



**Weekly**  
Dec. 4— 10

Arthur is leaving ActionAid Uganda. Here is what one CSO leader wrote: *Change is a factor of life among others. Though it is true that you will certainly be missed by many as one of the very few NGO Leaders who serve above self, I remember very well when you made a personal humanitarian gesture with personal resources and supported us both as a regional CSO Network and as an organization when we were going through trying times. This was very kind of you and it exhibited a rare form of solidarity for a noble cause*– Dr Bagambe S.

## A moment As a woman– Pallisa men humbled!



(L-R) A woman scores against the men during the netball competition. Middle are men in the cycling competition. All competitors cycled while carrying their wives. Right is a man babysitting. He confessed that the task was not as easy as it seemed and pledged to support his wife from that day forward.

The ActionAid Gender Based Violence Shelter in Pallisa organised a sports gala last week to commemorate the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based violence. The advocacy gala was held at St. Jude Primary school.

The gala started with a cycling competition flagged off by the Chief Administrative Officer of Pallisa. In this particular competition, men had to compete while carrying their wives on the bicycles.

This was followed by a football match between the women and men and later a netball match.

The day was crowned when the men wore women's shoes and had a five minutes walk in them. One of the participants in this exercise stressed that "women's shoes" are not easy to walk in.

Ogalu Abdul stated that it was no mean task to do garden work, cook for the family, nurse the baby, collect firewood, fetch water and many more tasks. He urged the men together with their sons to reduce the work burden on the women and girl children.

Other men added that only five minutes in women's shoes seemed like 24 hours. They acknowledged that the activities of the day had opened their eyes to the troubles that their wives, mothers and daughters go through.

"I will definitely change the way I treat my wife. Its not easy being a woman," stated another male participant.

Stella Atunyo, the GBV Shelter Program officer said that the activity was organised to raise consciousness among the men that women are equal human beings who get tired, but more importantly need support and love from their men and sons.

"We wanted to emphasize the issue of male involvement in ending GBV. Am happy that men are going back home with a new love and commitment to improve the lives of their girls and wives by supporting them reduce the work burden but more importantly end GBV," she said.

## Kween men urged to unlearn violence



A woman speaks out during the meeting.



The police urged men to stop violence.

Contrary to the norm where panellists go to radio stations to present issues on Gender Based Violence and listeners call in to the radio stations to give their views, Kween GBV Shelter adopted community radio as a platform of ensuring participation of the entire community. Last week, men and women from Sebei sub region convened at Benet Sub-County headquarters to carefully analyse what the main drivers of GBV in the region are but more importantly highlight the role of men and boys in ensuring safety of women and girls from GBV.

Despite the fact that the Sebei sub region is a purely patriarchal society, the community radio model tactfully created space for women to speak out, which is not a very common practice in the region.

During the broadcast, the issues that men pointed out as causes of GBV were mobile phones that women pay more attention to instead of their men, failure to serve men food in time, the savings groups that women belong to which promote rumourmongering among others.

The women however pointed out more fundamental issues like alcoholism, the oppressive cultural norms, polygamy, among others as the drivers of GBV.

The Police together with the District Gender officers urged the men to outlive the culture of violence.

"Men are not born violent, they just learn to be violent. That means they can unlearn violence and adopt peaceful means of addressing the issues raised here," stated the police officer in charge of the Child and Family Protection unit.

Marie Debora Lwanga, the GBV shelter Program Officer in Kween called upon the women participants to outlive the patriarchal silence that they accord to violence in their relationships and speak out before they die in silence.

In the community radio model, the radio and the presenters conduct the usual radio program from the community. They set up a studio on site and start normal programming. The program is listened to, by the usual audience but has more participation.

## Mubende men tipped to use Sports Passion to end GBV



According to Esther Kisembo, the Mubende Gender Based Violence shelter Program Officer, the incidence of GBV remains high in the district. While the shelter programs have contributed towards the prevention and response of Gender based violence through the SURGE project, the number of cases received at the shelter stand at 603 (from January to date).

The shelter, last week held a sports gala to commemorate the 16 days of Activism against GBV. The sports gala was aimed at engaging with men to emphasize their roles and responsibilities in ensuring safety for women and

girls. The event was attended by 203 men and women. The LC (iii) Chairperson, who represented the District Chief Administrative Officer called upon the men in the audience to use the same passion that they have for sports to address GBV and ensure safety of women and girls.

"Don't wait for your neighbor's wife to be killed. When you notice violence, even when its not in your household, go out and report it using the available referral pathway," he said.

The participants in the sports gala were awarded with prizes, but more importantly, a message to work at ensuring the safety of all women and girls in the community.

## NGO Leaders react to CD's Farewell message!



AAU's Board chair, Nicholas Opiyo writes a farewell message for Arthur.

Last week, Arthur finally wrote to the civil Society leadership to announce his departure from ActionAid Uganda and his new role at the ActionAid Global Secretariat. He announced that he was stepping down as Country Director of ActionAid Uganda and taking up a Global Position as Federation Development Director still at ActionAid. While the staff and other people close to Arthur have known this for the last four months, many were hearing it for the first time. In fact, I got several calls from the media, who wanted to know if Arthur had been compromised by Government or if ActionAid Uganda had been given a condition to get rid of Arthur so that the accounts are unfrozen. However, the CSO leaders had some inspiring reactions to Arthur's

communication. Take a read...

**I cannot thank you enough for the many years you have inspired me and the lessons I have taken out of your work. It has been many years of struggle and your contribution to nation and region building is etched beyond Uganda's borders. Your statement is a very strong goodbye statement whilst your message about internal governance of CSOs is particularly pertinent. Thank you, for you.( Joyce Kokuteta Ngaiza , Governance Adviser; DFID-Uganda)**

**For sure we will miss you as an icon in the Ugandan Civil Society Fraternity. I personally looked up to you as a role model and as a leader in our busy schedules I didn't get time to work with much and get insights on how to govern NGOs. I particularly liked your take home message for CSOs "I also leave at a time when civil society needs to do a lot of deep soul searching about its relevance and re-examine itself internally. The spate of internal governance deficits unfolding within civil society is perhaps a lot more damaging than what we fear from the wider environment." This reminds me of one of your papers "Moving beyond Egos and Logos." Good luck with your next endeavours ( Brenda Kugonza, Former National Coordinator of National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders in Uganda.)**

**You have done your part. You have grown ActionAid over the last couple of years. The role you have played here in Uganda and at regional and global levels in terms of advocating for and promoting accountability, transparency and good governance can not be overstated. We are sure AAI will find the right placing for the new CD. Am personally only worried that you may not find the time we need from you to support us at the NNGOF Board!!! As we continue the struggle for social justice in Uganda, we pledge the continued collaboration with Christine. Thank you and wish you good luck in your new global assignment. BUT, Uganda will miss your direct touch. (Byabasajja Abdallah(Executive Director, CEDO)**

**Thank you for building strong team at ActionAid Uganda and your departure is even an opportunity for them to even do better. For the meantime b close to us all through mail because we shall continue to engage you time and again. For sure you are one of those through mail because we shall continue to engage you time and again. For the meantime b close to us all through mail because we shall continue to engage you time and again. For the meantime b close to us all through mail because we shall continue to engage you time and again. ( Odong Geoffrey, Executive Director-FORAMO UGANDA)**

**You are an inspiration to many of us. Thanks you for your courage, big heart and words of wisdom.**

**Thank God for this information age, we shall not let go of you! I trust you will continue your mentoring, coaching and exemplary life. Go brother and be our ambassador whenever God has led you.**

**( Catherine Kanabahita)**