



June 6— 12

The Day of the African Child, June 16 annual event honours the memories of students who were [massacred in Soweto, South Africa, in 1976](#) for protesting against education injustice and inequality in the apartheid regime. Unfortunately, we still live with these injustices to date. Welcome to the Weekly!

Celebrating the Day of the African Child!

Thank You For Supporting The Realization Of Our Rights!



We are proud of the violence free environment at school and at our homes!

They are back in school, they are living in violence free homes and they continue to hope for a violence free community with out FGM and forced marriages among others; the faces from Sebei Region!

This week, Uganda joins the rest of Africa to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the “Day of the African Child (DAC)” under the theme, “Conflict and Crisis in Africa: Protecting all children’s Rights in Africa. The day which falls on 16 June every year was designated by the African Union (AU) Assembly in 1991, in commemoration of the 1976 protests by school children in Soweto, South Africa.

The day, according to Hope Wambi, the Coordinator of the Eliminating Violence Against Children Project at ActionAid provides an opportunity to reflect on lived realities of African Children today.

“Protecting children from all forms of violence, including harmful practices is an imperative of human rights. While law reforms and child friendly policies are important, they are insufficient on their own in guaranteeing the safety of children if we don’t follow them up with strict implementation”, she stated in a phone interview.

In Kapchorwa, the chilly weather conditions have not stopped the young and old Ugandans in the Sebei region to gather and be part of the days events that are going to be presided over by the European Union Head of Mission in Uganda.

The European Union has been supporting a three year project aimed at eliminating violence against children in Kween, Bukwo, Amudat and Kapchorwa. The districts experienced the highest number of children drop outs and early marriages partly due to the cultural practice of Female genital cutting at the time of the project inception.

Over the three years of project implementation, the districts have recorded an increase in the enrolment and retention of pupils in schools due to the reduced violence in schools. The referral mechanism has also been operationalised and this has enabled the children to attain justice for the several abuses inflicted upon them.

“Our greatest achievement is seeing the community members championing for a violence free community. This has enabled the children to attain basic education”, Hope added.

Several ordinances and bi-laws have been enacted by the respective local governments and this has led to the operationalisation of the existing laws on defilement and Female Genital cutting.

Meanwhile, the day has been received with gloom in Nigeria’s Chibok district as a dark cloud still surrounds the welfare and whereabouts of the school girls kidnapped in Nigeria’s Bono State by the Boko Haram terrorist almost two years ago. We hope that the African Governments will prioritize the search for the girls.

Please look out for the Weekly Publication next Monday for the images and speeches at today’s event. To all the African children in your care, they are the future of Africa, they deserve a violence free childhood for a violence free Africa.

Youth name and shame corrupt technocrat



Stella Akello speaks about the corruption in the selection criteria for the beneficiaries of the Youth Livelihood Project

With funding from the Democratic Governance Facility, ActionAid Masindi conducted two youth parliaments in Lira. The Assemblies were used as platform for the youth to share knowledge and experiences on how to address the current challenges such as unemployment and poor service delivery in their communities.

In each of the parliaments, the youth stated that they have not benefitted from the Government programs in their district because they are never involved in the planning of the programs while the selection of the program beneficiaries is marred by

corrupt practices.

Stella Akello, a youth from Barr Sub county informed the parliament that Operation Wealth Creation is only benefitting a few people, who are closely related with the power holders.

“During the selection of the beneficiaries, there is no transparency at all. Worse still, the youth livelihoods project that is meant to benefit the youth has instead benefitted the district and sub county technocrats and politicians”, she said.

Ebong Stephen also informed the meeting that while he benefitted from the youth livelihood program, he was asked for several kickbacks. The meeting heated up when he named and shamed the parish chief, also in the meeting among those that asked him for kickbacks.

In response, the District Development Officer stated that the named officer was already under investigation and because of the overwhelming evidence against him, he will be interdicted.

Colonel Smith Ayo, the Coordinator of Operation Wealth Creation asked the youth to be positive and organise themselves in groups in order to benefit from the programs.

The meetings ended on a good note with the youth, Technical and Political leaders agreeing to key actions meant to improve the situation as highlighted in the various submissions.

“We are going to investigate the several challenges the youth have highlighted and work with them for meaningful youth programs that will bring a transformation in their lives and our community”, said Col Smith Ayo.

On the Road to Mt Kilimanjaro-#LandRightsUg



About 80% of farmers in Uganda are women, producing 60% of food but they only own 1% of land they use.

File Photo(A rural Woman farmer in Uganda.)

ActionAid Amuru last week mobilized over 500 women rural farmers from the Northern Uganda for a Women land Rights dialogue as a build up to the Kilimanjaro initiative. The event took place at the foot of Baker’s fort, a hill in Gulu with a clear demand for land Ownership, access and control by the Women.

Magaret Ayet, a rural farmer from Nwoya stated that both corruption and the patriarchal nature of society are some of the root causes of failure by the Ugandan Government to uphold women’s land rights in the Country.

“We should start by fighting corruption and some of our cultural beliefs, if we don’t get these out of the way, our journey to land Rights is far from reality”, she warned.

In agreement with the Women, the Northern Uganda cultural and political leaders pledged their commitment to support the Women Land Rights movement for the stability of the Country.

“Without food, the country cannot be stable. We must recognise that women produce most of the food we eat. They need to realize their land commission or to effectively fight hunger and malnutrition in the country”, added the Resident District Commissioner on Nwoya.

The Northern Uganda Women Land platform was instituted to fore see the mobilization of the women for the Kilimanjaro initiative and the continuation of the Land Rights campaign in the region.

While climbing the Hill, the women made a bold statement in front of the media that no matter how challenging the road to the realization of Women Land Rights is, they shall prevail.

The Kilimanjaro Initiative

Thousands of rural Women from Africa are being mobilized to the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro in October this year. While there, they will develop and proclaim a charter of demands that will be presented to the African Union, and respective National Governments. The charter will pressure African nations to do more in giving women access to land ownership.

The journey of women to Mt. Kilimanjaro via caravans from various corners of the continent is a journey of the journey of rural women’s voices to assert land rights. The iconic assembly at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro will take place on October 15, 2016; a date that coincides with the International Rural Women’s Day and will see four regional caravans depart simultaneously from the North, South, East, West and Central Africa. There will also be a symbolic ascent to the top of the Mt. Kilimanjaro by a delegation of rural women.

Land issues of women in Africa and Uganda particularly remain complex partly due to dualism in land tenure system, existence of poor land policies and governance systems that entrench gender inequality.

ActionAid will be holding another mini Kilimanjaro event in Eastern Uganda. Be a part of this caravan to the realization of the Women Land Rights in Africa and Uganda. Tweet at #women2kilimanjaro and #LandRightsUg

WEEK AHEAD:

- ActionAid is currently hosting the EU head on Mission in Kapchorwa Cluster LRP for the Day of the African Child Celebrations.
- 17 ActionAid new staff and Policy Makers are traveling to Masindi for Immersions. They will live with the poor and vulnerable communities for one week for personal learning and future development of poverty responsive policies.