



## Weekly

June 13— 19

Ugandan children continue to encounter several education injustices and inequalities. [Click here](#) to watch the Education inequalities and injustices in Nebbi and demand that the Ministry of Education and Sports, headed by the first lady of this country address them, and many others. Welcome to the Weekly

### Joy, Emotions and Excitement-Day of the African Child



During the Commemoration of the Day of the African Child in Kapchorwa, it was smiles, awards, tears, ululations and celebrations from both children and adults . The weekly camera captured them all!

On Monday last week, ActionAid joined the rest of the World to Commemorate the Day of the African Child. In an event presided over by the European Union Head of Mission, the children played, sung, acted and cried in equal measure against the violations of their rights by those meant to protect them.

With tears rolling down her cheeks, 13 year old Chelimo Jacinta cried out to God not to permit further violations of the children's Rights during the opening prayer.

The event started with a procession from the Kapchorwa District Local Government Headquarters through Kapchorwa town to Boma grounds where the event was held. The chief walker; the EU Head of Mission was joined by ActionAid's Country Director, Technical and Political leaders from the Sebei sub region and the pupils from Amudat, Bukwo, Kween and Kapchorwa districts. These walked for the respect of Children's rights, not only in the region but in the country.

Through the skits, the children decried the bureaucracy and corruption in the justice system that has denied them justice for the several child rights violations that they have been subjected to.

"In most cases, our parents opt for out of court settlements with the men who abuse us in exchange for cows, goats and other small amounts of money. Where should we run to", narrated Chebet Lisa at the end of a skit.

There were football and Netball competitions between Amudat and Bukwo. The atmosphere was electrifying and tense. The district officials from each of the competing districts segregated in either corners of the football and netball grounds to drum morale for their sons and daughters on the pitch. There were ululations from the guests when the Amudat team took home the Netball and Football trophies in the hotly contested games. The Amudat netball team won by seven goals against Bukwo's five while the Amudat boys beat their counterparts in penalties after a goalless draw.

The EU Head of Mission appealed to the Sebei community to abandon the harmful cultural practices and come up with alternative ways of passage to adulthood other than Female Genital cutting.

"Girls, its your body. Don't allow anyone to subject you to FMG and early marriages. And boys, respect the girls", he appealed to the hundreds of the children at the event.

His Excellency the Head of Mission also promised that EU was not going to close but would roll out bigger programming to address the issues in the community. During the same event, he launched the Amudat District Local Governments (Protection of Children) ordinance, 2015. The ordinance among others is aimed at protecting children against early marriages and other harmful cultural practices like female genital cutting. The district has been registering high school drop outs, forced early marriages, defilement among other child rights violations.

European Union has been funding a project aimed at Eliminating Violence against children in Bukwo, Kween, Kapchorwa and Amudat. The three year project will be ending in October.

AAU's Arthur assured the people of Sebei that ActionAid will continue to raise funds and direct them to ensuring the advancement and respect of children's rights in the Country.

The Day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the Organisation of African Unity. Its aimed at working towards the elimination of education injustices in Africa.

### The Day of the African Child in Pictures



The EU Head of Mission, District Technical and political leaders and the children from Bukwo, Kween, Kapchorwa and Amudat walked against Child Rights violations in the region.



The EU Head of Mission launched a Protection of Children Ordinance. The EU team also received a photo board from the children under the EU funded project



Moments from the games, that left the technical and political leaders from Amudat (Right above) jubilating having taken home both the netball and football trophies.

### In Solidarity for poverty responsive policies-Immersion



The AAU Finance Manager (left) splits fire-wood with his host.



The AAU Fundraising Officer(right) shares a moment with his host family

Last week, ActionAid Uganda took 16 officials for an immersion; experiential learning exercise in Kyakamese village; Masindi. The activity attracted a senior Police Officer, a Dean from Nkumba University, Officials from the Energy Ministry, Members of the National NGO bureau and ActionAid staff. These stayed with families living in poverty for three days.

Hadijah Namutebi, the Commissioner of Police in charge of Community Policing was one of the immerses. She participated in her host's home was a story worth to remember. She three nights in beans harvesting, fetching water, preparing meals and even hunting down thieves on the village. The gun, pistol theft in the area hit her hard as she slept in fear no gun, enforcer ask to protect her.

"My host told me that thieves go as far as uprooting cassava from the garden and steal cows which they sell in Kigumba-the neighbouring town. Am going to speak to the area Police commander to address the matter urgently, she committed.

Dr Najjuma Saida, the Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences at Nkumba University stated that the patriarchal nature of society is one of the key drivers of poverty in the community.

"Unless men become part of the day to day work of digging and harvesting, poverty reduction will still remain a myth. My hosts have vast pieces of land but the men don't support the women to cultivate the land and this limits the food production", she stated.

While briefing the Masindi, District Technical and Political leadership at the closure of the exercise, immerses recommended that Education, health and agricultural services among others should be extended to the people of Kyakamese for them to realize an improvement in their livelihoods.

The District officials pledged to sensitize the communities on the available Government Programs, change the mode of distribution of agricultural inputs under Operation Wealth creation among others for the eradication of Poverty in Kyakamese village.

### 10th Ordinary General Assembly Held!



(Left) Members of the General Assembly congratulate Rita as the elected Convenor in a group photo. Middle above is Dr Consolata moving a motion to adopt the AAU 2015 Annual report. Middle below is Rita Achiro giving her acceptance speech. Right Below and above are members of the General Assembly voting and celebrating respectively after the election of Rita.

Last Saturday, ActionAid Uganda held its 10<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly at Hotel Africana In Kampala. Dr Consolata Kabonesa, in her maiden speech to the Assembly updated the meeting on the good and bad developments within the Organisation.

"Am happy to report that the Assembly is fully constituted and that we had a successful midterm review of the Country Strategic Paper IV and even undertook an Organisational Efficiency Assessment which led to the successful restructuring process", she said.

While Helena Okiring had been elected as the Convenor of this year's General Assembly, she was not able to attend the meeting. The Assembly elected Julius Ishungisa to convene the Assembly, a role that he ably performed.

During the meeting, the Assembly was informed about the clean audit report by an official from KPMG, an independent audit firm. The meeting endorsed the firm to conduct the audit of the organisation during the next year.

At the end of the meeting, Rita Hope Achiro, the Executive Director of UWONET was elected unopposed as next year's General Assembly convenor, a role that she accepted with pleasure.

Rita is among the six newly recruited Members of the General Assembly. The others are Peter Mwesige; a media scholar and managing Director of the African Centre for Media Excellency, Ruth Ocheng; a women Rights Activist and former Managing Director of Isis-Wicce, Meya sayson, a Human Rights and Social Protection Manager at the European Union, Regina Bafaki, the Executive Director of ACFODE and Tina Musuya, the Executive Director of CEDOVID. They were all inducted into their roles last Friday.

ActionAid is honoured to have these powerful , highly qualified and experienced ladies and gentleman on board.

On a sad note, the Assembly was informed about the ill health of the AAU's former Governing Board Chairperson, Mr James Otto. Dr Consolata called upon the meeting to support James emotionally and spiritually on the road for his recovery. James served ActionAid Uganda for over 19 years first as a member of the Governing board and later as the Chairperson of the Governing Board until he retired last year.

### WEEK AHEAD:

- The Country Director will be attending the Director's Forum and joint Assembly Meeting for AAI in Maputo, Mozambique, then an AAI Strategy Drafting Team Meeting, still in Mozambique and later in Arusha for the Global Steering Committee developing a Charter on Civic Participation. CD will be back on July 3rd.
- Our Programs Director, Harriet Gimbo is in Tanzania Speaking to the Central Bank Governors from all over the World about Corruption in Africa. Trust Harriet to make us proud. Look out for next week's Weekly for a story on this and much more.
- ActionAid Uganda is hosting 45 volunteers from Greece. The young men and Women are spending the whole week in Pader, taking part in the construction of Galagala Primary school. Talk about the event on twitter; #ForGalagala