



September 1 - 7

Orlandini: 'Ugandan women are more empowered to denounce GBV than Italian women'

On Tuesday last week, ActionAid Uganda had the honor to host one of ActionAid Italy's high value donors – Mr. Andrea Orlandini. Together with his partner, he visited the Women Protection Center in Bwaise where they interacted with staff and GBV survivors. He observed that the women in Uganda more easily report cases, seek for support and speak about gender based violence in their lives than their counterparts in Italy. He applauded ActionAid for the empowerment within women to speak out against abuse.



A visitor poses with the children at MAWIDA

Orlandini also visited MAWDA (Makerere Women Development Association) offices in Makerere. Here he enjoyed a performance of traditional dances and songs from the children living with HIV/AIDS. The children shared that they were born with HIV/AIDS and with the support of ActionAid and its partner MAWDA, their rights to education, access ARVs, and good feeding were met. It was quite an experience for the visitors to visit a widow of three children, also living with HIV/AIDS, who grows mushrooms her house that floods when it rains. On the day of the visit, it actually flooded. Lastly, they visited the garbage transformation project where a group of youths earns a living by making briquettes. This has not only kept their community clean but also seen them smile to and from the bank.

Mr. Orlandini noted that the short visit to the projects on ground made it easy for him to associate with the issues and work of ActionAid; and gave him a better understanding of what is written about the lives of ordinary Ugandans.

Activista force RDC to act in Katakwi



The Activista of Katakwi district have in the past piled a lot of pressure on the duty bearers. Day and night, they have spoken, held demonstrations, delivered petitions decrying the shoddy work done in the district. This is witnessed by the impassable roads, lack of drug supplies in the hospitals, and collapsing buildings among others.

The pressure was taken to another level during the recently concluded Anti-Corruption Caravan that named and shamed the corrupt officials. The events caused the RDC of Katakwi to take a bold step and summon all district contractors to explain themselves, in the presence of other officials, CSOs, and most importantly Activista. The RDC stated that the Government should not be blamed for the greed of individual contractors.

In defense, the contractors named and shamed the local Government officials who continue to ask for kickbacks, which compromises the quality of their work. Companies that belong to local Government officials that win several contracts were also unearthed. These are going to be summoned by the RDC's office for further investigation. That aside, the contractors with ongoing projects were given a deadline to deliver quality work and cautioned.

This is just the beginning. Well done Activista!

ActionAid is one of our strongest partners, says DGF



Youth Advisor Mishka Martin presenting.

Accountability Project, implemented by ActionAid and funded by the Democratic Governance Facility(DGF).

A number of initiatives to improve participation in governance by youth and women has characterized the past year. These include Barazas, training of community resource trackers, the anti-corruption Caravan and other initiatives that are all geared towards better service delivery.

Last Thursday and Friday was time to go back to the drawing board and mark what has worked and what has failed to ensure that the project registers greater success. The meeting was attended by Community resource trackers, all implementing LRPs, ActionAid, and DGF Leadership.

A lot of citizen debate and awareness on corruption and their role in combating it stands out among the achievements of the partnership. This is illustrated in the anti-corruption caravan and the follow up processes that have resulted in prosecutions and investigations in some places.

The DGF Component Manager for IVA Fergal Ryan acknowledged the progress registered in social service monitoring and expressed optimism for the partnership with AAU.

"ActionAid is one of our strongest partners," he remarked in reference to the social service monitoring efforts. He however placed emphasis on the recording and documentation of the great efforts in the community and working for transformation as we build a free, democratic, and just society in Uganda.

ActionAid builds capacity of CSO board chairpersons and treasurers



ActionAid recently organized a Board Governance Training for partner organizations. Board Chairpersons and Treasurers from over forty CSOs that work directly and indirectly with ActionAid attended the training. The team was taken through the roles and responsibilities of the Chairpersons and the Treasurers, the general board roles and responsibilities, the concept of power and matters reserves to the board among others. At the end of the training, a participant remarked:

"This training has been so timely, considering the fact that I was appointed the board chairperson of my CSO only three weeks ago. This has been an induction to enable me serve the organisation better. Thank you ActionAid."

ActionAid equips the Police



After the anti-corruption caravan left Iganga, the citizens continued their fight against corruption. The community of Iganga camped at the Iganga Municipality headquarters demanding for the resignation of the Town clerk whom they gave 4 days to vacate office or they force him out. The RDC had to intervene to calm them town.

Several dubious actions has caused the community to accuse the town clerk for corruption, including the sale of Freedom Square; liaising with the former clerk to steal from the Road Fund and shoddy work on the road network.

Kalangala empowers youth positives

Kalangala LRP together with KAFOPHAN organized a Young Positives Retreat last week. KAFOPHAN staff, parents and guardians of the young positives attended the one-day meeting. The participants shared challenges they face both in social life and in health service uptake. The young positives acquired Information about treatment literacy, empowerment, and career. They also got an opportunity to interact with individuals that have made it in life, against all odds.

At the end of the retreat, the young positives received scholastic materials for their third term. They are now kick starting the last school term feeling empowered.



A young positive expresses her fears at the retreat.

ActionAid embarks on the 2015 planning and budgeting process

Last week, ActionAid Uganda embarked on the 2015 planning and budgeting process. The ActionAid leadership converged in Mukono for three days to review performance against targets of the CSP IV and subsequently plan for 2015 and harmonize staff understanding and expectations of the planning process for the coming year. Annual plans and budgets are a precondition for funding allocation to country programs and affiliates. This is just one of the reasons why it is given all the time and attention.

Unlike in the previous year, this year's plans and budgets must address current capacity and progress across the federation, enhance collaborative planning to set realistic and achievable targets among others. The three-day process did not allow the ActionAid leadership team to relax. It was hard work day and night. This is just the beginning. ActionAid is counting on each of us to play our part to ensure that the planning and budgeting process is a success.

Week ahead

- ActionAid with support from UNFPA will be launching the Thira GBV shelter this Thursday. The guest of honor is expected to be the State Minister of Gender, Lukia Nakadama.
- The Governance unit is working tirelessly to ensure the completion of the DGF IVA project second year plans.
- ActionAid will also be launching the DSIP report this Wednesday.