



June 27— 3 July

Dear Reader, as we conclude our features on the Education injustices, the weekly learnt that a year after Uganda Wild Life authority evicted these pupils from their school, the children continue to learn under trees and many have dropped out of school. [Watch this unfortunate news here](#). Welcome to the Weekly!

Social Movements and change;The Land Platform!



(Left) some of the participants at the L.A.N.D platform meeting in Nepal. Right is Harriet with colleagues from other countries re-thinking youth programming!

Last week, AAU's Programs Director, Harriet Gimbo joined the ActionAid International Members of the LAND platform in Nepal to discuss the progress and future of the platform objectives .

The platform exists to innovatively advance the federation's work on land, Agriculture, Natural resources and Defence of commons under AAI's strategic objective 2.

During the meeting, participants shared experiences in working with social movements, the campaign advancing women Rights to property, the history of the land movement in Nepal among others. These experiences reenergized and promoted peer learning among the participants.

Harriet Gimbo, while reporting to the Weekly stated that almost all countries represented at the meeting are struggling with the youth question.

"In all our discussions, it has been made clear that we need to strategically harness this population to create deeper understanding of the development dynamics and harness the potential that the youth have to drive their own transformation", she wrote.

The meeting also discussed in detail the use of violent and non violent means of resisting injustices. After a prolonged and heated engagement, the participants reached a consensus that the choice to be violent or non violent should be based on the circumstances and issues unique to every country. The participants also stated very clearly that whatever the approach, countries should always aim at building organic movements that survive the test of time.

The movements should have a clear purpose and message, popularize their cases in multiple spaces and platforms, engage in participatory processes and regular context analysis, have a very visionary leadership among others.

"The greatest revelation from the meeting is the fact that the so many NGO projects do not cause reforms. It's the people that must make these reforms happen", stated Harriet while emphasizing the importance of investing in people organizations and struggles and not necessarily NGO models that often don't yield sustainable change because their role is majorly facilitative.

Harriet also shared with the participants Uganda's success on Water for Production initiative in Teso sub region. The study dubbed "scarcity amidst Plenty" documented the several water facilities in the region such as valley dams that had silted, and not useful to the community. The study caused the Government to desilt the dams but also committed UGX 7.4 Billions to expand the water infrastructure in the region.

The LAND platform meeting ends today.

AAU Partners' Forum-A resolve to strengthen the partnership!



Representatives from the 35 ActionAid Uganda National and local level partner Organizations together with some AAU staff share a moment in the group photo last week at the end of the Forum.

The 2016 Partners Forum was held last week in Colline Hotel, Mukono under the theme; "Rebuilding Bridges for Achieving Real Results".

The meeting that attracted up to 35 partners from both local and National levels was characterized by lots of learning and re-learning.

After a review of the 2015 Partners' meeting action points, the meeting learnt that there was progress registered in certain aspects while majority of the issues had not been acted on by the partners. The outstanding actions included; QUAM certification, Fundraising diversification, putting up transparency boards and implementation of Audit recommendations. On a positive note, partners progressed fairly on sponsorship activities and policy reviews.

During the meeting, the partners provided objective and constructive feedback to ActionAid. They commended the capacity building programs and strengthened collaboration. However, Many participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the unexplained budget cuts, the short term memorandums of understanding signed with ActionAid that create a lot of uncertainty, the delayed release of funds among others.

In response to some of the issues raised, Harriet Gimbo, the Programs Director informed the meeting that clear and detailed budgets are not usually cut. She challenged the partners to be innovative in their activities if they are to avoid the budget cuts.

"Some of you have been submitting budgets for procuring of goats for the last 15 years. This depicts no progression and such budgets are cut", she cited.

Harriet pledged that AAU will continue to address AAI's communication gaps and other issues raised for stronger partnerships.

The AAU fundraising team took off time to speak to partners about diversifying their fundraising as a response to the reduction in donor funding. The partners were able to develop a range of fundraising ideas. These will be reviewed and feedback will be given to the respective organizations so that they are used to develop marketable proposals.

At the end of the meeting, partners were urged to treat each other as partners and not competitors to be able to complement each other and leverage resources as opposed to duplicating each other and wasting resources.

David Manyonga, the Shrinking Political Space, Civic and Governance Advisor added that all advocacy and campaign drives can only be a success in the current shrinking political space with the partners move with togetherness and solidarity.

Currently, ActionAid is working with 35 National and local partners to roll out work in sustainable livelihoods, Women Rights and Participatory Governance program areas.

From A woman's Heart-The AAU Women's Forum!

"As a mother of three children, all below the age of six years, with a full time job at ActionAid Uganda, and a Masters Student at Makerere University, I struggle to make it every day, not in life but with every assignment that comes with the three roles of mother, student and employee! Note that I have left out another important role of being a wife, one that is shrouded in a lot of cultural construction, with expectations unimaginable.

With all these roles, am not only exhausted at night but also stressed during the day. My mind races, how do I get my work done before 4pm every day, be in class by 5pm every day, support the kids with their home work and see them to bed, attend to the marital duties, wake up by 5am to prepare the kids for school but also be at office by 8am for the same routine? Am a woman!

These roles are not unique to me but almost all women in ActionAid. And yet, we have all witnessed testimonies of the smart, driven and lucky members of the female gender flying high on the trapeze-of-success amidst the puzzle that comes with being woman. How do they break through; we ask every day!", writes one of the ActionAid female staff!

ActionAid Uganda is conducting its Annual Women's forum today and tomorrow to speak to women like the author above. The event that is taking place at Royal Suits in Bugolobi is aimed at teaching women about work-life balance, how to move up the ladder of career success, the principles of feminism among others. The ladies will also get time off to play, laugh, sing, makeup, and yes, to be girls again. Oh, how we miss that!

Thank you ActionAid management for the space and we shall keep you posted on the life changing resolutions from the Forum. Celebrating being Woman!

WEEK AHEAD:

- The L.A.N.D Platform meeting is still on, in Nepal.
- The AAU Women's Forum is on at Royal Suits in Bugolobi