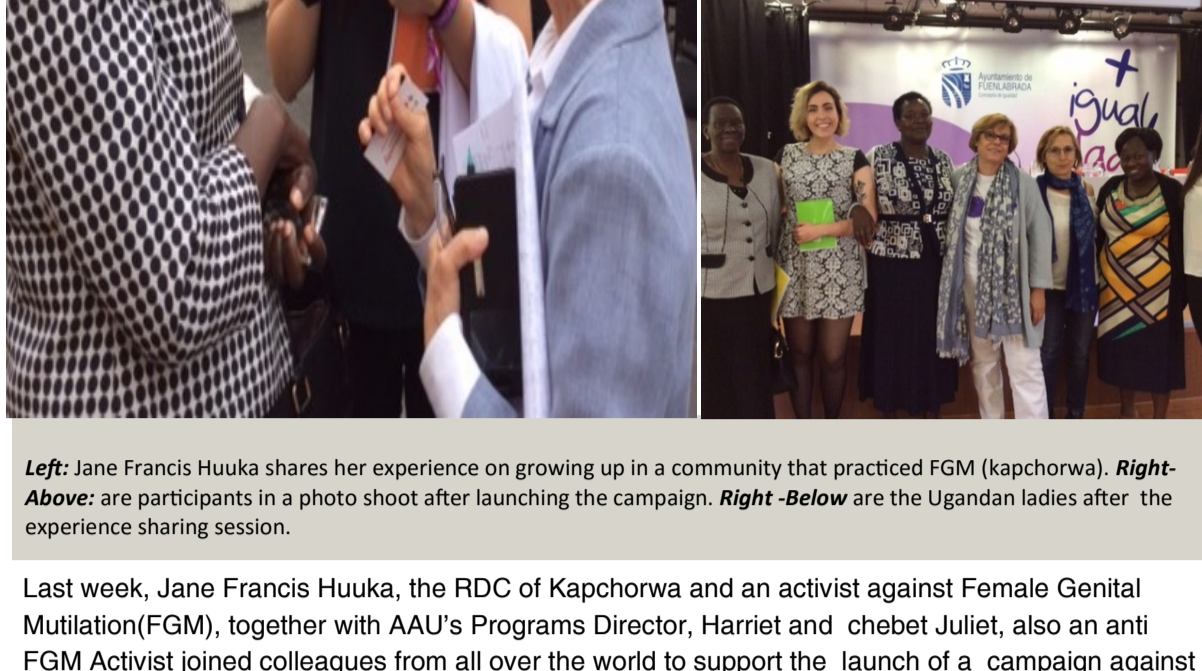




Yeko Prudence has been an FGM surgeon for the last 20 years. She uses that knife to cut girls, a practice that often leads to excess bleeding. Some women have become lame while others have failed to give birth after the cutting. Stand up against FGM today. Welcome to the Weekly!

Ugandan experiences inspire FGM Campaign in Spain



Left: Jane Francis Huuka shares her experience on growing up in a community that practiced FGM (kapchorwa). Right-Above: are participants in a photo shoot after launching the campaign. Right -Below are the Ugandan ladies after the experience sharing session.

Last week, Jane Francis Huuka, the RDC of Kapchorwa and an activist against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), together with AAU's Programs Director, Harriet and chebet Juliet, also an anti FGM Activist joined colleagues from all over the world to support the launch of a campaign against FGM in Madrid, Spain.

The campaign is aimed at increasing support services for FGM victims and potential victims.

"In the past week, we met a total of 80 key leaders that included cultural leaders of the African communities, officials from different agencies including Police, City Mayors, Government leaders in charge of health and education among others", stated Harriet in an email interaction. She added that they mainly met leaders from Madrid and Toledo, the cities that host majority of the African communities.

The team also met with 40 African women at a women's protection transit shelter. Some of the women come from countries that practice FGM.

"The experience shared by the Ugandan team brought reality to the leaders understanding and appreciation of the need to urgently provide support services to prevent and respond to survivors of FGM in the already vulnerable migrant community in Spain", stated Harriet.

Harriet explained that majority of the leaders were hearing about the practice for the first time and were inspired to address the vice after hearing first hand accounts on the effects of the vice on women.

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is a global phenomenon that has seen approximately 200 million women and girls subjected to the practice worldwide, with approximately 3.3 million girls at risk each year. It constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women and girls, a form of violence and it is a violation of their human rights to life, dignity and health.

FGM/C is practiced in over 30 countries across Africa including Uganda, the Middle East and Asia. Despite residing in European Union countries, migrant women and girls risk undergoing this harmful practice especially when they return to their country of origin for holidays.

This Anti-FGM campaign is rooted in the **AFTER** - Against Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting Through Empowerment and Rejection project. The project will last two years, ending in February 2018. It aims at combating FGM/C through community based activities in five different European countries: Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Sweden through a consortium of Partners including ActionAid Uganda.

The project has a threefold approach: it aims to combat this significant form of violence through empowerment and rejection and, thus, to sensitise the wider European audience about the issue of FGM/C. The project will do this through the implementation of empowerment activities, which will target migrant women, girls and their communities living in the European Union, from FGM/C practicing countries. It is through these activities that the project aims to mobilise migrant women and girls to become empowered and, as a result, to reject the practice.

The project's empowerment activities are based on Reflection-Action, a participative methodology already successfully used by ActionAid in African countries to prevent and combat this practice. Moreover, through testimonies and campaigns, the project aims to increase awareness regarding women and girls' struggles, presenting success stories to challenge and reject FGM/C.

Gulu Tracks Alcohol Ordinance Enactment



Religious Leaders endorse the ordinance last year (File photo)

In September last year, the Gulu District Alcoholic Drinks Control Ordinance was passed. Gulu became the first Local Government to enact a law that regulates alcoholic production and consumption in Uganda. The Ordinance continues to raise a lot of tension among key stakeholders including the Minister of Trade, Manufacturers, Councilors, traders and perhaps consumers.

Last Week, ActionAid together with the Gulu District Local Government called for a stakeholders meeting to reflect on the progress made in the enactment of the ordinance.

The meeting learnt that three operations have since been conducted and about 300 boxes of sachet alcohol impounded by the ordinance enforcement team.

It was also noted that the local leaders and the community had overwhelmingly provided support as these often provide intelligence information on secret stores and consignments of the banned drinks.

Despite the achievements, a number of challenges have slowed down the successful implementation of the ordinance. These include the Ministry of Trade and industry that has continued to speak against the ordinance. Others include leakage of information to business men about planned operations hence hiding the banned alcohol.

To address the challenges, the meeting came up with a team comprising of the police, enforcement officers and the Mayor. These were tasked with sensitizing the community about the ordinance and the consequences of being found in breach of it.

A study by the UN in 2010 indicates that every third man who has been drinking alcohol beats his partner. Its against this background that ActionAid continues to support the operationalization of the ordinance, to prevent Gender based violence and poverty associated with alcoholism.

Child maintenance at last!



Sifrose receives the cow from the father of her grand child. She said it would improve the baby's health and welfare

50 year old Sifrose Cheptoeck can now afford a smile after she received a cow for maintenance of her grand child.

After her daughter gave birth to a baby girl, the father of the baby promised to look after his child. Unfortunately, he never kept his word. This left the burden of feeding, medical care and clothing on the grandmother. Efforts to cause him to take on his responsibilities were futile.

This prompted Sifrose to seek the support of the Kween GBV shelter. After a series of mediations, the father of the child finally delivered a cow to Sifrose.

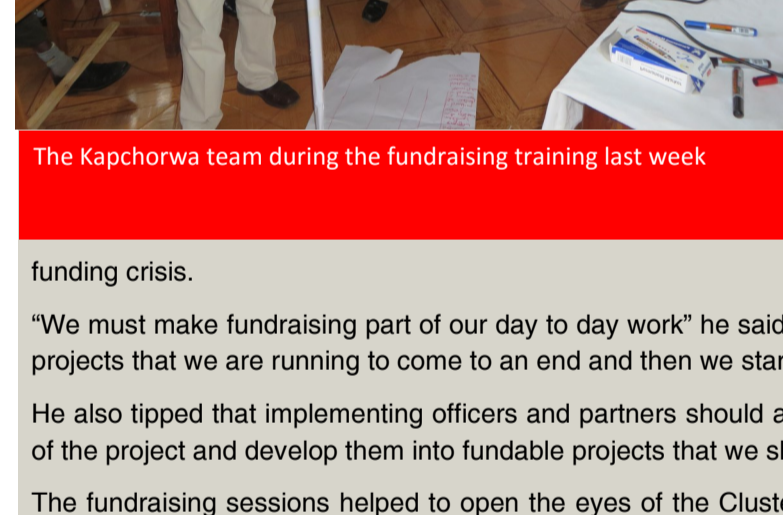
"Am very happy and I feel relieved. This cow will provide milk to my grand child. I also know that in future, I will keep selling off the cow offspring to pay school fees for the child. Thank you ActionAid", she said after receiving the cow.

Sisco Zaitun, the Shelter psycho-social support officer said that they were not only excited for Sifrose but at the bigger picture.

"This is a precedent that the community will refer to. Before one thinks of sexually abusing a woman, he should assess himself to ensure that he can take on the responsibility", she said.

Over the past three years, Kween GBV Shelter has successfully handled over 800 GBV cases.

Fundraising- Kapchorwa equipped with skills



The Kapchorwa team during the fundraising training last week

Fundraising has become a common song within ActionAid circles. The concept of fundraising is quite ambiguous to most ActionAid and Partner staff, often making people think very hard of how best this activity can be handled.

Kapchorwa Cluster and Partner staff were supported to change their mind-set on the concept through a fundraising training conducted last week. AAU's Fundraising Officer, Stephen Bahizi while with the team taught that fundraising is a continuous process that should not only be done after realizing that there is a funding crisis.

"We must make fundraising part of our day to day work" he said, adding that we should not wait for projects that we are running to come to an end and then we start fundraising.

He also tipped that implementing officers and partners should always pick ideas from the progress of the project and develop them into fundable projects that we should interest the donors in.

The fundraising sessions helped to open the eyes of the Cluster and Partner staff who eventually appreciated fundraising as a doable task. Participants learnt how to design fundable projects, conduct a Funding Gap Analysis for their respective portfolios, understand donors, draft concept notes among others.

During the same week, Cluster staff along with the AAU Partnership and Fundraising Officers, conducted Partner support visits to the three ActionAid Partners; Community Action for Human Rights (CAFHUR), Benet Lobby Group (BLG) and Peace and Development Foundation (PDF).

The visiting team was able to appraise the progress of the partners, identify capacity gaps and make remedial recommendations where possible.

President talks tough on Corruption



The ActionAid team makes presence during the labour Day celebrations in Pallisa.

Uganda is considering introducing drinking hours to regulate increasing alcohol abuse, which President Yoweri Museveni says, affects productivity at work. Museveni said that one of the big challenges the country must address in order to improve productivity of labour is the problem of alcoholism and gambling.

"I note that the uncontrolled consumption of alcohol and gambling has negative effects on attitude to work and productivity," President Museveni said at national Labour Day celebrations in Pallisa.

"We are considering the regulation of drinking and gambling hours. Drinking and gambling at any hour of the day is excessive liberalism," he added.

All international statistics show Uganda is in the top 10 alcohol consuming countries in Africa.

The ActionAid Pallisa Cluster joined the rest of the dignitaries for the celebrations on the rainy and muddy Monday morning last week. The AG-Country Director, Nickson Ogwal used the platform to urge the youth to work hard and show the world that they are not leaders of tomorrow but leaders of today.

"This can only be done if you organise yourselves and exhibit a high level of hard work and discipline", he said.

Earlier at the function, the youth failed to perform their anti-corruption songs and skits after the state house security detail rejected the critical content therein. The CDs counsel came in handy as the disgruntled youth felt energized to keep the pro-poor campaigns candle burning.

During the event, Museveni challenged ministry permanent secretaries to ensure workers earn their pay.

"There is also laziness among public officers which greatly undermines service delivery. Some public officers report late for duty and when they report they spend most of the office time chatting on social media platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp."

The President, to the delight of the youth also made tough pronouncements on corruption.

"I want to repeat for all to hear that any politician or civil servant who involves himself or herself in corruption will have endangered himself or herself. We shall not only wait to catch you red-handed as has fortunately happened recently," he said.

"Even by auditing your actions, we can know that you are corrupt. Why should you delay authorization of an investment when you know very well that millions of our children need jobs? Do we need any other evidence if the investor has the money and you delay him? Delaying a credible investor is, corruption. We shall not need any other evidence", he said to a thunderous applause from the youth.

Reflections from Washington

This week, Arthur continues with the theme-based examination of the forthcoming 5th Country Strategic Paper. Today, he explains who the people living in extreme poverty are and why ActionAid seeks to focus on them. You need to read this to ensure that you are either among them or not.

He writes,

"In one of the 5th Strategy Paper drafting team meetings, a senior staff from ActionAid inquired - if we limit our target group to people living in extreme poverty only, what happens to other oppressed groups like teachers, workers, the cooperative movement, the unemployed youth...?" [Read the full blog here.](#)

Week Ahead

- The Women Rights team will visit Dr Stella Nyanzi tomorrow. They will be led by the Grants Coordinator and chairman of the ActionAid Kimeeza; Yuda Rwakogo. The Weekly camera will be on board.
- ActionAid will take part in the EU Day celebrations tomorrow. We shall capture the moments.