

GTF 094 Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)

The DFID GTF-funded Action for Better Governance (ABG) Programme continues to deliver results for poor and disadvantaged communities in its fourth year. CAFOD and Trocaire continue to work with Catholic Justice and Peace Commissions (JCPs) and their secular civil society partners in nine African countries at national and local levels in their effort to call for respect for human rights, greater transparency, effective management of public resources and equal access to quality basic services for men and women of disadvantaged communities.

Clear pro-poor advocacy messages and action from Catholic Church leadership.

- The Bishops Conference of DRC (CENCO) called for calm following the tension that surrounded the DRC election results in November 2011. In their 11 January 2012 statement titled “Courage and Truth” the Congolese Bishops (CENCO) highlighted irregularities observed by its 30,000 electoral observers and concluded that the Congolese Electoral Commission (CENI) has lost its credibility; a previous 4 December 2011 statement expressed doubt over the election results. CENCO’s statement was endorsed and highlighted by other key civil society actors and representatives of donor countries.
- In November 2011, the Ugandan Bishops addressed the nation on the lack of transparency and accountability in Uganda’s oil sector. In their message they called upon all ministers implicated in the Oil Exploration Bribery Scandal to resign. This has led to the resignation of two ministers and investigations are ongoing.

Empowered poor communities get results as they take initiative to challenge lack of transparency in decision making and resource allocation in their localities.

- In **arid northern Kenya**, the Bubisa Advocacy Group was able to improve the management of a borehole and as a result borehole management is self-sustaining and efficient as well as economically beneficial to the entire community where drought is an annual reality.
- In **Burundi**, members of the Participatory Local Governance Committee (CLGP) of the commune of Rusaka successfully advocated for and contributed to stopping tax evasion and helped increase the commune’s revenues. Rusaka is a commune in Burundi’s Mwaro Province and it had the lowest level of tax revenues and high incidences of corruption in the country. Through a consultation process it was decided that the funds will be used to rehabilitate a building that will be used for stocking agricultural products.

For the remaining year, the ABG Programme will continue to mobilise communities to take action on issues relevant to them across nine countries in Africa: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Programme will continue to support partners to address corruption; demand greater transparency in management of public goods and natural resources; and call for the respect of human rights.

CAFOD’s Reports on the Action for Better Governance Programme are published on CAFOD’s website on the Evaluations page: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Media/Files/Resources/Accountability-and-core-documents/Evaluation-files/Evaluation-ABG-reports>



The members of the local committee of participative governance (CLGP) of the parish of Burhiba in Bukavu, eastern DRC with their social contract made Parliament Member Roger Mpanano which outlines their expectations and demands for improved social infrastructure. (Zara Benosa, CAFOD, 2012)