

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



HON. HON. NINSIIMA RONAH RITA CHAIRPERSON- BOARD OF DIRECTORS I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to my fellow Board Members and the KICK-U secretariat headed by the Executive Director Mr. Kakuru Robert Byamugisha for their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts throughout 2024. Your collective hard work has been instrumental in keeping KICK-U operational, and we are grateful for the numerous achievements that have been made possible because of your commitment. Please know that your efforts and time are truly valued and appreciated.

KICK-U extends its sincerest gratitude to our esteemed partners and collaborators, both state and non-state, for their invaluable contributions throughout 2024. We are particularly thankful for the support and expertise provided by: Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA), Inspectorate of Government (IG), Office of the Auditor General (OAG), Directorate of Ethics and Integrity (DEI) , Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Independent Electoral Commission Uganda (EC) and Local Governments, GIZ-Uganda, National Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), East West Management institute (EWMI), Africa Philanthropy Network (APN), Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Development Network for Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Transparency International Uganda (TIU) Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), National Coalition on Human Rights (NCHU), Defend Defenders (DD), Defenders protection Initiative (DPI), Kampala Analytica, ACFIM, Chapter Four Uganda (CFU), Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC), SEATINI-U, Action Aid International-Uganda (AAI-U) Uganda, Kabale University (KAB) and Kigezi Civil Society Forum (KICSOF)

Your support has been instrumental in helping KICK-U to achieve her Vision, Mission and objectives. We appreciate your tireless support and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we reflect on the year 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the progress we have achieved together in the fight against Corruption and the promotion of good Governance, Accountability and Human Rights. At KICK-U, we remain steadfast in our mission of facilitating Communities to demand for good Governance and Accountability for improved Service delivery in South Western-Uganda. This year, we have deepened our impact across the Kigezi region and beyond, and thanks to the unwavering dedication of members of Staff, Partners, and other boundary stakeholders.

Our commitment to civic empowerment and advocacy in the fight against Corruption has strengthened partnerships, collaboration and building synergies with State and Non-State Actors. Together, we have implemented innovative programs that amplify citizen voices, demand for good Governance, Accountability, and safeguard Human Rights.

I am particularly proud of the strides we have made in empowering grassroots communities to take an active role in Democratic Governance.

None of this would have been possible without the exceptional work of our Staff, the guidance of our Board of Directors, and the invaluable support of our Partners.

I sincerely extend my heartfelt thanks for your dedication that inspires the organization to reach greater heights.

We are reminded that the fight against corruption is a continuous strategic journey that calls for vigilance, innovativeness, and unity in order to have "A corruption free Society."

#### KAKURU BYAMUGISHA ROBERT

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

### LIST OF ACRONYMS

KICK-U: Kick corruption out of Uganda

ED: Executive Director

AGM: Annual General Meeting

B.O.D: Board of Directors KAB: Kabale University

ACCU: Anti-Corruption Coalition

Uganda

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

TI: Transparency International IG: Inspectorate of Government

LG: Local Governments

OAG: Office of the Auditor General PPDA: Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority DPP: Director of Public Prosecution UNDP: United Nations Development Program

UDN: Uganda Debt Network

DEI: Directorate of Ethics and Integrity CAO: Chief Administrative Officer LCV: Chairman-Local Council Five

RDC: Resident District commissioner CSOs: Civil Society Organizations TIU: Transparency International

Uganda

AAIU: Action Aid International Uganda SHACU: Statehouse Anti-Corruption

Unit

IGG: Inspector General of Government

IAF: Inter Agency Forum

**DIPFs: District Integrity Promotion** 

**Forums** 

**RPC:** Regional Police Commander

URSB: Uganda Registration Services

Bureau

FIA: Financial Intelligence Authority

NIRA: National Identification

**Registration Authority** 

MoIA: Ministry of Internal Affairs UHRC: Uganda Human Rights

Commission

EC: Independent Electoral

Commission Uganda

NDI: National Democratic Institute IRI: International Republican Institute

**EWMI: East West Management** 

institute

APN: Africa Philanthropy Network UNNGOF: Uganda National NGO

Forum

DENIVA: Development Network for Indigenous Voluntary Associations

CSBAG: Civil Society Budget

Advocacy Group

NCHU: National Coalition on Human

Rights

DD: Defend Defenders

DPI: Defenders protection Initiative

KA: Kampala Analytica

CFU: Chapter Four Uganda

AFIC: Africa Freedom of Information

Centre,

AAI-U: Action Aid International-

Uganda

KICSOF: Kigezi Civil Society Forum

### **CHAPTER ONE: KICK-U PROFILE**

### 1.1 Organizational Background

Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) is a legally established indigenous NGO that aims at fighting Corruption and the abuse of fundamental Human Rights in Uganda with a specific focus on the south-western, Kigezi Sub-Region.

KICK-U envisions as Corruption free society whose mission is Facilitating Communities to demand for good governance and accountability for improved service delivery.

**Result Areas** 

- 1. Anticorruption, Accountability & Transparency
- 2. Human Rights
- 3. Building Capacity of KICK-U as Organization

KICK-U was founded in 2003 as a Coalition of local CSOs and first registered as CBO in 2006. In 2014 KICK-U was registered as NGO with the Uganda National NGO Board, it renewed its NGO registration in 2016 under the National Bureau for NGOs where it was offered registration and operational certificates. In 2021 KICK-U was offered another operational permit for five (5) years until 2026.

In 2019, KICK-U acquired an advanced Quality Assurance Mechanism (QuAM) certificate.

KICK-U also has Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA), Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), NITA-U, URA and NSSF certificates. At the sub-national level, KICK-U operates in seven Districts of; Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Rukiga, Rubanda, and Ntungamo.

KICK-U ten (10) member organizations and 8 Individual members that constitute its membership. At National level, KICK-U is a member of Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF). Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), and National Coalition on Human Rights (NCHU), Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC), and Development Network for Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA), SEATINI-U, Transparency International, Action Aid International (AAI) Uganda and Kigezi Civil Society Forum (KICSOF).

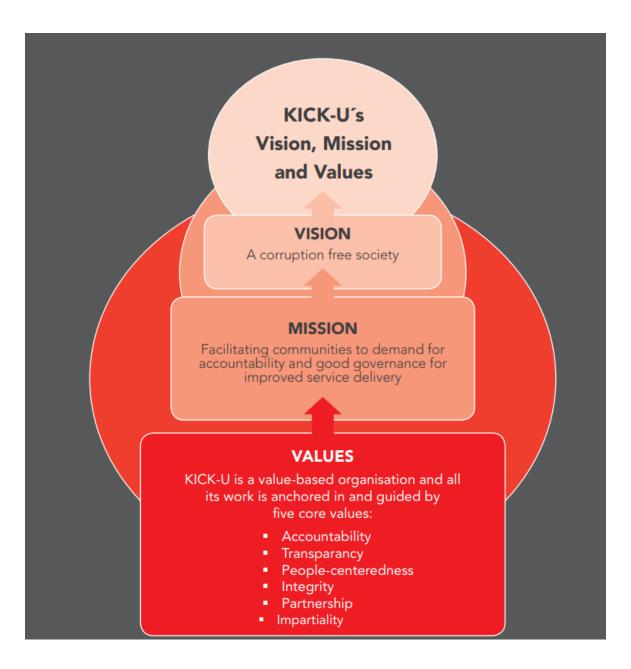
KICK-U collaborates with state-institutions such as Inspectorate of Government (IG), Office of the Auditor General (OAG), Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Directorate of Ethics and Integrity (DEI), State House Anti-Corruption Unit (SHACU) and Local Governments.

KICK-U is one of the strongest CSOs in Kigezi Sub Region and has a good working relationship with state and Non state Actors in promoting good Governance, Accountability and Human Rights for improved service delivery.

KICK-U has been engaged in local government Decision making processes such as planning, budgeting, Execution, Elections, taxation, Justice, Service delivery and contract monitoring in Kigezi Sub Region.

KICK-U has a strong internal governance structure that constitutes of Annual General Assembly (AGM), Board of Directors and secretariat.

KICK-U has Eleven (11) full-time members of staff (Executive Director, Head of Programs, Head of Finance and Administration, Monitoring& Evaluation Officer, 3 Program Officers, and Communication officer, Administrative Officer, Accounts Assistant and Driver.



### **KICK-U OBJECTIVES**



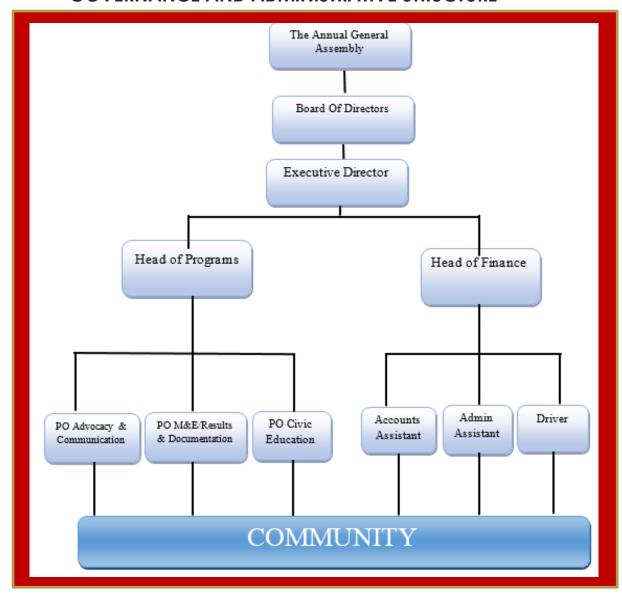
 To fight Corruption, promote Transpanrency and Accountability

 To protect and promote Human Rights

3

 To build Capacity of KICK-U as Organisation

### **GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**



### **KICK-U BOARD**



### **KICK-U STAFF**

### **MEET KICK-U TEAM**





MR. KAKURU ROBERT BYAMUGISHA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MR.BARNABAS NABAASA
HEAD OF PROGRAMS



MR.BRIGHT TWINAMASIKO
HEAD OF FINANCE &
ADMINISTRATION



MS. ANITA NINSIIMA
PROGRAMS OFFICER



MR.GRACIOUS

AKANDWANAHO

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



AINEMBABAZI MEDRINE
ASS. PROGRAMS OFFICER



AINEMBABAZI GILBERT

### CHAPTER TWO: IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

### 2.0 Introduction

In line with our national mandate, KICK-U implemented a range of activities across Uganda, with a focus on the Kigezi subregion. Key activities undertaken during the year included:

### 2.1 Strengthening Citizens in Elections (SCENE) Project



Kick Corruption out of Uganda in partnership with Uganda National NGO Forum with support from USAID implemented a project titled "Strengthening Citizens in Elections (SCENE) during 2024 in Kigezi Region in the Districts of Kabale, Rubanda and Rukiga. Through SCENE activities KICK-U reached to a total of 7,649 participants (2,742 Males represented by 35.8% and 4,907 Females represented by 64.2%). Among the participants 1797 were youth represented by 23.5%.

SCENE activities were implemented in the districts of **Kabale in;** Kyanamira, Sub-

County, Kitumba, Sub- County, Rubaya Sub-County, Kaharo Sub- County, Kamuganguzi and Kabale Municipality (Southern, Northern and Central Division), **Rukiga** in; Kamwezi, Sub- County, Rwamucucu Sub- County, Mparo T/C, Sub- County, Muhanga T/C & Bukinda and in **Rubanda** district in; Muko, Sub- County, Hamurwa, Sub- County, Rubanda T/C, Sub- County, Ahabuhutu T/C -Mugyera, Sub- County, Bubaare T/C, Sub-County Nyamweru & Ahamuhambo T/C.

Among implemented activities under SCENE project/activities included;

Result Area 1: Increased citizens' participation in legal, constitutional and political processes.

During the year various activities were implemented under result Area 1 that included;

 Civic and Voter Education at Parish Levels (2 Barazas per parish, 5 parishes in 3 districts)

### https://x.com/kickuorg/status/180522229760 0499912?lang=en

- Identification of new Topowa Groups
   Villages (36 topowa forums and fireplace conversations)
- Training of Civic Mentors including those from new villages
- Conducting Quarterly Topowa & Ekyooto Fireplace Discussions on key issues

### https://x.com/nabasabarnabas/status/18269 84680509370491





Nabaasa Barnabas @nabasabarnabas

KICK corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) in partnership with Uganda NGO forum scaled and and deepened the SCENE project that aims at engaging citizenry in electoral process. This has created platform form for the Batwa community to express their concerns regarding electoral



5:07 PM · Aug 23, 2024 · 97 Views







### https://x.com/kickuorg/status/183127250842 8894319

#### Post



KICK CORRUPTION OUT OF UGANDA (KICK-U)



We're excited to share that in the July-Sept Quarter, @kickuorg has been engaging citizens through the #SCENEProject, popularizing the 2025/2026 Electoral Commission Roadmap gathering citizens' views on electoral challenges & solutions. So far, we've held 36 meetings in Kigezi



1:06 PM · Sep 4, 2024 · 265 Views

### https://x.com/kickuorg/status/178238289475 0556514

#### **Post**



KICK CORRUPTION OUT OF UGANDA (KICK-U)





Join @kickuorg & @ngoforum supported by @USAID as we host Fireplace & Topowa Forum conversations April-June 2024! we're igniting discussions on #CitizenEngagement in elections, evaluating leaders' performance, sharing views on their roles& ensuring #Accountability.



▲ KAKURU ROBERT BYAMUGISHA and 9 others

3:16 PM · Apr 22, 2024 · 278 Views

- Organizing Radio Talk shows on Political and Constitutional Reforms
- Regional **Dialogues** 2026 General **Elections** Peaceful Transitions.

https://kigezitv.com/news/story/ugandaelectoral-commission-decries-low-voterturnout-ahead-of-2026-elections/



### **Uganda Electoral Commission Decries Low Voter Turnout Ahead of 2026 Elections**









During a stakeholder meeting hosted by Kick Corruption Out of Uganda, the Uganda Electoral Commission expressed concern over the persistently low voter turnout. This meeting took place as part of a dialogue led by Electoral Commission Chairman Justice Simon Byabakama in Kabale District, ahead of the 2026 general elections.

Justice Byabakama was engaging leaders in the Kigezi sub-region, addressing critical issues such as strengthening citizen engagement in elections and the role of the youth in universities and tertiary institutions in the electoral process.

### Result Area 11: Improved accountability and responsiveness of governance institutions.

Under Result area 11 the following activities were implemented and different achievements/results were achieved;

 Interface meetings between duty bearers and citizens on transparency in Elections at district level

https://apearlnews.com/2021/2024/04/05/rw anda-uganda-border-electoral-woesunveiled-cross-mopiration-sparks-concernin-rukiga-district/

- Regional CSO Strategy Session on Elections
- Direct Partner Institutional Strengthening Support including Board meetings

### 2.1 Media Engagements



Radio talk shows on Voice of Kigezi(V.O.K)

KICK-U organized and conducted 8 monthly radio talk shows during 2024 during project implementation period. The radio talk shows aimed at amplifying the citizens key electoral process issues raised during SCENE activities such as fireplace conversations

and topowa forums, Community Barazas at parish level and also to raise awareness among the public on issues regarding electoral processes and as the feedback mechanism where different stakeholders were identified as panelists to handle key topics.



Radio talk shows on Voice of Kigezi(V.O.K)

Through radio talk shows different topics were discussed by panelists and listeners call in for direct feedback and also raised their concerns. Among key stakeholders and panelists engaged during radio talk show included; NIRA officials, UHRC, Security representatives such RDC and DPC and regional police spokes personnel, EC administrators to addle topics related to electoral processes including popularizing the road map and conduct civic and voter education, UBOS officials who talked about the population census, CSOs representatives among others.



Regional Dialogue on 2026 General elections and Peaceful transition

Through SCENE activities implemented during 2024 various results were achieved that included:

- Improved civic competencies among citizenry
- Increased citizens' participation in activities and commitment to participate in electoral processes and hence civic competencies among citizenry in communities where SCENE project has been implemented.
- Through SECNE Project it was noted that there is increased Civic awareness and competence among citizenry about their voters' rights.
- Improved the responsiveness of duty bearers citizenry demands. Citizenry have been empowered through SCENE engagements and they are in position to hold their leaders accountable on issues regarding political and service delivery which has improved duty bearers' responsiveness to citizenry demand
- Through Deepening and widening the scope of topowa forums and fireplace conversation in new

- villages and groups increased coverage hence more masses civic education and getting increased participation their electoral processes witnessed during the yellow book registration and participation in the covered and recently completed EC road map activities.
- Mindset change among citizenry on issues regarding political participation where most citizenry committed never to sale their votes again and to be holding their leaders accountable.
- It has been only through SCENE engagements such as quarterly fireplaces and topowa forum conversations, interface meetings, Barazas, Regional dialogue that citizenry could share their political and nonpolitical views and concerns.



Baraza in Bukoora parish - Kitumba subcounty -Kabale District

Therefore, SECNE activities created platforms for citizenry to raise their views regarding political and democratic issues and other keys issues affecting political and service delivery in communities.

It was reported during fireplace conversation in one of the marginalized groups that, it was only through SENCE platform that Batwa people could share their views and challenges that have always affected their participation in political process as social welfare.



One of the participants in Ecuya Ikamiro - Rubanda district which is occupied by Batwa said that it was their first time to get such a gathering and their concerns be listened to. This was a great achievement being the first project to reach the Batwa to discuss political and democratic issues which strengthened their civic competencies and raised awareness about their civic rights.

KICK-U deepened and scaled up the projects from 18 communities to 36 communities in 2024, to other villages that were considered to have uniqueness that included the Batwa communities in Ecuya Ikamiro parish in Muko subcounty Rubanda with the intention of getting their views as marginalized group, Kamwezi sub county, Kibuga sub-county, Maziba subcounty as the areas bordering Rwanda which also have their uniqueness due to boarder related issues that influence political environment.

Expanding the project to 36 communities with contextual differences was to widen the coverage and popularizing the message to a wider populace which has created civic awareness and empowerment.

The new villages and groups included the boarder communities such as Kamwezi in Rukiga, the Batwa marginalized communities and the women groups and communities in showers of lake Bunyonyi that are considered hard to reach.

### 2.2 Philanthropy For Development (P4d)



Kick Corruption Out of Uganda (KICK-U), in partnership with the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) and in collaboration with the Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA),implemented activities various under P4D project that included fireplace conversations and roundtable discussion (Community Dialogue) focused on the Local Economic Development (LED) Policy and Philanthropy for Development (P4D). These engagements brought together stakeholders from different district majorly Kigezi Subregion in the districts kabale, Rubanda, Kanung, Kisoro, rukiga and Rukungiri.

During this meetings various actions and recommendation were made with the focus on;

- To create awareness on the LED policy and it's potential to attract community buy in towards contributing to its implementation.
- To reignite the regional and national level conversation on the possibility of integrating local philanthropy as an initiative to drive the implementation of the LED policy.
- Consolidate innovative ideas at the sub national level on how to accelerate the LED policy implementation.

## 2.3 Monitoring of Public Contracts and Service Delivery

Kick Corruption out of Uganda in partnership with PPDA with support from GIZ initiated public contract and service delivery in 2022which monitoring was Strengthening and Establishment of District Integrity promotion Forum in kigezi sub region through Contract Mornitoring System, and KICK-U continued to conduct monitoring using CMS during the 2024 in South western Uganda in the Districts of Kabale, Kisoro and Kanungu and Ntungamo. The monitoring of public contracts and service



delivery aimed at enhance accountability systems, reduce incidents of corruption, and improve service delivery and proper utilization of public resources.

KICK -U used PPDA Contract monitoring systems to conduct contract monitoring which was conducted by both staff and Community monitors in different districts.

Various site visits were conducted and data collected where findings/ issues observed were reported to duty bearers/actors in the districts where monitoring was conducted and also data was submitted using the PPDA CMS for actions by duty bearers on how some of those issues can be addressed or electrified. Through monitoring KICK-U was able to establish the status of project implementation in terms of quality and time to find if there was value for money and implementation according to agreements. The monitoring was conducted in districts of kabale, Rubanda, Rukiga, Ntungamo, Kisoro and Kanungu where observation were made and data submitted using PPDA CMS. The monitoring process successful: was however. observations were made including some issues and defects in some of the projects which were reported and got rectified hence achievement of the project.

Due to the successfully and effective monitoring using CMS KICK-U was awarded a certificate of participation in recognition of performance in implementation of PPDA contract monitoring system which was received on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 by PPDA during Grand National CMS Review workshop at PPDA headquarters-Kampala.







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