

CIDD-UG NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

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- Enhancing tax compliance and accountability |
- LLG revenue mobilization |
- Strengthening youth voices and participation 2
- Providing platform for PWDs 2
- Improving LG financial management 3
- Tax interface meetings 3
- Stories of change & Gallery 4

Numbers reached

- **Advocacy on Tax compliance and accountability (273 beneficiaries – 164 males 109 females)**
- **Social accountability in Bukedi sub region (323 beneficiaries— 150 females and 173 males)**
- **Barrazas (200 Beneficiaries)**

1. CIDD, AAIU and URA Enhance tax compliance and accountability for improving public service delivery through tax interface meetings in Namutumba

During the quarter CIDD-UG, in collaboration with Action Aid and URA embarked on conducting Tax Payers Interface Meetings in Busoga that have involved **273** participants, **164** males and **109** females including local leaders and taxpayers. The objective is to enhance awareness to increase Local revenue generation and citizen active involvement in demanding transparent revenue mobilization and management. This initiative addresses challenges posed by reduced central government funding to local governments, emphasising self-reliance for better services in Namutumba District. The decentralization process aimed to empower local areas, but Eastern Uganda districts face resource constraints due to limited revenue sources and ineffective management. Rural areas struggle to gather revenue, while urban zones deal with robust sources



Namutumba District and selected sub county leadership, CSO representatives pose for Photo after District level engagement.

marred by poor collection practices and mismanagement. These issues highlight the necessity for efficient revenue mobilization and accountability mechanisms. The collaborative engagement used Tax Payers Interface Meetings, targeting Namutumba District and Busoga sub-region's sub-counties which is currently yielding into improved citizen understanding of tax benefit and their effective participation in demanding accountability for improving service delivery and sustainable local government finances.

2. CIDD and AAU Strengthen revenue mobilization efforts in lower local government in Namutumba District.



Participants during sub county tax interface engagements at Ivukula

During the period under review, CIDD-UG equally conducted a cascade of engagements for local revenue mobilization in the lower Local Governments of Namutumba District. We are aware that adequate revenue mobilization is crucial for local governments to finance their social and economic expenditure obligations. It helps them provide necessary services and infrastructure to their communities. In this case, Namutumba district has struggled with low revenue mobilization efforts. Tax revenue as a percentage of the national GDP is very low, often staying at or below 1 percent. Additionally, the tax collection ratios in the 19 urban and rural lower local governments in Namutumba district are even lower, with some below 0.5%. Taxpayers in the district have attributed this to a loss of trust and confidence in the management and accountability of taxes collected. This lack of confidence has resulted from various factors, such as perceived mismanagement of funds or lack of transparency in tax collection processes. It is from this background that AAU, CIDD, and URA deliberately partnered to enhance local revenue generation and management for improving public services to the underserved communities. The immediate results of this engagement have been a renewed commitment by first leaders to strengthen accountability and secondly for taxpayers to comply. This is expected to improve revenue generation and management in the District.

3. CIDD-UG and AAU Strengthen youth voices, participation and social accountability in Eastern Uganda.

“The community engagement meeting with majority youth fosters transparency and trust between the community and the local government, leading to more accountable governance practices.”

During the quarter, CIDD-UG equally actively working to strengthen youth voices, participation, and social accountability in the Bukedi sub-region. Our approach of empowering young people and ensuring their active involvement in public affairs is crucial for the overall development and progress of any community. The Implementation of social accountability mechanisms (Barazas) in Pallisa and Kibuku district where youth are provided with spaces to actively identify service delivery gaps and provide feedback on effectiveness of public services and government initiatives has revealed immense benefits to young people whose voices had been avoided for long.



Kataike Shakilah a young person from Kabweri in Kibuku boldly raising a question during Baraza by- CIDD-UG

Over 200 grassroots citizens with majority being young people were provided with a structured platform to actively engage with local government leaders. This direct interaction facilitates open dialogue, enabling youth to express their concerns, ideas, and expectations directly to decision-makers at sub county and district level. The community engagement meeting with majority youth and women is not only working to promote transparency by allowing citizens and or majority marginalised groups to hold government officials accountable for their actions, but also fosters transparency and trust between the community and the local government, leading to more accountable governance practices. Through Barazas, we witnessed young Activista movement leaders trained by AAU emerge and ask critical questions that affect them in their communities, gesturing increased young people confidence to challenge the power centers for the status quo.

4. CIDD-UG provides a platform for people with special needs to demand for inclusivity in budget allocation and gender equality.

CIDD-UG in partnership with Action Aid during the third quarter undertook a deliberate move in eastern Uganda to engage and ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities or gender, has a voice in decision-making processes as this is fundamental to building a just and equitable service delivery in communities. To promote inclusivity and advocate for the rights of people with special needs, gender equality, and active citizen participation in governance processes can no longer be underestimated. CIDD-UG in partnership with Action Aid Uganda have continued to engage to ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities or gender, has a voice in decision-making processes which is fundamental to building a just and equitable service delivery in communities. By mobilizing special interest groups and encouraging their participation in community accountability fora, CIDD-UG is creating opportunities for marginalized



Mukungu Dowson standing at the forefront asking a question of Access to PDM by PWDS in Kibuku District

communities, particularly persons with disabilities (PWDs), women, and youth, to actively engage in local government planning and budgeting processes. This approach not only promotes inclusivity but also ensures that the specific needs of these groups are considered in service delivery discussions and accountability measures. Furthermore, the emphasis on collective community advocacy involving women and youth is crucial in identification of service delivery gaps and advocate for integration of their concerns into the local planning and budgeting process while ensuring feedback on accountability. CIDD-UG continues to empower and mobilizing these groups to advocate for their rights and actively participate in governance processes leading to more comprehensive and representative policies and practices. Additionally, the focus on citizen-driven transparency and accountability in public financial management is vital for ensuring that resources are allocated and utilized effectively and transparently, benefiting all members of the community. Respecting human and people's rights is at the core of any inclusive and just society. By advocating for inclusivity in budget allocation and gender equality, CIDD-UG is contributing significantly to the overall well-being and empowerment of the community it serves

5. Improving financial management and utilization of resources for gender responsive service delivery.



Participants during accountability meeting (Baraza) in Kameke S/C in Pallisa District by CIDD-UG

In a bid to promote accountability of those who are duty bound to ensure gender responsive service delivery during the quarter, CIDD-UG

facilitated accountability platforms for citizens to engage with their leaders, the successful organization of 2 grassroots meetings in Pallisa and Kibuku districts, brought together 323. Out of 323 beneficiaries 150

were females and 173 were male citizens and leaders and this demonstrates a proactive approach for addressing community needs. The ability of community members to extract service delivery commitments from leaders is a significant step toward ensuring accountability. It's commendable that specific issues such as the urgent need for opening community roads to facilitate access for expectant mothers in Kabweri community in Kibuku district and addressing the lack of delivery beds for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) was raised during the baraza meeting in Kameke sub county. The action plans developed for follow-up mechanisms is crucial for ensuring that the commitments made by leaders are implemented effectively. Following up on these commitments will not only address immediate concerns like road accessibility and healthcare facilities but will also establish a framework for continued accountability and responsiveness from the leaders. These efforts are vital for creating positive change at the grassroots level and fostering a sense of community engagement and empowerment, all aimed at promoting accountability and gender-responsive service delivery in Bukedi sub region.

“Accountability does not exist where there is no respect for Human Right” police argued to ensure respect for Human and people’s rights in all their dealings.

6. Tax payers’ interface meeting by CIDD-UG provides a platform for Business women to raise their voice to strengthen accountability.

“As a businesswoman, I have experienced harassment from male tax collectors during revenue collection but have not seen tangible improvements in the services provided in return” said One Nakyewe Damali a business woman from Ivukula Sub County, who participated in the tax payers' interface meeting,

The tax payers' interface meetings by CIDD-UG and Action Aid International Uganda offer a significant platform for businesswomen and young people to advocate for accountability in local revenue management. These meetings empower women and young people to address issues such as tax abuse, harassment, and the lack of transparency in revenue handling. A participating businesswoman shared instances of unaccounted taxes, leading to a lack of community benefits. These meetings enabled these women to voice concerns and demand transparency from local authorities. The dialogue fosters a direct link between taxes and improved services, motivating citizens to contribute willingly. The lack of transparency had hindered revenue growth, eroding trust. This initiative rebuilds that trust by emphasizing resource allocation to crucial services. Overall, these meetings empower businesswomen and communities to demand equitable revenue utilization, fostering positive change and trust in local leadership.



Nakyewe Damali, a business woman from Ivukula sub county and a participant in tax payers in interface meeting

“As a businesswoman, I have experienced harassment from male tax collectors during revenue collection but have not seen tangible improvements

7. Stories of change



Tegiike Yidi's one of the participants in tax payers interface organized by CIDD-UG

CIDD-UG Tax interface meeting Shapes young people perspective on community development, taxation, and the power of collective voices.

Meet Tegiike Yidi 28 year old Young business man from Nsinze Sub County in Namutumba District.

Tegiike Yidi's transformation began with his participation in a tax payers' interface organized by CIDD-UG, which shifted his perspective on community development and taxation. Prior to this and like many young people, he had little understanding of the importance of taxes for local growth. The engagement highlighted how taxes fund essential services and projects that benefit the community. Tegiike Yidi recognized the role of local business owners in contributing to community development through taxes and felt they should also participate responsibly. This new found knowledge inspired Tegiike Yidi to start advocating for tax justice and accountability. He realized the power of collective voices, especially among young people, in demanding fairness from

leaders and business owners. Tegiike Yidi's journey from ignorance to empowerment exemplified how structured engagements like CIDD-UG's tax interface meetings can drive positive change. He aimed to inspire others to understand their role in community development and stand up for their rights. Tegiike Yidi's story underscores the potential for transformation when informed and engaged individuals unite. His experience serves as a reminder of the significance of every voice and the collective impact it can have on both local communities and broader society.

GALLERY



Mass community mobilization and organizing to demand for public accountability



Mass community mobilization and organizing to demand for public accountability



Tegiike Yidi's one of the participants in tax payers interface organized by CIDD-UG



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