



L-R: Ms. Rose Gamwera, Secretary General ULGA; Mr. Ben Kumumanya, PS. MoLG and Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha, Executive Director ACODE in a group photo with award winners at the launch of the 8th Local Government Councils Scorecard Report FY 2018/19 at Hotel Africana in Kampala on 10th March 2020

1.0 Introduction

This brief is developed from the main Scorecard Report titled, “The Local Government Councils Scorecard FY 2018/19. The Next Big Steps: Consolidating Gains of Decentralisation and Repositioning the Local Government Sector in Uganda.” The brief provides key highlights of the performance of elected leaders and Council of Soroti District Local Government during FY 2018/19.

1.1 About the District

Located in the eastern part of Uganda, Soroti District is bordered by Amuria district to the north, Katakwi district to the east, Ngora district to the southeast, Serere district to the south and Kaberamaido district to the west. It is one of the original 38 districts that were created in Uganda upon the abolition of the provinces in the 1980s. It is formerly the mother to Teso district which is now constituted by the following districts: Katakwi, Amuria, Kapelebyong, Bukedea, Kaberamaido, Kalaki,

Kumi, Ngora, Serere and Soroti itself. Iteso is the largest ethnic group in Soroti, followed by the Kumam, who speak Ateso and Kumamn respectively. Lukenye, Swahili, Luganda and Lugisu languages are commonly used by the business community. The district headquarters is situated in Soroti Municipality which is approximately 116km (72 miles) by road northeast of Mbale, the nearest large city. Soroti has a total projected population of 296,833 with a population density of 248.9 persons per km² (UBOS, 2014).

1.2 The Local Government Councils Scorecard Initiative (LGCSCI)

The main building blocks in LGCSCI are the principles and core responsibilities of Local Governments as set out in Chapter 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the Local Governments Act (CAP 243) under Section 10 (c), (d) and (e). The scorecard comprises of five parameters based on the core responsibilities of the local government Councils, District Chairpersons, Speakers

and Individual Councillors. These are classified into five categories: Financial management and oversight; Political functions and representation; Legislation and related functions; Development planning and constituency servicing and Monitoring service delivery. The parameters are broken down into quantitative and qualitative indicators. Separate scorecards are produced for the Chairperson, Speaker, Individual Councillors, and the District Council as a whole.

The major rationale of the LGCSCI is to induce elected political leaders and representative organs to deliver on their electoral promises, improve public service delivery, ensure accountability and promote good governance through periodic assessments.

1.3 Methodology

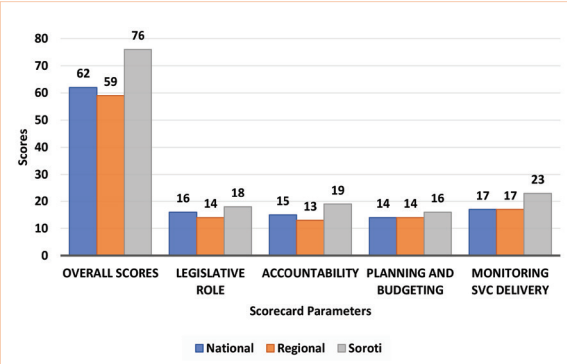
The 2018/19 LGCSCI assessment adopted the use of participatory assessment methods including face-to-face structured interviews, civic engagement meetings, document review; key informant interviews; field verification visits and photography to collect the relevant data. The assessment was conducted between July and September 2019. A total of 26 elected leaders (24 District Councillors, Chairperson and Speaker) and Council were assessed using the different tailor-made LGCSCI tools.

2.0 Results of the Assessment

2.1 The District Council

The performance of Soroti District Council was 76 out of a possible 100 points which was an improvement from 55 points scored in FY 2016/17. The District scored 23 out of 30 points in monitoring services, 16 out of 20 points in planning and budgeting, 19 out of 20 points in accountability and 18 out of 20 points in the legislative function. This performance placed Soroti above the average score of 62 nationally placing the district at number 5 out of the 35 assessed districts. At the regional level, Soroti District emerged as the best of all the assessed districts in the Eastern Region. Figure 1 provides a comparative performance of the district at national and regional levels.

Figure 1: Performance of District Council on Key Parameters Relative to National and Regional Average Performances

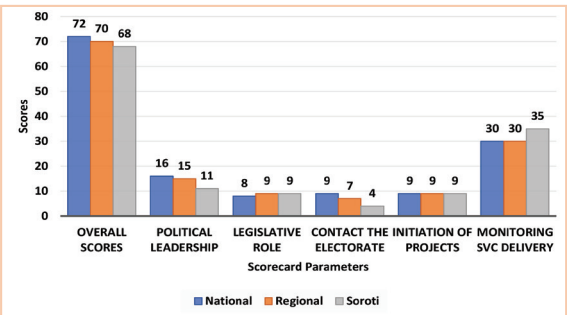


Source: Local Government Councils Scorecard Assessment FY 2018/19

2.2 The District Chairperson

During 2018/19, the Soroti District Chairperson, Hon. George Michael Egunyu was serving his second term in office. He subscribed to the ruling party, NRM and scored 68 out of a possible 100 points and improving from 54 points scored in FY2016/17. This performance was however below the national and regional average scores of 72 and 70 points respectively for Chairpersons. The chairperson registered good performance on the parameter of Initiation of projects in the district where he garnered 9 out of 10 possible points. On the other hand, his worst performed parameter was in contact with the electorate where he scored 4 out of the 10 possible points, having failed to meet the required threshold. Figure 2 illustrates the chairperson’s comparative performance at national and regional levels.

Figure 2: Performance of District Chairperson on Key Parameters Relative to National and Regional Average Performances

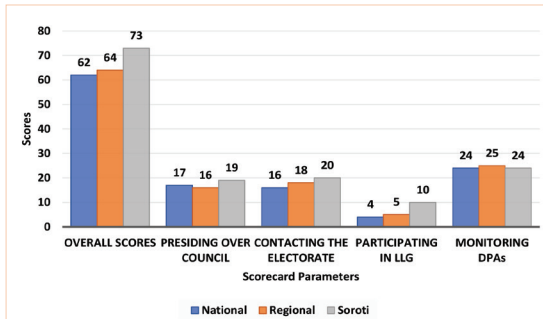


Source: Local Government Councils Scorecard Assessment FY 2018/19

2.3 Speaker of Council's Performance, Soroti District Council

The Speaker of Soroti District Council was Hon. Olebe Stephen, who was serving his first term as speaker at the time of the assessment, having served as Deputy Speaker in the previous Council. Hon. Olebe subscribes to the UPC party. He scored 73 out of a possible 100 points, registering an improvement from 42 points obtained in the previous assessment. This score was above both the national and regional scores of Speakers of Councils that stood at 62 and 64 respectively. Figure 3 shows his performance. Overall, the speaker performed well in almost all the parameters (presiding over council, contact with electorate and participation in LLGs) with the exception of monitoring services in his constituency. This emerged after he failed to produce sufficient evidence for monitoring service delivery points as well as follow up actions from the monitoring he undertook.

Figure 3: The Speaker of Council's Performance on Key Parameters Relative to National and Regional Average Performances



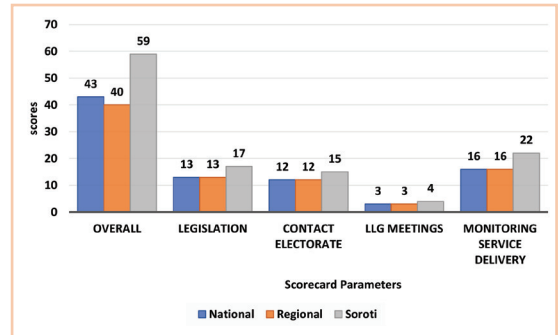
Source: Local Government Councils Scorecard Assessment FY 2018/19

2.4 District Councillors

The councillors registered overall improvement from the previous assessment with an average score of 59 points attained in FY 2018/19 compared with 49 points obtained during FY 2016/17. This performance was comparatively higher than both the national and regional averages of 43 and 40 points respectively. This improved performance was across all parameters as indicated in Figure 4. The best performing district councillor was Hon. Michael Akol Okole scoring 93 out of 100 possible

points, an improvement from the previous assessment where he obtained 76 points out of 100 possible points. His performance was outstanding in all the 4 assessed parameters.

Figure 4: Performance of District Councillors on Key Parameters Relative to National and Regional Average Performances.



Source: Local Government Councils Scorecard Assessment FY 2018/19

3.0 Results of the Assessment

3.1 Key Factors Enabling Good Performance

- **Good working relationship between the two arms of the district:** There was a cordial working relationship between the technical officers and the committees of council with some committee members being transported by the technical officials during their monitoring activities.
- **Commitment and hard work:** The councillors demonstrated a high level of commitment to their roles especially those serving their first term. Majority of the best performing councillors were serving their first term and presented the zeal, positive attitude and high level commitment to their work hence the good performance.

3.2 Key Factors Affecting Performance

- **Induction of newly elected Councillors for Special Interest Groups (Representing Workers, Older Persons):** Due to lack of resources, both the Ministry of Local Government and the local

governments were unable to adequately induct the new councillors. These councillors had not received induction on what they are supposed to do in council which greatly affected their performance.

- **Insufficient follow-up by councillors** to ensure that their actions translate into tangible outcomes in terms of improvement in service delivery. Most councillors carried out their monitoring role, but because they did not follow up on their actions it was difficult to realise positive changes in service delivery.
- **Failure to engage in lower local governments:** Majority of the councillors did not meet the threshold of participating in at least 4 LLG Council meetings. Some meetings in Sub Counties had conflicting schedules with district council meetings while others did not provide minutes to substantiate claims of having engaged in their lower local councils.
- **Poor monitoring, record keeping and documentation:** A bigger proportion of councillors, under the parameter of monitoring services, did not adequately play this role and if they did, monitoring reports were rarely prepared. For those that monitored, often times feedback was verbally reported to the technical staff for action. Relatedly, poor record keeping also affected the performance of councillors. Misplacement of reports and other records was noted from the clerk to council that eventually saw her removal from office.
- **Untimely production of minutes:** This was attributed to the fact that the role of clerk to council is an assigned role. The officers assigned the responsibility of clerks to councils equally have other demanding responsibilities which they seemed to give more priority hence a delay in production of council minutes.

4.0

Recommendations

- The Council should prioritise appropriation of money in the district budget to facilitate standing committees of council to perform their monitoring function.
- Develop innovative avenues to enable councillors to execute their monitoring mandate, for example through savings schemes to purchase motorcycles for ease of mobility especially during monitoring.
- The district leadership should strengthen orientation and training for councillors: This can be achieved by partnering with Civil Society Organisations like ACODE in cases where resources cannot be mobilised by the district. The trainings should be at least once in a financial year. Such trainings should be thematic to cover aspects like (i) the Legislative roles, (ii) contact with the electorate, (iii) participation in the lower local government, (iv) monitoring service delivery on national priority programme areas, (v) rules of procedure, among others. It is also important that refresher courses be organized to provide other relevant information and skills to councillors.
- Standardise follow ups after monitoring: Council should introduce a standard for follow ups by councillors and district leaders.
- The Speaker's office should closely monitor the Clerk to Council to ensure timely production of minutes.
- The Speaker of council should communicate and share the council schedule with LLGs, such that the meetings for the respective councils are not colliding.

Table 1: Soroti District Council's Performance FY 2018/19

Performance			Legislation										Accountability						Planning and Budgeting				Monitoring Service Delivery												
District	2016/17	100	Rules of Procedure	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	4	2	3	Capacity Building	25	4	8	8	2	3	Principles of Accountability	25	5	4	11	20	Sub Total	Education	Health	Water	Roads	Agriculture	FAL	ENR	Sub Total
	2018/19	100																																	
		55																																	
		76																																	
Average	51	62	2	1	2	2	3	2	1	1	3	1	2	16	3	5	5	2	0	15	5	4	5	14	3	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	17		

Table 2: Soroti District Chairperson's Performance FY 2018/19

Identifiers				Performance		Political Leadership							Legislative Role				Contact with Electorate			Initiation of Projects				Monitoring Service Delivery											
Name	Gender	Political Party	Terms	2016/17		2018/19		DEC	Monitoring Admin	State of Affairs	Oversight Civil Servants	Commissions/Boards	Central Gov't	Sub Total	Council	Motions Executive	Bills by Executive	Sub Total	Meetings Electorate	Issues by Electorate	Sub Total	Projects Initiated	Communal Projects	NGOS	Sub Total	Agriculture	Health	Schools	Roads	Water Sources	FAL	Environment	Sub Total		
				100	54	68	3	5	2	4	1	1	11	2	4	3	9	2	4	5	5	10	3	2	5	10	7	7	7	7	6	6	0	4	35
				62	72		2	4	2	3	2	3	16	2	5	2	9	4	4	8	3	1	5	9	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	2	3	29	

Table 3: Speaker of Council's Performance FY 2018/19

Identifiers						Performance			Presiding over Council							Contact Electorate		LLG	Monitoring Service Delivery									
Name		Political Party	Constituency	District	Gender	Terms Served	2016/17	2018/19	% Change	Presiding over Council							Contact Electorate		LLG	Monitoring Service Delivery								
							2016/17	2018/19	% Change	Chairing Council	Rules of Procedure	Business Committee	Records Book	Record of Motions	Special Skills	Sub Total	Meetings Electorate	Coordinating Centre		Sub Total	Health	Education	Agriculture	Water	Roads	FAL	Environment	Sub Total
Maximum Scores							100	100		3	9	3	2	3	5	25	11	9	20	10	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	45
Stephen Olebe	UPC	PWD	Soroti	M	2		42	73	74	3	9	2	2	3	0	19	11	9	20	10	3	3	1	5	5	3	4	24
Average						2	57	62	18	3	7	2	2	2	0	17	8	8	16	4	5	4	3	4	4	1	3	24

Table 4: Soroti District Councillors' Performance FY 2018/19

Identifiers				Performance			Legislation				Contact Electorate		LLG	Monitoring Service Delivery										
Name	Political	Constituency	Gender	Terms Served	2016/17	2018/2019	% Change	Plenary	Committee	Motion	Special Skills	Sub Total	Meeting Electorate	Office	Sub Total	Sub County Meetings	Health	Education	Agriculture	Water	Roads	FAL	ENR	Sub Total
					100	100	8	8	5	4	25	11	9	20	10		7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
Maximum Scores					100	100		8	8	5	4	25	11	9	20	10	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	45
Michael Akol Okole	FDC	Arapai S/C	M	1	76	93	11	8	8	5	0	21	11	9	20	10	7	7	7	7	7	2	5	42
Bob Owiny	NRM	Youth	M	1	66	92	39	8	8	5	0	21	11	9	20	10	7	7	3	7	7	5	5	41
John Enomu	FDC	Katine S/C	M	1	61	85	39	8	8	2	0	18	11	9	20	6	7	7	3	7	7	5	5	41
Jorem Opian Obicho	IND	Gweri S/C	M	1	75	81	8	8	8	5	0	21	11	9	20	10	5	5	5	5	5	1	4	30
Rose Tino	NRM	Tubur/Katine S/C	F	1	56	79	41	8	8	5	0	21	8	9	17	10	7	7	1	3	3	5	5	31
Simon Peter Etoru Ekuu	NRM	Tubur	M	1	65	78	20	8	8	5	0	21	11	9	20	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	33
Susan AgnesApolot	NRM	Asuret/Soroti S/C	F	1	66	76	15	1	8	5	0	14	8	9	17	0	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	45
John Bosco Okwii	FDC	Western Div	M	1	66	76	15	8	8	0	0	16	11	9	20	0	7	7	7	3	7	4	5	40
Francis Arimu	NRM	Soroti S/C	M	1	55	71	29	8	8	5	0	21	11	9	20	10	3	5	3	3	3	2	1	20

Identifiers				Performance			Legislation				Contact Electorate		LLG	Monitoring Service Delivery										
Name	Political	Constituency	Gender	Terms Served	2016/17	2018/2019	% Change	Plenary	Committee	Motion	Special Skills	Sub Total	Meeting Electorate	Office	Sub Total	Sub County Meetings	Health	Education	Agriculture	Water	Roads	FAL	ENR	Sub Total
Maximum Scores					100	100		8	8	5	4	25	11	9	20	10	7	7	7	7	7	5	5	45
John Brown Elieru	NRM	Older Persons	M	1	37	70	89	8	8	5	0	21	11	9	20	0	5	5	5	5	5	0	4	29
Vicky Iruo	NRM	Youth	F	1		64		8	8	2	0	18	11	9	20	4	5	5	5	5	1	0	1	22
Jane Alum	NRM	PWD	F	1	31	62	100	0	8	2	0	10	8	9	17	6	7	7	3	7	1	0	4	29
John Calvin Elenyu	FDC	Asuret S/C	M	1	40	56	40	1	8	0	2	11	3	9	12	4	5	5	5	5	5	0	4	29
Margaret Amongin	NRM	Eastern/Western Div	F	3	47	55	17	1	8	0	0	9	11	9	20	0	1	5	5	5	5	0	5	26
Elizabeth Alungo	FDC	Kamuda	F	1	26	55	112	1	8	5	0	14	10	9	19	4	5	5	0	7	1	0	0	18
Peter Oringo	IND	Kamuda	M	3		55		8	8	5	0	21	7	6	13	10	0	5	1	0	1	0	4	11
Fred Akol	NRM	Workers	M	1		52		8	8	2	0	18	8	9	17	0	5	5	0	5	1	1	0	17
Jennifer Agumo*	NRM	Arapai S/C	F	1	52	37	-29	8	8	5	0	21	0	9	9	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3
Mohammed Nasur	FDC	Eastern Div	M	3	53	33	-38	1	8	5	0	14	0	9	9	0	1	1	1	1	5	0	1	10
Rhoda Apeduno*	NRM	Gweri	F	2	34	32	-6	8	8	0	0	16	0	9	9	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	5
Betty Anyakoit*	FDC	Northern Div	F	3	26	28	8	8	8	0	0	16	0	9	9	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Patrick Anatu*	FDC	Northern Div	M	1	35	27	-23	8	8	5	0	21	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Recho Akol	NRM	Workers	F	1		26		1	8	0	0	9	0	9	9	0	0	5	1	1	1	0	0	8
Jane Abiro	NRM	Older Persons	F	1	8	21	163	1	8	0	0	9	0	9	9	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Average					49	59	34	6	8	3	0	17	7	9	15	4	4	4	3	4	3	1	3	22

*Councillors Assessed Using Secondary Data

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About ACODE: The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) is an independent public policy research and advocacy Think Tank based in Uganda, working in the East and Southern Africa sub-regions on a wide range of public policy issues. Our core business is policy research and analysis, outreach and capacity building. Since it's founding 19 years ago, ACODE has emerged as one of the leading regional public policy think tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa. For the last 8 consecutive years, ACODE has been recognized among the Top-100 Think Tanks worldwide by the University of Pennsylvania's annual Global-Go-To Think Tank Index Reports.

About LGCSCI: The Local Government Councils Scorecard Initiative (LGCSCI) is a policy research and capacity building initiative implemented by ACODE and ULGA. The initiative is a strategic social accountability initiative that enables citizens to demand excellence of their local governments and enables local governments to respond effectively and efficiently to those demands with the aim of improving service delivery.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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