

ActionAid International Uganda Weekly Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

In this edition, we bring you the highlights of the International Cooperatives week, feedback from the ActionAid Youth Community of Interest meeting in Ghana, European Union Delegation in Uganda's visit to YESSEN Project areas, Local Leaders in GBV prevention and response, commemoration of the International Cooperatives Day.

Enjoy!

EUD in Uganda Visits Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Self-Employment and National Development (YESSEN) Project implementing areas.



Young people trained in garment cutting and tailoring standing in front of their Workshop with representative of European Union Delegation in Uganda and ActionAid International Uganda's staff.

The field visit conducted between 22nd and 27th of June 2019 was part of a routine annual visit by EU representatives to YESEEN Project which is co-funded by Penny Appeal. The focus of EU in the current visit included: Check on progress of project results; Meet and interact with the primary beneficiaries; Meet and engage with the Associates (The District Local Governments) to gauge the level of partnership with the grantee (ActionAid); Assess the visibility of EU; and Assess the level of relevance of the project and the sustainability of its results; amongst others.

The EUD were able to see Young Ugandans in Northern and North-Eastern Uganda taking an active role in sustainable economic activities. Thanks to EU and Penny Appeal support, Young people have been linked and trained in employable skills. The European Union funded project with co-funding from Penny Appeal is being implemented by Action Aid International Uganda in partnership with the District Local Governments of Lira, Nwoya, Pader, Kotido and Amuru.

The EU Staff were impressed by the commendable progress after meeting young Ugandans whose competencies and skills have improved thanks to trainings in tailoring, mechanics, plumbing and various other technical skills. Jimmy Oketayot 23, a beneficiary of the apprenticeship from the project now earns up to UGX 15,000 per day. Unlike before the project when he was a destitute and vulnerable to bad peer influence, he is now able to meet his basic needs.

“This has been a very significant support in my life”. Oketayot says.

The Visitors also made key observations including: The **hardship facing the youth** - They reaffirmed that the hardship the young people are going through is universal in various contexts. It therefore requires concerted efforts of all stakeholders; The **need for specific fund for youth** - While there has been inconclusive discussion on whether there should be specific youth fund, their experiences of the unique issues that the young people face provides a strong justification. EU in its own role in the discourse, backed by these experiences, stand tall in support for the fund and programme. The evidence on ground also indicate that a lot more needs to be done to ensure effectiveness of investment by all parties.



Newly elected Local Council Leaders inducted and trained on GBV prevention and response



Local Council leaders during the induction on supporting GBV Survivors to access justice.

By Catherine Tusiime and Matilda Natukunda

ActionAid International Uganda with financial support from Department for International Development (DFID) conducted a three-day induction and training of newly elected Local Council Leaders on supporting Gender Based Violence (GBV) Survivors and handling Referrals to the GBV Shelters. Participants were drawn from the 10 districts where ActionAid WPCs are located.

This was aimed at: equipping the newly elected leaders with knowledge and skills to effectively engage with the communities and deliver on their mandate; sensitizing the participants on women rights and basic legal and policy frame work in prevention and response to GBV; building a collective agency of women counsellors in supporting women and girls in prevention and responding to GBV at community and district levels; and providing a platform for shared learning and experience sharing for elected leaders in the formation of the women’s agenda at both subcounty and district level to connect with policy makers.

The participants were enlightened about the various hurdles faced on the pathway to justice, equipped with knowledge and skills on how to do their work effectively among several others. Other key highlights of the training included

topics such as human rights, Domestic Violence Act 2010, Local Council Courts Act 2016 and the GBV Referral Pathway - How it works and the various actors who can support in GBV prevention and response.

At the end of the three day's engagement, participants appreciated the organisers for the so much knowledge and skills acquired. They committed to put them to work and committed that GBV prevention and response would be a priority. They were happy to note that they were now more prepared to support GBV Survivors better.

Young People Demand Action for Youth Agenda in the ActionAid Federation



AAIU Country Director and AAIU Manager, Young People at the YCOI Meeting in Ghana

By Richard Olong

Between 21st and 28th June, there was a convening of ActionAid Youth community of Interest (YCOI) in Accra, Ghana. The YCOI is a community of ActionAid staff and allies (youth movements, networks and alliances) who share a common interest and desire to strengthen ActionAid youth Agenda. The meeting was convened to: (i) Generate the political debate on AA youth work and identify thematic areas under YCOI; (ii) Share practical examples of youth programming and build alliances in the federation; (iii) Address challenges facing youth programming. The meeting was attended by representatives from 24 countries across the federation, including Uganda.

During the meeting, young people and allies shared experiences and lessons from their work. They also discussed some of the challenges that hinder the growth of youth programming within ActionAid federation which included among others lack representation of young people on the decision-making spaces and lack of resources to the work around young people. The community also agreed on a number of suggestions to improve and strengthen youth programming and visibility within the federation which included a call for representation of young people in the decision-making spaces such as the Board and CMT, increased funding to work on young people as well as involving young people in the planning and budgeting processes, among others.

The YCOI developed and agreed to a set of demands calling on the federation leadership to take immediate action to strengthen youth programming within ActionAid. These demands were presented to Country/Executive Directors. It is heartening to note that 22 Country/Executive Directors including our very own Xavier Ejoyi signed up to the demands, committing to take forward the demands. We are therefore looking forward to exciting months ahead for work with young people across the federation.

ActionAid International Uganda and Partners commemorate International Cooperatives Day 2019.



The chief guest 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament RT. Hon. General Moses Ali officiating at the event.

By Joyce Amuron and David Moses Okello

On 06th July 2019, Uganda joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 97th ICA International Cooperative Day / 25th UN International Day of Cooperatives. The United Nations' International Day of Cooperatives is observed on the first Saturday of July each year. The theme for this year is **“Coops for Decent Work”**.

In Uganda, the 2019 Cooperative day celebration was organized by Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives hosted by Walimu SACCO Union and Cooperative Insurance Company and supported by Uganda Cooperative Alliance and the Uhuru Institute for Social Development at Wakiso District Headquarters on the 6th July 2019.

ActionAid Uganda is promoting the growth of Cooperatives as one of the key contributors to Community Resilience to Climate Change. Alongside adoption of CRSA methodologies, this is one of the key models that ActionAid Uganda

is promoting across the Country. ActionAid International Uganda in collaboration with District Local Governments participated in the build-up activities at the local level across the Country and notably in Sebei sub-region. The celebration was preceded by a week-long (27th June 2019 to 6th July 2019) series of activities including; Pressers, Themed based prayers with all religious sects, Medical camps, Tree planting, Conferences and Sports events. The activities were climaxed by a Symposium on 5th and an exhibition on the final day.

The key highlights of the whole event include; over 300 tree seedlings were planted, 108 units of blood donated, community-led cleaning of public premises such as markets, hospitals, famers were able to exhibit their products and acquired market linkages as well as renewed Government commitment to strengthen cooperatives.

The Chief Guest highlighted that the Government appreciates the cooperatives since they are centred around people and are key to development especially for the rural.

“The parliament passed the cooperatives society amendment bill the amendment is intended to improve on the operating environment for cooperatives” he said.

He added that the Government has established credit lines in Post Bank Limited and Uganda Development Bank from which cooperatives are benefiting and compensation of cooperatives that lost their property during liberalization was ongoing.





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