



## AAU meets Minister over tax incentives

Above: ActionAid and SEATINI Delegation meets the Minister of Finance and Below, in dialogue

AAU and SEATINI organized a dialogue to discuss how to end illicit financial flows (IFF's) and increase revenue mobilization in Uganda. The meeting also discussed the Mbeki Panel Report on IFF's dubbed 'Track It! STOP IT! Get it'. According to the report, 56 Ugandans have over USD 89.3 million (about 256 billion shillings) stuffed in Swiss bank accounts. Uganda lost an average of USD 509 million in illicit outflows yearly between 2000 and 2008. Africa lost over USD 854 billion between 1970 and 2008. Arthur Larok likened this vice to slave trade;



"Like slave trade then, IFFs from robs us of the most critical and needed resources to build our country, our continent and transform the lives of women. This happens because of an unholy alliance and pact between unscrupulous business interests especially in the West and corruptible allies in Africa."

A team, headed by the Programme Director Harriet Gimbo presented the recommendations of this report to State Minister for Investment, Hon. Gabriel Ajedra. The team specifically asked for regulation against harmful tax incentives, which the report pointed out as one of the biggest channels through which countries loose finances. Hon. Ajedra in turn promised to take action and ensure more CSO participation in law formation and reviews to have fair laws that are pro-people.

## Community monitors energised!



A representative of the District Community Development Officer presents a bicycle to Community Monitor

Masindi LRP was in Lira town last week where a review meeting was convened to assess, among other things, the civic competence of communities through the lenses of 35 ActionAid-trained Community Monitors. Community Monitors have acted as a watchdog for service delivery and distribution of resources in the districts. This has caused an improvement in the way the power bears handle national resources, conscouse that they are being monitored.

Robert Okuku, the LRP Coordinator said that community monitors traverse village to village, identifying gaps and needs in service delivery. The LRP then uses their reports to structure its programming but also as a lobby tool to the power bearers.

The monitors recieved bicycles to ease their movements across the different villages for efficient monitoring.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSEMBLY METHODOLOGY AND THE RESULTS ARE TREMENDOUS , WRITES EDNANCE KIIZA IN A BLOG YOU CAN READ [HERE](#).**



## Women speak out on GBV enslavement



Women denounced GBV enslavement

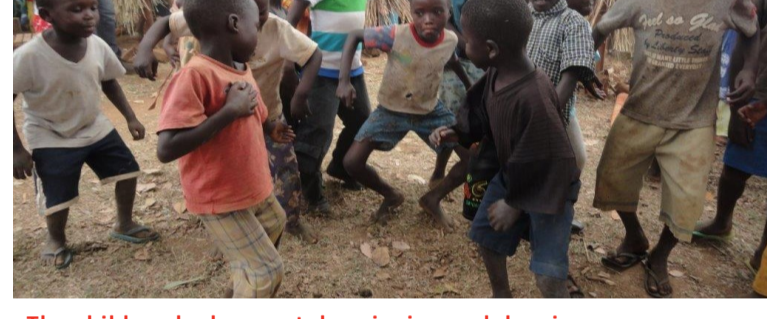
Last week, AAU Katakwi LRP brought together over 500 women and Girls for a Gender based Violence sensitization forum. The women were drawn from Ngariam, Palam and Mago-ro sub counties of Teso and Karamoja regions.

During the meeting, the women spoke emotionally about grabbing property of widows especially land and houses. Other issues decried included denying the girl child education, limited exposure, physical beatings among others.

"This is enslavement of the highest order. I didn't go to school, and even my daughter has been denied education, just because she is a girl."

Speaker after speak indicated that women need to be set free from the bondage of gender based violence. All actors (civil society and Government) present declared commitment in addressing the needs of the women.

## Kumi LRP gets down on mass message collection!



The children had a great day singing and dancing away.

Kumi LRP kicked off its mass message collection exercise with energy. Excitement filled the atmosphere as children drew pictures and coined sentences together for their sponsors.

AAU used the opportunity to speak to the community about sponsorship and its other program areas such as GBV and sustainable farming.

AAU Partners presented music and drama to parents with messages on child spacing, respect of women's rights and shared decision-making. Later, the audience were asked to react to the music and drama, especially in regard to women's empowerment and gender equity.

Community members said they identified with the messages, especially now as the long dry spell drags on. Families with many children are facing challenges finding money or food to feed or even care for their children. It was noted that in some instances, domestic violence may arise due to the limited resources and the heavy burden placed upon the household heads. The message collection exercise will go on for the next ten days.

## WEEK AHEAD:

- ActionAid together with the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development will be conducting a training around the National GBV data base.
- Stanley Wobusobozi and Charles Mulozi are in Johannesburg; South Africa for the CAADP meeting all week.
- The regional Anti-Corruption Music Extravaganza will be launched in Gulu this week.
- Arthur Larok, the CD at AAU and Peter Clever Kalule, the National Livelihoods Coordinator will be in Tunisia

## Security Focal Persons get new drills

AAU security focal persons Fredrick Kawooya and Davis Bekunda attended a weeklong skills share and reflection meeting with colleagues from the federation in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting under the theme, Connect, Collaborate, Challenge and Change (4C's), focused on sharing skills in various aspects of risk management. The key message from the meeting was the need to change perception and approach to risks as an organisation in light of the changed reality of shrinking political space and our HRBA approach. It kept emerging that while we must be cautiously analysing the risks, we should always seek to deal with risks in a more proactive way.

Chris Kinyangu, the deputy CEO called for better risk management which calls for investing in avenues that would help us understand how any risk would impact on us and develop contingency plans without forfeiting our responsibility to deliver on our mission critical objectives. To achieve this, we must seek new ways of delivering our work and must be able to connect with all concerned parties, formal and informal institutions as well as individuals at all levels.

## The power of Neighborhood - Assemblies

Namutumba district NGO Forum conducted Neighborhood Assembly sensitization meetings in three sub counties. In each sub county two parishes were selected for the Neighbourhood Assembly methodology.

A Neighbourhood Assembly is a democratically elected people's parliament operating at the community level. In that spirit, the communities elected their speaker, clerk, and the sector ministers who are directly responsible for monitoring their sector's operations in order to improve service delivery to the communities. Emphasis has been placed on the three sectors of education, health, and agriculture.

The Community is overwhelmed by the AAU initiative through its partner organizations. The assemblies have been used to mobilize communities for social change.