



DGF

Democratic Governance Facility

NEWSLETTER

Q3, July - September 2020

International Youth Day: Speaker Advises Youth to Vie for Elective Political Positions



Some of the youth participants at the 3rd National Youth Parliamentary Session. (Photo credit: Restless Development Uganda)

The event was graced by the State Minister for Youth, Hon. Florence Nakiwala Kiyingi, the European Union Head of Delegation to Uganda, H.E Ambassador Attilio Pacifici and the Chairperson of the National Youth Council, Lillian Aber, who represented the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga.

In her speech read by Lillian Aber, Hon. Kadaga encouraged the youth to take part in the forthcoming national elections by participating in and vying for elective positions to have their voices heard on matters of national importance.

On her part, Lillian Aber cautioned the youth to desist from getting used by opportunists to champion violence during the forthcoming elections and advised them to vote for leaders who will voice their concerns and have them addressed

Read here for more details on this story: <https://www.dgf.ug/news/speaker-advises-youth-vie-elective-political-positions>

On 14th August 2020, Platform for Youth in Politics (PYIP), an umbrella organisation with a membership of over 100 youth-focused organisations convened the third National Youth Parliament session to commemorate the International Youth Day under the theme: “Youth Engagement for Global Action”.

The National Youth Parliament is a political and legislative space that brings together youth from across the country to deliberate on various issues that affect them.

Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics Launched



Some of the representatives of partner organisations at the launch of the Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics. (Photo credit: Faraja Africa Foundation)

The platform’s major focus areas include: voter mobilisation; addressing young people’s issues and policy demands; legal framework and electoral justice; monitoring the electoral process; and ensuring good health of the youth movement.

The CSOs behind PYIP are Restless Development (RDU), ActionAid International Uganda (AAIU), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and 130 other local organisations.

Read here for more details on this story: <https://www.dgf.ug/news/platform-youth-inclusion-politics-launched>

On 23th July 2020, a coalition of civil society organisations (CSOs) launched the Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics (PYIP) to encourage young people to meaningfully engage, and participate in the country’s political and governance discourse ahead of the 2021 general elections.

Message from DGF

Dear readers,

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter covering the months of July to September 2020.

I recently joined the DGF team as its Head of Facility, and I am very happy to be part of the DGF family. I hope all of you are safe and well amidst the uncertain times of COVID-19.

One of DGF’s focus areas is to promote meaningful participation of the youth in governance and development processes at all levels in Uganda. In line with this, this issue of the newsletter focuses on ‘Youth and Governance’, and highlights the need to bring youth on board as key players in strengthening good governance and development in Uganda.

In addition to the above, we also highlight other interesting activities and interventions our partners undertook in this quarter. I encourage you all, dear readers, to visit our online platforms (Website, Facebook and Twitter pages) for regular updates on our partners’ many interesting activities. Also, I invite you to contact the DGF communication team if you have an issue of interest you would like to feature in our subsequent newsletters.

Enjoy reading our newsletter and stay safe!

Nicole Bjerler,
Head of Facility.

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Q and A: Restless Development Uganda on Youth and Governance

DGF works with a number of partners to strengthen youth participation in governance. The DGF supports Restless Development Uganda (RDU) to undertake a project titled: “Youth Influence in Governance”. We interviewed the RDU Director, Catherine Rodgers, whose key message to the youth was for them to lead the change they want to see. Here are the excerpts of the conversation:



Restless Development Uganda (RDU) Director, Catherine Rodgers. (Source: RDU)

What is RDU’s core work with the youth?

At RDU, we believe in the power of young people, we support them to be able to find solutions to the challenges they, their communities and their country face. This includes sensitising them on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including gender based violence, teenage pregnancy and menstruation periods stigma.

We advocate for decent living for young people ranging from internship programmes, research into the barriers to youth employment including the impact of climate change on their livelihoods.

We also support young people to have their voices heard in political and economic spaces. For instance, we support them to take part in planning and budgeting processes at local government and national levels. We ensure that youth occupy these decision making spaces by taking up political positions and participating in elections. We also formed district youth working groups to influence decision making at the district level. All these are carried out within our project geographical reach of Karamoja and Busoga regions

How has DGF’s support helped your efforts of promoting and advocating for meaningful youth participation in governance processes?

We have a two-year partnership with the DGF under the project: “The Youth Influence in Governance” in Karamoja and Busoga. The DGF has gone beyond funding us, to connecting us with other DGF partners who we collaborate with in reaching out to youth in areas that we can hardly access geographically and demographically.

With support of the DGF, we have been able to promote active participation of young people in the planning and

budgeting processes at local government and national levels. We have also supported them to actively and meaningfully participate in the upcoming 2021 general elections from an informed point of view. In addition, we have engaged 100 community-based organisations to strengthen their capacity to meaningfully engage in local government planning and budgeting processes. We have linked some of them to our global youth collective platform, to enhance access to evidence, and learning on youth participation.

Why has RDU chosen to work with youth in Busoga and Karamoja regions?

Karamoja and Busoga regions have different contexts in which young people operate, so we are here to support them to be leaders in society amidst a challenging socio-economic environment. It is important to know that young people have a different lifestyle, and hence they are affected differently by different circumstances. For instance in Karamoja, they are a pastoral community, and thus live a nomadic lifestyle which can make it hard for them to continue in education. Also Inter-generational relationships can be challenging.

In Busoga, teenage pregnancies and abuse of sexual reproductive health rights is high. There are limited decision making spaces for young people in this region and decent living is scarce therefore young people need to protect themselves and bodies against such.

Ahead of Uganda’s general elections in 2021, how is RDU working with the youth to ensure they actively participate in different electoral processes?

We are working with the Youth Coalition in Electoral Democracy (YCED) and the Platform for Youth Inclusion in Politics (PYIP) to develop the National Youth Manifesto, which will be launched at the end of September 2020. It puts on table youth expectations in a given political period. To track progress of the manifesto demands, the annual state of the youth report is published to evaluate government’s investment in its young people.

On the other hand, PYIP also supports and trains youth political candidates. We mobilise and teach them about the electoral processes. In line with this, the Ugandan youth wrote a paper titled: “Uganda’s 2020/21 General Elections: Key issues for a free, fair and credible elections in the wake of COVID-19”, which was presented to the Electoral Commission (EC) in June 2020 and in turn, the recommendations were part of the new guidelines the EC issued on political campaigns for the 2021 general elections.

We are also supporting young people to meaningfully engage with political parties to advocate for the incorporation of their priorities into their party manifestos, and create awareness of

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young people's key priorities in the National Youth Manifesto for redress by any government that takes on power after the 2021 general elections.

How is RDU coping working with youth during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how are the youth responding to your programmes?

RDU has adapted all of its programmes to ensure we are able to deliver while keeping our staff and young leaders safe and healthy. We also worked with our partners to understand how young people are impacted by COVID-19 across East Africa through a research study titled: **"COVID-19 and the Young People, the Costs and Opportunities"**. One of the most interesting findings is that 90 percent of the youth want to be part of the COVID-19 response.

RDU has also been working with the Ministry of Health to provide additional support from young leaders in the call centres that were established to ensure that youth access sexual reproductive health services including addressing gender based violence and mental health support. We further encourage young people to be a source of correct and relevant information about COVID-19 to their communities to prevent the spread of the pandemic. They do this through songs and information sharing in local languages.

The high youth population in Uganda has unfortunately evolved into high unemployment rate among the youth. What has been your contribution towards the fight against youth unemployment?

We support internship programmes as a way of providing skills, knowledge and experience to newly graduated young people. We also develop youth-led research into barriers young people face in accessing decent living to influence key stakeholders such as public and private sectors to adopt policies to support young people's access to a decent living.

We provide entrepreneurship skills for young people through trainings and support them to access both supply and demand side opportunities in agriculture and animal industry markets through facilitating more effective and efficient market systems.

With COVID-19, we know that globally there is going to be massive unemployment for the youth as many companies and organisations may down size. Government of Uganda, therefore, needs to continue and increase its support to young entrepreneurs.

What are the key challenges faced by the youth you work with at the grassroots?

The biggest challenge is being able to reach and engage diverse and marginalised youth groups, including youth with disability, out of school youth, young mothers across all districts and refugees. We, however, work with our partners in civil society to reach such groups of youth so that no one is left out.

Any message from you to the youth in Uganda during the changing times?

Young people need to engage in decision making spaces to ensure a better Uganda. They need to participate in these spaces so that they are heard, appreciated and their demands addressed by our leaders.

What are RDU's future interventions for the youth?

Our focus is on supporting young leaders in communities to be the change they want to see, working with others to address the challenges they face while using various tools including youth-led research, and youth-led accountability frameworks.

Uganda Joins the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative



L-R: Diana Taremwa (CSCO steering committee member), James Muhindo (CSCO Coordinator), Winfred Ngabiirwe (GRA Executive Director) and Onesmus Mugenyi (ACODE Deputy Executive Director) address a press conference in Kampala on 13 August, 2020. (Photo credit: ACODE)

This action will enable Uganda to publish and reconcile data on oil, gas and mining revenues as a mechanism for ensuring transparency, accountability and proper management of revenues that accrue from these resources.

This mile stone was partly made possible by DGF funded partners including Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas in Uganda (CSCO) that is hosted by Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), Global Rights Alert (GRA) and Publish What You Pay (PWYP) among others.

Read here for more details on this story: <https://www.dgf.ug/news/uganda-joins-extractive-industries-transparency-initiative-eiti>

On 12th August 2020, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) International Secretariat admitted Uganda into the initiative, making Uganda the 54th member country and 26th African country to join the EITI.

HRCU Reports Indicate Increasing Rights Violation against Human Rights Defenders

On 26th August 2020, the Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) launched two reports: “The Situation of Human Rights Defenders in Uganda Report 2019”, and “The Youth Human Rights Defenders in Uganda Thematic Report 2019” at its office in Kampala.

The reports culminated from studies conducted in seven districts, representative of all the regions of Uganda. The two reports indicate a significant increment in the violation of rights of human rights defenders (HRDs) across the country, including youth, in the course of their work.

Read here for more details on this story: <https://www.dgf.ug/news/hrcu-reports-indicate-increasing-rights-violation-against-human-rights-defenders>

Uganda National Journalism Awards 2020: Journalists Urged to do Gender-Sensitive, Quality Reporting



Nicole Bjerler, the Head of Facility at the DGF, handing over a certificate to Ronald Musoke, a journalist with the Independent Magazine, during the National Journalism awards ceremony. (Photo Credit: ACME)

On 28th August 2020, the African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME) recognised 34 journalists (individuals and teams) with various awards in 19 reporting categories during the annual Uganda National Journalism Awards (UNJA) ceremony held at Mestil Hotel in Kampala.

Initiated by ACME in 2014 with support from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), the awards aim at improving the quality of journalism in Uganda by inspiring and recognizing excellence in reporting on public affairs issues.

The event was attended by Dr Roswitha Kremser, Head of the Coordination Office for Development Cooperation, Austrian Embassy, Kampala; Nicole Bjerler, the Head of Facility at the DGF and; Dr. Monica Chibita, ACME Board Chairperson and Dean at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication at Uganda Christian University, among others.

Read here for more details on this story: <https://www.dgf.ug/news/uganda-national-journalism-awards-2020-journalists-urged-do-gender-sensitive-quality-reporting>

AFLI Launches Parliamentary Performance Scorecard 2018/2019



Hon. David Pulkol, the Executive Director of AFLI, presents the Parliamentary Performance Scorecard 2018/2019 Report during the launch. (Source: NBS TV)

The Africa Leadership Institute (AFLI) in partnership with Uganda Management Institute (UMI), launched the Parliamentary Performance Scorecard for the financial year 2018/2019 on 23th July 2020.

The scorecard seeks to provide Ugandans with critical information on the performance of their MPs so that they are able to monitor their elected representatives and to make informed choices at election time.

Read here for more details on this story: <https://www.dgf.ug/news/africa-leadership-institute-launches-parliamentary-performance-scorecard-20182019>

AFIC Releases Contracts Monitoring Report for Selected Districts for FY 2018/19

The Africa Freedom of Information Centre released the report on contracts monitoring processes for selected district local governments for the FY 2018/19 on 24th July 2020.

The monitoring exercise was aimed at determining the extent to which public contract information is disclosed, the level of citizens’ participation in public contracts, and the extent to which contract execution meets contract requirements.

At the same event, AFIC also disseminated key findings from sectoral analysis reports of procurement data from Uganda’s agriculture, education, health as well as works and transport sector for the financial years 2016/17-2018/19.

Read here for more details on this story: <https://www.dgf.ug/news/afic-releases-contracts-monitoring-report-selected-districts-fy-201819>

Partner Events In Pictures



28th August 2020 – A group photo of urban authority leaders who participated in the joint monitoring visit organised by the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders’ Initiative on Health and HIV in Africa (AMICAALL) in Nauyo-Bugembe Town Council, Mbale District. (Photo credit: AMICAALL)



28th August 2020 - World Voices Uganda (WVU) launched a research report titled: “A Baseline Mapping of Justice Needs and Existing Access to Justice Structures in the Delivery of Access to Justice in Albertine and Rwenzori Regions”, at Hotel Africana in Kampala. (Photo credit: WVU)



11th September 2020 – A team from the Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET) met with the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, to deliberate on the progress of the enactment of the Legal Aid Law. (Photo credit: LASPNET)



31st August 2020 – The Uganda Media Women’s Association (UMWA) conducted a three-day training equipping journalists with gender sensitive reporting skills in preparation for the 2021 elections. (Photo credit: UMWA)



14th September 2020 - Justice Centres Uganda (JCU) conducted an outreach session with women of Ramogi Village, Paya Sub-county in Tororo District to sensitise them about domestic violence and child maintenance. (Photo credit: JCU)



21st September 2020 - Refugee Law Project (RLP) held International Peace Day celebrations in Amoko village, Latanya sub-county in Pader District. (Photo credit: RLP)

Partner Events In Pictures



10th September 2020 – The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government, and Uganda Local Governments Association, conducted a training for statutory bodies in Mbarara District to address challenges identified during the FY 2018/19 local government councils scorecard assessment. (Photo credit: ACODE)



15th September 2020 - The National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda (NCHRD-U) held a press conference on the state of human rights defenders in light of COVID-19 and the 2021 general elections. (Photo credit: NCHRD-U). **View the full statement here:** <https://hrdcoalition.org/uganda-human-rights-in-peril-as-covid-19-escalates-in-the-face-of-2021-elections/>



11th September 2020 – The Women’s International Peace Centre (WIPC) held a meeting with district monitors in Kapelebyong District to share the Gender-Sensitive Early Warning Data Collection tool. This tool will help to strengthen their peace building role while effectively mainstreaming gender and embracing conflict early warning and response mechanisms at district level. (Photo credit: WIPC)



10th September 2020 - The Platform for Labour Action (PLA) Iganga legal team, in partnership with Bugiri District Labour Officer conducted a work place inspection at China Railway 18th Group in Bugiri. A work place inspection helps to check if employers are in compliance with labour standards. (Photo credit: PLA)

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The Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) is a multi-donor funding mechanism supported by Austria, Denmark, European Union, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden to support state and non-state partners to strengthen governance, promote and protect human rights, enhance access to justice, and improve accountability in Uganda.