



Nov 24—Nov 30

Weekly

Compulsory Education to ensure peace in Karamoja

Delegates endured heavy rain to travel to Loyoro in Kaabong district, the setting for the Children Cross-Border dialogue organized by ActionAid. The Dialogue attracted participants from Turkana in Kenya, South Sudan, and included members of the Police, Army, and children, among others.

Children from these areas made presentations of music, dance and drama to cry out for peace.

Major Byaruhanga, Division Commander of the UPDF, stated that ensuring peace was the primary reason for their presence at the border, and called for the armed Turkana to desist from causing any form of insecurity. He commended ActionAid for their great work among the Kalamajong youths, who are now members of peace clubs, and have gone from cattle rustling into education. He challenged the South Sudanese and the Turkana to follow suit.

At the end of the dialogue, delegates developed a minimum agenda for cross-border peace that included the implementation of joint grazing grounds, and sharing of kraals, among the Jie, Dodoth, Matheniko and the Turkana. The delegates also endorsed the use of force to ensure that parents take children to school in 2015.

Members also agreed to ensuring regular meetings between peace committees.



Minister condemns politicians blocking Justice for GBV survivors



AAU launched the 16 Days of Activism against GBV in Gulu.

Last week, Uganda launched the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in Gulu. Under the theme of 'Act Now: Stop Teenage Pregnancies, Child and Forced Marriages', the State Minister for Gender, Hon. Lukia Isanga Nakadama, noted that teenage pregnancy was one of the leading causes of maternal and infant mortality. She pleaded with everyone to ensure that girls stay in school.

Nakadama also addressed the politicians who are blocking justice for GBV survivors:

"Some of you have continued to use your positions to threaten staff supporting GBV survivors. Others have gone on to intimidate witnesses. This is unacceptable, and must stop immediately."

The Minister also visited the ActionAid GBV shelter that she launched recently – to assess progress, but also identify gaps and challenges that she can address.

Other dignitaries in attendance included the Commissioner from the Ministry of Gender, district politicians and technical staff, partner organizations and others. ActionAid was also part of the exhibition, which took place at the Kaunda grounds.

ActionAid is currently organizing a National GBV dialogue, to take place on the 10th of December, and a dinner on the evening of the same day. Kindly honor our invitations and let us put our heads together to find the remedy for GBV in Uganda.

Read about the The second tragedy for Acholi women [here](#).

Oil Project convenes CSO review of Mining Sector



Oil in Uganda Editor Chris Byaruhanga Musiime presenting.

Last Friday, the Oil Project convened a meeting for CSOs to develop a position and make a unified contribution to the ongoing Mining Sector Policy and Taxation Review process. The meeting, which was held at Golf Course Hotel in Kampala, attracted national participation from artisanal miners, mining companies, government and the Donor Community.

The meeting reviewed the existing legal framework, and all gaps therein were identified. Key among the gaps identified were the weak transparency and accountability mechanisms. It was also noted that the legal framework does not address the protection of Human Rights of mining host communities. The participation of women and youth, among others, are also not addressed.

A select team was tasked with consolidating the conclusions reached by the meeting, which will then be presented at a bigger regional meeting – planned for January 2015.

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals appreciated the efforts by CSOs to play a role in shaping the sector.

ActionAid joins FIDA to celebrate 40 years!

ActionAid Uganda joined one of its partners, FIDA Uganda, at a dinner in commemoration of its 40 year journey of success.

During the dinner at Golf Course Hotel, FIDA recounted its strides in advancing women's access to justice for dignified living.

The chief guest and Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, appealed to female lawyers to go beyond their own interests and deliver services to rural women, as these are the most affected by injustices, and yet they usually cannot afford the cost of employing a lawyer.

Kadaga challenged FIDA and the entire civil society to utilize the constitutional provision on Economic Rights and champion the empowerment of rural women.

ActionAid was given special recognition as a pillar of FIDA, among other partners such as DFID, UN Women, and many more.

ActionAid was represented at the event by Hellen Malinga, Richard Olong, Simon Peter Wolumeli and Saida Bogere, who presented an award to some of the day's winners.

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Kalangala RDC tells Revenue Thieves to repent; CAO commits to taking disciplinary action

Kalangala has woken up to the reality of revenue losses, and organized a revenue stakeholders meeting at which the RDC hailed ActionAid for giving the district an opportunity to discover its revenue potential, and asked those involved in the theft to repent. The CAO promised to take disciplinary action against any staff involved in the racket.

The meeting followed a report submitted by the District Revenue Officer and ActionAid implicating staff at different levels for engaging in revenue theft and misallocation of funds.

The report is a result of the Tax Power campaign that has been implementing Tax Education. The outcome of this was members of the community demanding an explanation for the inconsistencies within the collected revenue. The report noted that there was non-remittance of 25% for the villages, and community members dispute revenue reports for their respective areas – in some places, it is even the case that disbanded revenue collection materials are still in use.

By the end of the two day meeting, members had resolved to introduce notice boards at every revenue office to ensure transparency, institute functional budget desks in each sub-county and ensure fair budget allocation by sectors at sub-counties, set up and update the revenue data bank, and introduce attendance registers at every work station. Bravo, Tax Power campaign!

ActionAid wins grant extension



ActionAid CEO Adriano Campolina addressing the audience.

ActionAid Uganda received a grant from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the extension of the Public Financing for Agriculture project for another three years. During the award ceremony in South Africa, AA Nigeria also won the award for another three years, while Kenya and Rwanda each received funding for one more year. The project will continue to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers and women's organizations at both district and national levels to engage with government entities at the local, regional, national and International levels in order to increase the quality and quantity of public investment in agriculture.

According to Charles Mulozi, the AAU Project Coordinator, this extension will catalyze increased quantity and quality of public investment in agriculture, in order to increase the productivity and well-being of women smallholder farmers and their households and communities in Uganda. Particular emphasis will be placed on the five districts of Kibuku, Pallisa, Budaka Katakwi and Nebbi. At national level, the project will continue to work with Pallisa Civil Society Network (PACONET), Life Concern (LICO) and the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG).

WEEK AHEAD

- The DGF partners Forum will take place on the 3rd and 4th of December. ActionAid will be represented by Dr Kabonesa Consolata, the AAU Governing Board Vice Chairperson, and Henry Nickson Ogwal.
- ActionAid will join partners on the 3rd of December for the Annual Anti-Corruption Convention at Hotel Africana.
- AAU Country Director, Arthur Larok is in Arusha for the SO2 International Platform Meeting.
- The Women's Rights unit is working towards 10th December for the Annual GBV Dialogue and dinner. Look out for your invitation and please, honor it.