

Weekly

October 6 -12, 2014

Inception meeting of the Women Land Rights Project in Masindi.

Masindi Communities embrace the Women Land Rights Project

In our continued quest to address power imbalances at all levels of society, Masindi Local Rights Programme (LRP) has piloted a Women Land Rights project in two sub-counties of Miirya and Bwi-janga. The inception meeting opened the proverbial can of worms as women revealed land-ownership-related emotions that had been affecting them for a long time.

The project seeks to assist women to legally solve land issues that threaten their livelihoods. The goal is that the communities get a just gender perspective on land ownership. At the meeting, the participants realized that land is a finite resource. A collective approach is therefore needed for effective allocation and utilization.



UNATU Ignited to improve public education

Last week members of the Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU) got together to mark this year's Teacher's Day and strategize for the next 12 months. Receiving support from the Violence against Children project funded by the European Union, the dialogue focused on the deteriorating quality of public education.

"The children of some of the political leaders of this country went to Buganda Road primary school, and they made it in life successfully. If you were to carry out a research, you will realize that some of those teachers are still in that school, but why has the quality of education gone down?" asked General Secretary James Tweheyo from UNATU.



UNATU united with ActionAid.

Harriet Gimbo, Programs Director at ActionAid Uganda, urged the teachers to be solution oriented.

"We all know the issues that teachers are struggling with in this country. Our children feel the pinch. I challenge all of us to come up with solutions especially to improve the quality of education. We shall then propose these solutions to those in power," she said.

At the end of the day, the teachers came up with proposals on how to improve the quality of education. They handed it over to the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Education for discussion in the house.

Australia pledges to support agriculture, mining, and women empowerment



Flavia Nalubega explaining at the symposium about agriculture and mining.

In a three-day symposium organized by Australia Africa Awards (AAA) dubbed Agriculture and Mining: From Resource Curse to Development Driver, the participants agreed that resources should be channeled from mining to support agriculture – the backbone for most African economies.

Australia's High commissioner to Kenya Geoff Tooth said that Australia's focus has always been on two major areas; skills development in the extractives industry as well as sponsoring agricultural research, innovations and commercialization of agricultural work.

The High Commissioner also emphasized the need to ensure and support gender equality and economic empowerment of women.

"African women play a central role in both the agriculture and the mining sector. Policy interventions like securing women's land rights and improving their access to hired labor are essential to meet the untapped potential of women farmers," he said.

He emphasized the need to empower women in the Extractives sector as well, as it employs only 15 percent women of the total direct sector employees.

The symposium was organized for the over 500 alumni of the Australia Africa Awards programme, which Oil in Uganda Editor Chris Musime is a part of. On that note, Oil in Uganda presented a paper on its day-to-day work. Flavia Nalubega presented on behalf of Chris and attracted great positive feedback from the participants.

Malala and Kailash Satyarthi win the Nobel Peace Prize

Malala is a symbol of courage and change for girls all over the world, especially in her native Pakistan. By speaking out about girls' right to education, Malala has thrown a spotlight on the issue that continues to affect millions of girls and is an inspiration for all those who long to go school. The prize strengthens ActionAid's efforts and resolve to make the world a better place for our daughters.

ActionAid has partnered with Kailash Satyarthi several times over the last two decades and has been a witness to his incredible courage and determination. We have supported and learnt from the efforts of Kailashi and other anti-child labour campaigners. His work continues to inspire our engagement with children and informs our policy discourses.

Read more [here](#)

International Day for Disaster Reduction

Today Monday marks the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2014. This year the focus is on older people, including their needs and what they contribute to better planning and understanding of disaster risk in their communities.

You can read ActionAid's joint Briefing Paper on Inclusive Disaster Risk Management [here](#).

To read about ActionAid's work with disaster reduction in Vietnam, click [here](#).

ActionAid celebrates successful audit



Following the successful completion of the STAR project audit by E&Y Malaysia, the finance team celebrated with cake last Friday.

The STAR project is a multi-country auditing project that initially ended in 2009. The European Union however opted to re-commission an audit.

With the tireless hard work of Esther Babirye, Yuda Rwakojo and David Sewanyana, ActionAid Uganda came out with an almost spotless audit report. The exercise involved retrieving partner documentation from the field that was sometimes several years old. The team also had to contact former employees before every shilling was accounted for. ActionAid was able to move from a position that required us to refund over €100,000 in the draft report to a position of no ineligible expenditures. Good job Finance Team!

Busiki LRP takes partner support to a new level



In ActionAid, partnerships drive the organisation forward. Busiki LRP has therefore renewed its support to improve board management, organisational systems, human resources and the programme of its partner organisations.

After finalizing the Planning and Budgeting process, Busiki LRP set aside back to back support to its partners under the theme; Quality assurance in effective programming. Partners have been supported on capturing stories of change, monthly and quarterly Reporting, fundraising, donor mapping, and monitoring.

It is **anticipated** that these will augment the outcomes of 2015 programming, diversify sources of income for longer-term sustainability and document success stories.