

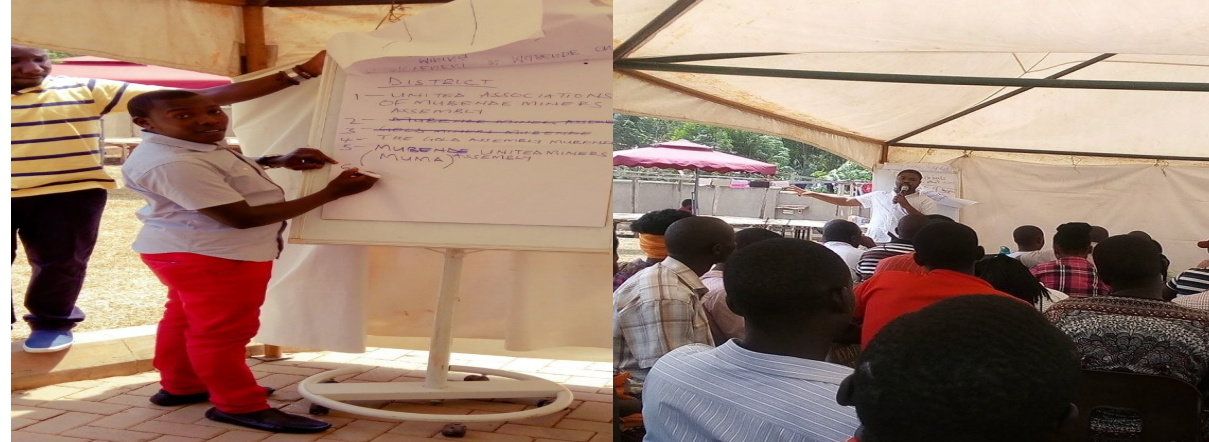
## Weekly

Jan 29—Feb 4



This day last year, ActionAid hosted the British Prime Minister's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI), Her Excellency, Baroness Anelay. Welcome to this edition of the Weekly!

### Social media Caravan #OurOilOurFuture!



Miners speak out during the ongoing social media caravan. In Mubende, the caravan ended with the formation of social media platforms to support the miners to advocate for justice in the extractives sector. The caravan will be in Hoima, Nwoya and Pakwach.

The ActionAid extractives social media caravan kicked off last Monday. The social media campaign is aimed at utilizing the digital space to advocate for accountability and transparency in the extractives sector.

The first of its kind, the social media caravan presents an opportunity for communities living in mineral rich and oil and gas districts to speak out on issues that affect them. Its first stop point was Mubende. Rolling out the caravan, Ivan Mpagi, the People For Change Program Coordinator said miners and members of the mining community could use social media platforms to advocate for their rights, share information and experiences in the extractives sector and task stakeholders to be accountable.

The caravan is being championed by a team of inspirators who are engaging the target audience of women and youth on issues ranging from advocacy, social movements, good governance, tax administration and responsible use of social media. Ger Odock, one of the inspirators said that through social movements, the miners could collectively have their voice heard on the issues that affect them.

Nyambe Mwinyangambo another inspirator, talked about good governance in the extractives sector, explaining that holding leaders accountable is the one sure way of social inclusion for the benefit of all in the extractives communities.

The miners, on their part narrated their heartbreaking stories following the evictions. Many of them indicated that they lost their source of livelihood while many were left homeless.

To achieve the goal of collectively voicing their plight, the miners formed a Movement : Mubende United Miners ' Assembly whose communication channels will be social media . They commissioned three platforms to address their plight including a Whatsapp group, facebook page and twitter handle under the guidance of the caravan crew.

ActionAid pledged its continued support to the miners until the community realizes social justice.

The caravan moves to Hoima this week from where it will proceed to Nwoya and Pakwach.

### ActionAid to lead Health Advocacy in Kapchorwa



Last week, ActionAid Kapchorwa was elected to head the District Health Advocacy Coalition. As Chair of the coalition, ActionAid will not only host the next quarterly coalition meeting but also coordinate other CSOs health advocacy work in the Sub region for a period of one year.

In her acceptance speech, the Cluster Coordinator, Miriam Cherukut thanked CSO colleagues for the confidence bestowed upon her office and the entire ActionAid.

“As Chairperson of this important coalition, I accept the new role and will work with all CSOs to champion advocacy initiatives in the region for better health” she stated.

Miriam added that while it is a tough job ahead, team work and commitment to see better health services in the region would keep them on board.

The quality and quantity of maternal and general health services in Kapchorwa is still very poor . National statistics reveal that deliveries at health facilities are poor, with only 13.3% of women, compared to the national average of 38%, giving birth under the care of a professional health worker. Kapchorwa has two Health Centre IIIs and no Health Centre IV. Like the bigger Kapchorwa hospital, the Health Centre IIIs have to deal with the problem of irregular supply of relevant medicines and supplies, and lack running water and electricity.

Low staffing levels also pose a major challenge. The district has no capacity to provide incentives that would attract quality health personnel. The available trained personnel are mainly in urban areas.

Rev Justus Chelangat, the convenor of the meeting noted that a lot needs to be done by CSOs and Government agencies to ensure better health outcomes.

While the meeting closed at around 2.00pm, the CSOs spent their afternoon in Kapchorwa Hospital following up on a case of a nine-year old boy- who had been denied services because his caretakers could not raise a bribe of 200,000/- to support his treatment.

During the visit, it was confirmed that indeed the child who had been admitted in the paediatric ward since 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, was only attended to after the intervention of the CSOs. This child represents many others who are denied services due to negligence and unethical behaviour of some health workers. This places a big role on CSOs to step up advocacy efforts to ensure that citizens access quality services as promised by Government.

### Kotido Youth Groups set for Agriculture



A youth explains the challenges that they face specifically in agriculture

Last week, the ActionAid livelihood unit supported Kotido district EU funded youth empowered (YESSEN) project team in their appraisal of youth climate change adaptation practices groups.

Kotido has 25 youth groups each consisting of 70 young men and women determined to take on agro-ecological farming as guided by the ActionAid Climate Resilience sustainable agriculture (CRSA) manual.

The support team consisted of the Manager program development, the sustainable livelihoods program trainee, the M&E officer and the Katakwi cluster coordinator.

By the end of the week, the team had fully interacted with the youth in the 25 groups in the two sub counties of project implementation (Panyangara and Kotido sub county).

The groups are now clear about the focus of the project compared to their earlier positions where they were not focussed on the CRSA technologies and instead hoped to get money and buy cattle.

ActionAid will this month provide the youth with tools to open their land and support them in ploughing larger fields for enhanced food security.

The technologies for demonstration will include: contour ploughing, mulching, crop rotation, farmyard manure preparation, selection of draught tolerant crop varieties and water management among others.

### Week Ahead

- ActionAid will be launching a project aimed at enhancing women's rights to land, peace and Justice in Northern Uganda this week in Amuru. The Transitional Justice project is funded by Australian Aid.