

Weekly

August 17—23

Thanks to the Australian Aid supported Women Rights in Agriculture project, Women from Sebei region are now reaping big from growing and selling off processed carrots.

DFID Head of Office Commends AAU



(Left) Jannie appreciating the referral pathway as she took a tour around the Shelter. (Right) Jannie Admires a dress made by Fiola, one of the GBV survivors.



Harriet and Jannie seal off partnership

The new head of Office at DFID in Uganda, Jannie Barugh visited ActionAid Bwaise Women Protection center last week.

"It's my first visit to a DFID partner. I flew in last Saturday", she said.

Jannie was in company of Irene Among, a technical Advisor at DFID. The team was received by the Programs Director at ActionAid, Harriet Gimbo, the Women Protection Centre Coordinator, Joyce, and a group of GBV survivors. Harriet took the visitors through the ActionAid Programming that considers Women Empowerment as part of its DNA. She expressed her gratitude to DFID for the grant to ActionAid that has seen over four thousand women smile again.



(L-R) Irene, Asia, Jannie and Fiola share a moment last week. Asia and Fiola are GBV Survivors.

Joyce added that the Women Protection Centre model was first piloted in ActionAid. She reported that to date, AAU runs 10 of the 14 shelters currently in the Country.

"The statistics we get from these shelters are fed into the Ministry of Gender Data base and later used to influence Government Policies and Actions in the fight against Gender based Violence", she added.

Asia Nakinga, a GBV survivor told a tale of total empowerment as a result of her encounter with ActionAid and DFID

"I was in tears when I came to ActionAid. My children had been taken away from me. I had no home. I had no source of livelihood. ActionAid intervened and facilitated me up to the court ruling that declared that I get back my children. I now own a Salon and life is good", she said.

Jannie was overwhelmed by these testimonies. With tears welling in her eyes, she thanked the team for the commitment to ensuring that Women live lives free of violence. She pledged her total support during her tenure in office and promised to keep interacting with AAU to work towards kicking GBV out of Uganda forever.

The guests took a tour around the shelter and received gifts from the GBV survivors. These were bags, necklaces and wallets that have been made by the survivors. And oh, she promised to come again.

Debate on Women Access to land heats up



Margaret Aryema from Oyam is set for the sky after attaining access and ownership to land that had been grabbed by clan leaders after the death of her husband. She is now a small scale holder farmer, feeding you and me.

On Thursday last week, ActionAid together with the Uganda Land Rights Alliance brought together actors in the land sector to address the looming land crisis in the country. In the past few years, Uganda has experienced several land grab cases, the most recent being the land dispute in Apaa that caused the residents (Women) of Amuru to undress in protest.

The Programs Director at ActionAid, Harriet Gimbo decried the land crisis that is mainly affecting the women.

"While over 82% of the food produced in Uganda is produced by Women small scale holder farmers, the same women are not allowed to own any land due to the patriarchal nature of our society. Its even more disheartening that Legislators who should be working to ensure that women own land are instead encouraging Women to undress", she said.

Harriet added that this will lead to the continuous abuse of the dignity of women.

The Public Relations Manager of the Ministry of lands in response stated that asking women to undress is not a Ministry position. He called on ActionAid and Uganda Land alliance to work closely with the ministry to ensure that the statistic of only 7% of women owning land in Uganda can be changed.

However, the debate, moderated by celebrated Journalist, Charles Mwanguhya Mpagi heated up when the legislators were tasked to explain what they have done while in Parliament to ensure that Women own and have access to land and other resources. The debate revealed that most of our legislators still believe in the patriarchal norms.

"Getting married to me does not mean attaining access to my land, and even my clan land" stated one of the legislators.

This mindset, from a legislator clearly demonstrates that there is a lot to be done by ActionAid and You to ensure that Women access the land resource to feed this nation.

The meeting also brought together women from Masindi, Kapchorwa, Kalangala, Amuru and Mubende and their legislators. They spoke emotionally about the looming land grabs in their areas and what it means to leave in fear of having your livelihood taken away.

This conference, according to Peter Kalule, the Livelihoods Coordinator at ActionAid has set stage for the global campaign against land grabs, which will be unveiled in Uganda soon.

ActionAid in the News

In the Week ending, ActionAid received 20 mentions in both local and national media. Please follow through on the links below.

- As earlier reported, ActionAid brought together actors in the land sector to discuss the looming land grabs and their effect on small scale holder farmers. Log on to YouTube [Here](#) and capture the Morning Breeze show on NBS that hosted Peter kalule, the livelihoods Coordinator at ActionAid.
- The print media also captured the land grabs debate. Read more in the Daily Monitor [Here](#)
- ActionAid and other civil society Organizations have threatened to sue the Government over electoral reforms. For details on Radio one FM [here](#), Capital FM [here](#) and Daily Monitor [Here](#)
- The New Vision also broke a story on the First lady advocating for an Agricultural bank to mechanize agriculture. [Click](#) for Details.
- Visit the ActionAid YouTube page [Here](#) and get a first person account of the poor state of the Education and Health services in the Northern districts of Pader and Agago.

WEEK AHEAD:

- The Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fredrick Kawooya and the Country Director Arthur Larok are in Arusha taking part in the Shrinking Political Space Workshop.
- Harriet Gimbo, the Programs Director, Saida Bogere, the Sponsorship Coordinator and Richard Olong, the Program Development Manager are in Mbarara for the UNAD phase out stakeholders meeting. ActionAid has been running a project with the Deaf community in the districts of Kyegegwa, Mbarara and Isingiro for the last 10 years.
- The Governance team will be in Northern Uganda to generate evidence on the status of social service delivery focussing on Health, Education, Agriculture, Roads and Water & Sanitation.
- The ActionAid Uganda Governing Board will hold an extraordinarily Meeting this Saturday to discuss the findings and way forward of the CSPIV and Organisational Efficiency Review Processes. We shall keep you posted.