

## ActionAid International Uganda Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

In this issue, we bring you the highlights of how we are promoting violence-free school environments, what the future of the Global Platform looks like, Youth readiness for the Oil and Gas sector and how Women Economic Empowerment intervention is changing lives. For details, read on!

Enjoy!

### Promoting violence free school environments: Bwaise GBV Shelter reaches out to schools in neighbouring communities



Pupils of Takuba Primary School stating that they are ready to report cases of violence

Promoting rights awareness in schools can help to prevent school violence and make schools safe places for better learning outcomes. Students, staff, and parents all have an

important role in promoting school safety. Adults can provide leadership by reassuring students that schools are generally very safe places for children and youth and reiterating what safety measures and student support mechanisms are already in place in their schools. Bwaise GBV shelter conducted school outreach activities in four schools with the view of curbing violence that affects children in schools.

The school outreaches were conducted in two primary schools and two secondary schools of, Takuba Primary school, Outspan primary school, Gadhafi integrated secondary school and Mbogo college school. School debates were the mechanism through which the Bwaise GBV shelter staff and stakeholders reached out to the students and pupils in the four schools. The topic of the debate was ‘***Violence Against Children in Schools Affects Girls More Than Boys***’. This debate provided the children with a platform where they discussed issues that affect them most in schools such as causes of violence, effects, challenges they face and shared recommendations to reduce violence in schools.

This reached 1,132 children and teachers who were sensitized on the different forms of violence that affects children, its causes, consequences and the GBV referral pathway. The senior ladies and senior men of these schools committed to work with ActionAid to promote children’s rights and prevent violence in their respective schools by taking lead in the Anti-GBV club formation and referring all Violence Against Children (VAW) cases appropriately.

The Probation and Social Welfare Officer and the Inspector of Schools in Kawempe committed to work with ActionAid to promote girl child education and sensitize the community about violence faced by children and the remedies thereto.

The students committed to form anti-GBV clubs and support each other by escalating any form of violence incidences amongst them, peer to peer counselling in school and at home.

As a result, five cases of violence were reported by some students during this exercise. Three cases were physical in nature due to corporal punishments by teachers, one was of violence experienced at home and the other was of defilement. These cases are currently being handled by the Shelter and Police.



The overjoyed winners of the school debate at Outspan Primary School

**Youth in the Albertine region tipped on how to benefit from the unique oil and gas business environment**



Kaija Ronald, Senior Community Relations Officer of CNOOC Uganda sharing at the training in Hoima

The on-going youth entrepreneurship and innovations "clinics" in the Albertine region, have presented a unique opportunity for the young people to fully appreciate the value chain of the sector in a challenging business environment and how they can benefit from it.

As the country heads into the development and production phases of the oil and gas industry, expectations among the youth are high. During the Entrepreneurial Clinic in Hoima last week, it was established that youth have high expectations for employment, improved service delivery and business opportunities along the entire value chain.

Didas Muhumuza, the Project Coordinator – Extractives Governance at ActionAid International Uganda, in his remarks, cautioned that;

“there is need for a concerted strategy to manage these expectations”. Adding that access to information will help demystify most of the hearsay surrounding the sector.

Paul Twebaze, a Facilitator, noted that those hoping to directly gain employment from the sector already set their goals and are prepared accordingly.

“If for example you started studying petroleum engineering now, by the time you are done, we might have moved on to agriculture or tourism as core focus area. Those who were targeting to work in the sector already trained. Some have even left the sector because they have seen other opportunities along the value chain,” he told participants.

Participants were taken through different modules to appreciate how the business environment is shaping up in the sector, for example, the establishment of a National Oil and Gas Suppliers' Database has set the tone that it will be business unusual. According to Ronald Kaija, the Senior Community Relations Officer at CNOOC Uganda, one of the oil companies licensed to operate in the country,

“anyone hoping to directly conduct business with the oil companies must be registered in the database”.

Overall, the young people felt challenged but promised to style up and become innovative to fit into the bigger picture in the competitive business environment. The workshops continue in Gulu and will be crowned in Pakwach.



Youth listening to a facilitator during one of the training sessions

**Women Groups register steady progress under Economic Empowerment interventions in Mubende.**



Rita Nanyonga, the AAIU WEE Officer, with one of the group's members reviewing their enterprise budget

The Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) intervention is one the components of DFID'S funded Support to Uganda's Response to Gender Equality (SURGE) programme. In

Mubende district, WEE is being implemented in the sub-counties of Myanzi, Bagezza and Butoloogo; targeting groups composed of Gender Based Violence (GBV) Survivors, Widows, Single mothers, Teenage mothers, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

The 12 groups which are being supported have since been taken through various trainings including: gender and rights - to strengthen women's awareness of their rights and understanding of gender norms, gender power relations and implications on gender equality; life skills - to equip them with knowledge on how to make responsible and informed choices and promote healthy lifestyles; and economic literacy - to equip them with knowledge on the use of basic economic concepts to make decisions and enhance their financial competence and confidence to exercise control over economic resources.

Last week, ActionAid staff from Mubende Women Protection Centre (WPC) carried out monitoring and support visits to these groups, to check on their progress, challenges and how they can be supported to grow. It was encouraging to learn that; the groups didn't sit back and wait for the next training or engagement but are applying the knowledge acquired to better themselves.

At Bugomba Model Group, Bekwasa Edurayi, the Group Chairperson had this to say;

"When we started this group in October 2018 and were engaged in various trainings such as life skills and economic literacy, we didn't sit back as a group. We decided to start a small initiative to supplement our income as a group. We saved money and hired two acres of land at 400,000/= which we cultivated and planted Irish potatoes. From the two acres of land, we harvested 15 bags which we sold at 1,500,000/=. From this as a group we procured 25 chairs that we are hiring out at 500/= each, used some money to kick start the process of registration of our group and the remaining money was put back in the group's bag for members to borrow and return at an interest rate of 10%".

While at Twezimbe Women's Group, the group reported steady progress.

"We are really grateful for the WEE intervention, ever since we started this group in October 2018, we are proud to say that, we are progressing steadily. From the knowledge acquired during the trainings, as a group we embarked on starting a catering business in our area. We started by each member paying a membership fee of 10,000/= and we each save 5000/= every two weeks. We used membership fee collection to process our certificate of registration which we now have in place. We have been fortunate ever since we took the bold step to start our business as we have so far been contracted twice to offer catering services. The profits we made from these two events were used to procure 50 cups and two saucepans to add to the equipment we now have. We are proud to see our group grow and only the sky can be the limit for us." said Nakiyingi Faith, Group Chairperson.



Tusekimu Development Group members pause for a photo after a review meeting with the WEE Officer

**Global Platform Youth Hubs strategize for economic independence and sustainability**



Amr Kamel, the Global Advisor on Economic Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship making remarks during the training

With the increased need for economic independence and sustainability for youth hubs, last week Global Platform Uganda participated in a four-days training on Economic Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship. The training was conducted by Amr Kamel, the Global Advisor on Economic Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship under the ActionAid Denmark -Youth Organizing and Activism (YOA) Team. The training sought to support the Platform in developing a business model for social, economic impact and sustainability.

The training unpacked concepts such as the Global Platform (GP), Economic sustainability, Budget analysis, Project ideation, Bootstrapping, Stakeholder analysis and Market analysis. Through a participatory process, the team was able to analyse Global Platform Uganda's context and develop a potential idea for funding the Digital Literacy Program for young people in rural Uganda.

Speaking during the training, the Director of Programme and Policy at ActionAid International Uganda, Ms. Harriet Gimbo urged the team to work towards finding alternative ways of generating income.

“Global Platform has a great potential of economically sustaining itself, the team needs to work together and sharpen their skills in proposal writing,” she said.

Primus Bahiigi, the Global Platform Uganda Manager remarked that;

“The current model is primarily based on DANIDA funding and this is a risk for the platform to have only one source of funding”. Adding that, the training was timely as we are in the process of developing a business model for both social impact and economic sustainability.

The Global Platform economy model aims for a sustainable Platform, where there is a possibility of profit whilst still providing the same services for social and political impact.

Global Platforms are networks of ActionAid that support youth-led spaces to build collective power for participatory action-oriented learning, creative activism, organizing for social justice and connecting people, organizations and movements.



Global Platform training Participants





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