



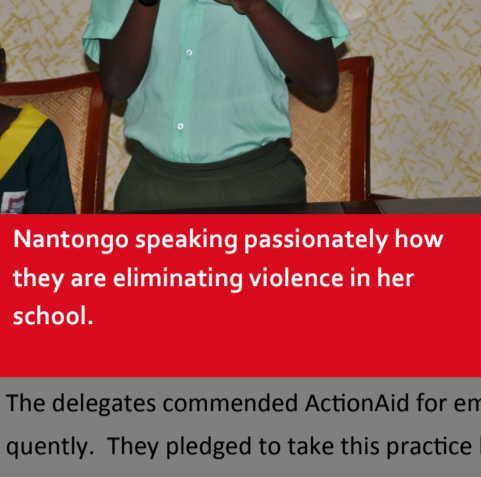
July 13 - 19

The pupils you should meet!!

When 13 year old Natongo Bernadette took to the podium to address delegates about reducing violence in and around school, she left awe, wonder and amazement in their minds. Nantongo was part of the four children from Nebbi and Kalangala that ActionAid brought to the Elevate Children's Learning event on Reducing Violence in and around event that took place last week at Hotel Africana.

The event brought together all National and international organizations that have programs aimed at eliminating violence in the lives of children. Participants were drawn from America, Asia, Africa and Britain.

Nantongo and colleagues took on the floor in the afternoon, when ideally every one was tired. She did not like the dull Good afternoon response she received from the adults. She asked them to stand up and join in the song, "Making melodies". After the energizer, every one was awake. Nantongo went on to talk about how the violence free boxes are steadily eliminating violence in their schools.



Nantongo speaking passionately how they are eliminating violence in her school.

"With support from ActionAid, the boxes were introduced in our school. They told us to write any abuse or violence on a piece of paper and drop it in the box. When the box is full, a community member, usually a parent is called to witness the opening in the presence of the teachers and the pupils. All issues are recorded and acted upon accordingly. Our teachers are no longer violent. They know that we can report them", she said.

Olivia Ndagire, added that its important to place boxes in convenient places so that the children freely post their issues. She noted that placing boxes near the staff room turns away pupils.

However, 13 year old Patrick Owany from Nebbi puzzled participants when he revealed that his school lacks female teachers, which is affecting the enrollment and retention of girls. He revealed that one male teacher had been elevated as the acting female teacher.

The delegates commended ActionAid for empowering the children, who spoke saw freely, naturally and eloquently. They pledged to take this practice back to their projects and countries. Visit sound cloud [here](#) and [here](#) and listen to what these pupils had to say.

CSOs-Legislators strategize to pass the Childrens' Bill



Rebecca Kukundakwe address Legislators last week. She pleaded for a legislation that will protect the children.

ActionAid together with the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network organized a breakfast meeting to brain storm on possible ways of ensuring that the Childrens Act Amendment Bill is passed into a law to protect the children of Uganda. The meeting took place Last Wednesday at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala

The meeting brought together leaders from civil society Organizations that handle child Rights issues such as Save the Children, UNICEF, ActionAid among others and over 20 Legislators.

Legislators that sit on the Gender Committee of Parliament and those under the Children's desk under the leadership of Florence Mutyabule got technical insights from the members of the civil society. Legislators however informed the meeting that it was quite late to include all concerns raised into the Bill but asked civil society to sit and come up with a clear position that will be presented to the committee this Tuesday for consideration.

The Mover of the Private Members Bill, Hon Atiku promised that the entire team will not settle for a legislation that exposes the Ugandan children to any harm or risks but one which protects them.

Rebecca Kukundakwe, while speaking to the Weekly on phone noted that the process of having the Children's Act Amendment Bill passed into law has been a rocky one

"Along the way, we had legislators arguing that they are what they are because they were beaten and hence clauses that address corporal punishments should be deleted from the Bill. The fact that we are speaking the same language with the legislators today is energizing"

Rebecca and team say that they are keeping their fingers crossed; praying that the Bill is passed before the current parliament stops business because pushing it to the next parliament will mean starting from Zero and more pain for the children.

"For me, the passing of this Bill into law will be the best farewell gift that I will give to the children that I have been working with in ActionAid."(Rebecca has left ActionAid for other career ambitions)

Pader Girls Equiped!

Pader LRP has started training girls from selected primary schools in hygiene and sanitation. The girls were selected from primary schools in pader and Agago. According to Kevin Aciro, the Pader LRP Coordinantor, they are planning to train over 1200 girls .

"Our aim is to ensure that these girls attain the skill of producing reusable sanitary pads. This will enable them be in control of their menstrual hygiene", she said.

Statistics indicate that menstrual hygiene and lack of sanitary towels accounts for 30% of total school dropouts in rural primary schools in the sub region. At the end of the training, each of the girls is supported with 4 pads and 4 knickers as a startup package as they polish their skills of production of the pads. It is expected that after mastering the skill of making the pads, they will then make and sell to their communities, giving them a source of finance to further their education. The senior woman teacher for Oyuku Galagala(the ActionAid dream school) expressed excitement. She is confident that her girls performance is school will greatly improve because they will be more regular in school.

Exposure visit inspires Kotido pupils



The visitors and the hosts joined in a welcome dance. The pupils learnt how to handle challenges and stay in school

Last week, AAU organized an exposure and learning visit for 30 pupils from Kotido. The pupils travelled to Kapchorwa and kween districts to learn from their counter parts how they have managed to stay in school and perform excellently in their studies despite the several challenges.

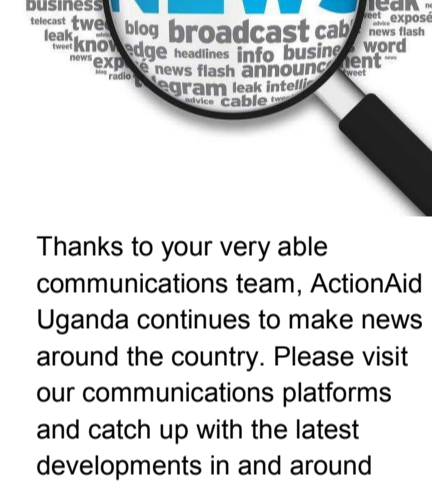
According to David Moses Okello, the Project Officer from Kotido, a visit to Binyiny and Alpha, the best Primary Schools in Kween and Kapchorwa Districts respectively, enabled the children to learn different strategies of promoting Rights in Schools such as formation of child rights clubs, enforcement of existing laws among others.

The pupils also realized that just like them, children from other communities face several challenges such as forced early marriages, Female Genital mutilation, cattle raiding, but were working against these odds to stay in school.

The guests and their hosts further cemented their interaction through a netball and football matches and later a children's parliament that tackled several issues such as eliminating violence at school and in homes.

The pupils were excited when they visited Sipi Falls.

"We thought that Karamoja is the only region where children face challenges. The visit has opened our eyes that the situation is the same everywhere so we must desist from self-pity and work hard for better grades", they said.



Thanks to your very able communications team, ActionAid Uganda continues to make news around the country. Please visit our communications platforms and catch up with the latest developments in and around ActionAid.

- Visit sound cloud and listen to the sound bites on quality education [here](#) and more [here](#)
- Read about the long rocky journey to the passing of the Childrens Act Amendment Bill [here](#). At one point, even the Nabagereka joined that journey [here](#)
- Nantongo and her colleagues in the lead story are not the first pupils to demand for an end to violence in and around schools. Read what [these](#) pupils had to say last year .
- Visit the ActionAid Youtube page and view some of the latest vidios such as [seeds for life community seed store](#) and [Living the Legacy:James Otto](#)

Actionaid staff scrutinize AA Theory of Change and Human Rights Based Approach.



Participants in Malawi join in the exercise. AAU was represented by Harriet, Mariam and David.

AAU Director Programmes and 2 LRP Coordinators (Kumi and Amuru) took part in the four day East & Southern Africa Regional Programme Learning meeting in Malawi. The Land mark meeting brought together Programme staff from AAI, all Heads of Programmes from the East and Southern Africa, LRP coordinators and partner organisations from the region. The main objective of the meeting was to interrogate how the theory of change has been utilised and the Program Approach-Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). This was illustrated through use of case studies and a series of exercises guided by questions and numerous group tasks. The meeting revealed that several Action-Aid programs are still lacking. The development is so opaque and un-understandable because of the way we communicate. The documentation of

our work also needs to be improved. Members also noted that the monitoring and evaluation framework is restrictive and limits the capturing of important aspects of the Human Rights and Learning Approach. The meeting drew several recommendations that will contribute immensely to our post 2017 programmes.

WEEK AHEAD

- The country Director will be traveling to Gulu to meet the district leadership for strategic engagements
- The programmes Director will participate in the Gender extractives meeting this week
- The communications unit will conduct a media field visit to document the success of the WORIA project in Kapchorwa.