

Weekly

Feb 9 - 15



Community store to boost Development in Pader

ActionAid handed over a community store to the smallholder farmers and Pader District Local Government last week. The store with an approximated value of UGX 107,000,000 was constructed with the support of the Danish TV Funds.

The funds were also utilized to build the capacity of rural farmers to adopt modern farming technology and practices. The community was also availed with agricultural inputs and equipment including two Groundnut threshing machines, two paste making machines, a moisture meter, weighing scales, plastic assorted containers for packaging the paste among others.



Harriet, the Director of Programs at ActionAid hands over the store to the Pader Community

The handover function was attended by over one thousand smallholder farmers. They took the opportunity to demand for increased funding for agriculture, but also demanded that the Government should consult them before passing the bill that legalizes the GMOs in the Country.

"With this store in place, over 4,800 smallholder farmers in Awere and Pader Sub County will be able to bank their seeds, but also add value to their produce by processing the groundnut paste for the local and national market," added one farmer.

AAU Dream School Becomes a reality



From thatched roof(above) to solid brick classrooms(below) is Galagala Primary.



It all started like a dream, went on like a story, and now its reality. The pupils of Galagala Primary school now have a classroom block. To mark its 30-year anniversary in Uganda, ActionAid launched the dream school project fundraising drive that was aimed at providing a good learning environment for the pupils in Galagala. The dilapidated wattle and grass thatched house that the pupils used left a lot to be desired. The multi-dimensional fundraising model mobilized local donors to take a solidarity action and challenge the resource deficiency hence putting a smile on the faces of the pupils of Galagala.

The locally raised funds were used to process a land title and construction of a two-classroom block at Galagala Primary school. The building was handed over to Pader District Local Government last Thursday with a call to further strengthen the sustainability and continuity of the school by coding it as a Universal Primary Education Centre which gives access Government aid.

The chairperson of the ActionAid Governing Board Mr. James Otto on behalf of ActionAid challenged all persons present to adopt the ActionAid approach of local fundraising to improve the state of social services in Uganda.

Hon. Alfred Akena, the Pader district Chairperson commended ActionAid for the support in the district in the areas of Education, Livelihoods, Women Rights and Governance. At the same event, the second Fundraising drive for the continued construction but also to stock the school with furniture and textbooks was launched. Over one million shillings was raised in cash and pledges. ActionAid wishes to thank everyone who contributed to this noble cause, but as you can read, it's just the beginning, so we need more!

ActionAid Launches the No Report Project



Saida, the sponsorship Coordinator hands over a gift pack to Michelle, at the end of the exercise.

Last week, ActionAid was joined by sponsorship and communications staff across the federation to launch the No report Project in Nebbi. The project aims at replacing the current system of communicating to child sponsors where they receive a community report at the end of each six months period directly from the country affiliate/program. The project focusses on eight stories being collected per year. Uganda is among the five piloting countries also including Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Brazil, and Bangladesh.

While in Nebbi, the team went into the community and did hands on training on how to document the stories and collect award winning photos. Peter Murphy, the international Content Producer was one of the resources that the team tapped into. He gave tips on writing stories, including hands on training and donated a camera to Uganda to strengthen the sponsorship communication.

Michelle Hancock, the head of sponsorship communication informed ActionAid staff at the debrief that the federation was losing many sponsors. They therefore needed a more juicy product that will make child sponsorship communication modern and fit for the current times as compared to the 1970s.

"We shall compare the piloted countries after a year and if we have better results in terms of increased sponsors and less withdrawals. Then it will be rolled out to all other countries," she added.

DFID Proud of AAU Work Women Protection Centre Project!



DFID representative meets the Police Officer with WPC team

The DFID funding phase for the AAU Women Protection Centre project ended on 15th December last year. DFID commissioned a review headed by Richard Barden. The review aimed at pointing out the impact that the project has had on Ugandans, highlighting key successes and lessons learnt. Barden interacted with the beneficiaries, AAU staff, the Police, Court, and hospital officials among others.

Barden and his team were impressed with AAU's commitment of taking integrated services closer to the community. He added that they were proud of the establishment of the five new protection centres in Kween, Katakwi, Kumi, Bwaise, and Amuru in addition to the initial centres in Mubende, Nebbi, and Pallisa.

"It's amazing how AAU has consistently provided comprehensive quality services to women and girls. While in the community, we have been told tales of changed and empowered lives. This is great."

Barden also commended the translation of the Domestic Violence Act into 8 local languages. Kudos to the WPC teams for this great report.

"Lobbying across federations to prioritise extractives"



Some of the participants(AAU's Chris Musimbe represented the organisation)

On Thursday last week, representatives from eight ActionAid Country Programs met in Cape Town to develop a common understanding and draw up a strategy for their work in extractives governance.

The countries represented were South Africa, Malawi, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, DRC, and Uganda. The meeting noted the significance of the extractives sector in Africa as well as the increasing focus that developed countries are putting to exploiting the continent's resources. It was agreed that oil, mining and natural gas have the potential to diminish poverty in many African countries if managed properly, but also could plunge the same countries deeper into poverty if the so-called resource curse occurs as a result of poor governance.

Considering that extractives governance is not considered a priority area by ActionAid yet, the meeting resolved to lobby across the federation to prioritise extractives. A road map was drawn and responsibilities apportioned to achieve this. It was also decided that to increase awareness of extractive governance issues as well as keep the Federation aware of what countries are doing in that area, a newsletter would be developed and circulated every two months. It is expected that Uganda will take the lead in putting the newsletter together.

Earlier in the week, ActionAid participated in the Alternative Mining Indaba, an annual seating of CSOs to discuss how good governance and accountability can be achieved in the extractives sector. Please follow this link to catch that debate.

WEEK AHEAD

- ActionAid will launch a Girls dormitory in Kotido this week.
- ActionAid will take up in the National dialogue meeting on creating an enabling environment for Girls in Education.
- The AAU country Director will take part in the CSO-Donor black Monday meeting this week in Bugolobi.