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## Dear KAS Partners and Friends,

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It has been over a year since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and we would like to thank you and all the brave collective change makers who are actively working towards building resilience and navigating an effective new normal, moving forward.

We are excited to share our first issue of this year's newsletter. This issue focuses on activity highlights from January to April 2021, and yes, we have been mindful of the SOPs in all our activities. As we share these updates, we also want to recognise the immense challenges and key social and economic issues in our country, our communities, that need to be addressed. We need trained and talented leaders to address these needs. KAS in conjunction with the LÉO Africa Institute is committed to training a new generation of public sector leaders through the Huduma fellowship. Visit our website and social media pages on how to apply.

We had to bid farewell to Ojok Okello who has since moved on to assume a new role at Makerere University. Your years of dedication and service to KAS are greatly appreciated. Congratulations on a job well done and we wish you excellence in your next challenge!

In the same spirit, it is our honour to introduce to you Judith Atim and Nicholas Opolot, our newest additions to the KAS family. Welcome to the team! We are excited to have you two on board.

While 2021 remains unprecedented, it is also eventful and presents us with more opportunities and questions to answer. KAS is currently looking into new formats of political education and exploring new collaborations. We shall keep you posted!

Thank you for all the support throughout these months. We are making great strides towards the future we want. Cheers!



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## New Publication: Economic Policy Paper 2



Economic transformation is necessary for sustained growth in output, decent jobs, incomes, and social development. The macroeconomic stability over the last three decades unlocked an episode of moderate to high GDP growth coupled with promising signs of early economic transformation, including export growth and diversification. However, progress against each economic transformation metric eventually stalled. Combined with rapid population growth, this has translated into large-scale underemployment, stagnating incomes for most citizens, and rising poverty. Faced with a rapidly growing, urbanising, and increasingly educated and connected youth population as well as growing discontent in cities, the political legitimacy of Uganda's leadership will increasingly depend not only on peace and stability, but also on the promise of decent jobs and incomes.

In partnership with the Centre for Development Alternative, KAS has published the second edition of the Economic Policy Paper Series entitled "Delivering Industrialisation - The case for a President's Industrialisation Delivery Unit to drive economic transformation". The study came just as the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives (MTIC) launched the National Industrial Policy 2020.

As KAS, our goal is to promote dialogue-focused approaches towards sustainable development in Uganda. Industrialisation still remains a prerequisite for economic transformation. This research provides insights and mechanisms on how Uganda could coordinate its industrial policy in a more efficient way. We are delighted to share these findings with you all.

In partnership with:



## KAS in South Sudan: PoLA - LAB Project



In March 2021, we welcomed the second cohort of the Political Leadership Advancement Lab (PoLA-LAB) Fellows in South Sudan. Now in its second year, the programme targets young South Sudanese leaders with the intention of empowering and equipping them to navigate the complex political terrain in the world's youngest country. The 27 youth leaders who were selected to the programme through a competitive application process come from across eight States of South Sudan, making it a highly diverse group of participants.

The categories of the selected fellows include students from different universities in the country, religious youth leaders, youth in politics and media, youth in the private sector, social entrepreneurs and human rights activists. At the commencement of the fellowship programme, a seminar on state building was organized and attended by experts from the University of Juba, politicians from the Transitional National Assembly and members of the South Sudanese civil society.

## Election Review Roundtable Series

“The Post-Election Roundtable Review Series seeks to provide a platform for an in-depth analysis and informed discussion on a number of thematic areas and issues around the 2021 general elections”

– Anna Reismann



Together with our partner Julius Nyerere Leadership Centre (Makerere University), we are excited to introduce a Round Table Review Series themed “The Form and Substance of the 2021 Elections in Uganda”.

The Post-Election Discussion Series, is an academic and practical initiative, designed to answer specific questions relating to both the substance and process of the 2021 Elections including activities, major difficulties in the election processes prior to and

post the elections.

The analysis is expected to draw lessons that have implications for future interventions in electoral democracy and governance reforms in Uganda. The discussion series will be based on commissioned in-depth academic analyses in order to give the core group an opportunity to make realistic recommendations that can contribute to and inform political debate in Uganda.

## PoLA-LAB - Fellowship



Together with University Forum on Governance (UNIFOG), KAS has initiated the PoLA-LAB fellowship that aims at enhancing leadership capacities of young and emerging leaders through guided learning and sharing. The first cohort has been selected in an open and competitive procedure. A number of 31 selected fellows will develop leadership potential that will enable them address the contemporary social, political, and economic challenges and also transform their communities for better service delivery, good governance, and respect for the rule of law.

## Okere Community Programme

Together with Okere City, we launched a capacity building programme for LC1s in Okere Parish, Lira City as part of the Political Leadership Advancement Project (PoLA-LAB). The LC1 leadership improvement component of the Okere PoLA-LAB project aims to strengthen the capacity of LC1 units in Okere to become key commencement points for access to public services and addressing essential community needs. The programme will enhance the capacity, skills and the knowledge of LC1 officials on their mandated roles and responsibilities as key drivers of improving public service delivery, and also equip them with knowledge on participatory democratic principles and practices.



*Bernard Mukhone, Program Manager – KAS, addressing LC1s of Okere Community during the introductory training.*

During the inaugural engagement with the LC1s, Bernard Mukhone, a Programme Manager at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Uganda and South Sudan lauded the unique learning curve that the project is offering, saying that, “What we are doing to train and develop the capacity of LC1s is a rarity in Uganda. One day, the whole country will descend to learn the unique lessons demonstrated by a project that started with humble beginnings like what we are doing here today”.

Together with Ojok Okello, the founder of Okere City, we hope this collaboration between Okere City and KAS emerges as a measure to re-imagine how local participation in politics is practiced and conceptualized in Uganda and beyond.

In partnership with:



## Graduation of MCI Fellows 2020

### Media Fellowship:

This fellowship aims at nurturing talent of young and aspiring journalists to equip them with hands-on skills in radio television, print journalism and multimedia. It is open to journalism and communication students from 15 universities and institutions in Uganda.

KAS is happy to share in the excitement of the recent graduates that went through the multimedia journalism training. We applaud you all to embrace your watchdog roles, use your voices and the power of journalism to drive positive change everywhere you go. Congratulations!

The project is supported by:



EU in Uganda,  
DW Akademie  
& US Mission in  
Uganda



### Media Hub Launch:

We congratulate our partner MCI for having launched the media hub; a collaborative space that will support disruptive innovators with an enabling environment to accelerate ideas and solutions for journalism and media viability in Uganda and East Africa.



*“At the Media Challenge Initiative, we do what we do because we believe that good journalism makes the world a better place. We have, therefore, created a home for innovations and solutions addressing the viability of the industry because we are on a mission to nurture and incubate it,” Media Challenge Initiative CEO, Abaas Mpindi said.*

## NEW! EU Great Lakes Project

# Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogue and Peace

Our Diversity – our Opportunity!



Are you a member of or actively engaged in the leadership of a **youth group/ initiative** dedicated to peace building and conflict resolution, dialogue and exchange and a strong voice for the youth in the Great Lakes Region? Is your group/ initiative based in the Central or Western part of Uganda?

Learn more about the initiative and how you can apply:  
[leoafricainstitute.org/great\\_lakes\\_project](http://leoafricainstitute.org/great_lakes_project)



In partnership with:



The Great Lakes Youth Network for Dialogue and Peace is a consortium of six Non-Governmental Organisations: Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation (Germany), Pole Institute (DRC), Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle (Rwanda), Cornerstone Development Africa & Léo Africa Institute (Uganda), and Actions for Democracy and Local Governance (Tanzania).

The project aims to contribute to peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region by promoting the active, cooperative, sustainable, and positive role of youth actions as well as creating a strong network between them. The Great Lakes project is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The project will officially be launched on Tuesday 8th June 2021. We shall keep you posted.



# EU SPACE Project



Group photo of Media Actors from Amuria, Moroto & Napak districts.

**Media Training:** 30 media practitioners from all the six action districts were successfully trained on the laws, policies and regulatory frameworks of Local Government. These actors were empowered to pursue government accountability and service delivery-related issues, and professionally disseminate this information to ordinary citizens. The training provided a platform for the trained actors to build networks with the Local Government and also influence each other on ethical freedom of expression and responsible journalism.



Photo: Napak District dialogue participants discussing gender responsive service delivery.

**District Dialogues & Community Engagement Platforms:** We facilitated dialogues with over 1300 participants from Northern Uganda. The themes of the discussions ranged from accountability over gender responsive service delivery and to public resources management. Some of the critical issues that stood out were insecurity, scarcity of water, gaps in the health sector, lack of infrastructure in schools and gender based violence.

Action plans were formulated and the key district representatives took note of these issues. They also pledged to provide an update with facts and figures on action points in the next dialogues. In addition they urged participants to seek and disseminate information on accountability structures put in place by the government and hold their leaders accountable.

*“Government has put accountability structures in place. We need to sensitise our people on how, when and to whom we demand for accountability. Without holding our leaders responsible, we are doing ourselves and the country a disservice,” said Festus Ayikobua, RDC Arua.*

From the structure of our project dialogues, we can already appreciate the impact it is creating. We have seen a number of issues being resolved. For example, people of Lopei sub-county in Napak district now have access to clean water after a long period water shortage.



From left to right, Enzama Ernest Regional Coordinator – SPACE/ Acholi Sub-Region & Major Andrus Emmanuel, OWC Regional Coordinator.

**Radio Talk shows:** Our talk shows featured different stakeholders such as Government Project Coordinators and key district representatives across the region. Listeners were sensitised on Government projects running in the region such as Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), NUSAF 3, Youth Livelihood Program and Women Empowerment Program; how these projects operate as well as their implementation processes and performance to-date.

Feedback from different callers in the communities raised major concerns on procurements, transparency and corruption in government projects and all were called upon to report such cases as they come. Some of the callers also provided recommendations to improve government project implementation. In an effort to curb the spread of the Coronavirus, we also had a session on COVID-19 vaccination procedures and vaccination points in the districts.

## ACFODE: Capacity Building for Newly Elected Women Leaders



Our institutional partner ACFODE conducted a capacity enhancement training for newly elected women leaders and their spouses in Kamwenge and Kyegegwa Districts. The goal was to orient the elected councillors on their new roles and responsibilities, advocacy, lobbying, and communication skills to enable them effectively champion women's issues in local government plans and budgets.



*A group photo of the women leaders and their spouses in Kamwenge District*

The spouses were able to appreciate gender, the importance of women in leadership and pledged to support their wives' political aspirations and functions as change agents in the communities they serve. As a way forward, the women recommended a consistent capacity building and mentoring programme for the women councillors.

## New additions to our KAS Team



### Judith Atim

Judith Atim joins KAS as a Program Officer. She has previously worked as a Communication and Knowledge Management Specialist with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). She is also a former broadcast Journalist. Judith enjoys working in diverse and multicultural settings. During her leisure time, she can be a homebody who engages in several indoor fun activities, but she can also be an outdoorsy type and equally enjoys taking walks and interacting with nature. Her areas of interest include Media, Communication, Journalism, Research, and Public Policy.



### Opolot Nicholas L'akwang

Opolot Nicholas L'akwang is a Programme Officer at Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Uganda & South Sudan. He's a Global Shaper (World Economic Forum), Lawyer and Climate Change Activist with extensive experience working in the technology, civic society and knowledge sectors. Opolot is driven by the desire to inspire others and cause transformative change particularly through promoting innovation to address Uganda's development challenges.



Apply here:

<https://leoafricainstitute.org/huduma/>

Deadline:

30th May 2021

The *Huduma* (Swahili for Public Service) Fellowship is a new initiative by KAS Uganda and the LEO Africa Institute which seeks to train a new generation of public sector leaders. Every year, the programme will enrol 10 outstanding young and emerging leaders, who already work in public service or aspire to do so. These leaders from multidisciplinary backgrounds will undertake a year-long attachment in public service with a government agency.

The candidates for the Fellowship will be individuals between the ages of 25-35 who have demonstrable interest in volunteerism and public service. The fellows will be early stage professionals who are intellectually curious and are interested in public affairs. The fellowship will nurture this curiosity further to help them arrive at a deeper understanding of how government processes work.

## KAS Network

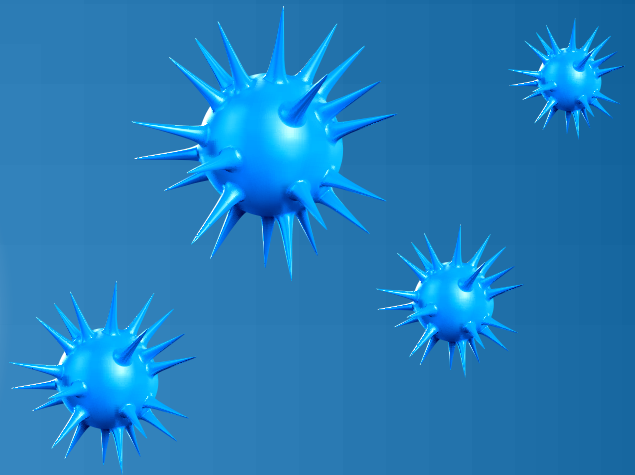
### African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ):

With pleasure, we would like to announce our new partnership with African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ), a media organisation focused on growing investigative journalism across Africa. Informed by the principles of human rights and social justice, AIJ seeks to use journalism as a tool for promoting social accountability, inform public discourse and create a nurturing space for passionate investigative journalists. We are happy to contribute to this mission by shaping democracy together. Keep on the lookout for partnership details which will be communicated in due course.



### National Youth Council:

We extend congratulations to the new Chairperson of the National Youth Council, Jacob Eyeru. We are already exploring our joint programmes for the time to come.



PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE **NEW COVID VARIANTS** EMERGING AND RAPIDLY SPREADING



COVID-19  
Vaccination  
is ongoing.

**Please access the  
nearest vaccination  
health centre for more  
information on it.**

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