

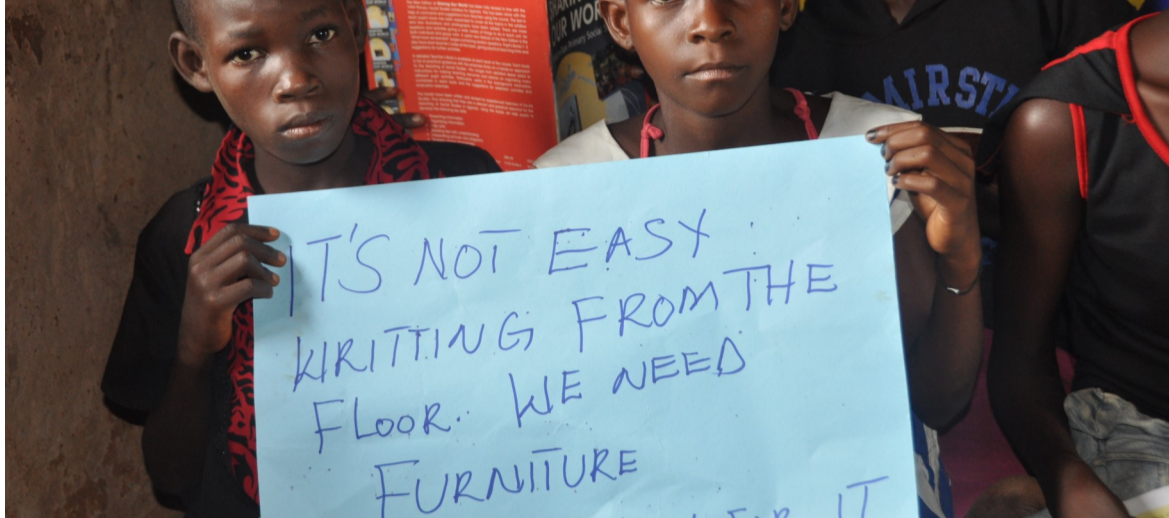
## Weekly

Aug 22— 28



Dear Reader, in our last feature of the Education campaign, we bring to you Kinju primary school in Nebbi. The sanitary facilities are in a bad state. The girls are the most affected by the situation. Share this message with our Ministers of Education and Sports. These pupils deserve better.

### Kinju latrines cave in; pupils at risk!



Left-above: A pupil of Kinju Primary School in Nebbi demands for sanitary facilities . She misses school whenever she is in her periods. Right-above are the girls pointing at one of the latrines that has caved in. Unfortunately, the school also lacks furniture. The pupils below express the hardship in writing from the floor.

Whereas the school has seven latrine stances (four for girls and three for boys), all are filthy, almost full and dented, making them unusable by the 991 pupils of the school. According to Wilfred Muswa, the school's head teacher, the latrines are sometimes overcrowded and unable to cope with the number of learners that need to use them.

"Sometimes, you will find 124 pupils struggling for one stance and yet government's standard number is 40 pupils or students per one stance," Muswa tells ActionAid

When we visited, we found that none of the latrines had toilet paper and hand washing facilities. The sight of maggots on the latrine floors is unbelievable. In fact, there were large dents at the rear in both the boys' and girls' latrine blocks, a sign that the latrines will soon cave in. To add to the crisis, a permanent pungent smell is hovering over the latrines, which is not helped by the attitude of some residents, who prefer to defecate in the open, sometimes in the school compound in the morning or late in the evening. Muswa says they have written thrice to the local government education department, asking for modern toilet facilities but no answer has been remitted.

"On two occasions, we have been warned by the district health inspector that these latrines will be closed down if we do not empty them, he further explains with fear visible in his eyes. "But we do not have the resources to do so. In fact we are taking the risk and using them because we do not have a better alternative."

Kevin Aweko, the school's headgirl, knows of many health hazards of latrine infections that could arise out of using such unhygienic places.

"Sometimes when I'm menstruating, I have to go back home to clean myself because the toilets here are filthy and I fear they could fall in any time," Aweko laments. "I always need water to clean myself whenever I use the latrine because of my heavy flow but that is very rare in the school."

Marachtho Amoya, the school's senior woman teacher, decries the lack of shutters on the girl's bathroom. She says this discourages girls from cleaning up during their menstrual periods. In fact, the bathroom has been turned into a urinal which further exposes pupils to infections. She cites one P7 girl, who dropped out of school because of intense itching in her private parts.

"I suspected she had candida and when she went back home for treatment, she did not return," she recalls.

As if acting on the impulse of the proverb, 'necessity is the mother of invention,' the school administration has come up with local solutions to address the challenge of latrine hygiene. One of the teachers who preferred anonymity says cleaning the toilets is a form of punishment they give to undisciplined pupils at the school. This is one of the ways the school tries to keep the latrines hygienic. Furthermore, Muswa says they are trying to dig a new pit although work has now stalled because of inadequate financing.

"We are now trying to lobby funds from government and parents to see to it that we complete this pit. The Pacego small town water project has also assured us of constructing for the school another pit latrine and we are waiting on them," he says.

Support ActionAid Uganda's Education campaign. Circulate this message widely. These pupils deserve better from the power holders

### Pallisa leaders rise against GBV



A police Officer warns perpetrators at the meeting.



The Secretary of the GBV coalition called for action against the GBV perpetrators.



Debora Balalemwa, the Chairperson of the GBV coalition speaking at the meeting.

The Pallisa Women Protection Centre (WPC) brought together the district stakeholders to strategize and find a lasting solution to the increasing cases of Gender Based Violence in the district. The meeting was well attended by all district technical and political leaders.

"Uganda is dominated by rural women farmers, producing more than half of the food we consume. Unfortunately, it's the same women that suffer from GBV, affecting their productivity", stated the Chief Administration Officer of Pallisa Mr Odele Francis. He added that there is need for all local government units to set up a mechanism to address GBV for the development of the district.

In addition to the above, the District Chief Magistrate stated that Gender Based Violence is another form of torture and perpetrators must be imprisoned. Women were advised to file lawsuits against the perpetrators but most importantly preserve evidence of abuse and injustice inflicted on them. He committed to have a meeting with fellow magistrates in the district to ensure that GBV cases are heard and resolved in record time.

The district Police Commander warned all GBV perpetrators to reform before they are arrested and taken to the courts of law.

"We are now going to treat GBV perpetrators the way we treat terrorists. The country is losing lives as a result. If you are planning to inflict abuse on women and children, think again", he cautioned.

The police officer also warned the suspects against bribing the law enforcement officers.

"Don't go abusing women thinking you will bribe your way out of the offence. We shall arrest both the giver and the receiver of the bribes", he warned.

The religious leaders promised to spend the last five minutes of the church and mosque prayers to preach peace in the homes and respect for one another regardless of the gender.

Stella Atunyo, the Project Officer in charge of Pallisa WPC called upon the leaders to walk the talk.

"The success of this meeting will only be registered if we record a reduction in the number of GBV cases reported, especially during the harvest season which is usually characterized with high numbers of GBV cases", she said.

### Curriculum to protect CSO space validated!



Some of the participants at the Arusha proposal writing and curriculum validation meeting of the shrinking Political space program

Last week, the Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fredrick Kawooya and the Civic Space Advisor, David Manyonga were in Arusha at the MSTCDC for the shrinking Political Space curriculum validation.

Prior to the curriculum validation, Fred and David attended a proposal writing session to the European Commission. The proposal is tuned towards mobilizing civil society support for the implementation of African Governance Architecture. The proposal writing session was led by ActionAid Denmark and attended by Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Mozambique and Nigeria.

The African Governance Architecture contains signed agreements of African statements on their commitment to promote good Governance and Accountability practices in the region. Article 8 of the document emphasizes the commitment of the states to provide and protect Civil society space. Its these commitments that the proposal, once successful seeks to implement.

During the Curriculum validation, all participants agreed to the need to train civil society activists in the protection and expansion of the increasingly shrinking political space.

According to Fred Kawooya, the curriculum among others provides for the training in use of innovative ways to create alternative space for the civil society activities, strengthening the security of the activists, building alliances with other activists to be able to campaign on issues even in territories with a lot of restrictions among others.

The curriculum will be discussed with a number of other actors across the world for their input before rolling out a Trainer of Trainees (TORS) in Africa and Asia before end of year.

ActionAid Uganda is the international coordinator and convenor of the project.

Fred and David also took off time to attend the Africa we want; Africans rising to build new Africa conference also in Arusha. [Read the full story Here](#)

### WEEK AHEAD:

- ActionAid Nebbi will this week conduct a number of public activities to demand for action on the status of schools in the district. This publication has been highlighting the issue in the last three editions. We shall capture the moments for you.
- The Country Director, Arthur is still in South Africa taking part in the ActionAid International Strategy development. He will travel back tomorrow.