



Weekly

August 25 - 31

Food Security earns Bena Marital Bliss

We entered Bena Ileuk's home and found her compound strewn with drying groundnuts. They are part of this year's Bumper harvest. Her compound has three granaries. Bena's husband gives me a warm handshake and a pat on the shoulder. I commend the family for the hard work. Bena's husband walks me into one of the huts where I find ten sacks of rice! Meanwhile, Bena is calling. She wants to show me her kraal, which has ten heads of cattle. She quickly points out that the two oxen were donated by ActionAid under the SFR project. As I walk out, she runs to the garden and asks me to follow her. It's a maize garden, and from the looks, she is set to reap big!

When she eventually settles down for this story, she tells a tale of total transformation. Not so long ago, Bena could only afford one meal a day. This would only be possible if she went to work on peoples gardens and get some little money. Her husband would spend hours drinking away. He would come home and demand for food, which was often not available. This would earn Bena several insults and at times beatings. One day, Lady Luck smiled at her. She was identified as a beneficiary of the Securing Food Rights(SFR project)by ActionAid funded by the Australian Government.. She got improved plant inputs, including seeds of groundnuts, potatoe cuttings, maize and even oxen to open the land. This initial short in the arm brought her returns in just three months. The bumper harvest caused her husband to appreciate his wife a little more.



Bena Ileuk

"He woke up one time and just started supporting me. This is because there was food in the home. He stopped beating me, and slowly picked up with the garden work. He never looked back. In one season, we attained high yields. We sold the surplus and spent the money on a wedding," she smiles.

Bena and her husband are now living happily and are a model home in Usuk Subcounty in Katakwi district. Bena and her family were privileged to host Archie Law, the ActionAid Australia Country Director! They have also hosted Sally Henderson.

Asked what stands out in all this, Bena clearly states that she can count thousands of strides that she has attained because of her relationship with ActionAid, but the ignition of her relationship with her husband stands out.

ActionAid supports Acholi community to access land

[Read more about the national land policy here.](#)

[Read more about the fight against landgrabbers here.](#)

Kumi Kick-starts planning and budgeting



Kumi LRP convened a Partner planning meeting last week. The meeting brought together LRP staff, partners and members from the Activista club.

The participants scanned the context within they work using problem analysis tools that enabled them to generate the core problem, causes and effects in each Program Focus Area. Participants were also tasked to generate problem statements based on the analysis that they had done. Participant's also developed intermediary outcomes and impact using the Critical Pathway (Solutions tree). This enabled the Participants to convert the core problem, causes and effects into positives. By the end of the three day exercise, all partners had generated draft proposals for 2015 and the LRP team refined the key actions for the next year.



ActionAid took the legal services to the market!

In the aftermath of conflict in Acholi, the challenges of the community shifted from war to resettlement and rehabilitation. Key



in this process has been land ownership. The conflict resulted into several displacements and resettlements. In the process, the issues of land ownership and boundaries were not paid attention to. This has in the long run resulted into conflicts on land, where the women and the youth have been the biggest victims.

ActionAid partnered with Legal Aid Service Providers' Network to address some of the land access and justice concerns relating to women and children.

The week long intervention in Pader and Amuru aimed at informing future programming on the land justice campaign, profiling the land justice issues in the area and contributing to the Northern Uganda land charter.

During the community sensitizations and one on one legal support, ActionAid and its partner identified Illegal settlements on land during and after the conflict, denial of inheritance rights, violence related to boundary disputes, poor or no access to the land justice system among others as the key challenges face by the community.

While the outcomes of the exercise will greatly enhance our understanding and programming related to land and post conflict rehabilitation, its important to note that duty bearers like local leaders and the Police were asked to take on the mantle of enabling women and children to realize access to land in its fullness. As ActionAid prepares to launch the Land Grabs campaign later this year, this past exercise will go a long way in informing the strategy and road map for its campaign.

Masindi LRP Sets out to empower BCCD

After the successful completion of the Immersions exercise in Barlonyo, the Immerses that came from Government, media, and civil society among others observed that the community had the ability to develop if the right capacities were fully developed.

Last week, ActionAid, Masindi LRP set out to work with Barlonyo Community Concern for Development to support development in the local community. Though already a partner of ActionAid, BCCD is a purely a community based organization. ActionAid supported staff to carry out a SWOT analysis. Specifically, the personnel capacity, in terms of levels of education and experience was assessed. The Governing board of the CBO was also assessed in terms of knowledge of their roles and obligations.



Masindi LRP program officer takes the Board members into an assessment of their obligations

At the end of the exercise, ActionAid supported in the development and design of an Institutional Capacity Building plan. The activity came at a time when ActionAid is into its planning and budgeting time, to the advantage of the CBO.

Speaking to this unit, Charles Kiyingi, the Masindi LRP Program Officer stated that the LRP would plan and budget to support the CBO to implement and roll out the capacity building plan in preparation for the program work that is coming up in the near future in this locality. This is in addition to the regular support that the CBO has been receiving.