Students for Global Democracy Uganda

1st Quarter Narrative Project Report

Project Title: Strengthening Students Participation in 2016 Elections

Grantee: Students for Global Democracy Uganda

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Strengthening Students’ Participation in 2016 Elections

Project Summary

The “Strengthening Students’ Participation in 2016 Elections” project is engaging students in activities that are geared towards promoting their participation in 2016 elections and beyond. The Students’ Coalition for Participation in the 2016 Elections in Uganda (SCOPE), which was started by SGD Uganda and Open Space Centre, has sought to addressing challenges of young
people’s (especially students of voting age), participation in electoral processes through a participatory approach. The project is encouraging students to develop a sense of ownership of the upcoming elections by strengthening young people’s active involvement in multiparty politics. 5 universities and 20 high schools, with broad regional representation of Central, Western, Northern, and Eastern Uganda, have so far been targeted in this first quarter of the project. In most cases, SGD Uganda is inviting nearby universities and secondary schools in the respective regions in order to help build a cohesive student voice in each region.

Through the various platforms, the project is also encouraging students to give meaning to election as a process rather than an event that ends on Election Day; encourage students to create nonpartisan vote coalition, advocate for youth fundraising for their respective political parties and organize young people into manifesto development teams thus achieve constructive participation.

The project is addressing the inadequacies that limit students’ engagement in politics by devising new and appropriate approaches, interventions and measures. The intervention is built on a political psycho-social approach in which the students’ right to political participation, civic duty and responsibility is predominantly emphasized, along with their mental appreciation of their democratic right to participate in elections and value of building a strong and organized student community of advocacy and lobby to effectively participate in the 2016 elections and beyond.
Strategic Project Goal:

- To promote citizens’ right of exercising civil duty and responsibility by meaningfully participating in the 2016 electoral process and beyond
Project Specific Objectives

Objective 1: To improve a culture of youth voting practices and participation in the 2016 elections and beyond.

Objective 2: To promote issue based election participation and campaigning during the 2016 elections period.

Objective 3: To instill core democratic beliefs, values, and encourage informed and active youth political participation.

Objective 4: To create space and a good environment for youth to exercise their civic duty and responsibility in 2016 elections.
11. Activity Summary

- Strategic Stakeholder Planning Meeting with Electoral Commission in Kampala on the 17/10/2014
- Voter Education Seminar at Uganda Christian University on the 21st/10/2014
- Students voter Education Seminar in Kibuku on 30/10/2014
- Survey on Students Participation in Electoral Process in Kampala on the 28th/10/2014
- Strategic Planning Meeting in Mbale on 28th/10/2014
- Survey on student’s participation in Mbale on 31st/10/2014
- Survey on Students’ Participation in Electoral Process in Mbarara on 14/11/2014
- Students Voter Education Seminars in Mbarara at the Uganda National Students Association Annual General Meeting on 15/11/2014 and on the 17th/11/2015 at the International Students Day gathering at Bishop Stuart University, Mbarara
- Strategic Planning Meeting in Mbarara 15/11/2014
- Campus Registration Caravan in Mbarara during the International Student Day at Bishop Stuart University on 17/11/2014
- Project Staff Data Validation Meeting for Students Participation in Electoral Process Survey for 2 days
- Campus Registration Caravan at Hilton High School 3/12/2014
- Campus Registration Caravan at Mutesa I Royal University during the all Mutesa I Royal Universities Voter Education Seminar

111. Project Activities

Name: Activity 1.1: Project Staff Capacity Building Training

SGD Uganda Project Staff in a Project Capacity Building Session

Description: The 3 days project staff capacity building training was based on introducing the project concept to project Team, volunteers and partners. The 3 days training created a platform to share the project concept, design tools and strategies for project implementation.

Date and location: The activity was held at Students for Global Democracy offices in Kampala on the 13th, 14th and 15th October, 2014
Main outputs: Project concept was shared and the activity was a platform for project team to understand the project concept and draw implementation strategies for each of the activities. The meeting supported the designing and development of work plans, developing of project concept and identifying key stakeholders for project implementation.

Number of participants (youth): 15 participants for 2 days were in attendance; among these were 8 project staff, 1 facilitators and 2 volunteers and 3 partners for the 3 days.

Key Lessons learned: During the project staff capacity building training, skills on survey tools development were learnt and developed. The participants discussed and understood the project concept. Also learnt during the training youth capacity to understand issues of inter-cultural dialogue and learning, causes of cultural and religious conflict.

Name: Activity 1.2 Strategic Planning Meetings (3)
Description: The Strategic Stakeholder Planning Meetings were held at various institutions and university Centers. The meetings in Kampala targeted the National Identity Card Registration Bureau under the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the purpose of identifying collective approaches of messaging to young people on the importance of the National Identity Card. At the universities reached, Islamic university of Uganda Mbale Campus, Uganda Christian University Mbale campus, organized with student leaders in cultural association and Religious groups, Guild leaders, the approach was to introduce the Project concept to the university administration, student’s leaders, and plan for activities based on the campus academic year.

Date and location: The meetings were organized on different days: In Kampala the meeting was held on 17th Oct/2014. In Mbale district, the meetings were organized at Uganda Christian University, Mbale Branch and Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) on the 28th October/2014. In Mbarara district, the meeting was organized at Mbarara University of Science and Technology and Bishop Stuart University on the 15th October/2014.

Main outputs: The meetings were successfully organized and an output of introducing the project concept to the student leaders and the administrators at the targeted universities and strategic partners were realized. The stakeholders meetings were also intended to mobilize IEC materials from the university administration, discuss project activities and implementation strategies in the universities and setting of activity timelines. Through these direct stakeholders’ strategic meetings, the project was well appreciated by both the student leaders and the administration, as one that is addressing a gap unforeseen by the Electoral Commission. Some
universities like Bishop Stuart University, Mbarara and Uganda Christian University, Main Campus in Mukono were able to provide IEC materials used to mobilize their own students to register for the National ID.

**Number of Youth Participants:** The total number of student leaders in the meetings was 36 and 8 university administrators and 14 organizers totaling to 58 participants for all the meetings.

**Number of Adult Participants of over 35 years old:** The meetings were attended by 8 university administrators thus dean of students in particular and 9 strategic partners were reached and project concept successfully shared.

**Name: Activity 1.3 Students’ Participation in Electoral Process Survey**

**Description:** The Students’ Participation in Electoral Process Survey was conducted to determine students’ understanding of the electoral process and assess challenges that limit their engagement in politics intending to promote meaningful participation. The study was conducted mainly to target Student leaders, Youth leaders, Youth in politics, Religious Youth out of School and Cultural leaders respectively in the districts of Kampala, Mbale and Mbarara.

The survey was carried out through focus group discussions (FGDs), interviews and questionnaire as tools agreed upon in the project staff capacity building training.

The survey was designed as both qualitative and quantitative, involving collection of both primary and secondary data, using statistical, as well as thematic perspective analysis, with the main objective of assessing challenges that limit students’ participation in electoral process and analyzing the need for electoral reform. The data collected during the survey was both quantitative data and qualitative and it was collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), questionnaires and focus group discussions.

The survey was designed to meet the three objectives which include;

(a) Determine students understanding of electoral democracy

(b) To assess the challenges that limit their engagement in politics and affect their participation and

(c) Examine how best student engagement in electoral process can be promoted in Uganda

**Date and location:** The study was limited in geographical area, time and content. It was intended to cover 4 regional districts as project target area and these include Mbale, Mbarara, Kampala and Gulu. However due to time scope, the later Gulu district was not targeted in the first quarter research process and our focus shifted to Kampala, because of its current political
intensity and enthusiasm, however, we shall be able to conduct a survey in Gulu during this second quarter of the project, because of its nature of being a post war area; we would like to find out, if there is still youth enthusiasm after the war to engage in politics and what are the factors that would limit their engagement.

The survey on Students’ Participation in Electoral was commissioned in Kampala on the 28th/Oct/2014, Mbale district on the 31st/Oct/2014 and Mbarara district on 14th/Nov/2014

**Main outputs:** There is increased understanding of factors that limit youth participation as evidenced by the both qualitative and quantitative data collected. We were also able to capture views on how students perceive Ugandan politics in general.


During focus group discussions (FGDs) mainly at the targeted universities, young people were able to share information that affects their political participation

**Number of participants:** 104 participants involved directly in the survey

**Name: Activity 1.4 Students Voter Education Seminars**

**Description:** The voter education seminars have been conducted in all the so far reached out high schools and they are tailored to address the gaps identified in the survey. During the seminars, the students have been oriented about the electoral process, reminded of their civic duty and responsibility to participate meaningfully in the electoral process, and more specifically, 2016 elections and get knowledgeable about the 2016 Election Roadmap, the relevance and benefits of the National ID, which also doubles as the voter card, the significance of their numbers and power of their vote through mock elections.

These have also been designed to involve practical showcasing of the campaign and election process as mock exercises to the general elections because many of the ideas of youth participation must first be applied and be able to understand the role of political involvement and voting in everyday life.

**Date and location:** The Student Voter Education Seminars were organized in 4 districts i.e. Kampala, Mbale, Mbarara and Mukono targeting universities and communities. The voter education seminar at Uganda Christian University targeted Guild Election Campaigns as a platform to message on youth meaningful participation and this was organized on the 21st/Oct/2014. SGD Uganda through its facilitator Ivan Otim urged the gathering during the campaign to vote issues.
Uganda Christian University Guild Presidential Candidates talking to the press after a focus group discussion by SGD Uganda.

Student Voter Education Seminar in Kibuku was organized on 30/10/2014 under the theme “Imparting Civic Knowledge for Responsible Youth Citizenry” at Kobolwa Primary School in Kibuku district. This was organized with the community leaders, because many young people were totally ignorant of the basic political principles, fundamental human rights and what to exactly expect from the leaders they elected. The Voter Education seminars in Kibuku was organized in partnership with the Youth Equality Center.

Students’ Voter Education Seminars in Mbarara was organized in partnership with Uganda National Students Association between 14th and 16th, November, 2014 at Mbarara University of science and Technology. A paper presentation on Positioning Young People for Meaningful Participation in 2016 Elections, which highlighted the role of the student leaders in shaping the students movement, was presented by Ivan Otim.

Ivan Otim also posed a question to the gathered student leaders that, “Today's high number of young people will be old enough to vote and some of them will have their first interface of a National General Elections. The fundamental question is how meaningfully will they participate? And whether they will take advantage of this civic responsibility sustainably?
**Main outputs:** With the Voter education seminar organized in Kibuku district, young people were able to link elections with basic service delivery young people were able to know that their leaders they chose should be accountable to them and elections offer them the opportunity to do away with leaders who do not deliver.

At the Voter Education Seminar in Mbarara with students’ leaders, the student leaders proposed many interventions of enhancing students’ participation in 2016 Elections and beyond;

Some said that they will utilize their platforms organize sessions between students and politicians, so as to interact and ask questions on issues they don’t understand.

They also promised to support fellow youth morally and financially to enable them to aspire for the various political positions, so as to push for the critical youth issues like unemployment, education, health and participation.

e) **Number of participants (youth):** A total of 508 young people attended the 3 youth seminars in respective universities.

f) **Number of adult participants over 35 years:** 18 university representatives (Dean of Students)

**Name: Activity 1.5 Campus Registration Caravan**

These were designed as an advocacy strategy with other partners and intervention plans were discussed with the various stakeholders among these included the Electoral Commission, Uganda Registration Service Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and CSOs like Open Space Centre, Youth After School Initiative (YASI) and Uganda Youth Network. The caravans were purposely intended to mobilize and organize young people, principally students to join the Student’s Coalition for Participation in 2016 Elections in Uganda (SCOPE) and also popularize the importance of National ID and mobilize them to register for the National ID, which also doubles as voter card.

This strategy was organized because the National ID Registration process started when many young people were already in school and thus a need to design a framework to message and reach young people though accessible mobilize registration centers.

While many young people move away from their voting area, the campus registration centers encouraged and offered young people an opportunity to conveniently register. They provided access to registration information as it is a constitutional right to register and vote in the place one is convenient with and truly considers to be home. Through advocacy and strategic partnership, the campus registration centers were through volunteer groups based at the targeted universities and high schools, which encouraged the students to register. These caravans were
concentrated at locations that reach large numbers of voters across the institutions of learning including high schools, community colleges and sports events on campuses.

**Date and location:** These were conducted for a period of 2 months, between October and November and focused on universities and high schools, mainly to mobilize and record potential voters, who have not yet registered for the National ID. This activity message on the importance of the National ID reached out to over 6000 young people on the importance, while 2000 young people signed up to join the Students’ Coalition for Participation in the 2016 Election in Uganda (SCOPE). The students reached out mainly came from Uganda Christian university, Mukono, Uganda Christian University, Mbale, Islamic University of Uganda Mbale Campus, Muteesa 1 Royal University Main Campus, Bishop Stuart University Mbarara, Kinawa High School, Nansana, London College, Nansana, Broadway High School, Mukono, Emma High School, Mbogo High School, Wakiso Muslim Secondary School, Hilton High School, Bilal Islamic School, Luteete Secondary School, East High Ntinda, Matuuga Mixed Secondary School who were enthusiastic to register and vote in 2016 elections.

d) **Main outputs:** Over 2000 young people registered during the university and secondary school registration caravan activity, while the message on the importance of the National ID registration process beyond easing voting was popularized to over 6000 young people

**Number of youth participants:** 1602 young people.

**Number of adult participants over 35 years:** 50 participants (including teachers and university participants)

**Name:** Activity 1. Data Validation Meeting for Survey on Students’ Participation in Electoral Process

**Description:** The Data Validation meeting for Survey Students’ Participation in Electoral Process was organized for 2 days at the organization office premises and focused on reviewing the findings of the survey.

**Date and location:** The data validation meetings were conducted on 27th/11/2015 and 28th/11/2014

**Main outputs:** We were able to identify and assess key factors that limit students’ engagement in electoral process and capture how they generally perceive Ugandan politics.

Participants were also able to come up with new mechanisms and interventions of how to enhance students’ participation in politics.

**Number of participants:** 10 participants were in attendance.
**Name: Activity 1.6 Students Debate on “Election as Process, Not an Event”**

**Description:** The students’ debates have been sustained platforms organized in partnership with various school administrators with the importance of engaging many young people on Why Vote Debate Series? The debates created platform for young people to engage in the importance of the National ID. The students and teachers were capacitated about their role in democracy that it does not end with their vote; they need to campaign, provide finances, demand for accountability and participate in decision making with their candidates during and beyond the electoral process. Young people were able to analyze factors that affect their ability to choose the right candidates independently, and among these is the “Role of Religion during the Electoral Process”. For example during the Debate on Elections as Process but Not an Event at Bilal Islamic Institute young people were able to draw perspectives that elections though viewed as an event, Uganda’s electoral process does not end on election day.

**Date and location:** The activity was held on 1st/01/2014 at Bilal Islamic Institute Kakiri.

**Main output:** The students and teachers were able to understood, the importance of elections beyond taking the responsibility to vote. The teachers were able to understand that they have a great responsibility in imparting civic competence among students beyond class room knowledge.

The students also understood that the National ID was not only for 2016 elections, but it has other importance like getting passport and acquiring other government services. On the side of religion, Muslim students called for dialogue with Christians to have an informed discussion during elections that this kind of initiative will also help to prevent electoral violence based on religious differences.

**Number of participate:** 200 students, 14 teachers and 1 Staff member.

**Key lessons learnt:** During the debate with Muslim students and teachers, the participants learnt that religion should not be used in elections as tool to win.

Many Muslim students were not participating in political activities because it is against their belief.

Student learnt that, there is need for them to finance their own candidates during elections and hold them accountable.

The school administrators learnt that there is need to value high school student leader selections in order to prepare the youth voters for the general elections.
**Name: Activity 1. Focus Group Discussions**

**Description:** The focus group discussion with the chairman of Imams (Muslim leader) in charge of Kawempe Division, which is dominated by Muslims and student leaders of Kinaawa High School, was held on the theme “The Role of Religious Leaders in Elections”. The Muslim leader admitted that, it is true that religious leaders play a big role in elections, by influencing their followers to vote depending on their interests, but through our conversations with the religious leader and the student leaders, we found out that interfaith dialogue is key to solving the problem of fronting religion in elections.

**Date and location:** Date and location: the activity was held on 9th/11/2014 at Kinaawa High School and Uganda Christian University

**Number of participates:** 1 Muslim leader, 5 student leaders and 1 SGD Uganda staff member

**Main output:** The Muslim leader admitted that they have been influencing young people during election to vote candidate of their religion, but not depending on the credibility of the candidate.

Student leaders committed themselves that come 2016 elections; they will vote candidates based on their credibility, but not religious affiliation.

**Key lesson Learnt:**

Many Muslim followers and students have been voting basing on their faith said Imam Kasuli Saadi, which is a bad trend for Uganda’s electoral democracy and more especially among the young generation. A student called Shifrah Ssengendo of Kinaawa High School said that “my ground father, the Member of Parliament for Kawempe North Constituency Hon. Latif Sebagala Ssengendo has always been forcing family members to vote for him during elections, so I cannot have my independent mind to vote a candidate of my own choice, which is not good for us, but we fear to openly tell him that it is against our wish”
Project Achievements

- The project enabled us to closely interact with the student community, identified challenges that limit their engagement in politics and also captured their general views on how they perceive Ugandan politics.

- Through this project, we have been able to create working relationship with strategic partners especially those working on election related activities like CCEDDU, Action Aid, NGO Forum, Konard Adeneuer Stiftung, Open Space Centre, Uganda Youth Network, Uganda National Students Union.

- We have been able to reach out to masses, principally the student community with unique, innovative and relevant interventions and approaches that are youth friendly like the “Democracy Walks, an engagement between students and the community to discuss upcoming elections.”

- The project has mobilized over 2000 students to register for the National ID, which also doubles as the voter card.

- The project has exposed and popularized SGD Uganda and NED as the only institutions currently engaging students on elections.

- We have built partnership with key government agencies like the Electoral Commission, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Uganda Registration Bureau Services.

- We have been able to interact and work closely with elected leaders during our survey and engaged them on how, it is important for young people to actively get involved in political party activities; to know about party manifesto and ideologies.

- During the focus group discussion at Uganda Christian University, we were able to interact with the media as they were part of the discussion, and we emphasized what their role should be during elections, of balanced media coverage of the different political affiliations, however they admitted that it was hard for them to balance because some media houses were owned by politician and also some editors had sides.
• The project has engaged the students in practical electoral activities like the mock elections, which has capacitated them to vote in 2016 elections.

• Through the university guild and high school student leaders elections, we have been able to increase students’ interest to participate in the upcoming elections, because we have got feedback from the administrators, that these engagements have been preparation platforms for the students to participate in 2016 elections

• We have indirectly increased the exposure of our project and reached out a mass of population on enhancing their participation in 2016 elections through our social media platforms like facebook page and group, our facebook page now has 1718 likes and the group has 4460 members.

• The project gave birth to a campaign dubbed “The Big Ballot Campaign, which is about making 2016 a Youth Vote. This means creating a mass turnout of informed, educated and engaged youth voters at the 2016 General Elections. The campaign was an initiative of all the partners involved the in project.

• The guild election campaigns have been platforms to facilitate issue based debates and targeted platform for messaging, transform learning about electoral democracy and stimulating young people’s meaningful political involvement in an interactive and informal way.

• The guild election campaigns facilitated issue based debates and we utilized them as platforms for messaging, transform learning about electoral democracy and stimulating young people’s meaningful political involvement in an interactive and informal way.

• The project success and strength has been dependant on building strategic Students’ voice through the Students’ Coalition for Participation in 2016 Election in Uganda (SCOPE),
the coalition has so far reached 10 secondary schools, 5 university and 80 university student leaders

- The organization has mobilized partnership as a strategy for project success, partners like Open space Center, Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy (CCEDU), Sports Eye Foundation (SEFU), Konrad Adenuer Stiftung, NGO Forum, Inter-party Youth Platform (IYOP), Youth in Leadership Forum (YLF), Uganda Youth Network (UYONET)
Lessons learnt

Students of Uganda Christian University Mbale in a political rally. Some Universities do not allow Multi-Party Political activities. SGD Uganda utilized these platforms to communicate What an Issue-based Campaign entails.

- Students learnt that elections are a process not an event, many students have a thinking that elections are events, since there is a lot of fun with their candidates, but after having dialogues with them about elections, their attitude changed, that it is a process, since it requires them to campaign for a candidate of their choice, finance their candidates vote and finally demand for accountability from the elected leader.
During a student dialogue on elections at Hilton High School Mukono, students and teachers learnt that Democracy does not only mean elections but also talks about our life, education and health but all of these are achieved after participating in an election.

We learnt that many young people did not value elections as a changing point in their society many don’t believe in democracy since there is no change so far on the youth when it comes to decision making. And some have now focused so much in sports activities among others.

During elections, we also learnt that some youth think that money is the way to go during elections since the majority of young are people are unemployed so they take elections as an opportunity to get money from candidates.

Most young people are not involved in political party activities and those who are partially involved; do not understand their party’s manifesto and ideologies.

We learnt that many students do not understand multi-party politics, since they don’t allow political parties in their institutions like Uganda Christian University, Islamic University in Uganda and in most secondary schools where we have conducted our activities.

In the dialogue on the Role of Religion in Elections, we learnt that some universities like Uganda Christian University Mukono and Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) emphasize to vote a candidate of their religious affiliation, when it comes to an election which is not good for the nation’s democracy.

Many young people, especially the students in high schools do not understand the electoral cycle since many of them are new voters at the age of 16 years.

We also learnt that some young people think that acquiring or getting an I.D is a political motive by government.
During our focus group discussions on National ID registration with students of Kinaawa High School, we learnt that some students think the government’s plan is to increase its tax base so some students did not deliberately register, because of fear to pay taxes.

Observations
Students have a genuine enthusiasm for participating in elections, as this is witnessed in their prefectorial elections, but they lack the basic information about the entire electoral process e.g. most of them do not know the voting process, E.C Road Map for 2016 Elections.

New voters do not understand the electoral process. This is because the youth have little knowledge about the importance of elections most especially those at the age of 16 years.

Many young people were tortured during the 2011 elections which might hinder them from participating in 2016 elections and beyond. This fear among some of them has limited some from taking part in the elections.
• Their families and peers have a strong influence on who they vote for; they are unlikely to vote for a party that the family and their peers would not approve of.

• Many young people vote according to their family backgrounds, peer pressure and other influences. This is evident by student of Mbogo High School, whom we interviewed and she said she belonged to a particular political party because it’s the same one as her father’s.

• Students think that the voting age should be lowered to 16 years.

• Students especially those in secondary schools feel that they are excluded from the political process; they are often treated as immature and childish and their views ignored.

• Many young people are interested in money and not elections. Most young people are promised huge sums of money, promises for jobs, so they end up withdrawing in favor of others during voting.

• Many young people are ready to participate in elections, with a perception that it is the only opportunity to engage with their leaders.

• Many young people don’t know their voting rights. Many young people have little knowledge about the importance of elections.

• Some young people think that their role in democracy ends with their vote. This is so because young people are ignorant and never make their leaders accountable.

• Propaganda and religion have also played a very big role in limiting young peoples’ engagement in politics. Religion plays a very big role in choice of candidates during elections. In some communities people are elected according to their religious
denomination. Muslims are associated with terrorism, so very few people would vote for them, they are also associated with high levels of illiteracy this has hindered some of them from being elected and some from contesting as candidates.

- Many young women are being prepared to join leadership. This is evidenced by the many young women who are joining politics rapidly.

- It is common practice in Uganda to conduct civic education just before election time. Why wait for this period that is always heated with campaigns that could easily bias the delivery of information?

- Most youth tend to think that issues to do with politics and nation building are for the older generation. With information, this mindset could be changed so that we have a balanced society where both the youth and their seniors contribute to nation building.

Challenges

- A lot of knowledge about democracy amongst young people is still lacking.

- Continued biasness in young people; Young people no longer care about elections since they know that elections are corrupt. Some have stubbornly refused to take part in elections.

- Poor timing of the registration process; Registration of the National I.D came at a time when some young people are in school and yet the registration exercise was not extended to the schools.

- Long queues during National ID registration; the lines were so long and people had to stand for very long hours so as to be registered. This hindered some people from registering.

- The draconian law of the Public Order Management; Some security organs perceived our activities for political motives. This was a big setback for our organization as some individuals did not want to associate with us, for example in Kibuku district, some politicians from the ruling party perceived our engagement with the youth as political, not until the Resident District Commissioner, who was also the chief guest intervened.
Recommendations
An enthusiastic student of Wakiso Muslim School expressing her commitment, that though she is 16, she will vote come 2016 Election

- Young people need to continue accessing civic education
- There is need for continuous civic education if people are going to get this information with no bias whatsoever.
- There is more need for more education and information on voting process. They don’t have access to literature on political parties and candidates’ profiles.
- Electoral Commission should visit schools and explain the process of registration and voting, including counting of votes.

- Students feel that schools should provide them with sessions to engage with politicians. These sessions would give students an opportunity to ask politicians a variety of questions and also to get to know them better.
- Students also suggested that information on voting should be placed in establishments that young people would frequent such as clubs, pubs, universities and schools, and it was emphasized that this information should be designed and presented in a manner that is more appealing to the youth.

- There is a strong need to educate young people that “politics is in everyone’s life and affects everyone”