

Weekly



April 30 - 6 May

Dear Reader, Rose and her grand children had been left helpless after clan leaders took away her land. Apparently, She was a woman who was supposed to be married and belonging to another clan. With support from the Kween GBV shelter, her land was restored. Rose and her grandchildren are living happily ever after. In our social media campaign on GBV shelters, we count this and more successes. [#GBVshelters](#) [#4womendignity](#)

The ActionAid GBV Shelters....



Early this year, the 62nd session of the Commission on the status of women was conducted at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Representatives of United Nation member States and Non-Government Organizations attended this global event.

Key on the agenda was the challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.

At the session where the Speaker of Parliament Rebbeca Kadaga was representing Uganda, she pointed out the strides made by the Ugandan Government to address the issue of gender-based violence. She cited the great work that is being done by the Gender Based Violence shelters in ensuring that GBV survivors attain Justice.

"In Uganda, we have established 15 Gender based violence shelters. These are providing holistic services to women and girls who have been abused", she stated at the assembly.

For the last **10** years, ActionAid Uganda has been running **10** GBV shelters across the country.

Women and girls walk in crying emotionally and physically!
They walk out smiling, powerful and dignified

This month of **May** we shall tell their stories

Join us on [#GBVshelters](#) [#4womendignity!](#)  

The Speaker did not put it on record that Government does not run or fund work at any of the 15 shelters, 10 of which are managed by ActionAid with funding from DFID, 3 managed by MIFUMI and 2 managed by UWONET.

This incident opened our eyes to the great work we do that even Government is proud of and yet we say very little about it. As a result, the Communications unit together with the Women Rights unit will devote the remaining days of May to speak to our 10 years of running GBV shelters in Uganda and telling our several successes to the world.

The campaign, that will run on social media will feature the different services provided at the shelter but also tell powerful stories of women who have risen from being GBV victims to taking up influential political, social and economic places in society after attaining services from our 10 shelters across the country.

Most importantly, we want to tell the world and government to invest in ActionAid so that more shelters are opened up for the purpose of reaching all women who require the service.

Join this discussion by using the Hashtags: [#GBVshelters](#) [#4womendignity!](#)

Busiki Young Women set for Evidence Based Advocacy



Left: The young ladies pay attention during the online mentorship session. Right is the team deliberating on the way forward after the mentorship.

In several parts of the Country including Namutumba, there has been minimal research done to locate the place and role of young women living in rural areas in governance. And yet, informed research supports social justice efforts to develop in a systematic and effective way.

It is against this background that the ActionAid Busiki office is investing in research on issues affecting women with an aim of generating home-grown solutions.

Last week, the office with support from the Impact Assessment and Shared Learning Officer, Patrick Sando, held a mentorship session for seven Young women. The session aimed at supporting them with skills and knowledge on how to carry out participatory assessments on contemporary issues affecting them.

Chipo Bangira, the ActionAid Inspirator reported that the team was guided on how to set the framework for the assessment and design relevant research questions that speak to the objectives. The team was also tipped with tactics to do the assessments creatively.

Aguti Kate, one of the young women taking lead in the assessment stated that the sessions were both educative and informative.

"I was able to appreciate the importance of aligning the questions to the objectives. We had developed a questionnaire and through the session we were able to correct it basing on the lessons learnt. We are looking forward to rolling out the assessment which will enable us become better advocates for women and girls' rights", she commented.

The young women will be carrying out an assessment on the participation of young women in local governance in Namutumba Town council. The assessment is aimed at documenting young women's experiences that will be shared with different stakeholders as part of evidence based advocacy.

The activity is in line with AAU 5th Country's strategy paper that speaks to strengthening and nurturing of young feminist leaders and link their individual efforts into cohesive transformative actions that challenge patriarchal injustices and assert sincere narratives about young women in Uganda and Africa.

Youth Equiped with Leadership Skills



Ndumeya Moyo, an Inspirator from Zimbabwe shares leadership tips with the youth in Nwoya during the training last week.

ActionAid Amuru last week conducted a training to equip young people with skills in transformative leadership. The training that took place at Sky Service Centre in Anaka, Nwoya attracted 45 participants.

According to Samuel Acclam, the ActionAid Program Officer in Amuru, the training was organised to enhance youth understanding of transformational leadership and expand their opportunities for participation in social justice.

"We also aimed at providing to them an oversight of governance processes and harness young people's leadership and economic empowerment skills in line

with the 5th strategy paper's priority area four: **Leadership and economic opportunities for young for young people**", he reported.

Participants were drawn from the different ActionAid community structures such as Activista, Reflect Action facilitators, Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture youth groups representatives among others.

During the training, participants committed to mobilise and re-organise themselves to roll out the knowledge and skills to other young people in their communities; and ensure democratic and accountable governance by monitoring the quality of public service delivery. They also agreed to create a social media platform to help in sharing information and ideas on critical issues in the community for joint action.

The ActionAid Gulu Cluster Coordinator, David Moses Okello encouraged the youth to take up leadership positions and take charge of the positive change that they aspire to see in their communities.

He cautioned the youth not to work in isolation but as teams for a greater voice and impact.

Transformative leadership is a style of leadership where a leader works with subordinates to identify the needed change. The leader also works with colleagues to identify a shared vision to guide the change through inspiration, and executing the change intended with committed members of a group. It is also about making or stimulating positive change by being solution oriented, principled, ensuring integrity of processes among others. This is to harness young people's leadership and economic empowerment skills which is in line with the 5th strategy paper (2018-2022)

Letter from your Nairobi –Arthur Larok

Did you receive Arthur's letter? If not yet, here it is, with a special message for you.

He writes;

*"Greetings from Nairobi,
I write this letter from the relative (dis)comfort of my temporary place of abode in Kenya. Comfort because I do not have to wake up every day to the largely depressing picture of our country's mismanagement and institutional decay, and discomfort because I am yet to figure out a concrete role to play as a fellow comrade 'in the diaspora'. I miss the collective analysis and fellowships we shared when I was in the country but find some solace in thoughts about what is possible, and the modest solidarity support I occasionally send to those of you on the frontline of our struggle to mobilize, activate and connect various actions for a better Uganda."*

[Click for the entire letter!](#)

Week Ahead

- There will be a review meeting in Hoima for the "Youth Having A Stake in Extractives Governance" project this week. The Project is funded by Ford Foundation.