



Project Report: Governance Dialogue-Ankole Sub-Region

November 21, 2024, Mbarara City, Western Uganda

Submitted to: Civic Legacy Foundation

Implemented by: Citizens' Concern Africa (CICOA)

January 2025.

Introduction:

The workshop aimed to enhance dialogue between civil society actors and authorities to improve civil service and human rights practices in the Ankole sub-region. It served as a platform for networking, sharing experiences, raising stakeholder cooperation, and promoting democratic governance.

Executive Summary:

The high-level Governance Dialogue, held on November 21, 2023, at (venue), was a resounding success. It featured diverse stakeholders, including state actors, media representatives, civil society organisations, and local government officials. This report summarises the event's objectives, proceedings, outcomes, and future implications for collaboration and support within the Ankole sub-region.

Objectives:

DIALOGUE ON CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE IN ANKOLE SUB-REGION, UGANDA NOVEMBER 2024



**JOIN US IN SHAPING A VIBRANT
AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY!**



Attendance:

- 1) Over 50 participants from various sectors attended the meeting, which was comprised of State Actors, namely, the Regional Commissioner for RDCs in Western Region, Col. James Mwesigye, five district Resident District Commissioners (Rwampara, Mbarara District, Mbarara City, and Bushenyi District), and five District LC V C Chairpersons (Kazo, Mbarara, Sheema, Rwampara, Ibanda).
- 2) Uganda Peoples Defence Forces and Uganda Police Force Regional Spokespersons and Political Parties Representatives (NUP, NRM, DP&UPC)
- 3) Media: Sky TV, Radio West and TV West, Crooze FM & Crooze TV, New Vision and NTV
- 4) Civil Society Organizations: [Action Alliance, WACSO, KADI, MANG, ECO Equity, MICWDD, HPFFU, YCED, CIVIC LEGACY, NCHRD-U, SOWIPA, UHRC]

Dialogue Proceedings:

- 1) Opening Ceremony: The dialogue started at 9:00 am with opening and welcoming remarks from the Executive Director of CICOA, Andrew Mafundo. He welcomed participants and thanked them for honouring the invitation. He set the expectations for respectful, nonpartisan engagement among participants and encouraged them to express their opinions. His remarks laid the foundation for open dialogue.

Mr. Robert Kirenga, Executive Director of NCHRD-U, delivered a keynote address that emphasised the critical importance of citizen engagement and its role in enhancing inclusive governance. His insights sparked discussions among attendees regarding the current state of governance and the need for active citizen participation. At the same time, Mr Malcom Mpamizo, Chief Steward of the Civic Legacy Foundation, emphasised the importance of collaboration in advancing democratic governance initiatives within the region and the entire country.

- 2) Panel Discussions composition: Comprehensive discussions of a diverse panel consisting of five speakers: Imam Mugisha (Team Leader at Youth Concern on Environment and Development Uganda), Counsel Allan Nsasire, a notable lawyer, Hon. Jeninah Kyomuhendo, the Youth Councillor Mbarara City, and Muhangi Herbert—RDC Isingiro District.
- 3) Interactive Sessions: Moderated by CICOA's Regional Coordinator, John Turinawe, the sessions encouraged participants to share their experiences and challenges in advocacy and governance within their specific regions. The panel highlighted some of the prevalent governance challenges, such as corruption and poor accountability, poverty and inequality, especially gender inequality, youth unemployment, land grabbing, and bad leadership that hinders citizens' voices.

The sessions successfully engaged diverse stakeholders, encouraging cooperation and mutual support. We resolved to create a framework for continuous dialogue and collaboration through the HRDs and State Actors WhatsApp group. The feedback sessions enhanced awareness of governance issues and human rights in the Ankole sub-region. Participants collectively committed to upholding human rights and promoting good governance, as reflected in the signed pledge.

- 4) Closing Remarks by Regional Director-RDCs Office of the President: The event successfully concluded with a call to action by the Regional Director-RDCs office of the president, Lt Col. James Mwesigye, who advised: "CSOs, I am not telling you to be loyal to the government, but I want you to be patriotic and partner with the government in regards to development so that every Ugandan benefits from the partnership," he said.
- 5) The signing of the Pledge Board: Most key attendees signed a pledge board, affirming their commitment to promoting good governance and protecting human rights within the region.

- 6) Formation of joint HRDs and State Actors WhatsApp Group: A dedicated platform was established for all participants to facilitate ongoing collaboration, share resources, and discuss regional issues.
- 7) A prime-time radio talk show was held on Crooze FM at 7:00 PM, featuring panelists Joviah Masiko-Ankole, HRDs Coordinator Hon. Jeninah Kyomuhendo, Mbarara City Youth Councillor Edward Natamba-Ntungamo district-based governance, and Human Rights Activists to share with the public the highlights of the dialogue.

Challenges Encountered:

- 1) The authoritative Mindset of the state actor and poor timekeeping made the dialogue started late by an hour.
- 2) Limited funds to engage a wider section of key stakeholders in the region

Recommendations and the way forward:

- 1) Regular follow-up meetings to assess progress on collaborative initiatives by state actors and CSOs.
- 2) Continued training and capacity-building workshops for stakeholders.
- 3) Advocate for incorporating citizen participation principles into local governance policy frameworks, ensuring that government structures institutionalize and support these principles.
- 4) Implement robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of collaborative initiatives, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement in citizen participation efforts.
- 5) Expand the dialogue to engage a wider range of stakeholders, including local businesses, community leaders, and youth groups, to promote a more inclusive approach to governance.

Conclusion:

All in all, the high-level dialogue session marked a significant milestone in strengthening civil society and local government relationships in the Ankole subregion. It enhanced working relationships and empowered stakeholders to collaborate and address governance challenges, enhancing citizen participation within the region.

The outcomes of this dialogue will, in the long run, pave the way for more effective governance practices and empower citizens to be active participants in the democratic process. Implementing the recommendations outlined in this report will ensure sustained progress and meaningful impact in promoting citizen participation in governance.

Citizens' Concern Africa (CICOA) is deeply grateful to our partners for their generous support, that made this dialogue possible and fruitful.

End.

Attachments:

- 1) Photos of the event
- 2) Photo of the signed pledge board
- 3) Post Dialogue Media Engagements
- 4) List of participants

We look forward to your feedback on this report and our continued partnership in promoting democratic governance and human rights.





Robert Kirenga, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders in Uganda and Mr. Malcom Mpamizo –Chief Steward-Civic Legacy Foundation giving their key notes



Andrew Mafundo, the Executive Director of CICOA, Welcoming the participants into the dialogue and Lt Col. James Mwesigye, Regional Director RDCs giving the day's closing remarks..



Above is the team from CICOA, CSOs representatives, HRDs and Local Authorities during the talk show at Crooze FM to amplify and share dialogues' key resolutions while below the signing of pledge board by key attendants.



Regional Resident Director-RDCs President's office, Lt Col. James Mwesigye, officiating the signing of the pledge board.

More of the dialogue advocacy engagements efforts involved different media outlets for example Crooze FM radio Mbarara for the talk show, TV West and Sky TV that aired the event. Tap on the links to get a glimpse of the aired content by the different media houses;

- **Citizens' Concern Africa YouTube-**
https://youtu.be/VDsa2USClxA?si=l_kWIA_ggtR2flo
- **TV West-** <https://youtu.be/NRXSL8oHUxc?si=frs0LgzC5gVgbhxx>
- **Sky TV-** <https://youtu.be/ASfdWSYRQ3c?si=96DOIMMCVGI RR8yd>

A summary of dialogue in pictures





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EIHANGA RYEITU

HOSTED BY JOHN TURINAWA

TOPIC
THE THORNY GROUND FOR HUMAN
RIGHT DEFENDERS IN THE CONTEXT
OF ELECTIONS

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TEAM LEAD YCED



MS JOVIA MATSIKO
NCHRD - FOCAL PERSON
ANKOLE SUB-REGION



ATWETA ABDULWAHABU
ED - HOPEFFU



NATAMBA EDWARD
ED-SOWIPA



TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION CALL:
0752912912 | 0780912910



www.croozefm.com/stream



91.2 Crooze FM

CICOA Ankole Governance Dialogue Attendance Register

Mbarara, Ekhaya Hotel 21.11.24

No.	Names	Organisation/District	Title	Phone Contact/Email	Sign
1	KIESIKE BANTASI	✓ IADDOZE FM	SHOW HOST	07029239068	[Signature]
2	IRONDIENDO CRISTIAN	✓ MBARARA CITY COUNCIL	JOINT LEADER	0703-606117074-3300	[Signature]
3	ADOLF ANDREKA	✓ VISION GROUP	REPORTER	0700777091	[Signature]
4	ANORETA ABDULWAHAZU	✓ HERE FOR PEACEFUL FAMILIES FOUNDATION UG.	G.D	0775135080	[Signature]
5	BRINOMUGISHA JOYCE	✓ FOX C.M.L.C.V	SEC. for public	07011116032	[Signature]
6	MIKHAILO ROSEMARY	✓ VOP NIUNGAMO	LRDC	0774836499	[Signature]
7	KAMUCISHA TANAH	✓ KACHA WOMAN'S GROUP	ED	0752652329	[Signature]
8	MUTHIRWA MATHIAS	✓ BUSIKORO	SOCIAL WORKER	0770176241	[Signature]
9	MUNISHA D. CHERESTIN	✓ MBARARA	DEVELOPMENT WORKER	0772663300	[Signature]
10	KENYETH NUNAHODRA	✓ For Equity Community Org.	Environment Incharge	07726532202	[Signature]
11	✓ KAZADISA SAMUEL	✓ POLICE	PAO ANKLE	0772769126	[Signature]
12	Katune Polly	✓ PLU SPOKES PERSON	PLU SPOKES PERSON	07766609997	[Signature]
13	Samuel Muganda	✓ ARCC - Mbarara	ARCC	0777245327	[Signature]
14	Mucunguzi Geoffrey	✓ NRM	CADRE	0772302195	[Signature]
15	✓ Ntungire Red	✓ KAZO	LC2 KAZO	0701995255	[Signature]
16	Munishi Baraka	✓ Action Alliance	Program Assistant	0784014503	[Signature]
17	KAGABA DAIST	✓ MAGROF	PROGRAM OFFICER	0756694133	[Signature]
18	MULIKANI HERBERT	✓ BSU	LEADER	0772557178	[Signature]
19	MUNYATI ASUMANI	✓ MASH - NIUNGAMO	CHAIRMAN	070929513	[Signature]
20	✓ BANYINE ELY	✓ KAZO	COORDINATOR	0781372523	[Signature]
21	✓ PETER MPABA	✓ MBARARA - CITY	NUP-COORDINATOR	0756569977	[Signature]
22	Nelson Mugumwa	✓ Mitumba - MUGUMBA	E.D	0780744111	[Signature]
23	✓ Daniel Nwagwu	✓ Media activist	ALB.M. Cadre	0772997172	[Signature]
24	✓ MUSAIDE ALI	✓ KATUNGO	Advocate	077556528	[Signature]
25	✓ KATUNGO LION	✓ MIU	Ankole Region	0777244197	[Signature]
26	✓ DORRINE ADIOS	✓ PFF	youm leader	0753789932	[Signature]



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Mbarara, Ekhaya Hotel 21.11.24

No.	Names	Organisation/District	Title	Phone Contact/Email	Sign
1	✓ JEREMIA AKINWADE	✓ WARM-UG	H.O.P	0781212169	[Signature]
2	Imon NUGURU	✓ YCED	EMERGENCY DIRECTOR	0778665284	[Signature]
3	✓ KIRAMCHI ALLEN	✓ RWAMPARA DISTRICT	LEADER	07445524693	[Signature]
4	✓ MUYAMBI PROSPER	✓ UANSA	Coordinator	0703562490	[Signature]
5	✓ AKEMWA ALI	✓ UMISC NIUNGAMO	County Sheriff	0784972034	[Signature]
6	✓ AMBUBWE JULIUS	✓ Vanda commy Nchama	UL Chair Person	076522662	[Signature]
7	✓ ASH KASULE COORDINATOR	✓ DPC SHEEMA police	D.P.C.	0763376002	[Signature]
8	✓ MALCOLM MPAMIZO	✓ CIVIL LEGACY FOUNDATION	CHIEF STEWARD	0772388197	[Signature]
9	✓ ROBERT R. KIRENGA	✓ NCHARD-U	ED	0727498784	[Signature]
10	✓ EDWARD NATAMBAY	✓ SOWIPA-NIUNGAMO	E.D	07728642240	[Signature]
11	✓ MUBAFA SRS KATO	✓ FTM TELEVISION/MTV	Producer/Conceptor	0751851777	[Signature]
12	✓ KINESTONIA FELIX	✓ NERON media group (NMG)	EDITOR (MONITOR)	0788162518	[Signature]
13	✓ AGABA ALAN	✓ KANZE MEDIA	Editor	0701905864	[Signature]
14	✓ MUKUNGUZI ADOLPH	✓ BGLG	Media Speaker	0778680600	[Signature]
15	✓ MUKUNGUZI DIDAI	✓ BGLG	Sec. for Finance	077706076	[Signature]
16	✓ HART HERBERT	✓ VETS IBANDA	LCF	0772320774	[Signature]
17	✓ ABANENIYA GUILIAN	✓ KAZO	Coordinator	0785606881	[Signature]
18	✓ AMOS MUNDISI	✓ Kach. Co. of the President	K.C	0772456598	[Signature]
19	✓ KIZO JUSTUS	✓ Kampala		0733032334	[Signature]
20	✓ KASHIMU GRANT	✓ HANSA	ARTIST	070267174	[Signature]
21	✓ MOSES KIGONGO	✓ NIUNGAMO D.C	V. Chairperson	0774325341	[Signature]
22	✓ ARDOR KALUN	✓ BUSHYIRO - Kach.	Executive Atty	0763781856	[Signature]
23	✓ DUNJAGAGA NI	✓ Mbarara	Lawyer	0770207757	[Signature]
24	✓ JOHN TUNANA	✓ CICOA	Partnership Nya	0772045077	[Signature]
25	✓ THE KAT KAT	✓ CICOA	Coach	0784044110	[Signature]