

Meet the fresh and beautiful Zainab Mbabazi at full recovery



Mbabazi addresses journalists at the ActionAid Boardroom.

When Mbabazi Zainab walked into the ActionAid Boardroom, a journalist whispered to me, "Why hasn't the GBV survivor made it to this place? She is the one we are interested in meeting," he inquired grudgingly. Unknown to him, Mbabazi, had walked into the boardroom, with gaze, smartness and beauty. She was no longer the same GBV survivor who had been allegedly gang raped by Pakistan Nationals before she walked into ActionAid custody in October last year.

Last week, the healthy, smiling and beautiful Mbabazi was handed over to her family in full view of the media and civil society to start a new life. Rita Achiro, the Executive Director of UWONET informed the fully packed room of journalists, that it had been expensive to rehabilitate Mbabazi. She urged the Government to invest more in preventing violence against Women. Nickson Ogwal, the acting Country Director of ActionAid further stated, that the organization could not quantify how much it has spent on rehabilitating the survivor.



Mbabazi poses with father, grandmother and aunt in Bushenyi.

"It has cost us our name as an organisation, time, patience and money. We are glad that Mbabazi can smile again."

In her own words, the emotional Mbabazi thanked everyone for the sisterly love and care. She has attained full recovery and received trainings to improve her entrepreneurial skills. She looks forward to start her own business.

Mbabazi is now living in Bushenyi with her family.

That evening and the following day, the media was filled with this great news. Read more on:

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/653487-i-am-normal-now--says-rape-victim.html> <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Gang-raped-girl-now-in-good-health/-/688334/2241318/-/a3fycj/-/index.html>

The CD is back! but where has he been?

It has been 3 weeks and 2 days since our CD was physically in office! So where and what has he been up to?

After 3 weeks out, we have learnt that the CD has covered 18,690 miles, spending in some cases over 30 hours in the air or transit. During this period he has had successful meetings, first in Naivasha attending the Africa CDs and Policy Team Meeting where CDs committed to 4 joint work areas (Tax, Land Grabs, Extractives and Shrinking Civil and Political Space) as part of a Pan African Agenda to ActionAid's work.

Hereafter, our CD was in Nairobi for a learning visit to the Training for Change Global Platform - www.globalplatforms.org as AA Uganda hopes to establish one in our country focusing on Youth Leadership in Governance and Development. The CD then travelled to Washington DC where he delivered a talk on Africa's Governance and Leadership Challenge at the Africa focused Think Tank, Institute for Policy Studies.



Arthur Larok at the Institute for Policy Studies.

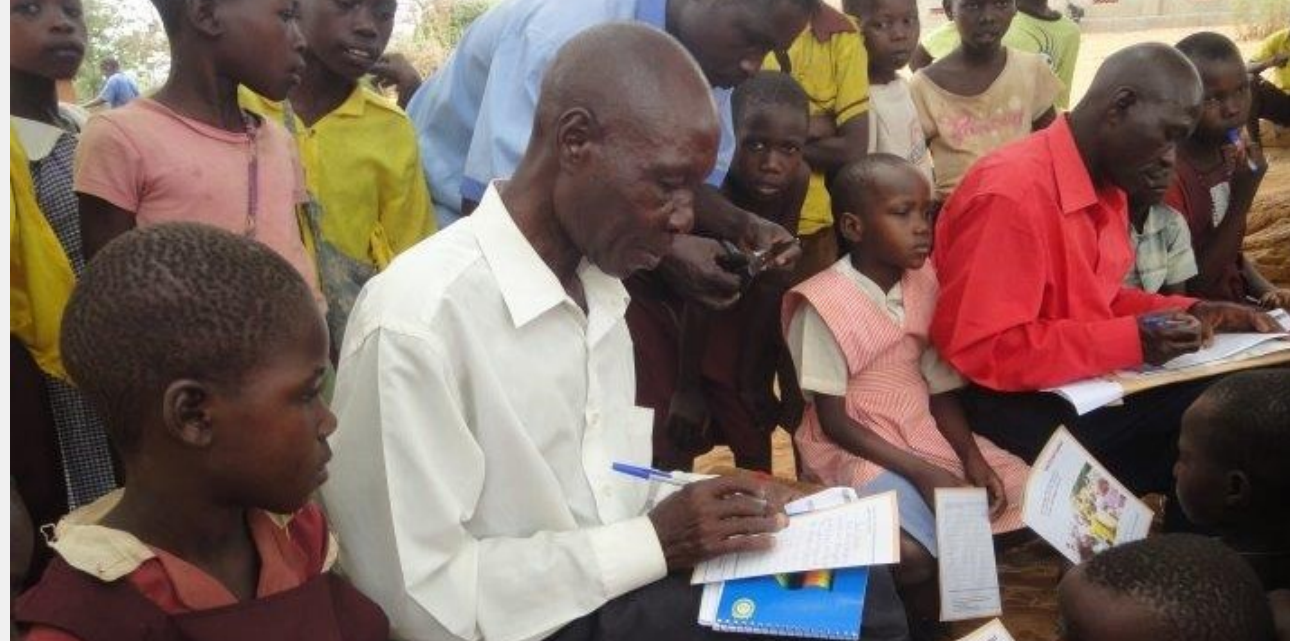
He also paid a courtesy visit to the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) where he was able to persuade the institution to invest in a partnership with ActionAid Uganda, an idea that was enthusiastically welcomed. ActionAid will submit a proposal to NED by May 2014 for funding by the end of the year!

The CD was then part of an ActionAid International Team (others were Marie Brill, CD AA-USA, Adriano Campolina, Incoming AAI CEO, Brenna from AA USA, Buba Khan - Africa Advocacy Officer) that went for a negotiation for another round of funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support the Public Financing for Agriculture Project. The negotiations were successful and a renewal is in the offing for another 3 years starting 2015!

Finally, immediately upon return to Uganda, the CD joined the DANIDA Evaluation Team for a field trip to Masindi and spent a considerable amount of the weekend with the team.

In the CD's words, 'it has been a very tiring and strenuous 3 weeks but certainly very productive for AA Uganda and the wider Federation...'

Pre RAMh training kick starts message collection



Hands on message collection in progress(Nebbi)

This time round, rather than discussing in the office on key learnings and how to improve message collection, the Sponsorship unit came up with an innovation where the pre-message was held out in the field with the sponsored children and carried out hands on training on the RAMh implementation with all the CIs. Live messages were collected.

The LRP staff were also trained on NK (2nd Phase) and child Census Assistants trained in some areas. This is in preparation for the seasonal message collection and logging onto NK from the LRP but with more emphasis put on the Integration of sponsorship and Programs. This exercise was carried out in the LRPs of Nebbi, Kumi, Busiki, Kapchorwa, Pallisa and Katakwi. The exercise continues this week in other LRPs and partner organizations. We look forward to integration, quality and timely message collection.

Voices of Women Empowerment in Nebbi



See me now...!! Empowered and dignified. Alice makes her presentation on Women's day in Nebbi

Nebbi LRP joined the entire world to celebrate international Women's day. As the entire Nebbi Township sang, danced and marched to celebrate women liberation and empowerment, Alice had a story to tell. She was given chance to stand and speak.

Her story revealed a gruesome marriage of battering which later led to separation, leaving her alone to take care of their two children. She struggled to make ends meet, while keeping the children in school. Life was tough.

Her life changed when she heard about the Women Protection Center (WPC) and reported her case. The matter was eventually resolved after signing a memorandum of understanding with the ex-husband to provide for the family. Today she lives happily and the man is fully providing for the children. One is in Primary seven and the other in senior two.

Alice encouraged all women undergoing gender-based violence to report the cases to ActionAid GBV shelter and not suffer and die in violence silently.

Guest of Honor, Christine Acayo, the woman MP for Nebbi who was touched by the testimony, reiterated the same call. She encouraged women to report cases to the ActionAid WPC and urged the District Police Commander to ensure that men who batter their wives face justice.

Week Ahead

- The ActionAid International audit team will be with us all week, conducting an audit support function.