

Wec-Wecatet

Jan-March 2014

TRANSFORMATION

3rd Edition

Newsletter from Kapchorwa LRP

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Kepteret Reflect Circle member showing their product from the women garden.

act:onaid

PETS Work Achieves a Road For Farmers

STORY OF MUNDA, KAPKWOKI, KAPCHEKWONGO FEEDER ROAD

- By Bishal Ranamagar

Inspirator, Kapchorwa LRP

Munda, Kapkwoki, Kapchekwongo are disadvantaged communities affected by the Karamojong cattle rustlers for decades, but as security returned in late 1980s, the people are now resettling back to this community. As a routine, the farmers now cultivate their land and work hard to make ends meet. Since 2013, these farmers have struggled with No road access to connect this community to markets in Kapchorwa and the new Bulambuli district. The Residents of Munda, Kapkwoki and Kapchekwongo are further struggling with access to health services and other social services due to lack of road accessibility. It's not uncommon for residents to walk for over 15 kilometers to reach Kapchorwa or Bulambuli district

allocation during the financial year.

In addition, no one pays any attention on it until when Tuban Organic Farmers Association (TOFA-Partner organization of ActionAid Uganda), Youth Activista group and community only concerns on the importance of this road for the livelihoods of the

"We are using Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS) tools, because we are trained by ActionAid on it to track the public expenditure."



head quarter for accessing these services.

Insecurity was also a serious challenge because people lost property, and lives and they had to resort to fleeing for their dear lives and stayed with relatives because the security agents took a lot of time to rescue the community incase.

Due to the absence of the road network, farmer's women and children walk for 15 kilometers every day to collect food and firewood from the gardens. This affected educational performance and school enrollment of the children and the most affected are the girls because they have to collect firewood and food hence losing school time.

Actionaid trained the local activista and supported them to advocate for the road. The was finally started in 2013 by local government but it was not completed due to insufficient resource

disadvantaged and neglected people of this community.

TOFA in partnership with ActionAid Kapchorwa LRP and Activista group of Kepteret Sub-County conducted community monitoring on the road issue. They organized community level meetings and discussed about that road. "We used Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS) tools, because we are trained by ActionAid on it to track the public expenditures," Activista Leader Chebet Philex says.

They identified community volunteers had earlier been trained in tracking public expenditure using PETS tools. These monitors/volunteers worked together with community to collect information and evidence of the activities implemented by the local government.

"We organized three dialogue meetings with the [\(cont. page 14\)](#)

EDITION EDITOR'S NOTE



"Wec-Wecatet" means "Transformation", and it is an initiative of the Kapchorwa Local Rights Programme and its partner organizations. It is a platform where we express our ideas, lessons from our past and general sharing of information about the community building exercise that we are all after.

As a host of the third quarter newsletter, I appreciate all partners, volunteers, and community members, beneficiaries of our programmes, and everyone who made a contribution of any kind for the success of this edition.

I am taking this opportunity to inform our audience that this edition comes at a time when our beloved Inspirator Mr. Bishal Rana Magar is in the evenings of his stay in Uganda. However, I would like to remember his contribution towards us in terms of capacity building in Monitoring, Evaluation and Advocacy is paramount. Therefore, as we work without him, let us appreciate the fact that his contribution will last within us!

On behalf partners of Actionaid Uganda, I would like to thank the brilliant mind(s) that started the idea of this Newsletter. It is a very good platform for us to share our success stories, challenges, improve our ideas, learning and improve our intervention towards the common goal of ending poverty in the community.

My hope for ending poverty together is the fact that we operate in diverse areas and locations; I mean Bukwo, Kween, Amudat and Kapchorwa and we cover areas in diversity such as peace, agriculture, human rights and advocacy among others.

Please feel free to send feedback about this edition and advise us according to the way you feel things should be constructed in the next edition.

Thank you and enjoy this edition !!!

The fight towards total abandonment of FGM gains Momentum in Kapchorwa LRP

- By Aggrey Kibet

Program Coordinator, Kapchorwa LRP

Since 2013, Kapchorwa LRP has been involved in activities that are supporting Communities to abandon the dreaded Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This has been possible under 'Total abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation' project funded by AustralianAid. FGM is generation long cultural practice among the Sabinu Community in Eastern Uganda and Pokot of Karamoja. It involves partial excision of the female genitalia as part of the initiation rights to adulthood. However, it in dignifies the women and girls, robs them of bodily integrity because cutting is done in the open and they also lose their most sensual part of their sexual anatomy. Its estimated that about 400 girls were cut in 2012 alone in Sebei sub region while Pokot (Amudat) registered over 1,000 cases representing 95% of the women and girls in that community.

Over the years, Women and girls who undergo this practice have endured far reaching physical damage, health complications related to birth, haemorrhage (Over bleeding to death), paralysis, keloids among other medical conditions. Social stigma has also emerged when survivors are known outside their communities (discouraging mobility and exposure), early marriages since it is prepares young people for such. Ultimately, FGM has been used to subdue Women and reinforce societal tendencies of women disempowerment, discrimination and insubordination. FGM is also emerging fast as a development issue because it occurs more in the marginalised communities with very little or no public services like education, roads, health infrastructure among other amenities.

A legal favourable regime against FGM emerged in 2010 following the passing of the prohibition of FGM law. However, this has not fully curtailed the practice since it still goes on undercover and with a lot of sophistication to beat law enforcement. The underfunding of the enforcement agencies like Police has not even helped matters much. The gist of the work however is working with the communities themselves to appreciate the negative effects of FGM and especially empower women to be at the forefront of its abandonment. This is what Actionaid has been working on since 2012.

Our work and successes in the Community

As ActionAid, we have been involved in creating awareness on FGM in the most marginal and hard to reach areas around the slopes of Mt. Elgon in greater Benet, Kween district. This is where prevalence of FGM is still high with estimated one out of ten girls undergoing the Knife. We deploy theatre and drama, children debates, community mass meetings and radio/media to ensure messages reach the community. We have for the first time registered women and girls taking lead in this campaign which is very important since they are the ones that undergo the dreaded practice and their message has more impact. We have since covered three sub counties through seven radio programmes, about



10 community meetings and 20 girls child and community outreaches in total reaching out to 9,000 people with FGM messages through our abandonment campaign

Besides, we are empowering survivors of FGM through forming into 15 support groups and 15-girl child clubs through which we have trained them in reproductive health rights, confidence building, and leadership and public speaking skills.

To date we can say we have raised the profile of FGM and supported 300 women and 150 girls through their clubs to come out strongly against FGM and successfully become community models. This is important for sustainability. We expect in-roads towards women identifying girls and women under threaten of FGM and protecting them by helping them report it. We have also linked these women to our Women protection centre in Kween for professional support/management and litigation should the need arise. We have counsellors and legal officer on standby at the community based women centre.

Challenges

Despite all the successes, there quite a few challenges including the difficult terrain in the generally social service constraint communities that make it tough to access the community or the community to access other areas outside their communities for support. The roads particularly become impassable in the rainy season.

We also have to deal with the history of marginalisation in the area. It only has 2 secondary schools one of which is not well developed and less than 10 primary schools financed by government. Landlessness of about a quarter of the population deep inside the Mt. Elgon areas due to eviction by Uganda Wild life Authority in late 1990s has reinforced marginalisation, curtailed women empowerment and access to support. This provides fertile ground for FGM.

Recommendations

We have deepened our work around mobilisation of Women and girls in their groups/clubs to enable them take leadership role in community awareness, support to survivors and engage government and leaders for improved social services, like roads, girls schools, among other services that are central to the fight against FGM.

We need to expand economic opportunities for empowerment of women through local financing solutions for women needs through village savings and credit, inspiring entrepreneurship and modelling vibrant leadership by women.

CHILD RIGHTS



POEM

Dear Ugandans, wake up now!
We have suffering a lot from child
abuse practices
Like corporal punishments, defilement,
rape,
Child labor, refusal to provide basic
needs,
Kidnap and sacrifice of children
And refusal of education
Oh parents, teachers and entire com-
munity

Action aid has done a lot to our lives.
We have obtained the following basic
needs;
loved by our parents by visiting us at
school,
checking our home works, we are no
longer
tortured by Female Genital Mutilation

ActionAid ActonAid, we are proud of
your services
Give us more, welcome
Change is me, it is you, and it is us
For God and my Country
Thank you

By
KAMOKOYON NURSARY AND PRIMARY
SCHOOL CHILD CLUB
Tulel, Bukwo District



Images: Google

We shall integrate ACTIVISTA's action plans in sub county plans and budgets



-CHEMONGES ISSAC, SUB-COUNTY CHIEF, KEPTERET SUB-COUNTY, KAPCHORWA

Mr. Chemonges Isaac is Chief of Kapteret Sub County. He is from Chebany Village, Kabat Parish of Kapteret Sub County aged 48 years. **Kamwania Jafari, Program Coordinator of TOFA** (a partner organization of AAU) had a chat with him in his office. He shared some of his experience for Wec-Wecatet.

How did you link with TOFA?

The nature of our work we are working together with TOFA in transforming the livelihoods of the people in the communities our sub county. I was linked with them during several community meetings they have been organising in the community in deliberating on their interventions. The sub county was invited as a key stakeholder and I happen to be part of them. TOFA also supports the community eradicate poverty through sensitizations and setting learning demonstrations gardens for farmers to adopt the technologies. Through TOFA I also got opportunity to learn and involve in ActionAid activities.

How have you been able to interact with TOFA and its programs?

It has gone an extra step to build the capacity on the women rights and bought land for the women and installed an irrigation scheme. The project we had never seen. ActionAid and TOFA has done a great deal to our community case in point is when TOFA lead in the fight against Banana Bacterial Wilt (BBW) in Tegeres sub county. Our intervention as a sub county for that case was to support in providing the extension workers, which help together with TOFA staff in sensitizing the communities on the control of BBW.

Another important thing is Youth Activista team in our sub-county which was formed by ActionAid and TOFA. Activista is a model program in empowering the youth, to identify issues affecting them in the sub county. The budget allocation to the youth sector was very low and Activista group shared their action plan with us will inform our planning and we have incorporated the one-year plan to the Sub County development plan.

How you will link this to your planning?

TOFA through the reflect circles have been helpful in the development of action points and this is their basis of planning. We also think that this Activista and TOFA work should be spread the other parts of the district and we shall be talking about it at all our meetings and for a. In order to publish the work of TOFA and Activista in our development agenda and we shall integrate this plan in the sub county plans and budgets. We shall support in the dissemination of information and provision of extension service at any time it is needed and work together with TOFA and ActionAid in future.

Mt. Elgon Youth Camp

- By Joseph Madzvamuse

Inspirator Pader LRP



Out of the realization that youth issues are either negated or relegated to lower priority areas in Uganda, youth from six districts of Uganda organized a Youth Camp with support from ActionAid Uganda. Over 70 percent of the population in Uganda is considered youth with majority falling within the age bracket of 12 to 30 years.

Despite such a bigger proportion on the overall population, the youth remain mired in a cycle of poverty that has not only deprived them of participation in the public sphere, but has also “dehumanized” them by increasing their vulnerability to all sorts of shocks including socio-economic and political challenges. The youth continue to “exist in the shadow of their potential, riding on the cavalries of inexistent battalions” which have continued to

give them a false sense of belonging and inclusivity in the main arenas of politics, business, development and social welfare.

Good documents in the form of policies have been crafted to gather dust and serve as information archives. With the African Youth Charter in place, the National Youth Policy, the Youth Capital Venture and the Youth Sustainable Livelihoods Support, the status quo has not changed much, the term “youth support” remains a dictionary point of reference within the ministry of youth as well as other government departments tasked with working ‘with’ and working ‘for’ the youth virtually sitting on their laurels whilst the youth remain isolated and more vulnerable than ever before.

In view of the above, the youth from Pader, Amuru, Kumi, Nwoya, Kapchorwa and Bukwo Districts with support from ActionAid Uganda organized a youth camp to reflect and deliberate on the above issues with a view of pushing the ‘Youth Agenda’ towards reformation and transformation. The four day programme brought together youth from diverse backgrounds to try and come up with workable solutions that will immediately put an end to youth isolation, lack of space for public participation and eventually brought to the fore the potential of youth to lead and transform institutions and processes towards a more equitable and sustainable development paradigm in Uganda.

The youth are calling for a more robust and structurally effective en-



gagement with the government which recognizes the youth as the majority with regards to population ratio. The youth have pledged to combine and use their numerical advantage to chart their own pathway to development. They are further calling on the government to not only honor the pledge to uphold Uganda’s constitutional values that provides equitable space for youth participation but also stick to the value of ‘inclusivity’ as opposed to ‘exclusivity’ as provided for in the African Charter on Human Rights.

An inspirational life in Uganda: Bishal Ranamagar's Story

- By Bishal Ranamagar

Inspirator, Kapchorwa LRP

After 9 months it is time to say "Goodbye" to **inspiring**, and being inspired, in Eastern Uganda. The word contains only seven letters but is difficult to say out loud to people, and a country you have come to love. I joined ActionAid Uganda Kapchorwa Local Rights Program as an Inspirator in July 2013, coming from a partner organization to ActionAid Nepal called HimRights.

The ActionAid Inspirator program is a part of the People4Change program, where dedicated individuals are sent on a 3 to 9 months stay, in order to provide capacity development support for ActionAid and its implementing partners.

"When I heard about the Inspirator programme, I realized I could combine my passion to work abroad, and at the same time contribute to change the world. I went through the selection processes and got my name in the roster before I was finally selected for the position."

May 2013 brought me a happy moment when I got an email from ActionAid Denmark offering me a work opportunity in Uganda. I instantly replied with interest. There were two options as my duty stations; the first was with a partner organization in Kampala, the capitol of Uganda, the second option being in Kapchorwa LRP, LRP being Local Rights Programme, who serves as local ActionAid offices. I chose Kapchorwa because I like to work in rural areas where I can find the authentic life, as well as the love that comes along with becoming a part of the community. Being a student of rural development studies, this was an opportunity to see rural development initiatives in the field. Kapchorwa is beautiful place; people are friendly, warm welcoming and eager to help each other. I am village boy and son of a farmer, so life in Kapchorwa is similar to life in my own village in Nepal.

Youths in Kapchorwa are awesome. They want to do something, and they want to change their community. Being young myself, I have the desire to work with youth through Activista groups, the young people of ActionAid. When I visited Kapchorwa, Kween and Bukwo districts, Youths often asked me how, I made it from a background similar to theirs, to becoming a success working with ActionAid.

They have respect for ActionAid, so for the youth of



GOOD BYE Note from BISHAL



Uganda, it is a great opportunity to work in ActionAid. I supported Activista group of Kepteret through training on governance and accountability and regular mentoring helped them to bring their issues to the sub-county office.

At one point, I was in Kween district to commemorate International Women Day 2014. While I was taking photographs (it is my hobby) 3 Youths came to me and we started talking: "We want to form a youth group and work with ActionAid to transform our society," they told me. Their keen interest for forming a youth group to transform their own society made me very happy. I shared my own success stories about child club, youth club and how I succeed to become an Inspirator. I could see how they listened very eagerly and patiently – they were inspired. I gave them mine and my office colleagues' contact details – initiating what will hopefully be a longstanding relationship.

My role has been to assist Kapchorwa LRP and its partner organization in monitoring, evaluating and advocating. I cannot change everything, but there are definitely some tangible changes directly related to my work at Kapchorwa LRP and its partners. One of my ideas was to introduce the idea of a newsletter. It became an example of documentation and a way of communication to do advocacy. I am now engaging partner organizations to make the initiative sustainable. I also developed reporting and case story collection formats, as well as guidance to systematize the documentation. Now we can see changes in the way of documentation and record keeping.

"The previous 9 months have passed by in a flash. I have been here to contribute in capacity building and in the meantime, I have been here to learn more about Ugandan culture, tradition and much more. In hindsight, I have succeeded in contributing to inspire people toward eradicating poverty."

A popular and powerful quote by Martin Luther King springs to mind: "I have a dream". Yes! I have a dream to change the society and eradicate poverty and injustice. As an Inspirator I am doing just that, and I will be doing this forever because of the energy and inspiration I have gained from these brilliant experiences.

Source: <http://www.actionaid.org/uganda/2014/03/>



Wec-Wecatet on Hand: Jacklyn Cheboroyet, Kwosir/Kitawoi sub-counties Women district Councillor of Kween district Council addressing the program on anti-FGM day in Kitawoi. The Wec-Wecatet newsletter was distributed during the program and got positive response from the local stakeholders. *Photo: Bishal*

VOTE OF THANKS



KWIPI is hosting this third quarter newsletter, I take this opportunity to reveal that Actionaid Uganda is one of the Organizations that should be appreciated for the good work they have done in Uganda and particularly in Bukwo District.

Actionaid Uganda is particularly credited for its partnership approach that makes it sound in the deepest villages in our communities.

Carolayne Araptai
Chairperson KWIPI

VOICE OF VOLUNTEER

- **ANNET CHEROP**
VOLUNTEER

“My name is Annet Cherop, I am a volunteer OF TOFA. I am from Sisy village Kapteret parish in Kapchorwa district. Before, I had remained a housewife but now I am volunteering with TOFA. It helps me to acquire professional skills such as leadership, team building, reporting, documentation and organizational development.



Now, my life has changed in a big way, I used to depend on my husband for everything in the household. This sometimes can let us down because of his busy schedules but when I got this opportunity, I joined a village savings and credit association, where I can now save my money and borrow with a lot of ease that used not to be the case, I am now independent and I can survive.

I am also a member of Youth Activista group in Kepteret Sub-county. Also I gain skills on governance and accountability from Activista group. I am now involved in the village planning process and we monitor our budgets to make our leaders accountable. I also work to make our leaders accountable to the people they represent us in public offices in case of poor service delivery in the community. Before I thought this is the way things are supposed to be done and we leave them To Whom It May Concern.

Being a volunteer, I have learned many new ideas and skills. My gratitude goes to AAUI and TOFA for the work they are doing and I encourage them to continue supporting the women groups for sustainable livelihoods.

...TOWARD SUSTAINING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN BUKWO

- by **Kwemboi Silus**
Program Coordinator KWIPI

It is not uncommon for almost every critic to complain about service delivery in our community, right; take this as an example; a contractor has just finished a Graft Flow Scheme (GFS) water project and water is now in the community. There is a fence around the water tap and after a few weeks, there is no water flowing. The rhetorical question is; did the contractor return the water?

In our community today, many actors and development partners including the Civil Society are concerned about the quality of life among the people. Some advocate for protection of the environment, the safety of drinking water, children's rights affordability of medical services, improvement of the education system, decent housing and maternal health among others.

It is with great concern that we see the opposite often times evidenced by; abuse of water sources, contamination of the water, abuse of children's rights, subordination of women, degradation of the environment and soil erosion to mention a few.

Often times, people bath from the river in spite of warnings against the practice, other cut down trees the way they like without planting another. While other men claim that girls are only meant to get married so they (parents) can access bride price, other community members do not put at heart the projects set up in their localities leading to retardation in development.

To give the devil his due, the project designers and implementers sometimes hesitate to involve the beneficiaries in the entire process of inception, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

It is good news that ActionAid Uganda through the Kapchorwa Local Rights Programme has promoted the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in tackling these issues in our community. As a Community Based Organization partnering with ActionAid Uganda, Kapchorwa/Bukwo Women in Peace Initiative (KWIPI) is free to point out that the HBRA is changing events in our community and the projects designed are somewhat sustainable.



actionaid
activista

- by **Ashele Ashiraf**

Activista Member

As far as the news is concern, I have many things to talk about my experiences like before join to Activista group. I want to separate my experiences in intervention of Activista, Youth camp connecting youth in Mt. Elgon Exploration Centre, Inspirators and National youth policy.

Before Intervention of Activista

Before the intervention of Activista, I was so disorganized in such a way that I could not even know that the youth have their right and their policies and the national youth council act.

After participating in Activista activities, now I came to know all the youth rights, policies and the youth act in indicated in charter 319 in the national youth council. After knowing that, we had rights, policies we had to go to the local council LC1 and we ask for what was not happening, and we were directed to the council LCIII. After the intervention of Activista we were able to come up with the following.

- The health facilities
- The Education sector
- The infrastructure
- The youth hierarchy
- The opportunities to the youth

Health Facilities

- The health sector was greatly changed in such a way that the late coming of nurses was improved.
- The addition of three staffs of health
- The upgrading of health centre II to health centre III

In education, there were thirteen teachers with a big population of 700 pupils but the teachers were added to twenty-four and the desks was also provided. The road were also contracted like the road, which connects Kapchorwa and Bulambuli and all this was after the intervention of Activista.

The Youth Hierarchy

The Youth policy in the sub county is highly respected like for example, in the sub county when the Chairperson LCIII is missing the council of the youth organizes and elected the missing chairperson or any other member who is missing.

Opportunities to the youth was also another issue but we the Activista member went to the sub county council. The sub county told us that we are going to training the youth on vocational trainings example is carpentry and joinery, motor driving. I knew that we were doing something good.

From the youth camp connecting the youth I learned many things in as far as the youth council is concern

- Functions of the national youth consultative
- Functions of the council
- Borrowing powers

All income and monies of the council (*cont. page 14*)

Empowerment



STOP

FGM

NOW

Government should empower us the ActionAid way

International Women's Day in Kapchorwa



- By Kitiyo Patrick
Project Officer, Kapchorwa LRP

AAU Kapchorwa LRP joined the rest of the world to celebrate international Women's day on March 8. For Kapchorwa LRP, it was song, dance and ululations from the women that mainly com-posed of gender based violence survivors. The occasion brought together the District Local Government, civil society organizations, women groups, youth groups, politicians and many others.

International Women's Day, celebrated yearly on March 8th is about raising awareness on the plight of women and also recognising and celebrating women's contributions to the nation's development. The 2014 national was Inspiring Change: Empowering Women and Girls and it was hosted by Moyok sub-county. The activity brought together the populace from the Greater Kaproron Sub-counties which includes Kwanyiy, Kaproron, Kaptum and Moyok which was the host.

2014 International Women's day was one of the most colourful events ever celebrated by Kween district. AAU Kapchorwa Local Rights programme. With data from GBV shelter, ActionAid used the platform to highlight the challenges that women in the Sebei sub-region region continue to face. ActionAid called upon the different actors to take a stand against gender based violence with emphasis on Female Genital Mutilation.

During the event, a legal aid clinic and participation of GBV survivors in full force were some of the most unique activities as compared to were routine activities like speeches, drama and other cultural events. The GBV survivors in their red and white attire both in body and head stole the day. With support of the brass band, the women with plac-



Nandala Michael Chief Administration Officer, Kween district delivering speech during the commemoration of International Women's Day in Moyok.

ards matched through the area, to mobilise the community around to participate in the event.

"Women's day now makes sense to me. ActionAid has empowered me economically and socially. I can now afford to look after myself and send my children to school. Government should borrow a leaf from ActionAid, and empower us, not just with words, but with real life empowering projects like the Irrigation project that ActionAid gave us."

'Together Lets STOP FGM!!!'



- By Keptegei ALEX
Program Officer, KWIPI

FGM, FGM, FGM! What a humiliating practice that sounds just like its name Female Genital Mutilation. You are too ashaming and demoralizing to be found in Sebei region of Uganda. You are satanically practiced at night just as Satan came to steal, kill and to destroy our girls and women.

I raise an alarm to KWIPI and all other development partners like CAFUR, BLG, TOFA, KACSOA and others. Ooh! partners it's not a single mans' effort but a collective effort from the central government, local governments, CBOs, NGOs like ActionAid, UNICEF, UNFPA and many more to mobilize and cause behavioural change in our communities.

FGM like any other culture, you have been very stubborn to be dealt with, it's now my plea to ActionAid with

all its development partners in Bukwo, Kween, Amudat and Kapchorwa to join hands together and say "we resist FGM pandemic in the name of God". Because it has made our girls lame, burning pain like flames of fire, vulnerable to HIV and AIDS.

In addition, it has made complicated labor process and deaths, permanent unhealthy scars, continuous psychological nightmares to madness and directly lead to poverty, early marriage and increased rate of school dropouts.

FGM who brought you to Uganda? You must go back. if you insist, am going to blow a whistle to all church leaders, community leaders, elders and law and we shall kick you out of Uganda just as we did to polio in early 1990s. You will be buried and be forgotten forever.

A trumpet shall sound to all pupils, students, women and men to say to Hell with FGM and all those who want to practice it, (let us humble ourselves and we pray against FGM! Our lord in Heaven may you judge FGM as you judged SODOM&GOMORA) forgive all our women who have been mutilated and all surgeons for they did not know what they were doing. Bless all those who dodged and resisted FGM as an inhuman act and we shall all celebrate the burial of all inhuman cultures in Sebei region and we shall declare a ZERO tolerance to FGM and its effects.

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MILKAS BABY GETS TREATMENT: COURT ORDERS TREATMENT FOR A SICK CHILD



- By Deborah Marie Lwanga
Legal Officer, WPC, Kween

ActionAid helped Chebet Milka Ruth a 19 year old lady to secure a maintenance order and a medical treatment order for her child. This was done by filling a maintenance application against the father of (herein after called the respondent)the child in Court in February, 2014, the order was issued by the Family and Children Court of Kapchorwa on the 11th of March, 2014.

Milka's child was born with an abnormality in the bones. This caused the child's joints to be very weak and as such, her neck was bent to one side. Milka and her family did not have sufficient resources to take the child for treatment in Mbale Hospital. The father to the child had chased Milka along with the child away from the home in which she was cohabiting with him. Consequently, Milka lived with her father and the child. The father of the child would not provide any medical attention, clothing or food to the child. Subsequently, a maintenance order was issued to the respondent to provide a monthly maintenance fee of 50,000UGX. In addition, the respondent was ordered to pay 300,000UGX for treatment of the child in Mbale Hospital.

Milka is one of the many women who have got redress after reporting a case of child neglect. She appreciated AAU for the support and engaging the unminding father of her child through the courts of law.



Commemoration of International Women's Day, 2014 in Moyok Sub-County on 8Th March, 2014. The first three guests in the tent from Right to left are the Juliet Musiwa, District Chairperson, Women Council Kween district, Joseph Okwakol, Resident District Commissioner, Kween district and Hon. Mrs. Lydia Barteka Chekwel, Woman Member of Parliament, Kween district.

ActionAid International Uganda - AAIU

Kapchorwa Local Rights Program Activities

LRP Partners Equipped with M&E skill

- By Kwemboi Silus
Program Coordinator, KWIPI

ActionAid Kapchorwa LRP partner's are equipped with Monitoring planning for 2014. They have made their monitoring plan during the workshop organized by AA Kapchorwa LRP in Noah's Ark Sipi resort from 9-12th March 2014.

The workshop comprised of the AAIU Kapchorwa LRP partners in the three districts of Kapchorwa, Bukwo and Kween.

The major objectives of the forum were to build the capacity of partners in Monitoring and Evaluation, Governance, and advocacy and to strengthen the capacities of the partners to develop and follow monitoring and evaluation tools.

The forum comprised of a diverse category of the technical staff ranging from the Programme Coordinators, Accounts Assistants and programme Officers to the governing wing that included the BOD Chairpersons and some Executive members

During the forum, Mr. Bishal Rana Magar, Inspirator of Kapchorwa LRP facilitated session on Monitoring and Evaluation, reporting and Documentation. Also Mr. Kamuron took



Photo By: Stephen Cheruwaru

participants in sessions of governance and accountability.

At the end of the training, participants developed M&E plans for their respective organizations. A partners forum was set to be held on a rotational basis on a quarterly basis and KWIPI was set to host the first ever for a on 10th April 2014.

"This workshop helped us to develop M&E plan and gave way forward for our organizational development", Sabila Francis, chairperson of Benet Lobby Group said.

Kapchorwa Commemorated International day of Zero Tolerance to FGM Day, 2014



On 6th February 2014 ActionAid Uganda – Kapchorwa Local rights Programs joined the rest of the World to Commemorate International Zero Tolerance to FGM. Female Genital Cutting is recognised worldwide as a violation of human rights of young girls and women. It reflects a deep-rooted and unfounded principle that perpetuates societal inequality between the sexes.

The occasion which was colourful and powerful brought together communities of the Greater Benet Sub-counties in

Kween district. The occasion attracted district, sub-county leadership and community members (women, men, women groups, youths, school children and persons with disabilities). The community members staged drama shows portraying the negative aspects of FGM, changing events and benefits enjoyed by the uncircumcised especially the young girls and women and personal testimonies from married and young girls on the harmful aspects of FGM.

The most appalling testimony was a case of a woman who dropped out of school. She had undergo circumcision, married off at a tender age and produce children which turned out to be a night mare as her friends became teachers and nurses now with livelihood skills.

ActionAid Uganda uses participatory action learning as an approach to share together with communities the negative aspects of FGM. Community women and school based clubs engage with their peers through their clubs debates, and radio talk shows on appropriate strategies which by themselves.

The communities applaud ActionAid Uganda for the campaigns against FGM. It was noted that the campaigns brought into light a better understanding of the socio-economic and health effects of FGM on both the young and the old women. The communities come up with actions points to implementation.

HOW TO BE POOR: 10 Steps

- By Tim Banan

Accounts Assistant, CAFHUR



In 1776, Adam Smith published his classic scholarly work, an enquiry into the nature and causes of the wealth of nations. Two centuries and close to four decades presently, I hereby publish the 21st century article entitled an enquiry into the nature and causes of the poverty of persons. Unlike Adam Smith's difficult to understand book to me this article is a very easy to read

and understand because it is consisting of only few points, which are very easy to memorize. It is a result of four decades of observation and participation in activities that create poverty in abundance in independent communities. It must therefore, be respected on a serious note.

Here, then are the 10 great doings that turn potentially wealthy men in to poor generals. Five are don'ts and five are dos. Armed with these, you can defeat wealth for the rest of your life/be poor.

1. **One: NEVER WAKE UP EARLY**-keep stretching and turning on bed until you get too hungry continue dozing if there are no bedbugs, why hurry to get up? Any way it is always the poor who enjoy sleep/sleep maximum while the rich use sleeping pills because they are sick of how to make more money. For to think is to live.

2. **Two: NEVER PLAN HOW TO SPEND YOUR MONEY.** Whenever you get money, start spending it straight away and when it is finished, try to count and recall how you spend it and you won't even be able to account for half of it. Therefore, you will always become best from starting line because you will always be on the starting line. Without vision, people perish (**Proverbs 29:18**)

3. **Three: DON'T THINK OF SAVING UNTIL YOU HAVE REAL BIG MONEY.** How can you save when you earn too little? Those telling you to save are not sympathetic to you and the million demanding needs you got.

4. **Four: DON'T ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES USUALLY RESERVED FOR THE UNEDUCATED."** How can a graduate, engage in petty trade or home-based production or do manual labour? That is for people who never went to school. If I do that what will the uneducated do. For real graduates are refusing to bend when they can still bend or I mean do any work without discrimination. But when they go abroad they do it very well.

5. **Five: DON'T THINK OF STARTING A BUSINESS UNTIL AN ANGEL COMES FROM HEAVEN AND GIVES YOU CAPITAL.** How do they expect you to invest before you get millions of shillings? Even though more than half the businesses in your town were started with a few hundred shillings, you, as a smart person, can only start with millions.



6. **Six: COMPLAIN ABOUT EVERYTHING EXCEPT YOUR OWN ATTITUDE:** blame the system, blame the government, blame your mom for getting married to your poor dad, blame your race, tribe region education level, luck and the bank that make to lend you money they are all bed and do not want you to get rich.

7. **Seven: SPEND MORE THAN YOU EARN,** to achieve these buy consumer products on credit and keep borrowing from friends and employers, go for a small loan and you will be a slave.

8. **Eight: COMPETE IN DRESSING/SWAG,** make sure you wear the latest clothes among all the workers in your neighbour and friends, buy a new phone even more expensive because your class has shifted.

9. **Nine: GET YOURSELF NICE SECOND HAND CAR THAT COSTS MORE THAN THREE TIMES YOUR GROSS MONTHLY PAY.** That will surely keep you in debt long enough to hinder the implementation of any bad plans that could make you be rich accumulate capital.

10. **Ten: GIVE YOUR CHILDREN EVERYTHING THEY ASK FOR:** since you are such a loving parent, they should not hustle for anything because you do not want them to suffer. That way, they will grow up lazy and hence poor enough to ensure they cannot help you in you old age.

Even in football we have what is called losers match but this name shouldn't have been so because they truly were close to 1st spot. May be a thrashing is a loss as well poverty and riches have no alliance so every man chooses what he wants to be. Rich or poor Give it up and give in to poverty.

If you diligently implement these 10 great rules, you will not fail to invite poverty in great measure to your home state. That way, all important leaders from east to west, will spend a lot of hours thinking about you; planning how to uplift your daily expenses above one dollar. Isn't it nice to the subject of concern of all those leaders and scholars? Et el Joachim Buwembo.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **CLIMATE CHANGE** ADAPTION AND MITIGATION

- By Jafari Kamwania

Program Coordinator, TOFA



What has caused all this? Is the world soon coming to an end?

- Unexpected prolonged droughts
- Scanty rains
- High temperatures
- Unpredictable rains
- Floods
- Traditional crops no longer perform well.
- Low crop productivity
- Rampant weeds
- Bamboos are producing flowers which never to happen
- Loss of natural tree species

What effects have the above conditions caused?

- Rampant disease for both crops and animals.
- High crop failures leading to own food production and food insecurity hence famine\livestock and food theft from the gardens
- High rates of school drop outs
- Family conflicts due to lack of food
- Increase in price of food and animal commodities
- Uncontrolled cutting down of trees and forests without replacing
- Degradation wetland for agriculture, settlement, brick making, sand mining, papyrus harvesting etc.
- Bush burning for quick regeneration
- Industrialization and poor waste management of industrial wastes.
- Poor waste disposal such as polythene papers and plastics
- Increased carbon emissions without measures to control,

You mean I have also got a contribution to this situation? But how because of the above actions mentioned.

You mean you and your communities have not done any of those?

What then can I do to adopt and or mitigate to the situation?

Avoid and also discourage un controlled cutting of trees, encroaching on wetlands, bush burning and also discourage others from using poor fishing methods.

Plant more trees that promote ecosystem harmony and avoid practices that destroy ecosystems such as bush burning, overgrazing.

- Establish and use energy saving equipment such as energy saving stoves to reduce on the number of tree cut down for charcoal and also reduces of the carbon emission.
- Make use of alternative power sources such as solar and bio gas other than hydro electricity power.
- Promote growth of quick maturing crop varieties that are also multipurpose like cassava

- Include use of organic pesticides so as to sequence carbon that would end up in the atmosphere.
- Adopt good farming practices of raised beds, mulching and sack gardening among others
- Adopt labor farming technologies such that you are able to utilize the rainy/dry seasons in time while planting early.
- Adopt alternative consumables such as using avocado leaves for tea.
- Exercise proper seed selection and multiplication
- Promote production of environment conservation enterprises such as bee keeping, tree nursery business

Adopt recommended food storage technologies

Who else is responsible?

Everyone is responsible for the fight against climate change including. The teachers, pupils and students, farmers, cattle keepers and herdsmen, fishermen, brick makers, processing companies and industries, vehicle drivers, local leaders, national leaders, cultural leaders, religious leaders, NGOs government departments

Firewood collection one of the deadly activity in deforesta-



tion. Some are and others are not.

How can I support my community to address the problem?

- Mobilize them and share with them this important piece of information.
- Provide the practical ground for testing adaptation and mitigation identified technologies
- Demonstrate approved technologies and participate in facilitating other populations to replicate them.
- Become a peer community trainer on climate change adaptation and mitigation and hence provide regular agriculture extension on approved technologies.
- Monitor compliance to environment standards and by laws established by your community.

What do we need to do as a community to address this problem?

You have ACT and ACT now

- Identify gaps in the existing laws and polices relating to climate change and participate in the formulation process of the new polices.
- Document climate change effects on your community and share such literature to guide decision on when and what to do at hat period.

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WHAT...

- Talk to your family members about the cause of climate change, its effects and advise them on how we can all support in the fight.
- Change your agricultural practices
- Share this information and the knowledge you have acquired with others.
- What about my local leader. What is she/he supposed to do to save us this situation?
- Need to enact laws to govern practices that cause climate change.
- Simplify and translate literature on climate change for easy consumption of the farmers/community you lead.
- Mobilize and educate communities on the dangers of climate change.

Allocate resources in their budgets for education, enforcement of the laws, provision of technologies and rehabilitation where practices have caused damage such as replanting of trees and gazettement of ecological areas. Delegate contact technical persons to analyse the early warning data and thereafter share information on likely adverse effects to the communities for their information decisions making.

Be part of the awareness creation of climate change and dangers we are to face if nothing is done. Preach the gospel of stewardship and taking care of God's created nature.

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PETS...

local councilors and local leaders for that road," Program Coordinator of TOFA, Kamwania Jafari says, "that meeting built common consensus for the road." After the meeting, people went to the Kepteret sub-county to meet the sub-county local council. They suggested visiting the district leadership other stakeholders to create pressure on that. "We and went to district headquarter and met with LC V chairman," Philex added, "We presented the gaps in relation to service delivery and infrastructure is concern about the road." After the meeting, LC V chairperson committed to send grader as soon as possible to start road construction.

The district council sat and passed program to construct 12-kilometer feeder road to link Munda, Kapkwogi and Kap-

chekwongo that is now under constructions. "That was a kind of campaign or lobby which brought positive impact," Jafari added, "After a week we saw a grader working on the road."

Out of 12 kilometers of the road, almost 3-kilometer road has been constructed and local people have started to use it and they are appreciating for it. There is rock and area is a bit difficult ahead to fix by grader that is why they are planning to send a Bulldozer.

Chemutai Sisco of Tuban village walking by newly constructed road-carrying firewood. "We are collecting the firewood from downer level; it was very difficult for us in previous days because there was no road. It used to take the whole day for only firewood. Now we can collect firewood and come back home using this road. Sometime we use a boda which makes our work easy" Sisco says, "It is also easy for them to buy and sell food and other materials in the town."

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ACTIVISTA...

shall be deposited to the credit to the council in a bank approved by the minister of Gender, labour and social development and shall not be withdrawn except with the approval. In a manner determined by the council, all we did not know and we knew at the youth camp and we as Activistas of Kapchorwa we are now going to get in touch with the council in order to be knowing what is going on.

Inspirators

In inspiration with the two Inspirator Bishal from Nepal and Joseph from Zimbabwe. I have to get different information from them. As I will state them below

- Walk with the wise and you become wise
- Have vision in your life
- Don't of today's life only but even of tomorrow
- Be a leader of today but not tomorrow
- Try to motivate yourself before you are motivated

Finally as an Activista member for what I discovered I had to thank to following TOFA for linking to ActionAid Uganda and Inspirator Bishal. We as the Activista of Kapchorwa LRP are going to connect all the youth in the whole distance and form a strong network in all over Uganda through ActionAid Uganda.

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