BUILDING CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY ADVOCATES TO MONITOR HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY IN KYENGERA TOWN COUNCIL WAKISO DISTRICT

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY & CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

PHOTO ESSAY
APRIL 2019

Acknowledgement

Foreword

The Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) is implementing a project that is aimed at facilitating access to information so that the community can make informed decision and demands from the public office bearers.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda mandates all citizens to participate in government programs at the different levels of service delivery starting at the village, parish, sub county, county and district. Citizens have an obligation to monitor and hold to account public office bearers charged with service delivery at all those levels.

Monitoring of the implementation of government programmes enables the citizens to be involved in ensuring that quality and efficient services reach the grass root communities through the various government programmes. This ensures exposure of incidents of inefficiency, corruption, negligence etc. in government programmes.

As a community engagement model, ISER works with Community Advocates who are community members working on a voluntary basis monitoring and documenting key human rights issues within a specified area, with the aim of advocating for protection, promotion and respect for human rights to ensure that there is real positive change in human rights enjoyment and realization and push for the development and improvement of the welfare of their communities.

ISER recruited and trained Community Advocates (CAs) from the different parishes of Kyengera Town Council in Wakiso District to assist in the promotion, protection and realization of social and economic rights in the Town Council.

This Photo Essay represents some of the different activities conducted to implement the project on monitoring and documenting social and economic rights in Kyengera Town Council Wakiso District.

ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL LEADERS

Mr. Kyejjusa John (*in tie*) - Wakiso District Community Development Officer and Mr. Mukiibi Ronald - Kyengera Community Development Officer address ISER staff and leaders of Kyengera Town Council at the project inception meeting. During this meeting ISER was introduced to the different members of the Kyengera Town Council to pave way for the smooth implementation of project activities.

Ms. Rwabugagya Harriet - ISER Community Advocate (CA) gives her experience as an advocate to leaders of Kyengera Town Council. She spoke about the roles and responsibilities of a Community Advocate in the monitoring and documentation of the economic social rights (ESRs) in communities.

Ms. Nakulima Saphina - Program Manager, Right to Education (ISER) highlights aspects under the right to education drawing emphasis on how those areas would be monitored and documented.

Mr. Ssebagala Godfrey - Deputy Mayor Kyengera Town Council expresses his enthusiasm about ISER's project implementation in the Town Council. He acknowledged ISER's project as a timely intervention that would help the leaders examine themselves and become more accountable to the community.

Mr. Galabuzi Isaac - Wakiso District Water Officer emphasizes an issue at ISER's training on Equity and Gender Budgeting for Wakiso district officials. He stressed the need to work on changing the community's attitude towards developmental projects so as to realize fundamental change in Wakiso District.

Ms. Nassozi Rehema Ssozi – Program Officer, Social Accountability (ISER) trains Community Advocates from Kyengera Town Council on the role of social accountability structures. Social accountability structures include the Health Unit Management Committee (HUMC) and the School Management Committee (SMC) which serve as a platform for receiving, reflecting, monitoring and deliberating on the issues that arise in the community pertaining the right to health and education respectively.

Mr. Lutalo Derrick - Program Officer, Business and Human Rights (ISER) training Community Advocates of Kyengera Town Council on how to identify and document human right violations by business enterprises within their communities. In as much as business enterprises can spur development within communities, many business operations have been associated with human rights violations including, economic exploitation, environmental degradation, hazardous working conditions, forceful and illegal evictions and water and air pollution among others.

Kiira Brian Alex - Program Officer Right to Health (ISER) and Lutalo Derrick - Program Officer, Business and Human Rights (ISER) interpret the contract stipulating the obligations of the Community Advocates recruited by ISER to implement the project in Kyengera Town Council.

A declaration of commitment. Recruited community members from Kyengera Town Council express their willingness and readiness to volunteer as Community Advocates; ready to promote social and economic rights in their community by monitoring and documenting violations as well as motivating fellow community members to hold their leaders and civil servants to account in regards to service delivery.

Community Advocates being trained on how to use the mobile digital reporting tool by Mr. Tusingwire Enock - Monitoring and Evaluation Manager (ISER). Keeping abreast with technological advancements, the CAs collect information and submit reports using a data collection app installed on their official mobile phones. This is aimed at enhancing the data collection and report submission process which in turn eases data analysis and reporting on the project.

The Community Advocates navigating through the mobile data collection app.

Community Advocates practicing using the mobile phone to take photos. Having evidence is paramount in any monitoring activity and one way of having evidence is through visual images in the form of photos and videos. The photos taken are useful in advocacy especially during engagements with the duty bearers.

Community Advocates together with ISER staff at Nakitokolo Health Centre II in Nsangi Sub County during a joint monitoring visit.

Community Advocates interact with the Ms. Batenga Edith, the In-charge Nakitokolo Health Centre II during the joint monitoring visit.

Ms. Kakande Josephine – In-charge Kyengera Health Center III speaks to the Community Advocates and ISER staff after a tour around the health center. It is through such tours that the Community Advocates identify the gaps and challenges in service delivery at these pubic facilities.
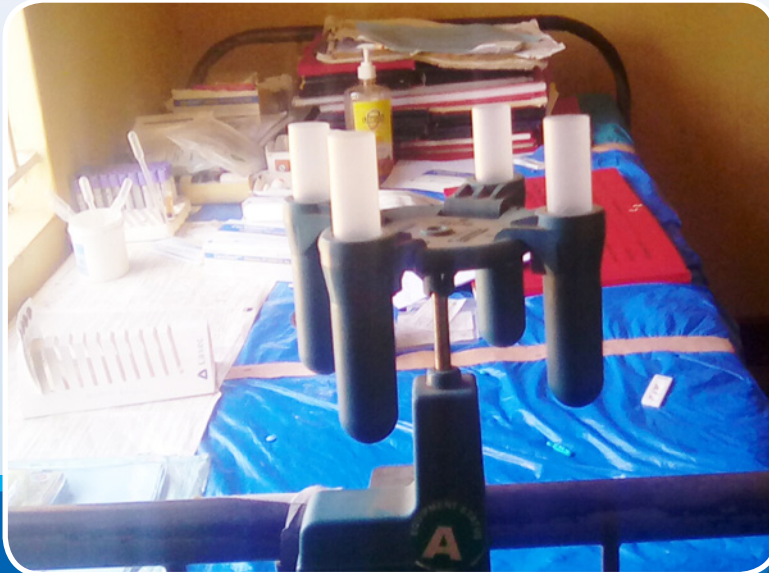
Kasenge Health Centre II.

An interaction with medical workers at Kasenge Health Centre II in Kyengera Town Council.

Insufficient furniture is a major impediment to work at Kasenge Health Centre II as witnessed here with the medical workers forced to convert one of the patients' bed into a table. This means that patients in this particular health center are deprived of access to one more bed.

A patients' bed at Kyengera Health Center III converted into a laboratory table due to lack of furniture and space

Running out of disposal space. Ms Nakakande Josephine, In-charge Kyengera Health Center III explains how the waste disposal pit was filled up and they needed for it to be constructed going upwards so as to get more space to dispose the Center's waste

Cardboard and a mat laid out on the floor for patients to sleep on in one of the Health Centers visited.

ISER

Facilitating Social Justice

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