

## **REPORT ON THE ‘TACKLING CORRUPTION IN KENYA AND UGANDA” ACT/PTF WORKSHOP, 12-14 NOVEMBER 2012 AT THE FAIRVIEW HOTEL**

### **Summary**

This report outlines the proceedings and activities of a two day workshop from November 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> convened by the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) together with Act! at the Fairview Hotel. In attendance were representatives from Uganda Law Society (ULS), Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Interfaith based action for Ethics and Integrity (INFOC) Uganda, National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Transparency International Kenya (TI-K), The Youth Agenda (YAA), Centre for Law and Research International (CLARION), PTF officials and Act! staff.

The aim of the workshop was to re-invigorate multi-stakeholder efforts and share perspectives and best practices towards addressing the complex challenge of corruption. The conference featured three different sessions to showcase CSOs’ work in different areas, from experiences working at the community level to curb corruption, to use of technology to fight corruption and efforts to improve the accountability of government institutions. The sessions featured the barriers and challenges that CSOs encounter in all the three areas of focus. The wrap- up session was a space for participants to highlight CSOs’ vision for the future and share views with PTF and ACT on funding opportunities and constraints. Presentations from each of the seven PTF partners are also highlighted in this report.



### **Introduction**

The seminar begun with welcome remarks and a run-through of the seminar objectives by Roger Sullivan and Faith Kisinga. The objectives were as follows:

1. To exchange experiences (both positive and negative) that make a difference in working with devolved government funding at the grassroots/local level.
2. To identify successful approaches in using technology to capture citizen voices as a mechanism for fighting corruption.
3. Using the experiences/lessons as a foundation for the CSOs to plan next generation of programs to address corruption.

Daniel Ritchie, the PTF President, welcomed and thanked everyone for all the collaborative efforts towards the workshop and expressed gratitude on behalf of PTF for all the work done thus far in both Kenya and Uganda. He encouraged participants to speak candidly and made a brief introduction of PTF (find PTF profile in annex). Daniel also challenged everyone present to think about what they are doing to attack systemic corruption at their level. He finally asked everyone to find ways of demonstrating how the experience shared by the participants can be used from the organizations at community level to influence policy/national reach.

Act! CEO, Anthony Kariuki also welcomed the participants and emphasized that the challenge to fighting corruption lies in changing attitudes, beliefs and practices of all stakeholders. He invited all present to shift focus from the amount of money used in anti-corruption work and redirect it to simple acts such as doing the right thing at the right time at the individual level; each one of us doing our bit for society. He also posed the challenge that every organization should set the agenda for their country's way forward.

## **Discussions**

### **Session 1: "Working at the community level to curb corruption"**

Moderator: Leen Solleveld.

- Presentators: 1. Peter Achar, Program Officer, NCKK (Ke),  
2. Charlotte Mwesigye, Executive Director, INFOC (Ug)  
3. Victor Ijaika, Executive Director CEPED, representing CLARION(Ke).

Lessons Learnt and Issues arising

## **Plenary**

- NCKK realized that the key issue facing Kenya currently is the country's transition to devolved governance. The challenge posed is how to develop a citizen monitoring system for the county governments. They also discovered that citizens are eager to engage, although there is still work to be done around improving engagement at citizen level. Nonetheless, the work done has laid a foundation.
- It was agreed that steps need to be taken to stabilize the sector with the advent of decentralization as currently not much in terms of preparatory mechanisms are being felt on the ground.
- It emerged that pushing for citizen participation helps in getting buy in from the local authority/government officials as they are not very aware of what citizen participation constitutes and are eager to get on board

- INFOC discovered that the existing problem with public processes such as procurement, was the secrecy involved thus leading to mismanagement. Opening up the process to monitoring ensures transparency and access to information.



Grace Babihuga, ULS Executive Director during her presentation

- INFOC averred that their experience with validation forums helped to narrow down and streamline issues. Therefore whatever could not be dealt with at community level was escalated to the District then eventually pushed up to the key anti-graft and other national level organs tasked to deal with these issues.
- Social contract monitoring (procurement) is crucial because it produces measurable results.
- There should be many PABALAs (citizen led groups) to monitor service provision and be involved from initiation stage (project set-up). At the national level, PABALAs should monitor the process while also mentoring the localized PABALAs.
- CSOs should consider how to improve access to information and raise greater levels of awareness to ensure accessibility, timeliness and accuracy of data collection.
- CSOs need to create a database for collaboration for better information sharing across the region and among other stakeholders
- It was suggested that for ease of transition and for future program design, partners can share tools used in the various interventions electronically.

## Session 2: “Using Technology to fight Corruption”

Moderator Jeff Kass.

Presentors: 1. Cissy Kagaba, Executive Director of ACCU (Ug)

2. Lydia Mathia the Communications Officer from YAA (Ke).

## Lessons Learnt and Issues Arising

- YAA emphasized that awareness creation needs to be invested in as this is what drives the traffic to the SMS platform
- YAA reported that they are currently seeking an avenue to have the Ministry of Education formulate a policy/guidelines on how schools can levy charges.

## Session 3: “Improving the Accountability of Government Institutions”

Moderator Judy Edstrom.

Presentators 1. Grace Babihuga, Executive Director, ULS (Ug)

2. Francis Kairu, Program Officer, TI-Ke.



Participants during group work

## Issues Arising

- Participants agreed that the operating environment matters because if it is hostile, then operations/interventions are curtailed.
- ULS suggested that it is necessary to “clean house”. This alludes to ensuring that organizations fighting corruption address and dispense with integrity related issues internally before embarking on related work.
- It was collectively agreed that regional platforms that can be used for collaborative efforts should be optimally utilized for example the East Africa Legal Society (EALS) held by ULS work to strengthen the members regionally, who then hash out issues raised and plan actions.
- The capacity of the community to advocate for reforms still needs strengthening.

In the wrap-up session titled “CSOs vision for the Future”, participants broke out into groups to discuss devolved funds, the use of technology and collaboration between CSOs and Government. Participants reported the following:

CSOs should

- Hold more stakeholder forums to scale up awareness creation.
  - Focus on harnessing and expanding partnerships.
  - Build capacities of all actors and enhance accountability.
  - Strengthen institutions for action on a long-term/continued basis.
  - Support development of and create awareness on complaints mechanisms.
  - Develop training modules on citizen participation and engagement with duty bearers.
  - Consider developing an easier social audit approach in future.
  - Target all levels of engagement (national and local).
  - Ensure the opening up of procurement procedures/systems and processes to public monitoring.
  - Encourage citizen participation in budgeting processes.
  - Strengthen access to infrastructure.
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- Participants noted that the government is moving towards technology use as the State has more funding making it easier to embrace technology use. There is also some acceptance by the citizens making it a possible strong avenue for governance efforts.
  - Popularizing the Information Act or implementing the freedom of information bills would ensure there is widespread access to information and therefore increased awareness.
  - The use of mobile technology to report corruption draws attention because it allows more people to be aware of the problem and this generates interest and gets the attention of the stakeholders, in this case the state.
  - Through technology, organizations are able to reach many more people in real time as the issues are dynamic and should be dealt with as they emerge.
  - Technology also allows organizations to bring to scale the information thus ensuring a wider reach while also breaking the distance/space barriers faster.
  - The flipside is that the risks need to be explored earlier to ensure that the information going out is accurate and validated and situations do not get out of hand.
  - It was the general feeling that technology alone will not address corruption and attitude change has a big role to play. People’s emotions need to be awakened to ensure an interest is raised. Change of attitudes, practices and customs is also a crucial factor in resolving corruption from an individual perspective all the way up to the national level.
  - The question was posed: are there strong institutions that can begin holding people accountable for actions committed?
  - Participants agreed that there is some value that can be added to technology to give it impact. This could be through engagement of social media where duty bearers can be tagged and stakeholders can pile pressure to get responses. It is also crucial to ensure anonymity of messages/feedback to encourage wider participation.
  - There is not enough awareness on the use of the technology by the targeted end users. Civil Society Organizations should also provide technical support and help in ensuring people know about the technology platform in use.



- It is imperative that there is goodwill from both government and community ends; otherwise the question as to whether grass-root action is scalable may never be realized.

In response to a question by the PTF team on what the partners thought of the PTF program and its management, the partners responded as follows:

1. PTF advisors take time to understand the projects.
2. The advisors let the organizations practically run with the projects, allowing them independence to an extent.
3. The direct interaction between advisors and partners is helpful – for example in the case of YAA, this led to re-strategizing mid-way through implementation of the project, allowing YAA to gain more impact
4. People were given space to speak during the seminar; no lectures.
5. The encouragement of the use of partnerships added more value to the projects. For example, PTF suggested that ULS help INFOC to draft the community based procurement policy.
6. PTF Advisors have very little rigidity and are willing to listen.
7. PTF advisors give relevant and timely advice
8. PTF program adopts a friendly and inclusive approach- helping the applicant to understand concepts so they manage the projects better. They stated that the teaching style works.



Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) Commissioner Prof. Jane Onsongo gives the Key Note address during the Welcome Dinner

#### **Session 4: Technology Session**

#### **iHub presentation**

Anne Salim, iHub researcher and Nelius Rwamba of Transparency International made presentations on the use of technology in governance, at a special session on the final day of the seminar.

One of the challenges with open data is that it tends to be so complex, it has to be cleaned up before it can be consumed by the masses.

### **Discussions**

1. There's too much information going out to many different organizations, there needs to be information sharing among CSOs
2. The risk of too many projects in an area and each of these want to build an application can lead to overkill; however this can be solved with access to information if all actors share accordingly.
3. There is a need to consider privacy/security issues, for example, ensure the people looking at the information when it comes in are discreet and trustworthy or consider a computer system that receives and sorts messages.

### **Seminar Wrap Up Comments**

1. CSOs must involve government agencies in the governance initiatives. They should create an oasis of confidence, allies or champions in the government to partner with them in addressing corruption. In Kenya, they can take up the offer to partner with the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) in conducting civic education.
2. CSOs should keep in mind that corruption resolution is best tackled from an attitude- change perspective in addition to grass-root community efforts, mobile technology and online initiatives.
3. There should be more interactive sessions such as the seminar in future where time and resources allow
4. Participants should establish an electronic platform that enables them to share information and improve any tools they have, in order to aid in future program design.



Group photo of participants



PROGRAMME**TACKLING CORRUPTION IN KENYA AND UGANDA****ACT/PTF SEMINAR****THE FAIRVIEW HOTEL****12-14 NOVEMBER 2012****Seminar Objectives**

1. Exchange experiences (both positive and negative) that make a difference in working with devolved government funding at the grassroots/local level.
2. Identify successful approaches in using technology to capture citizen voices as a mechanism for fighting corruption.
3. Using the experiences/lessons as a foundation for the CSOs to plan next generation of programs to address corruption.

DAY 1: 12 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012		
1200 – 1400	Luncheon	
1400 -1530	<b>Session 1: Seminar Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introductions</li> <li>• Objectives</li> <li>• Welcome Remarks</li> </ul>	Roger Sullivan Faith Kisinga  Anthony Kariuki Daniel Ritchie
1530– 1600	TEA BREAK	
1600-1800	<b>Session 2: Experiences Working at the Community Level to Curb Corruption</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCKK (Kenya)</li> <li>• CLARION (Kenya)</li> <li>• INFOC (Uganda)</li> </ul> Plenary Wrap-Up	Leen Solleveld

1800-1830			<b>PARTICIPANTS' BREAK</b>		
1830-2100	Reception Dinner			Anthony Kariuki Daniel Ritchie	

<b>DAY 2: 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012</b>						
0830-0900	Re-Cap and Overview for Day 2					
0900-1030	<b>Session 3: Using Technology to Fight Corruption</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACCU (Uganda)</li> <li>• YAA (Kenya)</li> <li>• Plenary Wrap-Up</li> </ul>			Jeff Kass		
1030-1100 <b>TEA BREAK</b>						
1100-1230	<b>Session 4: Improving the Accountability of Government Institutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ULS (Uganda)</li> <li>• TI-Kenya</li> <li>• Plenary Wrap-up</li> </ul>			Judy Edstrom		
1230-1400 <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>						
1400-1530	<b>Session 5: Wrap Up Session – CSOs vision for the Future</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devolved Funds</li> <li>• Use of Technology</li> <li>• Collaboration between CSOs and Government</li> <li>• Small group presentations (20Min each, 10min presentation, 10min Q&amp;A)</li> </ul>			Leen Solleveld		
1530-1600 <b>TEA BREAK</b>						
1600-1630	<b>Concluding Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTF Perspective on Funding Opportunities and Constraints</li> </ul>			Roger Sullivan Faith Kisinga		

1630-1700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing remarks and Presentation of Books by PTF and ACT</li> </ul>	Anthony Kariuki Daniel Ritchie
DEPARTURE		

DAY 3: 14 <sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012		
0900-1030	<b>Technology Presentation (I):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iHub Research presentation on the M-Governance Project</li> </ul>	Jeff Kass
1030-1100	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
1100-1230	<b>Technology Presentation (II):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TI-Kenya presentation on the health sector project</li> </ul>	Judy Edstrom
1230-1400	<b>LUNCH BREAK AND DEPARTURE</b>	

## APPENDIX: B

### Full List of Participants November Act! –PTF Seminar

Organization		Name	Role	Email Address
ACCU - Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda	1	Cissy Kagaba	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:kagabac@accu.or.ug">kagabac@accu.or.ug</a>
	2	Abbas Kigozi	Project Assistant	<a href="mailto:kabbas@accu.or.ug">kabbas@accu.or.ug</a>
ULS - Uganda Law Society	3	Grace Babihuga Nuwagaba	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:ed@uls.or.ug">ed@uls.or.ug</a>
	4	Irene S. Kwaga	Head - Policy, Research & Advocacy	<a href="mailto:policy@uls.or.ug">policy@uls.or.ug</a>
INFOC - Interfaith based action for Ethics and Integrity Uganda	5	Charlotte Mwesigye	National Coordinator	<a href="mailto:infocuganda@infocom.co.ug">infocuganda@infocom.co.ug</a>
	6	Rev Robert Kayongwe	Kabale Project Coordinator	<a href="mailto:robertkayongwe@yahoo.com">robertkayongwe@yahoo.com</a>
NCCK-National Council of Churches of	7	Peter Achar	Program Officer	<a href="mailto:pachar@ncck.org">pachar@ncck.org</a>
	8	Bishop	Constituency	<a href="mailto:wingsoflifebishop@yahoo.com">wingsoflifebishop@yahoo.com</a>

Kenya		Gerishon Njoroge	Organizer	
	9	Phyllis Kamau	Regional Coordinator	pkamau@ncck.org
	10	Kinyanjui Kamau	Senior Programme Officer	kkamau@ncck.org
TI-K- Transparency International Kenya	11	Sareen Malik	Programme Officer	smalik@tikenya.org
	12	Francis Kairu	Programme Officer – Advocacy and Legal Advisory Centre (ALAC)	fkairu@tikenya.org
YAA- Youth Agenda	13	Lydia Mathia	Communications Officer	mathia.lydia@youthagenda.org
	14	Susan Kariuki	Chief Executive Officer	susan@youthagenda.org
CLARION- Centre for Law and Research International	15	Morris Odhiambo	Chief Executive Officer	modhiambo@clarionkenya.org
	16	Victor Ijaika	Director- Community Engagement for Peace and Development (CEPED)	vijaika@yahoo.com
	17	Regina Kibwana	Programmes Coordinator	kibwana@clarionkenya.org
Aidspan	18	Angela Kageni	Senior Programme Officer	angela.kageni@aidspan.org
iHub	19	Anne Salim	iHub Research	<a href="mailto:anne@ihub.co.ke">anne@ihub.co.ke</a>
TI-Kenya	20	Nelius Rwamba	Deputy Programme Officer	nrwamba@tikenya.org
PTF	21	Daniel Ritchie	President	dritchie@ptfund.org
	22	Roger Sullivan		rsullivan@ptfund.org
	23	Jeff Kass		jkass@ptfund.org
	24	Leen Solleveld		lsolleveld@ptfund.org
	25	Judy Edstrom		jedstrom@ptfund.org
ACT	26	Faith Kisinga Gitonga	Program Advisor	faith.kisinga@act.or.ke
	27	Henry Kuria	Program Manager	henry.kuria@act.or.ke
	28	Anthony Kariuki	Chief Executive Officer	Anthony.kariuki@act.or.ke

	29	Loise Maina	Program Manager- Women Empowerment	loise.maina@act.or.ke
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