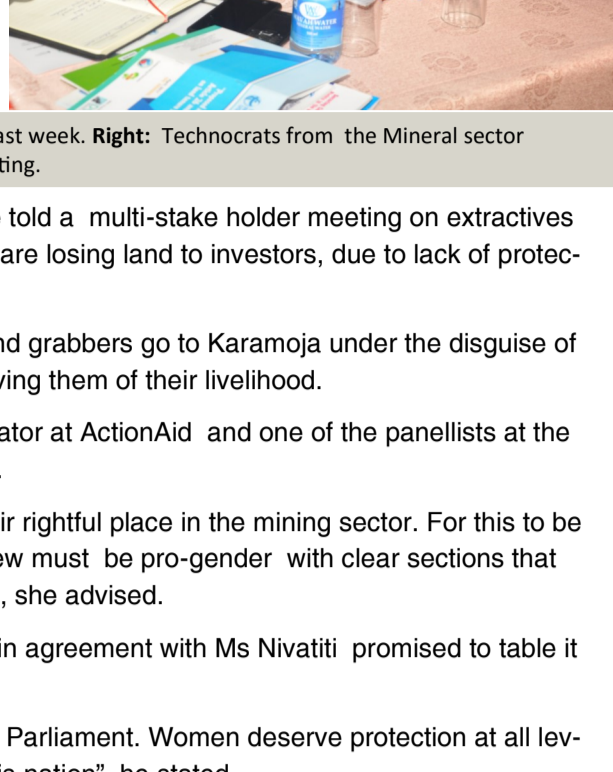
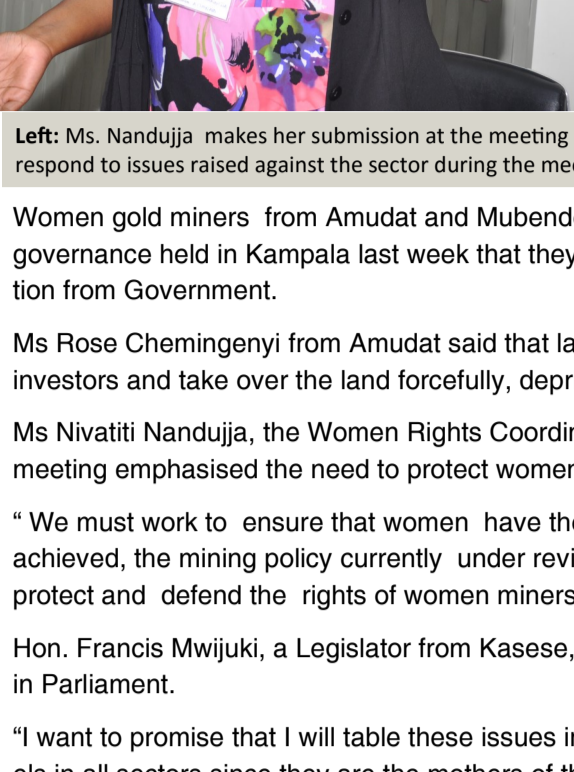




ActionAid has made it to the top 10 entries of the EU photo contest. The two photos in the best ten showcase the impact of the EU funded eliminating violence against children project, that was implemented in the Sebei region. In the photo are some of the beneficiaries of the project. Welcome to the Weekly

Women Miners decry land grabs



Left: Ms. Nandujja makes her submission at the meeting last week. Right: Technocrats from the Mineral sector respond to issues raised against the sector during the meeting.

Women gold miners from Amudat and Mubende told a multi-stake holder meeting on extractives governance held in Kampala last week that they are losing land to investors, due to lack of protection from Government.

Ms Rose Chemingenyi from Amudat said that land grabbers go to Karamoja under the disguise of investors and take over the land forcefully, depriving them of their livelihood.

Ms Nivatiti Nandujja, the Women Rights Coordinator at ActionAid and one of the panellists at the meeting emphasised the need to protect women.

"We must work to ensure that women have their rightful place in the mining sector. For this to be achieved, the mining policy currently under review must be pro-gender with clear sections that protect and defend the rights of women miners", she advised.

Hon. Francis Mwijuki, a Legislator from Kasese, in agreement with Ms Nivatiti promised to table it in Parliament.

"I want to promise that I will table these issues in Parliament. Women deserve protection at all levels in all sectors since they are the mothers of this nation", he stated.

He also emphasised the need to recognise artisan miners since working lawlessly is highly disastrous and cheats the country of moneys in unpaid taxes.

Civil Society Activist, Mr Godbar Tumushabe added his voice to the need to have women together with their assets, especially land protected.

"Legislators need to understand the laws on land if they are to protect their constituents from land thefts and land grabbing", adding that in addition to the hundreds of advisors that the president has, he needs better and sober ones to guide him on land.

The meeting was organised by ActionAid's Extractives Governance Project in partnership with SaferWorld, Transparency International and CRED. It attracted 150 participants including 15 legislators, Government officials, local government officials, miners from Amudat, Mubende, Karamoja, Busia among others.

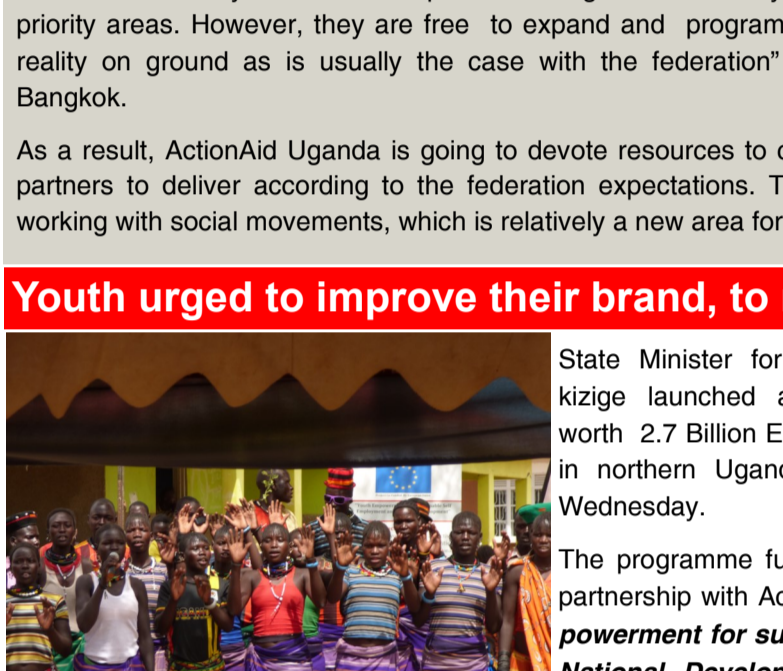
Miners commended ActionAid for always putting women at the forefront in the mining sector.

DGF is currently funding AAU's governance work, including the Extractives Governance project.

The project aims at increasing awareness of sector players and transparency in the extractives industry to empower women and children to benefit from the mineral resources in their communities.

[Click here](#) for an online story about the event and [Here for the Social media analysis](#) of the event.

ActionAid Federation sets Priority areas



In photo are Programs Directors from the ActionAid African Countries. Harriet(in white blouse) represented Uganda

ActionAid International Federation is undergoing a strategic redesign under the broad theme, "Strategy 2028: Action for Global Justice". In order to plan for the next three years and clearly define the main focus areas for the strategy, an International Platforms meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand last week.

ActionAid Uganda was represented by the Programs Director, Harriet and the Youth Advisor Grace.

The meeting agreed that the ActionAid federation is going to make public services, natural resources and political participation the priority program areas for the next three years.

Participants were called upon to ensure timeliness of all country processes so that the decided priorities feed into critical meetings like the international General Assembly.

"ActionAid Country offices are expected to align their Country Strategic Papers to the agreed priority areas. However, they are free to expand and programme according to their context and reality on ground as is usually the case with the federation" reported Grace on arrival from Bangkok.

As a result, ActionAid Uganda is going to devote resources to capacity enhancement of staff and partners to deliver according to the federation expectations. This will include programming and working with social movements, which is relatively a new area for the Uganda office.

Youth urged to improve their brand, to reap from EU project



The K'Jong girls entertain guests at the launch of the project

State Minister for Karamoja Affairs Hon. Moses Kizige launched a Youth Empowerment Project worth 2.7 Billion Euros meant to support rural youth in northern Uganda and parts of Karamoja last Wednesday.

The programme funded by the European Union in partnership with ActionAid code named **youth empowerment for sustainable self-Employment and National Development** aims at addressing the alarming statistics of youth unemployment in the country. A total of 4000 Youth in the five districts of Amuru, Nyoya, Pader and Kotido are set to benefit from a four year hands on skills training and capacity development.

Mr. Kizige, in his remarks challenged the youth of Karamoja to map up viable businesses so as to benefit from this programme and other government funded projects.

"I urge all the youth to take advantage of both the civil society and Government projects to engage in productive activities to create self employment and contribute to the sustainable development of the country", he said amidst applause from a mammoth crowd.

The kotido district youth chairperson, Arafat Obong prayed that this and other government projects should focus on creating jobs for the unemployed youth. He blamed some Development partners for employing none natives even at lower positions such as drivers and cleaners.

"If you want to empower us fully, give us jobs and scholarships because our parents are too poor to afford even primary education", he said amidst applause from the youth.

Henry Nickson Ogwal, the AG- country Director of ActionAid Uganda challenged the youth to improve their public brand from unemployed gamblers and criminals to disciplined and hardworking youths.

"You must change the way you sell yourselves by portraying good habits and allotting time to real work", he advised.

He challenged the youth to hold their leaders accountable for the actions and inactions that they do adding that all Ugandans including children have power which is often not exercised.

John Bosco Akore, a resident of Panyangara sub county stated that while they were excited about the project, it should focus on youths who are out of school since they are the majority in the region.

West Nile Actors strategize for quality education



The Minister of State for Northern Uganda launching the policy brief at the meeting in Nebbi last week

As part of the Global Education Week activities, ActionAid Nebbi Cluster organized a regional stakeholders' consensus building meeting on the status of education in West Nile.

Participants, mainly Legislators, political and technical officials from the 8 districts of west Nile agreed that the quality of education in the region was lacking and an action to revamp it had to be agreed upon.

One of the major challenge across all the districts is the limited number of teachers as compared to the required staffing. Unfortunately, the District Education Officers stated that there was no immediate solution to this due to the Government ban on the recruitment of more teachers.

The officials also pointed out child labour as one of the leading causes of poor performance in the region.

"In Maracha, the children stay away from school to harvest Marijuana while in Nebbi, pupils prefer to harvest coffee or go fishing instead of learning. We need to put up a bi-law against child labour", advised the Maracha L.C.V Chairperson.

The meeting however agreed to write to the Ministry of Education to lift the ban and allow for the recruitment of more teachers in the region to address the massive increase of pupils in school due to the refugee influx. Other areas agreed upon are to strengthen children's participation in monitoring teacher and pupil attendance, operationalization of the education standards among others.

ActionAid used the same event to launch a Policy Brief titled '**Leveraging Domestic Taxation for Sustainable Financing of the Education Sector in Uganda**'.

DFID Conducts annual review of partners



DFID conducted a joint annual review for the three implementing partners of Gender Based Violence response and intervention. The meeting that was hosted by ActionAid was attended by MIFUMI and CEDOVIP.

The meeting gave partners space to air out gaps in the Support to Uganda's Response to Gender Equality (SURGE) Project during its first year of implementation.

DFID team, led by Emily Esplen from the UK office commended ActionAid and the other partners for the positive relations they enjoy with the Local and Central Governments as this has generated a positive reception for the SURGE program.

"We are also excited about the formative research and analysis of the program as this has informed strategic adaptation of the program, ensuring the relevancy to the local context and complementarity rather than duplication", stated Ms Esplen.

On a good note, DFID announced an extension to the inception phase of the SURGE program to enable implementing partners complete outstanding deliverables. Partners were also challenged to move to robust and systematic Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) approach to integrate into GBV interventions, liaise with other existing government programme and link up survivors for total empowerment.

According to Joyce Nabwire Baker, the Project Coordinator at ActionAid, the meeting revealed the silent challenges that partners were struggling with in the SURGE proposal development.

"We are happy that we got more time to address these challenges so that we start implementing with a clean sheet", she said.

Correction! Correction!

In the last weekly, we reported that the Board at its 47th Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd of April 2017 approved the 5th Country Strategy. We have since been corrected that what the board did and does in its mandate is to endorse the strategy and forward it for approval by the General Assembly that we all contributed to is not in the hand of our governance bodies and outside the reach of staff, unless through General Assembly Members. The General Assembly sits on May 27th 2017 at Hotel Africana and we look forward to approval of our 5th Country Strategy Paper!

Climate Change CSOs plan Disaster Response



ActionAid hosted a round table discussion with climate Actors at National level. The meeting held last week attracted 20 representatives of National Civil Society Organizations under the hospice of the Climate Change Network (CAN-Uganda). The CAN platform aims at developing mid-term and long-term strategies for climate justice using local level experiences and evidence. These are then used to influence the national, regional and the global agenda on climate change including legislation and financing.

"This platform is vital in building a credible coalition and nature a social movement which we aspire to work through in the yet to be approved fifth Country Strategic Paper", stated Peter Clever Kalule, the National Livelihoods Coordinator.

In this meeting, ActionAid highlighted the need for a strong CSO position and action on the current drought situation in the country. The situation is made worse because Government of Uganda has not declared the situation a state of national disaster.

Members agreed to conduct a rapid assessment (RA) of the situation and use it to influence Government and other players to devote time and resources to the situation. Specifically, they will be undertaking media profiling of the situation and also develop a position paper for engagement with actors.

ActionAid is currently organising an internal respond to the draught crisis especially for locations where there are sponsored children. We shall keep you informed.

Reflections from Washington

Starting this week, Arthur will run a theme-based examination of the forthcoming 5th Strategy that the Board is making a final review of, and passing it on for approval by the General Assembly scheduled to take place on May 27th 2017. The purpose of this examination is to help staff and partners understand what some important terms and ideas espoused in the strategy mean and their practical implications for our work.

"This week, we talk **social justice**, a term used both in ActionAid's global strategy as well as AA Uganda's 5th Strategy Paper. In the latter, it is the rallying theme for the proposed title, **Strengthening Struggles for Social Justice**'....." [Read on Here](#)

Week Ahead

The Programs Director together with three ladies from Kapchorwa are in Spain this week to guide the development of the campaign against Female Genital Cutting.