



Weekly

Nov 10- Nov 16

ActionAid Uganda donates to ebola cause

After a few weeks of resource mobilization, ActionAid Uganda made a modest contribution to the Ebola cause in West Africa by donating 39,159,850 Shillings (around 10,000 British Pounds). Contributions came from individual members of staff, the ActionAid Uganda Board, members of the ActionAid General Assembly, and internal savings from the units.

ActionAid Uganda decided to invest in the cause in July. A decision that was applauded when ActionAid International later called upon the whole federation to contribute.

Speaking to the Weekly, Policy and Campaigns Manager Fredrick Kawooya stated that the individual contributions were a sign that Africa can solve its own problems. He added that Africans should stop waiting for aid from the West, but rather revive the Pan-African spirit and stand in solidarity.

Speaking about ActionAid Uganda's contribution, he said that as an affiliate member of the ActionAid International Federation, AAU has a responsibility to fundraise for the causes of the ActionAid federation, and contribute towards restoring lives of dignity to humanity.

Muhammed Sillah, Executive Director of ActionAid Sierra Leone, thanked AAU leadership and staff for their generous contribution to the people of Sierra Leone, saying "we would like to thank you and your entire team, for your support and solidarity with us."

Minister gives tips on climate change



Participants at the training session in Teso

At a training session in Teso sub-region, the Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Musa Eweru, decried the rampant environmental degradation which is not only affecting food production and livelihoods, but also contributing to climate change.

The Minister expressed anger at the fact that people were burning fruit trees to produce charcoal for sale. He made these thought provoking remarks at the Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture training session organised by ActionAid. Reflection Action Facilitators and participants from partner organisations attended this training.

Ecweru asked ActionAid and its partners in Katakwi to develop a proposal for funding by UNDP in order to address interventions aimed at averting the effects of climate change. He pledged his support in moving forward the proposal, and ensuring that funding is secured.

ActionAid builds capacity of councillors to monitor processes



Local Government Councillors from Kumi and Katakwi districts

Last week, ActionAid organised training for 72 Local Government Councillors from Kumi and Katakwi districts. The training, which took place in Mbale, attracted councillors from the district and sub-county Executive Committees. Participants were equipped with knowledge and skills relating to Local Government planning and budgeting processes, time frames, political monitoring of social service delivery, and more. The councillors were very excited by their new skill set, and acknowledged that they have previously suffered from a lack of knowledge – an issue that the technical district teams have exploited.

The Speaker from Kumi informed the house that for the past financial year, the councillors had not even had an opportunity to look at the page layout of the district budget.

"They have exploited our ignorance and limited knowledge. They have also been confusing us with terms such as OBT, but not anymore."

Participants were grateful to ActionAid for the training. They added that the fact the training was conducted by officials from the Ministry of Local Government made it even easier for them to challenge the technocrats.

One participant remarked that "if it was just ActionAid, they would have said that you are anti-Government – so we are going to challenge them with what Government has told us."

More active fund-raising coming up!



Simon and Nickson at the skills share

The International Secretariat of ActionAid organised a fundraising skills share for ActionAid staff. AAU was represented by the Projects Manager, Simon Peter Walumeli and Partnership Funding & Sponsorship Director, Nickson Ogwal.

"We were taken through the trends in the donor environment, how to respond to the different funding agencies, and strategic ways to respond to calls for expression of interest, among others," Simon said and added that they were advised that it's always good to capitalize on unique selling points, intelligence gathering, and calculating our own risks.

When asked what he will be bringing back with him to ActionAid Uganda, Simon promised to devote more time and effort to fundraising concept development and completion, strategic networking and risk analysis, and more winning proposals.

IGG representative calls for utilization of his office

Last week, Kapchorwa LRP rolled out the Anti-Corruption Caravan in the entire Sabin Region. This was a continuation for the national Anti-Corruption Caravan.

Under the theme, Stop the silence! Shame the corrupt and fame good leaders, the caravan was flagged off by the chairman L.C.V of Bukwo, Paul Majnjach. He said that corruption is affecting service delivery in the district and the people should rise up and speak out against the vice.

The caravan was able to get duty bearers to explain the impassable roads especially in Bukwo, despite having invested money into their construction and rehabilitation. Dis functioning water projects were also brought to the limelight.

The IGG Regional manager, Richard Sebuhinja, appealed to the people to report cases to his office as it is the only way of accelerating development.

"We can't continue to see people steal taxpayers' money and get away with it. My office always receives cases from this region. I hope the awareness created by the caravan will reverse the situation," he stated.

Lookout for more details on the Sebei regional Anti-Corruption Caravan on the website soon.



Talking Organisational Identity



Identity training in Moshi

During a four day training session, organized by the Centre for Organizational Learning in Moshi, the identity question was at the heart of discussion. The key question was: What has each of us done to construct or destroy our identity?

Several participants indicated that many organizations were doing this by default, and not consciously, as

should be the case. Other key factors were power dynamics, and the survival of organisations where funding leads to mission Crisp and slowly erodes identity. This occurs when organisations are forced to implement what is not in their mission.

The organisational culture must also be well managed, shaped and monitored, lest it feeds on the strategy, mission and vision destroying the organisation's identity. Unfortunately, this is the most invisible yet destructive element affecting identity inside organisations.

According to the Director of Programs at ActionAid Uganda, who attended this meeting, the AAU identity is clear, documented and known. However, we all have a responsibility to make it a conscious practice to manage, construct and profile organizational identity. We have, and should continue to constantly remind staff of our mission, vision, values and practices, for common understanding and appreciation.

"I reflected on this and other partnerships, and realised a lot needs to be done – to support those we work with, and appreciate the value of conscious identity construction and

Staff from WPCs met to plan the way forward

Staff members from all WPCs met last week in Entebbe to review the progress and plan the way forward for the Women Protection Centres.

All centres could report that they are becoming more and more recognized in the communities and gave several examples of women and children, that has benefited from having a one-stop office to get help after domestic violence and other rights violations.

The meeting was also about sharing best practices between staff and improve reporting and documentation.

New archives with Weekly and Black Monday

Click [here](#) to read previous issue of the Weekly.

And [here](#) to read Black Monday.

Read about our fight for land rights in Northern Uganda by clicking [here](#)

WEEK AHEAD

- Harriet Gimbo, Nickson Ogwal and Charles Muluzi are in South Africa for the PFA inception meeting.
- All LRP Coordinators will be in Kalangala for a refreshing and energizing retreat.
- There will be a press conference this Week at the EU offices in commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the UN Convention of the Rights of Children.
- Ednance Kiiza, the Busiki LRP Coordinator is in Bangkok for the HRBA peer to peer support Network planning meeting.
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