



Dec. 11—17

Dear reader! This is the last edition of the Weekly that you will receive this year. I want to thank you all for being a great audience, for the feedback, for the content and for the support you have given to ActionAid this year. We also want to say farewell to Arthur, the great leader! Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Forum Theatre attended by hundreds!



Left: The community demonstrates the GBV that is happening in families due to poor management of Oil compensation cash. Right are the hundreds of people who turned up for the theatre.

The Extractives Governance Unit of AAU in partnership with Kitara Development Initiative (KITADI), successfully organized a forum theatre over the weekend. The main focus was on the impact of oil and gas developments on the rights of communities especially the women and young people. The Key message was on the challenges posed by compensation cash windfalls resulting into Gender Based Violence and family instability due to male dominance in decision making.

The event was held in Kaiso village (landing site, in Toonya Parish, Buseruka Sub-county, Hoima district.).

According to Didas Muhumuza, the Extractives Governance Project Coordinator at AAU, the event registered an excellent attendance with over 600 participants.

Pertinent issues were raised and clarifications were provided by the local leaders and local partner's representatives accordingly. Key among the issues included limited information flow on oil and gas issues; GBV and alienation of women and young people from decision-making; poor compensation of the impacted people; corruption among the local leaders; land "grabbing" tendencies; and weak presence of the central government on the ground so as to assist with management of issues among others.

The Secretary for Women Affairs on the L.C 1 Executive of Kaiso village (one Nyanjangi) implored all stakeholders involved in decision making to consider involvement of women and young people in key discussions and decision making processes since they suffer most from the consequences of hosting the oil and gas developments. She appreciated the eye-opening and insightful messages delivered through the forum theatre. She further advised that such initiatives should be promoted to provide a platform for locals to engage in oil and gas activities more meaningfully.

AAU's Didas promised that the forum theatre initiative shall be maintained and concretized to ensure that local communities are supported to comprehend and appreciate the implications of the oil and gas activities in their vicinity and how they can position and organize themselves so as to be able to benefit more from the undertakings.

AAU Clusters Bid farewell to Arthur



A turkey for a great leader!



Staff share last moments with Arthur



Staff write on Arthur's back some special messages

Last week, Kapchorwa Cluster hosted the Cluster meeting with the outgoing AAU country Director, Arthur.

Members of staff from Kapchorwa, Pallisa and Katakwi managed to meet at the Kapchorwa offices to share their thoughts and views on the leadership of outgoing AAU country director and their vision for AAU.

Arthur has been holding informal farewell meetings with cluster staff to get their views on his leadership tenure, what they think AAU will lose upon his departure and any pending work which requires the attention of the Country Director.

During the meetings, staff spoke about the frozen AAU accounts and the impact that the freeze has had on general programming and operations in the different clusters.

While many acknowledged the fact that their work has been derailed by the freezing of the accounts, they added that the situation has enabled them see the impact of their work in the community.

"We have seen how much people have prayed that our accounts be unfrozen. Others have donated money to support our initiatives", stated one member of staff.

At the meeting, members of the community testified to the tremendous work that AAU had done and asked staff from the local authority and police to mount pressure on their bosses to ensure that the accounts are unfrozen.

Arthur, in his remarks assured staff that their welfare would be catered for and that investigations into the matter by the police and the central bank had shown that AAU was absolutely clean.

"I can assure you that you will get your salaries and we will be working overtime to make sure that things will normalise," Arthur said.

Arthur added that he had enjoyed working with the Uganda team and would continue working with AAU in his new role.

AAU Staff Trained in SASA methodology



AAU staff at the SASA training last week.

To address the gaps experienced in addressing Violence Against Women and girls (VAW), Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) conducted a 5 days training of partner staff on the SASA! Methodology.

SASA, (**S**-Start, **A**-awareness, **S**-support and **A**-Action) is a Kiswahili word which means NOW. In other words, Now is the time to prevent VAW and HIV/AIDS.

The training focused on building staff knowledge on the first phase of the SASA! Methodology; **START**. The start phase mobilizes communities to understand the different power imbalances that exist in the community. At this stage, members are encouraged to begin thinking about violence against women and HIV/AIDS as interconnected issues and foster power within themselves to address the issues.

After the **START** phase, the team will be expected to undertake another training on the **AWARENESS** phase which is the second phase, **Support** Phase(3rd) and lastly the **Action** Phase.

Benjamin Tukei, the Program Officer at ActionAid Katakwi stated that the training was an eye opener especially in understanding the different power imbalances and how to tackle them.

"One of our major challenges has been how to engage communities to understand the how power has perpetuated VAW in the communities", he said.

Joyce Ajilong, the Kumi Gender Based Violence Shelter Program Officer added that the training had build her confidence.

All participants pledged to ensure that the SASA ! methodology is rolled out in the communities they work in.

Week Ahead— Join AAU in Solidarity

ActionAid Uganda invites all staff, members of the Governing Board, General Assembly, partners and well-wishers for a solidarity action this Wednesday at the commercial court, 9AM.

Background.

On 20th and 21st September, 2017, Uganda Police sieged the offices of ActionAid Uganda, GLISS and Solidarity Uganda. A couple of weeks later, they did the same to the Uhuru Institute. On 6th October, 2017, Bank of Uganda ordered a freezing of all major ActionAid Uganda Accounts gravely undermining our operations. Bank of Uganda later wrote a letter to our bankers (Standard Chartered) unfreezing the said accounts after their own investigations established that all organisational transactions were legal and legitimate.

We have for the last 2 months explored as many diplomatic actions as possible to unfreeze the accounts to no avail. After an extensive reflection and analysis, ActionAid Uganda has decided to seek legal redress that, in our analysis if successful, will not just relieve the Organisation of the immense inconvenience it has suffered, but will be of important consequence for other Civil Society Organisations facing the same or similar challenges. Join us at the Commercial Court this Wednesday.

For those who would like to contribute to this struggle for justice by buying a T-Shirt, please contact my colleague/0756839390 and Fiona Awili on Samanya.Kyategeka@actionaid.org or 0718780664/0756839390 and Fiona Awili on Fiona.Awili@actionaid.org 0788758623.