



The pupils of Angir Primary school have a mango tree for a class room. When it rains they don't study. They don't have seats. But more interesting is the fact that two schools share these premises. The AAU communications team and journalists were in Nebbi and now bring to you this tale [Here](#) in this week's edition on the status of social services in the Country. Welcome to the Weekly!

Pupils' debate on Women Land Rights –that is where it must start!



(Left) While Vincent strongly believes that Women should own land, Akong Brenda (Right) believes that issues of land should be left to the men. This mindset at such a tender age explains why Women's Rights to Land have not been realized to date. The project has decided to target these young minds to attain a future with women's full rights to access, control and land ownership.

Women are primary users of land and provide the bulk of "non-contractible" agricultural labour in Uganda. Unfortunately, men dominate majority of decisions related to land use and management, and the security of women's land tenure is very tenuous. This is so because women are denied access, control and ownership of land basing on the customary law which is grounded in assumptions that women are dependent on men and cannot own land in their own right.

In the bid to change this mind set, ActionAid in Amuru Organised a schools' debate on whether women should have equal land rights as the men.

According to Fiona Awili, the AAU Women Land Rights Project Officer, addressing the issue of Women land rights should also target the young generation if we want to attain a future with equitable ownership of land among men and women.

"The debate revealed that from childhood, the girls are told that they are property and that its only men who can own property. This unfortunate indoctrination must change. We are going to have more activities targeting children" she said reacting to Brenda Akello, the 12 year old debater from Amuru who opposed the motion claiming that;

"Women are property since the men pay dowry to marry them. How do you expect property to own property?", she unfortunately stated.

Another young girl opposing the motion quoted from the bible that God made women as helpers and so demanding for equal land rights was challenging God. She added that women are a weak sex that is not able to fight for their land in times of land conflict and hence should live issues of land for the men.

13 year old Vicent Too-Pacoo however criticised the opposers. He said that denying women access, control and ownership of land exposes the entire country to poverty and hunger since they produce 80% of the food consumed in the country. He disregarded the opponent who alleged that women are weak by citing the Apaa land incident in Amuru.

"It is the women who strongly fought for their Land to the extent of undressing. The men were just there looking on helplessly when our land was being grabbed", he stressed.

Patrick Ogeno, another proposer added that Women are good farmers and if they had equal land rights, they are capable of turning Uganda into Africa's food basket.

The best debaters of the day will take part in the District debating competitions on Women Land Rights. We look forward to having the mind set of some of the young debaters changed for a future where women have full rights to own, access and control land.

From most Poor to model Entrepreneurs– Katakwi women host exposure Visit



The over 70 farmers admire the Katakwi Women's Bakery Project. They Women have transformed from being poor and vulnerable to Model entrepreneurs.

Five years ago, in Usuk suncounty in Katakwi District, Poverty was biting hard. The situation was worse for the vulnerable women such as the widows and those living with disabilities. The area experiences extreme weather conditions characterised by long dry spells. The rain season is not only short but also characterised with floods. With the implementation of the Securing Food Rights Project by ActionAid, the story is a different tale. In just five years, the community has been able to organise them selves into groups. It has since registered 10 village savings and loans associations, a cooperative and a Community Based Organisation. The women are successful entrepreneurs owning a Bakery supplying Bread and Cakes in the region. They also make Brickets. The community also owns a cassava grater that transforms cassava into baking flour. Women are also involved in vegetable production using irrigation. This is just a tip of the successes of these women. However, that story is for another today.

Last week, these women hosted farmers from Bugisu, Teso, Sebei and Acholi Sub region for a cross fertilisation of ideas and experiences. The 72 farmers learnt from their hosts how they had advanced the economic empowerment initiatives such as Irrigation Technology Management, Value addition and Collective Marketing, Cooperative Formation and Management, Village Savings and Loans Association models among others.

The teams also discussed experiences on Government Policy influencing focussing on the successes, strategies used, Challenges and strategies to overcome such challenges. The team also visited the groups' projects such as the community grain store, briquette making workshop, the Soap making house, the Bakery, the irrigation scheme among others.

"We have been able to transform our lives. We are now known in the entire region because of our products. We have no room for lazy people", the remarked, promising not to stop until their products make it to the international market.

The guests were left speechless. They went back home promising themselves that there is no excuse for poverty in their families.

Ndejje University Launches book on ActionAid Methodologies

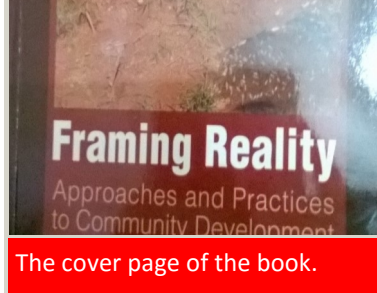


Harriet(left) with Ms Najjuma, the author of the book

During the Weekend, AAU's Programs Director, Harriet Gimbo was at Sheraton Hotel Kampala for the launch of a book on the Approaches and Practices to Community Development. The Book was written by a Social Science Don from Ndejje University, Saida Najjuma. In the book are three prominent ActionAid methodologies of REFLECT, STAR and Immersions. The author picked interest when she first interacted with Immersion families in Kalangala a couple of years ago. She draws most of her text from the ActionAid stories of change and successes with these methodologies.

Speaking at the launch, Harriet informed the meeting that the ActionAid methodologies written about in the book were tested and recognised internationally as an effective way of mobilizing and empowering communities in the most sustainable way. The methodologies won a UNESCO award.

"With these methodologies, we have registered great success. We have been able to advance Womens's empowerment in the different communities we work. I want to challenge all institutions of higher learning to integrate these methodologies in the respective courses so that we get graduates who are practical and ready to transform the communities", she said.



The cover page of the book.

Ndejje University has already incorporated the methodologies in their study programs. Harriet noted that it was interesting to learn how so many organisations and institutions are yearning to implement these methodologies and yet have not comprehensively documented and marketed them.

"The methodologies have been tested and endorsed internationally. We need to invest time and resources to reinvigorate them, scale up their usage and advocate for their adoption", she added.

Fair, Green and Global Program ready for take off



Women on Top!!! The Women participants took time off to demand for the realisation of Women Land Rights in a photo. Right is Beneddet from LASPNET, an ActionAid partner that we shall be working with on the project. Land to women = feeding the Nation!

Last week, ActionAid's Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fred Kawooya, the Communications Officer; Samanya and Bernadette, a legal service provider from LASPNET together with colleagues from Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Bangladesh, Cambodia and The Netherlands convened at TDC in Arusha for a strategic inception meeting for the Fair, Green and Global(FGG) Project funded by ActionAid Netherlands.

The Project was implemented by ActionAid Kenya, Zimbabwe and Mozambique in the past five years. The next five years saw ActionAid Uganda, Zambia, Cambodia and Bangladesh brought on board after a competitive selection process. During the meeting, participants who shared experiences on what worked well and what did not work as expected for better implementation of phase two.

Unfortunately, the meeting agreed that phase one was not well documented as there was no clear result and success tracking strategy in place. As a key learning, participants were urged to up the game. AAU's communications Officer and the FGG program Officer in the Netherlands were unanimously appointed as the project communications focal persons tasked with ensuring excellent documentation and publicity of the project.

The meeting also addressed the capacity gaps among countries and came up with strategies to address the gaps for better implementation of the project. There was also a thorough review of the Monitoring and evaluation framework that saw the team revise several indicators.

Participants drew joint work plans for cross country engagements. These included the Kilimanjaro Project and the Land Grabs Awareness day. ActionAid Uganda will lead on the Protection of Human Rights defenders and the Tax power activities. In Uganda, the project will be implemented by ActionAid Uganda, LASPNET and Solidarity Uganda. It will focus towards improved corporate conduct through strengthened Government regulation, improved corporate policy and practice.

"We shall also work towards protecting the Human Rights Defenders in the current shrinking Political space and addressing the issues of land grabs", stated Fredrick Kawooya, the FGG Project Coordinator in Uganda.

Look forward to more regular updates of the project in our subsequent publications.

WEEK AHEAD:

- The ActionAid leadership and Program staff are all in the field taking part in the Participatory Review and Reflection Processes in all five AAU clusters. The meetings are part of the CSPV consultation and development process. We look forward to the outcomes.