

## **DOCUMENTATION OF VAC ACTIVITIES IN KAKUUTO COUNTY (AS REPORTED BY VACs THEMSELVES)**

### **KIBANDA VAC MEMBER ACTIVITIES**

1. On 27/05/09 we visited Kibanda Sub County Health Centre III after receiving information from our local communities that the nurses were selling drugs to patients at the Sub County Health Centre III. According to our investigation, we found out that it was true and requested the In Charge of the health centre to call an urgent Staff and Health Unit Management Committee meeting which he did.

In the meeting we discussed the allegations of selling drugs by nurses and delay Primary Health Care services/outreach services and we requested to know why they were not going for outreaches.

On the issue of sell of drugs at HCIII Kibanda the In Charge reported that the practice of selling drugs have been done by porters and mid wives. Being new in the health centre, he also heard the allegations and was working towards ensuring that the vice was stopped. So we told the In Charge to make a proper arrangement for the stoppage of all illegal exercises that have been taking place.

When we interviewed some patients who were getting medical services after our intervention into the matter, they said that they were not told to pay any money.

Our only hope is that the spirit of not asking for money from patients will continue for ever.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. The process of selling passbook for pregnancy women was stopped.
2. The practice of selling drugs to patients was stopped.
3. System of making out accountability on PHC was stopped and chairperson signed 84000/= as budgeted.

2. Our second intervention was in the matter concerning a woman who was unjustly arrested by police on allegations that she had burned a farm and was told to pay Ug.Shs.50,000 in order to release her on bail. She was arrested and taken to the police. We as VAC members went to the village where the crime was reportedly committed to verify. Our investigation revealed to us that the allegations were false and we knew that the police bonds are supposed to be free of charge.

We visited the Officer in Charge (O/C) and talked to him that we had researched information from the village and it was not true that the woman had burned the farm. Since we introduced ourselves to him as VACs, the O/C respected us and released the woman and dismissed the case.

### **KASASA SUB COUNTY VACS ACTIVITIES**

What we have done as VAC members –Kasasa Sub County.

1. Distribution of NAADS funds: there were rumours that the Sub County Chairperson and the executive Committee for NAADS has embezzled the first disbursement to Kasasa Sub County and basing on these allegations, we approached the said group and found out that the money given to the sub county worth Ug.Shs.8,000,000/= was shared among the chairman and his executives, that is six people at 1200000/=.

When we approached them together with TI Uganda staff during the case study monitoring visits, they feared and denied the allegations and said the person with the records was away so we were advised to dig deeper and were able to access the records.

When the executives saw that we might cause them problems they decided to call a meeting to sensitize people on NAADS program on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 2:00pm starting in Kabana Parish and said we should attend as VACs of the area.

2. Grading Nakasagazi-Kiruli road: according to our assessment, it was not graded well, so we also took our concerns to the concerned sub county to express our dissatisfaction on the quality of the work by the contractors, they said that they have told the constructors to redo the work and they said the contractor will not be paid until the road is regarded satisfactory to all parties concerned.
3. Displaying the relevant information on releases to the Sub County on the public notice board for easy access by interested parties. The documents are not yet displayed but the leaders say that they display the information as we requested so we are still giving some time to follow up on the issue.
4. Monitoring at the healthy centre Kasasa H/C III. We found out that women's passbooks for pregnant mothers was being sold at 1000/= and family planning drugs at 2000/=  
Here, we inquired from the health In Charged and she was defensive and said that it was true and she did that because when drugs are brought, they are put at Kakuuto H/C IV where they have to collect using their own transport so they decided to sell those drugs above in order to cater for transport costs. We asked her to present records of how much they got and how the money was spent but she never produced any and we told her to stop it since it was not legal. We intend to find more information from patients and follow up later and take action if she continues with the act.

### **KYEBE SUB COUNTY VACS ACTIVITIES**

As the VAC members of Kyebe, we have carried out a number of activities on our own and they include;

1. Sensitizing the Sub County local council about the objectives of the TI Uganda and the importance and functions of us the VAC members of the sub county and the county at large.
2. Follow up on the projects which to us are non existent because nothing shows that they exist and yet funds have been used to carry them out.

For example,

- i) The council released Ug.Shs.2,000,000/= for the school text books for kasensero lakeside academy primary school
- ii) The PMA cassava demonstration garden for Ug.Shs.1,100,000/=

NB: *Investigation is still going on for the above cases.*

- iii) We are also monitoring the Kasensero- Kyapa road which is under construction. Here we are working on accessing the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) so that we know the specification as far as layers, culverts and the general quality of the road specified in the BOQ is complied with by the constructors to avoid shoddy works with its related problems. At first there were delays in the construction but now work is moving at a good speed

### **KAKUUTO SUB-COUNTY VAC ACTIVITIES**

Our achievements as Kakuuto Sub County VACs: We visited Kakuuto Health centre IV to see the operation of the staff after discovering that they charge some money from the patients, which we know is not allowed. So this problem was stopped and solved to extent that one person who was known for practicing this was transferred to Rakai Referral Hospital. The staff were said to be rotated to work in areas they were not specialized in and they have been taken back to their fields of serving the patients.

Officer in Charge Criminal Investigations Department of Mutukula Police post who was asking money from the arrested people to release them and kill evidence was also transferred to Rakai Police headquarters in Kalisizo after we discovered and took action on these immoral practices from the communities around as VAC team that was trained to fight against corruption in our area.

VAC and community members realized that since the OC CID Mutukula Police post that used to arrest people without informing LC.1 chairperson and charge money from them was taken to Kalisizo, and the issue worked upon, they said that police post (office) is now doing very well with the new OC CID who was brought to replace the corrupt one.

**NOTE.** There is still a problem of a civil servant that was brought here to Kakuuto health centre IV. We learnt that he committed an offence from where he was. We are still looking for concrete evidence to pin him down or warn him that we are watching him. So his issue is still pending more factual information to base on to launch our complaints.

### **KIFAMBA SUB COUNTY VAC ACTIVITIES**

We have monitored the following projects and shall continue monitoring them to get good results.

1. We are monitoring the Kifamba-Kiruli road which we think is not going on right and to know the exact specification, we are chasing the BOQ with the district leadership and they promised to give it to us.
2. We are also following closely the issue of Kifamba-Nabunga Road. Zain Telecommunications company offered to construct this road because they are going to install their satellite dish on it and the Sub County allocated Ug.Shs.10,000,000 for the same road and they want to claim the money saying the contractor they had selected had already began doing some work. We as VACs want our sub county money to be saved for other developmental activities since Zain has come in to help with the road.

3. In the education sector (Universal Primary Education), we the VACs have saved Ug.Shs.650,000 of Kifamba Primary School which was misused by the leadership.

### **JOINT VAC ACTIVITIES IN KAKUUTO COUNTY**

Since inception, TI Uganda has told us to work both at sub county level and also at county levels where necessary. In that regard, we have tried to think bigger do certain things jointly as Kakuuto County VACs. The first we did was organize a meeting at Sanje KAKODA Site which is rather a central plan for all the sub counties and in the meeting we resolved to form as one body and register ourselves as an anti corruption CSO and we also decided to elect the board and currently we have a board where every Sub County is represented.

As the Kakuuto VACs joint team, we have worked on the issue of Kasensero Academy Primary School where the then Sub County Chief embezzled Ug.Shs.2,000,000 meant for purchasing School text books. The first step we took was to write a letter which was delivered to him asking him to either refund the money back to the School Management Committee or deliver the said text books. We have given him a period of one month and if nothing is done, we shall write again and this time copy to all concerned authorities at the Sub County, County, District, as well as the Inspectorate of Government, Police and Transparency International.