

**The ActionAid International Uganda Weekly 24th June
-1st July, 2019**

Dear Reader,

AAIU organised and took part in this year's International Public Service Day celebrations through a marathon held in Nebbi under the theme 'Celebrating the Value and Virtue of Public Service to Community'. Women took centre stage as they lobbied for descent work places and services for women inline with the international campaign. Find out who won the marathon.

And again, more celebrations as ILO adopts law to end GBV, thanks to AAI's campaign that started last month.

This and more in our weekly today.

ENJOY!

**AAIU Organises 3rd Public Service Delivery Day Marathon;
Focus was on Descent Workplace for All!**





By Joyce Amuron

ActionAid International Uganda on 23rd June 25, 2019 commemorated the international service delivery day under the ***celebrating the value and virtue of gender responsive public service to the community.***

The 3rd public service delivery marathon took place in Nebbi, West Nile sub region, with the chief runner being the world's champion medalist 2012 Stephen Kiprotich and the chief guest Hon. Wilson Muruli Mukasa the Minister of Public Service who was represented by Hajat Sharifa Buzeki from Ministry of Public Service.

The chief runner participated in the marathon and he said he came to participate not to compete. "I'm grateful to be here in West Nile sub region.

Kiprotich who came with his team from Ssebei sub region highlighted that he is in a stage of retiring so he needs to groom the upcoming team.

The chief guest was very happy to be part of the marathon and reiterated the ministry's commitment to fighting corruption. "The fight against corruption is still a priority in Uganda, a number of agencies and institutions have been put in place to ensure that we prevent and fight against corruption. We have put in place institutions and laws to curb corruption in time; The Anti- corruption Act, The Whistle blower act, and a number of laws and

regulations to enable us to fight against corruption are in place,” she said.

She highlighted that AAIU is joining hands with government to fight corruption and improve service delivery. ‘As a government and provider of services there is a need to account to the citizens and the citizens too, to hold government accountable on our promises’.

The winners of the marathon included local government leaders, women, men and men with disability, young boys and girls. Among these were Chebet Risper, Chepkwemboi Sharon, Achen Catherine, the PWDs included Wadar Brian, Mangu Jabiro Erick, Aliarach C, Ayiorwoth Jema and Owiny Grace.

Public Servants who were recognized included The RDC Nebbi, Chairperson LCV of Nebbi, Packwach, and Masindi as well as the Mayor of Nebbi, the Nebbi District Sports Officer and his assistant.

Women Take Centre Stage at the International Public Service Delivery day!





By Caroline Abilat

The 23rd June 2019 will be remembered by many as the day women from Nebbi took centre stage. Right from the build up to the marathon women strategized on how they could possibly be seen and heard in this huge gathering. Women earlier on realised that the big service delivery celebrations ran the risk of isolating issues to do with gender and making their campaign on decent work an isolated event.

With the days theme of **“Celebrating the value and virtue of public service to the community”**, Women successfully linked quality gender responsive service delivery to decent work and life. For example, women’s dominance of this public space saw women occupying the invited public spaces like the marathon, music interludes and taking over the presentation of the position paper consolidated from all the marathon build up activities. As Hon. Opar Jackline, MP Nebbi presented the paper, the excited Nebbi women’s Forum members stood behind her to lend her courage amidst the huge crowds. *“When I first started reading my voice was shaky, but when my friend held the paper for me and I saw all the women standing behind me, I felt strong and was able to present the paper,”* Hon. Opar, revealed to this newsletter.

The Director Programs ActionAid Uganda and the Manager women’s access to Social Justice complemented the honourable’s statement,

“It is possible for inter Focus area collaborations to work out right, look at how women rights actions were seamlessly integrated in to governance and democratic actions in this activity with every one winning,” Ms. Harriet Gimbo said.

She said Governance is not always about hard issues, that governance victories could also

be won using soft actions like championing Gender mainstreaming and use of Feminist Analysis. She added that staff in AAIU had no choice but to learn and integrate Feminist analysis in their activity implementation like had been done in the marathon and build up activities for the celebrations to mark the service delivery day.

“ I was happy to see women, children and people with disabilities prominently taking part in the marathon and their issues taking centre stage”. Ms Gimbo said.

Similarly, the Coordinator, DGF project, Mr Charles Olweny reiterated the above message, highlighting how the key focus areas in the fifth country strategy reinforce each other and are intertwined.

For the Nebbi women’s Forum, moving from the margins to the centre was exciting and holding hands with their sisters seemed to embolden women as they freely danced, sung and ran in the marathon. The new solidarity is an opportunity for staff in Nebbi LRP to build momentum for women’s mobilising for future work.

ILO Adopts Law to End Violence and Harassment at Work, Thanks to ActionAid!

Campaigners are celebrating after a historic international law to end violence and harassment in the world of work has today been adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

After two weeks of intense negotiations, governments, employers and workers at the 108th International Labour Conference in Geneva, have voted in favour of an international law, known as the Violence and Harassment Convention and Recommendation, 2019.

During the closing plenary, there were 439 votes in favour of the convention, with seven against and 30 abstained. For the recommendation, 397 delegates voted in favour, 12 against and 44 abstained.

Everjoice Win, director of global engagement at ActionAid International, says:

“This historic moment is the culmination of years of campaigning by women trade unionists joined by women’s rights organisations around the world. We’re delighted that these tireless efforts have paid off with the first ever international law to eliminate violence and harassment at work.

“Our research finds that 80% of garment workers in Bangladesh have witnessed or experienced some form of sexual violence or harassment at work. Their shocking experiences show why this law is vital to protect women and other marginalised workers. “We call on ILO member states to now urgently ratify the convention so that the law can come into force and stamp out the epidemic of gender-based violence, harassment and abuse at work.”

For more about this story, [read here](#).

Nebbi Women Dialogue on Decent work , Violence and Harassment at Work!



By Caroline Abilat, Matilda Natukunda and Maditkwo Grace

As a build-up to the Uganda launch of the one global campaign on decent work, women in Nebbi district came together on the 21st of June to establish a common understanding of what the campaign meant in their context. In this dialogue meeting women shared experiences of their unpaid care work burden, the lack of time for self-development and the lack of safe working conditions which made working difficult. In addition, women decried the limited awareness on what constituted violence at work and harassment.

“When you talk about sexual harassment behaviour of your male colleagues, people just laugh, and no body seems to see this as wrong, many women are suffering in silence because they are protecting their jobs,” a participant said.

For most women, the horizontal labour market discrimination has meant that they sometimes must take any available jobs with -out safety considerations. The above is compounded by their skewed care responsibilities which leaves them tied to jobs that allow them to work and look after their families. Many women said that even when they clearly see or experience Violence while working, they have had to put up with it due to the patriarchal attitudes and silence around such issues.

In addition, women limited formal skills mean they are taking jobs which come with no contracts and are paid low wages, yet work hours are hard and long. The women also surfaced the issue of sexual harassment at work. Women asked that the issues raised during the dialogue be included in the service delivery position paper that was to be presented on the 23rd of June. Likewise, women present thought they could bring attention to the issue of GBV at work and a demand for decent work to the attention of decision makers through drama skits, songs and symbolic acts such as carrying baskets and babies on their backs. This meeting enabled women to connect their care burden to the provision of quality public services like water, health and education. They felt when provided the services would see their burden of care reduced but also ensure women got skills for better and safer jobs.

Belgian Embassy supports AAIU GBV Work!



AAIU team headed by the Business Development Director Nickson Ogwal at the Belgian Embassy.

By James Samuel Ameda and Nivatiti Nandujja

AAIU as an affiliate entity and part of the AAI Global federation has experienced gains from this dual identity. One of the achievements in this respect, was a meeting held on 19th June, 2019 with the Belgian Ambassador (Hugo Verbist) and wife (Magda). Magda, had served as part of her tenure (10 years) in ActionAid Italy.

This background and connectedness with the ActionAid family, inspired the wife of the Belgian Ambassador to contribute towards the plight of the poor and marginalized. Funds were raised at the farewell dinner for the current outgoing Ambassador's residence in Kololo.

The proceeds raised from the farewell worth **UGX 800,000** were dedicated to support the GBV work in our shelters under the ambits of the **Women Access to Social**

Justice thematic area. The choice of thematic area was informed by Magda's appreciation for the feminist perspective lens applied to AAIU work and the brunt of poverty faced by women. The funds raised will be used to support one of the AAIU WPC shelters.

Katakwi Community Activists Champion Public Service Week!

By Benjamin Tukei

Over 200 Katakwi community activists and community members and their leaders were mobilized and took part in promoting public involvement in public service. The activists and some leaders in Katakwi cleaned roads, health centres, school compound and subcounty headquarters in commemoration of the international public service day.

23rd June every year is gazette as public service delivery day by UN. This year's theme was '***Celebrating the value and Virtue of public servants in public service delivery***'. In Katakwi the cleaning exercise took place in the subcounty of Magoro, Palam, Kapujan and Toroma and attracted communities and sub county heads. The week long engagement was aimed at mobilizing the general public to appreciate the importance and contribution of the public in service delivery provision and also to appreciate the contribution of public servants in service provision, the dialogues hence provided an opportunity for the leaders to give accountability on the status of service delivery, especially in line with the recently passed district and budgets where Katakwi district local government council passed a budget of 25.6 billion for financial year 2019/20.

The citizens were able to engage with leaders on how the 25.6 billion will improve service delivery especially with key sectors being given small allocations and how this is linked to improving gender responsive public service delivery.

On 28th June, 2019, Teso region will belatedly commemorate the international public service day that will be held in Kumi district.

Masindi LRP's journey to Phasing Out





By Robert Asiimwe, Volunteer-Masindi LRP

It has been a journey of 21 years of service! In December, 2018, UK Funding Affiliates communicated about the creation of the phase out plan for Masindi LRP (*Masindi LRP currently has 457 links*). A team from programmes and child sponsorship unit with the

cluster coordinator Nebbi, Masindi staff and the local partners conducted consultative community meetings with key sponsorship stakeholders which included the district (Technical and Political) leadership, community members including; women, men, young people and children from 11th -14th June 2019 to assess the impact of ActionAid work in Masindi. The main objectives of the meetings were; to mobilise key stakeholders at district, Sub-county and community level to be part of the transition of the sponsorship programme and undertake a participatory review of the impact of the sponsorship programme in Masindi district for the last 21 years. The key output of these engagements is a phase out implementation plan which will include priorities suggested by participants during the meetings.

Meeting were held with the beneficiaries' communities of Bigando, Kijunjubwa and Katasenywa on 11th, 12th, and 13th of June respectively and with the district officials on 14th June. The sessions were moderated by AAU staff. During the discussions, participants would be grouped to answer the given questions (*1. What changes did AAU work bring to Communities in Masindi? 2. What did AAU not do well enough while working Masindi? 3. What should AAU do differently in next 3 years? 4. What life changing activities would you want AAU to do in your communities in next 3 year?*). The participants presented key priorities for interventions in form of suggestions as to what AAIU should focus on during the implementation of the 3 year phase out plan and after the exit of the programmes.

AAIU was applauded and commended for its work of nurturing of young female leaders though empowerment programs and trainings, promoting transparency and accountability, reducing school dropout rate through provision of food to school going children and scholastic materials to children on CSP. There are other programs that contributed to improved education like; building of schools under NEF program, training teachers, building school latrines, training of matrons and patrons, senior women, sanitary pads making among others. Recommendations were also shared for improved intervention and which will guide in the drafting of the 3 year phase out plan.

IN THE NEWS

1. [ActionAid calls on Government to adopt community input at the Kind Fisher Oil project Public Hearings](#)

2. Civil Society demands for Government intervention in community demands from the oil industry

3. Public Hearings for King Fisher: Government promises to ensure communities benefit

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