

Kalangala LRP steps up HIV/AIDS advocacy



Last week, Kalangala LRP organized the district HIV/AIDS Partners forum. The event brought together organizations like JCRC, AIC, Red Cross and the entire district leadership. The guest of Honor was Hon Christine Ondo, the Director General of the Uganda AIDS Commission. Christine alarmed the audience when she revealed that couples that have been married for six months and below registered the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence among the married circles.

"So, why are we struggling for elimination of mother to child transmission only to lose our children immediately after they get married?" she remarked in a somber voice.

ActionAid was given special recognition for its capacity building aspects. The district chair stated that the local Government was losing alloy of money but when ActionAid introduced its tax power campaign, they have become more vigilant on revenue collection, allocation and utilization.

Fred Wandera, the LRP coordinator joined the rest to demand for the upgrading of the district health center IV to a full hospital status.

Hon. Christine promised to do whatever it takes to ensure that the people of Kalangala are given priority, being that the district to date registers the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence (18-25%), a figure that is rumored to be the second in Africa.



Hon. Christine Ondo, Director General for Uganda AIDS commission emphasizes the need for special attention to Kalangala.

ActionAid now boasts of skilled staff to design and implement campaigns



This is how we network - More threads and attachments, the stronger the campaign- Participants in a practical session.

As part of efforts to strengthen the Campaigns function, AAU conducted a training 26-30 May 2014 at Hotel Triangle for staff and partners in campaigning. During the workshop, education, skills and practice in conceptualisation, execution and evaluation of campaign issues was done in a very practical manner.

The training equipped participants with skill in advocacy, risk analysis, resourcing, message development, formation of alliances and networking in the context of campaigning in the Ugandan socio-political context. This was emphasized for effective campaigning for change underlined by the Human Rights Based Approach. The training was conducted by TCDC.

The campaigns and policy manager, Fredrick Kawooya, remarked that he now has a team to bank on with the skills to design and implement any campaign.

"I believe that our many campaigns are now going to be more grounded in the communities. We shall now mobilize and engage a lot more with the communities for effective change," he affirmed.

ActionAid enjoys the limelight at the USAID Cocktail

Last week, the Partnership Funding and Sponsorship Director, Henry Nickson Ogwal took part in a cocktail, organised by USAID at Emin Pasha Hotel. The evening was in honour of Michael Ronning, who has been the Director, Democracy, Rights and Governance in Uganda but unfortunately is moving on to Myanmar.

Angelina Allen, one of the guests that evening will be acting as Ronning's replacement. She stated that she was very impressed with the Governance work of ActionAid Uganda. Nickson promised to engage her further and shared more with her about our work and even seek for direct involvement especially in the Immersions.

Another guest, the chairman of the NGO registration board remarked that he was very impressed at how much the Amuru immersion impacted him. He continued to speaking to the gathering how life transforming it is to be an immersee and looked forward to more opportunities. *Thank you Nickson for the strategic representation.*

Exposure visit fuels Kapchorwa women with determination



The women farmers pose for a photo at the end of their exposure visit in Iganga

After the saving and credit exposure visit to Bukanga cooperative union in Iganga District, the women groups in Kapchorwa supported by the WORIA project returned home ready and motivated to strengthen their cooperatives and improve their economic status. The two women groups of Kwosir and Kapteret have for the last two years been growing stronger. They have started a saving and credit Sacco to build on their financial base and eventually register as a cooperative.

Action aid supported the women to have an exposure visit to one of the rural successful farmer cooperative. The women understood the cooperative systems and were able to pick on several experiences and best practices to take back home. The women also used the opportunity to interact with a women's group that subscribes to Bukanga cooperative union, where they shared ideas, best practices and challenges of cooperatives, savings and credit organisations.

After the two days exposure, the women went back home, with more determination to make it happen in their own land!

FGM and SFR projects support visits end on a good note



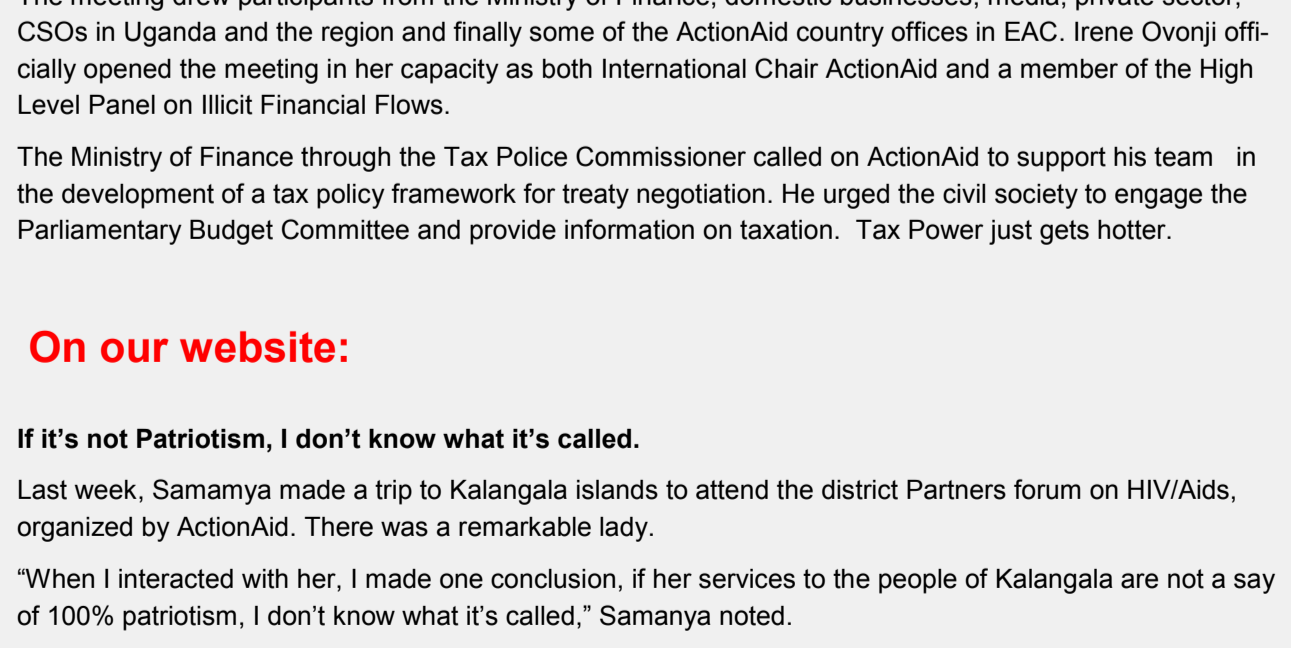
Semini poses with some of the women farmers at the end of her visit in Katakwi

Last week, a monitoring support visit was carried out by Semini Dias, the Project Financial Controller of ActionAid Australia. Semini came among others to assess the progress of the Female Genital Mutilation project, and the Securing Food Rights for Agriculture project. Particular emphasis was drawn at the internal financial controls both at LRP and Partners level.

While in Katakwi, Semini was amazed at the improved financial management exhibited. She also interacted with farmers who acknowledged that the five-year project, now in its third year had positively affected their lives, as they are moving to a state of economic independence.

Semini was in company of Yuda Rwakojo, the Grants Coordinator.

ActionAid and Partners Asked to support Development of Tax Policy Framework



The women farmers pose for a photo at the end of their exposure visit in Iganga

ActionAid and SEATINI held a Regional Meeting dubbed *Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilisation for Sustainable Development*. The meeting discussed the role of Double Taxation Agreements in enhancing domestic resource mobilisation for sustainable development. ActionAid and SEATINI conducted an analysis of two treaties Uganda has signed with Mauritius and Netherlands respectively.

This is premised on the fact that Multi-National Companies often take advantage of the global network of treaties to search for favourable treaty and shift their profits from country to country, exploiting these treaties with lowest rates to evade or avoid taxes.

The meeting drew participants from the Ministry of Finance, domestic businesses, media, private sector, CSOs in Uganda and the region and finally some of the ActionAid country offices in EAC. Irene Ovonji officially opened the meeting in her capacity as both International Chair ActionAid and a member of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows.

The Ministry of Finance through the Tax Police Commissioner called on ActionAid to support his team in the development of a tax policy framework for treaty negotiation. He urged the civil society to engage the Parliamentary Budget Committee and provide information on taxation. Tax Power just gets hotter.

On our website:

If it's not Patriotism, I don't know what it's called.

Last week, Samanya made a trip to Kalangala islands to attend the district Partners forum on HIV/AIDS, organized by ActionAid. There was a remarkable lady.

"When I interacted with her, I made one conclusion, if her services to the people of Kalangala are not a say of 100% patriotism, I don't know what it's called," Samanya noted.

Read about Harriet Namugenyi on <http://www.actionaid.org/uganda/2014/06/if-its-not-patriotism-i-dont-know-what-its-called>

What is good governance?

"Good Governance can be understood as the promotion of basic human rights guided by the principles of rule of law, transparency, accountability, effectiveness, participations, equity, consensus orientation and responsiveness," according to LRP Coordinator Ednance Kiiza.

Read more on <http://www.actionaid.org/uganda/2014/05/what-good-governance-reflections-busiki-eastern-uganda>

Something is happening in Busiki

It's always good to have your closest friend say something about you, according to Inspirator Gere Odock, who wrote the 2nd blog from Busiki last week.

Read his blog about the youth in Busiki on <http://www.actionaid.org/uganda/2014/05/something-happening-busiki>