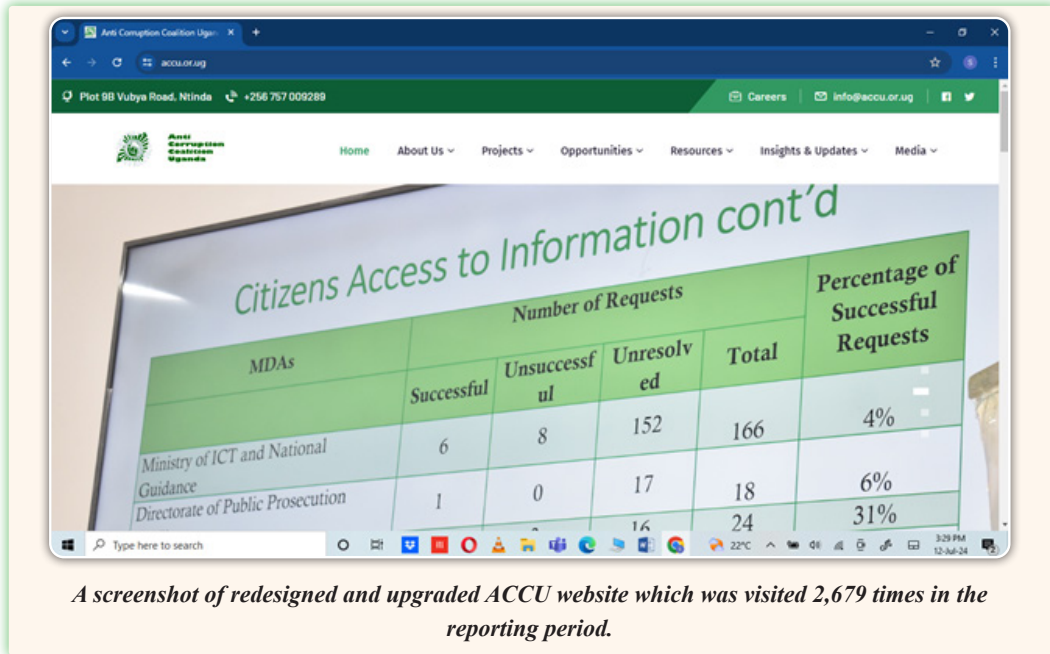
ACCU and her partners used different social media platforms to advocate for transparency and accountability in public service delivery through running campaigns. ACCU conducted two social media campaigns rallying citizens to participate in the fight against



*A banner of the social media campaign that was carried out on the dilapidated classroom structures at Obivu Primary and Nursery School.*

corruption during the ACW and on Access to Information Act 2005 and Regulations 2011. The ACW campaign reached 17,669 people while the Access to Information Act reached 19,785 people.

Facebook



A screenshot of redesigned and upgraded ACCU website which was visited 2,679 times in the reporting period.

ACCU made 98 posts on Facebook and these collectively reached of 101,128 people. Our Facebook posts highlighted accountability issues and general safety issues in regards to the fight against graft.

A screenshot of a post on ACCU’s Facebook page on a training of Youth Integrity Club leaders from Iganga, Namutumba and Bugweri on integrity and accountability.



A photo of a sticker with information on reporting forestry and wildlife illegalities.





*A photo of the simplified and translated Access to Information Act, 2005, and Regulations, 2011.*



*A banner for the 2023 Anti-corruption convention that was held on 7th December 2023 at Golf Course Hotel.*

# CHAPTER FOUR

## ACCU STAFF FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024

### Twitter



**Marlon Agaba**  
Executive Director



**Geoffrey Steven Bazira**  
Head Of Finance &  
Administration



**Kato Emmanuel**  
Monitoring &  
Evaluation Officer



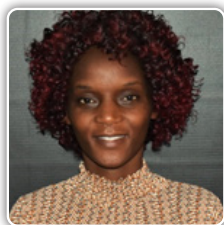
**Alvin Mutebi**  
Research & Advocacy Officer



**Atwijukye Alex**  
Project Officer



**Doreen Nalunkuma**  
Project Officer



**Pamela L. Kamusiime**  
Communication Officer



**Jonathan Kiyuba**  
Finance Officer



**Clare Arinitwe**  
Project Officer



**William Katabazi**  
Driver



**Joshua Mayanja**  
Driver



**Harriet Mirembe**  
Office Assistant



**Daniel Ochola**  
Security Guard

ACCU made several posts for advocacy on Twitter (X) to influence discussions on accountability, transparency and anti-corruption.

**WhatsApp Engagements**

Through the reporting period, some of ACCU’s supported CSOs and Youth Integrity Clubs embraced WhatsApp as an advocacy tool on various accountability issues. For instance, Waka Photography, a youth led social enterprise supported by ACCU in Terego district, West Nile is one of the Youth groups that conducted a WhatsApp campaign on the poor infrastructure at Obivu Primary and Nursery School, in Bileafe sub-county, Terego district.

Through their WhatsApp platform (BTBT Media Terego), the biggest WhatsApp platform in Terego district with over one thousand participants, the duty bearers were able to pay attention to Obivu Primary School and a national media house, NBS TV picked interest and aired the issue which attracted sympathizers who donated learning materials to the school.

**3.3 ACCU WEBSITE**

ACCU made updates and new designs on the ACCU website to meet user needs and it is currently up and running on [www.accu.or.ug](http://www.accu.or.ug). This exercise has contributed to improved organizational visibility and promoted timely communication between ACCU and her members and stakeholders. The website was visited 2,679 during the reporting period.

**3.4 INFORMATION MATERIALS DISSEMINATED**

A total of 2,509 information materials were produced and disseminated. 800 Simplified OAG recommendations, 560 translated copies of the Access to Information Act in languages of Lugbara,

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**JOHN ISABIRYE-BOARD CHAIRPERSON**



John Isabirye holds a Bachelor of Law Degree from Makerere University. He is a practicing advocate of the court of Judicature of Uganda. He is a managing partner at Isabirye and Company Advocates, a director at Large Scale Farmers Association, an associate of the East African Law Society and a legal advisor to a number of entities including Corsu Hospital, Development Research and Training and DEI Minerals International among others.

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**JOHN CHARLES LOUMO - BOARD VICE CHAIRPERSON**



John Charles Loumo is a retired educationist, having served as a teacher, deputy head teacher and head teacher. He also served as an Education Officer, District Inspector of Schools and Principal Education Officer in the Karamoja sub-region. Mr. Loumo holds a Bachelor of Education Degree from Makerere University, Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Educational Studies/Special Educational Needs from University of Southampton, UK, Diploma in Education from Institute of Teacher Education Kyambogo and a Grade III Teachers’ Certificate from Buwalasi Teachers’ College Mbale. He is currently pursuing a Master of Art in Peace and Conflict Studies at Makerere University. Mr. Loumo holds several certificates in fields including; human rights, leadership and local governance. Mr. Loumo is also Board Member of Karamoja Anti-Corruption Coalition and a deacon in the Church of Uganda.



**BRENDA MBABAZI - BOARD SECRETARY**

Brenda Mbabazi holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Information and Communication from Gulu University and also holds a certificate in digital marketing and strategic planning. She serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Nutri Business Association Ltd based in Masindi, Uganda. She is a board member at the Mid-Western Anti-Corruption Coalition. Brenda has in the past worked with Electoral Commission, SINFA Uganda and Uganda Bureau of Statistics.



**Dr. ANGELA NAKAFEERO - BOARD TREASURER**

Dr. Angela Nakafeero is the Commissioner for Gender and Women Affairs at the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development. She holds an advanced diploma in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights from Lund University, a Master of Arts Degree in Women and Gender Studies from Makerere University, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences from Makerere University. Angela has worked before with the Ministry of Education and Sports, Caritas Uganda, Parliament of Uganda, Development Alternatives (DELTA), African Union Commission and Forum for Women in Democracy.



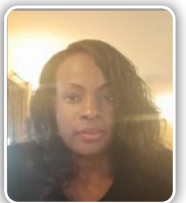
**MUSILEM BAGALALIWO - BOARD MEMBER**

Musilem Bagalaliwo is currently the Head Teacher of Iganga Parents Secondary School. He possesses over 15 years of teaching experience. Musilem holds a Master of Education Degree from the Islamic University in Uganda, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Uganda Christian University Mukono and a Diploma in Education from Kyambogo University. He is an active member and activist in the fight against corruption, and he also serves as the Board Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Coalition of Busoga.



**PETER WANDERA - BOARD MEMBER**

Peter Wandera is currently the Executive Director of Transparency International Uganda. He has worked previously as the Assistant Executive Director for Finance and Administration and later as Acting Executive Director at Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA). Previously, Mr. Wandera worked as Manager Human Resources at Coffee Marketing Board Limited and Labour Officer at Coffee Marketing Board Limited. Mr. Wandera holds a Bachelors of Arts (Hons) in Social Sciences and an MA. In Public Administration and Management both attained from Makerere University Kampala.



**JEAN BAGEYA - BOARD MEMBER**

Jean Bageya holds a Master of Arts Degree in Economic Policy and Planning and a Bachelor of Art in Economics Degree both attained at Makerere University. She currently works as a Senior Planner with the Local Government Finance Commission. Previously, she has worked as a Senior Policy Analyst with Local Government Finance Commission, Economist with Ministry of Education and Sports and Research Assistant with Ministry of Education & Sports. Ms. Bageya has consulted for several organisation including; Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, Forum for Women in Democracy and Uganda Water and Sanitation Network.



# CHAPTER FIVE

## FINANCIALS

### 5.1 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

**Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee with no share capital)**  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2023/2024 Ugx	2022/2023 Ugx
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, Plant and equipment	2	136,624,250	174,390,000
		<b>136,624,250</b>	<b>174,390,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,436,907,691	325,288,978
		<b>1,436,907,691</b>	<b>325,288,978</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,573,531,941</b>	<b>499,678,978</b>
<b>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
Capital fund	4	136,624,250	174,390,000
General funds	5	930,742	930,743
		<b>137,554,992</b>	<b>175,320,743</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable	6	21,258,248	20,245,923
Committed funds	7	1,414,718,701	304,112,312
		<b>1,435,976,949</b>	<b>324,358,235</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>1,573,531,941</b>	<b>499,678,978</b>

The accounting policies and notes to the financial statements on pages 14 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 17 / 09 / 2024 and were signed on their behalf by;

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Executive Director

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Treasurer

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairperson Board of Directors



## 5.2 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda Limited  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee with no share capital)  
Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Note	Budget 2023/2024 Ugx	Actual 2023/2024 Ugx	Actual 2022/2023 Ugx
<b>Grants received (during the year)</b>				
Democratic Governance Facility Grant (DGF)	8 (a)	-	-	120,771,233
Royal Danish Embassy (RDE)- SCEAP	8 (b)	665,194,816	490,388,471	586,358,217
World Wide Fund for Nature-Uganda Country office STEER II	8 (c)	-	-	132,155,120
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	8 (e)	-	-	258,028,633
Strengthening systems and public Accountability -(MSI)	8 (f)	-	-	73,939,633
Anti-Corruption Coalition (Other Income)	8 (g)	-	1,500,000	23,950,000
Civic Engagement for Accountability Project (CEAP)	8 (k)	314,089,600	1,366,949,386	-
Depending Democratic Governance in Forestry and Wildlife sectors (WWF-DDGOV)	8 (l)	111,390,000	114,560,600	-
Strengthening Youth and Civil Society Engagement with Government in Uganda-(UNDEF)	8 (m)	359,649,710	350,863,139	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,422,578,776</b>	<b>2,324,261,596</b>	<b>1,195,202,836</b>
<b>Committed funds brought forward</b>				
Democratic Governance Facility Grant (DGF)	8 (a)	-	-	13,084,588
Royal Danish Embassy (RDE)- (SCEAP)	8 (b)	246,994,371	246,994,371	-
World Wide Fund for Nature-Uganda Country office STEER II	8 (c)	1,407,647	1,407,647	35,174,079
Strengthening Citizen's role in Promoting Transparency and Accountability (SCPTA II).	8 (d)	1,248,757	1,248,757	332,261,630
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	8 (e)	-	14,706,149	-
Strengthening systems and public Accountability -(MSI)	8 (f)	-	14,139,566	27,671,576
Anti-Corruption Coalition (Other Income)	8 (g)	13,447,123	13,447,123	672,100
Deutsche Gessellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	8 (h)	-	-	270,000
Partnership for Transparency fund (PTF-VMTP)	8 (i)	-	-	66,294
Partnership for Transparency fund (PTF-CTIU)	8 (j)	-	-	37,672
		<b>263,097,898</b>	<b>291,943,613</b>	<b>409,237,939</b>
<b>Total funds available for spending</b>		<b>1,685,676,674</b>	<b>2,616,205,209</b>	<b>1,604,440,775</b>

**Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda Limited**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee with no share capital)**  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2024**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (Continued)**

	Note	Budget 2023/2024 Ugx	Actual 2023/2024 Ugx	Actual 2022/2023 Ugx
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Democratic Governance Facility Grant (DGF)	8 (a)	-	-	132,080,221
Royal Danish Embassy (RDE)- SCEAP	8 (b)	665,194,816	737,382,842	339,363,846
World Wide Fund for Nature-Uganda Country office STEER II	8 (c)	-	-	153,752,852
Strengthening Citizen's role in Promoting Transparency and Accountability (SCPTA II).	8 (d)	-	-	332,694,062
National Democratic Institute (NDI)	8 (e)	-	-	243,322,484
Strengthening systems and public Accountability -(MSI)	8 (f)	-	-	87,471,643
Anti-Corruption Coalition (Other Income)	8 (g)	-	44,537,294	11,643,506
Civic Engagement for Accountability Project (CEAP)	8 (k)	314,089,600	113,474,912	-
Depending Democratic Governance in Forestry and Wildlife sectors (WWF-DDGOV)	8 (l)	111,390,000	112,871,864	-
Strengthening Youth and Civil Society Engagement with Government in Uganda (UNDEF)	8 (m)	359,649,710	193,219,596	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,450,324,126</b>	<b><u>1,201,486,508</u></b>	<b><u>1,300,328,614</u></b>
<b>UNDISTRIBUTED FUNDS AT YEAR END (COMMITTED FUNDS)</b>			<b><u>1,414,718,701</u></b>	<b><u>304,112,161</u></b>

The accounting policies and notes to the financial statements on pages 14 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements

# CHAPTER SIX

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### 6.1 DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



**ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY**  
*Kampala*



**Ambasáid na hÉireann**  
Embassy of Ireland



**Sweden**  
**Sverige**



Kingdom of the Netherlands



**6.2 ACCU'S NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERS**



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Plot 9B Vubya Road, Ntinda  
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