



## Weekly

Feb 5 - 11

On 6th February, the World commemorated the international Day of zero tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. ActionAid associates with the thousands of Women in Sebei and Karamoja regions who have lived with the pain, trauma, stigma and sometimes death arising from the practice. (File photo- Women from Sebei recollect the pain of FGM)

### New Women Land Rights Project Unveiled!



Above: Some of the beneficiaries from the past Women Land Rights Projects in Northern Uganda. Their livelihoods and household incomes were improved. They broke away from lives of poverty.(file photos)

Below: (Left –Right) Programs Director, Harriet Gimbo, Women Rights Coordinator Nivatiti Nandujja and Gulu Cluster Coordinator David Okello speak at the launch of the new project.

Last Friday, ActionAid launched a new project dubbed “Enhancing Women’s Rights to Land, Peace and Justice in Northern Uganda. The 3-year project will be implemented in the Districts of Amuru and Nwoya with an overall objective of Enhancing Women’s Rights to Land, Peace and Justice.

The initiative builds on AAU’s past Projects on Women Land rights in Northern Uganda. The project will continue to target boys and girls in schools, women living with disabilities and smallholder farmers (both women and men). Exclusively, the project will work with survivors of gender based violence and will strengthen aspects of transitional justice in safeguarding women’s rights and ensuring the attainment of their tenure security and livelihoods

While speaking at the launch, the Director of Programs at AAU stressed that the women land rights context in Uganda is unique.

“Within the AAU programming, Northern Uganda is approached differently because of its long history of war that resulted into displacement of people, loss of boundary marks together erosion and weakening of the cultural system within the customary land governance.”

Harriet added that as a result of the said factors, structural violence against women remains rampant despite their significant contributions in securing livelihoods.

“Women and girls are often denied economic opportunities and land rights because of the deeply rooted patriarchal norms in customary land management and administration”.

Accordingly, the project has been informed by the key learnings under the Women Land Rights Project in Northern Uganda and the Transitional Justice Study Report in Democratic Republic of Congo, Northern Uganda, and Kenya as well as the recent refugee influx within the region which poses land disputes.

The participants expressed enthusiasm and commitment upon the presentation of project work plan and budget for review. However, they noted that some activities were under budgeted for. In response, the Program Manager noted the oversight and pledged to address the issue during the next budgeting cycle. He also appealed to the host districts and media houses to co-fund certain activities as part of their complementary role to ending social injustice in society.

The project is being supported by ActionAid Australia with funding from Australian NGOs Cooperation Program (ANCP)-Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

### Youth Set to Reverse Climate Change Effects



AAU’s Harriet Gimbo with the youth during the training last week. She challenged them to use their young energies constructively.

As part of the climate change impact mitigation campaign, ActionAid in Pader rolled out a training on Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA) approach. The training is set to reach 1,050 youth organized into 15 CRSA young farmer groups in Pader district under the European Union co-funded Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Self-Employment and National Development (YESSEN) project.

While addressing the youths from Angole Parish in Awere Sub County during the training, Ms. Harriet Gimbo (Director of Programs at AAU) advised the youth to put their energy to good use.

“Use the energy you have to engage in productive agriculture to improve the livelihoods of your families and communities,” she said.

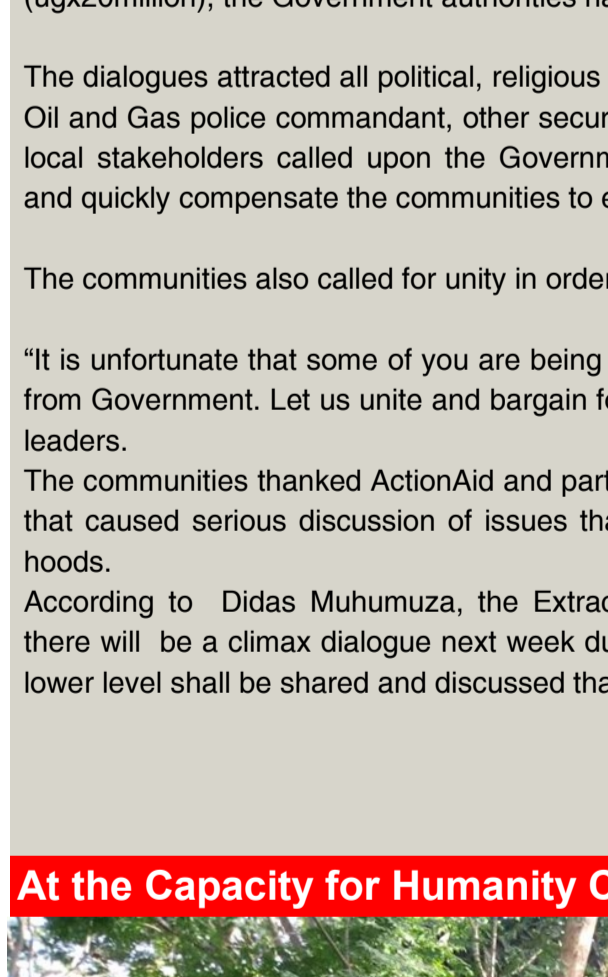
Harriet also urged the youth to work at ensuring equal representation of both men and women in decision making processes in the community as this will ensure balanced development of all including the often marginalised groups.

At the end of the training, the Sub-County youth chairperson thanked ActionAid for organizing such a training that is enriching and provides skills and new knowledge about farming in the face of the climate change whose impact is already being felt.

In the same Spirit, the YESSEN Project team were in Nwoya, Gulu, Amuru and Pader to fast track the implementation of the project activities. The team hastened the roll out of the Climate Resilience Sustainable Agriculture model to 15 youth groups.

10 youth groups specifically in Nwoya and Amuru were appraised. Most of the young people in these groups have mainly identified crop based enterprises with multiple matching technologies for demonstration. These include crop rotation, composite manure processing and mulching. All the groups met exhibited a lot of enthusiasm and purpose to start their enterprises with support from respective sub county agriculture extension staff to test and diffuse climate change adaptation practices.

### Social Media Caravan Empowers Communities



Youth during a brainstorming session in Pakwach. They will be using social media to campaign against injustices in the community.

An exciting two weeks of the ActionAid extractives social media caravan comes to a close. Drawing from the first-of-its-kind campaign, the caravan drew over 500 young people from across six districts of Mubende, Hoima, Bulisa, Masindi, Nwoya & Pakwach. The districts comprise the Albertine region and mineral rich areas.

The caravan set out to empower youth in engaging their leaders in as far as extractives governance is concerned and addressing challenges to demand social justice through social movements.

In Pakwach the campaign was graced by the youthful LCV chairperson Omito Robert who expressed optimism that the youth now have the opportunity to responsibly engage their leaders even at national level through the digital space. Omito said there was no better time for the youth to benefit from the sweeping developments in the region but only if they can change their mindsets.

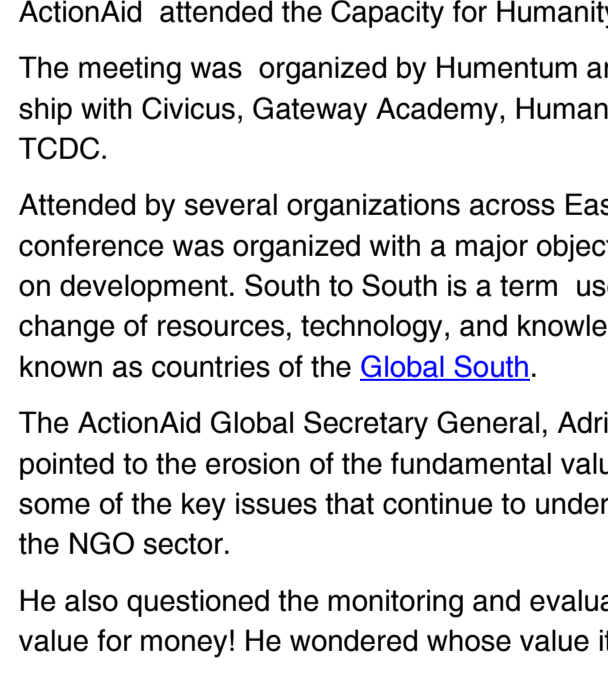
“Oil production is going to be in Nwoya district but as you know, expatriates will prefer to camp in Pakwach, which is more developed. How are you prepared for this?” Omito asked.

“It’s good that AAU has chosen to bring this campaign here. There is an information gap that we now have opportunity to bridge using social media which young people interact with often times. Let us campaign for a more inclusive extractives sector using these platforms,” he appealed.



Participants in Hoima equipped with tips on how to campaign using social media.

In Hoima, Ayesiga Tony from the office of the district community development officer stated that within the youth district programming, the social media symposium links well with the E-Governance program. This means that the young people can engage their leaders and even participate in decision making processes.



Participants at one of the community dialogues seek for an opportunity to speak last week

Samuel Isabirye the Coordinator of ActionAid Nebbi Cluster stated that the social media caravan has not left the communities the same.

“The youth are now armed with social media tools and looking out for opportunities to organize and campaign for social justice in the extractives sector”, he said.

### Bullisa Locals Demand for better Compensation Value!



The knife used during female genital mutilation/cutting!

ActionAid Uganda supported local organizations and networks to hold dialogues on land acquisition and resettlement issues in Bullisa district last week. The dialogues were held under the auspices of Civil Society Organization on Oil and Gas (CSCOG) and the Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation (BAPENENCO).

Recently, the Communities in Bullisa have been thrown into anxiety due to the planned up-stream developments that require large establishments of land to enable establishment of the Central Processing facility, in-field pipelines, production wells and the feeder pipeline among others. Many households learned only recently that their land is supposed to be taken permanently for a little value of about 3.5 million shillings per acre as suggested by the government. While the communities are asking for a little more (UGX20million), the Government authorities have been very adamant.

The dialogues attracted all political, religious and technical leaders from Bullisa, the Bullisa Oil and Gas police command, other security operatives and the entire community. The local stakeholders called upon the Government authorities to reconsider the land value and quickly compensate the communities to enable up-stream oil and gas developments.

The communities also called for unity in order to put up a strong bargain with Government.

“It is unfortunate that some of you are being convinced to accept the suggested 3.5million from Government. Let us unite and bargain for a better offer,” appealed one of the political leaders.

The communities thanked ActionAid and partners for sponsoring such important dialogues that caused serious discussion of issues that have long term implications on their livelihoods.

According to Didas Muhumuza, the Extractives Governance Coordinator at ActionAid, there will be a climax dialogue next week during which all the issues generated from the lower level shall be shared and discussed that that level for a clear way forward.

### At the Capacity for Humanity Conference in Arusha...



Last week, Stanley Wobusobozi the Impact Assessment and Shared Learning Manager at ActionAid attended the Capacity for Humanity Conference, the first of its kind in Africa.

The meeting was organized by Humentum and ActionAid Global Secretariat in partnership with Civicus, Gateway Academy, Humanitarian Academy, Knowledge point and MS TCDC.

Attended by several organizations across East Africa, France, UK, USA and Zambia, the conference was organized with a major objective of extending the South to South learning on development. South to South is a term used by policymakers to describe the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between [developing countries](#), also known as [countries of the Global South](#).

The ActionAid Global Secretary General, Adriano Campolina, while at the conference pointed to the erosion of the fundamental values of justice and internationalization as some of the key issues that continue to undermine capacity building and development in the NGO sector.

He also questioned the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of Aid with an emphasis on value for money! He wondered whose value it was anyway.

AAU’s Stanley delivered a presentation on valuing local perspectives, drawing from ActionAid Uganda’s experiences from the Participatory review and reflection processes. He emphasized local solutions to NGO challenges.

[Click here for details on this conference in a blog by Stanley!](#)

### The Campaign Against FGM continues!



The knife used during female genital mutilation/cutting!

Last week, ActionAid Kapchorwa joined the rest of the world to commemorate the Day against Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting. The commemoration took place at Binyiny Secondary School in Kween.

During the dialogue with the students, the young girls clearly stated that the era of FGM was long gone. They called on all the stakeholders to ensure zero tolerance to the practice that has over the years caused pain, trauma and even death to women and girls.

The students went ahead to form the young Anti FGM champions club that will be dedicated to campaigning against the practice in the schools and communities.

Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

A U-Survey preliminary report (UBOS, 2016) shows Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevalence in Bukwo district at 28 percent, Kween district at 21 percent, and Kapchorwa district at 13 percent. While this is down from a high of 50 percent in Sebei region, 95 percent to 67 percent in the Bukwo districts, the practice still takes place.

Globally, it is estimated that at least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of FGM. Girls 14 and younger represent 44 million of those who have been cut, with the highest prevalence of FGM among this age in Gambia at 56 percent, Mauritania 54 per cent and Indonesia where around half of girls aged 11 and younger have undergone the practice. Countries with the highest prevalence among girls and women aged 15 to 49 are Somalia 98 per cent, Guinea 97 per cent and Djibouti 93 per cent.

[Read a related blog by AAU’s Harriet Gimbo on the same.](#)