



# Weekly

Dec 8—Dec 14

## ActionAid kotido documents children stories

Having made a documentary about the Karamoja Peacebuilding Project, ActionAid Kotido has embarked on completing the documentation process for writing a book. It will highlight the experiences of ex-child raiders, the struggle to go to school, and achievements in the children's contributions to pacifying Karamoja as part of the peace agenda. The children appreciate the platform and support given by ActionAid for them to contribute to the peace processes across Karamoja.

The book will be launched in Kotido during the commissioning of a girls' dormitory donated by ActionAid Uganda as a contribution to support girl child education in Kotido. Many children highlighted how they have managed to bring their peers who were raiders back to school, and how they enjoy their studies. Some of them recall the lost time in kraals but attribute this to being out of their control, and appealed ActionAid to support education programs for former child raiders who have enrolled back in school as a result of the peacebuilding initiatives. The documentation exercise was done successfully in the 6 primary schools found in the sub-counties of Panyangara and Kotido.

## Actors stand together against GBV after conference



Hon. Rebecca Kadaga signing a commitment to help end GBV.

Last week, ActionAid Uganda's Women Rights and Gender Equality Unit hosted the National Gender Based Violence (GBV) conference. The conference was in two sections: the morning session was a dialogue, while the evening session was a dinner with several speeches on GBV.

Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, and delegates from DFID, EU, UNFPA, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Health, and the police, together with partner organizations, ensured discussions and deliberations between all relevant stakeholders. While the legal framework is almost in place to fight GBV, enforcement is still a problem, as several speakers pointed out.

"The parliament has put the necessary laws and acts in place. What is left is to encourage people to follow them. Why do parents take their children to relatives, when they should be kept home? Let us keep fighting by ensuring that the law is implemented," MP Kama-teeka Jovah said at the morning session.

The conference participants signed a commitment to help end GBV in Uganda and also witnessed an award ceremony recognizing actors from across the country and their fight against GBV.

Read about Karamoja demanding more cash for mineral wealth [here](#).

## Award for ActionAid



Zaituna Fuambe and Nickson Ogwal with the award.

ActionAid Uganda has won the prestigious World Achievers Excellence Award 2014 in the Civil Society category.

World Savers Network recognizes innovations in programs and projects. The Awards are given to people and organisations that are committed to the wellbeing of humanity, saving lives, preserving and promoting environmental sustainability, and alleviating poverty.

Among the other nominated organisations in the Civil Society category were World Vision Uganda, Uganda Red Cross Society, Concern Uganda, and OXFAM Uganda. World Savers rewarded ActionAid after a thorough vetting process to identify the nominees and a public vote – online and on SMS.

ActionAid received the Award at a ceremony at an event at the National Theatre in Kampala on December 9, 2014.

## AAU hosts International board meeting

Last week, ActionAid Uganda hosted a meeting for the board of ActionAid International.

It was the second time within 7 years that ActionAid Uganda had the honor of hosting the International Board.

The International board visited some of our programme areas before proceeding to Jinja Nile Resort. ActionAid Uganda was part of the agenda, and our story and achievements were shared.

## IASL Unit put Emphasis on results



Busiki PRP Participants listening to Resource Monitors, Public Expenditure Trackers at Kibaale Sub County.

AAIU has taken efforts to strengthen their Impact Assessment and Shared Learning Unit in Uganda. In order to better report program results across all LRPs in the country; The IASL unit endeavors to conduct a quarterly LRP data collection assessment and verification exercise. The findings help to strengthen reporting and guides AAU LRPs on the kind of data to be reported. It also helps to track the progress of results from the projects being implemented at the NRP and LRP offices across the country.

During the Last 2 weeks, the IASL Unit staff have Visited Nebbi, Pader and Masindi LRPs with an aim to collect, validate and generally assess performance of these LRPs with regard to the Program Partnership Arrangement – PPA program. This activity was meant to inform the PPA quarterly report for the quarter ending December 2014.

During the process of data collection, the team used rapid appraisal data collection methods i.e. Focused Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews through which the team interacted with Farmers doing Climate Resilience Sustainable Agriculture, Schools Promoting Education Rights, the Police, Implementing Partners and the general community on issues of violence against women and girls.

During this process it was realized that there is a need to strengthen documentation at different levels, since some of the stakeholders could not trace some information simply because documentation of cases was not well done, for example amongst the police, where summary records were not collecting sufficiently detailed data on cases such as age and gender. It is the IASL unit's intention to explore ways to better influence the police to collect and record appropriate data.

## Farewell to Fayaz



Fayaz (with his family in the middle) cutting his farewell cake.

Governance Advisor Fayaz Ahmad had his last working day for ActionAid Uganda last week. He leaves the organization after having served as an inspiration to staff at all levels.

"In the last 13 months I only tried to raise questions, which some of you liked and most of you disliked. But, I believe these questions will come back, again and again... Believe me! And then you'll remember me!" were some of his farewell words in an email to staff.

"... You shall be free indeed when you are not under a care nor your nights without a want and a grief, but rather when these things girdle your life and yet you rise above them naked and unbound..." he continued.

His departure was marked by a staff lunch and farewell words from several staff members. Fayaz will be missed for his passion, his commitment and his ability to raise questions.

## WEEK AHEAD

- Today (Monday) The Board for ActionAid Uganda had its Board Meeting.
- Monday is also the day where head office staff celebrates the coming holidays.