



Rwenzori Information Centres Network [RIC-NET]

P.O Box 916, Fort Portal, Uganda

Tel: (+256)382-277994,705674200,772409630

Email: info@ricnet.co.ug

Website: www.ricnet.co.ug

RIC-NET ORGANISATION PROFILE

OUR IDENTITY

RIC-NET genesis was at an open space forums for Rwenzori region CSOs in 2002/2003, which indentified need for effective and reliable information sharing among different shake holders as the most important element that would unlock the region potentials. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RwN9d5SeiU> RIC-NET is registerd as Not for profit local NGO by CD/CBO/078, S.5914/11258 (**under NGO registration ACT, CAP.113**) incorporated without share capital Reg. 85565 (**under section 16(1) of company Act**).

VISION

Informed and Active Citizens in a Democratic Society

MISSION

Empowering citizens to access and use information for Civic engagement and wealth creation

MEMBERSHIP

Our members are Information Centres owned by CSO/CBOs at Districts, county, Sub County/Parish in the seven Districts of the Rwenzori region though our operations are national. Our members are 8 county information Centres owned by CSO/CBOs at Districts, county and 7 Districts¹ of the Rwenzori region; and though partnership with CEW-IT, we operate in additional 25 Districts in 5 regions of uganda (west Nile region, Northern (Acholi) region, Cetral (buganda) region, Western region and Eastern (Teso) region). Details of our Vision, Mission, theory of change and programmes are on www.ricnet.co.ug <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com>

¹ Kasese, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, kyegegwa, Kyenjojo.

RIC-NET is non political and has a team of 35 volunteers (community information Facilitators); through membership with RWECO(RIDE Africa, KALI and Good hope foundation) links to 80 CPF (Community Process Facilitators) and 800 community Monitors who interact with citizens on issues of social accountability and electoral process observation.

RIC-NET OBJECTIVES

- To enable and facilitate knowledge and information sharing processes.
- To foster civic engagement, critical debate and dialogue on key development issues.
- To generate innovative ways of applying ICT by socially excluded communities to demand their rights and entitlements.
- To promote public, private sector and civil society partnerships in building the information society.
- Undertaking action research and pilot projects to develop methodologies for improving processes of innovation, learning, capacity development and institutional change.
- To source, repackage, document and disseminate indigenous knowledge & skills for posterity.
- To build capacity of our members and community in appropriate use of ICT.



CORE VALUES

Respect: Recognize the innate worth of all people, the value of diversity and enabling everyone to exercise full potential.

Integrity: Responsible at all levels for our actions or omissions open in our judgments and communication.

Commitment taking due care in doing work, foster innovation, creativity and ensure community custodianship for achieving a greater positive and lasting change.

Accountability: we are prepared to be held publicly accountable for our actions.

Working together: we value working in collaboration with our colleagues, stakeholders and the community.

Integrity: we seek to act ethically, honestly, impartially and in the best interest of the community.

Learning: we value creativity, innovation, flexibility and continual improvement in the pursuit of excellence.

Diversity: we treat all people with respect and value differences.

BENEFICIARIES

Our primary beneficiaries are by the vulnerable Women, girls and children; unemployed urban youth and youth out of school; persons leaving with HIV/AIDS and orphans; persons affected by conflicts and natural disasters; rural farmers dependants on rain fed small holder farming;

OUR TARGET

The organized groups and communities; opinion, cultural and religious leaders; local, national and international NGOs; local government structures, civil servants and political leaders; national leaders and central government structures.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

We assert that the structural causes of poverty, social exclusion and their manifestations requires responses that go beyond economic and material deprivation to include a change in attitudes, behaviors, values, practices, policies and processes. We envisage that Poverty, Social exclusion and bad governance can be eradicated when people living in poverty or those socially excluded are supported to access information, discover and use their power and knowledge individually or collectively to confront power relations that

perpetuate marginalisation, injustice, vulnerability, and expand space for civic engagement in decisions that affect them. Timely accessing and sharing of relevant information enhance citizens' civic competence, mobilisation, rights awareness and exposes injustices thus generating pressure on leaders to be duty-bound, shift attitudes and behaviors, become more inclusive, open minded and committed to active citizens participation, gender equality, respect for human rights, better service delivery, poverty reduction and improved livelihood.



PROGRAMMES AREAS

1. Community Empowerment and youth (CEY); unlocking people potentials by offering a range of skills development services or tailor-made training and apprenticeship opportunities for the youth and women. Other interventions under this thematic area are geared towards improving livelihood at households through Agriculture, preventive and reproductive health, and support to entrepreneurship.

2. Knowledge sharing and Advocacy (KSA); Building an information society by facilitating access to reliable, timely and relevant information, knowledge and skills in the field of Agriculture, Education, Health, Human Rights and Governance for sustainable food security and health people active at civic engagement. Use of information for poverty eradication at individual and community levels.

3. Technology for Social Accountability and Development (TSAD); collaboration efforts in designing and deployment of different platforms that allows citizens to engage with their leaders without putting themselves at risk and building capacity of both CSOs and civil servants to use ICT for development. Amplifying citizens' voice on social accountability and service delivery.

4. Social inclusion, Rights and livelihood (SIR); voicing the Silent voices of the social excluded persons to assert, demand and realize their human rights. Sensitizing the community to tolerate and defend the minorities' rights and Dignity. Build their capacities to generate wealth and reduce their poverty exacerbated vulnerability

OUR APPROACH

We focus on building and deepening the understanding that eradication of poverty and injustice can only happen if the rights of the poor and excluded people are protected, promoted and fulfilled. We stress household and people centred development by advancing people centred alternatives, strengthening their voices and civic actions to tackle root causes of poverty and building peoples resilience and capacity to respond to vulnerabilities, actively participate in governance and wealth creation.



Our approach..... Will always be....

People centred...

We are uniquely rooted in communities. Use the household as a building block and entry point in citizens' empowerment, participation, access to basic services and unlocking production capabilities. We support initiatives that empower the people to continuously create wealth and demonstrate strong changes in their lives at households.

Participatory Methodologies

We carry out open space/roundtable forums, neighbourhood assemblies, action research coupled with petitions, public campaigns to enable the grassroots people and their organisations to directly engage and influence political reforms and policy change

Vulnerable, socially excluded....

We mobilise and support women, youth and children in building civic awareness and actions to shape a more democratic, equitable and sustainable world.

Voicing the silence...

We advocate and campaign for better practices and policies to fulfill the rights and entitlements of the social excluded and vulnerable youth, women and children; Strengthen access and use of information for civic competence and participation to influence decisions and eradicate poverty.

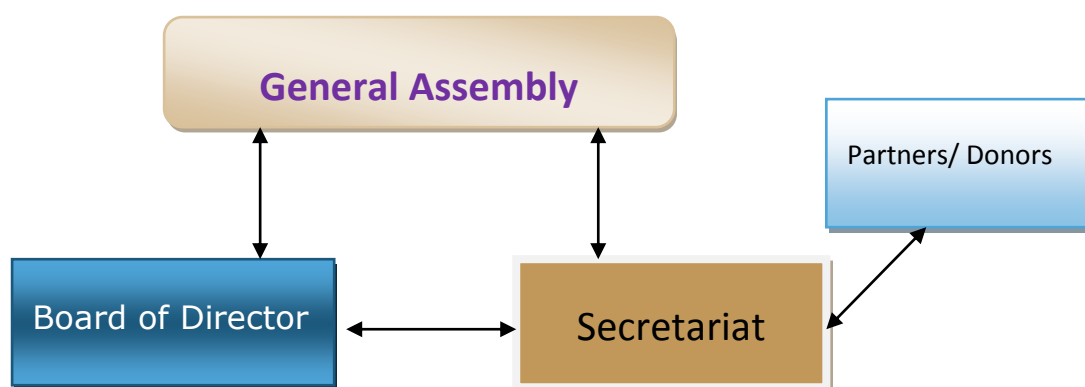
Deepening Partnerships...

We promote Grassroots and regional linkages. Link our work with people, groups and networks in order to amplify the voices of poor and increase the pressure for change, influence others and build capacity to ensure respect of rights and better services are met.

Converging ICT & Media....

We combine traditional media with the new media in building an information society without exclusion. Use open data, ICT and social media to amplify people's agenda, empower them to tell their own story, engage and influence decision making, service delivery and demand execution of justice.

ORGANIZATION CHART



SUMMARY OF PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2014

RIC-NET has concluded implementing “using open source technology to support social accountability” until April 2014.² As a member of RWECCO consortium, RIC-NET implemented a project “enhancing the civic competence to influence local government planning and feedback processes”³. The key roles of RIC-NET were to establish District e-society centres and data centres in region, design and deploy e-libraries, websites and discussion groups and build capacity of CSOs, CPF, monitors and District staff in use of ICT platforms. RIC-NET implemented activities under the Citizens manifesto in Action. RIC-NET was responsible for setting up and managing the national data centre and 4 regional centres to process citizen’s feedback on the electoral process through ushahidi based platforms “[Rwenzori Peoples Voice](#)” RIC-NET has documented these actions through blogs⁴, videos, and magazines⁵ and produced materials meant civic education during the election process. These actions have started to create a fraction of empowered citizens and local governments’ civil servant responsive to citizens’ demands.

Donors	Project Name
HIVOS-RICNET 1005338	Operationalise and facilitating use of open source ICT for social accountability with a focus on Rwenzori region

² Operationalise and facilitating use of open source ICT for social accountability with a focus on Rwenzori region, EA RO 1005338

³ Title "Enhancing Civic Competence to influence Local Government processes in Rwenzori region", reference DCI-NSA PVD/2008/169-794

⁴ <http://uchaguzi-uganda.blogspot.com> <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com>
www.rwenzoripeoplesvoice.org

⁵ <http://www.youtube.com/user/ricnet2005> http://ricnet.co.ug/?page_id=3958

HIVOS-RWECO 1002681	Enhancing civic competence to strengthen social accountability in Rwenzori region.
EU-Hivos-CEWIT 1004399	Enhancing civic competence to strengthen social accountability in Uganda
Connect for change (C4C)- Computer for schools(CFSU)- RWECO	Support teaching and learning English in Rwenzori region.
Development Initiatives (DI)- Development research and training(DRT)-RIC-NET	A video documentary on the impact of information to poverty eradication endeavors in Rwenzori region.
EIFL-RICNET	Using Rural Community library to support farmers' sustainable production and marketing.
Global Fund for Children	Advancing the dignity of Conflict affect Children.
UNNGOF/NDI	Building grassroots Civic activism to strengthen citizens' demand for political accountability and better service delivery.

