

Weekly

March 21— 27



Thanks to ActionAid through Makerere Women Development Association (MAWDA), these young boys and girls are pursuing their career dreams. Originally abandoned by their relatives after their parents succumbed to HIV/Aids, they were received by MAWDA. They are now in secondary school and doing very well in their academics. They posed for my camera, while screaming how they can smile again!

Rural Women spend 80% of their time looking for water-Hon Minister



(Left) Hon Ephraim Kamuntu, the Minister of Water and Environment speaks to participants at the dissemination workshop. Right—above are participants in a group photo and below is Hon Amongin, the Minister for Teso Affairs speaking at the workshop. She pledged that the Teso Affairs office will refer to the report for guidance.

Last week, the AAU livelihoods unit lunched a study report dubbed, **Scarcity Amidst Plenty: Status of Water for Production infrastructure in Teso Sub Region** at Hotel Africana.

In 2014, ActionAid under the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) project undertook a study to profile water for production/flood management infrastructure, in the Teso sub-region using an integrated Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology. The study profiled the status, spatial distribution, capacity and potential of water for production/flood management infrastructure in 5 Districts of Kumi, Ngora, Soroti, Katakwi and Amuria.

The dissemination of the study findings was graced by Hon Ephraim Kamuntu, the Minister for water and Environment. Also present was the Minister for Teso Affairs, Christine Amongin Apooru, civil society leaders, officials from the Ministries of Agriculture and Water and environment. Others were officials from the Meteorological Authority and District technocrats.

Hon Kamuntu categorically stated that water is a basic ingredient if Uganda is to attain economic transformation from peasantry to modernity. He pointed to the unfortunate fact that 80% of the time available for a rural Ugandan woman is spent on fetching water for animals and domestic use. He emphasized that this leaves no time for women to work towards breaking out of the poverty cycle.

“All poverty eradication interventions should have a component that addresses the water for production challenges. If we ignore this, we shall forever be locked up in the poverty cycle”, he emphasized.

Hon. Amongin, the Minister of Teso Affairs, thanked AAU for partnering with Government to bring about social change in Uganda and emphasised the need for clear policy guidelines on water for production, water being an essential factor of production.

“The ministry of Teso will use the AAU report to enhance policy and to develop proposals for programs to revitalize the valley dams in Teso Sub-region”, she noted.

The study among others revealed that only 14 out of the 76 valley dams and tanks are functional. The 62 dams and tanks are not working mainly because of silting while some are located in areas with low water accumulation. As a result, the facilities dry up and can't act as reserves at the offset of the dry season while during the rainy season, they can't act as sinks for excess water.

Click [here](#) to watch the video on the status of valley dams in Teso sub region. Copies of the study report are available at the AAU offices.

OPM Orients Civil society and leaders on PRDP III



Bishop Ochola shares notes with AAU's country Director

Last Thursday, a section of leaders from the Civil society and Northern Uganda convened at Sheraton Hotel for a Strategizing meeting on PRDP III. According to Arthur Larok, the Country Director of AAU, the well-attended meeting was called to orient civil society on PRDP III, identify entry points for CSO engagement and to ascertain the position of the local Governments officials on the implementation of the program.

According to the Commissioner of PRDP in the office of the Prime Minister, the third PRDP is an additional effort by Government to consolidate the achievements that were attained under PRDP1 and PRDP 2. Bashaija Horace added that the program is also a framework against which all development interventions in Northern Uganda must be aligned. He informed the meeting that the Program grants will be provided through the the Medium Term Expenditure Framework to implementing agencies at central (Police, Prisons, Amnesty Commission) and local government level (55 districts & 9 municipalities)

“The Local governments shall be able to use their PRDP grant funds for infrastructure spending in eight sectors and they will submit their work plans and reports directly to the office of the Prime Minister.”



Richard Sewakiryanga challenged all participants to play their role in monitoring PRDP III.

The commissioner added that the program that starts this July will run for four years, focussing on service delivery and social economic outcomes.

“ 70% of resources will be spent on interventions aimed at improving service delivery and livelihood in the three outcome areas of consolidation of peace, development of the economy and reduction of vulnerability”.

Participants were drawn into a heated debate after the commissioner's presentation as they wondered whether the people are consulted before such programs are developed. Bishop Ochola from Northern Uganda wondered why the Local Governments should account to the Office of the Prime Minister and not the People of Northern Uganda.

In his closing remarks, Mr Richard Sewakiryanga, the Executive Director of the Uganda National NGO Forum stated that the CSOs would meet independently and make a decision as far as monitoring the implementation of the program is concerned. [Click Here to read what Jim](#) wants PRDP III to address and [Here to read what leaders want](#).

GBV cases increase-Why Government must act!

Police is hunting for a man who cut off the hands and ears of his seven months pregnant wife after a family disagreement. Adolf Busingye, the perpetrator is currently on the run. His wife is currently admitted in Mulago hospital, battling for her life in excruciating pain. While she is set to give birth in two months time, the journey is going to be tough for her, given her current state. She is not sure how she will get through labour and even nurse her baby.

Cases of gender based violence (GBV) have reached alarming levels in Uganda. Every week, the media breaks stories such as these. Unfortunately, very few of the victims seek for justice as GBV is still shrouded in cultural silence. A recently released report by the Uganda Police Family and Child Protection Unit has revealed that in the year 2015, the country recorded 18,088 GBV cases. The situation is worse compared to the figure above since majority of the cases are never reported.

ActionAid with funding from DFID is currently running 10 temporal shelters providing prevention, intervention, emotional support and treatment services to physically, emotionally and sexually abused women and girls. However, AAU is overwhelmed by numbers and cannot serve the entire country. While the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has issued the National guidelines for the GBV shelter establishment and the National GBV referral pathway, it has not come out to over see and fund the establishment of GBV shelters. This has been left to CSOs such as ActionAid, MIFUMI AND UWONET.

Joyce Nabwire Baker, the Coordinator of the DFID funded Shelters adds that the Ministry should come out and own this intervention.

“Given the alarming cases of GBV, the shelter model should be taken on by the Ministry as a matter of urgency. We want our Government to fund at list a shelter in every district. If we had those shelters, I want to believe that the Conflict that caused the young woman to be cut through earlier”, she said while condemning the act.

While ActionAid or any of its partners do not run a shelter in Ntungamo where the abuse took place, Joyce has committed that they will work towards ensuring justice and full recovery for the victim. We shall keep you updated with the developments of this story. [Click Here for the Full story](#).

Story of change for the week



“When I clocked the age of 10, my mother started allowing me to go and witness FGM ceremonies. One day, I witnessed the ceremony. The girls wailed, their bodies bled and my heart bled. And yet, every one present cheered them on, as though it was a game.”

Read Hon Jane Francis Huuka's triumph against FGM [here](#).



Today, we bring to you the latest corruption scandals in the country. Find out who is asking for bribes, who has been charged and how much Uganda is losing lately due to corruption among others.

Click [Here](#) for all these stories and much more.

WEEK AHEAD:

- ActionAid leadership is currently having an inception meeting for the CSPV development. The current CSPV will come to an end next year. CSPV will among others be informed by the CSPV midterm review that was conducted last year. We shall keep you updated every step of the way.