



Alliance for Finance Monitoring

Annual Report 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About ACFIM	3
Our Vision	3
Our Mission	3
Our Members	3
Our Reach in 2015	5
Introduction	6
ADVOCACY ON COMMERCIALISATION OF POLITICS	6
National Public Dialogue	10
RESEARCH STUDIES	11
Who Pays the Piper?	11
Shaking the Mango Tree	12
CAMPAIGN FINANCE MONITORING FOR 216 ELECTIONS	15
Tracking Campaign expenses	15
Human Resources and Organisational Effectiveness	16
Corporate Governance	17

About ACFIM

Alliance for Campaign Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) was formed in November 2014 as a coalition of 16 civil society organizations that banded together to foster transparency and accountability in financing of political and electoral processes.

Our Vision

A Country where Financing of Political and Electoral Processes is Transparent and Accountable.

Our Mission

To contribute to an environment where there exists transparency and accountability in financing of electoral and political processes by conducting research studies, mobilising citizens, monitoring and advocating for well-targeted legal, institutional and administrative reforms.

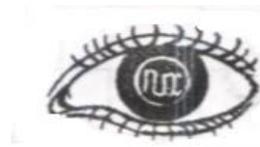
Our Members

- 1) Anti-Corruption Coalition of Busoga
- 2) Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda
- 3) Citizens Platform for Democracy and Accountability
- 4) Community Development and Child Welfare Initiatives
- 5) First African Bicycle Organisation
- 6) Kick Corruption Out of Uganda
- 7) MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition
- 8) Mid-western Region Anti-corruption Coalition
- 9) Moroto Nakapiripirit Religious Leaders Initiative for Peace
- 10) Native Travel Festival
- 11) Northern Uganda Anti-corruption Coalition
- 12) Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition
- 13) Teso Anti-corruption Coalition
- 14) The Apac Anti-Corruption Coalition
- 15) Transparency International Uganda
- 16) Western Ankole Civil Society Forum

Our Membership



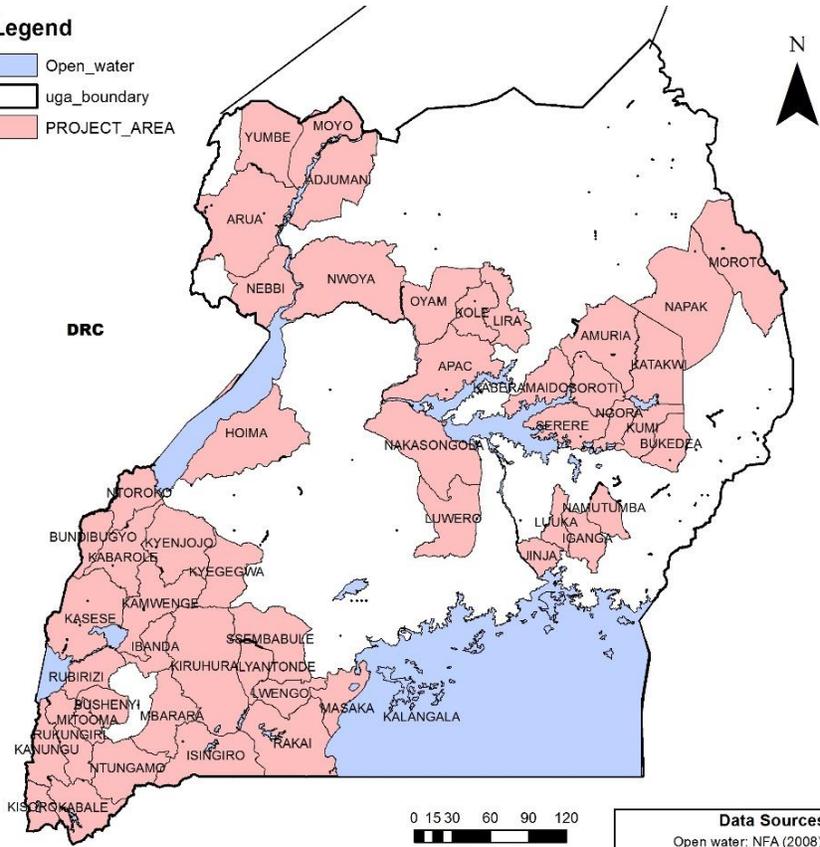
**ANTI CORRUPTION
COALITION UGANDA**



Our Reach in 2015

Legend

- Open_water
- uga_boundary
- PROJECT_AREA



Introduction

The year 2015 was a watershed moment for ACFIM as we engaged in ground breaking surveys on the 9th Parliament on Campaign Spending and Constituency Demands; attracted public attention to the discourse of commercialization of politics and electoral processes in Uganda and kick started the first ever campaign finance monitoring initiative in Africa.

Our activities for 2015 can be categorized as follows:

- 1) Advocacy for Campaign Finance Legislation
- 2) Research
- 3) Campaign Finance Monitoring

ADVOCACY ON COMMERCIALISATION OF POLITICS

Sub National Dialogues

In May 2015 ACFIM received a grant from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) – a carry out a project titled Fostering Financial Transparency and Accountability in the 2016 General Election Campaigns. The project included conducting subnational dialogues in four regions namely western, central, eastern and northern regions of Uganda. These were conducted in Kabale, Masaka, Jinja and Lira districts. The subnational dialogues were attended by politicians, political leaders, civil society, academia, religious leaders and private sector member. The discussion in these dialogues revolved around commercialisation of elections in Uganda that manifests itself mostly in form of vote buying. At the end of these subnational dialogues participants made public declarations against vote buying ahead of the campaigns for 2016 general elections.

The Dialogues in Pictures



Caption: On the left, Participants committing themselves to no vote buying/selling by signing while on the right, Kabale woman MP, Mayor Kabale Municipality and Dr Nicholas Kamara (3rd left) an aspirant for Kabale Municipality Member of Parliament are doing the same.



Caption: Participants in the Jinja sub national dialogue sign the public declaration in support of no vote-buying/selling in the coming elections in February 2016.



***Above:** Subnational Public Dialogue in Masaka. Below: Subnational public Dialogue in Lira*



***Caption:** Lira University Don, Dr. Alex Oryang was one of the guest speakers at the Sub-national public dialogue*



Caption: Participants signing the No Vote-buying / selling banners as a sign of publicly declaring their support to the citizens' campaign against commercialization of politics in Uganda.

National Public Dialogue

The subnational dialogues climaxed into the national dialogue was held at Hotel Africana in Kampala on December 7th, 2015. The national dialogue was organized in partnership with Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) and Uganda Youth Network (UYONET) as the major activity of the annual National Anti-corruption Convention that took place on December 7th, 2015 at Hotel Africana. The partnership was organized in a sense that UYONET already had a running contract with NTV for live telecast of Situation room debates while the National NGO Forum provided the platform for ACFIM. On our part, ACFIM brought onboard empirical information on extent of vote buying during the pre-election period. A policy brief titled: "*Time to Take Action on Vote Buying*", was presented to set the tone for the panel discussions that followed immediately after. The theme of the Dialogue was: *My Vote is Priceless – Say No to Vote-Buying and Selling*.

The policy brief made the following recommendations:

1. All party leaders and presidential candidates need to speak out against voter bribery and the commercialization of politics.
2. Police should thoroughly investigate complaints of vote buying and selling. DPP should ensure that public prosecutors take these cases seriously and bring them to court expeditiously.
3. While it may be late to consider electoral reforms, ACFIM strongly Advocates for independent legislation on campaign financing.
4. Commercialization of politics is a problem that will require Ugandans from all walks of life to take collective action to reduce it.

All the four recommendations from ACFIM police brief were carried in the Joint Communique that was released at the end of the convention.

A panel discussion of eminent persons was constituted comprising of the Chairperson ACFIM/Executive Director Transparency International Uganda - Mr. Peter Wandera; Secretary General of the opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) Party - Hon. Nathan Nandala Mafabi; Chairman of the Electoral Commission of the incumbent National Resistance Movement (NRM) Party – Dr. Odoi Tanga; Deputy Chairperson ACFIM/Executive Director Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) – Ms Cissy Kagaba, and Representative of the National Youth Council. The panel members based their submissions on the policy paper findings and its recommendations.



Caption: THE PANEL: L-R: Dr.Odoi Tanga (NRM), Ms Cissy Kagaba (ACCU/ACFIM), Peter Wandera(TIU/ACFIM, Youth Council Representative (UYONET), and Hon. Nathan Nandala Mafabi (FDC).

RESEARCH STUDIES

Two studies were conducted in 2015, the first targeting alleged vote buyers – the Members of Parliament; and the second targeting the alleged vote sellers – voters. These studies were codenamed: *Who Pays the Piper?*; and *Shaking the Mango Tree* respectively.

Who Pays the Piper?

Alliance for Election Campaign Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) partnered with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to conduct a survey of Members of the 9th Parliament on the commercialization of Uganda’s political culture. The survey targeted a population of 275 directly elected MPs (excluding Govt front bench). We randomly surveyed 146 (53.1%) of the target population. Surveys were conducted by telephone between 14th November and 18th December. The survey took a maximum of 23 and minimum of 17 minutes per MP. It was representative of the target population at a 95.5% confidence level with a margin of error of 1.5%. The survey was conducted in December 2014 but disseminated in January 2015.

The survey was motivated by the concerns of ACFIM members upon the level of indebtedness that Members of Parliament were experiencing. Survey findings were

unveiled into two parts the first focusing on constituency demands and the second on campaign spending. It was widely publicised in the media locally and internationally. The survey revealed interesting findings including 88 percent of the MPs saying that they were “often” asked to contribute to fundraising for churches, mosques, schools and other communal but privately owned buildings or services in their constituency over the last year. They stated that on average the spend UGX 4.7 million every time they went back to their constituencies.

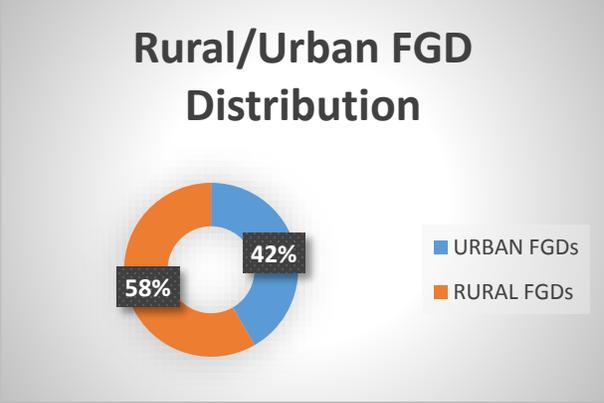
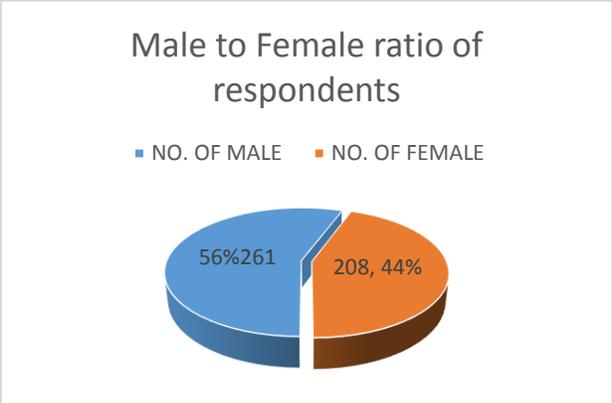
MPs pointed at the voters as the major cause for their indebtedness because the excessive demands of voters had made them spend through the nose during campaigns and continue to do so even after being elected.

Shaking the Mango Tree

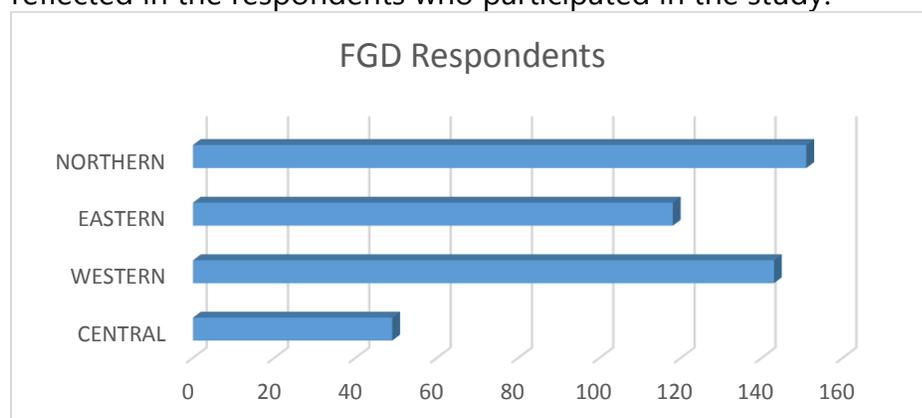
Having understood the attitudes of the MPs, we then set out to interrogate the other side of alleged vote sellers – the citizens. This is the study we codenamed: *Shaking the Mango Tree*.

A total of 48 focused groups were conducted in 16 Districts of Lwengo, Lira, Hoima, Moroto, Masaka, Bukedea, Amuria, Luwero, Kabarole, Kabale, Bundibugyo, Iganga, Soroti, Apac, Oyam, and Arua.

In total, 469 participants took part in 47 focused group discussions in the 4 regions constituting an average of 10 participants per focused group with number of rural focused groups higher than in urban areas. This reflects the vast coverage of rural over urban centers.



Northern and Western regions are better represented in ACFIM’s network of voluntary monitors compared to Eastern and much less the Central region. This has similarly been reflected in the respondents who participated in the study.



Qualitative data was derived from the primary interviews conducted with Focus Groups Discussions (FGD) in assessment of the voters’ perception about vote buying and selling. Participants in the FGDs were drawn from both rural and urban areas comprising males mixed with females, males and females alone. The interviews were conducted in 16 districts including across the regions in Uganda and they included: Iganga, Lwengo, Soroti, Amuria, Apac, Arua, Kabarole, Kabale, Bundibugyo, Masaka, Hoima, Moroto, Oyam, Luwero, Lira and Bukedea. The response rates per district per type of FGD are shown in table 1 below:

Table 1: Number of FGDs conducted and category per District

No.	District	FGDs Conducted and Category							Frequency(N)	Percent %
		MXR	MXU	MLU	MLR	FLU	FLR			
1.	Apac	1			1	1	1	4	8.5%	
2.	Arua				1	2	1	4	8.5%	
3.	Bundibugyo	2		1		1		4	8.5%	
4.	Iganga	1	2	1				4	8.5%	
5.	Kabale	1	1	1			1	4	8.5%	
6.	Kabarole		1	1	1		1	4	8.5%	
7.	Oyam		1	1	1		1	4	8.5%	
8.	Soroti	2			1		1	4	8.5%	
9.	Amuria				1		1	2	4.2%	
10.	Bukedea				1		1	2	4.2%	
11.	Hoima		1				1	2	4.2%	
12.	Lira			1			1	2	4.2%	
13.	Luwero		1		1			2	4.2%	

14.	Lwengo	1			1			2	4.2%
15.	Masaka		1			1		2	4.2%
16.	Moroto				1			1	2.1%
Total per FGD		N=9	N=7	N=6	N=10	N=5	N=10	N=47	100%

Source: Primary Data

Results show that 8 districts of Iganga, Soroti, Apac, Arua, Kabarole, Kabale, Bundibugyo and Oyam had the highest number of FGDs comprising 8.5% each, followed by Lwengo, Amuria, Masaka, Hoima, Luwero, Lira and Bukedea each with 4.2% and then Moroto had the least number of FGDs comprising of 2.1%.

In nutshell, the FGDs revealed the following:

- 1) There is deep seated cynicism about the political processes in Uganda
- 2) Those who give more are the ones that have actually stolen more!!!
- 3) People are currently more than happy to take the money!!

The FGDs confirmed that vote-buying / selling is ubiquitous in Ugandan elections and it takes various forms including:

- a) Direct cash to voters
 - b) Gifts in form of home items, hand tools and groceries
 - c) Donations in churches, mosques
 - d) Poverty alleviation programmes
 - e) Turnout buying
 - f) Electoral hospitality and tourism
- 4) FGDs also highlight the key role of campaign activists as key brokers of votes using some or a combination of the above to bring voters to the polls.
 - 5) FDGs further identified brokers as the main beneficiaries of campaign spending: potential principle-agent problems

CAMPAIGN FINANCE MONITORING FOR 216 ELECTIONS

Monitoring campaign expenditure is a key element in our advocating for a law on campaign financing. This extended study on campaign expenses for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections 2016 is to foster transparency and accountability in financing of election campaigns in Uganda .

Tracking Campaign expenses

The study is aimed at obtaining credible evidence based data that will be used to quantify campaign expenditure for political parties and candidates; and tracking the flow of public financial resources particularly those that are misused for campaigns 2015-2016. The research/study is extended over a period of 10 months covering 74 constituencies in 16 districts selected purposively from different regions across Uganda. Its scope includes party primaries, party delegates' conferences and campaigns for general elections 2016. Findings will be used to inform a post-election lobby and advocacy for reforms in financing of electoral and political processes.



Caption: Meeting with stakeholders in election campaigns 2015/2016: Opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) campaigning team

Human Resources and Organisational Effectiveness

ACFIM continued to strengthen delivery structure, policies and systems for enhanced organisational effectiveness in 2015. ACFIM is maintaining quality staff of 3 male and 3 female at the secretariat. The partners that are supported by the secretariat continue to have partner capacity trainings and this has seen an improvement in the quality of programmes, reporting and innovations.



Caption: Member Organisations of ACFIM, the board together with the staff on the Annual Partners Meeting.

Key Communication Accomplishments

ACFIM presence in the media shot up especially in the radio and television reaching a record of 210 for a new organisation. These include 50 news stories, 30 radio interviews, 70 phone call interviews, 26 internet interviews and 34 campaign messages all over the country.

In the television, we recorded a live running Situation Room which constituted of members of parliament from different political parties debating on voter bribery. This campaign was continuously run on predominant radio stations like Capital Fm, Radio One, CBS, and KFM.

ACFIM attained a website, and social media connectivity such as Youtube, Facebook and Twitter. The website users increased ranging from the likes to viewers and followers. The communication unit throughout the year strengthened its internal communication by sharing weekly updates to all staff, partner members and the internal board. The unit also shared resources in photos and stories.

Corporate Governance

Governance within ACFIM Uganda is the process by which an assembly or Board functions as a unit to direct the organisation. The governance framework allows the Board to consider conformity and performance, enabling them to balance their responsibility for oversight.

Supporters and Funding Partners

In 2015, ACFIM continued to receive support of different sponsors and partners enabling us to deliver our commitments. As a result of quality programs and reports, we received compliments and acknowledgments from different sponsors

Funding Partners

1. National Endowment for Democracy, NED
2. National Democratic Institute- Uganda, NDI
3. Democratic Governance Facility, DGF

FINANCE PERFORMANCE

	DGF			
	Election		NDI	Totals
INCOME	Financing	NED		
Fund Balance b/f from the previous year	-	-	-	-
Grant Income for the year 2015	686,729,970	67,956,362	-	754,686,332
Total Grant Income for the year 2015	686,729,970	67,956,362	-	754,686,332
Salaries & wages(Admin + Programs)	49,275,000	10,458,309	-	59,733,309
NSSF 10% Employer Contribution	3,310,000	1,665,684	-	4,975,684
Office Running Expenses	15,448,803	2,927,057	-	18,375,860
Rent (head Office /Field offices)	-	3,494,969	-	3,494,969
Water Bills	100,000	75,300	-	175,300
Security Expenses	1,894,900	2,672,900	-	4,567,800
Office Stationery ,computer accessories & Courier Services	1,803,500	3,802,000	-	5,605,500
IT Support / Internet Services / website Development/ Call center	500,000	900,000	-	1,400,000
Bank Charges	659,950	648,100	-	1,308,050
Political Parties and Candidates finance Monitoring	88,308,960	-	-	88,308,960
Documentation of money in election costs	98,160,300	-	-	98,160,300
Stakeholder engagement on Research findings	53,526,500	-	-	53,526,500
Sub National Public Dialogues		29,401,800	-	29,401,800
Other Costs(PAYE, VAT . Local Service Tax & WHT)	8,850,000	1,756,369	-	10,606,369
Dissemination of Project Report / workshops	-	8,783,000	-	8,783,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	321,837,913	66,585,488	-	388,423,401
COMMITTED FUNDS (UNSPENT BALANCES) C/F	364,892,057	1,370,874	-	366,262,931