

Bwaise WPC hosts SIDA team

Bwaise Women Protection Centre (WPC) hosted a delegation from SIDA on 2nd April 2014. The visit gave SIDA insights into ActionAid Uganda operations in management of GBV shelters. SIDA also looked into our challenges, achievements and partnership with International donors.

The project officer explained how a GBV survivor is supported and gave the guests let by Maureen Nahwera from the Embassy of Sweden through a tour around the center.



GBV Survivors sharing experiences with SIDA team.

Partnership and Funding Director Henry Nickson Ogwal took the guests through a presentation about ActionAid Uganda's background, values, vision and Mission. WPC Coordinator Joyce Nabwire made a presentation about our GBV work across the country, followed by a Q&A.

GBV Survivors in Amuru boost their Income-generation

During the week, Amuru LRP gave support for economic empowerment to 19 women survivors. 10 women received 5 goats each; 7 women received a bag of Mukene fish; 2 received a bell of second hand cloth. The items builds on the training in business skills, the women participated in last year.



District Planner hands over economic empowerment Items to one of the GBV survivors.

The DCDO, asked the District to support the fight against GBV. He further commented on the good relationship between ActionAid and the Community development services.

The LCV who was the guest speaker said: "Let's not stop loving each other, let keep renewing our love and promote peace at household level, by listening to our wives, sitting down and discussing our issues," he said.

Activista open Doors to Health Centre in Northern Uganda

The doors to Otichi Health Centre in Northern Uganda now open early in the morning. The shelves are bulging with vaccinations, medicine needles and other medical equipment. A years' time back, the doors were often shut until lunchtime and sick people travelled for hours to get treatment in the town of Gulu.

Activista-member Ocira Bosco was in the forefront, when Activista demanded the Health Centre to operate as promised by the Government.

"We made a large call for improvements at the Health Centre. Everything has become better since we started to make noise," he said.



Activista member Ocira Bosco

Paul Ocen who is a Health Practitioner at the clinic admits that a lot have improved because of Activista.

"We used to open around 11.30, but now we have 3 staff members that sleep in the quarters. They ensure that the clinic opens early every day," he explained.

Black Monday demand water supply restored at Hospital



The women held empty jerry cans, as a symbol of the closed off water supply

On Monday 31st of March, a group of women from the Black Monday movement demonstrated in front of Mulago National Referral hospital. The purpose was to raise awareness about the lack of tax money directed to fund public health, exemplified at the Mulago hospital, where the water has been turned off, due to huge unpaid water bills.

Woman Rights Advocate and Former minister, Miria Matembe, expressed how this punishment of one hospital for not being able to pay their water bill, is an example of how the regime is not prioritizing public health. She added that women cannot stand for more theft and corruption.

Strengthening ties to the University Community

As part of the DGF youth activities, AAU partnered with CCG to hold a series of interface dialogues as a means of extending AAU's youth advocacy priorities to on-campus and to strengthen links with a highly active university community.

Firstly, we took the Tax Power campaign to Makerere University, where Fred Kawooya and Sarah Muyonga joined a lively panel with the Minister of State in Charge of General Duties - MoFP& ED.

Next up was Mbarara University where we took up the newly announced Youth Livelihoods Programme. 120 University students from across the country were joined by young model farmers from the Mbarara district. They had the opportunity to interact with the Chairman of the National Youth Council (one of the architects of the programme) and the YLP Manager from the Mo-GLSD.

The dialogues have enabled the AAU team to make inroads with relevant Government representatives and key youth leaders, paving the way for on going engagement and mobilisation on the respective campaigns.

High Participation in Caravan Meeting



ActionAid convened a 2-day caravan review and planning meeting between the 3rd and 4th day of April 2014, which involved over 130 people from partner Organisations in Eastern and Northern Uganda.

The topic was: Building integrity in governance, which sparked discussions on a range of governance issues in the country side and government. The participants took several valuable learning points and observations home from the meeting. Firstly it was emphasized, that there is a need to strengthen grassroots engagements on governance issues. Participants also suggested a strengthened collaboration with government structures in Police and Local Government. Stronger links with ongoing governance work by CSOs and movements could also benefit the fight against corruption. Going forward, the CSO's asked for direction in terms of taking the next steps.

Week Ahead:

Most ActionAid offices are very quiet this week, as staff is attending MIS Step down training in Masindi, Kumi or Kampala.