

## Examples of AFIC's FOIA Impact Stories

**TITLE:** Freedom of Information used for Tracking Community Medication Supplies for Malaria

**Picture:** <http://str8talkchronicles.com/ugandan-scientists-breed-mosquitoes-to-fight-malaria>

**Year:** 2012

**Country:** Uganda

**Link(s)** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3156969/>  
[http://www.pmi.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/malaria-operational-plans/fy12/uganda\\_mop\\_fy12.pdf?sfvrsn=6](http://www.pmi.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/malaria-operational-plans/fy12/uganda_mop_fy12.pdf?sfvrsn=6)

**Type and name of requestor:** Community member - Mrs. Margaret Musoke

**Issue Area:** Health

**Use of FOIA:** In Masaka district, central Uganda, communities had suffered years of frustration out of absence of medicines for malaria, the main cause of sickness and death amongst Ugandan women and children. The African Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) conducted a training workshop in May 2012, and it was revealed that shortage of malaria medicine at health facilities was a common problem in the district. Mrs. Margaret Musoke, one of the participants at the workshop filed a FOIA request for information regarding the number of times Mpugwe Health Centre had received medicines for malaria and the number of doses in each delivery.



**Challenge:** To understand the availability of Malaria medication in local communities

**Impact:** It was found that despite the chronic absence of medicine, the Health Centre had regularly received supplies. Margaret demanded that this information should be displayed at the Health Centre's public notice board, following which there was no reported absence of medicine for several weeks.

**Title :** FOIA used to find evidence of Fraud in Construction in Uganda

**Year:** 2014

**Country:** Uganda

**Link(s)**

**Type and name of requestor:** Community member - Mr. Elly Muhwezi

**Issue Area:** Construction

**Use of FOIA:** In April 2014, Mr. Eli Muhwezi, an activist based in Ishaka Town Council, located in South-Western Uganda, attended African Freedom of Information Centre's training on ATI. Following the training, he filed an information request for records pertaining to the construction of Kashenyi Health Centre II with Bushenyi-Ishaka Town Council. His request was prompted by unconfirmed information that government had allegedly paid for 210 iron sheets to roof a structure at



the Health Centre yet physical count shows only 56 iron sheets. On receipt of the information request, the Town Clerk invited him for a discussion and unsuccessfully attempted to bribe him with UGX 500,000 (US\$200) to give up his request for records.

**Challenge: To ensure no fraud in construction**

**Impact:** Once this action was reported to the Bushenyi District Local Government, leaders led by the Chairperson, Mr. Willis Bashasha (*in picture*) demanded urgent action on the misuse of public funds by Ishaka-Bushenyi Town Council.

## FOIA Portal Request Results in New Education Policy

**Country:** Uganda

**Links** [http://askyourgov.ug/request/transfer\\_policy\\_for\\_secondary\\_sc#outgoing-30](http://askyourgov.ug/request/transfer_policy_for_secondary_sc#outgoing-30)

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Ministry-sets-new-rules-for-teachers/-/688334/2517254/-/m01ntm/-/index.html>

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/OpEd/Editorial/Enforce-new-rules-on-teachers--transfers/-/689360/2517616/-/rvrhr9z/-/index.html>

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/Education/Government-transfers-1-093-teachers/-/688336/1661260/-/es9ldbz/-/index.html>

Type and Name of Requester: Gilbert Sendugwa, AFIC staff

Issue area: Education

**Use of FOIA:** On June 2014 Gilbert Sendugwa made an information request to the Ministry of Education and Sports for copy of teacher transfer policy through the online [www.askyourgov.ug](http://www.askyourgov.ug) portal. His request was prompted by unconfirmed reports that teachers and head teachers serve long at particular schools which was compromising governance and supervision. It was reported that head teachers of top grade schools officially admit half of established enrolment and reserve the other half

for children of senior ministry and government officials as well as members of parliament responsible for oversight of the sector.

**Challenge:** to ensure oversight of education sector is not compromised.

**Impact:** No response was immediately received from the ministry. Follow up was made on the portal and by email on July 18, 2014, September 22, 2014 and September 10, 2014. The follow-up of September 10, 2014 received immediate response indicating that response would be provided soonest.

On November 10, 2014, the Ministry was quoted by Monitor Newspaper. AFIC contacted the Ministry for confirmation was responded to in affirmative. On January 9, 2015 the ministry announced transfer of 1093 teachers and 70 head teachers.

