

Weekly

July 3— 9



Galagala Primary school; from tree shades to dusty mud and wattle classrooms and now three permanent classroom blocks. The pupils dreamed of being Ministers, Presidents and teachers; the future now seems bright. The Greeks are in Pader this week to construct a 3rd classroom block in addition to the several school basic needs they have provided. Welcome to the Weekly!

Galagala Primary school; From Grass to Growth!



Above-Left: The mud and wattle structure that served as a classroom to the pupils. **Right** are the pupils in front of the first classroom block that AAU constructed as a result of the fundraising drive at its 30yr anniversary.

Below -Left : The Greek volunteers being welcomed by the children in Galagala. **Right-** Earlier on their journey, they got stuck on a bad road that was impassable. They got out of the cars and walked across the bad stretch.

Despite hostile weather, pupils of Galagala Community school in Pader District used to learn under trees due to lack of classrooms. For close to five years, the pupils learned under tree shades and used stones and bricks as desks during classes. The nearest Government aided primary schools with descent structures were over 5kms away, a distance that was too long for the pupils to traverse on a daily basis. Their parents had sat and resolved on a community school to ensure that the children at least get some basic education. The weather was indeed hostile. The sun and the rains affected the pupils immensely.

A good Samaritan donated a piece of land. The parents erected a mud and wattle structure as a classroom. The pupils then graduated from the tree shades to the dusty classrooms. Despite the hardships, the pupils were determined to make it in life. They wanted to be Ministers, Teachers and even Presidents!

ActionAid, during its 30 year anniversary in Uganda visited the school and made a decision to improve the learning conditions. ActionAid launched a fundraising drive to construct a class room block at the school. [Watch the initial fundraising video here.](#)

With support from ActionAid staff and partners, money was raised and the first block was elected and unveiled to the pupils. While they were excited about it, they cried out for more funding to acquire furniture, textbooks and other school basic needs. The Pader District officials at the function pledged to lobby and ensure that the school becomes Government aided. [View the launch video here.](#)

ActionAid Greece, on reading this humble story joined the campaign to build Galagala. They raised funds and travelled to Uganda last year to practically take part in the construction of the second classroom block.

Yesterday, another group of 45 Greeks flew in the country and braved the long road trip to Pader to again take part in the construction of the 3rd classroom block. The guests were intercepted by a bad road stretch that was impassable. They had to get out of the cars and walk across the impassable part of the road while others pushed the cars. However, this did not kill their spirit of contributing to the realisation of the dreams of the Galagala pupils. The team will be in Galagala until Friday, building the classroom block, interacting with the pupils and parents of Galagala and learning about the AAU work in the community. While in Pader, the Greeks will eat and sleep in the community with the community.

The weekly publication team will capture all activities and present them to you in the next issue of the weekly.

Busiki and Pallisa Children speak out on child abuse!



Mutesi Mebra reading the petition on behalf of thousands of pupils at the event

In commemoration of the Day of the African Child, ActionAid Busiki supported children to petition the Government over the hostile learning environment in the district. The District held the belated event last week at Bukono Primary school in the Sub country of Ivukula.

Under the theme; **Accelerating Protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Uganda by 2030**, both children and duty bearers were called to action to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence in the communities.

A Petition presented by the children pointed out sexual harassment, negligence by male parents and poverty as the key issues affecting their well being and progress in Education. The girl community particularly pointed to the patriarchal nature of society that prefers to educate the boy as opposed to the girl child and often forcing the girls into marriages.

“Society has condemned me because of my female gender. They would rather marry me off as my brothers are sent to school. This must change”, stated Mutesi Mebra as she read out the petition. Mebra is an ActionAid Sponsored child.

The Resident District Commissioner of Busiki demanded that the petition be translated into local languages so that the entire community takes note of what the children were advancing and act on the issues. All speeches at the function were limited to allow the children express their challenges through the music, poems and drama that they had prepared. They indeed did not disappoint.

In Pallisa, where a belated commemoration of the Day of the African child was also held, the community demanded for an end to crimes committed against children. These include defilement, early marriages, child neglect, corporal punishments in schools among others.

Earlier in the day, the pupils from five primary schools in the district took part in a children’s Rights quiz. The stiff spot quiz competition aimed at educating children about their rights and building their confidence in demanding for them. Kachango Primary school won the competitions after Narchwyo beating Gogonyo Lake View school, which came second. The winners walked away with prizes, including scholastic materials, trophies and cash.

The children’s energetic drama and music performances that brought out real life stories of how children are abused triggered a lot of learning and relearning among the guests and children.

The L.C.III Chairperson of Gogonyo, Mrs Taliba Margret stated that their eyes had been opened to the realities of child abuse.

“You have opened our eyes. We are going to act”, she pledged. She also thanked ActionAid for making the function a reality.

The Day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the OAU Organisation of African Unity. It honors those who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976 on that day. It also raises awareness of the continuing need for improvement of the education provided to African children. In Soweto, South Africa, on June 16, 1976, about ten thousand black school children marched in a column more than half a mile long, protesting the poor quality of their education and demanding their right to be taught in their own language. Hundreds of young students were shot. More than a hundred people were

killed in the protests of the following two weeks, and more than a thousand were injured.

On June 16th every year, governments, NGOs, international organisations and other stakeholders gather to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the full realization of the rights of children Africa



The children spoke out on Defilement through music.



In a poem, they emphasized equality between the boy and girl child.



The quiz winners took home prizes!

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AA Malawi Appreciates Ms. Judy Kamanyi!



Ms. Judy receives a present from the current Board Chairperson of ActionAid Malawi

ActionAid Malawi bid farewell to our own Ms. Judy Kamanyi two weeks ago. Judy has been the International Secretariat representative on the Malawi board, serving as the Chairperson of the Finance and Audit committee, a position she has held since 2012.

As they bid farewell to her, the Malawi team was great full to Judy and selflessly guiding the team through several checks and advices for the last five years. She had a heavy gift as a token from Malawi to Fly home with. Ms Judy retired with 14 other members.

Judy will continue to serve as a member of the AAU board, Chairing the Board Governance and Development committee, her term having been extended until December 31st this year.

Reflections from Washington On Age Limits Debate

Unless we create real political risks for members of parliament, the age-limit will pass just like several draconian legislations because a typical MP, whether in opposition or the ruling party is predisposed to look at their selfish, rather than national interests and Museveni knows that very well. So, unless there is a real political threat by ordinary citizens, we shall be counting our losses in a few months’ time..”

[Read Arthur’s blog Here](#) on Lifting of age limits and know why you must stop agoning and instead organise!

WEEK AHEAD:

- This week, ActionAid will conduct Governing Board Committee meetings. We shall bring you details of the deliberations in our next Weekly issue
- The Programs Director will be attending the Women leaders Reflection meeting later this week.
- ActionAid is currently hosting 45 Greek Volunteers as highlighted in our top story.