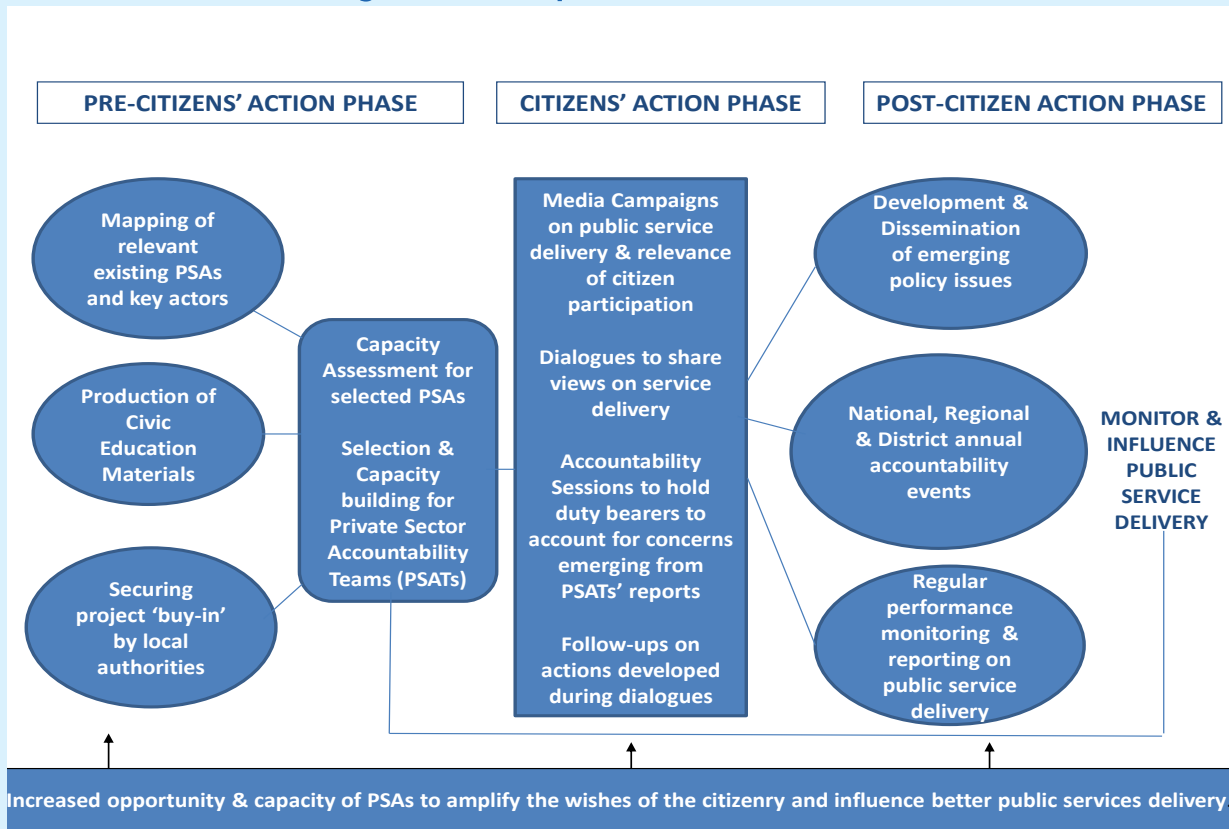


Strategies and Implementation Overview



STRENGTHENING CIVIC COMPETENCE FOR ENHANCED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

About CEDO:

Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organization (CEDO Uganda), the implementing agency of the project, is a well-established National Development Organization operating in Mid-Western and Central Regions of Uganda. Founded in 1992, with a mission of promoting the rights of children, CEDO has amassed extensive experience, and created numerous development programs based on community analyses of the actions which would be most helpful in achieving sustainable and equitable socio-economic development. CEDO implements programs focused on peace building & reconciliation, human rights advocacy, Education access, deepening local democracy and social accountability, as well as income opportunities of the poor. Key Program Areas include: Sustainable Livelihoods; Health; Education and Social Security.



Supported by:



Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance (GAPP) Program



Implemented by:

Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organisation
P. O. Box 195 Masindi, Uganda

Introduction:

This brochure introduces and presents the tenets of a project “Strengthening Civic Competence for Enhanced Democratic Governance in Bunyoro (SCCEDGOB)”, a local governance project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the private sector to engage in democratic governance processes in their respective local governments at Sub County, municipal, and district levels for effective public service delivery. This project is funded by the USAID & DFID funded Uganda Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance (GAPP) Program which is implemented by RTI International (RTI).

Why the Project:

It is widely acknowledged that Uganda has well established institutions, policies and legal frameworks necessary for democratic governance. The 1995 Ugandan constitution provides a sound basis for ensuring good governance, providing for a decentralized system. This system is expected to contribute widely to equitable development by empowering the people and institutions at every level of society including both public and private; improving access to basic services; increasing people’s participation in decision-making; and enhancing government’s responsiveness, transparency and accountability at the local level.

While the private sector has the ability to have a profound impact on good governance and service delivery; collaboration



mechanisms that would enable private sector Associations (abbreviated as PSAs) to make a contribution to sustained economic growth and achieve shared progress remain absent. A culture of dialogue between PSAs and local governments to assure cooperation and systematic interaction on business and other service delivery issues is lacking. The private sector remains weak, uncoordinated and skeptical about their roles in local governance. Communication between government and the private sector also remains lopsided. This inevitably makes PSAs less able to play an active role in carrying out civic education and identifying critical issues for engagement with government.

Motivated by the above, this project empowers citizens to monitor service delivery and focuses on evidence driven advocacy that emphasizes private sector common issues of interest in public service delivery. The common issues revolve around public health care, Education and, public revenue collection and allocation. Good local governance practices promote transparency, accountability and the inclusion of citizens in upholding constitutional rights.

Project Goal:

The overall goal of the Project is to enhance private sector capacity to engage respective local governments at Sub County, municipal, and district level in the three Districts of Masindi, Buliisa and Kiryandongo, to engage in democratic governance processes for effective public service delivery.

Project Objectives:

1. To mobilize and strengthen the capacity of PSAs in Kiryandongo, Buliisa and Masindi Districts, to participate in Local Governance processes.
2. To promote interfaces between PSAs and respective local governments in the districts of Buliisa, Kiryandongo and Masindi, to dialogue on governance issues.
3. To promote national platforms to influence necessary legal, policy and regulatory reforms in service delivery.



Expected Out Comes:

1. Improved legal, policy, regulatory and institutional environment to meet demands for a more democratic governance
2. Improved fiscal management and accountability processes in the delivery of public services in the targeted districts.
3. Vulnerable groups of youth and women empowered with skills to directly engage with local governments.
4. Improved capacity of citizens and private sector actors to hold the Government to account at local level.
5. Increased networking and engagements by citizenry with local governments, elected representatives and other private sector actors to sustain good governance and social accountability.

Target Groups and Beneficiaries

The program is designed to directly reach 22,311 beneficiaries (45% youth). This comprises of 12,161 Members of Private Sector Associations (PSAs), 9,098 community members and, 872 District and sub county technical staff, councilors as well as Members of Parliament from the 03 districts of Masindi, Buliisa and Kiryandongo.