



# Annual Report **2021**

[www.acfim.com](http://www.acfim.com)

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# Who We Are?

Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) is a coordinating platform for civil society organisations and activists that band together to serve as a political finance watchdog in Uganda with ambitions of extending to Africa.

We strive to foster open, transparent and accountable financing of politics and public institutions for sustainable democracy and development in Africa. We are inspired by the fact that political finance is one of the most under-researched and under-legislated subjects in Africa, yet the continent faces an

epidemic of monetized electoral politics.

ACFIM envisions a society where political leaders are responsive and accountable to citizens.

ACFIM's full time mission is to contribute towards building electoral integrity by promoting transparency and accountability in financing of political and electoral processes through research, civic engagement and advocating for reforms.



## Our Mission

To contribute towards building electoral integrity by promoting transparency and accountability in financing of political and electoral processes through research, civic engagement and advocating for reforms.

# Leadership Reflections



## Message from the Executive Director

The year 2021 was unprecedented in the history of Alliance for Finance Monitoring, a year that put our resilience to test. It started with the general elections of 2021 conducted under covid-19 restrictions where on Election Day, police arrested over 26 volunteers and civil society leaders, detaining them for 3 days.

The year witnessed the longest Covid-19 national lock-down that extended for almost four months, occasioned by the second wave of the pandemic that engulfed almost the entire country with several hospitalisations and losses of family members. ACFIM staff members too were not spared by the pandemic with some ending in hospitalization.

In the same vein, ACFIM's biggest development partner – the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) – remained suspended for the entire year, thus, stalling a number of planned activities which had hitherto been earmarked for DGF funding. But we are still here and will continue to pursue the vision and mission of the founders of ACFIM.

Through resilience, the organisation was able to venture aggressively into online spaces to keep the debate going on key issues of advocacy. Indeed, there has been a shift in the way we approach our work. As we get into the final year of the organisation's six-year strategy, we intend to use this shift to build a new frame of our programming.

The coming year, 2022 promises to be even more challenging in terms of the closing civic space for pro-democracy organisations like ACFIM. Nonetheless, the organisation will continue pursue her goals albeit differently. The new organisational strategy should set the tone going forward.

Aluta continua.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Henry Muguzi', written in a cursive style.

**Henry Muguzi**  
Executive Director

# Acfim's Reach In Numbers



**1.5 Million**  
**People Reached**

Over 1.5 million reached using online, social and electronic media.

**70**

**Constituencies**

Electoral constituencies reached and monitored on campaign spending during 2021 general elections.

**29**

**Districts**

Districts covered during monitoring campaign spending in the 2021 general elections.

**6500**

**Citizens**

More than 6500 citizens engaged directly on ACFIM's online platforms.

**147**

**Campaign Finance Monitors**

Trained and deployed Campaign Finance monitors to track pre campaign spending during 2021 elections.

**153**

**Long Term Observers**

153 Long Term Observers deployed for 2021 general elections

**1005**

**Observers**

1005 Short Term Observers deployed to monitor and report of Election -Day activities in 146 districts.

# ACFIM's Key Achievements

The achievement of the 2021 are as a result of interventions in ACFIM's four programme areas namely; **(1) Monitoring Money in Politics (2) Civic Engagement for Political and Electoral Accountability (3) Advocacy Campaign Finance Reforms (4) Institutional Strengthening.**

in 70 electoral constituencies. On the Election Day, ACFIM deployed an additional and 1005 Short Term Observers (STOs) to monitor E-Day activities .

The monitoring of campaign financing and E-day activities was done using a web based online application supported by smart phone technology. This was unprecedented in the history of Uganda's elections.

## **1.2 Documented Campaign Financing and Reported on Election Observation of Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections, 2021**

ACFIM analysed, documented and produced a national report on campaign spending for 2021 elections titled: "Money Controlled Voter Consent". The report observes that the 2021 elections were the most monetised and securitised the country has ever seen.

ACFIM headed the election observation mission and along with other democracy partners put out a preliminary statement.

## **1 Monitoring Money in Politics**

### **1.1 Monitored Campaign Financing for Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections, 2021**

As a political finance watchdog, ACFIM monitored campaign financing for 2021 general elections to inform public and policy makers on the influence of money in the integrity of electoral processes and outcomes. ACFIM trained and deployed 147 Long Term campaign finance monitors (LTOs) to track and quantify campaign spending for Presidential , Parliamentary and Local Government Elections covering 29 districts

- 1. Presidential Elections were conducted January 14, 2021**
- 2. Parliamentary Elections for direct constituency MPs and District Woman Representatives were conducted on January 14, 2021**
- 3. Local Government Elections for District Chairpersons, Mayors of Cities and Municipalities were conducted on January 14, 2021.**
- 4. E-Day expenses; time management of voter processes, participation and gender inclusion, voter turnout, functionality of biometric technology, incidents of voter bribery, voter violence and representation of political parties among others.**



ACFIM observers join voters overlooking the polling station to observe vote counting exercise on one of the polling centers.

(Source: Field Photos)



**2nd left:** Henry Muguzi joined by other CSO leaders under National Elections Watch – Uganda (NEW-U) reading a preliminary statement on the observation of 2021 elections.

(Source ACFIM photos)

### 1.3 Tracked abuse of National Budget for Partisan Politics

An analytical study on utilisation of the National Budget for Financial Year 2020/21 was conducted to identify potential misuse of public funds to influence the outcome of the 2021 general election. The key finding of the study is that incumbent party, NRM used the national budget to finance party activities including campaigns, thus gaining undue advantage over its opponents. This study is in response to ACFIM’s mandate of monitoring

abuse of state resources for partisan politics.

### 1.4 Exposed abuse of COVID-19 Funds

ACFIM conducted a study on Utilization of COVID -19 funds. The study established how COVID-19 funds were abused to finance partisan politics. The study further showed how COVID-19 spending influenced electoral politics and weaponised the electoral process.



**Left:** Former Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda receives a donation from Buganda Kingdom from Prince David Wasajja (Right) on behalf of the Kabaka as a contribution towards fighting COVID-19.

(Source The Independent )

## 2.0 Civic Engagement for Political and Electoral Accountability

### 2.1 *Provided platforms for citizen discussions on post-elections of 2021*

ACFIM in partnership with Public Policy Institute (PPI) facilitated debate on the political economy analysis and legal reforms as informed by the reflections on post-elections

of 2021. The debate was delivered through hybrid town hall discussions, that were both physical and virtual, complemented with live television broadcast. The discussions identified areas of reform to improve elections and democracy in Uganda which included; strengthening political parties to provide alternatives to policy and leadership, and to ably compete against incumbents, curb commercial electoral politics through enacting campaign finance laws, increasing civic awareness and consciousness for meaningful participation in democratic processes among others.

These discussions can be retrieved on this link.



Dr. Jude Obitre delivering a key note address during a Town Hall meeting at Fairway Hotel, Kampala focused on emerging Electoral.

(Source ACFIM Photos)



Executive Director of ACFIM delivers remarks during the Town Hall meeting Political Economy Analysis on Uganda Political and Legal Electoral Reforms.

(Source ACFIM Photos)



Associate Prof. Julius Kiiza of Makerere University Department of Political Science (Right) and Sarah Birete of Centre for Constitution Governance (left) discussing the paper on The Hybrid Political Economy Analysis.

(Source ACFIM Photos)



Associate Prof. Julius Kiiza of Makerere University Department of Political Science discussing during the Town Hall meeting Political Economy Analysis on Uganda Political and Legal Electoral Reforms.

(Source ACFIM Photos)

## 2.2 Enhanced Public Awareness on Commercialized Politics

In response to the shrinking physical civic space, ACFIM migrated to the digital space through her online platforms to mobilize citizen action against monetized politics, creating awareness on commercialized electoral politics and governance. ACFIM runs weekly and monthly online talk shows and publishes an online news magazine popularly known as SecretsKnown. Through online platforms ACFIM has reached over 1.5 million citizens.

“

...ACFIM has reached over

**1.5  
million...**

”

1. *The Other Perspective (every Wednesday) and ACFIM Talks (every Friday) of the Week*
2. *Monthly Webinars*

## Some of ACFIM's online episodes in preview.

### 1. Live Webinar on "Money Controlling Voter Consent"

First episode of the monthly webinar series discussed the dangers of unregulated money in electoral politics, drawing experiences from the 2021 general elections. It was publicized and aired across all ACFIM's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Youtube). See link.

**LIVE WEBINAR**

## MONEY CONTROLLING VOTER CONSENT

Implications on Democracy in Africa

25TH NOVEMBER  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (EAT)

Moderated by Felix Kafuuma

**Alex Waiswa**  
Deputy Spokesperson  
NUP

**Dr. Emily Maratcho**  
Director, UCU Africa  
Policy Centre

**Emmanuel Dombo**  
Director Communications,  
NRM

**Prof. Mwambutsya Ndebese**  
Political Historian,  
Makerere University

f Acfim   y AcfimUganda   t AcfimUg   ACFIM



### 2. Uganda's Readiness to Fight Corruption

Following the appointment of Betty Kamyia as the Inspector General of Government (IGG), a government anti-corruption watchdog, ACFIM hosted her on ACFIMTalks to discuss the changing trends of corruption in Uganda.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g51SAJw-g2k>

**Top left:** Henry Muguzi (Moderator), Top Right Robert Lugolobi (Anti-corruption activist), Below Betty Kamyia (IGG) during the online show-ACFIMTALKS

### 3. Cost of By-elections and Electoral Petitions to Tax Payers in Uganda

The 2021 elections resulted into 157 election petitions costing government ....to dispose them off. ACFIM discussed the cost implications of these petitions, including the cost attached to organising by elections.



**Left:** Paul Bukenya (Acting EC Spokesperson), **Center:** Felix Kafuuma (Moderator) and **Left:** Hon. Salam Musumba (politician, former DWR and District Chairperson-Kamuli District).



**Left:** Felix.Kafuuma (Moderator), **Center:** Rtd. Major General Gregory Mugisha Muntu (Politician) **Right:** Ms. Cissy Kagaba (Anti- Corruption Activist) appearing on ACFIM Talks

### 4. Capture of State Institutions and Service Delivery

Inspired by the study on Commercialized Politics and Captivity of State Institutions in Uganda, ACFIM discussed the growing problem of state capture in Uganda, its manifestation and impact of public service delivery. See link.



Inset Cissy Kagaba, Anti-Corruption Activist presenting during the online show -ACFIMTalks

### 2.3 Using drama skits to sensitize against commercialized politics

ACFIM produced tailored drama skits targeting political candidates and voters on the implications of commercial electoral politics. These skits were meant to change attitudes and behaviors of politicians, and voters to improve political and electoral accountability for improved service delivery. The skits were aired and promoted on ACFIM's social media platforms.



Screenshots for drama skits on commercial electoral politics

**7. A study by ACFIM that interrogated how commercialization of politics has reinforced underlying corruption resulting in the capture of state institutions by political and economic elites for private gain.**

...skits were  
meant to  
change  
attitudes and  
behaviors of  
politicians, and  
voters...

## 2.4 The 4th annual e-symposium on money in politics in Africa delivered in context of COVID-19

ACFIM conducted the 4th series of the International Symposium on **“Money in Politics. The e-symposium under the theme “Money, Elections and COVID-19: Implication to Credibility of Electoral Outcomes in Africa”**, was delivered through virtual platforms with live broadcast on Television .

The 4th annual e-symposium discussed the

following;

1. Campaign financing and electoral outcome in the context of Covid-19.
2. Nexus between national budgets and spending on partisan politics.
3. The effect of private money on electoral integrity in Africa.
4. Campaign finance and inclusion of Women and Youth in general elections in Africa
5. Financing Political Parties for Elections – issues and challenges.

Annual symposium is a flagship event for ACFIM that brings together academicians, politicians, civil society, religious and cultural leaders, Electoral Management Bodies, political parties, media and private sector to discuss money in politics.



Left, standing is Prof. Augustus Nuwagaba delivering a keynote address, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, the Government Chief Whip (center) and Hon. Osinde Michael, Chairperson of the Human Right Bureau of Uganda People Conference (UPC).

(Photo credit: ACFIM)

**8. NBS Television is primarily an English Speaking Television targeting AB class audience.**

Inset: Government Chief Whip Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, contributes to the discussion as panelist on the negative effects of money in politics in Africa.

(Photo credit: ACFIM)



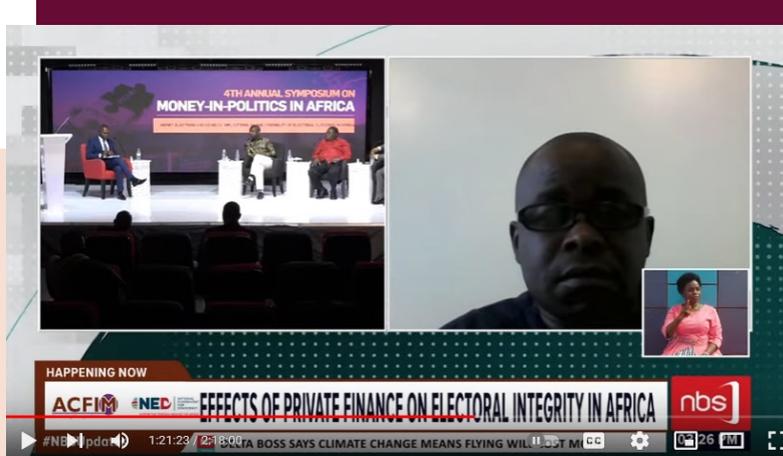
Left: Felix Kafuuma moderating discussions with Panelists Hon Thomas Tayebwa (Center), Hon Michael Osinde (2nd Right), and Prof Augustus Nuwagaba (Extreme Right)

Photo Credit ACFIM



Prof Sheila Bunwaree- Professor of Sociology and Development Studies Professor at the University of Mauritius, makes a presentation during the 4th E-Symposium on Money in Politics in Africa.

Photo Credit ACFIM



Left: Mr. Gram Matenga from International IDEA presents online the issues and challenges of financing political parties during elections.

Photo Credit ACFIM



## 3.0 Advocacy for Campaign Finance Reforms

ACFIM is leading the advocacy for electoral reforms geared towards curbing the use of money in politics. ACFIM is championing advocacy for campaign finance legislation as anti-dote to commercialized electoral politics.

To this end ACFIM engaged key stakeholders in the newly constituted Parliament to rally support for campaign finance reforms and these have included Government Chief Whip, Leader of Opposition and the Accountability Committee of Parliament.

### 3.1 *Engaging Government Chief Whip on campaign finance legal reforms*



ACFIM team during a strategic meeting with the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa to lobby for electoral reforms.

Photo Credit ACFIM

### **3.2 Mobilizing the support of Office of Leader of Opposition in Parliament on Electoral Reforms**



**Left row:** ACFIM team meets with the Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Hon. Mathias Mpuuga to advocate for electorate reforms.

Photo Credit ACFIM



**Left:** ACFIM Executive Director Mr. Muguzi Henry hands over a compendium of study reports published by ACFIM to the Leader of Opposition Hon. Mathias Mpuuga after the strategic engagement meeting

Photo Credit ACFIM



Group photo of ACFIM team posing with Leader of Opposition Hon. Mathias Mpuuga.

Photo Credit ACFIM

### *3.3 Strategic Meeting with Chairpersons of Parliamentary Accountability Committees on Audit of Political Party Funds*



**Left Row:** ACFIM Team meets the Chairperson of the Accountability of Committee of Parliament, Hon. Jonh Baptist Nambeshe over accountability and audit of public funds disbursed to political parties in Uganda.

Photo Credit ACFIM

### 3.4 Public Interest Litigation

ACFIM in partnership with Network for Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL) and Justice Forum (JEEMA) are preparing to take legal action in public interest against the Attorney General and the Electoral Commission for illegal distribution of funds to political parties during the 2021 General Elections and other previous General Elections. This is in reference to total disregard of the Political Parties and Organizations (amendment act 2010), section 14 A (b) that compels government to finance political parties on equal basis with respect to elections.



ACFIM team meets with Network for Public Interest Lawyers to brainstorm on how to pursue the public interest litigation against government disregarding enforcing section 14 A (b) of PPOA that provides for financing political parties on equal basis with respect to elections.



**Left row:** ACFIM team meets with the Secretary General of Democratic Party, Dr. Siranda Gerald (far right) to mobilise DP's support and join the Public Interest Litigation case.

Photo Credit ACFIM



ACFIM and DP pose for group photo after the engagement held at Piato Hotel, Lumumba Avenue, Kampala. The DP team was led the Party President Chairman Nobert Mao (Third right-front row) and the Secretary General, and Sec General Dr. Gerald Siranda (Third Left). ACFIM team led by Executive Director Henry Muguzi (Fourth left)

Photo Credit ACFIM

## 4.0 Institutional Strengthening, Learning and Development

ACFIM continues to grow from strength to strength as the leading political finance watchdog in Uganda. Below are the highlights of ACFIM's institutional milestones.

### 4.1 Putting together a new Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan for ACFIM (2017-2022) is in its final lap and a process to develop a new one started in 2021 involving evaluations, reflections and planning.



Programme Officer, Eddie Kayinda facilitates a session during an internal working session for the strategic plan at ACFIM secretariat, Kampala

Photo Credit ACFIM



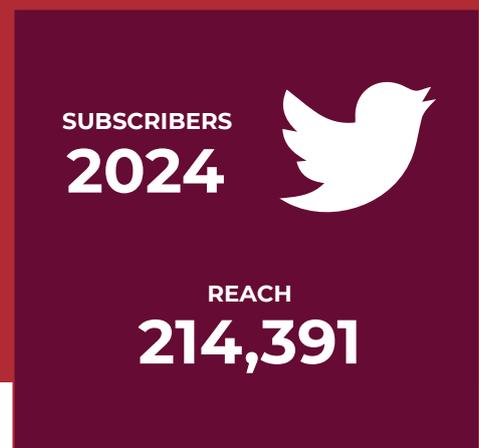
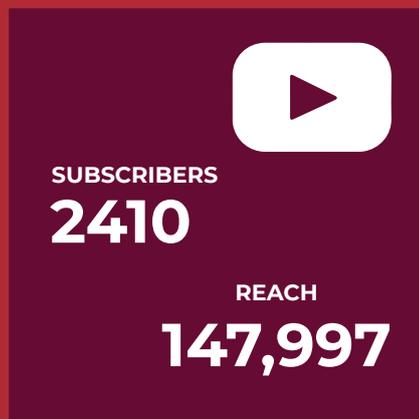
ACFIM Team during a strategic planning session at Hotel Jogies in Kampala. Photo Credit ACFIM



## 4.2 ACFIM's Digital Footprint Grows in 2021

ACFIM continued to grow her digital foot print, expanding her online presence and influence as a means of reaching out and engaging her audience.

### 1.Social Media Reach



### 2.Secrets Known

This is a weekly online news magazine that applies analytical lenses on selected news stories on money in politics and democracy.



### 3. Virtual Talk Shows

These are weekly and monthly online talk shows through which ACFIM creates awareness and sensitizes online audience on the subject of money in politics and democratic deficits.

A Luganda talk show dubbed “Ensigo Ku Kizinga” was launched in December 2021 targeting Luganda speaking audience’s maiden episode attracted a record 605 viewers



9,759



605



7,269



1,054

### 4. Video Infomercials

These have been used to sensitize public through online platforms on the dangers of commercialised electoral politics.

Over

70,000

on Facebook, Twitter & YouTube



### 4.3 ACFIM Culture and Organization Practices



ACFIM staff see off 2021 in style, toasting to bright future ahead.

Photo Credit ACFIM



# Recognizing Milestones, Celebrating Staff & Team Building At Acfim



ACFIM Staff celebrate a birthdays as one of the ways of recognizing important days for staff

Photo Credit ACFIM





## 4.4 ACFIM's firsts

### Using ICT to monitor Campaign Financing

In the history of Uganda's electoral democracy, ACFIM applied the first ever web-based (online) application supported with smart phones to track campaign spending. An empirical report titled "Money Controlling Voter Consent" was

published as a result.

### Lead Domestic Election Observer

ACFIM was entrusted the responsibility of taking lead in the observation of the 2021 general elections and deployed a total of 1,009 observers comprising of Long-Term Observers (LTOs), Short Term Observers (STOs) and Roving Observers (Ros). These were deployed across the country.



...ACFIM applied the first ever web-based (online) application supported with smart phones to track campaign spending.



## 5.0 Challenges

1. The continued closure of Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) and the purge of civil society is limiting ACFIM spaces for meaningful engagement
2. COVID-19 restricted capacities of ACFIM and partners to take advocacy messages to the citizenry lest for those that had access to online, social and electronic media platforms.
3. ACFIM continues to be a high-risk organization with all eyes and ears of the state focused on its activities which poses threat to ACFIM's operations.
4. The amorphous structure of the state with shifting power centers makes it difficult for ACFIM to pinpoint her advocacy focus.
5. e. Financial sustainability continues to be an emerging and existential challenge to the organization.





## 6.0 Looking forward

- In 2022, ACFIM will unveil her new strategy focus that responds to the emerging political financing concerns and democratic challenges.
- The new strategic direction will also seek to answer the contextual challenges within which civil society is operating in the post 2021 elections.
- The reality is that the civic space continues to shrink and civic actors in the domain of
  - human rights and democracy are under constant threat from the regime. Surviving the current times yet remaining relevant, objective and pro-people will be at the center of ACFIM's programming
  - ACFIM is set to expand her influence beyond Uganda and mobilize the rest of Africa towards actions and reforms in political finance and electoral democracy. The conviction within ACFIM is that the problem of money in politics is a continental problem that requires a regional approach.

# Statement of **Financial Position** as at December 31, 2021

	Note	2021 Ushs.	2020 Ushs.
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property and Equipment	3	12,744,435	11,830,770
Intangible Assets	4	5,081,550	7,622,325
		<u>17,825,985</u>	<u>19,453,095</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Receivables and Prepayments	5	31,902,249	53,724,632
Cash and Bank Balances	6	107,356,671	367,738,145
		<u>139,258,920</u>	<u>421,462,777</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b><u>157,084,905</u></b>	<b><u>440,915,872</u></b>
<b>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>FUNDS</b>			
CAPITAL FUND	7	17,825,985	19,453,095
GENERAL FUND	8	69,041,617	325,263,027
<b>Total Funds</b>	10	<u>86,867,602</u>	<u>344,716,122</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables and Accruals	11	70,217,303	96,199,750
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>		<b><u>157,084,905</u></b>	<b><u>440,915,872</u></b>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 14/4/2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MR. WILLIAM ANYOLITHO

CHAIRMAN  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 MS. ANGELA BYANGWA

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

# Movers & Shakers at ACFIM



**Henry Muguzi**

Executive Director



**Rose Achom**

Head of Finance & Admin



**Felix V. Kafuuma**

Head of Programmes



Monitoring, Evaluation &

**Annet Naluyima Kirabo**



**Eddie Kayinda**

Programme Officer



**Lydia Oyungi**

Finance & Admin Officer



**Elizabeth Karungi**  
Communications



**Patra Kasemire**  
Volunteer -ICT



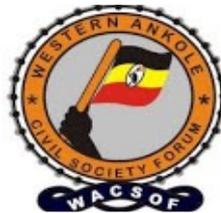
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