



AAU's Harriet Gimbo (2nd Right) was a panellist at the CSO pre-budget dialogue last Thursday. Harriet suggested alternative sources of funding to Government for the critical sectors of health and education. Welcome to this weekly edition.

CSO pre-Budget Dialogue!



Left- Harriet makes her submission at the Dialogue. Right is CSBAG's Julius Mukunda addressing participants at the dialogue.

ActionAid together with members of the civil society movement have expressed doubt over the achievement of the middle-income status by the year 2020. According to the civil society organizations (CSOs) under their body, the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, (CSBAG), the country seems unlikely to achieve the middle-income status due to limited funding to key sectors such as agriculture, health and education.

Speaking during the 2018 pre-budget dialogue last Thursday, the CSOs called upon the government to increase funding towards development and production for Uganda to achieve the middle-income status.

"The budget doesn't reflect the country's aspirations for the middle-income status by the year 2020. There is low commitment of funding by the government to areas such as agriculture and education. We cannot achieve the middle-income status with this kind of funding," Harriet Gimbo, ActionAid's Director of Programs stated.

According to the National Budget Framework paper for FY 2018/19, Budgets for key sectors like health and education have had their funding cut by the government. Sectors like agriculture have also had their budget percentages reduced, which ActionAid and others said affects service delivery and the desire to achieve the middle-income status.

The CSOs advised that the government considers investing more money in productive areas for financial returns, other than spend it on wasteful expenditure such as consultancy and travel abroad by government officials.

To achieve the desired middle income the CSOs proposed that the government invests more in revenue mobilization to grow the tax base. They further advised government to limit on tax incentive extended to foreign investors, in order to widen the tax base for improved income generation and service delivery

Funding opportunities

During the same meeting, participants were informed about the Global Partnership for Education funding opportunities that Uganda can exploit to mobilize resources for sectors such as education.

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) will hold a historic replenishment financing conference in Senegal, co-hosted with the government of France. The replenishment process aims to secure US\$ 2 billion a year of new additional external resources, from partner countries and donors, by 2020, for their global fund.

Harriet informed the meeting that this '360 degree' GPE Financing Conference will expect all partners to commit a pledge towards implementing [GPE 2020](#) partnership's strategic plan. Donors will be requested to support by replenishing the GPE's global fund, which targets support to financing gaps in developing countries education plans.

Harriet closed by calling for inspirational leadership in advance of the GPE Financing Conference by making time-bound and ambitious pledges so that Uganda benefits from the GPE USD \$ 100 million dollars grant which will boost the country's education budget.

Mubende GBV Incidents Drop, ActionAid applauded



Ms Mugisha interacts with one of the survivors last week



Ms Mugisha interacts with the model men

Last week, Mubende GBV shelter hosted the Maxwell stamp (DFID project managing partners) M&E Officer, Ms. Maude Mugisha. Ms. Mugisha made the visit to monitor the progress of implementation of the SURGE programs. This includes the integrated GBV services offered at the shelter such as counseling, legal services, mediations, resettlement among others along side the prevention interventions such as community sensitization and education.

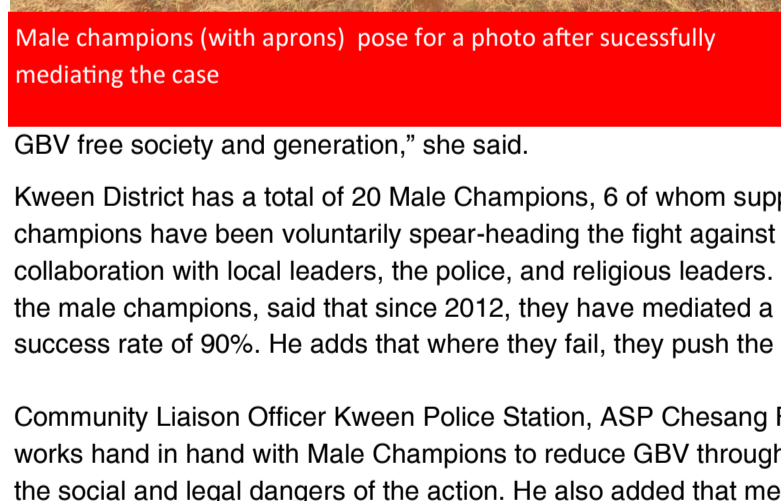
For avoidance of bias, Ms. Mugisha interacted with the model men, GBV survivors and local Government officials in camera. She further collaborated her findings by making field visits where she interacted with several families and communities that have benefited from the SURGE program.

Ms Mugisha ended her visit by thanking the ActionAid team for working towards the reduction of GBV incidents in Mubende as per a recent survey report. She urged the team to document this success so that other communities and implementers of the same programs can learn from them.

The Mubende GBV shelter is one of the ActionAid manned 10 GBV shelters across the country. Since its establishment in 2012, the shelter has handled over 3361 cases.

The Maxwell stamp team conducted the same exercise in Amuru Gender Based Violence Shelter. However, the District leadership reported that the incidence of GBV was still high in the district. They advised the Managing partners (Maxwell Stamp) and the implementing partners (ActionAid) to rollout the GBV prevention campaigns in schools. They also requested for funding to facilitate the Police to quicken up the process of arresting of the perpetrators and evidence collection.

Male champions up against GBV-Kween



Male champions (with aprons) pose for a photo after successfully mediating the case

At the Kween GBV Shelter last week, it was a beehive of activity. Male champions (elderly men in their 50s and 60s) renewed their energy to attain a GBV free society. They went into the community to sensitize families about the consequences of GBV and how they can peacefully settle family grievances.

According to Debora Lwanga, the Shelter Debor officer, the model men mediated, counselled and even referred cases to the shelter for settlement.

"The model men work on a voluntary basis and their impact is now visible. If we would get more men join them, then we would surely be on route to a GBV free society and generation," she said.

Kween District has a total of 20 Male Champions, 6 of whom support the GBV Shelter. The male champions have been voluntarily spear-heading the fight against GBV since 2012. They operate in collaboration with local police, and religious leaders. Ndege William Kamalich, one of the male champions, said that since 2012, they have mediated a total of 2,799 cases of GBV with a success rate of 90%. He adds that where they fail, they push the matters to police.

Community Liaison Officer Kween Police Station, ASP Chesang Fred Mark, said that the police works hand in hand with Male Champions to reduce GBV through sensitization programs to explain the social and legal dangers of the action. He also added that mediations done by the Male Champions have helped reduce GBV and crowding of cases at the mediation station.

Week Ahead

- As we all await the news of the new Country Director of ActionAid Uganda, the Weekly is happy to report that the selection exercise is moving on very smoothly. The successful candidates so far will be moving on to phase three of the interviews.