

ActionAid International Uganda Weekly Newsletter

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Dear

Reader,

In this edition, we bring you the commitment AAIU Leadership made to effectively deliver the 5th Strategy Paper, how SIPs are improving education in Nebbi, our efforts to promote Child Safety, Young Leaders voices and more!

Enjoy!

AAIU Leadership commits to champion the clear understanding of the 5th Strategy Paper by all ActionAiders in Uganda



Xavier Ejoyi, AAIU Country Director receives a Certificate of Completion of the Leadership Training

By Xavier Ejoyi

ENTEBBE - As you may be aware from 11-15 March 2019, AAIU organized an all-staff retreat and leadership training for 28 leaders across the organization. The retreat provided an opportunity for all AAIU staff as one team, to reflect on the Country Strategy Paper 5, AAIU policies, values, vision and mission. Together we also discussed key challenges that we face as an organization that hold us from being more effective and efficient. A concrete outcome of both events was the **Leadership Behaviour Charter** – nine commitments that all 28 leaders made to address key challenges to leadership and organizational effectiveness in AAIU for which they agree to be held individually and collectively accountable.

From last week, the Country Director started daily profiling of each of these commitments as a reminder to all staff especially the leaders on his vision for a transformative leadership agenda within AAIU that will turn obstacles into opportunities. Beginning today, and for the next 8 editions, we bring you verbatim the Country Director's challenge to all staff to live up to each of the commitments on AAIU Leadership Behaviour Charter.

1: We commit to champion the clear understanding of the 5th Strategy Paper by all ActionAiders in Uganda beginning with those we lead.

As you are all aware, the 5th Country Strategy Paper is currently in its second year of implementation after it was approved in 2017. However, it emerged during the retreat that despite extensive participation of staff during the drafting process, majority of the staff (including some leaders) had limited understanding of the Strategy Paper or were reluctant to advance its full implementation. With this background, we committed ourselves as leaders to champion a clear understanding of the CSP5 in the entire organization, especially beginning with those we lead.

At a minimum, all staff should endeavour to read and know the four programme priority areas, the organizational priorities, and the results they seek to achieve in Uganda, as well as the shift in using a feminist approach and working with social movements. These should inform our day to day activities from drafting concept papers, writing proposals, organizing events or meetings, recruitment, etc.



AAIU Leaders participating in the Leadership Training

Reflection and Review of School Improvement Plan registers impressive results



The District Inspector of Schools, Pakwach District, responding to a question about the failure to honour their commitment to construct a latrine at Pacego Primary School

By Moses Okwonga

NEBBI - Actionaid Nebbi LRP carried out review and reflection meetings in five (5) primary schools (Kinju, Pumvuga, Pacego, Alwala and Angir primary school) with SMC, PTA, members of Local Council I, pupil's representative, teachers, Nebbi NGO forum representative and DEO/DIS. The meeting focused on assessment of key actions agreed upon in the School Improvement Plan (SIP), bottlenecks to implementation of the agreed actions and way forward. During the meetings, the head teachers noted that, the SIP has led to improvement in school management, transparency and accountability, and improved syllabus coverage. It also facilitated lobbying for; classrooms and toilet constructions from the government and development partners, and allocation of female teachers in schools that didn't have any. There was notable improvement in academic performance, budget allocation for menstrual hygiene management and changing rooms for girls from local revenue.

The Pakwach District Education Officer (DEO) was very impressed by the achievements realized with limited resources. He also noted that;

"the schools that have SIP are performing well in academic and school management compared with schools that didn't" adding that there is need to scale up the good practice in other schools within the district in the next financial year 2019/2020.

He was particularly impressed by the level of innovation and creativity exhibited by the school management in the five primary schools supported by ActionAid in development of SIP. He particularly mentioned Kinju and Alwala Primary Schools for being outstanding in execution of the School Improvement Plan most especially in the area of transparency, accountability and school management.

The HEAD Teacher of Kinju Primary School observed that;

"SIP has motivated me to go beyond the call of duty in a sense that, every day I feel obligated to achieve something to improve education standards in my school. It's because of this that I was got an award as the best performing head teacher in the district by DEO's office Pakwach". Adding that he was thankful to ActionAid's support in development of SIP.

Pakwach District undertook initiative to implement one of the key actions agreed upon in the school Improvement Plan of 2017, that is; **sensitization of parents to support their children's education and take a girl child back to school campaign**. It was noted that many parents had a negative attitude towards children's education and provided inadequate support in terms of scholastic materials leading to high rate of dropout and teenage

pregnancies.

In response, the chairperson LCV headed a team of all the district technocrats comprising of DEO, Councillors, Planner, RDC, DCDO, CDOs, DIS, LCIII, LCI, CSOs and Community members to address this precarious situation. A total of 7 dialogue meetings were conducted in 7 sub counties, reaching out to 6,500 people. ActionAid Nebbi supported the initiative and actively participated in the community dialogue meetings. This initiative has resulted in increased enrolment of pupils in Pakwach District in 2019.



The members of the School Management Committee, PTA, Pupils and LC1 Chairpersons attending a review and reflection meeting at Angir Primary School

Child safeguarding: No stone to be left unturned to ensure safety for children



AAIU staff, Activista Partners, Service providers, and Community Intermediaries participate in Child Safeguarding Training

By Sheila Bukirwa and David Moses Okello

KAPCHORWA - In May this year, the New Vision reported that in one year over 6,500 cases of child abuse had been received through the Uganda Child Helpline known as Sauti (116). Of these 1,843 cases were concluded while the rest are being investigated.

AAIU runs a child sponsorship programme which contributes to the financial resources which are used to implement various programmes in the different Local Rights Programmes. Through various interactions with children, AAIU recognizes that child abuse in Uganda is on the rise and therefore to increase the capacity to identify and prevent the different forms of abuse, a child safeguarding training was held in Kapchorwa LRP Cluster last week. It was attended by 52 participants who included AAIU staff, Activista Partners, Service providers, and Community Intermediaries.

The training placed emphasis on understanding of child protection, upholding child rights and responsibilities and increasing awareness on how to create a protective environment for children to thrive. There were discussions held on the legal framework concerning children in Uganda to enable the participants understand the set of rules and procedural steps, for handling legal cases concerning children.

Going forward, the participants agreed to form Drama and Debate clubs in schools, sensitize parents of sponsored children on child protection issues during message collection, register

and immediately refer cases of child abuse/ neglect to the relevant authorities and visit schools, use social media, conduct dialogue meeting and radio programmes to overcome child abuse.



Rejuvenated participants ready to promote child safety in their communities

The Biannual National Convention of Young Leaders meets, strategize to become transformational leaders



Some of the Young Leaders present their group's analysis of issues at the meeting

By Joyce Amuron

KAMPALA - The meeting was attended by young activists from different regions of the country that partner with ActionAid International Uganda. It took place on 19th July 2019 at Royal Suites Bugolobi to reflect and follow up on actions and commitments made during the earlier held youth camp in Kasese.

The meeting evaluated the current strategies, actions and interventions being used by youth in engaging parliament through respective committees and government through sector ministries. They took an in-depth analysis of what has worked, what has not worked, opportunities and learning.

Ms. Evelyn Nuwagaba, Program Coordinator at Femme Forte, painted a picture of what transformative leadership among young people is;

"this means I will lead myself first so that I can effectively lead my team, a stable leadership team will be balanced and transparent, leadership is about you taking care of yourself and stepping out to take care of others accounting for oneself, for the people we serve and accounting for the country"

Komaketch Jomeo, Chairperson of Young Leader's Forum submitted that;

"they should critically engage and reflect about where they come from", adding, there are a lot of young people who admire them and hoping to become leaders too.

They agreed to identify 30 (thirty) young leaders who have been instrumental in advancing the youth cause across the county to draw inspiration and learning. These will be identified from the respective target districts.

AAIU in the 5th Strategy 2018-2022 - strengthening struggles for social justice, undertook to expand the opportunities for young people in leadership development, to increase their participation in different spheres of community life and to build a youth-led movement to challenge social injustice.



Young Leaders deliberate on strategies to transform their leadership styles

Domestic Violence Coalition calls out demeaning sexist behaviour towards women by their estranged intimate partners



Domestic Violence Coalition Members during a presser to denounce increasing violence against Women

By Caroline Abilat

KAMPALA - On the 18th of July 2019, the Domestic Violence Coalition stood shoulder to shoulder with actors who have condemned in the strongest terms the recent demeaning and sexist remarks made by Pastor Bugingo against his estranged wife. This was during a press conference held at parliament. Female Members of Parliament from Koboko and Mitoma lent their voices to the coalition as members of the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA). In addition, two male members of Parliament Hon. Mbwatekamwa and Hon. Mulindwa Ssozi joined the women in solidarity and pledged their support for actions from the coalition and members of the women's movement in Uganda.

Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), the conveners of the presser, in their opening remarks said that the coalition would not focus on the reactive actions against the recent demeaning remarks by Pastor Bugingo but rather sought to drive the message home that this was not an isolated incident as perceived by many, but an increasing normalisation of sexist and demeaning remarks aimed at humiliating women in the public and private spheres. The Coalition gave examples of rampant shaming of women by estranged spouses, who they said had shunned the dignified processes of the law and had instead used the public to front their agendas. The Coalition highlighted how the normalisation of such language perpetuated acts of violence and denied women their dignity as citizens of Uganda.

Likewise, the coalition acknowledged efforts by the born- again fraternity and other actors who had come out openly to condemn these acts. The coalition was however quick to note

that there was need for more people and stakeholders to call out these sexist behaviours that single out women as the brunt of their negative tirades.

Consequently, the coalition demand from the government of Uganda, especially institutions like the parliament, the Uganda communications commission, the public and churches in Uganda to unite in condemning violence against women and girls;

That the Uganda Communications Commission works with the media council to enforce the professional code of ethics that guide content for broadcasting and publishing; Legislators in parliament prioritise the passing of the Marriage and Divorce Bill which would guide in instances of separation or divorce; and all religious leaders amplify their voices in condemning demeaning sexist language used against women by their intimate partners.

As the press conference wound down, members of parliament present and the DVA Coalition Members reiterated their call to people every -where to see these dehumanising utterances as affecting the dignity of both women and men and not ignore the call for total condemnation.



A male participant adds his voice in condemning Violence Against Women

