

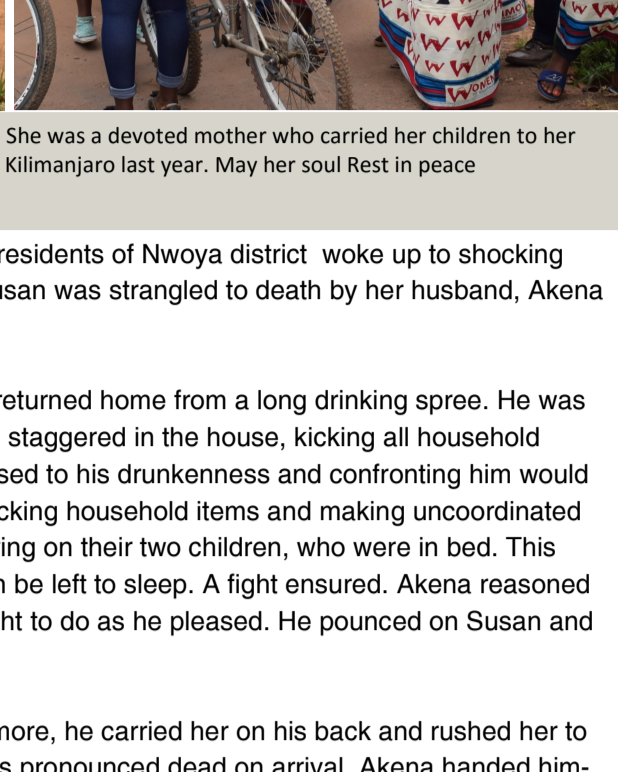
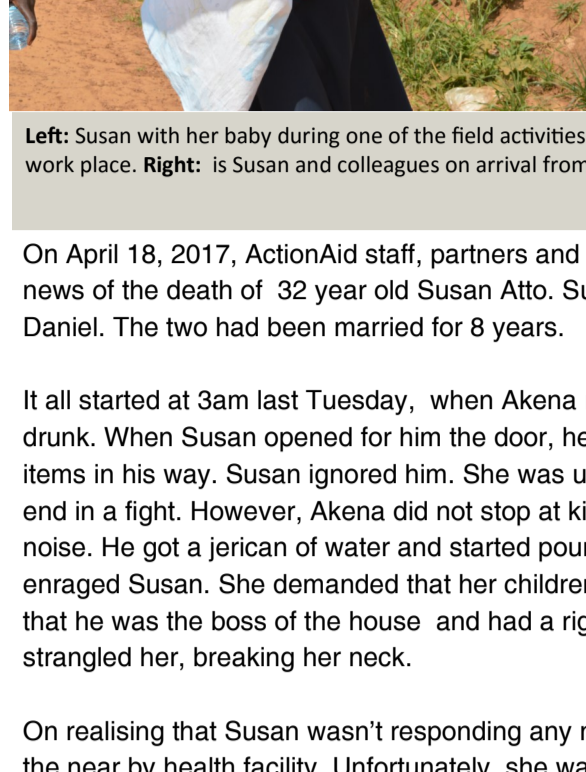


Weekly

April 17 - 23

Over 75% of women and girls in Uganda have suffered different forms of Gender Based Violence. National records reveal that violence maters against girls and women is by individuals most close and expected to instead offer them protection. Susan was killed by her husband. Rest in peace Susan!

GBV cuts Susan's life short!



Left: Susan with her baby during one of the field activities. She was a devoted mother who carried her children to her work place. Right: is Susan and colleagues on arrival from Kilimanjaro last year. May her soul Rest in peace

On April 18, 2017, ActionAid staff, partners and residents of Nwoya district woke up to shocking news of the death of 32 year old Susan Atto. Susan was strangled to death by her husband, Akena Daniel. The two had been married for 8 years.

It all started at 3am last Tuesday, when Akena returned home from a long drinking spree. He was drunk. When Susan was in the door, he staggered in the house, kicking all household items in his way. Susan ignored him. She was used to his drunkenness and confronting him would end in a fight. However, Akena did not stop at kicking household items and making uncoordinated noise. He got a jerrican of water and started pouring on their two children, who were in bed. This enraged Susan. She demanded that her children be left to sleep. A fight ensued. Akena reasoned that he was the boss of the house and had a right to do as he pleased. He pounced on Susan and strangled her, breaking her neck.

On realising that Susan wasn't responding any more, he carried her on his back and rushed her to the near by health facility. Unfortunately, she was pronounced dead on arrival. Akena handed himself to the Police and informed the officers that he had accidentally killed his wife. News spread about the incident. Relatives, friends and work colleagues of the deceased were angered at the unfortunate incident. In fact, they wanted Akena Lynched.

Her Life and Work

Susan celebrated her 32nd birthday on the 15th of this month. Little did she know that it would be the last birthday to be commemorated in the earthly life. The mother of two has been working as a Program Officer at Forum for Community Transformation, an ActionAid supported partner Organisation in Nwoya.

Among other things, Susan has been at the centre of campaigning for the dignity and empowerment of the women in the region. She has led advocacy drives demanding for an end to Gender Based violence and the upholding of Women Land rights in a predominantly patriarchal society. According to Josephine Laker, the Gender Based Violence shelter Program Officer in Amuru, Susan has referred several women who have experienced violence to the shelter for counselling, mediation, legal support and even temporarily shelter.

"It is unfortunate that Susan's life has been cut short by the vice she fought with a lot of passion and determination", she said.

David Moses Okello, the ActionAid Gulu Cluster Coordinator added that she will remember Susan for successfully leading a campaign for the realisation of Women Land rights in the region.

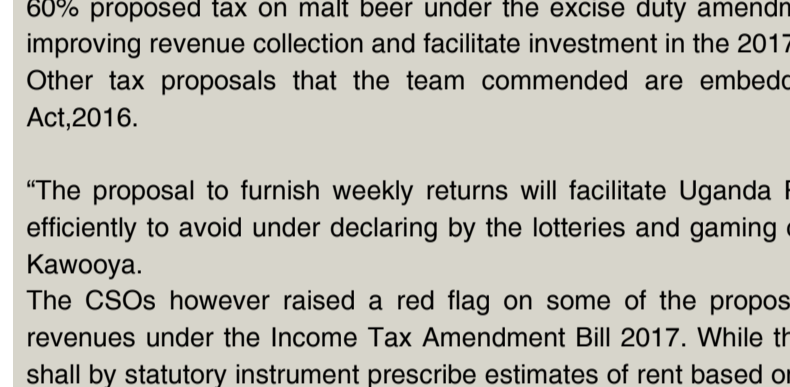
"She mobilised hundreds of women and led them into climbing the Patiko Hills in a symbolic move that despite the hurdles along the way, they would work to attain access, control and ownership of land", he said.

ActionAid management, in a condolence message to Susan's family celebrated Susan's immense sacrifice in serving the oppressed and those living in poverty.

"ActionAid Uganda, a member of the national coalition against Gender Based Violence, re-commits itself to working with all stakeholders to eradicate violence against girls and women. We will seek for support and build alliances with individuals, citizen groups and state and non-state institutions to ensure girls and women fully enjoy social justice. We will use all the resources at our disposal to ensure perpetrators of Gender Based Violence face the full brunt of the law", read part of the condolence message.

May Susan's soul rest in peace

CSOs React to Tax Return proposals



Last Friday, ActionAid together with CSOs under the Tax Justice Network addressed the media to present their observations and recommendations in respect to the tax measures that were presented to the Parliament of Uganda.

Earlier in the week, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon Matia Kasajja presented the tax revenue measures for FY 2017/18 contained in the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill 2017, Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill 2017, The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2017 and the

Tax Procedures codes Bill, 2017.

The CSO leaders noted that for the first time, the bills were submitted along with certificates of financial implication, a practice that they commended. Jane Nalunga and colleagues welcomed the 60% proposed tax on malt beer under the excise duty amendment bill. The proposal is aimed at improving revenue collection and facilitate investment in the 2017/2018 financial year and beyond. Other tax proposals that the team commended are embedded in the Lotteries and Gaming Act, 2016.

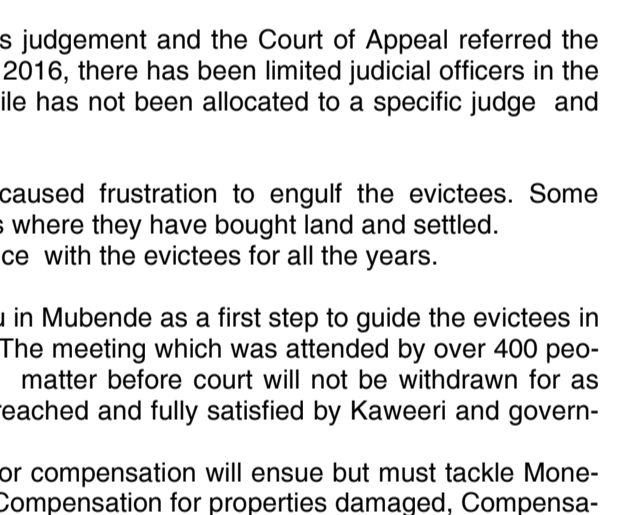
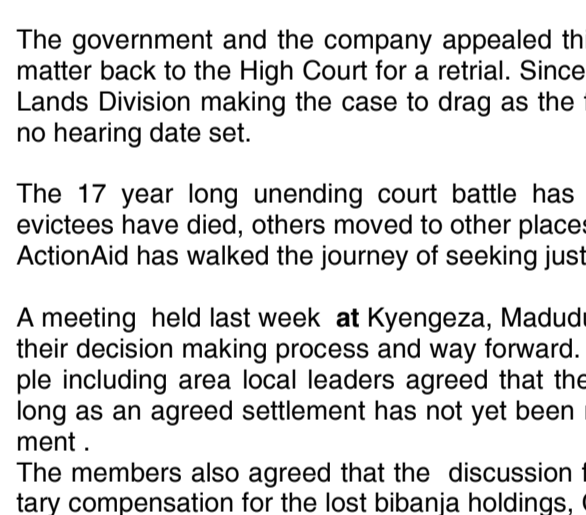
"The proposal to furnish weekly returns will facilitate Uganda Revenue Authority to collect taxes efficiently to avoid under declaring by the lotteries and gaming companies", stated AAU's Fredrick Kawooya.

The CSOs however raised a red flag on some of the proposals. Key among these is the Tax revenues under the Income Tax Amendment Bill 2017. While there is a proposal that the Minister shall by statutory instrument prescribe estimates of rent based on the rating of the rental property in a specific location, the CSOs are not in agreement.

"We observe that Sub section (5), will encourage landlords to formalize their businesses of rental properties hence enlarging the tax base of Uganda. The instrument should propose a framework through which URA will collaborate with other institutions both government and non-government to identify and encourage land lords to formalize their businesses of rental properties", they advised.

"As Civil Society Organisations, we call upon Government and other stakeholders to put into consideration the above observations and recommendations. Together for an improved tax regime, gender responsive and equitable national development because every shilling counts", read the statement. [Click here for the full press statement.](#)

17 years of Justice Delayed-The Madudu community!



Jenipher, a Lawyer working with ActionAid listens to one of the evictees. Right are the hundreds of evictees that turned up for the meeting

Justice delayed is justice denied. This common legal maxim means that if legal redress is not expeditiously given to a person who has suffered an injustice, to give that redress much later is the same as not giving redress at all. This has come true for the over 2000 people of Madudu, Mubende District who have waited for justice for over 17 years.

In August 2001, the community were forcefully evicted from their land which was given to the German coffee company, Neumann Kaffee Gruppe (NKG) under its local subsidiary-Kaweeri Coffee Plantation. The evictees took legal action against the company but 17 years later, they have not seen justice accorded to them. The High Court Land Division of Kampala in a judgement passed on the 28th of March 2013, awarded approximately eleven million euros (UGX 37bn) as compensation to be paid to the 2,041 evictees. This excitement was short lived.

The government and the company appealed this judgement and the Court of Appeal referred the matter back to the High Court for a retrial. Since 2016, there has been limited judicial officers in the Lands Division making the case to drag as the file has not been allocated to a specific judge and no hearing date set.

The 17 year long unending court battle has caused frustration to engulf the evictees. Some evictees have died, others moved to other places where they have bought land and settled. ActionAid has walked the journey of seeking justice with the evictees for all the years.

A meeting held last week at Kyengeza, Madudu in Mubende as a first step to guide the evictees in their decision making process and way forward. The meeting which was attended by over 400 people including area local leaders agreed that the matter before court will not be withdrawn for as long as an agreed settlement has not yet been reached and fully satisfied by Kaweeri and government.

The members also agreed that the discussion for compensation will ensue but must tackle Monetary compensation for the lost bibanza holdings, Compensation for properties damaged, Compensation for the human rights violations suffered among others.

The team that was present to guide the discussions were lawyers from ActionAid, Public Interest Law Clinic of Makerere University (PILAC), Network of Public Interest Litigation Lawyers (NETPIL) and representative from Balikuddembe and Co. Advocates that has represented the evictees in court for the last 17 years. The evictees concluded the meeting in agreement to continue to work as a team under their current leadership, work with the team of lawyers who will take the discussion to the next level by engaging the company and the Attorney General.

"There is a lot of injustice that was committed against the people but now we need to work on how to ameliorate it" stated Counsel Lule Godfrey of S-Lule & Co. Advocates. [Click here to read the entire story about this eviction.](#)

Girl child completion/pass rates low in Nebbi



Last week, the Nebbi District Education Coalition held its quarterly review meeting. This time round, things were done differently.

"Instead of sitting in a hotel or conference centre to speak and some times argue without facts, we set out to visit three schools on a fact finding mission on the education standards as stipulated in the UPE Policy", stated Caroline Abilat, the Nebbi Cluster Program officer.

Carol explained that the coalition members were divided into three teams and each team visited Kinju, Alwala and Angir primary schools. The teams collected data on Pupil- desk ratio, Pupil-teacher ratios, infrastructure development within the school, school enrollment and completion rates, the general learning environment among others.

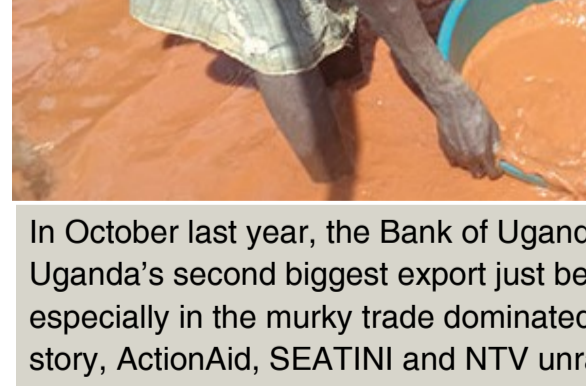
It was established that girl child completion of primary seven was very low with an average of only 12 girls sitting for the National primary leaving exams in the last three years. The coalition members also learnt that no girl pupil has passed in the 1st or second division in the said exams in the same period.

After the data collection exercise, the coalition held a meeting with the municipal technical and political staff. The Municipal Education Officer stated that funds had been set aside to construct two classroom blocks at Angir Primary school. The Weekly broke the story about the school where two schools share premises while pupils use tree shades for classrooms and stones as desks. [Click here for the full story.](#)

At the end of the meeting, there was renewed commitment from all stake holders to support efforts to get more children especially girls to finish school.

As a build up to the Global Education Action week, it is hoped that the commitments and issues raised in the meeting will later be presented to the Minister of Education and leaders from west Nile to drum up support towards an improvement in education outcomes in the region.

The coalition found that majority of the pupils sit on the floor

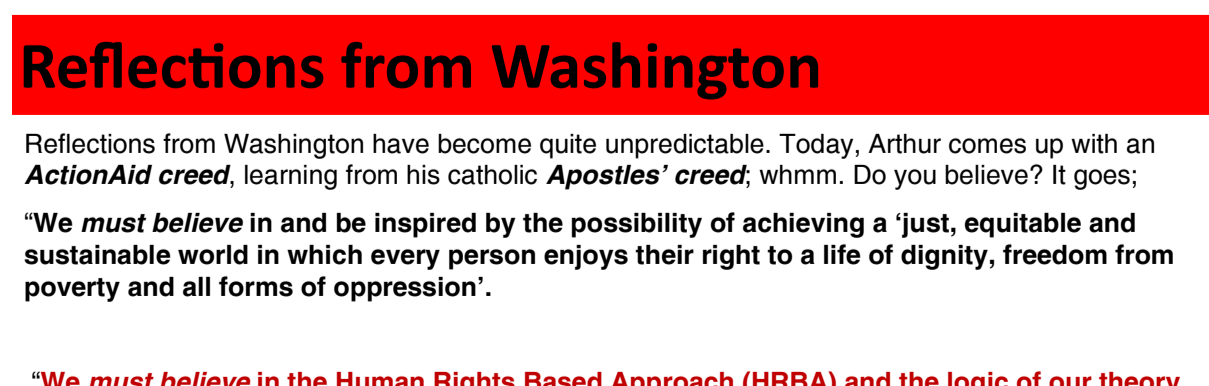


Pupils writing from the floor

RETENTION AND POPULATION		FROM 2010 →																					
P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	TOTAL																	
M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T												
2	60	59	119	69	516	125	71	74	145	64	31	91	30	15	45	-	-	3923	1917				
3	58	71	129	59	74	155	59	74	133	48	44	19	81	29	24	25	25	5	74	140	131		
4	47	51	98	101	85	176	159	69	59	125	144	59	11	32	48	80	35	19	514	74	2	425	141
5	46	48	94	62	52	105	69	60	128	54	59	89	33	24	61	25	19	14	140	143	102	1	1
6	55	47	102	54	61	115	53	64	119	59	83	105	45	33	77	24	16	24	134	154	126	1	1

In the schools visited, girl child completion stands at an average of 12.

Inside the Murky world of Gold Trade in Uganda-a must watch



In October last year, the Bank of Uganda reported that Gold had officially become Uganda's second biggest export just below coffee. The news raised eyebrows especially in the murky trade dominated by shadowy firms. In this Investigative story, ActionAid, SEATINI and NTV unravel artisanal gold. [Click here for this must watch video.](#)

AAU Board approves 5th strategic Paper

The 47th Ordinary meeting was the first board meeting of the year and was well attended.

The meeting was a critical because of the several documents that it had to approve including the 5th Country Strategic Paper, the 2016 Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the year ended 31 December 2016, in which KPMG, the organisational external auditor issued an unqualified opinion.

In the new approved strategy dubbed 'Strengthening Struggles for Social Justice', the organisation will make a fundamental shift from a purely charitable organisation to one involved in organising citizens to demand for what is rightfully theirs and tackling response to climate change. Women's rights and access to justice also remain programmes of priority in the new strategy. The board will present the final draft of the Strategy to the General Assembly for approval in May, 2017.

This meeting was also the last for four members who are retiring following the end of their tenure. These are; Dr Consolata Kabonesa (Board Chairperson), Ms. Judy Kamanyi (Chairperson, Board Governance & Organisational Development Committee), Ms. Caroline Ekobu (Chairperson, Programme Committee) and Ms. Evelyn Mugenyi (Chairperson, Finance & Audit Committee). These have served on the board for the last eight years. ActionAid will miss their dedication and commitment. They have set challenging standards for management and the organisation as a whole.

The board is now engaged preparing for the 11th Annual General Meeting and transition planning to ensure smooth succession and handover to new members.

Reflections from Washington

Reflections from Washington have become quite unpredictable. Today, Arthur comes up with an **ActionAid creed**, learning from his catholic **Apostles' creed**; whmm. Do you believe? It goes;

"We must believe in and be inspired by the possibility of achieving a 'just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression'."

"We must believe in the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and the logic of our theory of change that stresses the need to collectively challenge and shift power to people living in poverty - it is possible! We must believe in the agency of women and young people."

"We must believe in our values, including 'courage of conviction' which demands of us to be bold, take risks and not fear failure in the pursuit of social justice."

"And most of all, we must believe in the individual and collective power and potential of people, including those living in poverty to be the primary agents of their own change"..... [all this . in today's blog here!](#)

Week Ahead

This week, ActionAid will be launching the European Union co. funded Youth Empowerment Project in Kotido. Look out for this in our next weekly edition.