



Weekly

September 8-14

Hon. Lukia Nakadama: Government is committed to eliminating GBV



ActionAid's Hellen Mallinga speaks to Hon. Lukia in Lira.

Last week, ActionAid launched the Lira Gender based Violence. The shelter was constructed by ActionAid with funding from UNFPA and UKAid. The aim of the shelter is to provide prevention and response services to Gender based Violence survivors in terms of legal aid and case management, psychosocial support, temporarily accommodation but also awareness creation among the publics.

While presiding over the launch, the chief guest, Hon Isanga Lukia Nakadama, the State Minister of Gender informed the gathering that Government is committed to the elimination of GBV.

She further stated that her Ministry had established the guidelines for GBV shelter establishment. She pledged her continued support towards making GBV history in Uganda.

The launch was attended by the donor community including DFID and UNFPA Country representative. Others who were present include the media, district leadership from the Lango sub region, politicians among others.

Next week, ActionAid will in the same wake launch the Gulu GBV shelter. This time round, the Hon Minister Gender, Labor and Social development, Hon Mary Karoro Okurut and the UN convergence group will officiate the occasion.

AAU joins the run for a child Marathon

In the spirit of strengthening the relationship between ActionAid and other community structures, but also defending the rights of the children, ActionAid participated in the Run for a child Marathon in Soroti. The event was part of the Uganda police centenary celebrations. According to the District Police Commander of Soroti, Joab Wabwire, they chose to run for a good cause and contribute towards building and facilitating Amecet children's home.

"We come across so many cases of child abuse, child abandonment, etc. We have always taken all these children to this home and they always received the children with open arms." he remarked.

The home currently looks after about 50 children; some are total orphans, while the majority is victims of Gender based violence and child abuse.

According to the ActionAid Katakwi LRP Coordinator, the ActionAid HRBA approach looks at working with children and youth as change agents.

"We therefore chose to partner with the Uganda police in this run where all proceeds would go towards improving the children's welfare in the home, but also make a strong stand against child abuse and abandonment."

The chief runner was Hon. Musa Echeru, the Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness. Over six million UGX was raised from ticket sales of the marathon.



Proceeds went to the children's home

Pallisa's most corrupt official speaks



The Pallisa district Engineer, Omunyokol Moses, was voted the most corrupt official in Palissa during the anti-corruption caravan.

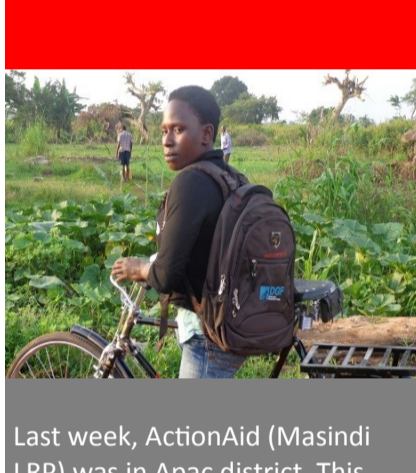
Last week, Pallisa LRP organized a district dialogue on accountability and service delivery. The meeting attracted participants from Pallisa, Kibuku and Budaka. These included civil society representatives, business sector, politicians, technocrats, media, farmers among others.

The meeting extensively discussed the "name and shame" cases that were reported during the anti-corruption caravan. The heated deliberations put certain officer on spot to explain themselves as they were tired of being labeled corrupt because of a few greedy officers.

The Pallisa district Engineer, Omunyokol Moses, who was voted by the citizens in Pallisa and the most corrupt official was in the house. The meeting turned out to be an anti-corruption court of sorts where he had to explain himself, to every one's satisfaction.

The RDC of Pallisa tasked the civil society, but also the district leadership to find out why Pallisa hospital is still in darkness, yet solar panels worth 50 million UGX had been procured. The district declared zero accommodation for corruption and corrupt officials. It only gets hotter!

ActionAid builds energies of Monitors



Last week, ActionAid (Masindi LRP) was in Apac district. This was to energize the service delivery monitors at both district and sub county levels. Early in the year, ActionAid, with funding from DGF trained a team of youths to monitor service delivery in Northern Uganda. Much as the region has continued to drupel in poverty, it, through decentralized and direct funding has failed to benefit from Government programs such as NAADS, NUSAF one and two and so many other programs. The reason has been greed of some of the duty bearers. The three days training enhanced the community monitors with skills and knowledge in monitoring government programs but also created better understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

The monitors were equipped with stationary and bicycles to ease their movement within the district but also clearly document the fawns that they find in service delivery.

Akello Racheal, one of the monitors could not hide her excitement.

"Thank you ActionAid for reviving the power in me. I have been monitoring, but with a lot of fear. Am now energized and with this bicycle, I will traverse the remote areas of Apac, to educate the rights holders, but also task the duty bearers to provide the services with dignity, she said.

Oil in Uganda picks lessons from TZ



Oil in Uganda's Flavia Nalubega in Tanzania last week.

One week spent in one of Tanzania's major gas wells in Mtwara region in the North was an eye opener. The field visit, sponsored by Africa Centre for Media Excellency (ACME) and Natural Resources Governance Institute (NRGI) revealed that the Government of Tanzania has put in place plans to ensure that locals that live within the gas areas benefit from the resource.

The regional government here headed by the Regional Commissioner Col Joseph Zakalia has completed plans for the regional Mtwara-fund to be used to develop the area. The gas produced in this area is used to produce electricity.

Last year, fights broke out in Mtwara region, steered by the locals over the lack of electricity in the area, generated from the gas that is produced. The fights that saw tens lose their lives and hundreds injured was targeted towards Government, with the locals asking to have a share of benefits from their own natural resource.

Following this, the Government has drawn plans to start a Mtwara Fund to be used for development of the region's infrastructure and also to improve the current state of the communities in Mnazi bay area where gas is mined.

The RC said that; "We are going to transfer those families elsewhere temporarily, construct homes for them with necessities like water and electricity in place, then we transfer them back so that they live better lives."

But this has only been thought of after the riots. This should not be the way things should work, for human rights must be respected, not demanded for. Uganda therefore ought to get it right from the start, as far as the oil sector is concerned, and it is up to us in the civil society and the media, to ensure that they do not step on the toes of the rights holders who live in the oil region.

Week Ahead

- ActionAid Uganda and MS Training Centre for Development (TCDC) in Arusha, together with Oil in Uganda (www.oilinuganda.org), have organised a day conference scheduled for September 17th to 19th 2014, at the Golf Course Hotel Banquet Hall in Kampala. The conference is aimed at deepening transparency and accountability in the extractive sector in East Africa.
- This week is expected to be very busy for ActionAid Uganda as we complete the budgeting process. All units are expected to submit their budgets by close of business on Thursday.
- ActionAid Uganda is hosting Peter Falvey, a prospective high value donor.

ActionAid launches DSIP review report

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) is a continental initiative which aims to achieve a higher economic growth, eliminate hunger, food/nutrition insecurity, and poverty through agriculture-led development. To realize the national aspirations of CAADP, Uganda launched the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan (DSIP I) (2010/11-2014/15) in March 2010 which is currently under review.



Hon Edith Kasajja from the National planning Authority.

Last Week, ActionAid organized a multi stakeholder review meeting to assess the performance and provide recommendations for improvements. The meeting was attended by officials from Ministries of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Ministry Of Water and Environment, Trade Industry and Cooperatives, and Local Government. Others represented were NARO, NAADS; representatives of Development Partners, Members of Parliament; Private Sector; Civil Society, and Farmers.

Hon Edith Kasajja from the National planning Authority adopted and launched the recommendations from the assessment. She called for more participation of stakeholders in the DSIP II review process to ensure mutual accountability in the policy and budget development processes.