

Activity Highlights

January – March 2020

KAS in South Sudan

4

In the first quarter of 2020, we launched two programmes which we believe will contribute towards laying a firm foundation for peace and stability in South Sudan.

KAS Scholars & Alumni Network

5

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YELP Graduation Seminar

6

"Your Networks are your Net-Worth"
Change requires ideas and ideas demand people who think and approach them.



Launch of Reality Check 11: Civil Society in Uganda

Creating Spaces for Accountability and Service Delivery in Northern Uganda - with the European Union and the Office of the Prime Minister

P7

The KAS family is growing!

SPACE Project Partners

From our interns

P9

Voices of the KAS Network

P9

Combined with our New Year's Reception, the ample turn-up for the launch of our new publication allowed for engaging interactions on the critical topic of **civil society in Uganda**, which had been the research focus of the publication "Reality Check 11". The publication provides a deeper exploration of Uganda's civil society ecosystems to pinpoint possible engagement with civil society for driving an inclusive development process.

Following a presentation of the report findings, researchers and guests alike joined a compelling discussion on the role of civil society in the Ugandan context. Different views emerged, which Yusuf Kiranda summed up: "The dominant discourse on civil society in Uganda is that government is against the movement, but the reality is that there is lot of coordination and cooperation between the two actors."

The subsequent panel discussion with Prof. Sarah Ssali and Nicholas Opiyo shed further light on the matter. Passionate about the topic, the panellists eagerly pointed out their takes on the issue. Nicholas Opiyo argued that "donors should consider funding organised, informal groups rather than throwing money at disorganised formal NGOs."

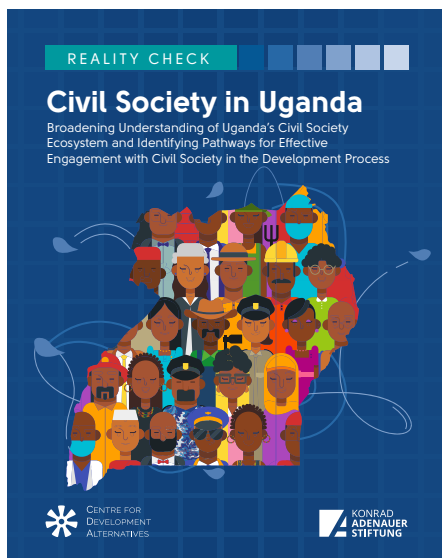
Another highlight of the event was certainly Mathias Kamp's introduction of his soon-to-be successor Anna Reismann as Country Director of KAS Uganda & South Sudan.

We look back to a fruitful and insightful evening with our partners and friends from Uganda and South Sudan. Finally, we would like to extend a special word of thanks to all contributors and visitors who made the evening a special occasion for reflections on Uganda's civil society.

More about the Launch of Reality Check 11 “Civil Society in Uganda”

We asked
Rosebell Kagumire,
John Oyambi and
Nicholas Opiyo
how they evaluate
the influence of
civil society in
Uganda.

Here are their
perspectives.



Rosebell Kagumire

African Feminism, Politics, Gender, Human Rights, Peace and Conflict.

"I think it is important to expand our understanding of civil society beyond NGOs. They play a key role in providing where gaps by government exist and in lobbying for policy. But at the same time, we have been caught up in this model that lacks accountability to citizens. Citizens are not fully represented on the table."

"We need to look to more self-organised groups that are pushing in small steps to cause change."



John Oyambi

Ministry of ICT and National Guidance

"The impact of civil society in Uganda is okay but we need to add more value to it through proper networking. Civil society does immense work but some of these actors are working silently. We want to support them to be able to achieve more. Sometimes they even do government work and their impact needs to be more felt. But so far they are doing a good job."



Nicholas Opiyo

*Executive Director,
Chapter Four Uganda*

"The Ugandan civil society has some utility. It provides space for conversation, for raising issues that they are concerned about, and for advocacy around public issues. But I think it has limitations, for instance, I think civil society activists are elitists. It's a group of elitists individuals who don't have constituencies and therefore no don't have master appeal. They are not membership-based and are unable to inspire the citizenry around the courses and issues for which they stand. The second inhibition of Ugandan civil society, in my view, is the model and organisation around Western forms of association. You want to call a press conference, you want to write press statements - those kinds of things have limited impact on policy and governance as a whole. So, there are plenty of lessons to be learned if they want to be effective in this country."

More about the Launch of Reality Check 11 “Civil Society in Uganda”



Dinnah Nabwire, a Youth4Policy alumni, and **Allan David Emolot**, KAS scholarship holder, at the Reality Check Launch



Micheal Mugisha and **Yusuf Kiranda**, Directors of Centre for Development Alternatives, lay out the content of the new Reality Check publication.

KAS in South Sudan



South Sudan Peacebuilding Academy Programme



In the first quarter of 2020, we launched two programmes which we believe will contribute towards laying a firm foundation for peace and stability in South Sudan.

In the Eastern Equatorial county of Yei, we launched the **South Sudan Peacebuilding Academy (SSUPA)** country together with our local partner Yamora. SSUPA's long term vision is to build an army of peace ambassadors in South Sudan. The launch was attended by different stakeholders selected from the public service, civilian and organised armed forces.



We also launched the South Sudan edition of the Political Leadership Advancement Laboratory (PoLA-LAB). Started in 2018 with our Ugandan partner, the University Forum on Governance (UNIFOG), the PoLA-LAB project has stood out as an authentic platform for nurturing a new breed of political leaders who have fervent understanding and knowledge of important political aspects such as political economy analysis, advocacy, mobilization among others. During the inaugural workshop held in Juba February 2020, the political leadership advancement training brought together 30 youth who have demonstrated leadership potentials through previous volunteer engagements and professional work and are interested in furthering their leadership skills and political competencies which will allow them to actively take part in political leadership and civic processes in South Sudan. In many ways, the launch re-awakened the spirits of the youth who attended to be more passionate about politics as noted by Faida, one of the participants, who said:

"Before this training, I was disinterested in politics because it's mostly a game for men, especially here in South Sudan. But now I know, I can be a constructive participant, too."



KAS Scholars & Alumni Network

“This is a great initiative for young leaders to meet-up, come together, share ideas and connect to further projects”,
voiced one participant.

Many of our youth scholars and alumni followed our invitation for the Kick-off of our new Scholars&Alumni Network. By hosting fellows from our different KAS youth programmes, KAS hopes to build new networks and generate a platform for like-minded young leaders to connect. KAS scholars and alumni were given a platform to get to know all the KAS youth programmes and - with Youth4Policy, Media Challenge Initiative, Inter Party Youth Platform, the Young Leaders Project and the KAS-UMU scholarship programme being represented - gained deeper insights into the landscape of young leaders and advocates for democratic values.

The second edition of the network was already hosted in march under the topic “**In Defense of Liberal Democracy**”. Country Director Mathias Kamp passionately addressed the fellows of the KAS youth programmes and combined the evening with his farewell celebration.

We want to thank you for your ample attendance at the Kick-off evening and we are looking forward to seeing you at our next **Scholars & Alumni Network**. The network events are open to all KAS fellows, scholars, alumni and partners.



“Your Networks are your Net-Worth”

YELP Graduation Seminar



Change requires ideas and ideas demand people who think and approach them. Already in its third year, the **Young and Emerging Leaders Project (YELP)** brought together over 30 change-makers of various fields to reflect and learn more about servant leadership and why it is a key ingredient for addressing the 21st century leadership and development challenges. From 7th to 9th February 2020, we welcomed **21 fellows** of the third cohort to their graduation seminar.



Under the theme of “**Living your Legacy**”, leading questions like “**How do you build your legacy? Why is this key? Does failure make you a loser? What is a servant leader? What is leadership about?**” were answered and discussed during the graduation seminar.

Joined by the alumni classes of 2017 and 2018, the fellows further reviewed “**Leadership in the Fourth Industrial Revolution**” in an interactive conversation with Hon. Vincent W. Bagire, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance. He pointed at the national state of data security and innovations hubs and at how to incorporate technologies in different sectors like education.

With the graduation ceremony of the third class, YELP now has an alumni network of 67 fellows from different countries all throughout Africa. An impressive network between the participants from eight different countries, including Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Somalia, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo has been established. In addition to the multi-nationality, the 2019 class of scholarship holders impressed, above all, with their colourful mix of different backgrounds. Through the fellowship, artists met biotechnologists and economists met film producers, all of whom contributed to the workshop with their exciting and extensive experiences.



Creating Spaces for Accountability and Service Delivery in Northern Uganda - with the European Union and the Office of the Prime Minister



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR NORTHERN UGANDA
(DINU)



Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, together with RIAMIRIAM Civil Society Network - Karamoja, Lira NGO Forum in Lira, MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition (MACCO) in Arua, acquired a 30-month project called **SPACE (Strengthening Performance and Accountability through Community Engagement)** that will focus on local governments in Northern Uganda. The target districts are Amuria, Napak, Moroto, Lira, Gulu, and Arua. The project strongly leverages strengthening participation of local communities and will focus on achieving two main objectives:

1. To enhance downward accountability mechanisms, and
2. To foster the oversight role of CSOs and other actors

The KAS family is growing!

For this project, we are welcoming Racheal, Samson and Julian to the KAS family!



Racheal Okuja

"I am the Project Officer for the EU project SPACE.

I am very passionate about good governance and in particularly community engagement as a democratic way of governance and accountability. I will majorly focus on the coordination and implementation of the project, together with other project partners and the technical team.

I join the team with vast experience on civil society engagement, governance issues and community engagement from both a humanitarian and development perspectives."



Samson Emasit Okurut

"I am the Project Assistant on the SPACE Project. Before joining KAS, I worked with DREST-Uganda as a team leader and served on the board of GAIN-Uganda as national treasurer. I hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration and Management of Uganda Management Institute and a degree in Economics of Makerere University. My areas of interest is public policy research and analysis."



Julian Marembo

"I am the Project Accountant for the SPACE Project. I have five years' experience in accounting and finance.

I hold a BSc. Degree in Business Statistics from Makerere University and I am a chartered accountant with the ACCA. I was previously the Finance Officer at Capital Markets Authority."

SPACE Project Partners

For the implementation of the project, we are collaborating with three strong civil society organisations. Riamiriam, Lira NGO Forum and MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition are all based in the target regions and will support us with their great deal of expertise.



Riamiriam is an Ngakarimojong word which means “coming together” or “let us meet”. Riamiriam Civil Society Network - Karamoja is non-governmental organisation which was established in 2003. As an umbrella network of CSOs in Karamoja, the organisation is mandated to coordinate, facilitate, build capacity, and provide a common platform through which CSOs can advocate for better social service delivery, peace, human rights, gender equality and economic development. Riamiriam’s head office is located in Moroto district, but its network and operations extend to all nine districts of Karamoja: Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Moroto, Kotido, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit and Napak.



LIRA NGO FORUM is a network organisation formed in 1998 to enhance coordination among CSOs in Lango sub-region through promoting engagement and collaboration among CSOs, Local Governments and Communities. With the goal of pursuing inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, the forum leverages community structures - both technical and political - to monitor and advocate for quality service delivery in Lango. LIRA NGO FORUM provides platforms for CSOs and LGs to share information as well as build capacity for CSOs to enhance their credibility and compliance to the NGO legal regimes.



MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition (MACCO) is a regional governance and anti-corruption civil society network based in West Nile. Formed in 2008, MACCO is committed to promote democratic, accountable and responsive governance for improved service delivery in the West Nile sub-region. MACCO envisions West Nile sub region transformed into a model for zero tolerance for corruption in Uganda. On this journey, citizen empowerment and engagement underpins MACCO’s theory of change. MACCO’s core belief is that citizen empowerment and civil society engagement stimulates social transformation processes for a corruption-free society, actionable through effective citizen participation in governance processes, enhanced social accountability, responsive governance, rights promotion and rule of law.

From our intern



Rebecca Fuchs

KAS Intern from January to March 2020

"I had a great and enriching time at KAS Uganda! My internship was a precious opportunity to get insights and access to the work of a German political foundation in Uganda, to gain experience in the work of political parties and in the commitment of the civil society in Uganda in a real-life experience.

I want to thank the whole team and all the people and partners I had the pleasure to work with during my stay. Until we meet again."

Voices of the KAS Network



Alice Alaso

Alliance for National Transformation

What is your contribution to the civil society in Uganda?

"Well I am, of course, very political. Thus, my relationship to civil society is more or less a partnership. We work together. For instance, in areas of good governance, constitutionalism, civic awareness and institutional strength, they take it from the civil society angel, I take it from the political angel. Civil society works with the parliament of Uganda and we, as politicians, have been working in that space - so that is our relationship with civil society."



Kwezi Tabaro

Deputy Director, LEO Africa Institute

Which challenges do you see for Uganda in 2020, especially for the civil society?

"Of course, 2020 is the year that precedes election year. There is going to be a lot of political activity and a number of civil society organisations who are involved in that arena, will have quite a challenging year because the calendar is really full of activities. Also, there has been an ongoing discussion between government and civil society on how far government can regulate civil society, or on how far civil society can grow under government regulations. I think this debate is going to be continued in 2020 and become even more important because we are heading to an election year."



Liz Nabakooza Kakooza

Founder of Tumaini Foundation, Global Shapers Community Kampala

What was your highlight in 2019 with KAS?

"I got engaged with KAS under Mathias' leadership when I was a YELP fellow of the first class. I came to appreciate the open-mindedness and the receptiveness of KAS. They are very receptive and willing to share his knowledge and networks. This goes for me but this also many people in my class to KAS.

Over the years, the door has been open to work and collaborate with us. KAS believes in us as young people to change the narrative of development within the country. And that keeps me coming back and I am it is what keeps many other young people coming back."



Ayub Kiranda

Programme Manager, University Forum on Governance (UNIFOG)

What motivates you in your work with KAS?

"I really liked the Geopolitics conference, the way it blends global politics. It moves you away from this concentration of what's happening only here but then knowing what's happening here maybe is related to what's happen somewhere else. Yes, I loved that."