

The ActionAid International Uganda Weekly 1st- 7th July, 2019

Dear Reader,

This marks my last edition as the Ag. Communications Officer and an employee of AAIU. Thank you for being a great audience and contributor to this edition. Stephen Bahizi will takeover from next week.

In this edition, read about outcomes from the CD's forum where Uganda was wholly represented by Xavier Ejoyi our CD. We also bring you updates about celebration of the day of the African Child in Pallisa organised with funds from the Solidarity Basket. See what your contribution has done for the Ugandan girls. This and more here!
ENJOY!

Country Directors Re-commit to Advancing Women and Young People's Engagement!

By Stephen Bahizi

ACCRA – Strengthening the functioning of Country's Women's Forum for staff and clarifying the vision of youth engagement and its purpose in AA programming, governance processes and structures based on country's contexts were the key commitments of the forum.

The CD's Forum which was held in Ghana's capital is part of ActionAid International's General Assembly, comprised of several sideline meetings, brought together the Country Directors of ActionAid countries across the federation, General Assembly members and the Global Secretariat. This year's General Assembly coincided with meeting the Youth Working Group and Youth Community of Interest. AAIU was represented by the Country Director, Xavier Ejoyi.

"This was my first time to participate in the AA General assembly which presented me an opportunity to understand AAI Governance processes and interacting with other Country Directors and General Assembly Members of the federation" Xavier said.

Overall, the progress with implementation of AAI Global Strategy 2028, revealed key achievements with Feminist principles, global campaigns, humanitarian footprint, safeguarding, among others. It was however noted that, there is need to step up work with young people, resource allocation, power inequality, and agility or responsiveness in our work. There was commitment to strengthen women's forum at country level with special focus on promoting feminist leadership, building leadership capacity and examining our partnerships.

**AAIU And Pallisa Local Government Commemorates
Day of the African Child!
Funds from the Local Solidarity Fundraising Basket were Used!**





By Joyce Amuron, Communications Intern

PALLISA - The Day of the African Child was celebrated under the

theme ***HumanitarianAction: Children's rights first.*** It was commemorated on 26th June 2019 at Akuoro primary school, Gogonyo subcounty, Pallisa district.

Funds that supported the celebrations doubled with training of school going children in making reusable sanitary towels was got from the solidarity fund basket, funds that were locally raised by staff and board members of ActionAid International Uganda-Bravo!

The event was graced by the district dignitaries including the chief guest Mr Kyeyune Ssenyonjo who is the area RDC, the Ag Education Officer Ms Lukendo Agnes, LCV Chairperson Mr Okurut John Micheal and the Deputy CAO Mr Kikwaya Alexander among others. The AAIU Team that comprised of Pallisa Cluster Local Rights Programme Staff, Fundraising Staff and Partners was headed by Harriet Gimbo, AAIU's Director of Programmes and Policy.

Speaker after speaker, there was a unison call to uphold the rights of children. The LC111 Chairperson of Gogonyo Subcounty Okoyo Yosamu in appreciated AAIU for fighting GBV and promoting children's rights.. Read the full story [HERE](#)

AAIU Launches Sanitary Pads Making in Pallisa Schools!





Joyce Amuron- Communications Intern

AAIU on 26th June 2019 during the belated commemoration of the day of the African child launched the making of reusable sanitary pads using local materials. The event took place in Akuoro primary school Gogonyo sub county in Pallisa district

Ms. Gimbo Harriet the Programs and Policy Director explained that the funds to support the cause was raised through a strategy called solidarity fundraising; Money from Ugandan well wishers AAIU staff and board members which amounted to 20 million.

‘That money is from individuals, majority from AAIU staff because we thought we need to give back to the community.

AAIU selected some of the schools in Pallisa in order to support a menstrual hygiene program. These included Akuoro primary school, Ajepet primary school, Kachonga primary school, and Buseta primary school this was done in order to support the retention of a girl child in schools.

“One of the things AAIU has done is to choose schools in Pallisa to be able to support menstrual hygiene and the interest is to support the retention of a girl child in school” she added

She highlighted that lack of sanitary pads is one of the issues that hinder girls from completing their studies.

Twenty-one girls have managed to make three hundred pads in Akuoro primary school and there is a capacity to make up to two thousand pads to ensure the girls stay in school.

Mr Oporusi highlighted one of causes of absenteeism and school drop out among the girls being lack of sanitary pads and he called upon the community not to discriminate any child and pay attention to the girl child who have challenges with completing school because of monthly menstrual messes. “

He affirmed that sub county has budgeted and planned for making of sanitary pads for the girls this financial year 2019-2020 and these pads are distributed to the girl child in schools.

The sanitary pads are handmade with quality materials that lasts for a long period of time. The pads require powder detergent like OMO for washing then put under sun shine for drying and can then be stored for re-using.

ActionAid Takes Over Civic Charter From ICSC!



By Philip Kabuye

It is with great pleasure and pride that we announce that ActionAid, took over the facilitation role of the Civic Charter from the International Civil Society Centre effective from 01 July 2019.

In the three years since its launch, the Civic Charter has grown from a declaration into a tool for advocacy and campaigning, and into a community of social justice activists, who support each other in their respective struggles through solidarity and shared learning. The International Civil Society Centre has been serving this community as a facilitator, bringing activists together online and offline, offering learning and exchange opportunities, and connecting respective campaigns to strengthen our global movement for people's participation.

In 2018, the Centre critically examined its own role and found that the Civic Charter

community would be better served by an organization with a strong network of grassroots infrastructure and connections. The Centre consequently approached ActionAid, which had been closely involved with the Civic Charter since its development. Arthur Larok, the Federation Development Director, was a member of the Steering Committee during the development of the Civic Charter and has first-hand experience of using the Civic Charter. Arthur describes ActionAid's task at hand to "deepen the Civic Charter's rootedness locally while strengthening its global appeal and connection."

"ActionAid is well placed to unleash the full potential of the Civic Charter and its community in strengthening our global struggle for people power and participation," believes outgoing Civic Charter Project Manager, Miriam Niehaus. The Centre's Executive Director, Wolfgang Jamann, adds that "Launching the Civic Charter and developing its community has been an exciting journey for the Centre, and we are looking forward to remaining a strong future partner."

ActionAid Secretary General Adriano Campolina concludes: "We are humbled and excited to take on the role to serve this community of activists. We look forward to further strengthening this important community to advance our collective struggle to extend the boundaries of civic space and people's participation."

The Civic Charter on Social Media!

The Civic Charter has a new Twitter Channel. Please follow [@CivicCharter!](#) This account will be managed by ActionAid. Please tweet at and about us to help raise our following. This will be the channel through which we can also give visibility to your struggles and campaigns.

Join the Civic Charter Facebook group and invite your activist peers to join as well.

Cultural, Religious and Local Council Leaders meet on Child Protection!

Matilda Natukunda and Grace Maditkwo

NEBBI - ActionAid Nebbi GBV shelter engaged 42 cultural, religious and local council leaders in a dialogue on prevention of and response to child Abuse in Nebbi subcounty, Nebbi district. The dialogue was child-centred in response to an outcry of the Community-

based Services Department about the threat to the welfare of children in Nebbi subcounty. The participants were able to analyse child rights abuses in the subcounty using the 'Octopus' exercise. This exercise supports analysis of vulnerability to all kinds of risks; for instance, this exercise enabled participants to learn that girls between the age of 7-14 stand a high risk of sexual abuse because society tends to groom them for marriage and they suffer hard labour for the same reasons. Adolescence kicks in, parents imagine the only way to protect them is by marrying them off. These same girls become a prized possession of the parents because they become commodities for display during 'keny' (Alur Customary marriage). They are forced to participate in these events exposing them to rogue in-laws and perverts. This escalates the rates of teenage pregnancies, child marriages and the girl child school dropout rates; all a plague scourging the programme area! The leaders were taken through the international and national legal frameworks on the rights of the child and the duty of state/individuals to protect those rights.

**Eight Years with the AA Family! One Year of a fantastic Audience!
Goodbye and See You Soon**



By Flavia Nalubega

In 2013, at 24 years, I joined this precious organisation as a Staff Writer for the Oil in Uganda Project, little did I know that I would spend this long a time in AAIU. However, the eight years have felt like two years, that's what happens when the work you do is so engaging yet fun! Nothing beats working with and for the vulnerable people!

The most interesting time of my life in AAIU was during the last one year where I served in the capacity of Ag. Communications Officer, an office that exposed me to interesting

people across the federation and people that matter! How more thankful can I be to management for granting me this opportunity!

I have made friends with people like Millicent Namusonge and Jemal Ahmed my ardent readers of the weekly newsletter, Arthur Larok who is always on the lookout for what AAIU has to offer and provides feedback that is constructive, Rob Safar and Natasha Mulder who love editing my work and providing feedback, fellow communications colleagues across countries who gave feedback to boost my zeal, AAIU work colleagues and bosses who held my hand and advised on how to make better the communications work and as well contributed immensely, I can't thank you enough.

To my line managers, Xavier Ejoyi, Christine Aboke, Harriet Gimbo, Fredrick Kawooya, Chris Musiime and Didas Muhumuza, I am what I am today because of you. You held my hand and led me to the right direction and today I boost, I boost because of you!

Through my publications I got to better my communications skills, thanks to your feedback! As a communicator who has supported the Extractives Governance project and the communications unit, I leave AAIU a better person, with better people skills, better communications skills, better contacts and a better understanding of the extractives sector and civil society, which knowledge I am excited to share with the world out there.

I move to fully concentrate on communications and multi-media work, and I will use the experience attained at AAIU to serve the world and make it a better place for us all. Since 'Once an ActionAider, Always One', I am certain I shall remain part of you, and shall one day return to serve and work for AA.

Until we meet Again, Goodbye Friends!