

The ActionAid Uganda Weekly 11th - 17th , 2019

Dear Reader,

This week, read about the President's re-visit of Apaa and what he promises this time. We also bring you demands made by CSOs in regards to the FGM syndrome as we marked the International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM. This and more in this edition.

Enjoy!

President Set to Visit Apaa this Month!



By Flavia Nalubega

For the second time, the president will be visiting Apaa- a highly contested area of resettlement claimed by both the Acholi and Madi communities of Northern Uganda. Museveni visited the area last year and suggested relocation of the communities to a less contested area but the communities denied his offer.

He says the conflict is a result of problems created by leaders who want cheap popularity at the expense of the locals.

For years, the Apaa community has been engulfed in wrangles and fights that resulted into deaths of some residents and many injured over the fight for ownership of this area that allegedly belongs to Uganda Wildlife Authority. We hope the President's visit this time yields tangible results to save humanity from suffering.

CSOs Demand for the Immediate End to FGM!



By David Moses Okello

On 6th Feb 2019, the CSO fraternity in Sebei Sub region/Uganda joined the international community to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. The UN awareness day came amidst a surge in Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) incidents in Sebei sub-region, particularly in Kween, Kapchorwa, Bukwo, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, and Amudat Districts.

CSOs decried the over 100 women and girls who were mutilated in Kween alone during the month of December 2018 and January 2019 and over 400 women/girls across the six districts.

Whereas some women apparently asked to undergo the illegal cut because of stigma, some reports indicate that other girls and women were coerced. The CSO thus demanded the following:

- Government should revisit, review and rethink the entire education policy which is producing many school dropouts, who in turn are potential victims of FGM.
- Affirmative action should not only be seen to be done but also applied to the early school dropouts as well. The current application of that policy is discriminatory.
- Leaders at all levels should come out openly and be seen on the front line in the war against FGM.
- Government should come out with programs that can speedily transform the communities from harmful cultural practices like FGM. This should be backed up with sufficient budget allocations at all levels (Sub County, District to National level).
- Strengthened coordination by government for integrated programming

World Bank visits AAU Bwaise Shelter!



By Esther Kisembo

The shelter on the 4th day of January, 2019 was honored to host a delegation from World Bank Group, Ministry of Gender, labour and Social Development and the Executive Director (ED) Designate for the Nordic Constituency (representing Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden).

AAU's Program Director Harriet Gimbo, welcomed the team to the shelter . It was shared that over 1127 cases have been received out of which 355 cases resolved.

The ED appreciated ActionAid for the commendable work they have done over the years and asked whether some survivors who are admitted at the shelter refuse to leave due to the comfort and services they are offered given it's a common practice back in Iceland which is the same case at our shelters.

The ED later listened to stories from survivors who have received services from the shelter and can afford to smile given their hopes were restored. They further interacted with the stakeholders in the referral pathway and recommended AAU for strengthening the relationship.

**Digital Activism enhanced among Accountability Working Group
CSOs**



By Joy Namunoga

Under the theme “Digital Activism and Civic Engagement in Uganda”, ActionAid Uganda held the third National Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) accountability working group meeting that attracted it’s 30-member institutions ranging from Advocacy, technologists, media, youth and women organizations.

The meeting was held with the purpose of enhancing CSOs’ capacity to use social media as a tool to hold governments accountable and counter the shrinking civic space. The meeting saw CSO leaders skilled by CIPESA, Unwanted Witness and Faraja Africa Foundation in digital storytelling, data privacy and online campaigns. They learnt that through social media, they can equally cast a spotlight on government (in)actions.

However, they were cautioned to verify any information before sharing on social media, ensure privacy through use of pseudonyms on networks like Facebook and Twitter, ensure security through use of VPNs and encrypted communication services and use social technology which best meets their goals. Prior the meeting climax, the working group pledged to have monthly joint online campaigns in the social sectors with well researched information from the grassroots to inform and drive policy decisions. The CSOs further pledged to be more active on the social media supporting accountability work.

Annual Global Corruption Index Report: Uganda Improves!

By Charles Mulozi

As most of you are aware, Transparency International has been releasing annual global Corruption Perceptions Index report. The index offers an annual snapshot of the relative degree of corruption by ranking countries and territories from all over the globe. This week, TI released 2018 corruption perceptions index report. The 2018 CPI draws on 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories, giving each a score from zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). In the new report, Denmark scored 88 out of 100 and ranked number one as the least corrupt country. Somalia scored 10/100 and ranked number 180 as the most corrupt country in the world. Our own Uganda scored 25/100 and ranked number 149/180 countries from number 151 in the last three years. At least we are better than Southern Sudan as most of NRM diehards will be arguing.

At East African level, Rwanda performed exceptionally well with score of 56/100% and ranked number 48 out of 180 countries. There is no much statistically significant changes among the East African Countries with exception of Rwanda. Therefore, we still have substantial amount of work to change the trends in Uganda as there is direct relationship between corruption and democratic governance as rightly highlighted by chairperson TI, Delia Ferreira Rubio It is thus our responsibility to strengthen state institutions and democratic foundations to have a full-scale fight against corruption at all levels.

2018 corruption perceptions index report.

<https://www.transparency.org/cpi2018>.

UPDATES

- The CD is in Accra, Ghana to participate in the 2019 One Africa CD's meeting and induction for new CDs .

- [Watch the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in Kween](#)



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