

**The ActionAid Uganda Weekly 14th - 20th Jan, 2019**

Dear

Reader,

This week, we bring you the sad stories of people living with albinism, a group of disabled people who have been sidelined and left to languish in poverty in Uganda. Find out what the Government and CSOs are doing to uplift these people.

Enjoy.

**The Fundraising Walk in support of Albinism in Uganda;  
AAU, Parliament Join the Cause!**



**By**

**Nickson**

**Ogwal**

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January, Parliament of Uganda organised a healthy walk to raise funds in support of Albinism in Uganda. The Walk was flagged off by the Deputy Speaker who announced the public's support towards the cause worth Ugshs72 million. 'This money has already been deposited into the designated bank account from the public in response to the appeal from the Parliament to the public,' Hon. Jacob Oulanya said. The Walk that was supported by Parliament, Uganda Prison Services, Police among others also saw AAU staff join the cause led by the Fundraising Director Nickson Ogwal, Partnership and Capacity Building Manager Richard Olong and the Technical Coordinator – SURGE Program Brenda Kugonza. The event was streamed live on AAU facebook page. One of the livestream video shot from 7:15 am was viewed by 1,211 people online as of yesterday.

**Testimonies from Persons Living with Albinism**



**By**

**Nickson**

**Ogwal**

A community of persons living with Albinism from Luwero, during this years' walk to raise support towards this vulnerable group of people, presented a very touching role play that revealed very painful realities that they face. Uganda has over 2 million people living with albinism yet they are hardly seen in schools, markets, hospitals or public transport – this is because they are withdrawn from the public because of a number of issues including stigma, harsh attack by the Sun rays and poverty. Women with disability living with albinism are one of the most abused and poor in the country. One of them presented analogously that “We are considered as disabled but not disabled enough; white but not white enough; and black but not black enough”. We are therefore a forgotten minority people.

**AAU in Solidarity with People Living with Albinism!**



The Fundraising Walk in support towards people living with Albinism presented AAU an opportunity to identify with a section of the Ugandans that are surely the poorest in the poor – that it takes concerted efforts to successfully look out and find them. According to the Fundraising Director Nickson Ogwal, 'it occurred to me that the definition of targeting the chronic poor in the 5<sup>th</sup> strategy addressed persons born with albinism in the rural poor countryside or slums in Uganda. It is therefore important that AAU locates itself programmatically to address the structural issues that affect those living with albinism;' AAU made a cash contribution of Ugshs1.5m towards the construction of the Albino centre and promised to work with the MP for the PWDs to provide technical support to the process of drafting a bill that will provide a legal framework for supporting people living with albinism in Uganda.

**The Walk to Support People living with Albinism in Pictures**





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