



Weekly
April 23 - 29

ActionAid Uganda signed a three year seven Billion Contract with the DGF in a project aimed at enhancing the Country's Governance structures. This is a show of the confidence that the DGF has in ActionAid, despite the Police siege of AAU late last year. In fact, DGF stated that they look forward to the usual ActionAid innovative programs that will contribute to eradicating Social Injustice in the Country. Congratulations AAU!

ActionAid Signs seven Billion Contract with DGF!



Above- AAU's Nicholas Opiyo and Christine Aboke sign off the contract. Right Below- Before signing, Christine, Charles and Nicholas scrutinized the contract for better understanding!

ActionAid Uganda has won Funding from the Democratic Governance Facility aimed at enhancing the democratic systems in the Country.

The over seven Billion contract that was signed this morning by DGF and ActionAid is a show of confidence that the funding partner has in the organisation, despite the siege by the police mid last year.

"We congratulate ActionAid for winning this grant and look forward to your usually exceptional work in improving the governance structures in our Country", stated the DGF official.

ActionAid Uganda Governing Board Chairperson, Nicholas Opiyo appreciated the confidence and trust that DGF has in ActionAid and committed to ensure clean accountabilities but most importantly working to make a positive impact on the Governance of the country.

Charles Mulozi, the Project Coordinator Governance and Social Accountability at AAU in charge of the coordination of this three year project stated that while Uganda exhibits key features of a democratic system such as regular elections, decentralization and multi-party system of governance; there is an increasing sense of exclusion, weak checks and balances between government organs, lack of accountability and transparency, political patronage, corruption and disillusioned citizens.

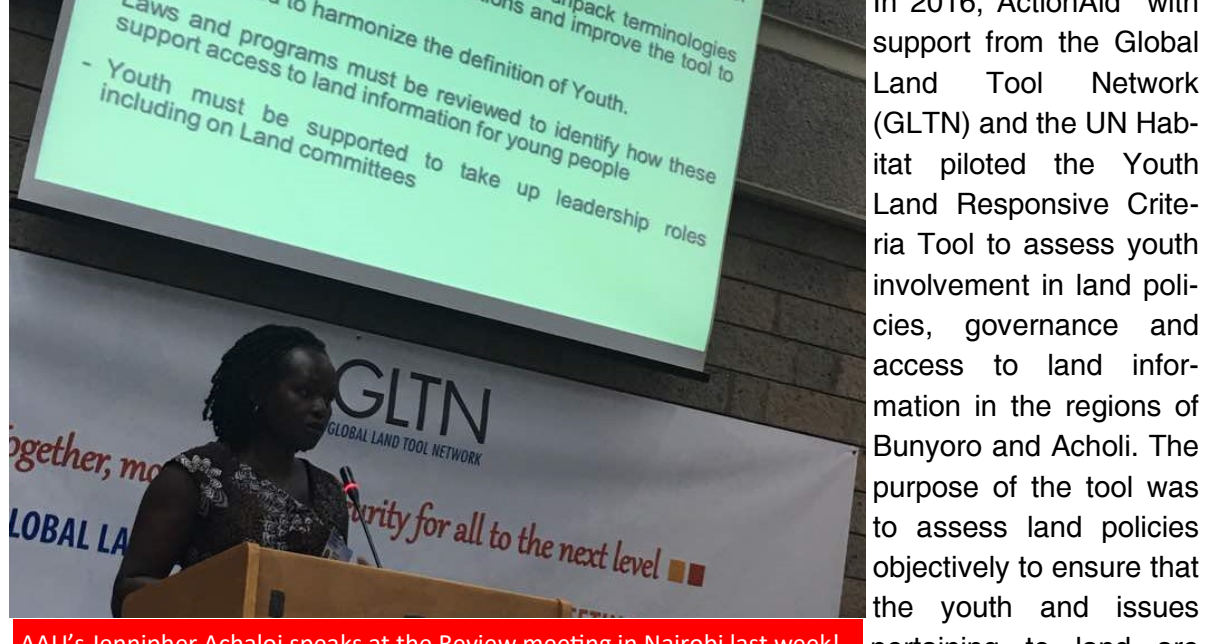
"This project seeks to enhance the interaction between citizens and the government for more responsive, transparent, and accountable leadership that prioritizes the development interests of citizens", he said.

The project will be pursued through a broad range of actions to address the demand and supply side of accountability including: promoting access to information, monitoring delivery of public services particularly health, education, and agriculture, facilitating citizen actions against corruption, advocating for better resourcing of local governments for their improved responsiveness. The project shall also foster human rights and ensure accountability of the state and corporate entities in the extractives industry.

The project is aligned to the DGF II vision that seeks to empower citizens to engage in democratic governance and promotion of citizens' rights.

ActionAid Uganda has been receiving funding from the DGF for the last six years. Christine Aboke, AAU's Country Director commended the staff who worked day and night to ensure that we have this win.

ActionAid in Nairobi for GLTN Review



AAU's Jennifer Achaloi speaks at the Review meeting in Nairobi last week!

In 2016, ActionAid with support from the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and the UN Habitat piloted the Youth Land Responsive Criteria Tool to assess youth involvement in land policies, governance and access to land information in the regions of Bunyoro and Acholi. The purpose of the tool was to assess land policies objectively to ensure that the youth and issues pertaining to land are addressed in order to achieve tenure security for all. These issues include defining youth in the land sector, land literacy, participation in land governance and access to land as related to youth needs.

Last week, AAU's Program Development Manager, Jenipher Achaloi joined the Global Land Tool Network and UN Habitat at their 7th Learning and Exchange partners meeting in Nairobi Kenya. The meeting shared achievements of the project in the last couple of years and provided opportunity for countries to learn from the several models that have been used to ensure that security of land tenure is achieved. The meeting also consolidated experiences & lessons learned.

ActionAid Uganda applauded the partnership and GLTN tools that have been used in different parts of the country. AAU was able to conduct a baseline study that will soon be disseminated to increase the level of access to information on land rights by the youth among others.

A few gaps were highlighted, including capacity gaps within government sectors to adopt the tools and utilise them, failure by Government structures to adopt the tools and incorporate them into national laws to give them a legal force e.g the Social Tenure Domain Model tool, weak institutional coordination mechanisms, and the negative attitude of different stakeholders towards women and youth to own land.

In the next phase, AAU will engage policy makers and disseminate the findings of the pilot study but most importantly conduct advocacy initiatives to ensure that youth participation in land governance and administration is realised at the national and local level. In addition, emphasis will be put on female youth participation in land administration as a way of reducing the long standing negative barriers against women's rights to access, control and own land.

'Women are Workers' Global Campaign takes Shape



Women work as nurses, cooks, farm workers, nannies, cleaners etc and yet the work they do is never recognised. The WAW campaign will be working for its recognition and redistribution.

Last week, ActionAid Uganda sent two representatives to the ActionAid International global campaign strategizing meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. The campaign code named WAW - **women are workers** strategizing meeting was also attended by participants from the **ActionAid are workers** strategizing across the globe. Simon Peter Wolumeli and Nickson Ogwal, Uganda's representatives stated that it was all hard work, developing the WAW campaign.

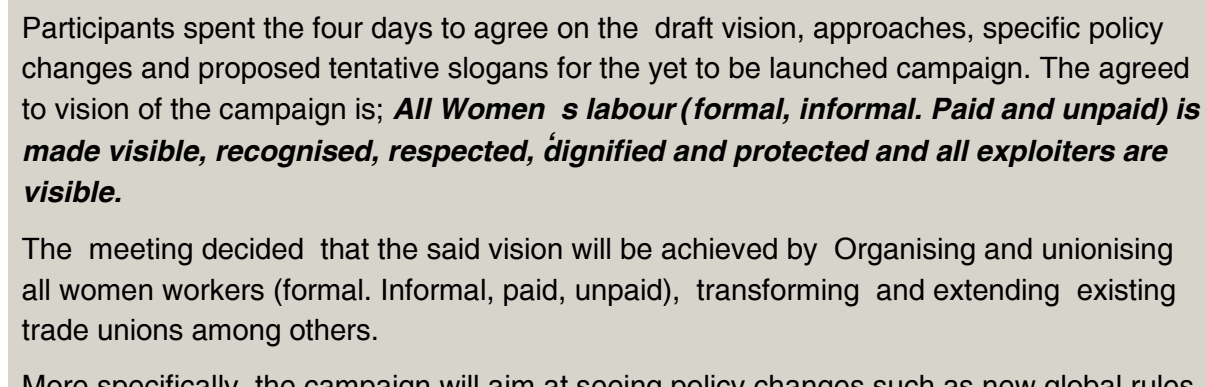
Participants spent the four days to agree on the draft vision, approaches, specific policy changes and proposed tentative slogans for the yet to be launched campaign. The agreed to vision of the campaign is; **All Women's labour (formal, informal, paid, unpaid) is made visible, recognised, respected, dignified and protected and all exploiters are visible.**

The meeting decided that the said vision will be achieved by Organising and unionising all women workers (formal, Informal, paid, unpaid), transforming and extending existing trade unions among others.

More specifically, the campaign will aim at seeing policy changes such as new global rules and regulations that constrain corporate power and enhance tax justice, Governments recognising unpaid care and informal labour, redistribution of care work from the household levels, international petitions and binding treaties.

We look forward to the role out.

Evelyn Attains Justice, gets land back!



The winners smile! Congratulations Evelyn!

The 40 year old Evelyn Chemonges is celebrating court victory and justice

Evelyn had been in court, fighting to recover family land that had been sold off by her young brother. The plot of land in question had been donated to their parents by a Church in Binyiny(Kween) when they were internally displaced by cattle rustlers from Ngenge. After Evelyn lost her parents several years back, she took on the responsibility of taking care of her brothers and sisters.

Three months ago, her young brother chased away two of their sisters from home. According to him, they were women who had no land rights and were supposed to be married. He proceeded to sell off the piece of land, including the family house.

The actions of the brother greatly traumatized Evelyn. Her sisters were also left without a shelter, often moving from one relative to another pleading to be accommodated.

Evelyn visited the GBV shelter in Kween having been let down by the clan elders who sided with their brother.

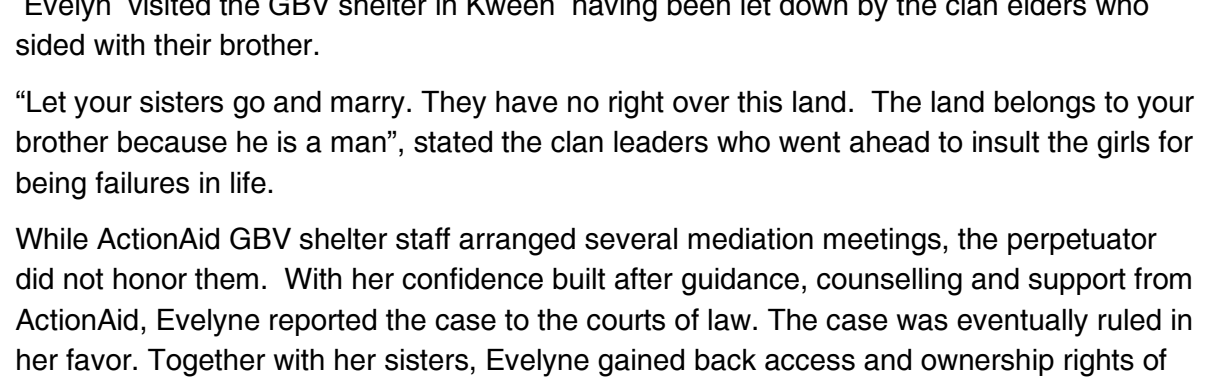
"Let your sisters go and marry. They have no right over this land. The land belongs to your brother because he is a man", stated the clan leaders who went ahead to insult the girls for being failures in life.

While ActionAid GBV shelter staff arranged several mediation meetings, the perpetrator did not honor them. With her confidence built after guidance, counselling and support from ActionAid, Evelyn reported the case to the courts of law. The case was eventually ruled in her favor. Together with her sisters, Evelyn gained back access and ownership rights of the land.

"I thank ActionAid staff for counseling me, this gave me courage to pursue the case in court. We are now winners", she said.

The Kween GBV shelter has registered over GBV 2990 cases to date. Half of these have been successfully settled. This has been achieved through networking with different stakeholders such as Court, Police, District Community Development Office, Child and Family Protection unit among others.

AAU team Operationalize Social movements Skills



The Kapchorwa team has gone ahead to put skills to use by training grassroots communities on how to use social movements in advocacy and campaigns

Unlike our usual notion that "social movements" is a new phenomenon, it was interesting to note that social movements encompasses all struggles, championed by local communities to pull down any act of injustice meted on them by not only duty bearers but also other vice promoting culprits in their localities.

The weekly is happy to report that the Actionaid Kapchorwa cluster team is working to ensure that the recent social movements training that they attended transforms their programming.

According to them, the training which was linked to AAU's 5th Strategy Paper emphasized social movements as a vehicle of positive change by encouraging rights holders to be partners and drivers of change rather than beneficiaries. The training guided the team on how to engage the youth to participate in policy and constitutional arguments.

Kwemboi Silus, one of the participants said that he had learnt a lot about social movements and was ready to share the knowledge with the grassroots communities.

"As a key partner for AAU in Bukwo, I will use the lessons learnt to train activists in the district and mobilise them around issues that are affecting the community in Bukwo, like poor roads, lack of mortuary and school infrastructure," he added.

However, some participants were worried about their safety and fear of arrest by government officials.

To deal with this fear and repression, participants were encouraged to: use evidence based advocacy, have a legal team in place, build a network of alliances, engage the media and above all put more emphasis on community ownership.

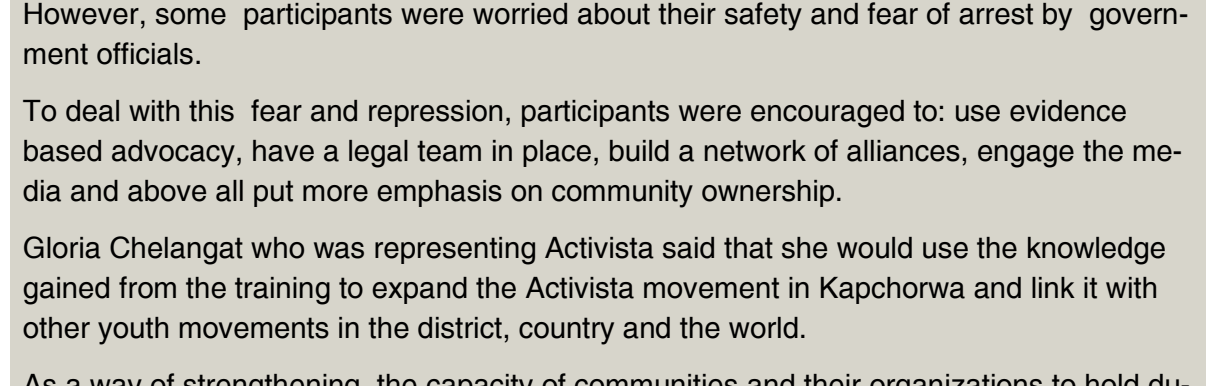
Gloria Chelangat who was representing Activista said that she would use the training to expand the Activista movement in Kapchorwa and link it with other youth movements in the district, country and the world.

As a way of strengthening the capacity of communities and their organizations to hold duty bearers accountable by December 2018, AAU Kapchorwa committed to create a vibrant social movement in all its sub counties.

The cluster also committed itself to do research based advocacy, mobilize and train rights holders to demand for their rights and for quality service delivery.

"As a Cluster, we have already started training rights holders to demand for quality service delivery", stated AAU's Miriam Cherukut.

The Global Education Week



ActionAid, in commemoration of the Global Campaign for Education participated in the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) online Campaign under the theme, "Accountability for SDG4, and active citizen participation". The emphasis this year was on reminding governments and people that democratic governance is a cornerstone of the SDGs, and that credible roadmaps are needed to deliver quality, inclusive, free and public education which is at the heart of SDG4. The online campaign focused on Uganda to strengthen the coverage and access to free quality education system by increasing funding in accordance with the standards set by the Education 2030 Agenda. Activists also urged the Government to invest at least 6% of the Country's GDP to improve the quality of Public Education

Week Ahead

- Happy Labour day to you all.
- The ActionAid Global Secretariat Audit team is in the Country for an audit visit to AAU. The team is meeting with ActionAid Head office and cluster staff, Partners and members of the Governing Board.