

## WEEKLY

Sept 28 - Oct 4, 2015



### Why Transitional justice is our collective business!

A fellowship in Australia named "Australia Awards Fellowships – Strengthening Capacity and Linkages in Transitional and Gender Justice (Africa)" hosted Director of Programmes Harriet Robina Gimbo, Women's Rights Coordinator Hellen Malinga Apila and 20 other participants who shared experiences from Uganda, Rwanda, DRC, Kenya, and South Africa.

The team visited the Australian Human rights Commission, where it used Lego blocks to construct visions for streamlining disability in transitional justice work; the Witness Advisory Service Centre in the Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Westmead Hospital Traumatic Stress Clinic, and the Australian Civil Military Centre among others.

The participants were alarmed to learn about high levels of gender-based violence in Australia. In a week, it saw on television at least four incidents of women killed by their partner. The new prime minister of Australia announced an additional 100 million Australian dollars to gender based violence prevention and response.

"As I was at the fellowship my mind kept on bouncing back to Uganda – especially to areas that have gone through long conflicts - particularly Northern Uganda that is recovering, but also has potential for conflicts. The big bang thought was that justice has forgotten women in this world. The women in northern Uganda have not healed," said Harriet.

"The Australian government Civil-Military Centre's approach to engendering the army, police, and peace keepers: In Uganda, we can learn from their high level of professionalism and passion for gender equality, women's empowerment and protection. I recommend a follow up of the Ugandan counterpart official who was trained by UN women," said Hellen.



The team also visited the South African Embassy where all African ambassadors and high commissioners welcomed it to Australia. Particularly our Commissioner, His Excellency Enoch Nkuruho emphasized the need for investment in Uganda by DFAT who attended the meeting and added that knowledge transfer could be one way. He committed to strengthen the ties with the Australian Government on this. In the above photo, he is in the yellow tie.

### Theatre for development shows in Busiki



Communities in Busiki participated in theatre for development shows, which brought forward different issues and concerns that impede development. In the shows, community members entertain and used visual and reflective learning with key strategies developed to address issues with the engagement of local leaders and other key duty bearers.

The development shows further emphasized the roles and responsibilities of communities in planning and budgeting as key stakeholders in promoting community centred development and ensuring quality service delivery. The community members are put at the centre by visually presenting issues affecting each of them. Councillor of Nawangaiza Parish, Mrs. Ezeza Nsako said: "This has been a great learning performance and community members should be given more awareness meetings like these because it enhances learning and encourages ownership."

### Pallisa LRP advances from Reflection-Action Circles to Cooperatives



One of the RACs/VLA member expressing her point during the sensitization

Pallisa LRP is striving to transform its Reflection-Action Circles (RACs) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) into cooperatives for stronger voice and increased bargaining power for smallholder farmers.

The goals are value addition, improved access to credit facilities and to avoid that middlemen exploits the farmers. This has been piloted in Naboa sub county that saw over two hundred community members come together for a sensitization meeting championed by Naboa Reflect Development Organization (NAREDO) on October 1st 2015. The meeting was facilitated by the Budaka district commercial officer.

It exited the groups to benefit from the current savings of about UGX 90.5 million within 22 VSLAs. NAREDO presently has 47 Action-Reflection Circles/VSLA with 991 women, while Buseta has 11 farmer groups with 96 women, 11 VSLAs having; 197 women and 49 girls in both groups totalling to 223 females. In Gogonyo there are 26 RACs/VSLAs serving 499 women.

Presently, NAREDO has 68 Village Saving and Loan Associations (VALSA) formed from 29 initial groups. Their membership has grown to 2040 (1,057 women and 983 men). This approach has seen women reap economically as they are now able to provide for their basic needs.

### Women living with HIV/aids trained in nursery beds



Participants and their trainer during field visit

In late September, ActionAid Pallisa under the Nacwola project conducted a three-day training for women groups living with HIV/AIDS in agro forestry at the Nacwola Psychosocial Centre with 16 participants from the sub-counties of Gogonyo, Kamuge, Kibale and Pallisa Town Council.

This was to give them skills on raising their own nursery beds and seedlings, which they are expected to continue to grow and sell. The participants were taken through all the stages of seedbed preparation and seed selection, harvesting and storage.

The team then had intensive practical training for two days and concluded with field visits to the nearby nursery beds in town and a large tree plantation with acreage of different tree species such as eucalyptus, gruveilia, pines and the newly clonned eucalyptus species which take about a five year period to mature.

Questions were fully answered, leaving the participants determined to start their own plantations. Raising of available seeds of eucalyptus and gruveilia seedlings is expected to be carried out this month and planting of the seedlings will be done in the next rainy season....Watch out for more information on the progress of this as the lives of these women improve for the better.

### Agago community resource monitors armed for the task



Youth Monitors in Agago

Training and engaging the youth in tracking of development programs and advocacy to amplify citizens' voices for greater advocacy and influencing issues of local governance is critical in building sustainable development.

This came out clear from a meeting with eight energetic youth monitors who also doubled as editorial committee and were trained as Community Resource Monitors for Agago district under the DGF project dubbed "Information! Vice! Accountability! Improved Service Delivery." The main objective of the training was to strengthen citizen led monitoring of development programs for improved accountability and service delivery.

The issue of trustworthy and credible information was emphasized! It was further stated by the LRPC that the monitoring process must be able to produce information that brings out good practices for purposes of learning and bad ones for purposes of advocacy and engagement with duty bearer/service providers.

The team leader Kilama Bosco stated:

"Actionaid is not here to stay forever, it's time for us to make change in our own community; we are determined to move forward as a team of youth."

The LRPC urged the youth to change the slogan "Youth are the future leaders" to "Youth are the present leaders."

### Livelihood unit hosts end of project evaluation meeting



Sally Henderson, ActionAid's Senior Program Coordinator listens at the meeting.

A few months ago, the Government of Australia cut its funding to Africa by 70%. Through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Uganda has for four years implemented the Securing Food Rights (SFR) Project also known as "Food for Thought, Rights for Action" with ActionAid Kenya and ActionAid Australia. The project is under the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) program and will end in June 2016

The three-day end of project evaluation learning workshop was attended by AACES staff from AA Kenya, AA Australia and an external evaluation team from Australia and Kenya. The M&E Advisor, Grants Coordinator, Women Rights Officer, Livelihoods Coordinator, and M&E officer represented ActionAid Uganda.

The meeting planned the end of project evaluations that will use participatory methodologies and involve self-, and cross evaluation by participants focusing on learning from the project journey.

Participants were thrilled with the new evaluation techniques including the exciting "Outcome Harvesting Technique." AAU Grants Coordinator Yuda Rwakogo will not only add this as a terminology to his vocabulary; he will also live to remember this meeting:

"I am happy with this kind of early planning for end of project evaluation; we have agreed on exactly what we want to learn from the evaluation and how we shall use the results. Other projects should pick a leaf," said Yuda.

### NEXT WEEK:

National Programme Coordinators, LRP's and other units have until Thursday 5 pm to fine-tune their actions for 2016 and 2017 building on the discussions in Bugolobi and work thereafter. This is the deadline for submitting of complete and clear plans.

Entrepreneurs have been told to pass skills to their young children if they want businesses to blossom even after their retirement. [Read more on All Africa here](#)

Do you remember Aisha Nabukeera, the child abuse survivor burnt beyond recognition in 2006? A week ago, she won the Special Courageous Achievement Award at the Diva Awards. [Read more in Miriam's blog here.](#)

