

RIC-NET ANNUAL REPORT 2014



ADVANCING THE DIGNITY OF THE VULNERABLE WOMEN, GIRLS AND CHILDREN



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“Poverty, Social exclusion and bad governance can be reduced 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.” RIC-NET THEORY OF CHANGE.

“EMPOWER, ENGAGE, ERADICATE POVERTY”



THE GLOBAL FUND FOR
Children

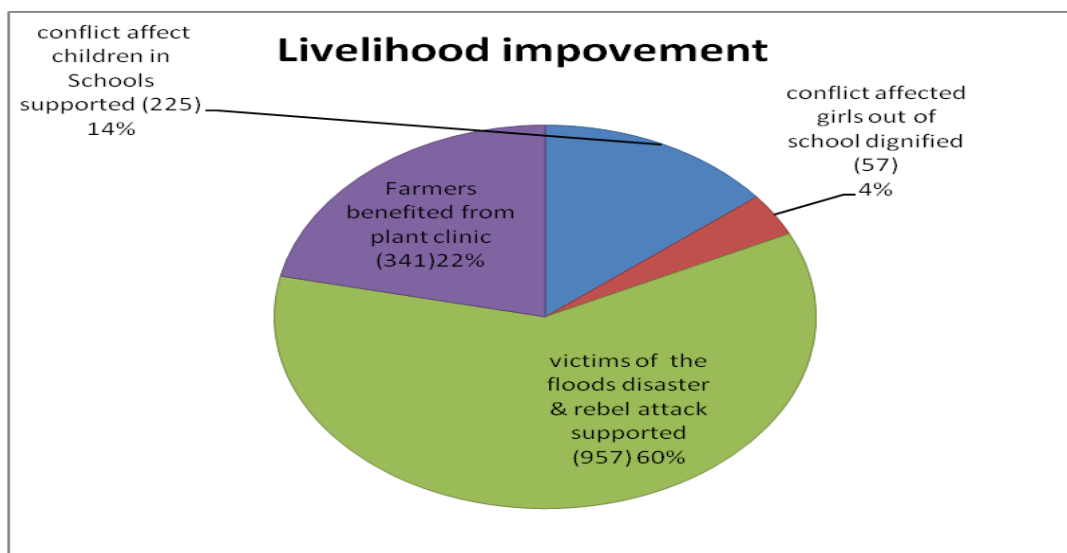


CONNECT 4 CHANGE

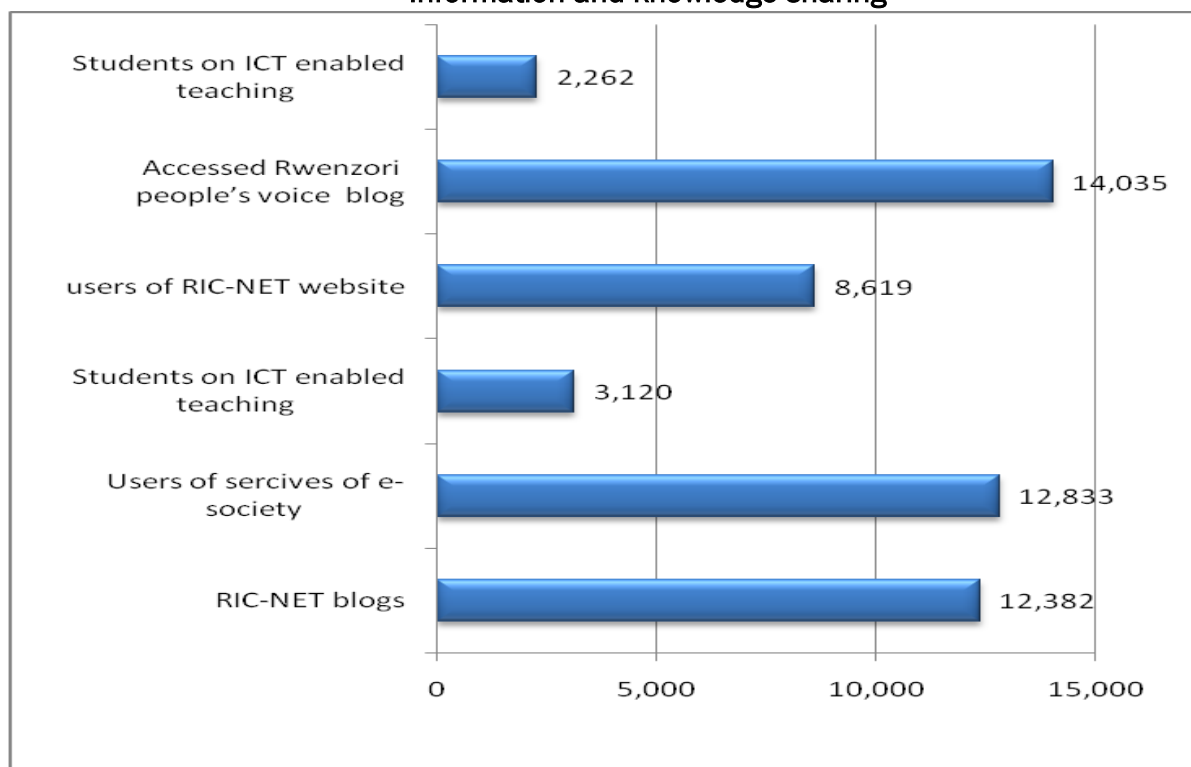


*"Poverty, sickness, war and every other form of injustice are part and parcel of the world in which we live today. No one can ignore them. If we wish to achieve a more equitable human environment, we must make an even greater effort to meet the demands of humanitarian partnership."*¹

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. (Action Aid International Uganda, 2012)².



Information and knowledge sharing



¹ http://fondation-sanofi-espoir.com/en/edito_president.php

² www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/final_csp_iv.pdf

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RIC-NET KEY FIGURES 2014

RIC-NET strengthened the convergence of different platform to facilitate timely information access and sharing. RIC-NET runs both online and offline information sharing platforms, **03 new platforms** where built to serve [farmers](#) and [OVCs](#) .

Our presence became more prominent and robust. **12,382** persons accessed information on the [RIC-NET blogs](#); **2,262** on the ICT enabled educational blog and **14,035** on [people's voice](#) blogs. **35,900** visited our [website](#), twitter, facebook and [Agric platforms](#). Produced two local Newsletter (2,000 copies).

Dignified 282 conflict affected girls 57 out school and **225** in Schools; soothed **957 victims** of the floods disaster, the bloody rebel attack and ethnic conflict in the Rwenzori region.

Our ICT structures, community based information centres, capacitating teachers, provision of required equipment, educational methodology and content, grassroots mobilisation of citizens or parents supported **better services to 3,120 Children & youth** in or out of school.

341 farmers accessed services of plant clinics on crop pests and disease control.

12,833 people (7715 male and 5118 female) physically accessed information at the information centers and e-society centers (through trainings/seminars, video, repackage materials, library resources, use free internet at the centres, research publications, outreach). **589,619 unique online visitors** had visited the RIC-NET platforms (website, blogs, facebook, twitter, Google+)

8 teachers/tutors trained in computer maintenance and repairs; over **35 computers** from schools/ centres were is fully repaired and functional.

RIC-NET received **02 Awards** in recognition for its work from [QUAM](#) and [U-report Uganda](#) and **17 letters of appreciation** from local community leaders/CBOs and Local Government and 37 invitation to different events by other NGOs, Government Institutions and community citizens led structures, 05 invitation to participate in international conferences and symposiums.

The results attained in 2014 was by the effort of team of **09 Board members**, **12 technical staffs**, 07 student Interns, **21 Volunteers** - Community Information Facilitators and the Director [africaoffline](#) from Lake Forest, USA ; the enabling support from **07 District** Local government in Rwenzori Region , and peaceful environment guaranteed by the Government of Uganda.

Who we are

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 a community owned and initiated network of information centres from rural villages to the regional level. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APnuwJ67wl0>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RwN9d5SeiU>

LEGAL STATUS

RIC-NET registered as CBO in 2005 by Kabarole District, registerd as Not for profit local NGO **S.5914/11258** under NGO registration ACT, CAP.113 and incorporated in 2006 as a company limited 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

OBJECTIVES OF RICNET

To build capacity of our members; the youth, women, rural farmers and people with disability in using appropriate knowledge and skills to achieve social, economic, educational development opportunities.

- a) To foster civic engagement, critical debate and dialogue on key development issues among citizens and leaders in Uganda.
- b) To generate innovative ways of applying ICT by socially excluded communities to demand their rights and entitlements.
- c) To strengthen civil society partnership with public and private sectors, in building the information society in Uganda.
- d) Undertaking action research, pilot projects to develop methodologies for improving processes of innovation, learning, capacity development and institutional change.
- e) To source, repackage, document and disseminate indigenous knowledge & skills for posterity.

CORE VALUES

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

Integrity-Accountable at all levels for our actions, resources; open in our judgments and communication to all stakeholders, beneficiaries and the public.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Our members are 50 rural information points/Centres owned by CSO/CBOs at Districts, county, Sub County/Parish in the seven Districts³ of the Rwenzori region; and in partnership with CEW-IT, we operate in additional 25 Districts in 5 regions of Uganda (west Nile region, Northern (Acholi) region, Central (buganda) region, Western region and Eastern (Teso) region). www.ricnet.co.ug <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com>

RIC-NET is nonpolitical and has a team of 9 Board of directors, 11 staff member 8 part time staff 20 community information Facilitators and 60 Grass root Civic activist (Concerned Active Citizens).

As a member of RWECO, RIC-NET has a working relationship with 80 Community Process Facilitators and 800 community Monitors who interact with citizens on issues of social accountability.

Awards or recognition for your organization

Awarded a "QUAM NGO Quality Assurance Certificate" for meeting required quality standards as laid out in NGO quality standards certification mechanism in Uganda.

<http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/08/ric-net-awarded-quam-standard.html>



Awarded "certificate of Partnering with U-Report Uganda" as recognition from UNICEF for making the voices of youth heard on the U-report program.

<http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2015/02/ric-net-awarded-certificate-of.html>

³ Kasese, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, kyegegwa, Kyenjojo.

KEY STRATEGIC PROGRAMME AREAS

PEOPLE, ICT and Media

The programmes focuses on people led documentation and alternative media, using technology for development (ICT4D) and unlocking the available ICT potential for the grassroots people in governance, entrepreneurship, agriculture, healthcare, basic education, community development, human rights defenders and civic engagement.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Knowledge sharing

- Repackage and disseminate available useful tools, content, models and technology to suit local context.
- Disseminate farmer driven information on crop pests through plant clinic and expert to farmers' symposiums and Linking researchers to CSOS and farmer groups through workshop, farmer fairs , exhibition and trainings.
- Documenting, dissemination of local content as contribution to a global knowledge society.
- Mobilise, sensitize and Train citizens and media practitioners in new media techniques and citizens led documentation.
- Support community open forum platforms. <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/09/ric-net-participates-in-regional.html>
- Held monthly radio talk shows on LIFE FM where issues concerning community development, Regional peace and conflict resolution are discussed by panelists involved the mayor kyegegwa, Assistant Town clerk, religious and cultural leaders, local government civil servants. <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/07/ric-net-joins-kyegegwa-to-campaign-for.html>
- Carry out campaign for embracing open data generation, available ICT equipments, and reforms in policy and institutions that promote digital exclusion and infringement of a free, responsible media.
- Carry out video documentaries on access to information impact to poverty alleviation and civic engagement for better service delivery Develop a formal partnership with media and provide space for constant engagement with the media through media trips, events and contacts.
- Conduct radio program, <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/07/ric-net-joins-kyegegwa-to-campaign-for.html> forums and fairs, bulk sms to disseminate timely agriculture related information, better seeds and inputs, pests & Diseases control and climate change adaptation for sustainable production and food security.

Technology for social accountability

- Design and deploy ICT tools and platforms that facilitate communities to raise their concerns on rights issues and secure public knowledge and awareness of the issues; www.ureport.ug <http://tracfm.org> <http://agricbridge.ug> <http://elibrary.kasese.go.ug>
- Set up information platforms e.g. AgriBridge agriculture information systems that enables timely information sharing on agro related policy issues, markets intelligence, weather forecasts, agro-inputs, climate change, land use, and linkages with research institutions and government institutions <http://agricbridge.ug>

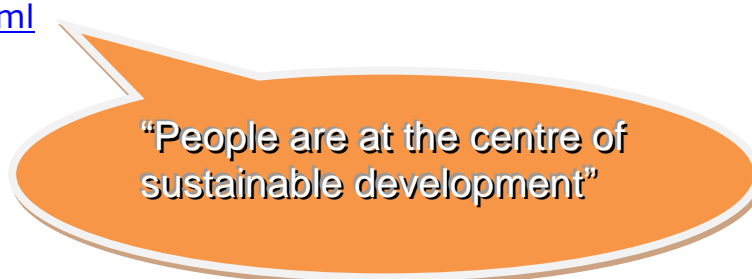
- Designed and deployed websites and platforms for partners' organisation, local government and farmer groups the enhance information sharing platform for farmers. <http://dackanahomebasedcare.org> <http://agricbridge.ug> <http://elibrary.kasese.go.ug>

Community ICT structures (E-society centres).

- Held 6 Consultative meetings with leaders and training of management councils for ICT / e-society centres
- Conduct mapping exercise of information needs for different agricultural enterprise or value chain in Rwenzori region.
- Maintained e-society centres as training and information access centres to instill ICT knowledge and skills, and develop business opportunities for the youth and women.
- Centres integrated in the District Local government systems <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/05/districts-resolve-to-sustain-e-society.html>
- Updated and trained local government staff in ICT based and communities structures to influence and meaningfully engage in decision making processes through public dialogues, radio, e-societies and working collaboratively with local and central governments;

Community grassroots platforms

- We support local government feedback open forums to citizens in Kabarole, Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, Kyegegwa and Kasese Districts <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/05/cao-ntoroko-district-local-government.html> <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/05/districts-resolve-to-sustain-e-society.html> <http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/08/ntoroko-district-leaders-so-no-to-tribal.html>
- We teamed up with other RWECO members to produce budget analysis of the agriculture sector, produced report and popular version that was disseminated widely over radio, print and online. <http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/09/a-close-look-at-east-african-community.html>
- collected signatures scrap tax on agriculture inputs campaign <http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/09/parliament-set-to-scrap-taxes-on.html>
- supported Kyegegwa District to campaign for better education facilities <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/07/ric-net-joins-kyegegwa-to-campaign-for.html>



KEY RESULTS:

- The quarterly Rwenzori peoples voice magazine and blog run by RIC-NET and RWECO has enable amplifying citizens voices on governance issues in the region. <http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/09/the-communities-in-kamwenge-district.html> http://ricnet.co.ug/?page_id=3958



- Increased visibility of the Districts by the numbers that visit the sites (350,667 unique visitors have visited the six websites by 30th December 2014) and thus increased information sharing and accessibility of different government documents.(for example a firm in south Africa applied for service provision to Kyenjojo District after accessing the bid document on the website).
- Reduced costs by government workers and citizens who use the e-society centres, Quick response to citizens and administration issues through the platforms like d-groups, face book pages and e-mails.
- Skills have been gained by the District staff and citizens who do training at the centres. Fully active and running E-society centres and their online platforms with Continuous & timely communication via e-mail, update of the District's online platforms.
- Districts have shown interest in sustaining the e-society centres for example Kamwenge provided a tentative appointment to the ICT officer pending recruitment through public service, the same applies to Ntoroko meanwhile Kasese recruited an ICT officer on the government payroll, other districts are also in the process.
- Districts have owned the centres by paying for internet subscription, recruitment of officers in charge of the centres and general monitoring of the centre's activities.
- Capacity of tutors and teachers has been enhanced thus doing repair and maintenance for their institutions. About 20 computers have been repaired fully functional and enables students and teachers do work efficiently.

Sustainable Livelihoods

The programme focuses on community empowerment and reducing poverty by strengthening Social inclusion, respect of human Rights and promotion of better welfare

for children, youth, women and minority ethnic groups; profitable agriculture and agribusiness; and sustainable use of natural resources.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Supporting farmers

- Train farmers (farmers groups leaders, women smallholder farmers, 'plant Doctors') in adaptation measures, alternative livelihood, agricultural marketing, and link them to civil servants and agriculture research institutions and private companies (input suppliers and buyers), and promote "health plants for health people"-plant Clinics.

Unlocking youths potential

- Train the youth in livelihood skills and business skills that alleviate the vulnerabilities of children and advocate for pro-children policies and respect of children rights.
- Conduct youth skilling, mentorship, entrepreneurship, leadership and apprenticeship sessions, and reproductive health education for youth in and out of schools.

Support climate change adaptation

- Mobilise resources for refugees/ displaced people and people affected by natural disasters <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/07/ricnet-visit-to-bulembya-primary-school.html> <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/06/women-affected-by-congo-wars.html>
- Support for organisations working with urban poor in District municipality towns to mobilise urban youth, women and men to monitor delivery of public services and demand for improvements. <http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/08/mps-promise-farmers-not-to-pass-agric.html>
- Participated in mobilisation of farmers to adopt food security techniques of farming and varieties with partnership with Agro-profuc Uganda, plantwise Uganda and DRT. <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/08/farmers-voices-amplified.html>
- Participated in responding to natural disaster and internally displaced people's crises in partnership with Red Cross, RWECO, KALI, RIDE Africa and Good Hope. <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/11/ric-net-joins-csos-in-region-to-reach.html>
- Conducted Plant Clinics in the markets of Mpondwe, Kisinga, and Kiburara, Mawa in Kasese and Bundibugyo District in line with promoting "health plants for health people". <http://agricbridge.ug>

Conflict affected Children

- Conducted a selection process of conflict affected girls to ensure we get those that are most vulnerable.

<http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/07/rwenzori-information-centres-network.html>

<http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/07/ric-net-carries-out-interviews-for-22.html>

<http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/11/ric-net-recruits-more-conflict-affected.html>



- Held a 5 days residential training for 10 women teachers in psycho-social support. The teachers later conducted continuously support to girls in schools inform of mentorship, psychosocial advice and building assertiveness within the girls.
- Held 30 bi- monthly two hours psycho-social & mentoring sessions with girls (10 in each of the 3 schools) in the last 5 months , and 12 monthly reproductive health education session in each school by March 2015.
- Conducted two sessions on entrepreneurship each for 17 conflicted affected girls http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/08/ric-net-carries-out-entrepreneurship_36.html
- Organized support for 8 babies of young women who attend training with nursery school bursaries and supported to 10 young women with apprenticeship opportunity.
- Organized two bi-monthly drama and community theatre near in Ramwanja refugee camp.
- Conducted monthly reproductive health education session in schools for two months
- Documented to plight of children and youth using several media platforms, videos, youth magazine, posters, and build solidarity among children, women, youth groups and other stakeholders for common action through social, digital, electronic and print media; <http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/04/ric-net-ict-interviews-with-kesia-and.html>

“Poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, the commitment to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency”.



ICT enabled teaching and learning in Schools

- Train 23 teachers in ICT enabled methodology and trained 9 teachers/ tutors equipment repairs; and on site mentoring and focus group meeting to discuss and share success and lessons learnt in participatory manner. <http://somaschools.blogspot.com/2014/09/empowering-ict-teacherstutors-and-lab.html>
- Technical support (information management system) to school management to develop policies and systems that integrate ICT in the management of schools, and allow schools to inform parents of what activities are in school periodically.
- Support champion teachers to create content and carry out action research on issues at schools; and carry out exchange learning and teaching visits in the region. <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/06/u-reporter-enables-ricnet-to-carry-out.html>
- Encouraged and established "Talking compounds" in schools to remind the girls of key simple slogans they can remember easily and rely on.
- Conducted the leadership development camp where conflict affected girls in schools get together to interact with prominent and key women leaders. <http://somaschools.blogspot.com/2014/10/muhokya-primary-school-kasese-district.html>
- Conduct business development and entrepreneurship skills like saving, starting up small businesses that can support conflict affected girls in school.
- Facilitating ICT enabled teaching of English in secondary schools where some conflict affected girls study. <http://somaschools.blogspot.com>
<http://somaschools.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2014-05-14T16:46:00%2B03:00&max-results=20&start=16&by-date=false>
- Conducted English based competitions in poems, easy writing and drama competitions in 45 schools to enable students to conceptualize certain issues and learn to express themselves in public.

KEY RESULTS:

- 341 farmers (178 Females and 163 Males) attended plant clinics and were given information to control Crop pest and diseases.
- collected 365 farmers signatures part of the several submitted by CSBAG and other partners to parliament contributed to policy debate and change the tax regime in agriculture sector in Uganda
- 34 girls were trained in vocational, entrepreneurship, reproductive health and there have been improvement in their skills and knowledge in entrepreneurship and reproductive; and respect for personal dignity, worthiness, and interactions with others.
- 18 girls out of those trained have got temporary employment and are getting some income to fend for themselves than relying on parents or being commercial sex workers. 8 babies belonging to conflict affected girls have been supported with some funds to pay baby sitters or enroll them in nursery schools.
- The communities in the refugee camps (Rwamwanja) have been sensitized through the drama about girl child rights, taking and keeping girls in schools and support the girl child with scholastic and sanitary towels.
- We developed websites for partners' organisation , e-library District local government and information sharing platform for farmers.
<http://agricbridge.ug><http://elibrary.kasese.go.ug>
- The 10 female teachers in the secondary schools trained in mentoring and psychosocial support have supported 225 conflict affected girls and instilled confidence among the girls that had low esteem resulting in improved attendances as girls are given the confidence to attend school even when they are their periods.
- Girls are focused on their education which leads them to concentrate on studies than before leading to a significant improvement in their performance

Participatory Democracy and Governance

The programme focuses on participatory democracy and governance as critical in delivering sustained benefits of poverty eradication interventions and guaranteeing a human rights culture. It builds patriotism, grassroots civic activism and promotion of a culture where citizens perform diligently their constitutional duties and demand accountability, better service delivery from public institutions and government; promotes use of ICT to access information and facilitate citizens engagement with leaders at all levels without putting themselves at risk.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Building citizens competence to demand accountability

- Facilitated and participated in community dialogue meeting, consultative meeting and neighborhood assemblies among citizens, CSOs and government leaders. <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/09/ric-net-participates-in-regional.html>
<http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/08/kasese-district-health-team-adopt-to.html>

- Mobilised the youth groups, women groups, community watch groups and justice seekers, to challenge human rights violations, develop resilience mechanisms and monitor performance on its commitments and mandates;
- Trained community watch groups and supported child advocacy initiatives to hold school management structures accountable for effective utilization of resources and increased accountability at all levels; <http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/02/how-can-poor-supervise-rich.html> and
- Mobilize, train and raise awareness of women, men and youth on human rights, good governance, rights based development and electoral democracy; amplify their voices in promoting just and democratic governance from village up to national levels; <http://uchaguzi-uganda.blogspot.com>
- Documented evidence for knowledge base of our partners under to use in engaging under governance for civic engagements, promoting rights of women and children, electoral processes and corruption for policy advocacy through alternative models, action research and linkages with research and academic institutions; <http://rwecovoice.blogspot.com/2014/09/the-communities-in-kamwenge-district.html> www.rwenzoripeoplesvoice.org
- Participated in 04 TRAC fm meetings and jointly developed the monthly questions With Toro -Dev, RIDE-Africa and Life FM.

KEY RESULTS:

- An active citizenry constantly engaging the leaders and participating in governance issues in their communities.
- Citizens concerns and voices are documented, responded to and taken under consideration by the leaders.
- Produced videos on effect of information on governance, service delivery and poverty alleviation.

Working with partners

Conducted Rising stars mentoring program (RSMP) activities in Rwenzori, mentoring walk and mentoring leadership camp with in CEDA International. RIC-NET is an active partner on the implementation of the Rwenzori region frame work and the Kasunga 7 leaders forum hosted by Kabarole Research and Resource Centres (KRC) <http://www.krcuganda.org/2015/02/14/kasunga-7-hundreds-of-rwenzori-regional-leaders-vow-to-form-strong-regional-development-block>

Participated in building resident ICT equipment maintenance capacities in NGOs and Schools, and to conduct action research with support of I-Network, IICD, Computer for Schools Uganda (CFSU). <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/09/empowering-ict-teacherstutors-and-lab.html>

RIC-NET has been participating in citizen led campaigns; national consultation on free and fair elections- under National NGO forum and National Democratic Institute (NDI) <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/09/ric-net-participates-in-regional.html>

Actively participated in information sharing among local government, CSOs and citizens in Rwenzori region <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/12/regional-district-networks-convene-to.html> under RWECO and participated promoting human rights and strengthening the security for human rights defenders under HURINET , a CSOs network.



Above: participants at the free and fair election conference at Kagote fort portal.

Below: RIC-NET Executive Director and District Chairperson Kabarole Facilitating at the same conference.



Institutional development

Governance



12 staff monthly meetings were held; staff shared their work plans for harmonized implementation. 04 Board meetings were held to give the organisation a new directions and policies captured in the amended constitution, the amended financial management policy, strategic plan 2015-18 and hiring of competent staff.

The AGM was held in January 2014 to receive annual report and renew board members mandates (where Nkwenge Lillian and Kabugho Scovia elected to represent the e-society centres and represent the youth to the Board respectively. <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/08/ric-net-awarded-quam-standard.html>

Organizational capacity

The Executive Director attended a two weeks course in Conflict Analysis and Prevention (CAP2014) at IPSTC Nairobi, Kenya.

Three program staff attended a one week training course in social accountability for taxation or project Management or governance and social accountability at MS-TCDC-ACTION AID (Arusha, TANZANIA) with support from DENIVA

<http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/10/staff-knowledge-building.html>

The Board members attended a three days financial management with support from Global fund for Children.

The finance officer and administrative assistant attended a 5 days training in the use of finance accounting software packages-quick books.

Training on knowledge exchange program for Global Fund Children partners

Three programme staff and 6 volunteers and two board members attended a Girls' mentorship training by CEDA international.

The finance officer has undertaken a Post graduate diploma in financial management at Mountains of the Moon University; and the Executive Director is undertaking MBA at the same university.

RIC-NET staff and Board members developed an organisation Strategic Plan for 2015-2018, the narrative concept is finished and awaits budgeting.

Administrative activities

- Conduct monthly, quarterly and monthly monitoring and evaluation of activities.
- Conduct staff meeting, monthly reflection and annual reflection <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/12/regional-district-networks-convene-to.html>
- Conduct quarterly Board meetings and annual general meeting
- Conduct an annual financial audit and produce annual narrative report
- Hold fundraising meetings, dinners and charity drives for the required resources to facilitate coordination and different structures to meet RIC-NET mandates.
- Conduct staff appraisal annual
- Conduct stakeholders meetings to strengthen partnerships with member centres, CBOs, civil society organisations, development partners, private sector, all spheres of government.
- Carry out internal capacity building training every Monday and send staff to training from other organisation.
- Procure the required ICT and equipments to support the operationalisation of RIC-NET planned interventions.

OUTCOME

- New Board members representing the Women, Youth and the E- society centres appointed and supporting the Board (Ms. Kabugho Scovia from Bundibugyo & Lillian Nkwenge) for the kabarole E- centre
- strengthened the leadership and entrepreneurship abilities of the secondary school girls in the target schools
- Increased visibility of RIC-NET in the region

CHALLENGES

There was rampant transfer of capacitated teachers from the schools we work with. This will give us difficult in implementing the project 2015 as we have to train teachers afresh. We are lobbying education ministry to stop these transfers for at least three years.

Our traditional donor HIVOS reduced on its funding to RIC-NET due to situation in Europe (Netherlands) where their fundraise for funds and other internal restructuring plans. This led us to reduce our pace on implementation. But, to compact this, we lobbied local government to take over payment for salaries of our part time staff situated at district e-society centres and this has been successfully so far in four districts out of seven.

The sporadic internal armed conflict in the District of Bundibugyo, Kasese and Ntoroko in July 2014 brought an insecurity element for our operations and displaced internally several people. <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/657254-death-toll-rises-after-kasese-bundibugyo-attacks.html> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BPaelUBNzY> <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/06/women-affected-by-congo-wars.html>

The renewed ethnic tension in the region has made our work more difficult that any workshop or meeting held require prior permission from the security personnel and requires inviting the leaders of cultural institution to cool down the tempers of residents. Some time staffs are misunderstood because of their ethnic background. But, we have remained neutral in all this and embarked on the path of reconciliation and conflict resolution.

- The flood Disaster in the region in 2014 left some schools destroyed and other places inaccessible, families displaced leading to closer of some schools. <http://ric-netnews.blogspot.com/2014/11/ntoroko-district-hit-hard-by-floods.html>
- Limited facilitation for the Rising stars implementing staff, Lunch is not catered for.
- Limited sources of funding which could not facilitate the internal programs and support to information centres as in the past



Sustainability

- Districts have shown interest in sustaining the e-society centres for example Districts of Kamwenge, Ntoroko and Bundibugyo provided a tentative appointment to the ICT officer pending recruitment through public service, while Kasese recruited an ICT officer formally on government payroll, other districts are also in the process.
- Districts have owned the centres by paying for internet subscription, recruitment of officers in charge of the centres and general monitoring of the centre's activities.

Lessons learnt

- Community support for our programmes is the most sustainability mechanism of our project since these communities can take over the activities when funding to RIC-NET stops.
- RIC-NET will increasingly develop the capacities of members as resident store of knowledge and skills in case the staff leaves the organisation.
- Partnership with Local government and engagement can lead to proper budgeting targeting service delivery, so purposefully advocacy should be geared to the line Ministries, Ministry of planning and Finance and the Parliament Budget Committee early enough before the budgeting process of the year is started.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RWENZORI INFORMATION CENTRES NETWORK FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

5.0 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	2014 EURO	2014 UGX	2013 UGX
ASSETS				
Property, Plant and Equipment	9.3	18,934	60,589,227	25,075,230
Cash and Cash Equivalents	9.4	690	2,208,157	47,764,632
Debtors and advances	9.5	5,279	16,894,000	15,200,000
TOTAL ASSETS		24,904	79,691,384	88,039,862
EQUITY				
General Reserves	9.6	18,783	60,105,884	75,679,862
Donated equity	9.7	-	-	11,360,000
Total equity		18,783	60,105,884	87,039,862
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payables	9.8	2,031	6,500,000	1,000,000
Deferred Income	9.9	4,089	13,085,500	
Total Liabilities		6,120	19,585,500	1,000,000
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		24,904	79,691,384	88,039,862

The notes on pages 16 to 30 form an integral part of these financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 21/05/2015 ~~2014~~ and were signed on its behalf by:

Executive Director

Chairperson Board

Treasurer

[Signature] Sign
[Signature] Sign
[Signature] Sign

RIC-NET/ Financial Statements/ Period Ended 31/12/2014

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**RWENZORI INFORMATION CENTRES NETWORK
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6.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Notes	2014 EURO	2014 UGX	2013 UGX
Income				
Net Grant Remittances	9.10	40,861	130,755,523	510,462,571
Other Income	9.11	14,312	45,799,000	45,573,103
Total Income		55,173	176,554,523	556,035,674
Expenditure				
Direct Costs	9.12	49,323	157,834,687	565,289,542
Administrative costs	9.13	6,016	19,251,561	46,218,700
Depreciation	9.3	4,701	15,042,254	18,460,116
Total expenses		60,040	192,128,502	629,968,358
Deficit/Surplus for the period		(4,867)	(15,573,979)	(73,932,684)
Other comprehensive income				
Total Comprehensive Income		(4,867)	(15,573,979)	(73,932,684)

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**RWENZORI INFORMATION CENTRES NETWORK
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8.0 STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

	2014	2014	2013
	EURO	UGX	UGX
Cash flow from operating activities			
Deficit for the Year	(4,867)	(15,573,979)	(73,932,684)
Deferred Income	4,089	13,085,500	
Adjustments for:			
Add: Depreciation	4,701	15,042,254	18,460,116
Donated Equity	(3,550)	(11,360,000)	
Increase in Receivables	(529)	(1,694,000)	2,360,000
	-		
Decrease in Payables	1,719	5,500,000	(1,222,645)
	-		
Net cash from operating activities	1,562	4,999,775	(54,335,213)
	-		
Cash flows from Investing activities			
	-		
Purchase of property plant & equipment	(16,814)	(53,806,250)	(4,800,000)
	-		
Net cash used in investing activities	(16,814)	(53,806,250)	(4,800,000)
	-		
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds on disposal	1,016	3,250,000	
	-		
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	1,016	3,250,000	
Net Increase in cash and cash equivalents	(14,236)	(45,556,475)	(59,135,213)
	-		
Opening cash and cash equivalents	14,926	47,764,632	106,899,845
	-		
Closing cash and cash equivalents	690	2,208,157	47,764,632

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