

## Activity Report for Internal Assessment

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Program: VD Prog Afrika - Südl. Sahara (A10000000V)  
 Project: VD Lpj Uganda (A10700000V)  
 Sub-project: VD Lpj Uganda EM (A10720000V)

**Activity: BM21-XX: Okere Political Lab Project: LC1 Training Workshop I**

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<b>Date:</b>	11.04.2021–12.04.2021	<b>Location:</b>	Okere City, Otuke
<b>Project objective:</b>	A10700000V 2.3.	<b>Country:</b>	Uganda
<b>Cost:</b>	6,800,000 UGX	<b>Number of participants:</b>	25
		<b>Product No.:</b>	

### 1 Objective(s) of the activity

The overall object of this workshop was to strengthen the capacity of LC1 units in Okere to become key commencement points for access to public services and addressing essential community needs.

The specific objectives of the LC1 training workshop are;

- To equip LC1 Chairpersons in Okere with knowledge on participatory Democracy principles and practices.
- To equip LC1 Chairpersons with legal awareness of their constitutional mandates.

#### 1.1 Subject matter of measure/Theme of the activity

According to the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, governance begins at the village/cell level. A village is the lowest political-administrative unit. In Uganda, villages usually consist of between 50 and 70 households and may be home to anywhere between 250 and 1,000 people (in the case of rural areas). The number of households in urban areas can exceed 500, and in most instances, the crowded slum cells/zone in Kampala City can even exceed 5,000 residents/dwellers. Each village is run by a Local Council 1 (LC1) administration structure. An LC1 zone is governed by a Chairperson — commonly known as LCI Chairperson and an eleven member executive committee (2 more members added from the 9 provided for in the Local Government Act, namely, youth and PWD representatives). As stated in the Local Government Act (2003), A chairperson of a lower government council is among other duties; to be the political head at that level, Preside over the council and executive committee meetings, Monitor the general administration of the area under his or her jurisdiction, oversee the performance of persons employed by the Government; to provide services in the council's area of jurisdiction and to monitor the provision of Government services or implementation of projects in the area under the council's jurisdiction; and also to perform other functions that may be necessary for the better

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functioning of the council, or which may be incidental to the functions of the chairperson or imposed on the chairperson by any law.

## **1.2 Significance within the overall project context**

Despite their relevance in Uganda's local governance structure, LC1 units continue to be neglected and unappreciated. They received an annual salary of 120,000 UGX paid through the office of the District Administrative Officer (CAO). Yet, LC1s continue to provide the most needed services in conflict resolutions around land and domestic issues, providing recommendations to citizens to access immigration, registration services, among others. Not only are they financially underserved, but LC1 structures are also disadvantaged when it comes to benefiting from capacity-building programs by both government civil society organizations. It is upon this background that Okere City and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung launched the capacity building programme for LC1s in Okere Parish as part of the Political Lab Project. Ultimately, the project will enhance the skills and the knowledge of LC1 Officials on their roles and responsibilities as key drivers of improving public service delivery. More so, this will contribute towards refining their roles as monitors of government programs which they are constitutionally mandated to offer.

### **1.3. Intended outcome**

By the end of the meeting, 20 participants (LC1 Chairpersons) were expected to:

- Be knowledgeable on their roles and responsibilities as LC1 in improving public service delivery.
- Understand their role in monitoring government programmes.

## **2 Implementation**

### **2.1 Actors financing and organizing the programs**

The activity was organized and implemented by Okere Community Development Project (Okere City).

### **2.2 Target group and actual participants**

- **20** LC1 Chairpersons participated in the training.
- All the 20 LC1 Chairpersons are male.

### **2.3 Sequence of the activity**

The opening remarks by Ojok Okello, the convener of the training and also the Chairman of Okere City, which reiterated the essence of local councilors in ensuring effective delivery of public services and promoting community development was preceded by a quick overview session on the key principals/values of democracy and why it matters for local governance. During the session, key values of democracy such as rule of law, human rights, accountability, access to information, voting and elections, freedom of worship, among others were collectively analyzed, elaborated and discussed. "The session enabled me to understand that democracy isn't some abstract idea relevant only for political activity but it

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is part and parcel of our lives”, said Mr. Ogwang Augustine, the LC1 Chairperson of Cike village.

Another session on “Local Government in Uganda: Introduction, Structures and Legal Overview” was facilitated by Kiptum Denis, who is the Chief of Alango Sub-County. Mr. Kiptum’s presentation captured key constitutional aspects of the LC1 authority. He outlined the role of parish/village executive committee as mandated to oversee the implementation of policies and decisions made by its council according to the Local Government Act by;

- Assisting in the maintenance of law, order and security;
- initiating, encouraging, supporting and participating in self-help projects and mobilize people, material and technical assistance in relation to self-help projects;
- Vetting and recommending persons in the area who should be recruited into the UPDF, the UPF, and the UPS and LDUs;
- Serving as the communication channel between the Government, the district or higher local council and the people in the area;
- Monitoring the administration in its area and report to the higher or district council;
- Monitor projects and other activities undertaken by the Government, local governments, and nongovernmental organizations in their area;
- Carrying out other functions which may be imposed by law or incidental to the above.

The same law also outlines the roles and responsibilities of Chairperson LC1 at the village level as;

- Being the political head;
- Presiding at meetings of the council;
- Monitoring the general administration of the area under his or her jurisdiction;
- Performing other functions that may be necessary for the better functioning of the council, or which may be incidental to the functions of the chairperson or imposed on the chairperson by any law.

During another session that specifically focused on ensuring accountability at the local council levels the LC1 chairpersons were taken through some of the core facets of accountability such as being transparent, being answerable, being compliant to rules and procedures and being able to enforce sanctions as duty bearers. To ensure that accountability becomes a norm at the local council level, the following recommendations were suggested;

- The government of Uganda through the Electoral Commission should hold regular free and fair elections for LC Is and IIs
- Civil society organizations active on governance issues and the government should integrate accountability issues into list of cross-cutting issues to be undertaken in all community meetings/trainings in order to build capacity of the citizens to demand for it.
- CSOs in governance work and the government should take the initiative to simplify local governance laws and translate of information for public consumption to area local language.

A team from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Uganda and South Sudan), the organization that partners with Okere City to implement the political leadership advancement project also attended the workshop. Bernard Mukhone who is the Programme Manager reiterated that investing in LC1 is a step in the right direction because it offers a unique learning curve. “What we are doing to train and develop the capacity of LC1s is a rarity in Uganda. One day, the whole country will descend to learn the unique lessons demonstrated by a project that started with humble beginnings like what we are doing here today”

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Verena Kasirye, who is a consultant at KAS noted that endeared the local councilors to use the project as a cornerstone for shaping their leadership capabilities and enabling them to whatever they can at their level to ensure that the delivery of public services are improved.

Ojok Okello, the Executive Chairman of Okere City concluded the workshop by stressing that strengthening the capacity of LC1 units to effectively function is bridging one of the widest gaps hindering Uganda's local governance service delivery systems. "LC1s are the most important political leaders in the village level and if fully facilitated and equipped, they will provide immediate solutions to the specific needs of the ordinary citizens in Uganda" Ojok emphasized. Moreover, for community development projects like the ones being undertaken by Okere City, the partnership and collaboration with the lowest local government is more than necessary. "I care so much that all the LC1s of Okere Parish where the Okere City projects undertake robust and holistic rural development work are in support of rather against what we stand for — which is creating a thriving and sustainable rural community," Ojok concluded.

### **3 Assessment**

#### **3.1 Monitoring**

We monitored the training through:

- Attendance sheets
- Asking participants to express their expectations before the workshop began.
- Pre-training interviews of participants
- Post-training evaluation of the participants

#### **Based on the evaluation,**

- **99%** of the participants were satisfied with the training
- **97%** of the participants had no past political leadership training experience
- **100%** of the participants' expectations for the training were met
- **100%** of the participants said that the participatory and engaging format of the workshop enabled to learn and reflect better on the topics being discussed.
- **100%** of the participants said that the workshop helped them expand and enhance their knowledge on their roles and responsibilities as local council leaders.
- **100%** of the participants said that they would like to be trained in our crucial topics such as political mobilization, communication skills, making by-laws,

#### **Participants' key takeaways from this training:**

- Other trainings on livelihoods and economic development could also be integrated in future trainings.
  - More trainings should be conducted and on a consistent basis.
  - "I joined the local council leadership without any mentorship, induction and experience. This workshop was my first exposure to any leadership training opportunity like this and I do not take it for granted" Odany, LC1 Chairperson, Omukogungu village.
  - "The workshop gave me a unique opportunity to meet all the other LC1 officials in Okere Parish. This had never happened before. We had never met together as a group discussing key issues and sharing how best do deliver on our duties and responsibilities"
  - "The workshop has given me strength and purpose and it has reinvigorated my desire and passion to serve my local people"
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### 3.3. Conclusions

Overall, as shown above, all of the objectives of the inaugural LC1 training workshop as part of the Okere Political Lab project was successfully achieved. The training demonstrated that the need to equip the Local Councilors with the knowledge and skills to deliver on their constitutional mandates is more crucial if local governance in Uganda is to improve for the better. The trainings which were conducted by a highly qualified local government officer also added a significant boost to the delivery of the content as it resonated with the participants. The venue, conducted within Okere village provided a homily environment which created space for an open and free exchange of ideas and perspectives.

**Report compiled by:** Ojok Okello, Okere City

**Report approved by:** Anna Reismann, Country Director, KAS Uganda and South Sudan

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