## act:onaidUganda



same smile this season due to the infestation of the Fall army warm. This simply means that the incidents of Ugandans starving to death will increase unless the Government addresses the problem!

Katooko Rose, a member of Ailwantoi group in Bukedea smiles that her maize garden. She may not bear the

## The Fall army worm threatens livelihoods?



according to ActionAid. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has confirmed that the

fall armyworm, a new pest that attacks plants, has now invaded more than 20 dis-

tricts across the country. The fall armyworm could cost Uganda upto 450,000 metric tonnes of maize annually, the ministry said. Agriculture Minister Vincent Ssempijja said the deadly pest

is hard to control and the ministry predicts serious negative impact on the economy. He said the most affected crops are maize and sugarcane, advising farmers to

be vigilant and report the pest attack to authorities as soon as noticed.

Uganda produces close to four million tonnes of maize grain annually and the crop also contributes to the livelihoods of more than 3.6 million households. Simon peter Wolumeli, the Manager, Program development while speaking to the Weekly expressed fear at the speed at which the worm is spreading.

security", he said. Simon added that considering the Government's bureaucracies, he does not expect the spraying to come in time to counter the worm which in nature spread very

"The worm is a threat to Uganda's food security. It is actually accentuating food in-

fast. "As ActionAid, we are currently advising farmers to plant alternative crops such as cassava and Sweet potatoes as we wait on the government to act against the

The pest was first detected in the three districts of Kayunga, Kasese and Bukedea last year. Unfortunately, the pest has now spread to the districts of Luweero, Mukono, Kamuli, Kibaale, Kamwenge, Masindi, Nwoya, Mayuge, Kyenjojo, Rakai,

Kabarole, Kumi, Serere, Buliisa, Luuka, Kiryandongo, Bugiri and Iganga.

have also formed a task force to develop action plans for effective management of the pest in the short and long run. "A technical committee comprising National Agricultural Research Organisation

The government has set aside Shs1 billion to control the pest, asserting that they

(Naro) and Ministry of Health staff are already in place to guide on implementation of pest outbreak management and they are going to continue advocating and lobbing for financial support," Mr Ssempijja said. The Government has however recommended a number of pesticides that should

About the pest The fall armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) is part of the order of Lepidoptera and

be used in the meantime by the farmers. Unfortunately, majority of the farmers

cannot afford the high costs of the pesticides.

The Pallisa cluster sponsored children sung, danced and cheered as they received the ActionAid custom branded exercise books. The

A sponsored child shows off her books!

worm", he revealed.

Children admire the books

livelihood messages.

children. It was exciting to see the beaming faces of the children across the different primary levels. Groups of children were seen admiring and marveling at their new exercise books bearing pictures of children, as they figured out who the children were. The exercise books also have the children's Rights charter at the back. This is

messages to their sponsors out of the expected 1,368 children. During the same exercise, 455 parents who accompanied their children were reached with

## Unlike the previous photo updates that required children to

A total of 1,204 sponsored children received the scholastic materials and wrote

**Busiki Pilots message collection template** 

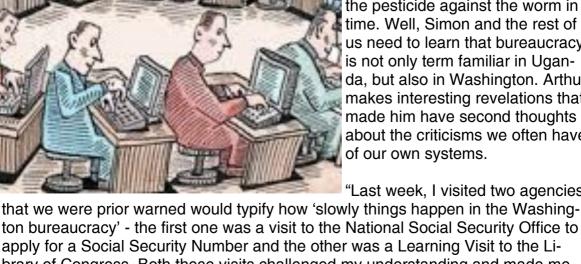
A mother supports her children to write a messages to sponsors new child message collection template that is being piloted. In this pilot, each child is expected to take four photos in different postures such a close of the child smiling, funny free style photo, a child holding a message to a sponsor, etc. This has provided for flexibility as opposed to the staged managed pervious photos. The parents were very excited at the developments and those that can read and write were seen supporting and guiding their children as they crafted messages to the sponsors. **Reflections from Washington** 

Rights **Programs** the Local Italy hosting ActionAid sponsored children now have a

take photos in a specific posture,

Most of the

In our lead story about the Fall army worm, ActionAid's Simon Peter Walumeli speaks about the Gov-



of our own systems. "Last week, I visited two agencies

brary of Congress. Both these visits challenged my understanding and made me have a second thoughts about the criticisms we often have with bureaucracies...", Also read Arthur's opinions published in the Daily Monitor on why Ugandans must

outgrow the Museveni/Besigye mind-set here and another that emphasizes the importance of institutions rather than strong men <u>here.</u>



he writes. Click for the full story.

Saturday at the ActionAid head office.



aimed at teaching children about their rights both at school and in the community. The children and their parents were great full to ActionAid for the Scholastic materials (books,

pens, pencils and mathematical sets).

Last week, Busiki Local Rights Program started the bi-annual message collection exercise provide feedback to individual

child sponsors.

sponsored children in have their sponsors in Italy.

ernment's bureaucratic processes that wont allow for the delivery of the pesticide against the worm in time. Well, Simon and the rest of us need to learn that bureaucracy is not only term familiar in Uganda, but also in Washington. Arthur makes interesting revelations that made him have second thoughts about the criticisms we often have

**WEEK AHEAD:** 

ActionAid will hold its first ordinary Governing Board meeting of the 1st quarter this