

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Fostering Openness, Transparency and Accountability in Political Financing

Member organisations



**ANTI CORRUPTION COALITION UGANDA**

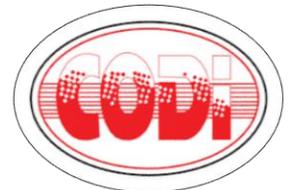


Native Voices International



First African Bicycle Information Organisation

**FABIO**



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## Message from Executive Director



Dear Reader,

The year 2020 has been the most challenging year in the history of ACFIM, yet one from which the organization has also learned a lot. The challenges started with the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic which brought the world to its knees. The preventive protocols instituted by Government including the infamous lockdown, paralyzed the organization for three months and the effects have been far reaching.

With COVID-19 pandemic upon us, we were forced to redefine work place norms among them, working from home and holding meetings virtually. In fact, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on zoom and alas, it was successful. The world “new normal” became common parlance. Juggling between work boundaries, targets and self-care has not been an easy task.

Yet, 2020 was also the year in which government’s discomfort with pro-democracy and human rights civil society organizations, became more evident. A case in point is when the civil society umbrella known as National Election Watch (NEW-U) was banned by the National Bureau for NGOs under circumstances that are being contested in the courts of law. Subsequently, NEW-U frontline organisations had their bank accounts frozen on allegations of terror financing.

The violence that characterized the election campaigns was also unprecedented. We remember so vividly the senseless shootings on the streets of Kampala that left over 60 people dead on November 18-19, 2020.

ACFIM was accredited by the Electoral Commission to observe activities for 2021 general elections. Thus, the organization monitored and documented the pre-campaign activities, and the campaigns for general elections 2021, and reports were released.

It is the resolve of ACFIM secretariat, to do our best every day, learning from our past to chart a better trajectory to the envisioned future of open, transparent and accountable political financing for sustainable democracy.

Aluta continua.

## Synopsis our ACFIM Progress

ACFIM boasts of the following significant progress;

- Shaping the advocacy agenda for campaign financing and generating consensus from Parliament that a comprehensive stand-alone law on campaign financing should be considered. This presents an opportunity for ACFIM to pursue the private members bill on campaign financing.
- Increasing public awareness on the evils of commercial electoral politics and influencing citizen participation in electoral processes to become more meaningful.
- Positioning ACFIM as the authority in the East African region on money in politics through research, influencing policy and capacity building. To date ACFIM is the go-to place on issues concerning money in politics, influencing and setting the agenda on commercialisation of electoral and political processes.

## Vision & Mission Statement



## ACFIM in numbers

ACFIM is motivated to contribute towards promoting transparency and accountability in financing of politics and electoral processes through monitoring and research, civic engagement and policy advocacy. The year 2020, ACFIM was able to:



Monitored pre campaign spending from 70 electoral constituencies in 29 districts.

147

Trained and deployed Campaign Finance Monitors to monitor pre campaign spending



Launched a study report on Commercialised Electoral Politics and Captivity of State Institutions in Uganda



Over 39,000 citizens reached through civic materials on anti-vote buying



Over 15 million citizens reached with messages on voter bribery through media



More than 6500 citizens participated in discussion forums on Money in Politics

## Priority Area 1: Monitoring Money in Politics

The major thrust of this strategic priority area is to monitor, document and expose political party and candidate spending on election campaigns; abuse of state resources on election campaigns and other forms of electoral corruption. The findings from monitoring political financing inform advocacy for institutional and policy reforms on campaign financing.



*Youths during the guild campaigns of Kyambogo University*

### 1.1 Guild campaigns and Pre-campaign Spending

Before the total lock down due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, ACFIM observed and documented student guild elections in Kyambogo University. Having participated in the guild elections of tertiary institutions in 2019 with the view of understanding the extent of commercialisation of student politics, ACFIM this time sought to test the application and adherence to the electoral reforms that had been instituted by Kyambogo Electoral Commission with the help of ACFIM.

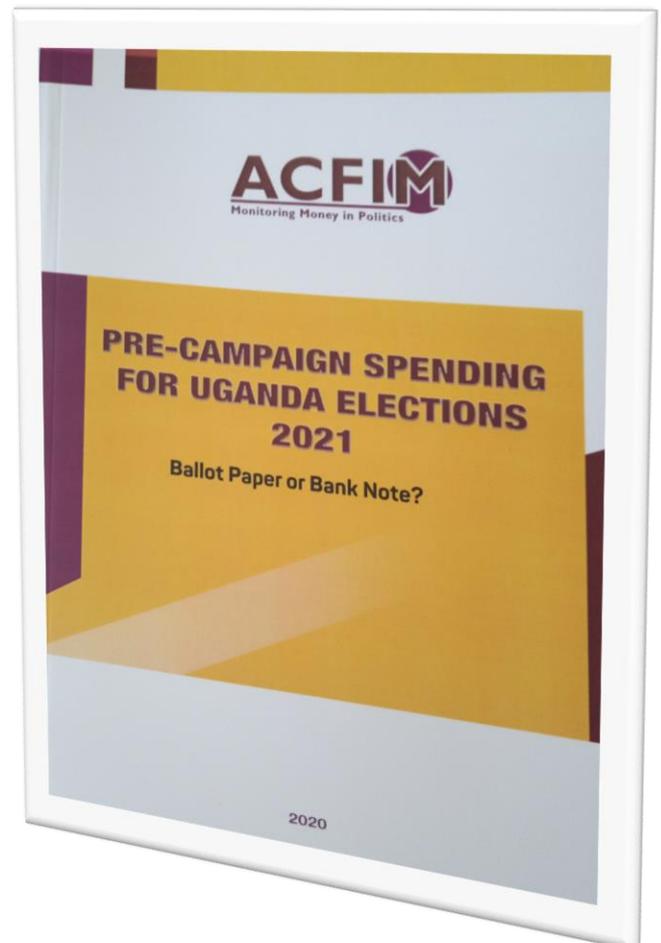
Unfortunately, a week into the guild campaigns, a total lock down was announced countrywide but ACFIM was able to observe the enforcement of the amendment on allowing only two cars per candidate during campaigns to reduce number of motorcades within university premises.



*A campaign procession for one of the candidates standing on the FDC ticket*

### **Pre-campaign spending**

In the runner up to the 2021 general elections, ACFIM monitored and documented pre-campaign spending by political parties and political candidates. The pre-campaign spending was highly influenced by the effects of COVID-19 pandemic, that left majority of the population economically displaced and vulnerable thus influencing the spending patterns of candidates on relief items and social welfare. Media spending and outdoor advertising replaced conventional methods of campaigning that usually attract crowds. The restrictions imposed by Electoral Commission (EC) in what was referred to as scientific campaigns were meant to control the spread of the COVID-19. Progressively the COVID-19 restrictions were used as a political weapon to disadvantage opposition political candidates by denying them access to media and campaign venues.





Out door advertising by the NRM Incumbent, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

## 1.2 Contributing to Political Finance literature through research

During the reporting period ACFIM launched a study on *Commercialised Politics and Captivity of State institutions* that had been commissioned in 2019. The study that was launched towards the end of 2020 mirrors the political situation in Uganda of dysfunctional state institutions due to their capture by a mafia network precipitated by commercial electoral politics. This report is available on:

<https://www.politicalfinanceafrica.org/category/acfim-political-financing-reports/>



Executive Director of ACFIM Henry Muguzi 2<sup>nd</sup> left speaking to the media during the virtual launch of the study *Commercialised Politics and Captivity of State institutions*



*Executive Director of ACFIM Henry Muguzi 2<sup>nd</sup> left joined by civil society actors launching the study in November 2020*

### 1.3 Addressing Compliance and Enforcement of Political Finance Provisions in the Political Parties and Organisations Act

In the reporting period, ACFIM addressed compliance and enforcement of political finance provisions in the Political Parties and Organisations Act (as amended) 2005 (PPOA). Notably, ACFIM picked on the issue of Government's consistent ignoring of section 14(b) of the Act which provides for financing political parties in respect of elections and using a formular of "equal basis" to distribute the money.

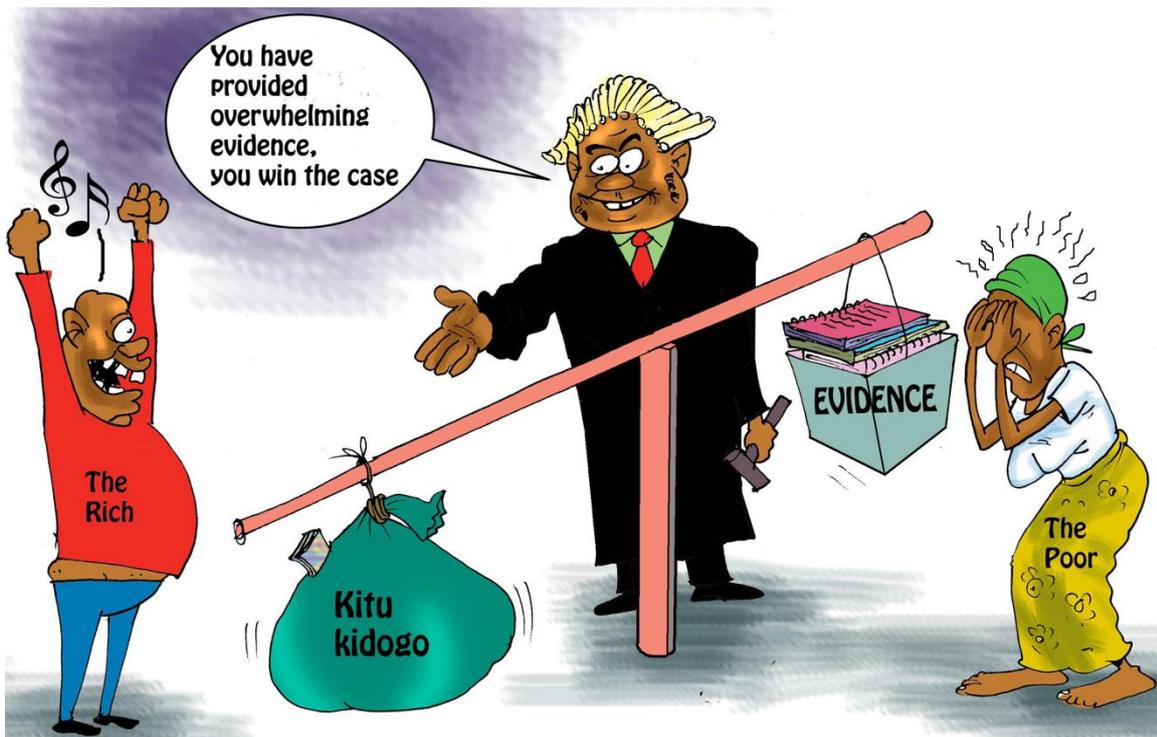
ACFIM challenged Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), and by extension the Electoral Commission (EC) to stop flouting the provision on financing political parties in respect of elections.

This advocacy issue has since was picked by the media and amplified within the public domain. ACFIM is further seeking legal interpretation in the courts of law concerning the selective application of the PPOA (as amended) 2005.

As a consequence, ACFIM stimulated national debate on political finance reforms as well as enhance civic knowledge on the centrality of political finance in the democratization process.



*Executive Director ACFIM, Henry Muguzi interviewed on NBS on the subject of political party financing*



## Priority Area 2: Civic Engagement for Political and Electoral Accountability

This priority area focuses on enhancing political and electoral accountability through civic engagement with political leaders, and empowerment of citizens to make rational electoral decisions.

Within this program area, ACFIM provides and facilitates spaces of meaningful engagement and interactions between citizens (rights holders) and their political leaders (duty bearers) to improve political and electoral accountability.



*CSO leader Perry Aritua (left) and Justice Forum Political Party Leader Asuman Basalirwa sharing during the Town Hall Meeting on Electoral Democracy*

### 2.1 The First Ever International e-Symposium on Money in Politics in Africa

ACFIM is contributing to the increasing citizen awareness about the threat posed by unregulated money in politics on the democratisation processes of African Countries. The e-Symposium international participation via zoom and reached out to an audience of over 5 million who watched it live on NTV in Uganda as well as on Facebook and YouTube across the world.



*Screen shot of Charles Mwanguhya (Left) moderating panel participants during the e-Symposium on Money in Electoral Politics in Africa*

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Magnus Ohman, Director International Foundations for Electoral Systems (IFES) Regional European Office who joined virtually from Prague, Czech Republic. Dr. Ohman was joined by other seasoned speakers that included: Dr. Patrick Ukase from Kogi State University in Nigeria, Dr. Paul Ssemogerere Kawanga retired Ugandan Politician and former President Democratic Party and Dr. Busingye Kabumba, Law Don at Makerere University. The symposium discussed the impact and implication of COVID-19 on election campaign financing in Africa.



*Dr Busingye Kabumba*

## 2.2 Youths Mobilised through increased awareness of effects of commercial electoral politics on their participation and inclusion.

A youth convention on money in politics was held under the theme: “**The Role of Youth in Building Electoral Integrity ahead of Uganda Elections 2021.**” Over of 300 students from 12 universities attended the convention hosted by Kyambogo University. Youth participation and influence in formal politics remains limited largely due to the growing barrier commercialized electoral politics.



*Democratic Party Secretary General Dr. Gerald Siranda, delivering a Keynote address to the students from universities and other tertiary institutions attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Conference on Money in Politics hosted at Kyambogo University, Kampala.*



*Dr Gerald Siranda of Democratic Party (DP) was the Keynote Speaker*



*A student from Makerere University Kampala, sharing his views during the convention*



*A female student from Kampala International University (KIU) submitting during plenary*

### **2.3 Growing the digital footprint**

ACFIM's digital footprint has grown exponentially to reach directly over to 10,000 netizens through digital innovations such as the weekly online newsletter- *SecretsKnown* and the virtual talk show - *ACFIM Talks*.

Through these digital platforms, ACFIM creates awareness on the different facets on money in politics, commercialization of electoral politics and its effects on democratic governance and service delivery; and mobilising support for campaign finance reforms.



A screen shot of one of the weekly virtual talk shows -ACFIM Talks hosted by Felix Kafuuma (left)



Sample of the online Newsletter -Secrets Known that is shared weekly

## 2.4 Using Social Media Platforms for Civic Engagement

Social media reach is over **785,077** Netizens



-2,461 Followers



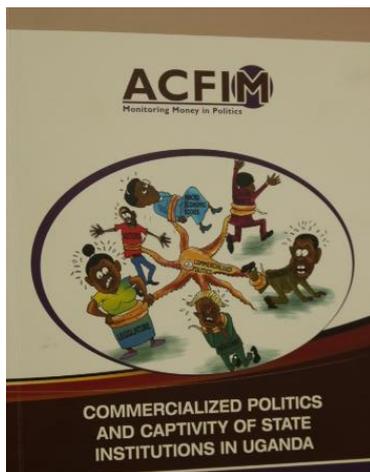
-1,460 Followers, over **360738** impressions



-Over **100** subscribers

## 2.5 Digitizing and documenting research reports

The digital version of the study *Commercialised Politics and Captivity of State Institutions in Uganda* was accessed by over **49,138**



**Facebook: 49,138**  
**(Male=42,651; Female=6,487)**

## 2.6 Documenting the journey of ACFIM's advocacy for campaign finance legislation

ACFIM produced a video documentary on the success of getting the advocacy issue of legislating campaign financing discussed for the first time on the floor of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament. The documentary has been shared across ACFIM platforms reaching over 2500 netizens



*ACFIM Executive Director - Henry Muguzi (Right), Communication Officer - Elizabeth Karungi (centre) and the Video Producer - Stephen Muwanguzi (left) discussing the script for one of the documentaries. The documentary can be accessed on ACFIM's You Tube platform.*



*One of the video documentation sessions in progress*



*ACFIM founder member, Moses Waidha, was one of the characters that participated in the documentary.*

## **2.7 Reaching out to Voters on the ground through Civic Hawking**

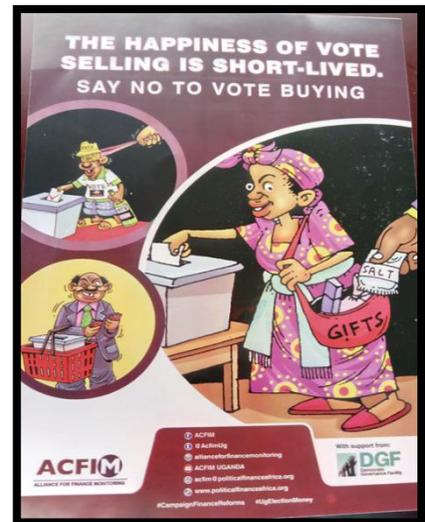
Over 50,000 leaflets were distributed in 7 sub regions namely Buganda, Busoga, Lango, Teso, Ankole, West Nile and Rwenzori. The leaflets were translated into 13 local languages namely: Alur, Madi, Ateso, Kakwa, Langi, Lugbar, Runyakitara, Runyoro-Rutooro, Lubwisi, Lhukonzo, Luganda, Runyankore, and Rukiga. They were distributed by campaign finance activists who in the process took time to explain the anti-vote buying message on the leaflets to the recipients ahead of 2021 general elections.



*A campaign finance activist engages the rural women in a discussion after distributing the leaflets*



*A female shop owner in Kabale District, South Western Uganda, reads a civic awareness message written in her local language from a leaflet delivered to her by one of ACFIM's village activists supervised by Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U).*





*A youth attentively examines the message on the leaflet as a campaign finance activist looks on.*

## **2.8 Using infomercials to conscientize citizens**

Using both visual and audio infomercials that aired on national television and radio stations spread across the 12 sub-regions, ACFIM reached over 15 million citizens with messages of anti-vote buying and commercial electoral politics.



*A screen shot of one of the infomercials that were produced, aired on Television and circulated on social media*

## Priority Area 3: Campaign Finance Reforms Prioritised

Under this priority area, ACFIM was intentional on engaging policy makers on reforming the legal framework on campaign financing by either enacting a standalone campaign finance law or amending the electoral laws to incorporate campaign finance provisions, toughen provisions on voter bribery, donations during election period and abuse of state resources during political campaigns.

### 3.1 Parliament recommends a comprehensive standalone campaign finance legislation

ACFIM's advocacy for legislating on campaign financing resulted into government through the Attorney General tabling five electoral amendment laws with provisions on campaign finance. The subsequent engagements in the process by ACFIM saw for the first-time electoral amendment laws with provisions on campaign financing reach the floor of Parliament.



*Deputy Chairperson Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee Hon Veronica Bichetero, a member of Campaign Finance Reform group in Parliament making her submission on the proposed campaign finance reforms*

Following a constructive debate on the floor of Parliament during the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, members adopted a recommendation that instead of scattering campaign finance provisions in the various electoral laws, a standalone law on campaign financing is considered to holistically address the problem of commercialised electoral politics. The recommendation was in line with ACFIM 's position on enacting a standalone legislation on campaign financing.



*Member of Campaign Finance Reform group in Parliament Hon Seguya John Bosco Lubyayi, MP for Mawokota County South, examines the Campaign Finance Bill Digest during a meeting with the Reform group members.*

## Priority Area 4: Institutional and Organisational Development

This priority area focused on all efforts geared towards making ACFIM a strong and vibrant institution with necessary capacity to fulfil her vision and mandate.

### 4.1 Staff Learning and Sharing



*Staff conducting a stakeholder mapping exercise*

### 4.2 Campaign Finance Monitors' capacity strengthened



*Lincoln Sebugwawo, an IT software developer takes monitors through the use of mobile phones to access the campaign finance database*



*Campaign Finance Monitors from Iganga and Jinja are retooled on campaign finance monitoring*



*Monitors from Kampala and Wakiso getting acquainted with the terms and obligations before being deployed to monitor pre campaign spending.*



*ACFIM Executive Director, Henry Muguzi emphasizing to monitors the requirements and expectations from the monitoring exercise.*



*Monitors receive smart phones for use in monitoring and documenting campaign spending ahead of 2021 elections*

### 4.3 ACFIM rebrands



*ACFIM Mission, Vision, Values and Logo displayed at the office reception*



*ACFIM staff pose for a photo moment at the organisation's front office.*

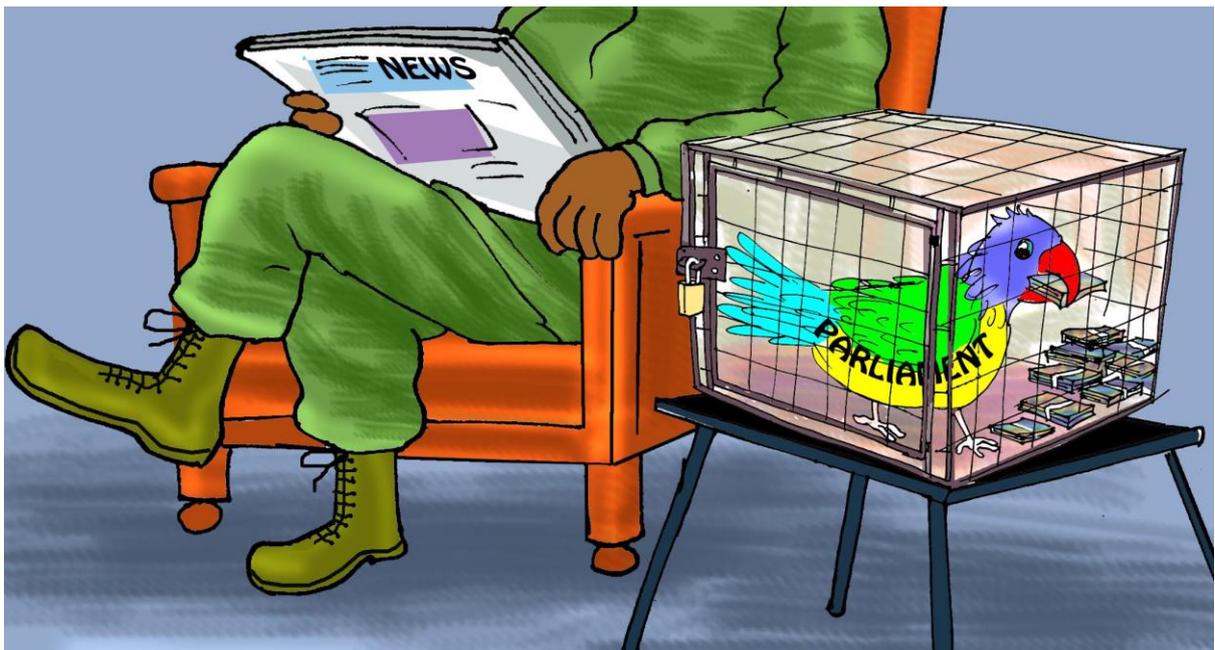
#### 4.4 A new project intervention birthed and launched

Towards the end of 2020, ACFIM unveiled a new project titled: *Efforts to Promote Political Accountability (EPPA)*. The 22-month project focuses on increasing public awareness about the extent of campaign spending and political corruption including assessing the enforcement of electoral laws on political financing to inform policy and practice. The project builds on the previous one that focused on curbing commercialised electoral processes to advocate for a comprehensive campaign finance law.



*ACFIM Executive Director, Henry Muguzi (Left), ACFIM Programs Manager, Felix Kafuuma (centre) receiving a signed project contract from DGF Program Manager Doreen Ruta (Right)*

## 4.5 ACFIM celebrates African Youth Day



## 5.0 Challenges ACFIM faced in 2020

- i. The COVID-19 pandemic that forced the country into a total lock down for 6 months is undoubtedly the biggest challenge ACFIM faced in 2020. For nearly 3 months, ACFIM suspended implementation of planned activities.
- ii. The pandemic further affected ACFIM's "modus operandi" given that the 'new normal' in observing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by the Ministry of Health discouraged crowd gatherings, and movements requiring ACFIM to conduct most of her activities virtually.
- iii. Government restrictions on Civil Society Organisations that are pro-democracy resulted into banning a CSO led domestic election observation group- National Election Watch (NEW-U), and its frontline organisations having their bank accounts frozen on allegations of terror financing. This paralysed ACFIM's work being part of the NEW-U and also being targeted by the state.



## 6.0 Moving Forward

The effects of COVID-19 pandemic present opportunities of engaging differently, adopting smarter and technologically driven approaches in programming and project management. ACFIM will capitalise on her ICT enabled approaches and digital tools to grow her visibility and influence in policy and awareness creation for commercialised electoral politics.

Through her digital footprint, ACFIM will expand her resource mobilisation options, tapping into the virgin areas that include: donations from individuals, foundations, corporations and organisations that believe in ACFIM's vision and mission communicated through provocative change stories.

To confront the challenge of the shrinking civic space and the growing state intolerance to pro-democracy actors, ACFIM will expand her agenda beyond national institutions and frameworks to regional and international networks and spaces to push back government excesses and increase opportunities for negotiations.

### 6.1 Snap shot of what to look out for in 2021

- ✓ Final Report on Campaign Spending 2021 elections
- ✓ An Audit into how the COVID-19 money was spent ahead of 2021 elections
- ✓ Annual National Symposium on Money in Politics

## Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2020

Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM)  
Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2020

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Notes	2020 UGX	2019 UGX
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Plant, Property and Equipment	6	11,830,770	3,964,837
Intangible asset	7	7,622,325	10,163,100
		<b>19,453,095</b>	<b>14,127,937</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and bank	8	367,738,145	210,418,191
Receivables	9	53,724,632	937,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>421,462,777</b>	<b>211,355,691</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>440,915,872</b>	<b>225,483,628</b>
<b>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Funds</b>			
Capital Fund	10	19,453,095	14,127,937
General Fund	11	325,263,027	186,685,834
		<b>344,716,122</b>	<b>200,813,771</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accruals and Payables	12	96,199,750	24,669,857
<b>Total</b>		<b>96,199,750</b>	<b>24,669,857</b>
<b>Total funds and liabilities</b>		<b>440,915,872</b>	<b>225,483,628</b>

The financial statements on pages 13 to 16 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 28/5/2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
 CHAIRMAN  
Board of Directors

  
 SECRETARY  
Board of Directors

The notes on pages 17 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## The Faces behind the ACFIM Secretariat



**Executive Director**  
**Henry Muguzi**



**Head of Programmes**  
**Felix.V.Kafuuma**



**Head of Finance & Admin**  
**Rose Achom**



**Programme Officer**  
**Eddie Kayinda**



**Monitoring, Evaluation  
& Learning Officer**  
**Annet Naluyima Kirabo**



**Finance & Admin Officer**  
**Fred Ibanda**



**Project Officer**  
**Abel Eseru**



**Project Assistant**  
**Gerald Koraneza**



**Elizabeth Karungi**  
**Volunteer-Comms**



**Patra Kasemire**  
**Volunteer -ICT**



**Driver**  
**Clement Oketch**



**Office Assistant**  
**Mercy Adong**