



Aug 1 — 7

Dear Reader, while we celebrate the coming of the rains, these pupils in Nebbi are cursing. Whenever it rains, they don't study. That tree is their classroom. Please join me to deliver this message to the Minister of Education! Tweet this photo and tag her account. The children need a classroom.

Activista give pallisa a face lift



The youth embarked on a two day cleaning campaign. They cleaned the town center, a health facility and a police station. They aimed at changing the perception of the leaders towards them, not as a rebellious group of young people but as people committed to the social wellbeing and transformation of the community.

Last week, the youth of Pallisa in partnership with the Red cross participated in the clean-up of their own town. The development comes barely three weeks after the youths were ignited to take the front position in community development initiatives.

“We have been demanding for youth involvement. We want to send a clear message that its not involvement in youth livelihoods projects only but also community welfare. That is why we are cleaning the town today”, said Edrisa Bambala, the Activista leader in Pallisa.

He added that the youths want to change the perception that elders have about them as being rebellious to being developmental. The cleaning event was also attended by the Pallisa District LCV Chairman and the district Mayor.

After cleaning the town, the youth moved to Gogonyo sub country and cleaned the health center (iii) and police station. The campaign brought a facelift to the town and the health center that had been neglected for a longtime.

The LCV Chairperson applauded the youth for taking a step to improve the hygiene of the district.

“This act has changed our perception about young people. You have challenged us. Thank you being youths that Pallisa is proud of”, he commended.

He added that its acts as these that will make power holders bring the youths to the strategic thinking and consultation table.

The youth promised that this is just the beginning of a bigger movement meant to bring about social transformation in pallisa and Uganda as a whole.

In a related development, read Vellim Nyama’s blog on why he believes that community participation is not a spectator game. Substitute community participation with social transformation and realize that you have a role to play in bringing about the desired change in your community.

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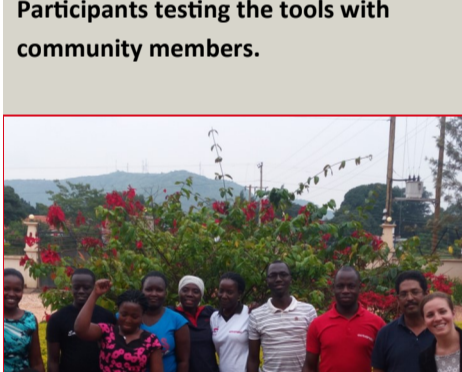
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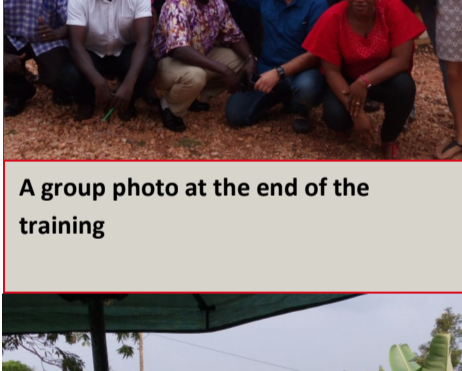
Power analysis tools to improve programming



Participants testing the tools with community members.



A group photo at the end of the training



A focus group discussion during the training.

ActionAid hosted a five days training on power tool analysis at Kabalega Resort Hotel in Masindi District. The purpose of the training was to deepen skills and experience of measuring power shifts and develop understanding for Value for Money. The training attracted participants from Uganda, Nigeria, Senegal, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan and UK.

Hope Masika, the Program Officer of Masindi Local Rights Program stated that the training equipped her with skills to identify key advocacy areas that must be addressed in the programming.

“I have learnt to conduct a power shift analysis. This will guide me to identify where the power currently lies in the community and how to target such power in the community programs and interventions for the benefit of the rights holders”, she said during a phone interview.

Hope added that the training also emphasized the importance of building strong community networks and coalitions as these are crucial in leading and causing the desired changes.

The power tools that the participants were introduced to include; The body map, Access and control matrix, 3 Ps circles, The Onion, Chappati diagram and the community power map.

After the training, participants went into the community to practically apply the tools. They visited Bigando, Kyamujwara and Pakanyi communities for the practical learning.

Nkechi Omekedo, the Program Manager for Women Rights in ActionAid Nigeria noted that the tools were applicable and easy to use.

“The tools allow for the use of local materials to explain situations. This helps to boost the community confidence to identify their own challenges and come up with strategies to address them”, she said.

The meeting closed with the participants’ commitment to use the tools in all community interventions. This they believe will boost community participation but more importantly place the communities at the forefront of their own changes.

AAU Nebbi joins in clean up exercise



(Left) Leaders from Nebbi join in the cleaning exercise in preparation to usher in the municipal status. Right is one of the rubbish bins that were put in place to ensure a clean municipality.

ActionAid together with other civil societies in Nebbi took to the streets to clean up the town council. Nebbi will officially become a Municipality by the end of this month and the cleaning was one of the activities meant to set ground for the celebrations.

Caroline Abilat, the Program Officer of AAU-Nebbi stated that they joined in the cleaning to show their solidarity to the people of Nebbi, strengthen their relationship with the district leadership but also network with the other CSOs.

“We believe that when we strengthen our networks, we shall be able to work as partners and not competitors, hence leveraging resources”, she said.

ActionAid used the occasion to speak to the district leadership to work towards improving the state of social services, especially education with the new municipal status. The Municipal clerk, in response promised that the municipal status will come with tremendous changes to improve not just education but all social services.

“The old is gone, we are going to be new. We shall do things differently for a better quality of life for the people of Nebbi”, he said, before thanking all CSOs and corporate organizations for joining in the Nebbi cleaning exercise.

The official launch of Nebbi Municipality is expected to take place later this month, currently pending state house confirmation.

Farewell Mathias!



Last Friday, AAU bid farewell to Mathias Mulumba. Mathias has been an M&E officer supporting the Australian funded Securing Food Rights for Agriculture Project.

Mathias appreciated the great learning that he attained at AAU and wished every young person gets an opportunity to train with ActionAid.

He is joining Government in a similar position. All the best Mathias. (In black receiving a present from AAU leadership).

WEEK AHEAD:

- AAU will be conducting a participatory Review and Reflection Process with National level partners later this week. This is part of the Country Strategic Paper development process.
- The communication and Fundraising teams will be in Kiryandongo to conduct rapid assessment of the refugee crisis