



A Hand Book for Community Health Advocates on  
**Governance & Accountability**



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## About CEHURD

The Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) is a nonprofit research and advocacy organization pioneering the justifiability and realization of the right to health in Uganda and East Africa.

### Vision

“A society in which social justice and human rights in health systems is realised”,

### Mission

“To advance health rights for vulnerable communities through an integrated programme of litigation, advocacy and action research”

## Who are Community Health Advocates?

Community Health Advocates (CHAs) are people who undertake community and district-level advocacy for health and human rights in their respective communities. They help mobilize individuals, families and the community and guide them through the health care system - with free information, advice.

## 3. Introduction

This information sheet has been prepared to guide community Health Advocates, grass root paralegals, community based groups and organizations during community awareness sessions on the topic of Health and Human Rights. It is part of a broader campaign by CEHURD and partners to mobilize, engage and work with communities and community-level actors to demand a human rights-based approach to health care delivery and programming in Uganda. It covers a basic introduction to human rights, the right to health, and available redress mechanisms for violations.

Under the DINU Action they advocate and engage duty bearers at the grassroots and local government levels on their communities Governance and accountability issues for improved service delivery in Koboko and Maracha

## 4. UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS

### What are human rights?

- Human rights are basic values and beliefs that give all human being respectability.
- Human rights are standards of behavior expected from a reasonable individual or institution.
- Human rights are based on the belief that all people (unlike other creatures) have reason and ability to differentiate right from wrong.
- Human rights protect the dignity and equality of all human beings.
- Human rights protect individuals and groups (communities) against actions which interfere with important freedoms and human dignity.
- Human rights are guided by values which society has overtime accepted as necessary for proper living and behavior. Examples of these values are: equality, diversity, on-discrimination, special care for vulnerable people, etc.
- Human rights are not given by the State/Government and their enjoyment is not subject to the authority of anyone.
- The State/Government has the obligation to protect, defend and promote human rights at all times.
- Human rights are guaranteed by the Constitution of Uganda, other national laws and international laws.

## 5. CHARACTERISTICS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Human rights are universal: They apply to everyone in the world equally, regardless of color, religion, culture, gender, etc.
2. Human rights are natural: They are NOT given, bought, earned or inherited. They are inborn to people by the fact that they are human beings.
3. Human rights are inalienable: They cannot be transferred from one person to another.
4. Human rights are irrevocable. They cannot be taken away or reversed, except as permitted in human rights law):
5. Some human rights can only be taken away in the following circumstances:
  - To protect the rights of others
  - To protect public health
  - To protect public morals
  - To promote peace and tranquility, etc.
6. Human rights are indivisible All human rights are interdependent and interrelated; they cannot be divided. The promotion and enforcement of one right has a connection to the protection and/or respect of another right.

## 6. EXAMPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**The Constitution of Uganda guarantees the following rights:**

- Equality and freedom from discrimination
- Protection of right to life

- Protection of personal liberty
- Respect for human dignity and protection from inhuman Treatment.
- Protection from slavery, servitude and forced labor.
- Protection from deprivation of property
- Right to privacy of person, home and other property.
- Right to a fair hearing.
- Protection of freedom of conscience, expression, movement, Religion, assembly and association.
- Right to education.
- Rights of the family.
- Affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups.
- Rights of women.
- Rights of children.
- Rights of persons with disabilities.
- Protection of rights of minorities.
- Right to culture and similar rights.
- Civic rights and activities.
- Right to a clean and healthy environment
- Economic rights
- Right of access to information
- Right to just and fair treatment in administrative decisions

## 7. OBLIGATIONS CREATED BY HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights creates three major obligations on the Government and its agents (such as government workers in police, schools, hospitals, etc.). These include:

1. The obligation to respect: requires government to desist from interfering directly or indirectly with the enjoyment of human rights through laws, policies, and programs.
2. The obligation to protect: requires Government to prevent third parties (other people, businesses, institutions, etc.) from interfering with the enjoyment of human rights.
3. The obligation to fulfill: requires Government to put in place laws, policies and programs to facilitate the enjoyment of human rights.

### **Responsibilities under human rights**

For every single human right, there is a corresponding responsibility. This therefore means that should enjoy human rights responsibly, by ensuring that they do not violate other people's human rights while enjoying their own rights.

#### **Examples:**

- Freedom of expression - the responsibility is to tell the truth.
- Right to health - for one to heal from illness, they have a responsibility to take the prescribed medication.

## 8. LIMITATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

**Some human rights can be restricted for some reasons including:**

- to protect the rights of others
- to protect public health
- to protect public morals
- to promote peace and tranquility, etc.

When Government limits the exercise or enjoyment of a right, this action must be taken as a last resort, on the basis of the following principles:

1. The restriction has to be provided for and implemented in accordance with the law.
2. The restriction has to be directed towards a legitimate objective of general interest.
3. It must be strictly necessary to achieve the objective in question.
4. The restriction must be the only available option to reach the objective.
5. It should not be unreasonable or applied selectively.

## 9 HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**How do human rights relate to health?**

The relationship between health and human rights may be explained under four scenarios: denial of human rights affects health; health problems can lead to discrimination and violation of rights; failure to claim other rights because of health problems; and poor health policies and programs could deny certain people rights.



## **1. Denial of human rights hurts health:**

- When people are denied the right to access clean water, it could result in illnesses like diarrhea or cholera;
- People who have been tortured can suffer terrible health problems;
- Violence against women (rape, domestic violence) can affect their health;
- Harmful traditional practices (female genital mutilation) can cause complications during childbirth

## **2. Health problems can lead to discrimination and violation of rights:**

- Someone with a mental illness may be discriminated against in the workplace (by denying them employment)
- People who are HIV-positive may be denied the opportunity to join medical insurance, have children, etc
- People who are deaf are discriminated against when health services do not provide adequate translation for them.

## **10. 3) Failure to claim other rights because of health problems:**

- A child who is very sick, and has to stay in bed, can't go to school and therefore is unable to access the right to education. Similarly, children denied access to sufficient food will be starving while at school, unable to concentrate and learn;
- People with epilepsy may be denied the right to work, because employers are afraid to employ someone with this condition;
- A child whose parent is HIV-positive and can't work may be denied his/her right not to be subjected to labor/work that interferes with their schooling.

#### 4. Poor health policies and programs which deny rights to certain people:

- The government's policy to provide pregnant women with access to antiretroviral medicines (ARVs) only in certain places, would deny access to ARVs to people who didn't live in those areas;
- Certain kinds of treatment may be provided in private hospitals and clinics, but not in public facilities. That means that people using public health care may be denied treatment that is essential for their health, which is a violation of their rights;
- One health policy is to encourage routine HIV testing in health facilities. If the health personnel are over-enthusiastic in testing people for HIV without their consent, then patients' rights to bodily integrity and privacy are violated.

## 11 . What is the right to health?

### 1. According to the World Health Organization,

*"Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."*

The right to health requires governments to put in place policies and action plans which will lead to **available and accessible health care for all in the shortest possible time**. It calls for thinking about how to **prevent illness and promote healthy living**. Hence, in defining health, it is important to talk not only about access to health care but also about the social conditions that affect your health – we call these factors the conditions necessary for health.

## Elements of the right to health

The right to health is measured around four elements of availability, accessibility, affordability and quality. These are central to the realization of the right to health.

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1. **Availability:** Public health and health care facilities, goods, and services, as well as programs, have to be available in sufficient quantity.
2. **Accessibility:** Health facilities, goods and services have to be accessible to everyone without discrimination, geographically and financially (affordable).
3. **Acceptability:** All health facilities, goods and services must be respectful of medical ethics, culturally appropriate, sensitive to gender and life-cycle requirements, as well as designed to respect confidentiality and improve the health status of those concerned.
4. **Quality:** Health facilities, goods, and services must be scientifically and medically appropriate and of good quality.

## The right to health in international law

### 1. The right to health in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 25 provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

## International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recognizes “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.” It is important to note that the Covenant gives both mental health, which has often been neglected, and physical health equal consideration.

### International human rights treaties recognizing the right to health.

- *The 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: art. 5 (e) (iv);*
- *The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: art. 12;*
- *The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: arts. 11 (1) (f), 12 and 14 (2) (b);*
- *The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child: art. 24;*
- *The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: arts. 28, 43 (e) and 45 (c);*

## The right to health in Uganda policies and laws

**a)The National Health Policy II:** This is the main national policy on health in Uganda. The vision of the policy is a healthy and productive population that contributes to socio-economic growth and national development. It therefore aims at attaining a good standard of health for all people in Uganda in order to promote healthy and productive lives. It further mentions that the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Uganda's Patients' Charter, will guide the implementation of the policy.

*The policy calls upon professionalism, integrity and ethics and requires health workers to perform their work with the highest level of professionalism, integrity and trust as detailed in the ethics guidelines enforced by professional bodies to which they are affiliated.*

The Constitution of Uganda: The Constitution does not have a substantive provision on the right to health but makes mention of the right under other provisions. For instance:

- Objective XIV(b) sets out the State's duty to ensure that all Ugandans enjoy access to health services;
- Objective XX expresses the State's commitment to take all practical measures to ensure the provision of basic medical services to the population;

- Article 39 affirms every Ugandan's right to a clean and healthy environment;
- Article 21(2) of the Constitution provides that no one should be discriminated against;
- The State is required to protect women and their rights, taking into

account their unique status and natural maternal functions under Article 33(3);

- Children are protected under the Constitution. Article 34(3) provides that no child should be deprived by any person of medical treatment, while Article 34(4) provides that they are entitled to protection from social or economic exploitation and that they should not be employed in or required to do work that is likely to be harmful to their health;
- The Constitution also has provisions on restriction of rights to protect public health. Article 26(2) provides that a person can be deprived of property in the interest of public health;
- Similarly, under Article 23(1) d, a person can be deprived of their personal liberty to prevent spread of an infectious or contagious disease.

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### **Obligations of government on the right to health.**

The right to health, like all human rights, imposes three levels of obligations on governments. These are the obligations to respect, to protect, and to fulfill.

- 1. The obligation to respect** implies a duty of the state not to violate the right to health by its actions. Examples under this include:
  - The state must refrain from denying or limiting equal access to health care for all persons, including prisoners, detainees, minorities, asylum seekers;
  - The state must refrain from censoring, withholding or intentionally misrepresenting information, e.g. sexual health education and information.
- 2. The obligation to protect** implies a duty of the state to prevent

violations of the right to health by others. It must take measures which prevent third parties from interfering with or violating the right to health. Examples here include:

- The government must introduce and enforce appropriate controls for the marketing of medical equipment and medicines by third parties;
  - The government must ensure that medical practitioners meet appropriate recognized standards of education, skill and ethical codes of conduct.
- 3. The obligation to fulfill** means that governments must act in order to ensure that rights can be enjoyed, examples under this include:
- The government must focus on rectifying existing imbalances in the provision of health facilities, goods and services by allocating sufficient public resources to the most deprived regions or groups in the country;
  - The government must promote activities that benefit good health and ensure the dissemination of appropriate information;

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**Governments are also under an obligation to put in place policies to progressively realize the right to health.**

### **CORE OBLIGATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE REALIZATION**

The right to health imposes some core obligations that require immediate, rather than progressive, implementation:

- Immunization against major infectious diseases;

- Measures to prevent, treat and control epidemic and endemic diseases;
- Essential medicines (WHO's Action Program on Essential Medicines);
- Reproductive, maternal (pre-natal and post-natal) and child health care;
- Essential primary health care as described in the Alma-Ata Declaration;
- Access to health facilities without discrimination;
- Equitable distribution of all health facilities, goods and services;
- Governments must also adopt and implement a national public health strategy and action plan, based on epidemiological evidence, which takes into account the health concerns of the whole population.

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## **Governance**

Governance means: the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented) Good governance requires an integrated, long-term strategy built upon cooperation between government and citizens which involves both participation of the community members and public institutions.



## Link btm Governance and Human Rights

- Good governance and human rights are mutually reinforcing. Human rights standards and principles provide a set of values to guide the work of governments and other political and social actors.
- Provide a set of performance standards against which these actor can be held accountable. Human rights principles inform the content of good governance efforts: they may inform the development of legislative frameworks, policies, programmes, budgetary allocations and other measures.
- On the other hand, without good governance, human rights cannot be respected and protected in a sustainable manner.
- The implementation of human rights relies on a conducive and enabling environment. This includes appropriate legal frameworks and institutions as well as political, managerial and administrative processes responsible for responding to the rights and needs of the population.
- In delivering services to the public, good governance reforms advance of human rights when they improve the state's capacity to fulfil its responsibility to provide public goods which are essential for the protection of a number of human rights, such as the right to education, health and food.
- Reform initiatives may include mechanisms of accountability and transparency, culturally sensitive policy tools to ensure that services are accessible and acceptable to all, and paths for public participation in decision-making.

## Characteristics of Good Governance

**Participation:** Participation by both men and women is a key cornerstone of good governance. Participation could be either direct or through informed, legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives in an organized manner.

**Consensus oriented:** There are several actors and as many viewpoints in a given society. Good governance requires mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved.

**Transparency:** Transparency means that decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations. It also means that information is freely available and directly accessible in easily understandable forms and media to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement.

**Accountability:** Accountability is a key requirement of good governance. Not only governmental institutions but also the private sector and civil society organizations must be accountable to the public and to their institutional stakeholders. Accountability cannot be enforced without transparency and the rule of law.

**Responsiveness:** Good governance requires that institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe.

**Rule of law:** Good governance requires fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially. It also requires full protection of human rights, particularly those of minorities. Impartial enforcement of laws requires an independent judiciary and an impartial and incorruptible police force.

**Effectiveness and efficiency:** Good governance means that processes and institutions produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal. The concept of efficiency in the context of good governance also covers the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment.

**Equity and inclusiveness:** A society's wellbeing depends on ensuring that all its members feel that they have a stake in it and do not feel excluded from the mainstream of society. This requires all groups, but particularly the most vulnerable, have opportunities to improve or maintain their wellbeing.

## Factors Hindering Public Participation

**Communication Problems, illiteracy and Ignorance.** Official government business is conducted in English. Important government manuals are documented mainly in English. However, the majority of the masses are semi-literate. To effectively reach out to them, translations have to be done which compromises the pace and quality of public participation. Additionally, access to radio and other print and electronic media is limited to a section of the citizenry mainly the elite and the urban dwellers. This shuts out a majority of the citizens from participating in governance.

**Apathy/Low Turnout.** A majority of community members of the public rarely attend public fora organized to seek their input. So only people few attend and decide on behalf of thousands of residents.

**Lack of Understanding of Government Procedures/ Regulations.** The limited understanding of the bureaucratic processes of the government affects the level and quality of the participation of citizens in governance. Only the few elite are therefore left to participate in processes which exclude the masses.

**Corruption.** Despite the input of the public, the respondents complain that corruption seriously affects the eventual output of policies and selection of projects as the corrupt apply unorthodox means to influence government officials.

**Political Interference.** Politicians keen on achieving individual and partisan agenda distort the content and aim of public participation to suit their needs. Consequently, instead of the public giving objective and well-informed input and suggestions, they end up playing into the hands of political machinery and plans.

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**Expectation of Pay for Participation.** Some members of the public due to poverty expect pay and facilitation for them to participate in government for. This is one more reason why low turnout is witnessed in public government meetings.

**Diverse Community Interests.** The democratic nature of public participation in government projects prioritization versus the vast number of needs in the region occasionally leads to conflict between various sectors and members of the community. The cut throat competition for project allocation at times leads to unhealthy conflict.

**Impatience and Expectation of Instant Results.** The involvement of the members of the public in government initiatives heightens public expectations even as some of them anticipate instant

results and fulfillment of their suggestions. The subsequent 'delay' as the projects go through the normal project cycle leads to disillusionment and further apathy in subsequent public participation fora.

**Limited Ownership of Projects.** At times, the public still views and believes that community initiatives are government projects. They therefore don't see the need to take part in these initiatives

**Abuse of Office by Public Officers.** In some instances, public officials charged with collecting public opinion disregard these suggestions and conduct projects in 'their own way.'

**Tribalism.** The comments and suggestions of a section of citizens considered as 'outsiders', are not taken seriously

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### **Tools for public accountability under Uganda's local democracy.**

- 1. Baraza:** Baraza(s) is Kiswahili language word meaning a public meeting, which is used as a platform for creating awareness, responding to issues affecting a given community, sharing vital information, providing citizens with the opportunity to identify and propose solutions but also empower communities and citizens to demand better service delivery and accountability, and improve information and communication about government programs and projects.
- 2. Participatory democracy through Local councils.** For over two decades, participatory democracy has been used as a tool of local democracy in Uganda especially in the village (LC1). Membership of the village includes all persons of 18 year of age or

above residing in the area. Through its executive committee of ten elected members (LGA 1997, Sec 47(2)) the village is responsible for duties such as maintaining law and order, initiation and participation in self-help projects, and serves as a communication channel between higher local councils and the people in the area.

- 3. Score-cards reports and local democracy.** The score-card is a tool developed and quality goods and services. It's used to provide an opportunity for assessment of local government councils, chairpersons, speakers and councilors to determine how well they perform their political responsibilities and functions, although this paper focuses on overall local government council performance.
- 4. Participatory planning and Budgeting.** Local governments have discretionary planning and budgeting powers, but their plans and budgets need to reflect priorities and objectives set out in national policies, plans and budgets

## Tools for Budgeting

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- The District/Urban Local Government Development Plan (DDP), which constitutes the overall, integrated, district/urban authority planning tool. It incorporates the plans of lower level local governments, and of sector departments.
- The Local Government Budget Framework Paper (BFP), which articulates a Local Government's 3-year budget strategy, and through integrating planning & budgeting helps ensure that budget decisions reflect a Local Governments longer term objectives.
- The Budget, which alongside the annual work plan make the

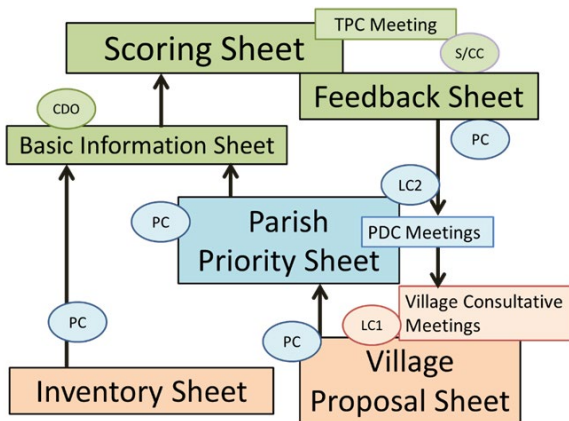
integrated annual performance and financial plan for the coming financial year

### What is needed for a successful budgeting process?

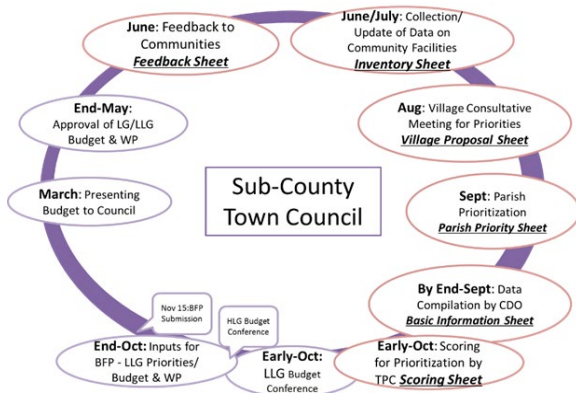
- The preparation process has to be consultative and participatory in order to ensure ownership to both the process and the approved budget;
- A systematic process of prioritization of programs and expenditures, which is based on informed choices, must take place.
- Planned outputs, activities, and expenditure allocations in the annual work plan and budget estimates must be realistic, and achievable.

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### Local Government Budget Process



## Planning and Budgeting Cycle:



## Understanding the Local Governance in Uganda

- The structure of government in Uganda is categorized into the Central and Local Government system. The foundational structure of the local governance system is laid down in Chapter Eleven of the Constitution of Uganda 1995.
- The Local Government system is based on the government policy or strategy on decentralization which entails the distribution of powers, functions and responsibilities between Central and Local



Governments. The Constitution provides that the district is the basic unit under which lower local governments are run in such a way as Parliament may stipulate.

- Local governments are to ensure that “functions, powers and responsibilities are devolved and transferred systematically from the government to the lower local government levels.
- This is meant to ensure peoples’ participation and democratic control in decision making to ensure democratic governance at all local government levels and put in place mechanisms to ensure a stable financial base through plan and policy implementation to deal with matters affecting the people.
- Local Governments implement national and local policies and deliver services within their areas of jurisdiction and this is aimed at bringing services nearer to the people and ensuring that people actively participate in the governance of their country.

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## **Structure of Local Governance in Uganda**

### **I. The Village**

The lowest LG unit in Uganda is the village level which is known as LCI. A village usually consists of about 150 households or less. Each village will be run by LC I and is governed by a chairman (LCI chairman) and nine other executive committee members.

## **II. The Parish**

A parish is made up of a number of villages. Each parish has a LCII committee, made up of all the chairman from the village LCIs in the parish. Each LCII will elect, from among themselves, an executive committee. LCII's mainly settle land distributions and mobilizing the community for various activities. The parish is largely run by a parish chief who provides technical leadership to the LCII.

## **III. The sub-county**

After the parish comes the sub-county. A sub-county is made up of a number of parishes. The sub-county is run by the sub-county chief on the technical side and by an elected LCIII chairman and his/her executive committee. The sub-county also has an LCIII council, a lower level parliament. The council consists of elected councilors representing the parishes, in towns, a sub-county is called a division.

## **IV. The County**

A county is made up of several sub-counties. Each county is represented in the national parliament by an elected Member of Parliament (MP). In major towns, the equivalent of a county is a municipality (which is a set of divisions). LCIII executive committee members of all the sub-counties constitute the LCIV. They then elect an LCIV executive committee from among themselves.

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## **The District**

A district is made up of several counties and sometimes a municipality and is led by an elected LCV chairman and his executive. There is also an elected LCV Council, with representatives from the sub-counties and

technical staff in the district. The Council debates budgets, decisions and bylaws. On the technical side, the district is led by a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), appointed by the Central Government. The district also has heads of various departments such as education, health, environment and planning, which are responsible for relevant matters in the whole of the district.

## **How Governance can be Gender inclusive**

I) Economic decision-makers must be aware of the need for, and have the technical capacity to incorporate, a gender perspective into policy and programme analysis. The National Women's Machinery and women in politics must be able to participate effectively in dialogues and debates on economic policy.

II) Creation of Active and empowered constituencies strengthened among women (and men) to advocate and demand accountability from government and political leaders at the community, district, national and international levels for the impact of macroeconomic policy on women.

III) The women's economic agenda must be generally understood by leaders and constituencies. Other actors, particularly key government economic agencies and international economic institutions, must also understand and accept the general validity of the conceptual basis of the women's economic agenda.

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IV) The institutions of economic governance must be engendered through advocacy and their active involvement in capacity building.

V) Appropriate data - sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics on the differential impact of macroeconomic policies on women and men, particularly in agriculture, especially unpaid farm work and within the informal sector, especially home-based work, and street vending. It should also include data on women's and men's differential contributions to the care economy through domestic work, childcare, family care and community activities.

## **Gender Plat forms available for Governance**

Women representation of Women in Parliament from all districts

Women's inclusion and effective participation in parliament is a key indicator of an open society – one that accepts the right of all people to contribute to the determination of their own future. Women's presence in decision-making is also critical in ensuring that their particular needs, interests and experiences are **captured in the decision-making process.**

Membership and leadership of committees Parliamentary committees with a gender equality remit are commonly composed of more women than men members, and women are far more likely to chair the dedicated committees than multi-portfolio committees. While it is important for women to hold positions of leadership, in the interest of gender balance and gender mainstreaming, it could be argued that there is scope to improve the participation of men in these committees as well as women's leadership across other parliamentary committees, including those with responsibility for security and defense)

## **Local Council Women representation**

The LG Act (1997) stipulates that the population quota of women representatives shall be determined by the requirement of women constituting a third of any Local Council (LC) being considered (part x, article 109(3)). Section 11 of the constitution, reserves seats for women in the composition of district councils, in paragraph (c) : two councilors, one of women shall be a female youth representing the youth in the district, in paragraph (d): two councilors with disabilities, one of women shall be a female, and in paragraph (e): women councilors forming one-third of the council such that the councilors elected under (b),(c),(d) shall form two-third of the councils

## **Women's caucuses**

A second type of gender-focused parliamentary body is a women's parliamentary caucus. These caucuses can bring women together from different parliamentary chambers, across party lines and can also engage other partners including civil society organizations and the private sector

## The Legal System in Uganda

- Supreme Court
- Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court
- High Court
- Magistrates Court and other courts established by law

### Other dispute resolution mechanisms include;

#### Local Council Courts.

#### The jurisdiction and role of LC I at the village.

- Cases and Matters of a Civil Nature which may be triable by Local Council Courts -
- Debts
- Contracts
- Assault or assault and battery
- Conversion
- Damage to property
- Trespass

#### Civil Disputes governed by Customary Law, triable by Local Council Courts.

- Disputes in respect of land held under customary tenure;
- Disputes concerning marriage, marital status, separation, divorce or the parentage of children;
- Disputes relating to the identity of a customary heir;
- Customary bailment.

#### Redress powers of LC courts

- Reconciliation;
- Declaration;
- Compensation;

- Restitution;
- Costs;
- Apology; or
- Attachment and sale; and in the case of infringement of a bye-law or Ordinance, impose a fine, community service or any other penalty authorized by that bye-law/ Ordinance

## CENTER FOR HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS & DEVELOPMENT



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