



May 30— 5 June

According to UWezo 2014, the increased number of girl child drop outs in schools is partly attributed to the poor sanitary facilities. In this weekly feature on Education, the Communications unit visited Kinju Primary school-Unfortunately, the latrines are caving in. See full story [Here](#). Welcome to the Weekly

#QualityNorthUg- Walking quality service Delivery to northern Uganda



(Left)-Above- Sara Kagingo, Hon Christine Amongin, Hon Tarsis Kabwegere, Dr Consolata Kabonesa, Christine Aboke and Hon Rebecca Othengo all graced the dialogue. Right-Above are the representatives of the people of Northern Uganda handing over the Communique.

Below-Left to Right Brig. Oketa of Operation Wealth Creation delivers his submission. In the Middle is Dr Consolata making her closing remarks and Right is Christine Aboke opening the dialogue.

Leaders from Northern Uganda last Thursday warned that Uganda's future is blurred if the Government does not invest in improving the quality of service delivery in the region especially the health and education sectors. The warning was made at Sheraton Hotel during a National Dialogue on the state of service delivery in Northern Uganda under the theme; *Walk the talk, make quality service delivery a reality in Northern Uganda*.

The meeting was attended by Members of Parliament, Resident District Commissioners, District L.C5 Chairpersons and technocrats from Northern Uganda. Also in the house were Hon Rebecca Othengo, the Minister of State for Northern Uganda and Hon Christine Amongin, the Minister of State for Teso. Hon Tarsis Kabwegere, the Minister in charge of General Duties in the Prime Ministers Office presided over the dialogue.

In her Opening remarks, the Ag-Country Director of ActionAid, Christine Aboke called upon the participants to commit to do more and better the situation for the people in Northern Uganda with ambition and courage.

"If we harness our collective strength as religious leaders, cultural leaders, as government from the centre and from the district, as civil society, as development partners and as eminent people, we can make this meeting count", she said, before declaring the dialogue opened.

During the meeting, the land conflicts in Northern Uganda were discussed at length. Lyandra Komakech, the Gulu Municipality Member of Parliament appealed to the Government to peacefully engage with the locals before leasing out any land to the investors and this should be done in a fair, just and transparent way instead of grabbing the land leading to endless conflicts.

Two representatives from Northern Uganda delivered a communique to the three Ministers. The document highlights specific challenges on social service delivery in Northern Uganda and the key recommendations to make the situation better as computed during the regional dialogues. The communique among others recommends that all Government Officials that have been implicated in any corruption scandal should not be allowed to be part of the implementation of PRDP3. The document also highlights the poor state of Education standards in the region as manifested by the high illiteracy rates and the poor performance of the region in National Examinations. The communique cites Nwoya District that has over 27 community schools that the Government has failed to support. The people of Northern Uganda recommended that with in PRDP3, the local Governments should be allocated a special fund to improve the education standards to redeem the future of Northern Uganda.

While receiving the communique, Hon Tarsis Kabwegere thanked ActionAid for supporting the people of Northern Uganda to speak out against the injustices highlighted in the document. He called upon every one present to put their eyes and ears on ground to monitor what Government and other duty bearers are doing and report any substandard services to the respective authorities in time.

"Each of us is responsible for walking the talk. Its not just Government. Let us all play our part for our brothers and sisters in Northern Uganda", he said.

In her closing remarks, the Chairperson of the ActionAid Governing Board; Dr Consolata Kabonesa thanked participants for their dedication to the dialogue and challenged them to walk the talk.

"As you know, the aspirations of the of the people in Northern and North Eastern Uganda will not be delivered from Sheraton. They will be delivered in the geographies where the people are talking about live. They will not be delivered by promises, but by actions. That is what walking to talk means! That we shall translate all our promises to actions and the right actions at the right places" she appealed before officially closing the dialogue.

Stop violating our Rights-Masindi Children speak at PRRPs



The Programs Director at ActionAid, Harriet leads the children in a game. After the play, the children opened up about the different violations of their rights!

During the participatory review and reflection process in Masindi Local Rights Program(LRP) , children demanded for programming that will lead to the protection and full enjoyments of their rights that are currently violated.

With support from the Programs Director-Harriet Gimbo, the PRRP was designed to ensure that all community members such as the youth, children, women and other stakeholders in the district are consulted.

Some of the most outstanding reflections came from children. After involving them in a game led by Harriet, the children freely

opened up on how their rights are frequently abused by the people meant to protect them. They specifically pointed out the parents, teachers, Police officers and local leaders as the greatest violators of their rights.

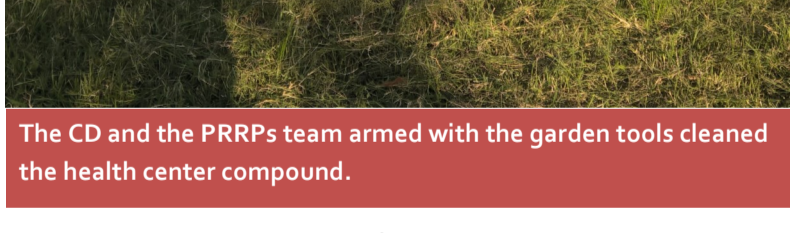
Some of the most abused Rights include the Rights to play, health, education, speech, food, among others.

The process also revealed that unfortunately, the boy children grow up with the patriarchal beliefs. They insisted that the care role that the girls and women do is wholly their responsibility and should not be supported at all.

According to Hope Masika, the Programs Officer of Masindi LRP, these beliefs among the boy children are an indication of societal orientation into patriarchy and stereo types and one of the key issues that ActionAid programming must address if we are to attain a Uganda free from injustices against Women and girl children.

"As an LRP, we realized the need to strengthen children and youth programming to raise awareness and behavioural change for the realization of the children and women's Rights", she said.

PRRPs in Pader -Cd leads team to slash Ogom Health centre Compound



The CD and the PRRPs team armed with the garden tools cleaned the health center compound.

It appeared fun when our Country Director led the Pader PRRP Team to a community service of slashing Ogom Health Centre III in Pader District. In the 60's, 70's or 80's, this act wouldn't have been news, but how 'development' has since corrupted community spirit and ownership today.

It all started when the CD and PRRP Team drove to Ogom Sub County for a community PRRP with when, halfway, he saw a young girl lying by the roadside with another girl who we later discovered was her younger sister, carrying an infant on her back. The young girl, *Achiro* (not her real name) had collapsed on her way to the Health Centre III, 6 Kms away to her destination. The CD, who

was driving the team stopped to find out what the matter was. The team learnt that *Achiro* was unwell and needed to reach the Health Centre urgently. Giving her, her sister and infant a lift, *Achiro* was taken to the health centre where she joined a queue of over 100 other mothers and children waiting for treatment.

Handing *Achiro* to the In-Charge for treatment, we learnt that out of 108 patients at the health centre, 98 of them had malaria and always complained of lack of mosquito nets, the health centre had no incinerator, no maternity ward, no power, no toilets and no placenta pit. The Health Center was surrounded by overgrown grass which could provide a comfortable habitat for snakes. Most of the overgrown in the health center found their way in the community PRRP discussion and priorities, it was on the overgrown compound that the CD decided to mobilize communities to join in community service to slash. Leading by example after the PRRP, the CD and ActionAid team led community members to a 2 hour community service, slashed and cleaned the health centre compound in a rare intervention that humbled the community members and was greatly appreciated by the In-Charge Nurse. The community has since committed to continue with such community service!

Well done ActionAid Pader PRRP Team!

Pader PRRP team-the Bloggers of the week

Last week, we were amazed at how the Pallisa LRP Team had become exceptional bloggers! We received blogs from 5 team members then, including Finance staff and driver! This week, it is the Pader LRP PRRP Team that have followed us and we celebrate their wonderful thoughts.



Nivatiti Nandujja, the Women Rights Coordinator advises that ActionAid can strike gold by building on the resilience of rural women. She pours out her passion [Here](#)

This week, Aggrey Kibet questions whether the ActionAid Human Rights based approach can deliver economic justice. Read his insights [Here](#)

More significantly, Joesph, a community resource person writes about ActionAid walking and not just Talking the talk. Click [Here](#) for his reflections on walking the talk!

Job Obua, the Pader LRP Program Officer writes about Women, the symbol of our health care system [Here](#)

WEEK AHEAD:

- ActionAid has Organised a women land Rights conference in Northern Uganda. Women are expected to climb the highest hill in the region as a firm statement in demand for their rights to land ownership and control. Watch this space for updates on the event.
- The Women Rights Coordinator, the Grants Officer and the Program Development Manager are in South Africa for the Women Rights programming and budgeting training.
- Next week, the World will Commemorate the Day of the African Child. The EU Ambassador will be visitin Kapchorwa. Look out for details on this in our next publication.