



Weekly

Nov 3—Nov 9

Kween women grab economic power with sewing machines

Last week, Kween Women Protection Centre carried out a monitoring visit to the GBV survivors who had been equipped with sewing machines to build their economic power.

At the time of handing over the machines, the women were assigned an instructor to take them through the basics of tailoring.

Five weeks later, visits to the women revealed total transformation in their lives and households. The women can now mend clothes, make shirts, shorts, dresses, and even blouses. Nancy Chemtai, one of the survivors informed The Weekly that her family income had increased vastly as they no longer spend on mending family clothes since she does it herself.

"We are even earning more money since we are mending other people's clothes. This money will support me to solve some family expenses like medication and basic needs for my children. My husband will not beat me anymore because am asking him for money," she said.

The Women further appreciated ActionAid for supporting them with tailoring machines and assigning them trainers. They said that they would steadily perfect the skills until they meet the competitive market standards.



Kween GBV survivors show of some of their products

ActionAid Uganda Wins at the Prestigious FiRe Awards



On Thursday last week, ActionAid won yet another award from the Prestigious Financial Reporting (FiRe) organized by the Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (CPA), Uganda Securities Exchange (USE) and the Capital Markets Authority (CMA). The Awards Event took place at a colorful dinner at Serena Hotel Kampala and we were represented by the finance team.

ActionAid took the overall award for Communication and Presentation beating all the 76 contestants. The Special Award on Communication and Presentation is presented to agencies whose reporting is clear, presented accurately, with visuals and visually with clarity on target audiences and with simple and accessible language. Finance Officer Deni Semwanga could not hide his excitement:

"this time round, we have beaten 76 entrants...we are proud about it, but also set for the big price, come next year...we shall not sit back...," he proclaimed!

This latest FiRe Award is the third in a row for ActionAid having come runners up in the NGO sub category in 2012 and winning the same category in 2013.

The FiRe Awards are organized to promote and regulate the accounting standards in the country and emphasize financial reporting that is sound and comply to both local and international financial reporting standards.

ActionAid Uganda will continue to subject its reporting and work to public and professional scrutiny as this is in line with our values and commitment to learn and improve. A full report has been provided and management will use this to further improve our reporting in the present and future.

Kalangala LRP scales up advocacy for improved education services in the district



The district team and the commissioner for planning after the policy engagement.

Kalangala District Local Government and partners visited the Ministry of Education and Sports to discuss policy issues that affect education in the district. The Commissioner for Planning and Policy Analysis, Mr. Godfrey Arnold Dhatemwa, and the Commissioner for Budgeting, Mr. Wanabwa, represented the Ministry of Education.

At this meeting, the Ministry committed to set up a boarding facility for children commuting to school from distant Islands and others with difficulties reaching school in the academic year of 2015. It also committed to support school based recruitment to improve on retention of teachers in Kalangala. These two resolutions are great strides to the children of Kalangala, who have repeatedly petitioned the district leadership over the same. Other issues discussed included raising the number of instructors at Ssesse Farm institute from 6 to 12 and increasing staffing of secondary school teachers in the three Government Secondary Schools on the island.

However, the Ministry is challenged to allocate local revenue to the education sector and rehabilitate the school structures. ActionAid has been rolling out quality education programmes in Kalangala for the last ten years and steadily pushed for improvements. The fact that the District leadership and the Ministry of Education have taken on the challenge is a great success for ActionAid.

Board Liaison Officers meet in Kigali

Last week, a group of Board Liaison Officers commonly known as Board Focal Persons in the federation were gathered together in Kigali in Rwanda to undergo a refresher course. The objective of which was to improve skills and governance knowledge among participants which included focusing on introduction of governance tools with the objective of strengthening and exploring their applications, engagement on practical tips on governance processes by linking it to the federation cycle. The Facilitators (Daniel, Neda, and Leighton from the Governance Unit) further took participants through the Governance Review processes and the International Board Hand book.

"We shared experiences and learnt a lot from one another. Interesting to note was the introduction of a "Time Bank" which is a data base on the hive for information sharing among Board Liaison Officers."



Participants also had the chance to review the Draft Board Academy Course manual co-facilitated by none other than David Onen from TCDC and Moses Isooba.

Zaituna Fuambe, (on orange) added that she was swept off her feet by the cleanliness and organised motorcycle cyclists in Kigali.

Busiki LRP lays the foundation for video messaging to sponsors

ActionAid Uganda has revolutionized the Sponsorship Program as a fundraising facet reaching out to underprivileged children in Uganda who are at risk of discontinuing their education. ActionAid links the children to individuals from different parts of the world who are interested to support them to continue with their primary level education.

Beyond the support, the children and their supporters increasingly become fond friends and exchange stories and pictures through regular write-ups.



Sponsored children elated as they stand in front of the camera

ActionAid in its endeavour to continue setting standards is currently implementing a Video Messaging pilot program in Busiki LRP. This pilot aims at establishing the viability of shifting from written messages that the children write to their friends to 1-2 minute video clip messages. This process involves sponsored children standing before a camera and sharing a message to their friends. First, they introduce themselves and pass on a message and at the end, they cite the name of the sponsor before bidding farewell.

It is anticipated that this pilot sustain friendships for longer term therein increase the number of children who will be in a position to access and enjoy education as a human right.

"I am very happy to stand before a camera and talk to my friend Marco. I have been writing to him and now I am talking to him. I hope to see him one day," said Naigaga Shadia, a primary three sponsored child at Nkono Primary School.

Check out Mishka Martins blog from The World Forum of Democracy on our [here](#).

WEEK AHEAD

Kapchorwa LRP will hold a one-week anti-corruption caravan in Sebei Region.

The Women Protection Centre project will hold its annual review meeting this week at Garuga Country resort.

ActionAid will hold orientation training for local Government I Councilors in social service delivery monitoring and the new local Government budget cycle.

Harriet Gimbo, the Programs Director is in Arusha to support in the AATZ peer review.

Simon Peter Wolumeli is in Zimbabwe to support in AAZ peer review.