



WEEKLY MAY 25 - 31, 2015

ActionAid music festival against corruption

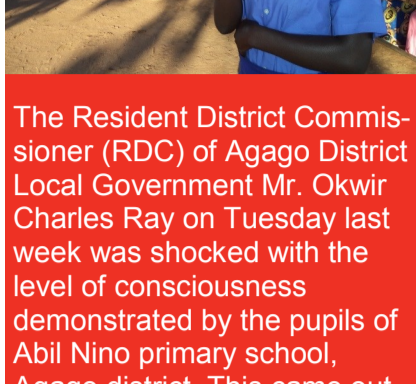
ActionAid Uganda through the Information Voice Accountability project funded by the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) organised an Anti-corruption music festival on 28th May 2015 at Ndere Centre where musicians and poets turned up to sing/recite against corruption.

There were lots of prizes and a recording contract in the best studios to the best performers. ActionAid Uganda created talent promotion through the provision of a platform of the youth and women to express themselves in song and poetry to contribute to the fight against bad governance.

There was a high turn up of performers from different regions of the country. Artists like D Banton, Airforce 1, Lucky Bosmick, Gody, and many more rocked Ndere centre with a clear message about saying no to corruption. Celebrity musicians included Ronald Mayinja, Bobi Wine, Coco finger, Gravity Omutuju, Maurice hasa, Barbie Jay, Eighton Sente. The hall nearly caught fire when Ronald Mayinja sang his song "tusalana nguzi naye tetusalana government" meaning "we are against corruption - not the government."

Country Director Arthur Larok remarked "every one of you is a winner in the fight against corruption." Indeed, it is everyone's responsibility to fight corruption out of our motherland Uganda.

Local government called to improve education in Adago



The Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Agago District Local Government Mr. Okwir Charles Ray on Tuesday last week was shocked with the level of consciousness demonstrated by the pupils of Abil Nino primary school, Agago district. This came out at a baraza facilitated by Pader LRP under the DGF project.

Many times children have been denied opportunity to speak out their mind on concerns that relate to their education, health, and participation in government programs. But at a public meeting last week, they spoke and top officials of Agago District Local Government listened to issues affecting 4 "hard to reach" primary schools.

The concerns raised by the pupils included chronic absconding of work, drunkenness even during working hours, inadequate coverage of syllabuses, teachers strike, and defilement by some teachers: It came out that the police is asking parents to pay UGX 30,000 - 50,000 to facilitate arrest of suspected defilers - money parents do not have. Among other issues was the fact that several students do not progress to the next class because of drunkenness and other forms of neglect from the teachers.

Kumi LRP holds 3 tax awareness dialogues!



To support the tax justice campaign, Kumi LRP undertook sub county tax awareness dialogues in Nyero, Ongino and Kidongole last week.

Whilst creating awareness on who is a taxpayer and what taxes do for us, the sub county officials present said it was timely, and an opportunity to give the citizens feedback on what their taxes pay for in the sub county.

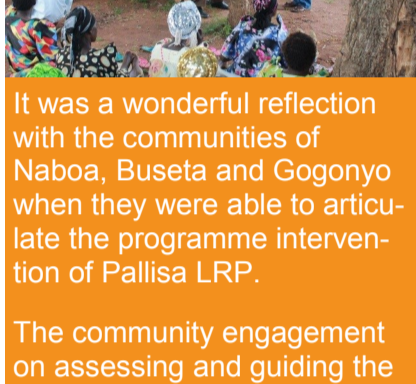
The dialogues created space for citizens to question their leaders and technical staff on revenue collection, allocation, and utilization. It was interesting to see the citizens connect taxes to the services they receive or are not receiving.

A smallholder farmer in Kidongole expressed concern that though they pay a lot of taxes but don't receive many services in return. As an example, the farmer mentioned that the extension staffs under NAADs is no more, yet they still require this support.

Technical staff present decried the fact that most tax money remains at the center, and little trickles down to the sub county and to the common person.

Citizens were happy to get information on how many taxes they pay unknowingly, they had thought that the removal of graduated tax would be the end of their tax payments. As they realized, they are taxpayers they also regained the belief that they can demand for better services in Education, Health, Agriculture and other sectors.

Pallisa LRP rolls out Community PRRPs



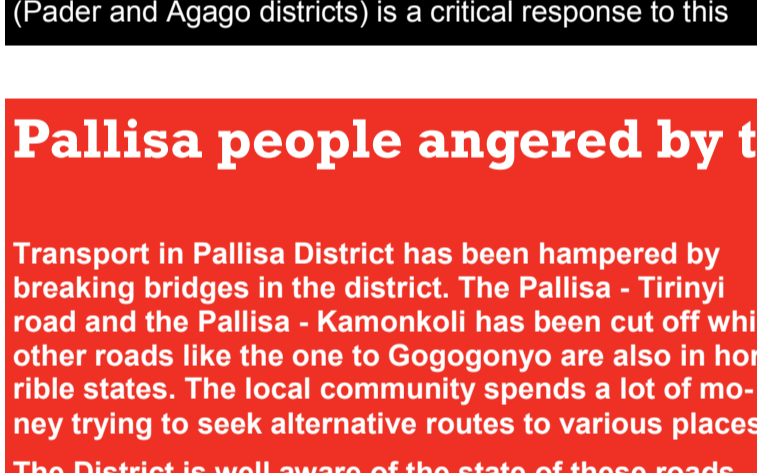
It was a wonderful reflection with the communities of Naboa, Buseta and Gogonyo when they were able to articulate the programme intervention of Pallisa LRP.

The community engagement on assessing and guiding the partners for a shared goal was very high. It provided the community, sub county leadership, other CSOs and community groups like Reflection-Action circles and children a platform to reflect on where we are coming from, where we are now and where we are heading to.

Participatory Review and Reflection Processes (PRRPs) describe ActionAid's approach to ongoing participatory monitoring mechanisms and periodic moments where in depth review and reflections with key stakeholders is carried out. These processes strengthen accountability to the poor and excluded, while also meeting ActionAid accountability commitments through transparent sharing of information regarding our work in the community.

"We were able to learn together, reflect together, and plan together. What was interesting was that partners were able to generate actions for 2016. This we believe is the real es-

Citizens voices in new Pader Newsletter



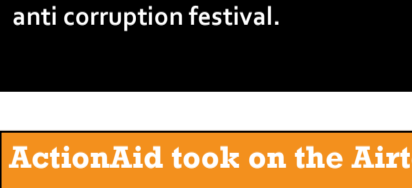
LRP Coordinator Kevin Aciro discussing the next step for the Citizen Newsletter with the aspiring journalists.

Last week the Communication Advisor was in Pader training a youth editorial committee in story writing and photography and developing a Newsletter with Citizens voices.

Having gone through double decade of insurgency since 1986, Pader district just like other districts of the Acholi sub region has witnessed massive devastation characterised by high vulnerabilities, land disputes, high rates of gender based violence, defilement, land grabbing and other rights violations.

"This training showed how we can help improve service delivery. We simply write about the issues in our own communities and then we discuss them with the duty bearers. I have become a citizen journalist, and that gives me a duty to serve the community," one of the participants said after the training.

The training was part of the DGF project dubbed "Information! Voice! Accountability! Improved service delivery!" a project aimed at ensuring availability of information to the masses to be empowered, to demand for accountability from duty bearers for improved public service delivery in Northern Uganda districts of Pader LRP (Pader and Agago districts) is a critical response to this



Musician Maurice Hasa at the anti corruption festival.

EAC member states should invest in Agriculture for stronger economy, writes Uganda Debt Network - read more in New Vision [here](#).

Can music be used to fight corruption? ssks NTV after covering our anti-corruption music extravaganza. Read more [here](#).

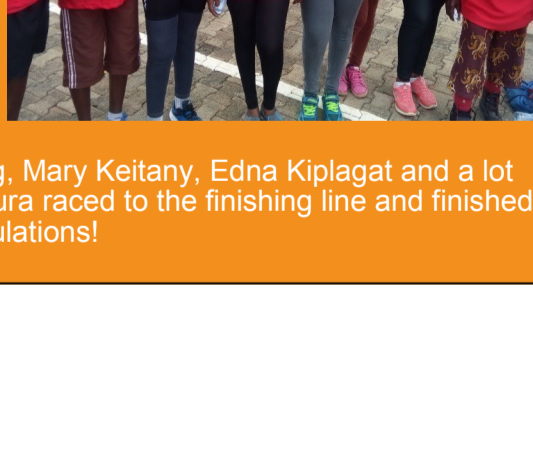
Read an opinion piece about how oil compensation exposes abuse of women in Hoima [here](#).

The Government admits it gives low funding to the agriculture sector. At the Eastern African Communities Agriculture Budget Summit at Protea Hotel in Entebbe, the government said that other sectors are prioritized higher than agriculture. Read more in the New Vision [here](#).

ActionAid took on the Airtel Africa Mashariki fest half marathons in style

Airtel Mashariki Fest is a non political regional platform that engages youth in East Africa to embrace regional integration through art, sports and civil society advocacy. The marathon was flagged off at the National Ceremonial Ground, Kololo on Sunday.

The theme for the fest was Healthy citizens for Regional Integration with the cause to support Lake Victoria environmental conservation projects. ActionAid Uganda bought 100 tickets to the marathon; it gave 30 tickets to its staff and donated 70 tickets to the youths, women and the elderly who wished to join the marathon.



Moses Golora, Moses Keprotich, Wilson Kipsang, Mary Keitany, Edna Kiplagat and a lot more participated. Finance Manager Edward Iruura raced to the finishing line and finished number one among the ActionAid staff. Congratulations!

Pallisa people angered by the state of roads

Transport in Pallisa District has been hampered by breaking bridges in the district. The Pallisa - Tirinyi road and the Pallisa - Kamonkoli has been cut off while other roads like the one to Gogonyo are also in horrible states. The local community spends a lot of money trying to seek alternative routes to various places

The District is well aware of the state of these roads, but it does little to address the situation. Talk of tarmacking the Tirinyi-Pallisa has remained rhetoric, while the community calls for action from the District.

"As part of our governance work, we convened a meeting with the various stakeholders so we could have a dialogue with the district leadership, UNRA for a better explanation as why little is being done to work on these roads," program officer Job Isaac Oonyo narrated.

Pallisa LRP reflected with tCSOs, drivers of boda bodas, taxis, lorries, and with the business community in Pallisa.

"Unanimously, we agreed to hold a community meeting in one the trading centres hard to reach so that the leaders feel the pinch of movement."

However the Police did not allow the meeting. In her letter to AAU, the DPC Pallisa highlighted the issue of security assessment where there must be a deployment of armed personnel and a suitable venue. She added that the meeting could only take place with a resolution from the district security committee.

The next steps will depend on whether the police to allow a meeting. If they don't, a demonstration is one of the stakeholders options.

