

Danida: ActionAid is a capable, trustworthy organisation



The review team, sharing with the ActionAid leadership their findings last week

As the Danida review team concluded their work with ActionAid Uganda, management organized an exit meeting with the team. The purpose was to review the entire process and share the overall picture that the team was taking back to Denmark.

The team expressed gratitude for the support and reception. The team leader noted that the impact of our work in the communities is strong.

"Wherever we visited, and whoever we spoke to, one thing came out clearly; ActionAid Uganda is acknowledged for its efforts of taking on key issues affecting the country and its citizens," he added.

The Danida team also noted that overall; ActionAid is viewed as an activist organisation, a donor and a capacity developer. They underlined that, they had only reached the state of observations and not necessarily findings and conclusions. The positive impressions did however outnumber the critical issues so the bar has been set high.

HR Audit gives ActionAid Uganda medium rank



The leadership team share a moment with the auditor, (Third from right) after the debriefing.

Call it a season of audits! As the DANIDA team concluded their audit, Nyambura Mbugua was in the country to conduct a physical HR audit. Nyambura is the Head of HROD&Essential Services in ActionAid Kenya. The audit process started two weeks ago with the filling of the online survey. Thank you to all who participated in this. Besides interviews with selected staff, Nyambura visited the LRP's of Pallisa and Busiki.

She noted that staff is happy about the work life balance, cultural diversity, Women friendly policies and the CD's ward. Many argued that this was great motivation. However, staff noted the induction-process was not comprehensive, and communication outflow should be improved to counter the rumours and suspicions that sometimes affect organizational effectiveness. As it stands, these are still observations. The leadership unit is carrying on with the process that will lead to a concrete report on the same.

GBV safety shelter project reviewed

Still talking about reviews, On 18th to 19th March, DFID under the Joint program of Gender equality carried out an annual review of the program in Gulu. The team specifically looked at the progress of the safety shelters. The Gulu team shared the successes and setbacks in responding to Gender based violence (GBV).

In order to strengthen partnerships, the team met the Gulu district officials including the district speaker, District Community Development Officer, District Probation officer, Resident State Attorney, Police and project beneficiaries.

The DFID team acknowledged the great work AA has done despite challenges. They also acknowledged the progress made - especially the good relationship AA has with Gulu District Local Government.

More Activistas join the tax power campaign trail



On march 20th, this enthusiastic crowd gathered for 2 day workshop on the tax power campaign.

On march 20th and 21st, more than 20 new Activistas attended a workshop on the tax power campaign. The workshop was headed by youth advisor Mischka Martin, and included sessions evolving around tax justice, campaigning and communication.

All Activistas showed an enormous amount of enthusiasm and willingness to get involved. The participants produced specific action plans, dealing with real and specific problems. The plans were shared and got instant feedback from the ActionAid facilitators. In all, the workshop was a great success, ending on Friday afternoon, a tired but inspired group of new Activistas went home to continue their work in their own communities. Now with more tools, an extended network of fellow Activistas, and a lot of inspiration on how to go forward.

Youth Camp: Youth participation on the agenda



Leaving no stone unturned: the youths strategize to attain effective representation

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 LRP's of Nebbi, Kumi, Busiki, Kapchorwa, Pallisa and Katakwi. The exercise continues this week in other LRP's and partner organizations. We look forward to integration, quality and timely message collection.

Demystifying Tax issues - launching the Tax Power media Campaign

Call it a change of strategy, but the Tax Power and communications unit realized that tax can mean to be quite complex to so many people. In the bid to break down this complexity, the teams have invested in a media campaign that is targeting the different publics that pay attention to tax issues. On Thursday last week, the Country Director made appearance on NTV's Money matters. He analysed the issue of tax havens and whether the award of tax havens leads to development of any state. Look out for the stories in tonight's news cast and all week.

Fun at mass message collection in Pallisa



Beautiful smiles at the message collection

Pallisa LRP has kick-started its message collection with a bang. Because it is in the middle of the first school term, the exercise is being done on weekends, so that the children are not interrupted from their studies. The children skip, paint, meet their friends from other schools, draw pictures and most importantly write letters to their sponsors. Well-done Pallisa team for making this process fulfilled for the children.

Week Ahead

There will be a Finance and Audit Committee Meeting of the Board on Wednesday 26th to discuss the draft 2013 External Audit Report and Final Internal Internal Audit as well as an investigations report of a Whistle Blow on AA Uganda Management.

There will be a Board Field Visit to Kapchorwa from Friday 28th March culminating in the 1st Quarter Board Meeting the following day.

Two tax University Dialogues at Makerere and Mbarara Universities on Tuesday and Friday respectively.

The Women Rights team is holding two dialogues with Men on Women's unpaid care. Bwaise (today) and Pallisa (Tuesday).