

# KICK – Kick corruption out of Kigezi

## A Concept Paper On The Origins, Structure And Activities Of KICK February 2007

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### 1 Introduction

There is no doubt that corruption is prevalent in Uganda and, arguably, increasing. KICK's resource library contains many reports on corruption authored by Government and others. Every day the newspapers report on embezzled funds, forged qualifications, shoddy workmanship and the many other facets of corruption.

*'Community members and civil society organisations were of the view that the culmination of political corruption is the perpetuation of poverty.' (TI)*

Civil Society has a role to play in defeating corruption. Anti-corruption measures are there in Uganda's Constitution and legislation but poorly known or understood. People in the village feel disempowered and unable to challenge corrupt activities for fear of losing their jobs, livelihood or worse. As a result they get poor public services, for example roads, schools and healthcare. Yet these are the very people who are in a position to identify and report corrupt activities.

*'The people are disillusioned and have lost hope in government programmes. They have lost interest in trying to hold politicians accountable. As apathy catches up with the local people, politicians have become bolder in misusing public funds' (TI)*

In 2003 Civil Society organised the first National Anti-Corruption Week. This not only sensitised the public but also inspired civil society to develop anti-corruption organisations and networks. KICK, originally SWUAC, was one such network. After a hesitant start KICK focussed on the districts in the old Kigezi region, matching the area covered by the local IGG office (Kabale, Kanungu, Kisoro and Rukungiri).

### 2 VSO Partnership

In 2005 KICK formed a partnership with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas). One aim of VSO, to develop good governance, matched well with KICK's aims. A VSO volunteer was seconded from Accenture, the international consultancy group, to advise on the development of KICK's strategic and operational plan. In full consultation with members plans were written and agreed by the Executive Committee in July 2006.

The partnership with VSO continues; another volunteer joined KICK in September 2006 for two years to advise and assist on implementing the plans. VSO volunteers work with the organisation for sustainable development. Kick has received a computer, the web site with hosting and, most importantly, the technical skills to update the site information.

### 3 KICK basics

KICK is an enabling organisation. It believes that corruption can best be tackled by people working together, networks and partnerships are fundamental to the success of our work

KICK is a network of networks. Its members are the Civil Society fora in each of the four districts. In this way KICK can reach deep into the villages in what is otherwise a very difficult area for communications. KICK's plans include 'trickle training' – KICK train the district

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representatives who then train sub-county representatives who sensitise in the villages. In the same way feed back on corruption issues can be fed back from grassroots to KICK staff.

KICK's work is based on partnerships. Donor partners include VSO, ACCU and Danida; programme implementation partners include ACCU, TI, IATM; anti-corruption partners include IGG, local elected leaders, council officials. Although KICK is a new organisation its staff are skilled and experienced, personal profiles are in the appendix.

### 4 KICK's Programmes

KICK has identified three main programme areas:-

1. Research on current perceptions of corruption in Kigezi, in partnership with TI, to enable follow up research on the effectiveness of the programmes
2. Publicity and sensitisation to raise awareness of the issues and the rights and responsibilities of the general public in identifying, monitoring and reporting corrupt practices, in partnership with IATM
3. Poverty monitoring to measure the changes in access to services and in service delivery, in partnership with ACCU/UDN

*'The low knowledge of political corruption might be due to absence of a network mechanism among CSOs of fighting corruption and low level of publicity and activities that create impact.'*  
(TI)

In order to deliver these programmes efficiently, transparently and with full accountability KICK will need to develop and document sound office practices including financial policy and human resources. There is also a need to develop standard practices for working with our members and for monitoring and evaluating at all levels.

### 5 KICK's recent activities

Kick is an active organisation, measuring its achievements in terms of results. The operational plan includes developing techniques for effective monitoring, evaluating and reporting of activities. KICK's activities since September 06 include:-

#### 1. Anti-corruption week 2006

KICK used the preparation from their operational plan when it met with ACCU to discuss ACW activities. KICK's proposal was accepted and funded (10m Ush). KICK worked with members to co-ordinate events in districts and a grand parade in Kisoro. The events were well attended by local dignitaries and received much publicity including radio and television. KICK co-ordinated reports and accountability from the districts to provide full accountability to ACCU. KICK learned some lessons for future events, eg need for templates and a standard approach to facilitate reports and accountability.

*'KICK's biggest achievement has been its ability to reach many corners of its four districts. A rigorous planning process and extensive travels by the secretariat ensured a harmonised approach while at the same time local member organisations supplemented the activities with their own innovations at grass roots level'* (ACCU)

#### 2. Identifying instances of corruption

A number of issues have been brought to KICK's attention. For example,

- a poorly constructed road in Kabale. KICK helped the community draft and publicise their complaints. The matter is being investigated by the authorities; the contractor has put right much of the work; other communities have been encouraged to make similar complaints
- a CAO allegedly transferred due to political pressure because he was strong on anti-corruption. KICK will review the situation

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- an orphanage where donations from abroad are allegedly being misappropriated. KICK continues to investigate

### 3. Developing a web site - [www.ugandakick.net](http://www.ugandakick.net)

KICK believes in transparency and accountability. KICK web site provides easily accessible information on all aspects of KICK and its work, including constitution, strategic plan and operational plan. The site will be regularly updated with news from KICK secretariat, members, activities and achievements.

## 6 The Way Forward

KICK believes it can be effective in activities and raising awareness to reduce corruption in Kigezi. This is expected to be good value for money albeit difficult to quantify at this stage. Each shilling which is not 'eaten', each contract which goes to an honest supplier, each job which goes to the best qualified applicant, contributes to service provision and poverty reduction.

The funding profile for the first operational year, as proposed, is as follows:

Source	Amount proposed
Membership contribution	200,000 Ush
VSO (in kind)	40,000,000 Ush
<b>Partner donor(s)</b>	<b>115,075,500 Ush</b>
Other parties	In kind

KICK is looking for donors who will support its activities and programmes, professionally, morally and financially

ACCU have donated 10,000,000/= for Anti-corruption week activities  
Danida have promised KICK 30,000,000/= for the current year and 20,000,000/= next year

KICK is seeking a further **75,000,000/=** to meet its programme for one year plus some additional costs towards further developing its office and systems.

KICK would welcome long term partners from the donor sector.

*Quotes from 'Transparency International Report on Political Corruption (June 2005)' and ACCU report on ACW 2006 (unpublished)*

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## Appendix A – Personal profiles

Caleb Rwakatungu – Head of Secretariat – 0772 430042

*'I am Mukiga. I have a BSc in Agriculture (1974). I worked as a manager initially at the Ministry of Agriculture, then in the tea industry and finally as a consultant. Since retirement I have worked in the NGO sector using my extensive management experience to co-ordinate and guide several CSOs, for example Kabale Civil Society Forum and FODRHA. I have also developed advanced computer skills.'*

Warren Ankwaso – Co-ordinator - 0782 446048

*'I am Mukiga. I have a BA in Tourism Management from Makerere University. I lecture in tourism at Rukungiri Institute of Management and provide consultancy services on tourism to agencies in the Kabale area. I know Kigezi well and have a wide network of contacts throughout the region. I look forward to being able to spend more time implementing KICK's anti-corruption programmes.'*

Liz Willoughby – VSO Volunteer – 0782 804507

*'I'm from London, UK. I have a BA in Social Sciences. I've worked in the voluntary sector in the UK for about 20 years much of the latter years in a management role and finally as a consultant. My experience covers project set up and management, office procedures and policies, accountability and finance, monitoring and evaluation, report writing and funding proposals. My experience in Uganda includes IT training for disabled young people and institutional development for another NGO.'*

## Appendix B – Abbreviations

ACCU	Anti-corruption Coalition Uganda
ACW	Anti-corruption Week
CAO	Chief Administration Officer
Danida	Danish International Development Agency
IATM	International Anti-corruption Theatre Movement
IGG	Inspector General of Government
KICK	Kick Corruption out of Kigezi
TI	Transparency International
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas