

ActionAid Women Leaders Forum Rejuvenates ActionAid



The revitalized women leaders pose with their facilitator, Hon Miria Matembe.

On Thursday last week, the Women Rights unit together with HR&OD unit organized the first ever Women leaders retreat. The purpose of the getaway was to provide space to the Women leaders to reflect on the challenges that they encounter as they pursue their career together with the motherhood roles. Celebrated women achievers such as Hon Victoria Sekitoleko and Hon Miria Matembe inspired the women leaders, challenging them to persevere, and strive to inspire before they retire.

Christine Aboke, the HR&OD Director promised the women leaders a lot more moments like this. She added that ActionAid will continue to make and implement fair policies friendly to the women and will continue to strive for even a friendlier working environment for women.

ActionAid Uganda programing has a balanced intervention mix: International Head of Programs



Birachi, the international Head of Programs in company of our programs Director welcomed in Kapchorwa by the women farmers.

When the ActionAid International Head of Programs, Birachi visited Uganda last week, it was all thumbs up for our programming. He commended the empowerment coming through the neighbourhood assembly (NA) model and urged for further replication. The tool enhances citizens' capacity to demand for accountability, obligations and responsibilities in their development processes.

He noted that our programming had balanced intervention mix highlighted by the women in Kapchorwa who have advanced from farmers receiving inputs to self-help groups that can challenge status quo. Birachi challenged the country to pay close attention to the challenging political context and the need to rejuvenate the steam of Black Monday.

"There is also a bulk of youth population that seems not to be involved in development yet. These should be mobilized and made to be parts and partial of the community initiatives," he said.

During the week-long visit, Birachi interacted with the ActionAid leadership and all program units. He was then accompanied by our Programs Director to Busiki and Kapchorwa, from where he had an in-depth experience of our programming. Look out for a detailed report on the visit soon.

ActionAid Conducts Extractives Workshops in Hoima



Participants of the Extractives Workshop in Hoima.

Land and Oil Project last week organised a capacity-building workshop for selected AAIU staff, implementing LRPs and project partners involved in the implementation of the project's objectives.

The workshop enlightened the partners on the developments of the extractive sector in Uganda, enhanced their capacity on the socio-economic aspects of the oil and gas industry and highlighted the importance of local content, good governance and accountability of the resource so as to ensure all Ugandans benefit from the resource. Lessons from other oil producing countries were used as case studies to give a glimpse to the participants on what would happen if the resource was mismanaged.

During the workshop, the participants expressed concerns on how the oil and gas policy would be improved to ensure that the local content provision benefit the locals from the host community since they are the most affected persons.

However, the participants were urged to empower the local communities to have free, prior and informed consent before any activities are undertaken on their lands.

ActionAid Pader equips farmers with hands on farm skills



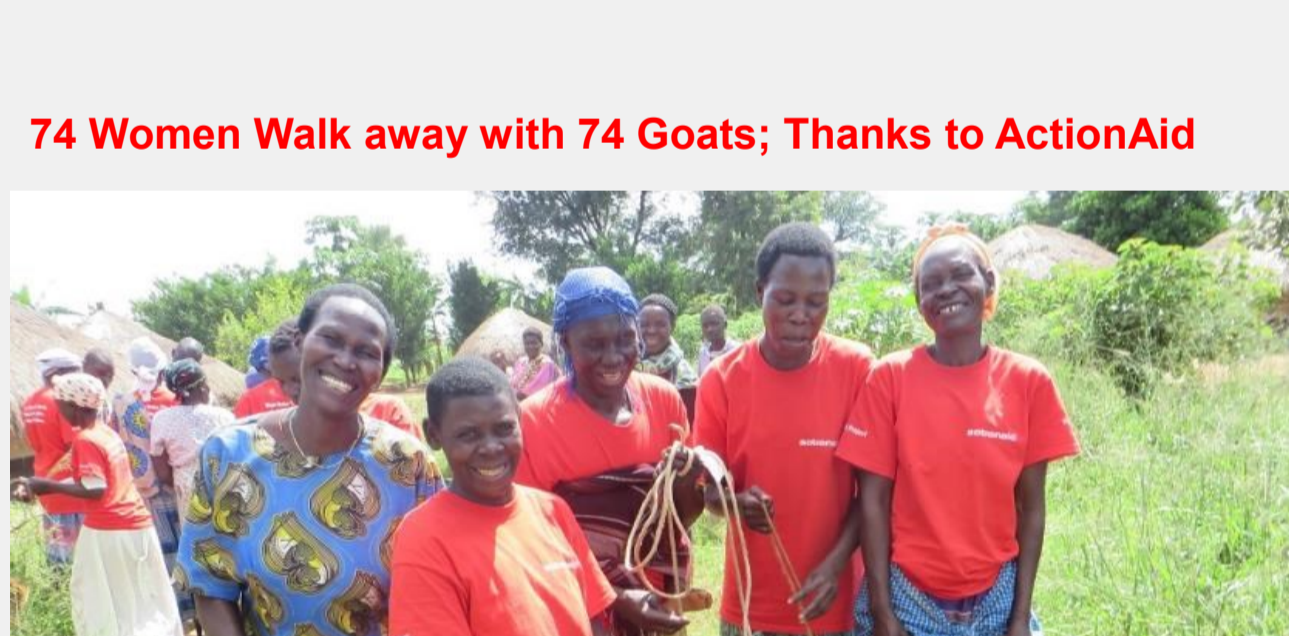
In the week just ending, farmers in Pader received training on how to better their agriculture. Being the backbone of the country and hence of any society, farmers were equipped with skills on how to tackle bottlenecks as they move towards practicing agriculture for food security but also for business.

Emphasis was drawn on topics like logical decision-making, farm management, record keeping, post-harvest storage, income, expenditure & savings analysis and Sustainable management of energy for environmental protection.

Farmers were also taken to the field and given practical hands on training on making of liquid manure, making plant tea, nursery bed seed multiplication among other things.

The training targeted Reflect facilitators. These will in turn roll out the trainings in their different Reflect circles.

74 Women Walk away with 74 Goats; Thanks to ActionAid



Smiling away with their capital: The women walking off to economic empowerment.

74 women in Oyam district are on their way out of the bondage of poverty and marginalization. This was after ActionAid, under the Berkley Women Land Rights project procured for them goats. These goats will not only improve the economic muscles of these women but will enable them gain confidence as empowered people who are not marginalized.

One of the beneficiaries, Lilly Agona stated that;

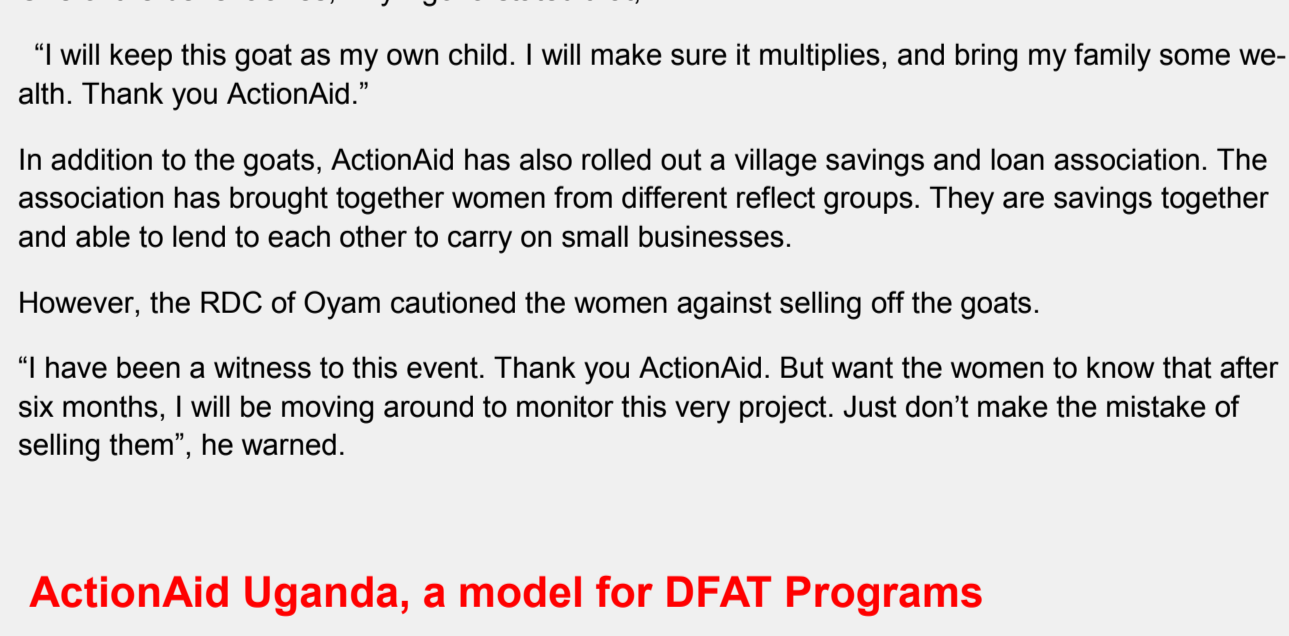
"I will keep this goat as my own child. I will make sure it multiplies, and bring my family some wealth. Thank you ActionAid."

In addition to the goats, ActionAid has also rolled out a village savings and loan association. The association has brought together women from different reflect groups. They are savings together and able to lend to each other to carry on small businesses.

However, the RDC of Oyam cautioned the women against selling off the goats.

"I have been a witness to this event. Thank you ActionAid. But want the women to know that after six months, I will be moving around to monitor this very project. Just don't make the mistake of selling them", he warned.

ActionAid Uganda, a model for DFAT Programs



Learning from us; Francis Akorikin takes the visitors through some of the local strides

Kumi and Katakwi teams had a busy weekend with visitors from DFAT (formerly known as Ausaid) and different partner organizations.

The visitors included the program manager DFAT, Sally Henderson from ActionAid Australia and partners from World Vision (Kenya and Uganda), WaterAid Ghana, Mariestopes Tanzania, Oxfam Zambia and KZF-an NGO in Zambia.

The group visited Kidongole Sub County where they interacted with communities on interventions under the Food For Thought project implemented by Koena Aipeitoi Farmers Association and the LRP. They sought to understand our work around cooperatives and collective marketing especially the collective assets that the groups have mobilized to increase production including mother gardens for cassava and sunflower.

The members of the cooperative shared their experiences and impact of cooperative on their lives. They also shared experience on climate change and technology adaptation, Lobby and advocacy interventions where they are involved in engaging local authorities on issues of service delivery. To get a better picture, the guests visited households and farms owned by members of the association.

The team was amazed at the work that ActionAid has done with the communities. According to Sally, the team came to learn from Uganda because of the great success that the country has registered with the community interventions.

"When we looked around, Uganda as the best learning destination, so we are here because we consider it a model country for our programs," she remarked.

Week Ahead

- The Annual program review meeting is on this week at Collin Hotel Mukono.
- The Annual Partners Meeting will take place this week, on Wednesday and Thursday at Colline Hotel in Mukono.