

◦ **CiTiZEN
VOICES**
CURATED AND
AMPLIFIED

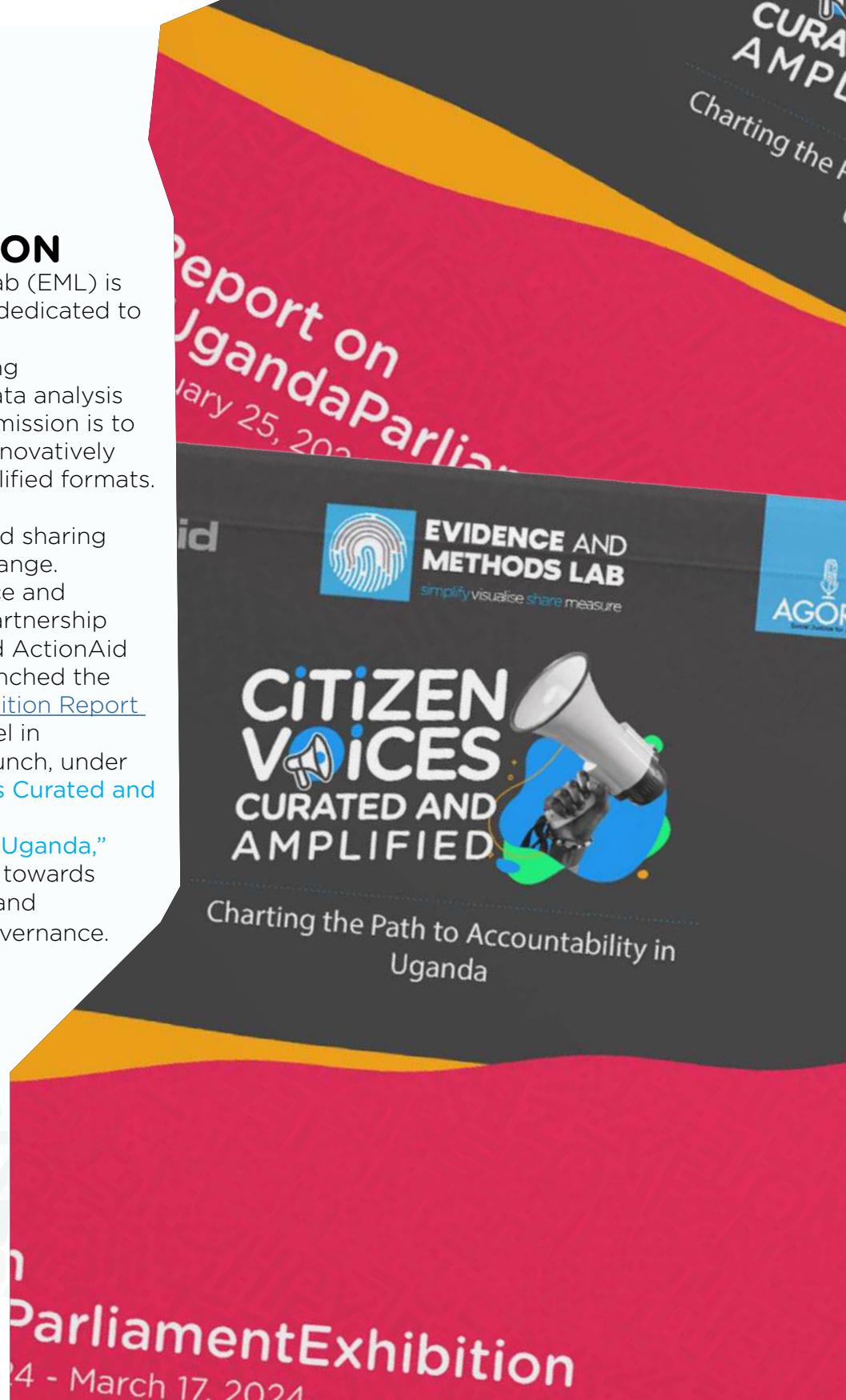


EVENT REPORT FOR THE
#UGANDAPARLIAMENTEXHIBITION
JUNE 11TH, 2024

#CuratingCitizenVoices

1. INTRODUCTION

Evidence and Methods Lab (EML) is a civic tech organization dedicated to enhancing access to information and promoting accountability through data analysis and collaboration. EML's mission is to leverage technology to innovatively share information in simplified formats. We focus on simplifying, visualizing, measuring, and sharing data to drive systemic change. On June 11, 2024, Evidence and Methods Lab (EML), in partnership with Agora Discourse and ActionAid International Uganda, launched the [#UgandaParliamentExhibition Report](#) at Fontis Residences Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The launch, under the theme "Citizen Voices Curated and Amplified: Charting the Path to Accountability in Uganda," marked a significant step towards promoting transparency and citizen engagement in governance.

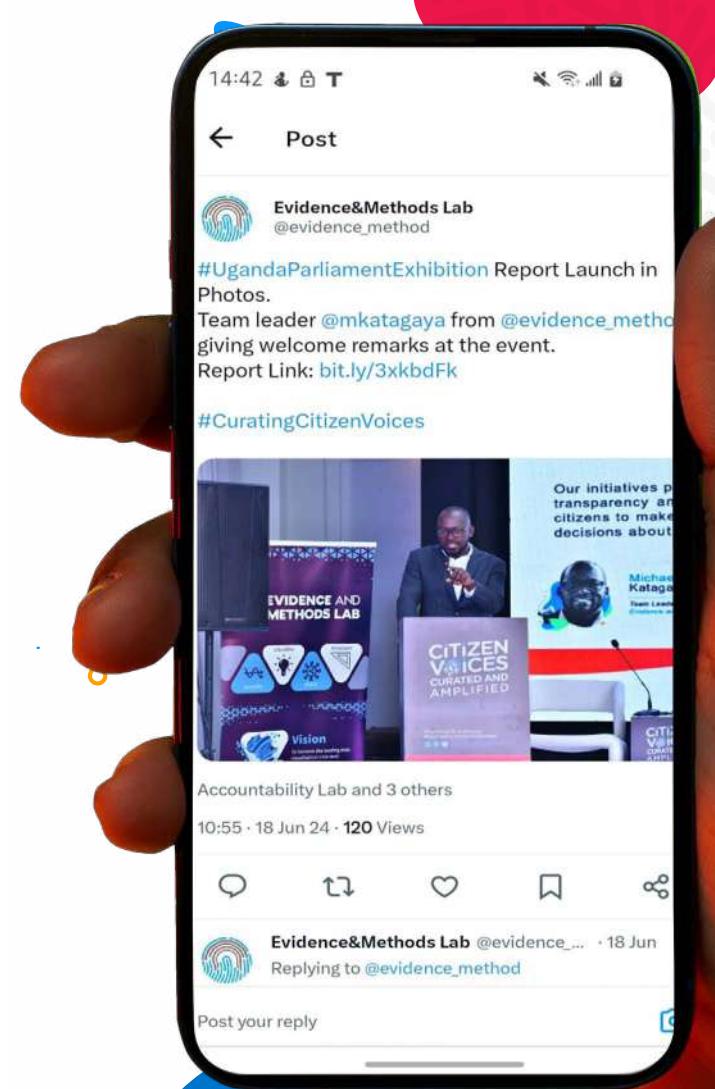


2. BACKGROUND

The [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#), which started on February 25th, 2024 predominately on the renowned social media platform X (formerly Twitter) sought to look into what transpires in Uganda's Parliament. The exhibition highlighted prevalent issues of corruption, financial mismanagement, and a lack of accountability within the Ugandan Parliament.

Led by the esteemed journalist and social justice activist [Ms. Agather Atuhaire](#), University professor [Dr. Jimmy Spire Ssentongo](#), and Ugandan Lawyer [Godwin Toko](#), the online campaign highlighted the lack of transparency and accountability within Parliament. The [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) was just one of the initiatives led by this group which also spearheaded campaigns such as the [#KampalaPotholeExhibition](#), [#UgandaSecurityExhibition](#), [#UgandaNGOExhibition](#), and the [#UgandaHealthExhibition](#). Reports on these exhibitions, as compiled by EML, delved into and exposed issues across various sectors in Uganda, these reports are accessible at: <https://evidenceandmethodslab.org/transparency-and-accountability/>. This citizen-led movement represents a significant stride towards fostering transparency & accountability in Uganda.

As with previous exhibitions, EML synthesized and analyzed conversations on the [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) using different social media analytical tools and generated a report. This report was launched as part of the campaign to further engage citizens and amplify their concerns about financial mismanagement, corruption, nepotism, and the perceived lack of accountability in Uganda's Parliament. Since the conversations primarily took place online on Twitter formerly Twitter, EML recognized the importance of curating citizen voices into a document that can now be utilized by policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers for future reference.



3. EVENT OVERVIEW

The Uganda Parliament Exhibition Report Launch was a momentous occasion dedicated to unveiling a comprehensive report and promoting good governance through citizen engagement and collaborative efforts. This event, held on June 11, 2024, at Fontis Hotel in Kampala, was organised by [Evidence and Methods Lab](#), [Agora Discourse](#), and [ActionAid International Uganda](#).

The preparation for this event was meticulous, with Agora Discourse leading the [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) initiative, Evidence and Methods Lab analyzing and curating over 2,730 tweets using different social media analytical tools to compile the report, and ActionAid International Uganda providing the necessary funding for the event to take place. The [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) report launch embraced a hybrid format, drawing a strong online audience of 7,813, with 365 views on the EML Twitter handle and a remarkable 7,742 views on Agora Discourse. The physical attendance drew 66 distinguished guests, including government officials, civil society members, media houses and the public, achieving a balanced gender mix (27 females and 39 males).

2,730 

Tweets using different
social media analytical tools

The [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) report launch drew a strong online audience of

Total view

7,813

 **7,742** views on Agora Discourse

365 views on EML X handle 

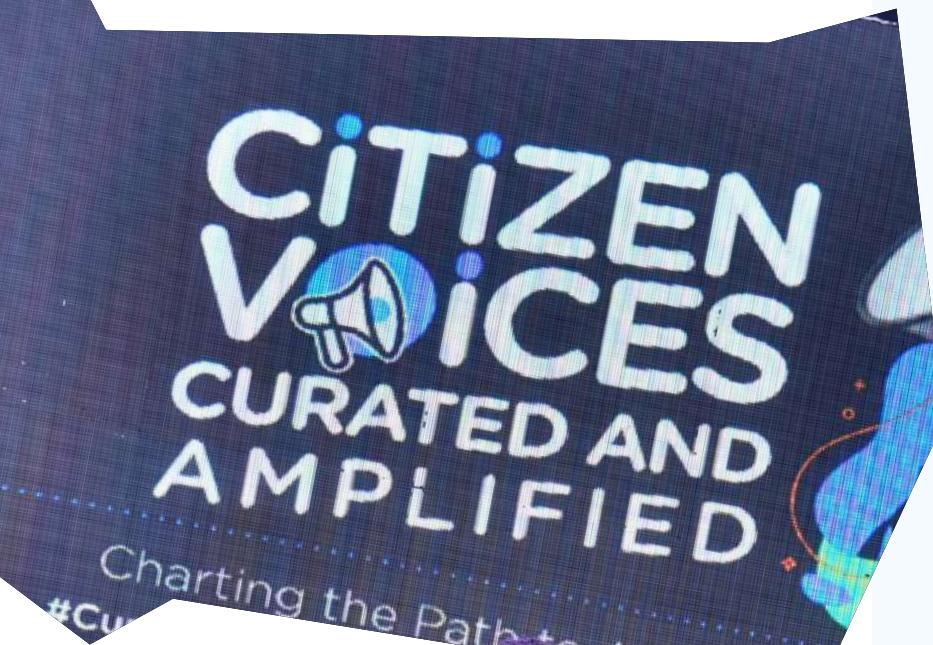
 The physical attendance drew

66 distinguished guests

Achieving a balanced gender mix

27
Female

39
Male



i) Opening remarks and Introduction

The launch commenced with opening remarks from EML's Team Leader, setting the stage for a comprehensive presentation that delved into the report's key findings. This presentation shed light on the urgent issues and public demands, illustrating a strong desire for enhanced governance.

ii) Panel Discussion & Plenary

The highlight of the [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) report launch was the dynamic panel discussion featuring esteemed figures such as [Munira Ali](#) from the Inspectorate of Government, [Hon. Patrick Nsamba](#), Member of Parliament for Kassanda North County, and [Timothy Chemonges](#), Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Analysis, [Agather Atuhaire](#) one of the leaders of the [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#).

The panelists engaged in a stimulating conversation that focused on the implications of the report and explored ways in which stakeholders could contribute to a more transparent system.

During the panel discussion, several key issues regarding corruption and accountability in Uganda were highlighted:



**EML Team Leader,
Michael Katagaya** giving
the opening remarks



**EML Programme Manager,
Theresa Mijumbi** presenting
#UgandaParliamentExhibition
report highlights in Kampala

We had started investigating the #UgandaParliamentExhibition findings but found out that the Office of the Auditor General had already stepped up to investigate it too.

Munira Ali, IGG representative .

Munira Ali, head of the Strategic Partnerships and Public Relations Division at Uganda’s Inspectorate of Government (IGG), provided insights during the plenary discussion at the [#UgandaParliamentExhibition Report](#) Launch. Reflecting on the event, she noted, “The #UgandaParliamentExhibition was a call for help. The question is how best can we work together as IGG and Uganda citizens.” She emphasized that corruption is a widespread issue, affecting everyone “until it comes out.” Ali also mentioned that while some individuals shared information about corruption, it was because they didn’t benefit from it.

On the issue of whether IGG was investigating the issues raised during the exhibition, Munira stated “We had started investigating the [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) findings but found out that the Office of the Auditor General had already stepped up to investigate it too.

Agather Atuhaire, one of the leaders of the exhibition and a panelist at the launch, expressed deep frustration. “We have been failed by the people we employed to work for us as taxpayers,” she stated. This sentiment highlights the public’s disappointment with institutions entrusted to serve them.

Timothy Chemonges, another panelist, further called upon citizens to keep fighting, as results will not be easily attained. He concurred with Xavier Ejoyi's sentiments, saying, "We can only keep pushing as much as possible, and we have to continue pushing for what we believe in. We might not see the result very soon, but they will eventually pay off."

Hon. Patrick Nsamba, MP of Kassanda Sub County, also stressed the need for everyone to have a way to continue contributing to the struggle for a better country. He added, “Corruption and overstaying in power move hand in hand. It has become very expensive to talk about corruption in Uganda.”

We can only keep pushing as much as possible, & we have to continue pushing for what we believe in. We might not see the result very soon, but they will eventually pay off. 

Timothy Chemonges
Associate Director
Parliament Watch

Corruption & overstaying in power move hand in hand. It has become very expensive to talk about corruption in Uganda. 

Hon. Patrick Nsamba,
MP of Kassanda Sub County,

A circular portrait of Dr. Mpho Tutu, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a suit and tie, speaking into a microphone.

The plenary discussions captured key issues pertinent to the fight against corruption and efforts to promote accountability in Uganda.

Tony Natif a guest at the launch highlighted the severe impact of corruption on Uganda's domestic revenue. Here is what he had to say; "44% of our domestic revenue gets lost to corruption even before it does its work. Then the government has to borrow money from these imperialists to fund the budget. So, who is an agent of imperialism then? Those exposing corruption or those eating the money?"

Anderson Burora the former Rubaga RCC pointed out the lack of accountability within Parliament, describing it as a crime scene. He remarked, "It is so painful that people in that Parliament only agree on how to share taxpayer's money but run away when matters of accountability arise."

A participant expressed disillusionment with the ruling party, stating, "My party @NRMONline, has failed at guarding the resources of this country."

Participants also challenged Munira Ali, the representative for the Inspectorate of Government of Uganda (IGG). A key question raised was about the IGG's apparent inaction on allegations presented during the exhibition. Ms. Ali responded that while the IGG had begun investigations, they found that the Office of the Auditor General was already involved. She emphasized the importance of collaboration, stating, "Since we are all partners, we can't all investigate the same thing."

These discussions underscored the urgent need for greater transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in Uganda's governance to combat corruption and safeguard the nation's resources.

“44% of our domestic revenue gets lost to corruption even before it does its work.”

Tony Natif

“It is so painful that people in that Parliament only agree on how to share taxpayer's money but run away when matters of accountability arise.”

Anderson Burora the former Rubaga RCC

“Since we are all partners, we can't all investigate the same thing.”

Munira Ali, IGG representative.



iii) Keynote address and Report Launch

The event ended with a compelling keynote address delivered by [Xavier Ejoyi](#), the Country Director of ActionAid International Uganda. Ejoyi emphasized the importance of active citizen participation in shaping the country's governance, highlighting the fight against corruption as a critical threat to Uganda's future, democracy, and the well-being of its people.

During the keynote address, [Xavier Ejoyi](#) emphasized the need for Ugandan citizens to reclaim their rightful space in governance. He stated, "We can only keep pushing as much as possible, and we have to continue pushing for what we believe in. We might not see the result very soon, but they will eventually pay off." This is especially crucial in the fight against corruption, which poses a dire threat to the future of Uganda's democracy.



Ejoyi further stressed that successful anti-corruption initiatives necessitate a departure from restricted environments, corrupt institutions, and bureaucratic obstacles. He added “If there is any lesson for Ugandans to learn from the Uganda Parliament Exhibition, is that tracking political corruption requires going beyond guided spaces, captured institutions, and bureaucratic processes”

In his concluding remarks, [Xavier Ejoyi](#), issued a powerful call to action: “Each of us needs to take a stand on corruption. What is your stand?” This direct question challenged citizens to take ownership of the fight for transparency and accountability. He then proceeded to officially launch the report.



“

If there is any lesson for Ugandans to learn from the Uganda Parliament Exhibition, is that tracking political corruption requires going beyond guided spaces, captured institutions, and bureaucratic processes.

”

Xavier Ejoyi, Country Director ActionAid International Uganda.

4. LESSONS LEARNED

The [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) was a powerful event, sparking crucial conversations about good governance. However, to ensure even greater impact for future initiatives, here are key takeaways and next steps:

The event was successful in highlighting the importance of documenting data and evidence into tangible reports that can be referred to in the future.

The event offered a platform for conversations on good governance in Uganda.

The discussions at the event garnered interest from media outlets like ITV News. This demonstrates the significance of engaging with the media and having a strategic communication plan to showcase the potential reach and impact of publicity.

The Uganda Parliament Exhibition report launch event demonstrated that collaboration is key to effectively addressing social issues, as shown by the impactful partnership between EML, Agora Discourse, and ActionAid International Uganda.

However, the following are the areas that require improvement:

Preparing in advance and ensuring everyone understands their roles is crucial for the smooth execution of events.

Appointing a central communication contact person between partner organizations is essential for enhancing collaboration.

Sharing event information early on can increase awareness and attendance.

Distributing event infographics early can improve reach and pre-event awareness.

We need a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to clearly define collaboration levels and terms with Agora for future engagements.

5. CONCLUSION

The launch of the [#UgandaParliamentExhibition](#) Report marks a significant milestone in promoting transparency in Uganda. This event showcased the effectiveness of civic technology and social media in empowering citizens and promoting good governance. The report, along with the discussions held during the launch, sets the stage for ongoing efforts to ensure that the voices of Ugandans are heard and their concerns are addressed. It represented a collective commitment by all partners to promote inclusivity and transparency within the Ugandan government. The successful partnership between [EML](#), [Agora Discourse](#), and [ActionAid International Uganda](#) highlighted the impact that can be achieved through unity when addressing social issues.

This event showcased the effectiveness of civic technology and social media in empowering citizens and promoting good governance.



EVIDENCE AND METHODS LAB

simplify visualise share measure

Plot 13 Kenneth Dale Lane, Kamwokya
Kampala, Uganda
+256 783 474784
hello@evidenceandmethodslab.org
www.evidenceandmethodslab.org

#CuratingCitizenVoices