

actionaid Uganda

weekly

Oct 17 — 23



Dear Reader, last Monday, the Ugandan Rural women made it safely home from Mt Kilimanjaro. The women joined colleagues from all-over the continent in a massive assembly to demand that world leaders respect women land rights. [Click here for details](#). Welcome to the Weekly!

#Women2kilimanjaro:Welcome Home



Above: The women sung and danced as they arrived at the ActionAid gates from the 8 day journey to and from Kilimanjaro.

Below: Hellen Nampijja (left) the Human Resource officers used tins to make noise about the success of the Kilimanjaro caravan. Right is Peter clever kalule, the Livelihoods Coordinator on arrival.

Traffic in Kabalagala came to a standstill, as ActionAid gates opened wide, to allow in all- well wishers, on-lookers, passersby and staff among others to join in welcoming back the rural women from Kilimanjaro-Tanzania. The cars hooted and empty tins were hit amidst ululations. The crowd danced to a song composed by women from Kilimanjaro. The cyclists ushered in a bus-full of jolly, dancing, beautiful women and a few men (turned women-thanks to the women kili-climb caravan). The Ag.Country Director Christine Aboke along with the Program Director, Finance Manager and Campaigns Manager witnessed the arrival of the courageous women who camped at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro to speak to the world about women land rights in Uganda and Africa.

The team of over 40 farmers braved the eight days journey, to and from Kilimanjaro, far in Tanzania's Northern part. Tired and exhausted, the women were very happy to have taken this trek and were full of praises for ActionAid.

The greatest tale of the day was of the two courageous women who made it to the Peak of Kilimanjaro Mountain along with others from eight countries. Irene Cheptoe a farmer from Kapchemwor village, in Kapchorwa district and Polly Apio, a 59year old farmer from Adachari village in Katakwi could not hold back their excitement. Their tale of the hurdle they went through to reach the peak was tearing, but the beginning of a journey of believing in themselves, and protecting what belongs to them-land.

"It was very tough. I cant believe I reached the peak of Mt Kilimanjaro. This has increased my energy and courage. If I can climb Kilimanjaro, then I can successfully mobilize my fellow women to say no to the several patriarchal beliefs that deny us land control and ownership" stated Apio Polly on arrival.

Irene on the other hand added that they listened to experiences of women from other parts of Africa and will be borrowing a few strategies and tactics in the roll out of the woman land rights campaigns in their different regions.

The women declared that the Kilimanjaro campaign has challenged them to embark on an advocacy and campaign drive to attain women land ownership and control.

"The journey was not easy, but it has prepared us for the bigger campaign. No matter what it takes, we shall work to ensure that women in Uganda realize their land rights", they chorused.

NGO Regulations; tone down the language!



During the consultation meeting, CSO leaders and grass root activists called for the revision of the language and certain clauses in the regulations document. The team promised to incorporate the suggestions .

Teso CSO leaders have called for a revision of the language used in the draft NGO regulations. The call was made during a regional consultative meeting jointly organized by ActionAid Katakwi Cluster and her partners UNGOF and PAC Uganda. The meeting was attended by political, technical and CSO leaders and grass root activists.

Okello Stephene, the Executive Director of the National NGO Bureau presented the draft NGO regulations at the meeting for feedback from the stakeholders. The stakeholders described the tone in the regulations as harsh and controlling.

"The draft regulations give an impression that the Government wants to continue with the animosity that has for long fuelled suspicion and disharmony between the government and CSO sector" stated Benson Ekwe, the Executive Director of Public Affairs Centre.

Benson added that the regulations grant the regulator excessive and draconian powers and this waters down the seemingly good will of the Act that was enacted and passed into law by Parliament of Uganda. It is more a tool of exercising power and control rather than regulation.

Mr. Santos Labeja, another CSO leader stated that the regulation come across as tool of exercising power and control as opposed to regulation.

However, Stakeholders commended the creation of the bureau to regulate NGOs arguing that the requirement for NGOs to submit Budgets and work plans would minimise duplication of services and ensure proper planning by all stake holders.

Ambassador Gabriel Kangwaye, the Chairman of the National NGO Bureau commended the participants for the honest feedback and pledged to incorporate the suggestions for the betterment of the NGO sector.

Meet Polly and Irene-The Kilimanjaro climbers



Polly (left) and Irene (Right) on arrival from the peak of Mt Kilimanjaro. They are the two Ugandan women who climbed Mt Kilimanjaro

A day in the life of Polly Apio, a women farmer in rural Uganda, gives us a very human and touching insight in the life of those whose daily existence depends on their toil, and in the process brings up multiple questions . [Read more about Polly Here.](#)

She might not be celebrated nationally, but her contribution to women in Kapchorwa district has greatly impacted lives. Irene Cheptoe, the chairperson of Kapterop Multipurpose Cooperative Society, constantly pushes for the economic and social empowerment of women through different programs.

"I used to be a housewife, solely relying on my husband because culture had confined me to that. ". [Read about Irene here.](#)

Communication skills boosted



Participants were taught how to use cameras and other documentation/communication devices

ActionAid in partnership with MS TCDC conducted a five days training on Critical writing and documentation at Royal Suites Bugolobi last week. Learning by doing, participants used case study analysis, group and individual exercises to enhance their capacity in communication and documentation. The participants were also given hands on skills on how to conduct interviews, documentation of activities through case studies, photo-stories, videos, voice recording among others.

At the end of the training, participants were inspired to start the ActionAid writers club as a peer support mechanism to further improve the communication and documentation skills of the team.

Richard Olong, the Capacity Building and Partnerships Manager at

ActionAid is excited with the developments.

"It's my prayer that this training improves the quality of our reports and other documentation processes. Let the fruits of this training show in our work and life", he appealed at the end of the training.

In his closing remarks, Nickson Ogwal, the Fundraising Director thanked the team for their dedication towards the training. He challenged the participants to work towards changing the world for the better with just a pen and paper alongside other digital communication gadgets.

WEEK AHEAD:

⇒ This week, ActionAid is hosting the Hills family. The family supports ActionAid Tax for Education work. They will be visiting Nebbi.

⇒ ActionAid will conduct the Gender Based Violence Shelter review meeting this week at Ridar Hotel in Seeta.