

Zainab Mbabazi: The entrepreneur



Next time you are in Bushenyi and are wondering where to shop, please pass by Zainab Mbabazi Retail shop, your one stop center for Sugar, spices, soft drinks, shoes, and the original Bushenyi matooke. The shop started with help from ActionAid WPC project.

To ensure her full recovery and economic empowerment, the Bwaise WPC lawyer was in Bushenyi for close to five days. Florence was with Zainab Mbabazi, the GBV survivor who was allegedly gang raped by Pakistan Nationals, to ensure that she gains economic muscle. A shop was set up for her. This follows the several entrepreneurial I trainings she had before she was discharged from the centre.

Mbabazi was exited and could not hold back. She started her business with a bang, promising to be a model businesswoman in Bushenyi in the next ten years.

Under the WPC project, we believe that one of the remedies to GBV is economic empowerment. This does not only apply to Mbabazi but for all our clients at the Women protection Centres. Congratulations Mbabazi.



CD donates to Oyuku Primary School Feeding Programme



Pupils of Oyuk Primary school

Walking the talk! Last week, our Country Director, Arthur donated UGX 250,000 to Oyuku Primary School in Pader. This was during a courtesy visit to the school to inspect the construction of classroom blocks sponsored by ActionAid. He money was his contribution to the school feeding program that the LRP and the school management are going to roll out next school term.

"My faith encourages us to donate during lent to those in need. So, I found no better plan than to contribute my lent savings on lunch to the school feeding project for the children of Oyuku primary school in Pader," Stated the ActionAid Country Director.

According to the Pader LRP Coordinator Loy Adepit, they had discovered that children were learning on empty stomachs.

"No matter the quality of the class room blocks that we put up, if we don't work on feeding the children, the learning will not be as effective," she remarked.

Effective next term, children in Oyuk will enjoy the Midday Porridge sponsored by ActionAid and the ActionAid Country Director. The LRP has a long-term sustainability plan. They are working with parents and have provided seeds to encourage them grow maize to sustain the school feeding program even after the sponsorship period. Bravo Pader team.

ActionAid staff donate UGX 1,465,000 to ailing Activist



Saida Bogere, delivering the ActionAid contribution to Harriet.

The costs of GBV keep piling up. Harriet Kobugabe, a civil society activist is one of the victims of GBV. She was attacked by her boyfriend in 2011 in her home. Since the incident, her health condition has continued to deteriorate. Last month, Harriet was rushed back to hospital and doctors diagnosed complications in her chest that if not attended to could sooner than later become cancerous.

Harriet needs three million to have the operation done. The ActionAid leadership team contributed to this course last week and were able to raise UGX 1,465,000. Saida Bogere, our own Sponsorship Coordinator delivered the money to Harriet on her sick bed. Much as she was so grateful to the kind hearts, she still called on all our prayers, as the operation will not be soon since she has failed to raise the full amount.

As one of our core values, we stand to show Solidarity with the poor. What better way than standing with Harriet in this trying moment. However, on the bigger picture, we continue to tackle the "Gender based Violence" as a state of emergency. So many women and children out there have lost their lives because of GBV. We need to take individual stands now. Remember, Charity begins at home.

ActionAid holds a stakeholders' integrity meeting In Katakwi



District technical and political staffs pose for a photo after the fruitful deliberations.

There has been a lot of hype in the media about NGOs lacking integrity in their work and the proposed NGO Amendment Bill, 2013 that seeks to close the gap on "the rapid growth of NGOs which has led to subversive methods of work and activities, which in turn undermine accountability and transparency in the sector".

To strengthen transparency and relationship building with the district stakeholders', Katakwi LRP organized a half day stakeholders' integrity meeting to share with the leadership the status of programs and projects were taken to the community for fieldwork where they analysed the community preparedness towards sustainability of these programs. The district leadership greatly appreciated this move by ActionAid and called upon other NGOs to emulate.

"ActionAid is the only NGO in the district that has openly involved us in their work at all levels despite our different ideologies," said the RDC.

The Long Road to Oil

The 8th oil in Uganda newsletter dubbed "The Long Road to oil" is on the market. It has been eight years since Uganda announced commercial discovery of oil in its Albertine area. Over the years, the production industry has changed several times but it now appears to be set for around 2017/2018, according to government officials. In this issue, Oil in Uganda analyse what it will take for the government to pull this off having already jumped the hurdle of the production strategy by signing the MoU with the companies. They also bring an update of the compensation process in the refinery area in Hoima, as well as two articles on mining: one from Mubende in Central Uganda and the other from Western Australia-thousands of miles away. It makes for great reading. Pick a copy for yourself, or read this soft copy. <http://www.oilnuganda.org/newsletters>

Embrace Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction



Caroline Abilat, Kumi LRP program officer taking participants through one of the field sessions.

Last week, Kumi LRP organised the Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) training. The training was rolled out to partner-staff, ActionAid-staff and technocrats from the local governments of Pallisa, Kumi, Katakwi and others. Participants were trained in the concept of CMDRR, the legal framework of disaster reduction etc.. To emphasize practicability, participants were taken to the community for fieldwork where they analysed the community preparedness to handle disasters, challenges faced by the communities and new tactics that they are applying to their unique environment thus ensuring sustainability of actions undertaken.

"We welcome sharing what has happened elsewhere," a community member said.

At the end of the training, participants came up with community action plans and community commitments to prepare for and manage disasters. In recent times, the Eastern part of the country, mainly Teso sub region has suffered from draughts and floods. These disasters have always left the communities devastated. After this training, the communities are now prepared to prevent or even tackle the disasters while their lives remain in dignity.

Week Ahead

ActionAid is conducting fundraising strategy workshop and grants management Training (5 – 8th May 2014) at Hotel Africana for several staff members.

The Sponsorship unit is hosting the NkonsonKonson (NK) Training 5-9th May at Royal suits in Bugolobi.