



Weekly
July 17— 23

Next Monday, ActionAid International will launch **strategy 2028, Action for Global Justice** which represents the next step in our evolution, rooting us more deeply in the contexts where we work, and with the people whose rights and visions we work to achieve. This strategy builds on learnings from our previous strategy, People's Action to End Poverty, our history and practice. Look out for more information on this next Monday.

CSOs Demand for President's stand on Age Limit Debate



Left- FIDA CEO Irene Ovonji stresses a point during the press conference held last week. Right is Dr Livingstone Sewanyana calling upon the public to exercise vigilance and reject the proposals with the contempt that they deserve. Photo credit/New Vision.

ActionAid together with other national Civil Society Organisations have asked President Yoweri Museveni to take a stand and assure the country that he is not interested in the planned proposal to lift the presidential age limit, currently capped at 75 years.

Earlier in the week, the President told journalists during a press conference held at Entebbe State house that there was no proposal by the government to lift the age limit, describing the debate on age limit as a mere speculation and diversion as his Government was busy planning for the development of the country.

However in a joint press conference at the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) last Friday, members of the civil society organizations (CSOs) demanded that Museveni declares to the country that he is not interested in having the presidential age limit lifted despite calls to have it lifted by the ruling party (NRM) supporters.

"Let him come out and deny that he is not interested, if these people are not speaking for him, let him say these are enemies of Uganda," stated Irene Ovonji, the FIDA Chief Executive Officer and former Chairperson of the ActionAid International Governing Board.

A cross section of National Resistance Movement (NRM) party members, on Tuesday resolved to embark on a countrywide campaign to promote the proposal to remove the presidential age limit. The CSOs indicated that amending Article 102 (b) of the Constitution, to lift the age limit would cause political instability in the country.

"This is not a personal attack on the person of President Museveni, but we are looking at the generations to come. The age limit is the only safeguard this country is left with," Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana the FHRI Executive Director said.

Land acquisition

The CSOs also bashed the government on the proposed amendment of Article 26 of the Constitution to enable government takeover private land without prior compensation, saying it is unconstitutional. They noted that there is need to ensure prior compensation of members of the public before the government can make use of their property such as land.

"These proposals are unconstitutional and we are ready to oppose them. No one can intimidate us, we are going to sensitize Ugandans on why they should oppose these amendments," stated ActionAid's Nickson Ogwal, the Director of Fundraising.

The government recently tabled the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill 2017 which has since been forwarded to the parliamentary committee on legal and parliamentary affairs for scrutiny, to amend Article 26 of the Constitution and pave way for compulsory acquisition of private land for government projects such as road construction.

The CSOs closed the press conference with a call to Members of Parliament and Ugandans in general to exercise vigilance and reject these proposals with the contempt that they deserve.

Volunteers improve learning in Nebbi!



Some of the pupils of Nyacara school. They were excited about the play area

Last week, the Children of Nyacara primary school and Classic Nursery in Nebbi bid farewell to Johannes Trankilde and Camilla Moller Madsen. The two volunteers from Denmark came in the country three months ago and were posted to the two schools under Nebbi cluster. They were teaching English language and Mathematics to the pupils.

According to Matilda Natukunda, the GBV Shelter Project Officer in Nebbi, the two volunteers realized that the children lacked enough playing facilities and yet these play a pivotal role in the learning of the children.

"They embarked on a fundraising drive to set up a play area in Nyacara school. They raised the money from their family and friends back home. The money was used to buy playing equipment and the set up was done by the volunteers", she said.

The school now has swings and a sand box to ensure that children remain children by playing as they learn

As Camila and Johannes bid farewell to the children, they were satisfied that they had contributed to improving the learning environment using their minimal resources and skills.

Volunteers are committed young people under the ActionAid **People for Change** Program with little practical and professional skills. Some are high school graduates with some work experience while few have diplomas or trainings in fields like nursing, accounting, teaching and information technology. These young people have over the years been committed to contributing to the development of local communities and host organizations. The over all aim of the volunteer program is for intercultural meeting to create an expansion and exchange of consciousness and awareness which will create dialogue and break down the



Camilla and Johannes painting the sand box.

FGG Support visit a success!



The ActionAid monitoring team meeting with the LASPNET team last week. They commended AAU's improvement in Project management.

Last week, the Fair, Green and Global Project Accountant at the international secretariat, Ms. Eunice Wambua conducted a Country monitoring visit for the project.

The routine visit was conducted ahead of the midterm review of the project in 2018. The project team visited Action Alliance in Lira, SEATINI and LASPNET, all of which are FGG implementing partners.

During the visits, an internal review of the project management and implementation was conducted to check on the progress and donor compliance. In all the organisations visited, the monitoring team met with the Accountants of the different organisations and the programme team. The week-long exercise enabled partners to review their obligations as per the donor compliance requirements, check capacity of the implementing partners which is a core

element of the project and the overall performance of the project.

The partners expressed their appreciation to the ActionAid Project management team for the improved coordination and timely feedback on issues arising. The partners were asked to improve the fund absorption as this, among others would attract more funding from the donor.

During the exit meeting, Ms. Wambua was impressed by the internal control system at ActionAid Uganda and the continuous partner capacity building offered to the implementing partners.

Reflections from Washington



As ActionAid International and ActionAid Uganda both prepare to launch their Strategy papers, Arthur (who will soon be back home) notes that both Papers emphasize the need to work with and support, where need be, social movements and people's struggles. But what are 'people's struggles' and what does it mean to support them?

'People's struggles are rooted in injustices, often felt by a group of people or communities. It is an expression of resistance to that injustice by those directly affected by it, and committed to use diverse means to achieve justice and in many cases dignity by those involved. In Uganda, examples of people's struggles include the resistance to land-grabs directly and indirectly, unfair eviction of tenants from land or properties to make way for often large scale private or public projects, pensioners seeking justice and facing the torrid experience of moving long distances and getting little or no service at all'.

[Read the full blog here.](#)

WEEK AHEAD:

- This week, the Fundraising Director will support the development of proposals for funding to DGF this week
- The ActionAid Federation is in final preparations for the launch of the International Strategy Paper next Monday
- Harriet Gimbo, the Programs Director is in Katakwi supporting the transition processes in the Cluster.