

## Weekly

July 7 - 13

### Roll out Immersions for better policy formulation”

In the bid to put a face to Poverty, ActionAid has been organising the Immersions. This brings people who are in positions of programming to eradicate poverty together with people who directly experience poverty. This is done in a very informal and personal way.

Last week, ActionAid with funding from DGF immersed a group of people from the donor community, media, local government, central government and civil society among others in Barlonyo village in Lira.

The Communities of Barlonyo comprise of families who were internally displaced by the armed conflicts associated with the Lord Resistance Army and Karimojong cattle rustling. Like a number of places in Northern Uganda, the community has also been undergoing reintegration of formerly abducted persons and those displaced outside the sub-county. The Barlonyo community provides a typical representation of the people of Lango sub-region that were heavily impacted by the armed conflicts.

Without a phone, a laptop, a Newspaper all week, the immersers lived the lives of these communities, eating what they eat, and going hungry if there is actually no food. As one immerse remarked, this is an experience that every leaders and policy maker should be subjected to in this country.

“You have immersed us, but we are just a drop in the ocean. We need to think of rolling this out for better policy formulation in this country,” he remarked.

We shall be sharing more about the Immersions. Watch this space.

Top: General Assembly member, Charles Mpangi tries the ox plough.



Freek Jonker from the Dutch Embassy in the garden with his host.



Hon. Idah Mehangye, Board Member with NGO Forum prepares grains with her host.

### In the Line of Duty: Pallisa legal officer account of one of her longest days in her career!

Last week was one of the longest weeks for Joanita Asimwe's career as a legal officer for Pallisa WPC.

Sirea Patel, an ordinary Indian woman, born and raised in Pallisa had received a notice of intention to sue for damages and loss of business from the Lawyer of her former tenant, who happens to be the Chief magistrate for Pallisa. She was being accused of theft, allegations that she vehemently denied. According to her, she was paying the price for having rejected the sexual advances of the Chief magistrate. Joanita supported the woman by replying to the notice. This did not go well with the magistrate.

When Joanita went to the court to represent one of her other clients, someone informed the Magistrate that she was at court.

“He stormed out like a mad man, approached me and started yelling and shouting out all kinds of insults. He even ordered the prison warders to arrest me for defamation. I sat still, not knowing what to do. When I attempted to walk away, he pulled me by the shoulder, and continued with his insults. I thank God that the ActionAid driver was not very far away. He came in, took me to the car, and drove back to office. On that day I was supposed to represent a client in court but failed to do so,” said Joanita.

Today, Joanita is still upset and not sure, if she is able represent her clients, knowing very well that the Magistrate has this bias about her. The struggle for justice is not for the faint hearted. We pray for you Joan!



Asimwe Joanita (Pallisa Legal Officer) in her lighter moments during the staff retreat.

### Finance officers shoot for the moon!

Last week, ActionAid sponsored its Finance officers to attend a professional development seminar organized by the Association of the chartered Certified Accounts (ACCA). The one-day seminar took place at Imperial Royale Hotel. The seminar aimed at developing skills in tax proposals, value addition through effective management of insurance policy claims and fraud, real estate investment opportunities and managing pitfalls. Leading accountants from Earnest Young, Uganda Revenue Authority, Insurance Regulatory Authority and Knight Frank Limited made the presentations.

“It felt very good, listening and learning from some of the most successful accountants in the country. We were challenged to look ahead and aim for moon,” remarked Juliet and Esther, finance officers at head office.

The finance team is grateful to ActionAid management for the opportunity and looks forward to more of these spaces!

### Nebbi PRRPs improve Programming



The ActionAid Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fredrick Kawooya extensively shares with partners and stakeholders about our in West Nile.

As one of the Key requirements of ALPS, Nebbi LRP held its Participatory Review and Reflection Process meeting at Hotel Desert Breeze hotel last week. The review meeting attracted participants from Zombo district, local government and partner organizations. As a transparency and accountability tool, ActionAid shared with partners our work plan in West Nile, the budget and strategy of implementation.

To supplement ActionAid presentation, partners shared their Quarterly reports and more importantly, live stories of change from beneficiaries. This thorough accountability made it easy for the stakeholders to give informed feedback to the LRP to improve its programming.

The LRP and partners were applauded for the good work on the ground. However, it was not all praises. The team was challenged to include men in women's rights programming and avoid piecemeal activities but rather do more comprehensive programming.

Participants also benefitted from a lecture on how to improve project performance, and were also taken through the new quarterly, monthly and activity reporting formats.

“With this strengthened capacity and support, we can only guarantee ActionAid and our stakeholders improved programming in regard to work plans and budgets for excellency performance’ remarked one participant.

### ActionAid makes Tax Power a friendlier subject to staff

ActionAid last week organized a capacity building training for staff and partners in Taxation. The three-day training took place at Hotel Paradise in Jinja. According to Sara Muyonga, the National Tax adviser in ActionAid, it was prudent to roll out the tax subject and make it friendly to staff because it's the entire team that is rolling out the Tax Power campaign.

“You can't effectively campaign for or against something you don't understand,” she said.

According to one of the participants, Governance Officer Christine Kellen Namutebi, the training provided an opportunity for action planning to ensure sustainability for the Tax Power campaign.

The training was also strategically made to ensure sustainability of the campaign throughout the ActionAid LRPs, Partner organizations and the country at large. A Tax expert from TCDC, Jasper Tumuhimbise, Anders, the local tax advisor, and Sara, the national tax advisor, facilitated the training.



ActionAid staff and partners posed with the latest copy of the

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