



Feb 16 - 22

The Education Revolution in Kotido

Last week, ActionAid commissioned a girls dormitory at Napumpum Primary School in Kotido district. The ActionAid Uganda National Fund financed the construction, beds and the solar system at the dormitory. ActionAid believes that this dormitory will increase the numbers of girls who complete primary education in the district.

The over one thousand people who turned up at the commissioning clearly demonstrate the hunger that the community of Kotido has for education. Richard Olong, the Program Development Manager, who represented ActionAid Country Director



A mammoth crowd that turned up at the launch of the Dormitory in Kotido.

challenged Kotido District Leadership to not only applaud the contribution of ActionAid but also make commitments to improve learning outcomes to meet national standards. He also decried the poor performance in the recent PLE results, citing that out of 800 pupils who sat in the district, only 36 division one, with only one girl among the 36.

The schoolchildren used the occasion to present a petition to Resident District Commissioner and the District Chairperson highlighting the challenges faced by girl children in schools and in the community and demanding an education friendly environment.

The RDC of Kotido denounced the negative attitude of parents towards education. He urged parents to provide scholastic materials, and meals for their children for a brighter future in Kotido.

Activista Ignited!



Activista members sharing a light moment at the end of the training)

Pallisa LRP conducted an awareness workshop for Activista from Pallisa, Kibuku, Budaka, Namutumba, Mbale, Kumi, and Ngora on the Access to Information Act, Policy Analysis, and Leadership. The training that attracted over sixty youths aimed at eliminating gaps in the service delivery monitoring by the Activistas.

Previously, as the youths have gone about monitoring service delivery in the districts, they have been denied information. In most cases, the office bearers have been hostile and even threatened them. Many of the youth have pulled out, which has affected accountability in the districts.

"They have been ignorant about policy formulation procedures and access rights," said Job Isaac Oonyu, the Pallisa LRP Coordinator.

During the training, the youths were taken through the Access to information Act, and sensitized about the prevailing law and Rights. They also took home select law booklets and the Access to Information Act.

The energized youths pledged to improve monitoring of services delivery with confidence and knowledge.

"I now know my rights. I will stand my ground ask for all the information and documentation I need specifically for health services in my district. The knowledge I have attained here is my gun, and I have the documents to refer to," remarked one excited youth.

Dialogue calls for Teachers support of Girls



ActionAid took part in the National Dialogue Meeting convened at Hotel Africana last week. The meeting was convened by the Girls Not Brides Uganda Alliance together with ActionAid. At the opening of the dialogue, the ActionAid EC-Violence Against Children Project Coordinator emphasized the fact that education is not a privilege but a right. She added that Girls are going to be mobilized to ensure that they don't settle for less than quality education.

Some of the issues that are standing in the way for quality Girls education are the Non Gender responsive school environments, which include shortage of female teachers to act as role models for upper primary as most of the teachers in these classes are male. The gaps in the leadership structure and the discrimination on the subjects and co-curricular activities to be done by girls and boys are also obstacles.

Key among the dialogue recommendations was to enforce the role of teachers in supporting girls especially while at school.

Part of the statement said:
"Teachers are the first point of reference for the children both at home and schools. While there are gaps with the number of female teachers in most public schools, skills deficiency among these schools, and absence of facilities like changing rooms for girls, the teachers remain a key point of advice for the girls and other children in schools. Deliberate interventions must be directed towards this area. For example, train teachers to support the girls make re-usable sanitary pads from local materials (being cautious of hygiene)"

Busiki Farmers Inspired to boost collective marketing



Busiki NDGGA pose for a group photo

ActionAid Busiki LRP organised a two-day workshop for Namutumba District Grain Growers Association. Members of the group were equipped with technical knowledge and skills in collection and bulking, storage, marketing, & reward systems, savings & credit systems, business negotiations among others.

Farmers were challenged to use the knowledge attained to formulate systems, policies, and procedures that would take the organisation forward.

According to Mr Bamusalire the board Chairman of the group, the systems and policies that they are set to draw will enable the group to attain its broad objective of collective marketing.

Namutumba district grain growers association was founded after an exposure visit to Namutumba farmers to Masindi Grain Growers Association (NDGGA).

Kalangala pioneers Peer Evaluation of The Travel Club Project



The project provided meals to pupils, increasing the enrolment and retention.

"Call it breaking away from Business as Usual": these were the words of Mr. Obonyo Jimmy - the headmaster of Bulima Primary school in Masindi during a debriefing exercise. "We have not only participated but have learnt and hope to see this continue to other projects," he said.

While external consultancy is the norm for evaluating projects and programs in ActionAid, Kalangala LRP worked with the Program Development Manager and the Impact Assessment and Shared Learning units to put together a team of implementers to conduct the end of project evaluation of

The Promoting of Girls access to Quality Education in Kalangala commonly known as "Travel Club Project." The evaluation team of 8 was composed of head teachers, members of the school management committee, members of the school Governing Board and parents from Nebbi and Masindi LRP.

The exercise was concluded with the experience sharing by the evaluators in a meeting attended by the Kalangala District leadership including The CAO, Chairperson LCV and his cabinet, technical staff and school head teachers.

The evaluators indicated that school enrolment and retention had increased. This is due to the midday lunch that has attracted more pupils. The sanitary towels making project has connected the school to the community. Women are now buying sanitary towels from the girls while others visit the school to get the skills from the girls.

WEEK AHEAD

- Arthur Larok, the AAU Country Director ins in Vietnam, supporting the AAV Associate review for the next two weeks
- The HR unit will conduct interviews for the Audit Manager this week.
- Rebecca Kukundakwe, the EC-VAC project coordinator is in South Africa attending the Global Campaign for the Education Action-Aid Youth representatives.