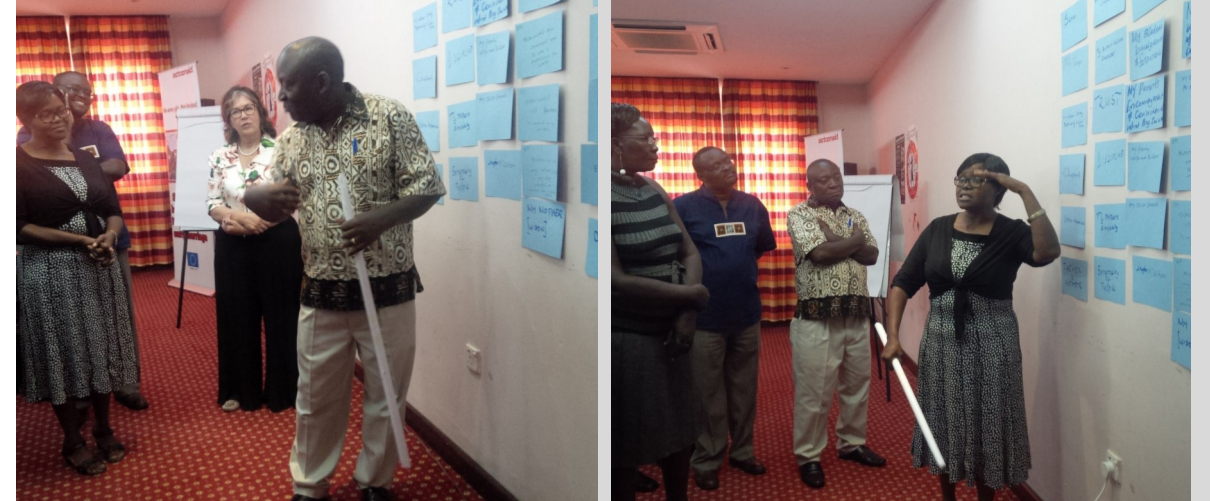




Thanks to the Australian Aid supported Women Rights in Agriculture project, Women from Sebei region are now leading producers of dried vegetables, grown, solar dried, packed and sold by them!

New Energy and commitment at AAU Board-CMT Retreat



(Left) Deo Yiga, a member of the board shares with the group the key things that have shaped his life in the understanding one another session at the retreat, (Right) The board Chair, Dr Consolata Kabonesa shares with the team on the same.

The AAU Board – Country Management Team (CMT) Retreat was held at Royal Suites Hotel in Bugolobi last week. The team discussed among others; Board - Management Relations; emerging issues from the CSPIV Review; the AA Uganda Business Case to construct its home and the role of the Board in fundraising.

According to Arthur Larok, the AAU Country Director, the retreat was the first of its kind in recent times.

“We have not had a joint retreat before, but more importantly, it was highly successful. Both the Governing board and CMT members left with renewed energy”, he said.

The meeting recognized the great urgency by the Board and Management to prioritize fundraising to expand the organization’s income base. Commitments were made to set clear targets on this. The other key highlight was the conditional approval made by the Board to allow Management to take next steps on the construction and financing options for AA Uganda’s institutional home.

In relation to the CSPIV and Organizational efficiency reviews, the team unanimously agreed to hold an extraordinary Board meeting to take place on the 29th August 2015. This meeting will discuss in detail the outcomes from the CSPIV Review, Organizational Efficiency Assessment and a Change Management Plan.

The weekly will keep you all posted on these key organizational developments.

Activists blame poor service delivery on high Government expenditure



Kamuron Peter, a citizens manifesto ambassador decries the political system that has failed to promote a culture of democratic Governance in Uganda.

Civil society activists from Teso, Sebei and Karamoja Sub-regions have blamed the deteriorating trend of development and service delivery on the high cost of maintaining Government officials and offices.

Speaking at the Citizen manifesto write-shop in Mbale last week, one of the activists criticized the office of the Prime Minister for failing to transform Karamoja with the billions of shillings and hundreds of projects in the region. To give credence to their argument, they cited the wasteful expenditures by the Minister of Karamoja affairs and some NGOs in the region. The ministers trip to Israel cost tax payers 140million shillings.

According to them, this amount would build 6wind pumps or 20 boreholes or would be used for drilling another big man-made lake like the one in Kobebe in Matheniko in Moroto district which would solve the problem of inadequate water in the semi-arid region.

According to Miriam Cherukut, the AAU Kumi LRP Coordinator, the purpose of the meeting was to review the performance of the current political leadership in regard to the citizens aspirations documented in the citizen Manifesto(2011-2015) and synthesise the findings from the recently concluded citizens manifesto consultations in Eastern region in order to generate sub regional Citizens Manifestos.

The two days meeting organised by ActionAid and partners ended with a draft document reflecting performance of the current political leadership, draft citizens manifestos for the 3 sub regions (Teso, Sebei and Karamoja) and an action plan for citizens-Leaders engagement ahead of the 2016 elections

Busiki Partners Develop M&E

In line with its objective of deepening Results Based Reporting, the Impact Assessment and shared Learning Unit at ActionAid supported 13 participants from the four partner Organisations in Busiki to develop organisational M&E frameworks.

The uniqueness of the exercise was that partners were supported to develop organisational M&E frameworks as opposed to project specific M&E frameworks.

The M&E Advisor, at ActionAid John Marondo who supported partners in the exercise submitted that the activity was an important capacity building initiative for Action-Aid Uganda partners .

“This training and facilitation will greatly enhance the partners capacity to report on the impact of their work in the community. As a result, they will increase their chances of even winning bigger grants.”

During the exercise partners alluded to the fact that they were doing a lot of work but often lacked the methods and approaches to systematically document and collect impact and outcome level results.

It is therefore anticipated that after this activity, partners will mainstream M&E in all their programme activities. We look forward !

CD to represent Ugandan CSOs at EAC 4th Annual Assembly



Arthur uses emotion, word and gestures to drive a point home about the shrinking political space at the workshop last week.

He said that the limited space has led to abuse and denial of rights across all sectors including extractive industry, Health, Agriculture and as well as democracy. It is upon this that he was chosen to represent the people. ActionAid is proud of you Arthur.

The AAU Country Director was anonymously nominated to represent the country’s civil society organizations under East African Community Civil Society Organizations Forum (EACCOSOF) at the 4th Annual General forum slated for next month in Kigali Rwanda.

The EACCOSOF is a platform that was created by the EAC governments where non-government players meet and share issues with the Secretary General pertinent matters that ought to be adopted by the standing governments, but have rather been ignored.

During his presentation on “The Shrinking Political space” at the National CSO consultation meeting, Mr Arthur Larok convinced the participants about the need to fight for return of power to the people as it is vested in a few individuals who misuse it, and deny rights holders their entitlements.

ActionAid in the News

- Read about Cheptok Irene, who, with support from ActionAid broke barriers to uplift Kapchorwa Women. This story in the Observer on this [Link](#)
- This is what the AAU Country Director and other civil society leaders had to say when they faulted Members of Parliament on Poll reforms. Read the Daily Monitor [Here](#)
- As Uganda Embraces the oil sector, Chris Byaruhanga, while on National Radio challenged Government to protect the environment and wild Life. [Click](#) to get details of the story.
- ActionAid joined other CSOs to support the demand by the MPs on the African Parliamentary Network against Corruption to amend the leadership code and have information on the wealth of public officials made public. Details of this story in the New Vision [here](#)
- ActionAid breaks it down, “Why GMOs wont work for my Mother”, this analytical piece by ActionAid international is available [Here](#)
- Please remember to follow the AAU twitter handle by clicking [here](#) and follow through the debates to make the world a better place for all. Our twitter handle is @actionaiduganda.

WEEK AHEAD:

- ActionAid Uganda is hosting a delegation from the ActionAid Rwanda, Malawi and D.R.C offices. These are being trained in Program led funding at Royal Suits in Bugolobi.
- ActionAid is also hosting the annual International Private Partnership Arrangement (PPA) workshop and M&E training. The event that has attracted representatives from over 15 ActionAid countries is being held at Royal Suits in Bugolobi
- The Policy and Campaigns Manager will guide the deliberations on seed policy at a workshop Organised by ESAFF at Hotel Africana this Wenesday.
- Arthur Larok will be traveling to Nairobi to make a presentation on the shrinking political space on Thursday.