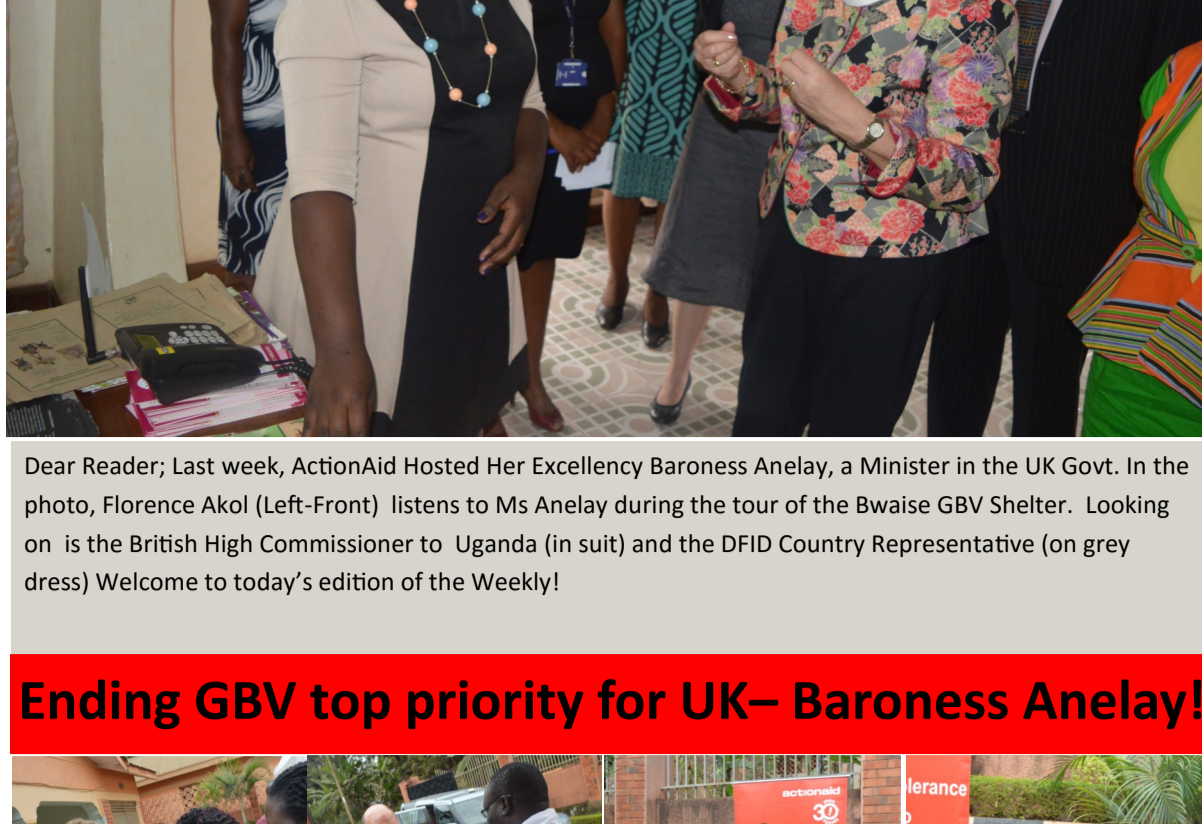


Weekly

Feb 13—19



Dear Reader; Last week, ActionAid Hosted Her Excellency Baroness Anelay, a Minister in the UK Govt. In the photo, Florence Akol (Left-Front) listens to Ms Anelay during the tour of the Bwaise GBV Shelter. Looking on is the British High Commissioner to Uganda (in suit) and the DFID Country Representative (on grey dress) Welcome to today's edition of the Weekly!

Ending GBV top priority for UK– Baroness Anelay!



Upon arrival, the guests were received by ActionAid staff led by the Country Director, Arthur

The guests sat in a meeting with partners, community leaders and ActionAid staff

The guests toured the shelter under the guidance of the shelter staff

The guests toured the exhibition and bought items to support the women

Last week, ActionAid hosted the British Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI), Her Excellency, Baroness Anelay. Ms. Anelay visited Bwaise Gender Based Violence Shelter to see first-hand the support provided by the UK on preventing sexual violence, strengthening human rights and delivering humanitarian aid.

Accompanied by the British High Commissioner in Uganda and the DFID Country Representative, Ms Anelay was received by the Country Director of ActionAid, Mr Arthur Larok, the Programs Director, Ms Harriet Gimbo, Community leaders, representatives from partner organisations and GBV survivors.

Speaking during the visit, Ms Anelay said that she was delighted to have the opportunity to visit the shelter and see first-hand the work of the UK in tackling sexual violence and support to survivors of these atrocious crimes.

"Am particularly excited about the involvement of community leaders in the work to end Gender Based violence. That is impressive", she remarked.

Ms Anelay also listened to a testimony from one of the GBV survivors, Asia Kigongo. Asia told a tale of her experience with GBV and how she was supported to attain total healing.

"I thank ActionAid and the people from UK for restoring my dignity. After my healing, the Shelter extended to me capital to start up a business. I have healed, I have a peace of mind and am economically empowered", she said as Ms Anelay smiled and clapped at her milestone.

Mr Arthur Larok, AAU's Country Director stated that Asia is one of the thousands of Women and children that the 10 GBV shelters have supported to attain healing, empowerment and freedom from the GBV.

"We are grateful to the UK for not only being a friend but a close partner in our struggle against GBV. We shall continue to work together on shared challenges and opportunities", he said.

Ms Anelay and other guests were then taken on a tour of the shelter. As she was taken through the different rooms and processes that the GBV clients are taken through, she remarked that her visit came at an important time when eliminating GBV tops the agenda of the UK Government.

"Preventing sexual violence, ending the culture of impunity and ending survivor stigma remain top priorities for the UK. I am proud of this shelter and the nine others that I have not been able to visit", she said.

And as her visit quickly came to an end, Ms Anelay took off time to admire the beautiful crafts that are made by survivors of GBV. She also bought a few items to support the women.

And as she bid farewell to her hosts, the writing was on the wall that Ms Anelay was amazed at the impact of the work on ground.

"Thank you for hosting me and keep up the great work", she said.

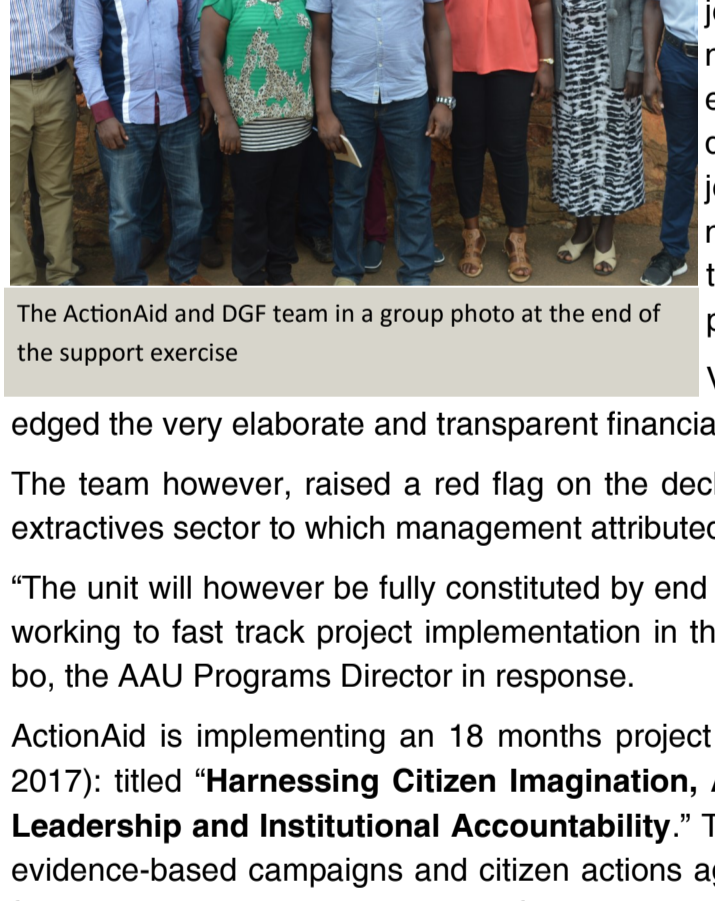
Irish Supporters impressed with child sponsorship program



Padraig Walsh meets Felix for the first time after supporting him for seven years.



Hennie Walsh interacts with Felix and his family. They talked about the different ways of life and also exchanged gifts!



The Walshs also attended a reflect Action Circle meeting where they heard several testimonies on how their supported had changed lives in the community.

Last week, the ActionAid partnerships directorate hosted one of its supporters. Padraig and Hennie Walsh (from Ireland) braved the long and tedious journey to Kula- Amuka in Nwoya District to pay a visit to 13 year old Felix Opiyo. The Irish family has been supporting Felix for the last seven years.

Accompanied by ActionAid staff, the Walshs were greeted with cheers, ululations and dances to the Acholi Bola dance on arrival at Felix's home. They hugged, laughed and played with their hosts as they got to know more about their way of life and aspirations. They also exchanged gifts.

The guests were glad to learn that their support was not only benefiting Felix but the entire community.

"As a result of your support to Felix, we are able to read and write", stated one of the women, a member of a reflect Action group that benefits from the funding and the adult literacy program.

The community also stated that their household income had greatly increased as a result of the improved plant inputs that they were given with the support from the Walshs.

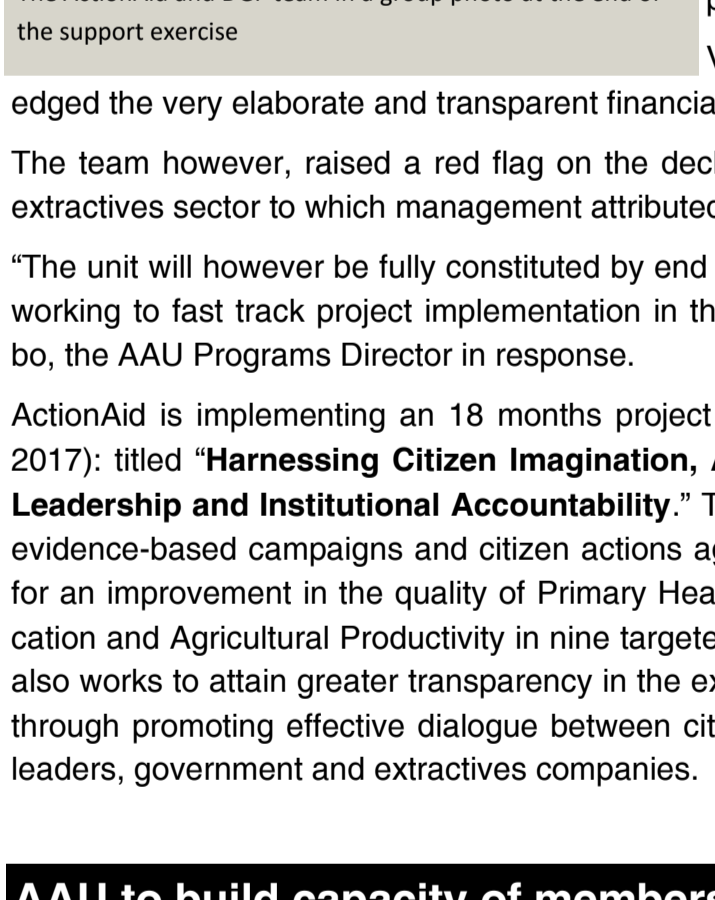
During the visit, the guests were introduced to the Gulu Gender Based Violence shelter and its operations. They were shocked by the big numbers of cases handled at the shelter. Particularly, the over 200 cases of defilement caused a shiver in their bodies. They promised to speak about the work being done when they return home as a way of raising funds.

"I am amazed at the impact of our modest funding to the people in this area. We commend AAU for the strong community networks that are delivering programs to people. My husband and I will continue with our support but we shall also speak to others about funding this noble work", stated Hennie.

DGF Conducts support visit to ActionAid!



AAU's David Sewanyana consults with Lucy (Centre) and Victoria (left) during the DGF support visit last week.



The ActionAid and DGF team in a group photo at the end of the support exercise

"ActionAid is one of our biggest and most reliable partners. Please keep up the good and professional work."

These were the words of Ms Lucy Latim Anena, during an exit meeting after a three day support visit to ActionAid by the DGF officials. The team comprising of Ms Lucy Latim Anena, the Program Manager, Voice and Accountability, Ms Rebecca Kukundakwe, the Youth Component Manager and MS Victoria Lanyero, the Financial Management Advisor visited ActionAid to among others review compliance to the contractual terms and conditions and guide the organization for the upcoming annual audit.

Throughout the exercise, the officials expressed their satisfaction with the progress made on project implementation and financial management. They acknowledged the improvement in the quality and timeliness of the project reports, the effective communication between ActionAid and the overall compliance to the partnership agreement.

Victoria, on her part acknowledged the very elaborate and transparent financial system of AAU.

The team however, raised a red flag on the declining performance of the oil and extractives sector to which management attributed to staff movements in the unit.

"The unit will however be fully constituted by end of March 2017. However, we are working to fast track project implementation in the meantime" stated Harriet Gimbo, the AAU Programs Director in response.

ActionAid is implementing an 18 months project extension (July 2016-December 2017): titled **"Harnessing Citizen Imagination, Agency and Power for Greater Leadership and Institutional Accountability."** The project is working to enhance evidence-based campaigns and citizen actions against corruption in public offices for an improvement in the quality of Primary Health Care, Universal Primary Education and Agricultural Productivity in nine targeted districts of Northern Uganda. It also works to attain greater transparency in the exploitation of extractive resources through promoting effective dialogue between citizens, their cultural and religious leaders, government and extractives companies.

AAU to build capacity of members of school committees



Members of School Management committees respond to issues raised during the dialogue. It was discovered that they were not knowledgeable on their roles and responsibilities.

In the last edition, the Weekly Newsletter reported that the Katakwi district Community Monitors and citizen journalists will keep their ears to the ground, that is what they are exactly doing.

With support from the ActionAid Katakwi Cluster, they organised the first education community dialogue. The meeting mainly attracted parents and members of the Parents & Teachers Associations(PTA) and members of the school Management committees(SMC) of over seven Primary schools in Katakwi.

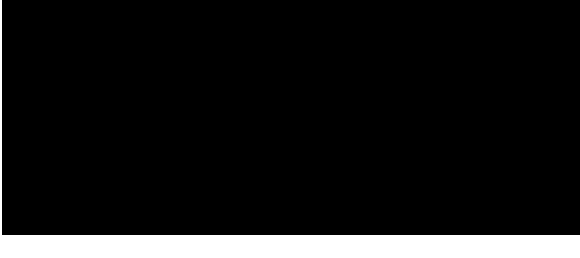
According to Benjamin Tukei, the Katakwi Cluster Program Officer, it was observed that members of the PTAs and SMCs were not knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities in the transparent and effective running of the schools.

"During the meeting, it came out quite clearly that members of these committees are playing an observer role instead of being proactive. Many of them thought that issues of accountability of the Universal Primary Education Funds is the role of the Head Teachers", he noted.

As a result, the cluster is going to build the capacity of the members of the committees to carry out their roles and responsibilities.

The community Monitors believe that if the committees are fully equipped with knowledge on their roles, the education service delivery in the district is going to improve.

Have you Read the Northern Uganda Watch?



This edition of the quarterly Northern Uganda Watch Newsletter is themed: **"Reject and Report Corruption: Your Responsibility for Improved Service Delivery"**. Through this bulletin, we bring to you voices of the people of Northern and North Eastern Uganda on corruption and its impact on service delivery in post-conflict northern Uganda.

In the following pages, you will hear and read about corruption and how it is affecting service delivery. You will also connect with voices and stories of triumph and success as well as failure and despair. This is done, not just to expose the bad but most importantly inspire the belief that all can be better. [Click here to read the publication.](#)

Week Ahead

⇒ This week, ActionAid will convene a Stakeholders' meeting on Land Rights Governance at Royal Sities in Bugolobi.

⇒ The CSPV development process is still ongoing. Look for draft one for your review.

⇒ ActionAid will be producing a documentary on the campaign against MP Tax exemptions. Look out for the final product later next month.