

## Women Protection Centre in Katakwi made her smile again



Miriam and her baby photographed before she got help from ActionAid's Protection Centre (above) and after (right)



"I don't have the right words to express my gratitude to ActionAid. No one else would have ensured that my baby gets the right medical attention without asking me for money. No one would have ensured that my husband takes responsibility for his actions."

This is the story of 45 years old Miriam Aleper who has endured battering from her husband since she got married, 15 years ago. One fateful evening when her husband got home, she fled in self-defence. He directed his anger to their five months old baby leaving him seriously bruised with a fractured arm.

Miriam reported the case to ActionAid Women Protection Centre in Katakwi. The team insured medical treatment for the baby and pursued justice. Thanks to the Katakwi team, the inhuman perpetrator is now serving five years in jail.

## Transitional Justice Research for Women Kicks off!



David Abwang, LRP Coordinator Amuru, Hope Masika sitting in a focus group discussion.

In the week just ended, the women's Rights team unveiled the Transitional Justice research for Women. The team, led by the National Women's Rights Coordinator, Hellen Malinga was in Amuru and Gulu to kick-start the project. The research team held inception meetings with key government leaders of the two districts who provided critical information on the relevancy of the selected sites.

The chairperson LCV, Gulu municipality noted that:

"I am confident that this study will improve the understanding of Transitional Justice among key actors and improve the environment for planning and response to Women's needs."

The overall objective of the research is to discover how well transitional justice processes provide justice for women in Northern Uganda. AusAID funds the two-year project in partnership with the University of Sydney.

## AA Hosts Violence Against Children Inception Meeting

The EC Violence Against children project inception meeting was something to write home about. Participants were taken through in-depth analysis of the proposal, reporting guidelines, photo shooting skills, branding and communication.

With funding from EU, ActionAid Uganda and several others, the three-year project titled, "Empowering Children and their communities to address harmful practices and violence against children in Eastern Uganda" will be rolled out in the districts of Kapchorwa, Kween, Bukwo and Amudat in Eastern Uganda.

The overall objective is to prevent and respond to violence and exploitation of children especially girls by promoting improved referral mechanisms and increased community awareness of abuse issues.

Harriet Nabankema, from FIDA Uganda noted that the inception meeting gave her in-depth understanding of the project and reporting timelines.

"It's a partnership between us all and ActionAid. We must work as a team to beat the EC reporting standards and deadlines," she said.

## Leaders from Acholi and West-Nile Meet to discuss current influx of refugees from Southern Sudan



A cross section of the stakeholders during the meeting.

Following an appeal from the local leadership in northern Uganda, Actionaid and the respective districts jointly organized a one-day stakeholder meeting to develop a response strategy to the influx of refugees into Northern Uganda from the war-ravaged Southern Sudan. District Chairpersons, the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), District Police Commanders (DPCs) from 17 districts and several other stakeholders, attended the meeting.

The Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fredrick Kawooya and the ActionAid Uganda Board chair, David Otto, represented ActionAid.

"I am now in the final stages of developing a situation report to share with the international Emergency Committee. We are also exploring the possibility of organizing women returnees to be part of the deliberations to find a solution to the problem", said Fredrick Kawooya.

## ActionAid in the Media

It was hot, it was informative, it was educative, and it was Issues at hand Last Tuesday on WBS TV. Arthur Larok, our country Director, and Harriet Nabankema, the legal officer from FIDA interfaced with the populace, speaking about the very difficult justice system that any abused woman has to go through to access justice. ActionAid has been in the media lime light for a single GBV case, and Arthur explained that it is just one of the thousands of cases handled throughout the year. He also challenged the media to show interest in all our work against GBV throughout the country instead of focussing on a single case.

The show did not only shade light on the allegations of ActionAid abandoning the GBV survivor in Mbarara, it also called on the duty bearers to give priority to the women access to justice mechanisms.

## Week Ahead

Harriet Robina Gimbo, the Programs Director is in India for a strategic oversight team meeting.

Mishka, the youth advisor will be in Busiki for the youth Assemblies this week.

Arthur Larok, our Country Director will be in Amuru for a courtesy call with the district leadership and periodical meetings with the Board Chair, David Otto.

The EC Violence against Children project inception meeting is being held today, Monday, at Royal Suits in Bugolobi. The project will be implemented in Kapchorwa, Bukwo, Kween and Amudat Districts.

Line managers will hold a Job Role induction with the respective new staff this week.

The Women's Rights team will be carrying out a research on Transitional Justice for Women in Northern Uganda. They will cover the districts of Amuru and Gulu.