Location: Uganda
Year formed: 1999

Who we are
A public policy research and advocacy think tank located in Uganda.

What we do
Our mission is to make public policy work for people. We accomplish this through research and outreach, capacity building, networking, and experiential learning.

Key areas of focus
- Peace & Democracy
- Environmental Democracy & Trade
- Innovation & Biotechnology

CONTEXT
- Decentralisation
- Limited access to information for effective participation in the budget process
- Absence of meaningful engagement between government and citizens on the budget
- Non responsive government
- A disengaged citizenry

WHAT WE DID
- Citizen groups (women, youth, farmers) are mobilized to write petitions requesting their local governments to make budget allocations to address specific issues (one issue per petition).
- The groups identify a leader who takes on the responsibility of submitting and following up the petition. It is preferred that the area councilor takes on this responsibility.
- The petitions are submitted to the speaker of the district council who sends them to the relevant council committees. The speakers of district councils were oriented on the CEAP approach.
- The rules of the procedure (Part 4) for local government councils require the councils to determine all petitions received, respond to and report on handling of petitions periodically.

CHALLENGE
- The local governments are constrained and may not be able to respond to citizen issues. This is due to hard budget constraints and conditional funding
- Civic capacity deficits in some communities
- The cost of following up and reporting to the group may be a deterrent
- Sustainability issues

OUTCOME
Citizens influencing the Budget for Gulu District for FY 2018/19
- UGX 10,000,000 allocated towards youth animal traction.
- UGX 10,000,000 was allocated for sensitization about the dangers of alcoholism and domestic violence.
- UGX 20,000,000 was allocated for constructing shallow wells in two villages.