



Busiki: Bicycles to monitor service delivery

Busiki LRP in partnership Namutumba District NGO Forum (NNGOF) in an effort to monitor service delivery in Namutumba District facilitated resource monitors with bicycles to ease their movement in the community while monitoring service delivery. This structure is made up of 16 people each one representing one parish from the 3 sub counties of Kibaale, Ivukula and Nsinze.

The resource monitors play a big role in mobilizing citizens and communities towards monitoring of government programmes, identifying cases of poor service delivery, and forwarding them for further engagement with the duty bearers. The focal persons play a tremendous work in guiding and mobilizing communities towards attending and participating in the democratically elected community parliament called "Neighbourhood Assembly" where they discuss the issues that affecting their community and suggest possible ways of ways of solving them.

"We are now facilitated with transport to ease our movement in mobilizing and monitor public service delivery," said Muheesi Monica, a Resource Monitor from Lwata-ma Ivukula Sub County.

Gogonyo Sub County Leadership put to task of unclear accountability



Last week, the Pallisa LRP Coordinator set with his squad of youth to take part in the community dialogue on service delivery at Gogonyo organized by GOREDO one of ActionAid's partner organisations. With a whole sub county hall packed to maximum, the dialogue started by asking the Sub County leadership to present accountability on what they delivered in the FY 2014/15.

While the sub county chief struggled to convince the angry community, the sub county accountant only succeeded in presenting an essay of the sub county plan without a single figure attached. This was the starting point of the heated debate.

"What have you read for us? Attach a budget to what you are trying to confuse us with. We are not here for essays. We want accountability," a community member said.

In a trembling voice, the Accountant asked to be pardoned and given a few weeks to have The Sub County Budget pinned on the Sub County Public Notice Boards as the community demanded.

It came out that the government plan to distribute coffee seedlings to all farmers irrespective of other factors. This time, Gogonyo farmers rejected the promised 1000 Robusta coffee seedlings saying they had not been trained and sensitized on coffee Agronomic practices coupled with lack of an Agricultural extension workers in their sub county.

AAU and Food Rights Alliance hosts EASFSN meeting



AAU in partnership with Food Rights Alliance Network hosted the East and Southern African Food Security network Regional Capacity building training that ran for two days and EASFSN Year 3 planning meeting at Royal suites Kampala. The meeting attracted 15 representatives from Malawi (Civil Society Agriculture network), Ethiopia (Consortium of Christian Relief and development Association), and Bangladesh (International Food Security network), Members from Food Rights Alliance network and staff from AAU.

In his opening remarks, The Country Director of AAU, Arthur Larok, highlighted issues that surround and determine food security and seed laws/policies in Africa. He described these issues in form of a polygon that has to be used as a ground for seed advocacy and lobbying, which included the politics, crisis being faced, the opportunities available, and urgency of action to address these issues. He argued participants to use their capacity in advocacy to be part of people who make things happen rather than observing things as they happen.

Ambassador Nathan Irumba also presented on issues which EASFSN should put into perspective:

"The intellectual property rights were included into the World Trade Organization agreements yet they are distorting trade rather than liberalizing it with multinationals investing into seed their negotiations with WTO are driven by their industries and profits rather the interests of the consumers," he said.

AACES project unlocks potential of smallholder women farmers in KUMI and Katakwi

Last week, the AACES team conducted a joint monitoring visit with support from Sally Henderson from ActionAid Australia. The visit was intended to check progress towards implementation of the project which among other things aims to empower men and women smallholders have significant production and income to claim their food related rights but also to promote strong and vibrant farmers groups with men and women members that are aware of and have skills to claim food related rights.

While in the field, the team visited the water harvesting project being piloted in Toroma Subcounty, the irrigation site at USUK as well as the grain store and value addition machinies, all in Katakwi LRP. In Kumi, the team met with lobby and advocacy groups in Ogino and Kidongole, and the KAFA cooperative Society. The team also visited the weather station site and interacted with different women groups including PHAs, PWDs and reflect circles that have been formed with support from the AACES project.

The results and testimonies that came out from the smallerholder farmers are quite impressive and a true demonstration of the tremendous strides made by the AACCESS project. Over 850 and 310 acres of land have been opened to cultivation by smallholder farmers in Ogino and Kidongole Sub counties respectively courtesy of the oxen and ox-ploughs given by the project. In Toroma, USUK, and Kidongole Sub counties, smallholder farmers have formed themselves into co-operatives to collectively bulk and market their produce. "Food insecurity is now a story of the past" Kokas, the Chairperson KAFA cooperative noted.

