

# FRONTLINE

## STORIES

ActionAid Uganda, December 2010



**Fighting corruption**  
**from below**

## ActionAid Uganda against corruption

ActionAid Uganda contributes to civil society efforts to up root Uganda's corruption from a grass root level. Via national and regional anti corruption networks we support civic education, anti corruption campaigns to enhance awareness on corruption practices including Uganda's annual anti corruption week. Through our partners we furthermore monitor and document the level of accountability particular in the health and education sectors, encourage communities to report the corruption practices they are faced with and refer and follow up on such cases with the relevant institutions.

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Siasha Awana, Arua, read her story p19.

Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid





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## Editorial

On a daily basis Ugandans are confronted with the negative effects of rampant corruption; bad roads, substandard buildings, lack of medicine and medical equipment in health centres, absent teachers due to irregularities in payment of salaries, lack of access to safe water, mistrust of both the police and the law enforcement system based on personal experiences of demands for bribes and other unlawful practices by the very individuals who are meant to enforce the law.

According to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index for 2010 Uganda ranks 127 of 178 countries and scores 2,6 points on a scale from zero to 10. While the position at 127 is a step in the right direction compared to 2009 where we ranked 130, a score below 3 indicates widespread and acute levels of corruption. For the last 12 years, Uganda has never scored above 3 out of the available 10 points. This indicates that Uganda has perennially classified itself as one of the most corrupt places in the world. Furthermore, the Global Integrity Report 2009 showed that Uganda out of 114 countries was found to have the largest implementation gap. Uganda scored very high on the scale of 99% as having a very good legal framework but was awarded 45% for having weak implementation record.

Corruption is deeply rooted in our society. It is estimated that Uganda loses Shs. 500 billion annually to corruption according to the 2007 African Peer Review Mechanism report, and the stories about corruption from the community to the national level are plentiful. We all experience or hear about how funds from NAADS initiatives and borehole projects in the villages are swindled. We can't forget high profile scandals such as the Global Fund Scandal in 2005 when Uganda was suspended for mismanaging more than 150 million USD meant for HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria prevention and treatment. Other memorable national

scandals are the misuse of 1,63 USD of the GAVI Fund meant for children's vaccination and the recent CHOGM saga where it is estimated Shs. 500 billions were lost in dubious deals.

In 1999 the Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda, ACCU was formed to fight corruption from the grass root level by bringing together civil society organisations, individuals, religious leaders and media practitioners. More than ten years later the struggle is still ongoing and more pertinent than ever. ActionAid Uganda works in partnership with ACCU to tackle corruption and build a strong voice to effectively engage government on issues of corruption.

Besides ACCU, ActionAid Uganda collaborates directly with five regional anti corruption coalitions and four other civil society organisations that work to fight corruption. Most of these partners are membership organisations. This means that the anti corruption struggle is not limited to a few organisations. It comprises of a widespread spider web of hundreds of national, regional and local organisations engaging thousands of individuals determined to fight corruption from the grass root level up.

Our partners' work is characterised by three main elements: Advocacy and sensitization campaigns on how to spot and curb corruption, dialogue as a forum for communities and local governments to reach agreements on how to handle corruption cases and public expenditure tracking. Each of the anti corruption coalitions has a task force of community monitors who work on a voluntary basis. The monitors have their ears to the ground to track irregularities in public service delivery. The monitors report to the coalitions which then follow up on the reported cases. The coalitions for instance ensure that the




evidence collection is sufficient and follow up with relevant authorities; local authorities, the police, IGG, DPC, Attorney General and in some cases even the IGP.

In the thick of it, fighting corruption from below can be a tedious affair. It is obviously demoralising when grand theft takes place at the national level and little is done to address it.

Nevertheless, many individuals fight corruption at the grass root level. They know and feel the negative implications of corruption and they take it upon themselves to work against this vice. In some cases they keep up the struggle regardless of death threats against them and their families. What keeps them going are the successes and achievements they manage to report despite the challenges.

This publication “Fighting corruption from below” is an acknowledgement of these achievements. It is a collection of stories anchored in the work and experiences of ActionAid Uganda’s anti corruption partners at the forefront of this battle. The stories mostly reflect the positive outcomes of anti corruption work. They are selectively chosen because they illustrate the added value of individuals fighting corruption from the local all the way to the national level despite both the challenges and risks that come with fighting this vice.

  
Charles Businge  
Director,  
ActionAid Uganda



## ActionAid's anti corruptions partners

Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda, ACCU

The Apac Anti Corruption Coalition, TAACC

MYANK Anti Corruption Coalition, MAACO

Mid Western Region Anti Corruption  
Coalition Uganda, MIRAC

Teso Anti Corruption Coalition, TAC

Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition, RAC

Northern Uganda Anti Corruption Coalition,  
NUAC

Development Alternatives, DELTA

International Anti Corruption Theatre  
Movement, IATM

The Coalition of Uganda Private Teachers  
Association, COUPSTA



## Flag bearer for zero corruption

ACCU mobilizes civil society organizations and anyone else fighting corruption.

Anti-Corruption Coalition of Uganda, ACCU was formed as a brainchild of 10 national NGOs in January 1999 to provide a forum through which various actors may enhance their capacities in fighting corruption.

Today, ACCU brings together Civil Society Organizations mostly through the Regional Anti-corruption Networks (RACCs) in the Northern (Lango and Acholi sub regions, Eastern (Teso and Busoga sub regions), Western (Rwenzori and Kigezi sub regions) and Mid Western region (Bunyoro sub region).

ACCU's initiatives are primarily aimed at empowering grassroots communities to effectively engage Local Governments to act against corruption and strengthen good governance.

In collaboration with national partners and networks, ACCU also advocates against corruption at a national level.

Since its inception, ACCU has registered significant successes in fighting corruption by exposing incidents of corruption, advocating for action by government, public sensitization and awareness campaigns,

*With over 150 member organizations and more than 1000 independent budget monitors linked to the network of regional anti corruption coalitions, ACCU has established itself as Uganda's largest anti corruption civil society watch dog.*



and strengthening internal institutional mechanisms to gain public confidence and support.

The efforts of ACCU are implemented in cohorts with different stakeholders/partners such as the media, various religious leaders and groups, individual activists, academicians and relevant Government institutions. Furthermore, ACCU engages in research, advocacy, lobbying and inspires individual activism to expose and ensure that culprits of corruption are punished.

As core activities, ACCU has spearheaded advocacy for anti-corruption policy formulation, research, coalition building, mobilisation and sensitization geared to bring ordinary citizens' to expose, punish and resist corruption in mainstream society.



Photo: Vibeke Quade/ActionAid

*"ACCU advises the ministers and other public officials implicated in the CHOGM report to step aside until they are cleared because they do not deserve to conduct official business on behalf of citizens",*  
**Cissy Kagaba, Executive Director of ACCU, comments on CHOGM scandal of Shs. 500billion to NTV News in May 2010.**



Photo: Vibeke Quade/ActionAid

Anti Corruption Week 2006.

*ACCU has contributed to the enactment of a number of anti-corruption legislations such as the Anti corruption Act 2009, the Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2010, Access to Information Act 2005, and the amendment of legislations such the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act 2003.*

## Uganda's annual Anti Corruption Week

The Anti Corruption Week held in December is a multi-stakeholder annual event that unites various actors such as members of civil society, the Government and the private sector to step up and lobby the Government to intensify its actions against the corrupt. It is a week of activism, advocacy and reflection.

During this annual commemorative week ACCU and its partners take stock of their gains and losses in the fight against corruption and thus re-energize themselves to tackle emerging corruption tendencies in a specific sector.

The Uganda's ACW was modelled on the UN International Anti Corruption Day which is celebrated annually on December 9th. ACCU is the national organizer and national flag bearer of the Anti Corruption Week in Uganda.



## Funding

2005, Netherlands, ADA, Irish Aid, DANIDA, Oxfam GB, HURINET, MS **Shs. 396,251,950**  
 2006, DFID, DANIDA, UNDP **Shs. 410,184,268**  
 2007, SIWI, DANIDA, MS, DFID **Shs. 473,158,760**  
 2008, SIWI, DANIDA, MS, SIDA, USAID **Shs. 1,240,839,315**  
 2009, DANIDA, MS, SIDA, USAID **Shs. 558,968,791**  
 2010, DANIDA, AAIU, SIDA **Shs. 619,835,500**

## Achievements ACCU is particularly proud of

When ACCU was formed in the 90's it was determined to show that anti corruption policies and legislations could curb the rising incidences of corruption within the public service sector.

**2004:** The annual Anti Corruption Week themed: 'Access to Information' mounted pressure on the government for the need to have an immediate law on access to information. As a result the Access to Information Act sponsored by ACCU and other CSOs was presented as a private members Bill. It was adopted and enacted by the government in 2005. ACCU under the Coalition for Freedom of Information (COFI) continued to lobby for the enactment of the Access to Information Regulations. ACCU in conjunction with the Human Rights Network (HURINET) and the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) were invited by the Government to give input to the Access to Information Regulations that are presently before cabinet.

**2006:** As part of the annual Anti Corruption Week, ACCU focused on the

education sector and mainly on Uganda's Universal Primary Education program (UPE). Backed by research, ACCU identified management and policy gaps that affect the administration of the UPE program. A petition to Parliament from a cross section of school going children was developed. This petition was used to develop a private members Bill for Parliament to look into the mismanagement of UPE schools. These processes led to concrete amendments of the Education Act and recommendations to strengthen the Education Standards Agency.

**2008:** ACCU's recommendations and advocacy in the distribution of government free essential medicine resulted in the government adopting the recommendation to label all such medicine as 'Not for Sale' and "UG" for Ugandan Government.

**2009:** Contributed to the Anti-Corruption Bill that became an Act in 2009 and to the Whistle Blowers Protection Bill by facilitating and publishing position papers reflecting CSO's views and contributions

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Photo: LM Agency Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

Tom Opwonya, Coordinator of TAACC, with files of documentation for corruption cases reported to TAACC

## Bail as a private business

By conniving with police, top officials at Apac District Court managed to make millions out of ordinary people's ignorance about bail procedures. The Apac Anti Corruption Coalition raised awareness and collected evidence to nail the officials.

*"By the end of 2008 we began to receive so many complaints from ordinary people who did not understand the fees that they were asked to pay to the court officials, explains Tom Opwonya, the Coordinator of The Apac Anti Corruption Coalition, TAACC.*

TAACC decided to investigate the matter and found out that the fees that people were complaining about were bail money.

Bail is a deposit or pledge to the court to persuade it to release a suspect from jail, on the understanding that the suspect will return for trial. According to the law of Uganda, bail money has to be returned at

the end of the trial, if all court appearances are made, no matter whether the person is found guilty or not guilty of the alleged offence.

In Apac, the bail fees that the people were complaining about were never returned to them, even though many of the cases failed to reach court because they were simple matters like petty theft, assaults or damages which were not even malicious, thus not criminal. The charges for bail were very high. Any small case attracted Shs. 150,000 - 200.000, yet the people never received receipts for such bail money, contrary to the provisions of Uganda's law on bail.

**A trademark** of TAACC is the organization's thorough methods of evidence collection. To prove that something fishy was going on in Apac District Court, TAACC started a sensitization campaign to communicate bail procedures to the public through radio talk shows, radio spot messages, posters and stickers. A song was composed and played on all radio stations to brand the campaign. TAACC then called on everyone who had paid fees to court officials but did not receive official receipts from the court to bring the bail form to TAACC.

*"The response was overwhelming. We had given a limited time period of two weeks for the litigants to hand in the papers, and within these two weeks, we had to assign one person to handle photocopying of the bail forms. We filled two box files with the bail forms received from the community court users, which in one way or the other had critical issues", says Omara Remus Ray, TAACC's Independent Budget Monitor – IBM of Apac sub county.*

A common issue turned out to be lack of receipts for the bail money received by Apac Court Officials and the writing of the words NONE CASH or N/C on the bail forms that is used for receiving the bail money by the court officials, yet the community testified that they paid CASH. Another pattern was the deliberate pushing of cases which would normally never reach court either because they were too small or not even a crime just for the interest of having a suspect pay bail money to Court Officials.



TAACC compiled the evidence of fraud and handed the facts to the Judicial Service Commission and the Inspectorate of Courts, a body that deals with court administration. It turned out that the court officials in Apac had received up to Shs. 30 million unreceipted court bail money from the public. Bail had become a private business for the court officials conniving with the police to make people pay in order to enrich themselves.

*"The top level of Government Officers seems to be the most eager to respond to our work. Maybe because they are ashamed of the behaviour of their middle layers of cadres and the fact that they themselves seem to preside over a system which they do not know what is going on, where they exercise limited control", says Tom Opwonya.*

TAACC began as a committee of representatives from other civil society organisations in 1998. The sole task was to organise the annual Anti - Corruption Week (ACW). From 2001, the impact of the anti corruption week activities slowly began to show and in 2002 the Anti Corruption Week advocacy activities made the LC. 5 Chairman of the District to flee the district to the capital city Kampala, when he could not stand the pressure of people's discontent of his administration. In 2003 TAACC was registered and established a secretariat. 96 community Independent Budget Monitors - IBMs were trained to track and fight corruption mainly in UPE in eight Sub Counties. Since then, the scope of TAACC's work has widened and TAACC has rolled out awareness campaigns and fought corruption in the health, water, justice, law and order sector as well as in the agriculture sector, with emphasis on NAADS, NUSAF and PRDP programmes.

In this case, the Inspector of Court Mr. Wilson Masalu Musene came to Apac to personally look into the matter of the fraud. TAACC made announcements on Radio Apac FM, inviting everyone who



paid outstanding unreceipted court bail money to welcome the Inspector of Court to Apac and to bring along their papers. Reacting to TAACC's move, the Apac Magistrate, Gerald Ssekaggya made counter announcements, threatening the management of Radio Apac with legal action and urging the public to ignore TAACC's announcement, claiming that an Inspector of Court cannot come to Apac District without the Magistrates knowledge.

Nevertheless, more than 1,000 people welcomed the Inspector of Court Wilson Masalu Musene, who initiated a clean up of the staff of Apac District Court. Between Dec. 2009 and February 2010, seven court

officials were affected, among them Grade 1 Magistrate Gerald Ssekaggya who was interdicted, Grade 2 Magistrate Mr. Etot, State Prosecutor Mr. Okongo and Resident State Attorney Mr. Bogere Robert Bwiso. All of them were transferred to different districts. In the shake up, Court Clerk Jimmy Odongo was also transferred.

A new Magistrate, Mr. Godfrey Wubbo Mutenyo took over in February 2010. One of his very first achievements was to make sure bail money is paid in the bank, where everyone is sure to receive a receipt.

### Areas of operation

Apac  
Oyam  
Kole  
Dokolo  
Amolatar  
Lira

## A syndicate of police and court official

I come from Western Uganda and my first husband was William Mugaiga. We are pastoralists and some years back we moved to Masindi district with our six children.

My parents are back in Rwanda, my brothers herd cattle in Lango region, so when William and I split up a few years back, I moved to Apac together with the children. I started my own business; selling milk and got married to another man, Odongo Lujino.



When my first husband William heard that I had got a new man, he came to Apac to claim refund of the bride price from Odongo. He was quite upset and we had to report to the police station. I testified that William and I had separated, and that my father had already compensated William with three herds of cattle. William also testified that he had received the cows from my father, he even apologized.

In my understanding, this should have been the end of the story, but instead the policeman handling our case file said we had to pay him Shs. 200,000, otherwise the case would be a court matter. We refused but he insisted for three weeks. The matter was then taken to court and instead of paying the fee of Shs. 200,000, Odongo and I had to pay Shs. 250,000 each to bail ourselves out. Yet, later on when we reported to court for the third time, they told us that there was no case and we did not have to come again.

It was Odongo who heard the announcement from TAACC, inviting everyone who had paid bail and never received receipt from court to come and get their bail papers verified. We knew all along that the police and court personnel were operating in a syndicate. We are still waiting to get refunded our Shs. 500,000.

**Agnes Nyangoma, 34 yrs, 6 children with William Mugaiga 1 with Odongo Lujino.**

Photo: LM Agency Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

## Funding

Commonwealth Education Fund Secretariat, 2003 - 6: **Shs. 75 million.**

DFID, 2007-10: **Shs. 258 million.**

USAID, Anti Corruption Country Threshold Project, 2009: **Shs. 40 million.**

Oxfam, Active Citizens Empowering, 2008-9: **GB 96 million.**

MS Uganda, on annual basis through Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) around **Shs. 12 – 20 million** for Anti Corruption Week – ACW activities.

Boys swimming in Nile by Masindi Port.

## Major achievements

**2008:** Shed light on cover-up activities of the police, prosecution and court Officials on defilement and other capital offences. Cases could succeed or fail in court depending on the personal interests of individuals managing the case due to corruption, with prosecution abusing Article 120 of the Constitution of Uganda.

**2009:** 10 sub county NAADS Officials from Chawente, Abongomola and Akalo sub counties were arrested because of fraud.

**2009:** 13 Apac official charged with embezzlement, abuse of office, neglect of duty, destruction of evidence and causing financial loss of Shs. 531 million. TAACC unearthed the corruption and presented evidence to the police.

**2009:** Oyam District Acting Police Commander IP Hassan Inziku Asiali was detained and is facing court over allegations of soliciting and receiving a Shs.1 million bribe from one Jackson Omara to release Ambrose Obong, Omara's father who was falsely detained. TAACC set the trap and worked with police to affect the arrest.

**2010:** Exposed corruption in the health sector of Shs. 295,478,118. This led to the arrest of a Senior Accounts Assistant Geoffrey Ocepa. Ocepa is currently remanded in Luzira Prison, Kampala and facing the Anti Corruption Court.

For the last 5 years, TAACC has raised public awareness on corruption and the responsibility to fight the vice.

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Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

Tibakiranda Musa, District  
Police Commander and Mugisha  
Stephen, Officer In-Charge of  
Political and Electoral Crimes,  
..... court

## Evidence is the key to stop theft: Caught red handed at medicine store

Dr. Butele Godfrey knew that his colleges at Kyegegwa Health Centre IV were stealing life saving medicine. To put an end to it he collected the evidence and tipped off the monitors from the Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition.

It was not long after Dr. Butele was employed as the clinical officer at Kyegegwa Health Centre IV in 2008 that he realized something fishy was going on. Patients would come, be examined and leave again with prescriptions for the treatment required for their condition. But the patients would rarely get the medicine at the counter of the clinic. The shelves at the health centre's medical store were often half empty and regardless how sick the patients were they would leave empty-handed.

*It was painful to witness. We could not offer our patients the treatment they required and which they have a right to get for free. It had become the order of the day to*

*refer patients to private clinics to buy the medicine, explains Dr. Butele.*

A few months went by and the In Charge at Kyegegwa Health Centre IV went on leave. Dr. Butele became the acting In Charge.

Dr. Butele is not originally from Kyegegwa but he had willingly moved to the area with his family to take up the job. Now he was increasingly getting disturbed with the traffic of medicine from the health centre to the town's private clinics. An alarming high number of patients were not getting treatment because they could not afford the high prices for the medicine at the private clinics. One day it became too much for Dr. Butele.

*We had just received a consignment of drugs and were quantifying them to make deliveries to other health centres. The boxes were intact when I drove them from the district to Kyegegwa, but the following day when I saw them again in the store, they were open and a lot of the medicine was missing, explains Dr. Butele.*

Now he really wanted to stop the theft and he considered speaking with all the medical staff. He got afraid this approach would only isolate him. Instead he decided to end the vice once and for all with as much publicity as possible.

Dr. Butele had heard about the Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition and the local monitors. He contacted them and explained the situation to them.

*We already knew that medicine was stolen from this health centre, some of our members had reported it but we lacked the evidence to follow it up, recalls Kwebi Julius Jack, Chairperson of the Kyegegwa monitors.*

Dr. Butele provided proof. He had the list of the delivered medicine and could show the medicine store with the newly delivered boxes of medicine ripped open, half empty. Together with another witness he had caught one of his colleagues red handed emptying boxes of medicine into a private bag. He also knew in which private clinic the missing medicine could be found. The monitors immediately tipped off the police. Three individuals were arrested; the Lab Microscopist, the Dentist and the Night Watchman.



Dr. Butele Godfrey

Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

Two years later the case is resolved. On 30th of August 2010 the three accused individuals were charged for breaking into the store and stealing medicine worth Shs 3.9 million. It took more than 25 hearings. During each and every hearing the monitors were present.

*When our monitors attend the hearings it gives us documentation to follow the cases closely. If they see any irregularities we can report it further up in the system, explains Angela Byangwa, Regional Coordinator of RAC.*

While the case was still ongoing Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition did what they could to give the case the publicity Dr. Butele wanted. Several radio talk shows discussed the story to prevent false rumours and to explain the situation as it took place. Forum Theatre was presented at the local market to sensitize the public about corruption in the health sector and to secure public support to the case..

Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition was founded in September 2002 as an interim coalition to fight corruption. In 2005 the coalition was registered with the NGO Board. The main aim is to mobilize people at the grassroots to fight corruption. Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition employees six member of staff and has 450 community monitors who on a volunteer basis track public expenditure in 30 sub counties in 7 districts of Rwenzori. Most of the monitors have been part of the coalition since 2005.

Kyegegwa Health Centre IV case is one of the few cases of theft of medicine which has successfully been resolved in court. Most cases lack evidence.

*“We all know that medicine is stolen at our health centres and sold in private clinics, but it is very hard to prove. Lack of evidence is the reason why we do not see many cases at court level”, explains Anania Tumsiime, Magistrate GII Kyenjojo Magistrate Court*





Photos: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

*Without our 450 grass root monitors we would not have had a single success story. It really inspires me that they still believe in the course and despite harassments and cumbersome work still think it is worth it,*  
**Angela Byangwa, Regional Coordinator of RAC**

## Activities

**Sensitization;** media programme, dialogue meetings, forum theatre, notice boards in communities, school outreach programme, IEC materials

**Capacity building;** training of monitors in the various monitoring tools for evidence based monitoring in education, health and water sectors

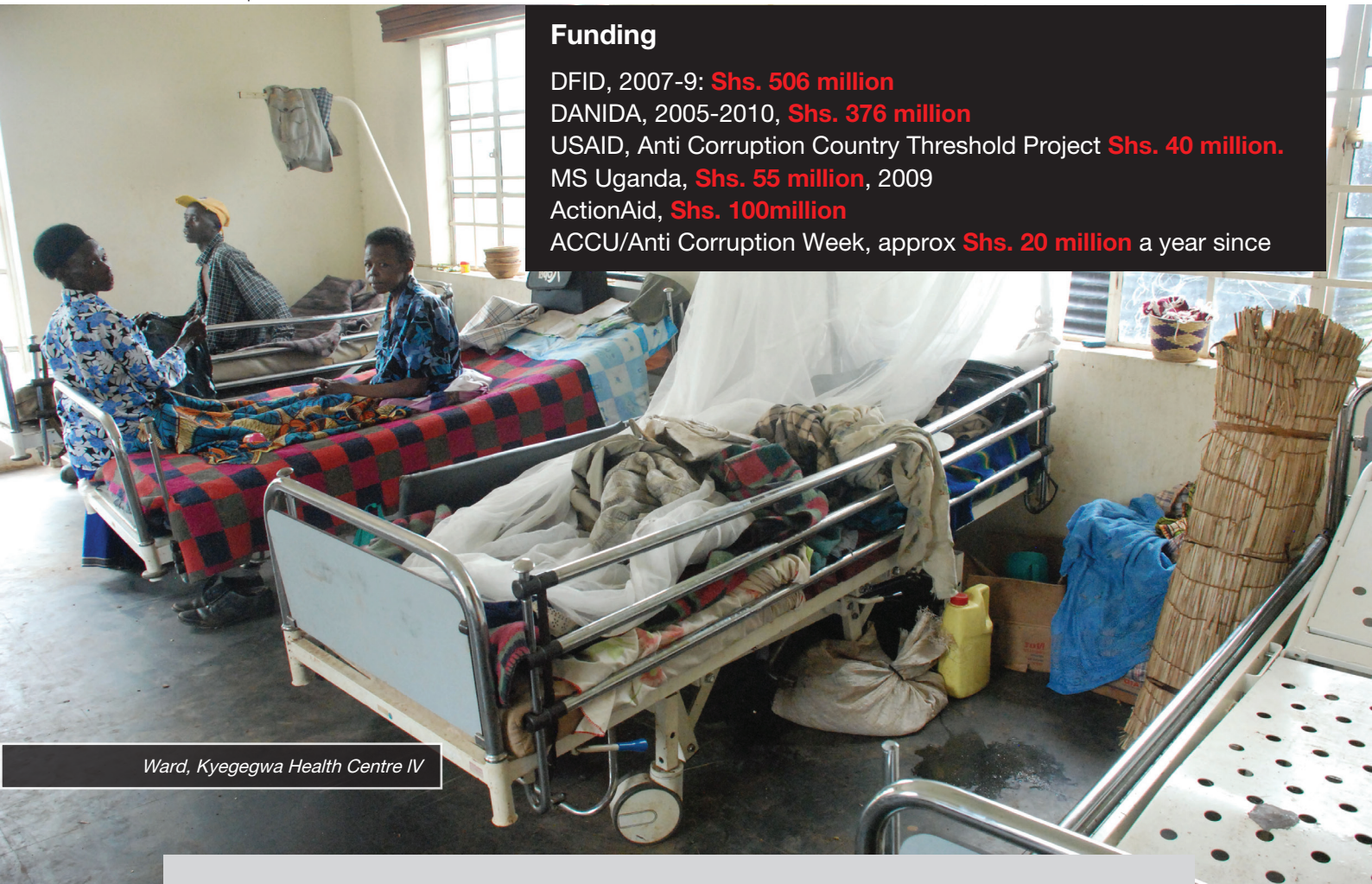
**Tracking and monitoring;** public expenditure tracking, social audits, ear to the ground by monitors, dialogue and interfora meetings, follow up on individual cases

**Networking;** Strengthening advocacy and good relations to IGG, the Police and Judiciary, Local Government, Ministry of Ethics and Integrity, Uganda Law Society, NGO Forum and other relevant NGOs.

**Areas of operation**  
Bundibugyo  
Kasese  
Kyenjojo  
Kabarole  
Kamwenge  
Kyegegwa  
Ntoroko



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid



Ward, Kyegegwa Health Centre IV

## Funding

DFID, 2007-9: **Shs. 506 million**

DANIDA, 2005-2010, **Shs. 376 million**

USAID, Anti Corruption Country Threshold Project **Shs. 40 million.**

MS Uganda, **Shs. 55 million**, 2009

ActionAid, **Shs. 100million**

ACCU/Anti Corruption Week, approx **Shs. 20 million** a year since

## Major achievements

**2009:** Refunding of Shs. 951,450 of Shs. 2,425,92510 to Musandama Primary School by three members of the school management committee. The members had impersonated the owners of the school and received the money on their private accounts. Process is still on to recover the rest of the money.

**2009:** For more than two years Bundibugyo District LCV illegally occupied the hospital staff house while the hospital staff had no where to live. On December 25th 2009 the Chairman finally vacated the house.

**2009:** A fully fledged theatre at Rwesande HCIV in Kasese District remained unutilized for ten years due

to lack of a doctor and other staff. RAC alerted Ministry of Health. The theatre is now fully operational.

**2009:** Contractor abandoned work for 8 years of Shs. 36 million for Mbuga Primary School classrooms and pit latrines funded by African Development Bank. RAC raised the issue with the authorities. In the financial year 2008/9 Shs. 36 million was reallocated to complete the abandoned work.

**2009:** Opening and grading of Kyantambara –Rweiterera Rd for Shs. 5 million was shoddily done. Monitors and RAC wrote complaints to the district engineer and the work was rectified.

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Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

## Water crisis in Arua

More than 30.000 people in Oli River Division in Arua faced a severe water crisis in 2008/9. The regional Anti Corruption Coalition spearheaded a public campaign to make duty bearers live up to their responsibilities and solve the crises.

Oli River Division in Arua town is a slum area, very densely populated with 30.446 people living in huts or small brick houses and with severe latrine and water issues. According to local government statistics the water coverage in Oli is 75.7%, but during the water crisis in 2008/9 the taps would be completely dry during the day.

*Water in small amounts would only be pumped by the National Water Cooperation at night. During the day, the taps were completely dry, recalls David Onen, Coordinator of the regional anti-corruption organisation in West Nile, MACCO.*

The National Water and Sewage Cooperation claimed the water shortage in Oli Division had to do with shortage of fuel for pumping water. The water had to go to the neighbouring sub county and would only reach Oli River sub county when the neighbours turned off their taps at night.

This left the residents in Oli Division with two options: They could either buy water from the water kiosks for Shs. 1000 per jerrycan, a very high price which many residents in Oli Division could hardly afford. Or they could go to the neighboring sub-county to fetch water at the waterpoint about 3km away. The local Government of Oli Division tried to reason with the National

Water and Sewage Cooperation to solve the issue but in vain.

*We spoke with the National Water and Sewage Cooperation but the water situation did not improve. We also appealed to the water kiosks to lower the price to Shs. 500 per jerrycan instead of Shs. 1000 without any positive result, explains Angupale Swadik Alemi, Chairman LC3,*

It was only when West Nile's regional Anti Corruption Coalition MACCO in collaboration with the national umbrella organisation Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda, ACCU spearheaded a public campaign that the crises were solved. In collaboration with local radio stations and national TV and print media the anti corruption partners amplified how women had to sleep at the waterpoints in Oli Division waiting for the taps to be turned

on or get up in the middle of the night to walk long distances to fetch water. The later in the day the women would reach the waterpoints, the longer they would have to wait in line to get their jerrycan filled.

In addition to the media campaign the anti corruption partners arranged public meetings in Arua town to discuss the water crises and find possible solutions together with all involved stakeholders; the community, local government and the National Water and Sewage Cooperations. To make sure that everyone knew what the consequences of the crises were the partners distributed flyers and posters with images of the dry taps and lines of women waiting to fetch water for the families consumptions.

*The campaign was successful because the crises was turned into an issue of public concern. This made it impossible for the local Government, the National Water and Sewage Cooperation to shy away from solving the issue, says David Owen, Coordinator of MACCO*

No one ever got to the bottom of why Oli Division suffered its water crises. But from February 2009 to date the water was back in the taps in Oli River Division.

MYANK- MACCO was formed in February 2008 and officially launched on 22nd April 2008. MYANK - MACCO has 22 member organisations and covers the districts of Moyo, Arua, Yumbe, Adjumani, Maracha, Zombo, Nebbi and Koboko in West Nile. The prime purpose of MACCO is to check corruption, improving local governance and improving service delivery in West Nile. Civic education and checks and balances of the service delivery in the health, education and water sector is also part of MACCO's programme. Another part is anti corruption campaigning and sensitisation. Apart from radio talkshows and public meetings MACCO organise "Anti-Corruption Clinics" where ordinary people can report cases of corruption. 150 volunteers are trained to monitor corruption in the districts the organisation work. MACCO is a non-partisan, non-state and not-for-profit regional CSOs network.

*Since 1999 the Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda, ACCU has organised annual nationwide Anti Corruption Weeks in December to raise awareness about corruption within selected sectors. In 2008 the focus of the Anti Corruption Week was on corruption in the water sector. ACCU had organised a campaign bus heading to different areas of the country to assist regional anti-corruption organisations, including MACCO during the Anti Corruption Week.*



## Siasha Awana recalls how she almost got attacked during the water crises in 2008

“ For about a month there had been no water in Oli River Division of Arua town and everyday I got up before dawn to reach the waterpoint 3km from home before the queues for water become too long. If I arrived by sunrise or later during the day I would find more than 50 or 100 women waiting to get water and I would end up having to wait half of the day to get my jerrycan filled.

Normally I met other women on the way to fetch water, but one morning I was alone. The other older women had told me to be careful. They had explained how we as women had become a target of rape and attack during the water crises because some men took advantage of this situation where we had to fetch water in the middle of the night. I walked very fast. All of a sudden a man jumped out of the bush and grabbed me. I got so scared, I screamed and luckily some other women heard me. They helped me to escape and together with them I ran to the waterpoint ”.

**Siasha Awana, 20 yrs, residents of Oli Division, Arua Town**



*A side effect of the water crises in 2008 was an increase in the numbers of rapes and violence against women. Siasha Awana at the spot where she managed to escape from an attack in December 2008.*



*“I am very pleased with the efforts of the anti corruption coalition to solve the water crises in Oli Division”, says*  
**Angupale Swadik Alemi,**  
**Chairman LC3 Oli Division.**

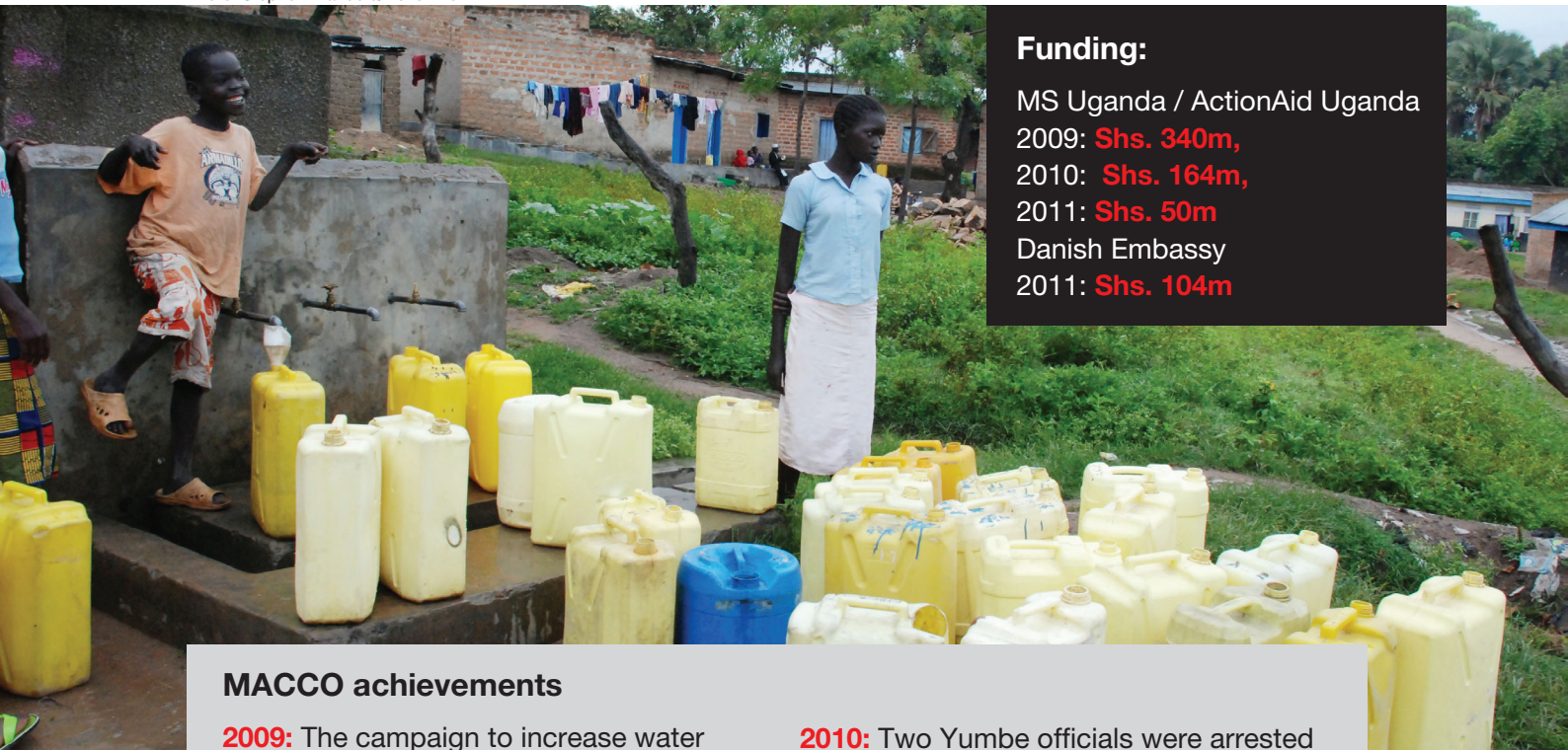


*“We have increased awareness about corruption in West Nile and awakened the hope that something can be done against corruption. We have also raised interest in monitoring and via Women’s Anti-Corruption Forums mobilized women to be part of the fight against corruption.”*  
**Stephen Todoko,**  
**Coordinator of MYANK - MACCO.**

### Police most corrupt

More than eight out of 10 people feel the police force is the most dishonest and corrupt public institution in the country. 88.2 percent and 87.9 percent rates respectively the general police and traffic police as the most corrupt followed by the judiciary 79 percent, Uganda Revenue Authority, URA 77 percent, district service commissions 74 percent, UMEME 73 per cent and Public Pension Service 71 percent  
**The 3rd National Integrity Survey (NIS III), October 2008, Inspector General of Government (IGG)**

Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid



### Funding:

MS Uganda / ActionAid Uganda

2009: **Shs. 340m,**

2010: **Shs. 164m,**

2011: **Shs. 50m**

Danish Embassy

2011: **Shs. 104m**

### MACCO achievements

**2009:** The campaign to increase water coverage and resource allocation in Koboko district reaching out to over 100,000 people. Six month after the campaign was started, 25 new boreholes have been constructed and ten old boreholes rehabilitated at a cost of Shs. 510,000,000. CSOs are now being represented on technical planning committees of Koboko District Local Government.

**2010:** Three District officials of Koboko District Local Government were arrested for embezzlement of Shs. 81 million of teacher's salaries and they were remanded to Luzira Prison and are facing the Anti Corruption Court. (CAO, CFO and Senior Assistant Accountant).

**2010:** The LCIII Chairman Koboko Town Council was arrested and remanded to Luzira Prison by the Anti Corruption Court for abuse of office. His town clerk and the Town Treasurer were also arrested and remanded to Luzira Prison for causing financial loss to the council amounting to 13 million shillings in double purchase of leverage land

**2010:** Two Yumbe officials were arrested on orders of public accounts committee of parliament over failure to account for over Shs. 200m

**2010:** Following Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) at Yumbe Hospital, a new Hospital Administrator and Medical Superintendent were recruited.

**2010:** Four Arua engineers were arrested over alleged shoddy work on a community bridge construction in Aroi sub county for the cost of Shs. 35m funded under Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF).

**2009:** The headmaster of Pubidhi Primary School, Nebbi misused the school funds worth Shs. 700,000. Following his arrest he began to refund the money as recommended by the DEO.

**2010:** 2 NAADS officials from Ofua sub county, Adjumani were arrested due to inflation of prices of goats procured under NAADS.

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Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid



*Myandera Mary and her baby Patience.*

## The night Patience was born

The consequences of corruption can be fatal. Lack of surgical facilities due to shoddy work and a prolonged building period almost killed a mother and child at Kigoroby Health Centre IV.

At the small homestead in Kigoroby, Hoima District a young woman comes out of one of her huts while bending to get through the door opening. Outside she raises herself slowly and waits a bit before she proceeds to another hut. She walks as in pain, and when she bends again to enter the next hut she holds her right hand close to the stomach. When she comes out she has a newborn baby in her arms.

The young woman is Myandera Mary. She is 23 years old. The baby in her arms is 1½ month old. Both of them barely survived the birth.

For two days Myandera Mary felt that it was soon time to give birth but this evening

Myandera Mary knew she could no longer wait. She had to go to the clinic and at around midnight she began the 3km long journey to Kigoroby Health Centre. She arrived a few hours after midnight in great pain. The midwife examined her and told her that it was not yet time, she was not ready to give birth.

Myandera Mary waited and the midwife examined her again and again. She felt very weak and felt all along that she could give birth any minute. She waited for two days. Other mothers came, went into labour and left again with their newborn babies. After two days the midwife told Myandera Mary that she could not help her. She would have to have a caesarean. A theatre was being

constructed at the health centre. It had been under construction for almost a year. A surgeon had not been employed because the theatre was not ready. Myandera Mary would have to go to the nearest referral hospital in Hoima town 23km away.

*"Public transport to Hoima is Shs. 3000. Some mothers can't afford the fare and have to go back home to an unknown destiny. It can become a fatal situation",* **Kigoroby Health Centre's Midwife Nyakuni Tophas says.**

She explains that if the patients cannot afford the transport costs from Kigoroby Health Centre to the referral hospital in Hoima the mother and child may end up dying because they cannot get any medical assistance.

Myandera Mary had money for transport. She got a caesarean at Hoima Referral Hospital and gave birth to a baby girl – four days after she had left home with labour pains.

Myandera Mary thought the little girl had endured a long wait and she decided to

name her Patience. But her agony was not over. The extended labour period caused her uterus to erupt. She and the baby were hospitalized for a month before she could return home.

*"If we had had a theatre at Kigoroby Health Centre, we could have done her caesarean much quicker and prevented the eruption of the uterus",* **Nurse Molly Tumusiime says.**



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

Nurse Molly Tumusiime at maternity ward, Kigoroby Health Centre IV.

It will take at least another six month before the scars have healed and Myandera Mary will be able to move around and work again without any pains.

## MIRAC puts an end to the substandard construction of a theatre at Kigoroby Health Centre III, Hoima District

During the construction of a new theatre in 2009 at Kigoroby Health Centre MIRAC's monitors noted that shoddy work was going on. The floors were cracked, the water drainage was below standards and would clog with the first rainfall, the doors did not fit and could not close properly, and the ceiling had big cracks. In addition, the Health Centre Administration complained that it was not presented with any itemized bills and other official papers. Builders came and work was going on but there was no supervision or quality control. The staff at the Health Centre became worried. They already suffered with a maternity hall and a ward build way below standard.

MIRAC reported the matter to the district officials who recognized that there was a problem with the contractor. The first and the second installments of the contract had been paid, but the nature of the work was substandard. MIRAC initiated a dialogue meeting at the Health Centre with the health management committee, community members, district officials, health workers and patients.

The contractor agreed to redo parts of the building which were substandard. Despite the fact that itemized bills were never presented the theatre was ready to be handed over in November 2010.



*"After the dialogue meeting at Kigoroby Health Centre IV the participants feared that MIRAC would take the matter to the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity (DEI) and that all of the involved officials would have to be interrogated", says MIRAC's coordinator Manishimwe Emilian.*



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

MIRAC was established in September 2008 as a platform through which civil society, communities and individuals can express and address issues of corruption. MIRAC has 26 member-organisations from four districts in the region and employs six members of staff and two volunteers. MIRAC has trained 124 monitors and civic educators and coordinates and implements three main programmes: Deepening democracy, Citizens Manifesto, Anti Corruption Project. MIRAC registers at least 3 new corruption cases per week



MIRAC's objective is to combat corruption and promote the development of a democratically empowered community to help people realize and enjoy their human rights.

During 2009-10 MIRAC has trained 137 health management and 91 school management committee members and 124

MIRAC facilitate dialogue meetings where civic educators, community monitors and members together with the involved stakeholders try to find solutions for poor service delivery and mismanagement of funds.



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

Monitors and civic educators bring up issues of lack of accountability to sub county officials in Buhanka sub county, Hoima.

### Activities

- Anti Corruption week
- District integrity teams
- Women and youth action plans
- Anti corruption clinics
- Corruption monitoring
- Civic education programs
- Interface meetings with religious groups, district leaders
- Training and support of monitors
- Forum theatre
- Capacity trainings for schools and health management committees

### Areas of operation

- Kibaale
- Hoima
- Buliisa
- Masindi



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

## Funding

DANIDA funding via ActionAid Uganda (Deepening Democracy), **Shs. 92,600,000** 2008-11  
 DANIDA funding via NGO Forum (Citizens Manifesto), **Shs. 12,000,000**  
 MS ActionAid funding via ActionAid Uganda Anti Corruption Project, **Shs. 236,000,000** for the period 2008-11

*Women carrying firewood, Hoima district.*

## Examples of achievements

- Since January 2010 MIRAC monitors are present during the distribution of drugs in Kibaale District. MIRAC and the district heads agreed that one way to promote transparency in the health sector was to become open-minded and to share information as to when drugs are available.
- The Directorate of Government initiated a survey based on community complaints to MIRAC about water contamination due to substandard work on the water points in Buliisa and Kibaale district. In 2010 a report by Physio-Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis of Water in Buliisa and Kibaale District was launched which brought further action.
- Two construction companies Mwatumu Construction Company and Royal Enterprises were blacklisted by Hoima district in 2010 due to substandard work on Hoima District Road.
- In 2010 Hoima District Integrity Forum has been revived with support from MIRAC. MIRAC provided financial support to the inauguration.
- Increased awareness on corruption and the ways in which to combat it at community level: In 2010 community members from Kyamukwenda Village in Kigorobyia sub-county called on MIRAC to look into the case of misuse of 25% of funds remittance from the central government.

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Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid



Akileng Garid, 20yrs, S6, Teso College Debate Club.

## Apply the rule of law to stop corruption Youth campaigns against corruption

By supporting debate clubs and radio talk shows for the youth, Teso Anti Corruption Coalition has successfully engaged secondary school students in the campaign against corruption.

It is Wednesday night and about 50 boys from Teso College debate club are gathered outside on the lawn between the classroom buildings. The boys who are aged between 16 and 20 are still in their school uniforms and they are sitting on rows of chairs arranged for a debate. In front of them is a high table where two moderators, a judge and a time keeper are seated. On the side are two other tables each with three boys. These boys are the debaters for the evening and an expression of anxiety and readiness is written on their faces. As the moderator stands up to welcome everyone and announces the debate motion, they turn their full attention to him.

*"Uganda without corruption is possible" is tonight's motion*, the moderator says and explains the ground rules of the debate:

Two teams comprising of three boys will debate the theme. One team will promote the theme and the other team will argue against it. Both teams should try their level best to deliver the most convincing arguments, logically build, backed up by factual information and presented in a sound and clear manner. Each team will be judged on how the members presents the subject, their language and presentation skills, whether they have done their research and how they use facts to back up their arguments and reach a final conclusion.

*Each debater will have seven minutes to present his position. Afterwards the other team will get a chance to comment or ask for further elaborations, **explains the moderator before the debate starts.***

He also points out that tonight's debate is a practice run so there will be no announcements of the winning team.

Eryatu Stephen is the first debater. He is part of the promoter's team. He introduces himself and quickly moves into an argument of why a Uganda without corruption is possible;

*Long gone are the days of the guns. For more than 20 years we have had a stable Government whom we have trusted to secure peace and getting on track with the development of the country, **he starts and continue;***

*Our Government has the will to fight corruption and has built institutions which fight corruption. One example is the Inspectorate General of Government (IGG) which was established way back in 1998 to fight corruption, mismanagement and administrative injustice in public office. Another example is the Anti Corruption Court. We have freedom of speech in Uganda, everyone can say what he or she wants to. The President himself has on several occasions pronounced himself as an anti corruption fighter. He has assured that every individual - high or low - who gets involved in corrupt tendencies should be dealt with according to the law.*

Eryatu Stephen speaks non-stop for seven full minutes before he is stopped by the time keeper.

Immediately hands are raised in the opposing team.

*You are talking about freedom of speech, but what about the phone tapping bill which was passed by parliament recently?, **objects one of the opponents, Erau Stephen;***

*True we have anti graft institutions in place but Uganda as a country has not become less corrupt during the past 20 years, on the contrary corruption is increasing on all levels, **Akileng Garald adds.***

Now it is the opponents turn to argue their position.

**Akileng Garid begins;**

*Uganda without corruption is not possible under the present system. Corruption is in the centre of everything, it is the machine the country runs on. Corruption is one of the main reasons why about a fourth of the population still lives below the poverty line. We will never get rid of corruption as long as the people in power continuously tamper with the Judiciary. Donor money comes into the country but is stolen by our leaders instead of being distributed to the poor. There are very many cases of corruption involving the top leaders of our country, but nobody is being prosecuted. As a people we have lost our integrity and patriotism, we are not proud of being Ugandans. How can we stand with our heads high and say that corruption will be no more when our leaders are greedy? Corruption is a curse to our nation. Unless government does something drastic to apply the rule of law and put proper mechanisms in place we will never get rid of corruption. I say all this for God and my country.*

TAC is a regional antigraft lobby organisation. It has 32 members and provides a platform for civil society organisations in Teso region to be active in the fight against corruption and to promote basic human rights. TAC collaborates with community groups and engage 250 monitors trained to fight corruption. TAC is non-partisan. If any of TAC's staff or monitors become involved in politics they will have to stop working with TAC.



**Areas of operation**

Katakwi  
Amuria  
Soroti  
Kaberaido  
Kumi  
Serere  
Ngora

The debate continues with arguments pro and con being presented while the time keeper taps his pen on the desk making a sharp sound whenever the time is up for each of the debaters. After 45 minutes it is over. The boys continue the debate among themselves in smaller groups while they slowly pack up and remove the chairs.

Teso College Debate Club began in 2007, but was boosted in 2008 and 2009, when Teso Anti Corruption Coalition began to support it with 5 other debate clubs (Ngora High School, Wiggins SSS, Soroti SSS, Kabremaido SSS, and Lwala Girls' SSS) all secondary schools in Teso. The debate clubs have not only been avenues where members learn debating skills, but the clubs have also become fora to discuss governance issues in particular corruption.

At each of the schools, membership for the debate clubs range from 50 to 150 students and all hold club meetings twice a week. At Teso College meetings are scheduled on Wednesday and Friday from 10pm till around midnight. The students receive a motion that they prepare for before the set time so they may later deliberate their arguments during club-time. Three debaters are selected to participate in a weekly radio talk show on the local radio station **Radio Delta** to discuss the motion. The radio programs take place on Saturday from 12-

**Teso youth fights corruption**

*Since 2008 TAC has implemented a school outreach programme involving six secondary schools in Teso with the aim of building awareness among the youth and promoting public activism to fight corruption. The activities include debate clubs, essay writing and radio talk shows featuring senior school students debating integrity and anti corruption.*

1pm and are sponsored and facilitated by TAC with the assistance from ActionAid Uganda. Both the debate clubs and the radio talk shows are very popular.



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

Ms. Integrity, Esther  
Mbulanyina, 14yrs, S4  
Jerassar High School,

**Youth unite to expose corrupt leader**

The youth in Soroti district have united to denounce the evil act of corruption among their leaders.

Students from the Comprehensive Nurses Training School discovered that their principal tutor, Mrs. Gudoi had illegally used their names to embezzle public resources by forging their signatures to sign for money worth over Shs. 27 million. The money was given by the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) for facilitation to carry out research in the health sector.

The students reported the case to TAC which established that the students had received only 3000 shillings from the school. The principal had doctored the documents so it looked as if the students had received Shs. 300,000.

TAC reported the case to the police. The principal tutor was arrested, and the case has been referred to the Anti Corruption Court in Kampala.

*The radio debates have led to an increase in the levels of awareness among the student body and the community at large where the airwaves reach. The fact that the wider community and fellow classmates listen to the debate has pushed students to adequately prepare for the debates, says Rose Betty Aguti, Advocacy and Information Officer, TAC.*

When the radio talkshows began in 2008, Radio Delta provided an hour that was booked by TAC. But because of the popularity of the debates, the show was now extended to two hours, of which TAC only pays airtime for one. The hour is courtesy of the radio station. At the end of each show listeners call in to contribute to the debate and offer their views on the motion discussed on that day. The call in session were originally meant to give a chance to other youth to participate in the debate but many parents and older people call in as well and there is never enough time for all the interested callers. The radio debates have become so popular that youth from other schools such as vocational training institutes have also approached TAC to include them in the programme.

*The aim of the school outreach programme is to improve everyone's civic values and attitudes particularly in regard to corruption among young people and give them a platform through which they can hold their leaders accountable on issues of good governance and service delivery. There is no doubt that this model has worked", says Rose Betty Aguti.*

### Key activities of Teso Anti Corruption Coalition

- Anti corruption campaigns and grass root mobilization
- Public resource monitoring including training and support to 250 community monitors on sub county level
- School outreach programme
- Radio talk shows to popularize antigraft campaigns and to give feedback on specific issues raised by the communities
- Support to the regional women anti corruption fora
- Sub county accountability dialogues
- District Anti Corruption Interagency Forum Meetings for a variety of stakeholders to find solutions
- Training and support to 250 community monitors and groups on sub county level



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

*Talking Compound. Do not cheat in exams and tests is part of COUPSTA's youth campaign for integrity and anti corruption in Schools.*

### Said about corruption

"The traffic police helps me when they ask for a bribe. According to the law they could charge me Shs. 100,000 for speeding but for a bribe of Shs. 2-5,000 they let me go.

**Listener participating in morning show, 93.3 KFM, April 2010**



## Cassava machine sold twice

In 2005 a group of farmers in Mukongoro sub county were trained in using a cassava processing machine. They were very excited about the training in which they learnt how to peel cassava, dry it and make juice, cakes, biscuits, humus etc. Unfortunately, they never saw or heard about the machine again until five years later. It had been supplied to Ngora sub county NAADS office in the neighbouring district of Ngora.

During World Food Day 2009, **NAADS Coordinator Okurut Peter Max** met a 60-year-old woman showcasing her cassava products. He was quite impressed with her products, so when she later came to him with signatories from a number of other farmers and asked him to assist them purchase a cassava machine to further boost their production he was only happy to do so.

A service provider was chosen to supply the machine for Shs. 2.7m. He delivered the machine to the sub county and was paid upon delivery. The machine soon disappeared from the sub county and Ngora sub county community group began hearing rumors about a cassava machine that had been purchased twice.

*I did not know that we were procuring and buying an old machine belonging to the neighbouring sub county, assures the NAADS Coordinator Okurut Peter Max as he explains how the machine was procured.*

On hearing the rumours, Ngora sub county Grassroots Accountability Committee sent out a secret taskforce which found out that the machine was not new, it was an old machine that had



simply been repainted. They also found that the machine originally belonged to the neighbouring sub county and that for a number of years had been in the possession of the 60-year-old woman who had collected signatories in order to get it from NAADS.

The committee reported to the police who confiscated the machine and arrested the person who sold the old cassava processing machine. The police also wanted to arrest the 60-year-old woman for colluding with the service provider and presenting false signatories, but due to her poor health condition they let her go while investigations are still ongoing.



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

*When we heard the rumours about the cassava machine we sent our secret taskforce to find out what was going on, explains Okiror Hellen, Chairperson of Ngora sub county Grassroots Accountability Committee*

Photo: Vibeke Quaade/ActionAid



## Funding

2008 :

DANIDA - Shs. 75.000.000,

MS UGANDA - Shs. 80.000.000,

USAID ACT - Shs. 16.912.000,

ACCU - Shs. 46.126.000

2009 :

DANIDA - Shs. 75.000.000,

MS UGANDA - Shs. 119.000.000,

USAID ACT - Shs. 23.208.000,

ACCU - Shs. 6.000.000,

2010 :

DANIDA - Shs. 75.000.000,

AAIU - Shs. 120.000.000,

ACCU - Shs. 6.000.000

## Achievements in 2010

TACs awareness campaigns on how to detect and curb corruption in NAADS procurement processes lead to blacklisting of RATO Enterprises, a Lira district based firm in Kaberamaido Town Council. The contractor had inflated prices for goats.

LC II Chairperson, Kagware Parish, Kadungulu sub county arrested for illegally using his position to take over land from a widow Pule Lucy.

DPC investigating corruption cases mentioned in TAC's 2010 report for Amuria.

A health workers from Soroti Regional Hospital Mr. Msereko Edward arrested for illegally charging patients seeking medical treatment at a government health unit.

Following training by TAC and DELTA, women in Kaberamaido District demanded cows bought for NUSAF funding from a councillor who had illegally obtained them.

Community sensitization meeting organised by TAC in Kapelebyong SC council led to the dissolution of the Health Unit Management Committee at the Health Unit IV and a decision to train a new committee in management skills

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Photo Stephen Wandera/ActionAid



Awareness is the first step in the fight against corruption. Participants in a dialogue meeting, Buhanka sub county, Hoima

## Women have the passion to fight corruption

Poor women suffer most from corruption but shy away from fighting it. Development Alternatives, DELTA support the anti corruption movement by making women aware of how big a role they can play in fighting the vice.

If there are no drugs at the health centre for a sick child or if the water point is 5km from home because the district engineer colluded with the contractor and swindled the money for a water point, it is women who suffer most. Yet women are the least engaged in fighting corruption.

*“Although women have the passion it takes to fight corruption because they feel the consequences first hand, women are reluctant to engage in anti corruption activities because it is risky business. They think twice about the consequences for their family and their children if they end up in prison, explains Susan Bakesha, Programme Manager, DELTA*

To engage more women in the anti corruption movement DELTA in 2008 embarked on a three year journey to mainstream gender in the programs and processes of ActionAid Uganda’s regional anti corruption coalitions and their member organisations.

Some of the major outcomes are Women’s Anti Corruption Fora, WAF in West Nile and Teso sub-regions and, the recruitment of women community based organisations by MIRAC as members. Together with the three regional anti corruption coalitions (MACCO, TAC and MIRAC)<sup>1</sup>, DELTA has

<sup>1</sup> MACCO stands for MYANK Anticorruption Coalition, TAC stands for Teso Anticorruption Coalition while MIRAC stands for Mid-Western Anticorruption Coalition.



created awareness on the linkage between gender issues and corruption among women representatives from the WAFs.

*“Awareness is the first step before action. When a woman starts to think about how it is her and her children who suffer when there are no drugs to be found in the health centre or when a midwife demands for money, it gives her an incentive to ask for accountability, says Betty Aguti, Information Officer at TAC who has worked hand in hand with DELTA while establishing the Woman Anti Corruption Fora*

DELTA furthermore builds the capacity of the anti corruption coalitions to make the policies, strategic plans and activities gender responsive.

DELTA was legally registered in 2005. DELTA’s vision is a society where men and women equally participate and benefit from all development processes. The mission of DELTA is to promote gender equity for sustainable development. In May 2008 DELTA partnered with MS Uganda to provide technical skills and support as well as spearhead the gender mainstreaming process among the anti corruption coalitions. DELTA continued this work after Jan. 2010 when MS joined ActionAid and the anti corruption programme became part of ActionAid’s Governance Programme. DELTA employs three permanent staff.

Photo: Vibeke Quaade/ActionAid



## Funding

2008 - 9: Respectively **Shs. 60 million** and **Shs. 70 million** from MS Uganda and 2010 **Shs. 70 million** from ActionAid Uganda for gender mainstreaming in programmes of 4 anti corruption coalitions

*Awareness is the first step before action.*

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Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid



David Odongo, Coordinator NUAC shows where building reached when the allocated Shs. 130 million were spend.

## The challenge is prosecutions and rectification

When the construction of the new administrative block of Railway Division in Lira Municipality had reached window level it suddenly stopped.

Since 1998 local government of Railway Division, Lira Municipality had rented office space for its administration. In 2006 the administration decided to get its own space. Government land worth Shs. 130 million was sold to fund a new administration block and in 2007 the work began.

But in early 2008 when the construction had reached window level, it stopped. Reason: out of the Shs. 130 million not a single shilling was left to finalize it.

*It was the contractor who alerted us about the irregularities in the construction of the administrative bloc in Railway Division,* explains William Achol. He is one of NUAC's 36 monitors in Lango sub region and he heads one of NUAC's member organisations Corruption Brakes Crusade

Together with staff from NUAC William Achol began to investigate what was happening in Railway Division. Sure enough the construction had stopped because the contractor was not paid.

*At this point we contacted the police. The case was investigated and everything pointed towards two individuals; the Town Clerk who had been responsible for selling the land and the Treasurer who has the overall responsibility of the finances,* explains David Odongo, Coordinator of NUAC

Police arrested the Treasurer in August 2010 but the Town Clerk managed to flee before the arrest took place. Construction began

## Area of operation

Lango Sub Region:

Lira, Dokolo, Amolatar, Oyam, Kole, Alebtong, Otuke, Apac

Acholi Sub Region:

Gulu, Kitgum, Amuru, Pader, Nwoya, Agago

again but not for the original Shs. 130 million. Instead funds from the Local Government Development Fund, LGDF are used to finalize the project. So far the roof is almost done and if everything goes well the building will be ready in June 2011.

Unlike the case of the missing Shs. 130 million that has not reach the courts yet.

*The challenge is not to spot cases of corruption and refer them to police for investigations. The challenge is prosecutions and rectification, says William Achol, monitor for NUAC.*

He explains that most cases of corruption - whether it is in the sectors of health, education, road or construction - are carefully planned by a syndicate of individuals in the public and private sector who will cover up for each other. He emphasises that the most difficult cases to bring to an end are the cases where individuals from the justice, law and order sector are involved.

*In cases where the police is colluding with the DPC, IGG and maybe staff from the Office of the Attorney General there is no way we as civil society can make a breakthrough, Achol sighs.*

In the meanwhile the case of the misuse of Sh130 million is waiting to be transferred to the Anti Corruption Court in Kampala.

NUAC was established as secretariat in 2003 as an advocacy platform for civil society organisations in Northern Uganda to promote human rights and strengthen the capacity of civil society and communities to demand for accountability. The first few years the secretariat mainly worked on a volunteer basis. 2006 NUAC became a coalition under the guardianship of ACCU and four permanent staff were employed. NUAC works hand in hand with 36 monitors who on a volunteering basis check service delivery in Lango sub-region and collaborate with 56 Mwalimus from Pader, Gulu and Kitgum NGO Forum and FOCEW in Amuru in Acholi-land.

### NUAC membership:

Total membership: 38 members  
Individual annual membership: Shs. 25,000  
Organisational annual membership: Shs. 50,000  
National organisational annual membership: Shs. 100,000

### Activities

- Coordinate civil actors in anti corruption in Northern Uganda
- Build capacity of civil society organizations
- Contribute to post conflict recovery
- Capacity build civil society organizations in human rights, monitoring and reporting of corruption cases.

### Lack of accountability

"We have one of the most transparent systems in the world. The Ugandan media is relatively free, citizens say more or less what they want to, nobody in public office are spared of criticism including the president, we have several anti-graft institution. Our problem is not transparency, our problem is that it is never followed up with accountability".

**Bishop Zac Niringiye,**  
**Chair of the Uganda's National Governing Council of the "African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).**



## Why I am a monitor



“ I am proud to be a monitor and bring shady cases of corruption into bright daylight.

I grow up as a child under Idi Amin. I lived with my parents and siblings in Kampala. My father was in the military. One day he disappeared and my mother had to leave everything we had in Kampala and flee with her children to our village in Lira. I experienced how it is to

live a relatively affluent life and all of a sudden be as poor as most people are in Uganda. It made me appreciate what you go through as a poor family.

For twenty years I was an elected District Councillor in Lira Municipality. I was Chairman of the Education Committee. From first hand experience I know how much fraud is going on in the public sector. As a committee we would go to a public school in the district to witness the start up of the drilling of boreholes. We would all be excited and happy that the pupils soon would have water to drink at break time. Later on information would come to us that as soon as we had left the school the contractor had left as well to drill somewhere else far from the school but close to someone's home; someone who had topped up on the contractor's fee. We were constantly duped deliberately at the expense of poor people who really need public services in order to survive.

When I left the council and retired to farming and retailing I decided to become part of the grass root crusade against corruption. Two years ago I established Corruption Brakes Crusade and I am proud to say that together with NUAC we have brought some shady cases of corruption into bright daylight”.

*William Achol, 56yrs, Obutowelo LC1, Lira Municipality. 14 children in age 2-14yrs. Farming and retail business, former District Councillor.*

### Funding:

2003-6: Mainly membership and good will from members

2006-10: Annually **Shs. 250,000 - 800,000**: Membership fee

2006-10: Annually **Shs. 10 - 12 million** from ACCU to coordinate Anti Corruption Week in Northern Uganda

2008: **Shs. 40 million** from ACCU: Follow up activities for campaign "Corruption in Water Sector".

2010-2011: **Shs. 40million** from MS Uganda via ACCU: Institutional support



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*Aul Japheth Edilu, 14 yrs, S3 Jerassar High School  
during radio talkshow at Radio Veritas, Soroti*



Photo: Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

## Tackling corruption in the education sector

Enhancing ethics and integrity in secondary schools

To promote youth influence of the anti-corruption movement and to create awareness and empower children to advocate against corruption in schools the Coalition of Uganda Private School Teachers Association, COUPSTA started teaching ethics and integrity in primary and secondary schools in Teso, Bunyoro and West Nile region in 2009.

The school ethics and integrity education is specifically targeting enhancement of ethics and integrity values among the youth and pupils and students in the education sector and members of the local community as a wider network.

The prime target groups are members of the school's ethic and integrity clubs, in total approximately 2200 pupils. Among COUPSTA's activities are essay

writing, music dance and drama, poetry, storytelling and writing, theme assembly performance, street and market clean ups, radio programmes, project work and community outreach campaigns. Under the programme, members are to vote Mr. and Miss Integrity in schools annually, with the winners crowned as role models.

COUPSTA was established in 2003. The mission of COUPSTA is to address the moral, professional and equal opportunity needs of all stakeholders in the education sector.

### CORE VALUES

Integrity and Accountability  
Truth and Justice  
Teamwork and Innovation  
Honesty and Focus

### Area of operation

Teso  
Bunyoro  
West Nile



## Achievements

**2010** More than 2200 students were sensitized about corruption and the Millennium Development Goals.

**2010** Mobilized partners on the repeal or revision of the UNEB 1983 Act of Education being singled out for malpractice and cheating in examination

**2009** Handled cases of non-payment of salaries to teachers and reached amicable understandings with employers to pay or be paid the said salary.


**2006** Engaged UNEB Executive Secretary to have a collaborative effort to curb examination malpractice in the

country. In collaboration with AAU focus on having the Act repealed in 2011.

**2006** Participated and contributed to the labour laws that were passed in 2006.

**2006** Contributed to the overall goal of the 2006 Anti Corruption Week and mobilized pupils to write essays whose findings resulted into a petition to the president of Uganda

Together with ACCU, FHRI and FENU contributed to the Education Bill which was passed into Act. (The Education Pre-Primary and Primary Act 2008) which was enacted in August last year.



Assembly at Jerresar High School, Soroti. Patrick Kaboyo, Executive Director, COUPSTA announces the participation of two members of the school's integrity club at talk show about corruption and integrity at Radio Kyoga Veritas, Soroti

## Funding:

COUPSTA's Ethics and Integrity Education project  
MS Uganda 2009 – **Shs.60m**  
ActionAid Uganda 2010 – **Shs.70m**  
ActionAid Uganda 2011 – **Shs.70m**

Photo Stephen Wandera/ActionAid

**Coalition of Uganda Private School Teachers Association (COUPSTA); Kizito Towers, Luwum Street, 3rd Floor Rm 9; P.O.Box 29624, Kampala; Tel: +256 (0)414 577 638/ (0) 772 594 028; Email: [coalitionmovers2003@yahoo.com](mailto:coalitionmovers2003@yahoo.com)**





Kibale was one of the districts IATM reached with the Democracy Caravan during 2009-10

## Electoral corruption kills democracy and development

International Anti Corruption Theatre Movement has been on the road the past two years increasing awareness about corruption

While elections in Uganda the have become regular as an important feature of democratization, these elections have in a number of cases not been peaceful, free and fair.

*Following the last Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections a large number of electoral petitions were lodged in courts of law, many of them point blank examples of electoral corruption, says John Kakaire, Executive Director of International Anti Corruption Theatre Movement, IATM.* He explains that one of the reasons electoral fraud is so widespread is because many voters are uninformed and ignorant on how electoral corruption kills democracy and development.

To raise the awareness on the negative effects of corruption practices related to the electoral process, IATM has spent the past two years 2009 – 2010 on the road with the company's own invention; the Democracy Caravan. IATM's campaign has focused on citizens' roles and responsibilities, what people's power are according to the 1995 constitution and increased public awareness on malpractices such as accepting soap, sugar, fuel, alcohol or money in exchange for votes. In collaboration with local theatre groups IATM has tried to empower voters to honour and value their votes.

*We wanted to propose a long term and more sustainable alternative to the common notion of "Eat Widely and Vote Wisely" and make the voters aware of what they actually*



*lose when they accept candidates' gifts,*  
**explains John Kakaire.**

The prime target groups of IATM were the rural citizens, and being mobile with the Democracy Caravan enabled IATM to reach parishes and small villages and reach audiences at trading centres and local markets. The approach of IATM was Forum Theatre; an efficient way of engaging people and including audiences in discussions about electoral fraud and its consequences. Before IATM went on they road, Fred Musisi, the company had written a play "People's Power" illustrating the implications of electoral fraud.

*When people became participants in the play they realized how they loose authority and that it becomes impossible to demand accountability from a leader if you as a voter have accepted a bribe,* **says Fred Musisi, Director of Productions, IATM.**

In the period of two years the Democracy Caravan covered Masindi, Hoima, Kibaale, Buliisa, Iganga, Bukedea, Nakapiripirit, Koboko, and Apac. On average each district received 20 sessions with not less that 300 people in each session.

IATM was formed in 1997 by Samamu Group of Uganda and MS Ngoma Troupe of Arusha, Tanzania. The Ugandan programme took root in 1999 after a decision that every country develops its own programme. IATM has been a key partner of ACCU, particularly during the Anti Corruption Weeks and of MS Uganda's "Democracy Programme" until 2009. In the period 2008–2010 IATM has trained over 40 smaller forum theatre groups to work hand in hand with the 7 Regional Anti Corruption Coalitions and 10 national and regional NGOs promoting democracy in Wakiso, Masindi, Hoima, Kibaale, Buliisa, Iganga, Bukedea, Nakapiripirit, Koboko, and Apac.

### Area of operation

Masindi  
Hoima  
Kibaale  
Buliisa  
Bukedea  
Nakapiripirit  
Koboko  
Apac  
Wakiso

### Funding:

2008: **Shs. 140,000,000;**  
2009: **Shs. 165,000,000;**  
2010: **Shs. 210,000,000.**

Photo: Paul Meny/AktionAid

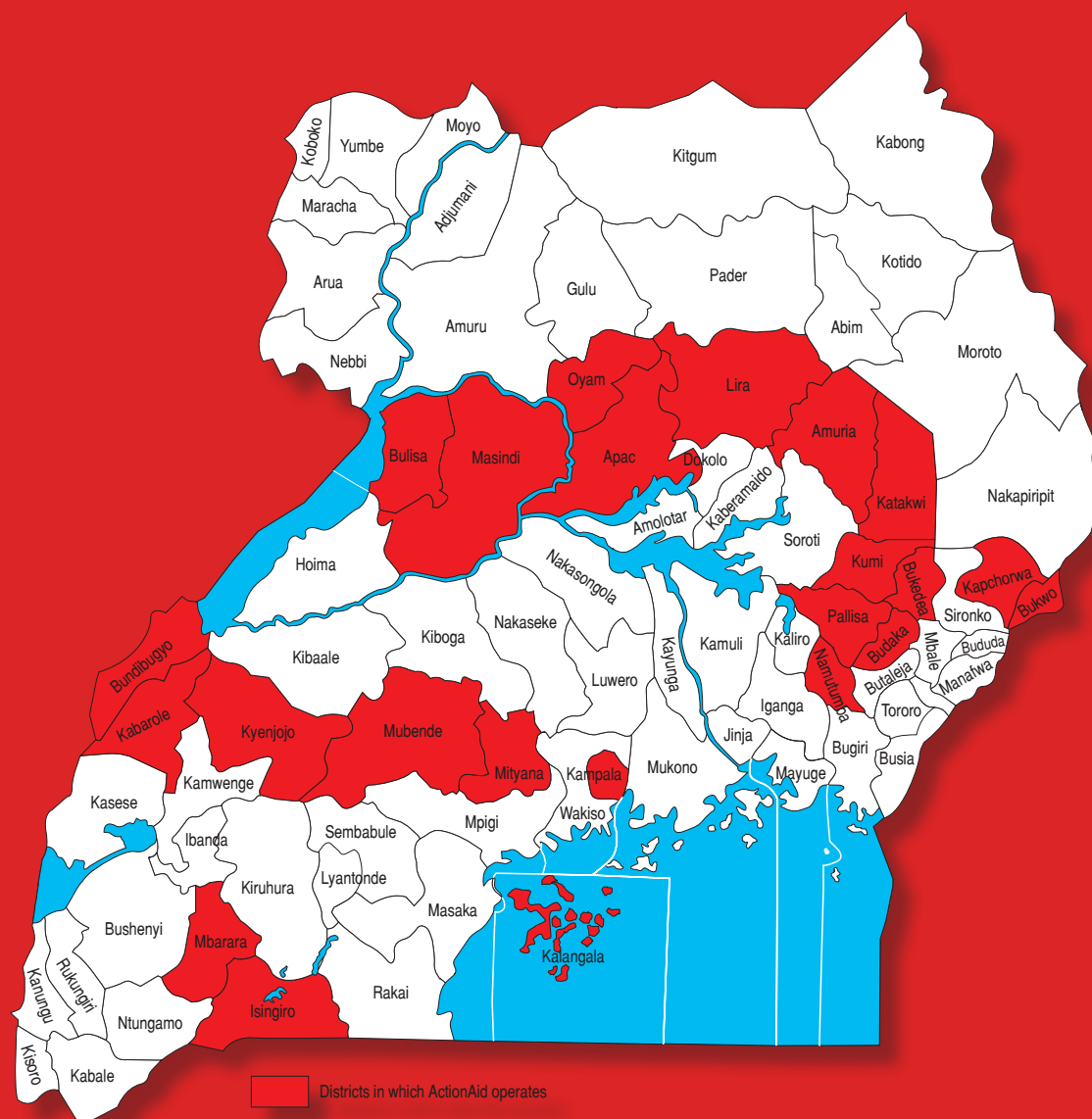


### People's power

The Forum Theatre play "People's power" is written and produced by Fred Musisi, Director of Production, IATM. In 2010 IATM developed the play into a 40 min film. The film was launched at the National Theatre, Kampala, and so far it has been screened on UBC TV.

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