



Weekly

Feb 6 — 12

Dear Reader, as a result of funding from the Australian Government, the women from Bukedea were able to break barriers and embrace transformation. In the photo, Members of Arilwaitoi Women's Group, Kidongole sub-county, Bukedea district processing briquettes. This has boosted their social and economic muscle!

Gulu destroys alcohol in ordinance enforcement!



The Gulu District leaders intercepted a truck full of alcohol sachets and destroyed all the alcohol with fire.

Last week, ActionAid and other actors in Gulu witnessed the burning of 307 cartons of sachet waragi to ashes in a move by the district to enforce the Alcohol Ordinance. The ordinance bans the sale of alcohol packed in sachets within the district. It's this clause that was invoked last week.

Before 2016, Gulu District lacked adequate laws to regulate the production, consumption and sale of alcohol. The existing laws relating to alcohol such as the 1960 Liquor Act and the 1966 Enguli Act were outdated, grossly insufficient, and rarely enforced. In 2015, ActionAid and a range of other civil society actors including community based groups, religious and cultural leaders advocated for the development of an Alcohol Ordinance to regulate alcohol in the district. After several consultative and legislative meetings were held to develop the law, the Ordinance was passed by Gulu District Council. In March last year, it was submitted to the Attorney General's office to ensure its consistency with Uganda's constitution and other existing laws.

The Ordinance among other things restricts the hours of sale of alcohol, introduces an alcohol licensing system to curb illegal production and trade of alcohol, bans alcohol sold in plastic packages or sachets, regulates alcohol advertising and promotion and bans the selling of alcohol to persons below the age of 18.

While Uganda has the highest alcohol consumption rate in East Africa, the problem is particularly acute in Northern Uganda. A 2005 World Health Organization study found that the people in the region are twice as likely to be 'heavy drinkers' than Ugandans living in central regions.

Across the country, there is evidence of the drink's devastating effects as thousands of youths have been turned into drunkards. Many parents often prefer to buy waragi as opposed to providing scholastic materials for their children while drunkenness triggers violence in homes, among others.

Early this year, the Minister of Trade and Industry Amelia Kyambadde issued a directive for the suspension of the Alcohol Ordinance in the district until further notice. However, the district leadership unanimously opposed the directive.

In Katakwi, the Elders, religious leaders and the Civil Society delivered a petition to the District leadership demanding for the banning of alcohol packed in sachets in the district. While they are yet to register a win, the bold move by the leaders in Northern Uganda is great motivation for them to campaign on.

Our ears will be on ground-Community monitors warn



The community Monitors and citizen journalists came up with new strategies and tactics to improve the quality of services delivered in Katakwi District.

Last week, AAU Katakwi Cluster held a review meeting for youth Activists, Citizen journalists and community budget Trackers. The meeting that attracted 60 participants aimed at reviewing strategies and tactics by the monitors to ensure that there is minimal abuse of resources and that the officers implicated in embezzlement of funds are punished accordingly.

Last year, the Community Monitors and Citizen journalists discovered misappropriation of Universal Primary Education (UPE) funds in the seven primary schools of Omosingo, Ariet, Acanga, Magoro, Kapujan, Opeta and Ngariam. While the head teachers of these schools were investigated and found guilty, no action was taken against them save for a few transfers.

The meeting agreed that the reason why the head teachers went scot free was due to lack of incriminating evidence.

"We need to invest in evidence gathering and documentation if we are to win the war against corruption and embezzlement of public funds", they agreed.

The meeting also reviewed cases of poor service delivery identified during their past monitoring visits and drew action plans on how to take them forward.

Since the school year has just began, the monitors will be devoting their time and energies to assess the delivery of the Education service to the children of Katakwi.

Among others, they will be checking on time keeping by the teachers, their regular attendance to the pupils, pupil attendance and enrolment and utilization of UPE funds.

In a related development, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development last week stopped the release of the Youth Livelihood funds to Local Governments including Katakwi. The Document also directed the Chief Administrative Officers to ensure that at least 50% of the funds are paid back. While Katakwi received UGX798 Million, only 34million has been paid back.

Icumar Milton, one of the Community Monitors stated that they will investigate to discover where the bulk of the money is.

"We are going to keep our ears to the ground and will expose whoever abused these resources at the expense of the people of Katakwi", he warned.

SURGE Proposal near completion



An official from Maxwell Stamp(3rd left) with the AAU team that is developing the proposal. She noted that the team was on the right track.

Last week, the Women Rights team with support from the Fundraising officer and the Grants Coordinator did a great job towards the development of the Support to Uganda's Response on Gender Equality (SURGE) proposal.

The proposal drafting team met with an official from Maxwell Stamp, the agency that will be managing the grant on behalf of DFID. She commended the team for the work well done and promised to share vital documents for the completion of the proposal.

The Project, once signed off will be running for the next three years. The funds will be injected into ActionAid's Women Protection Centres to scale up services for GBV survivors.

The proposal development is expected to be completed this week.

Update of Strategic Paper Development..

ActionAid leadership team met at Royal suites, Kampala from 6th to 10th February 2017 to reflect on the Organisations next Country Strategic Paper five (CSP V) that will take effect in January 2018. The meeting was ran under the theme; "Reality Check: Do we really know Uganda". The meeting was organised to provide an opportunity for the team to collectively reflect and subject work so far done by the CSP V drafting team to a reality check, to ascertain that the aspirations are in tandem with Uganda's past, present and future context and thus sufficiently grounded to address the reality of Uganda.

[Click here for a full report](#) on the CSPV development process and the important dates you must mark on your calendar.

WEEK AHEAD:

- The CSPV drafting team is in Royal Suites to complete draft one of the strategy. We look forward to the reviews.
- The programs Directorate will review the SURGE proposal for submission to Maxwell Stamp