



Jan. 15— 21

Dear reader! In the current 5th Strategy, ActionAid is working to expand opportunities for young people to realise their right to better livelihoods by 2022. In the photo, ActionAid under the EU funded YESSEN project was exposing young people to agriculture during the agribusiness caravan. (file photo). Welcome to the Weekly!

Locals Decry Segregation in Oil Jobs



The Pakwach Residents turned up in large numbers for the debate. Some even climbed a tree to get a better view of the proceedings.

Community members of Akela village in Pakwach district stated that they have not benefitted from the employment opportunities in the oil industry. This was during a community barazza organized by the ActionAid Extractives unit under the Ford funded project of "Power in People Influencing People in Power".

Okwethengu Peter, one of the residents narrated that when Total set foot in the neighbouring village of Panyimur to search for oil, they 'imported' casual and qualified labour from other districts while ignoring Pakwach locals who could equally provide the labour.

"Our children are educated and strong enough to do the same work. Our leaders should lobby for you so that even our own get employed," he told the gathering.

Other issues raised included domestic violence specifically, women battering resulting from men's misuse of compensation money, unfair compensation rates, increased land disputes including land grabbing among others.

The LC1 chairman of Akela sub county, Olego Patrick, re-assured the locals that the local leadership has done its best to intervene and that explains why Total E&P as the oil company throws beads in community meetings and the lucky person who chooses a lucky bead gets the job-specially as a casual labourer. He however promised to continue pushing for involvement of the local people.

The Petroleum Act 2013 provides for involvement and recognition of local content in host communities where oil wells are found. These host communities deserve a percentage of benefits from the oil discovered as it is supposed to benefit the host communities first, before it benefits the rest of the country.

Mubende evicted miners resolve to Organize..



A district leader addressing the miners



Didas(left) with the miners during the meeting

ActionAid Uganda in partnership with the Ssingo Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners Association (SsASSMA) organized a community Barraza to review the situation pertaining the Mubende Gold mines evictions.

Since the evictions that took place last August, the miners were too scared to organize and meet to find a way forward. Additionally, no Organization or Government agency had reached out to them to discuss the way forward.

The meeting was attended by the miners, district officials, security operatives and rights defenders. The miners appealed to all authorities present to work at reinstating them in viable mining areas as opposed to the proposed less viable ones of Rubaali and Madudu.

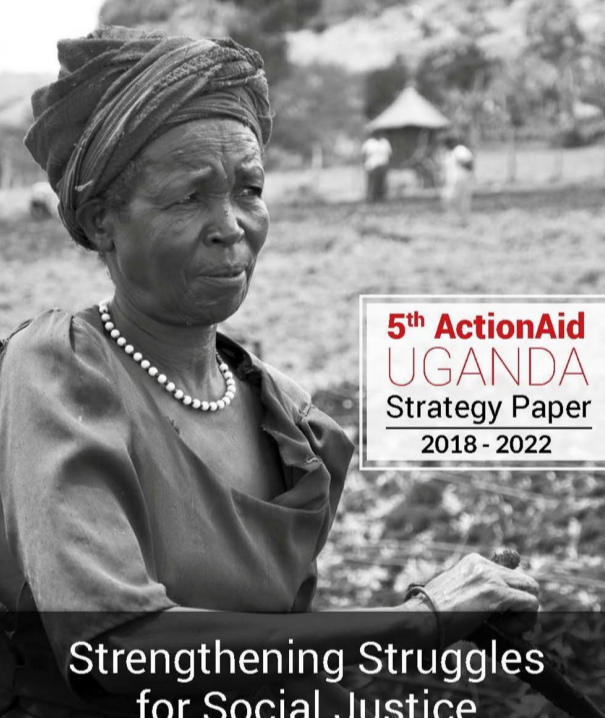
"The miners also called upon the district authorities to defend and protect them from intrusion of the state and large mining companies", reported Didas Muhumuza, the Extractives Governance Coordinator at ActionAid.

The miners also revealed that illegal mining was being conducted under the cover of security operatives and this is making the Government make more revenue losses than was the case before the small scale miners were evicted.

The next steps of action agreed upon during the meeting include; mobilization and organization of the miners under SsASSMA for joint and strong actions with regard to

protection of their rights. SsASSMA will lead efforts to engage a big company (Gemstone International Ltd) to consider working with them in the same mining areas for the sake of attaining mutual benefits. ActionAid in partnership with SsASSMA shall jointly undertake initiatives aimed at enabling the miners to diversify on the sources of their livelihood and avoid dependence on one single source which comes with challenges.

Selection of partners kickstarts



5th ActionAid
UGANDA
Strategy Paper
2018 - 2022

Strengthening Struggles
for Social Justice

In the 5th Strategy Paper, ActionAid set out to strengthen its practice of working in partnerships. This is based on the belief that addressing the structural causes of poverty requires collaborative and sometimes collective action. In the new strategy, the partnership approach has been redesigned to focus on joint undertakings, the collective ownership of results and mutual value addition.

In view of the same, ActionAid sent out a call for expression of interest for partnerships which was responded to by 180 organisations.

Last week, ActionAid carried out a partner selection exercise at Royal Suites in Bugolobi.

A multi-functional team that formed the Partners Selection Committee was put together to support this exercise. Their main task was to review the expressions of interest and

objectively rate the applicants. The committee made recommendations on the partners to work with. AAU is expected to carry out due diligence assessment visits to the different organisations and thereafter conduct an orientation and induction meeting with the selected partners.

The selection process which started on Monday is expected to be completed by February.

"Our task is to ensure that at the end of the process, the organization bring on board like minded partners who will put up a unified fight against social injustices", stated Fiona Awilli, the Partnerships Officer.

Week Ahead—

- ActionAid will host Maxwell Stamp PLC (DFID Grant Management Agency). The team will be assessing performance of the Support to Uganda's Response to Gender Equality (SURGE) Project in the past one year. They will visit Amuru, Gulu, Lira and Mubende GBV Shelters.
- On 2nd February 2018, The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) will hold a historic replenishment in Senegal, co-hosted with France. This is the first time that such a global fund replenishment will take place in a developing country. The donor funds will only flow to countries that commit to maintain or expand their own domestic resources for education. The maximum a developing country can receive towards education financing will be \$100 million. The GPE encourages developing countries to make credible pledges to maintain or increase their spending on education towards the benchmark of 20% national budgets. While discussing a brief on the national budget framework paper for financial year 2018/2019 for the education and sports sector last week, the Members of Parliament from the Education and Sports Committee observed that although the government wants education for all, that ambition is not matched with funding. According to the Committee Chairperson, Connie Nakayenze (Mbale Woman MP), the budget proposal for the 2018/19 financial year would see 11% allocated towards education sector, down from 11.4% under the current budget. This implies that the sector stands to lose 0.4 per cent, amounting to UGX 81.9 billion. She added that education sector spending as a share for the national budget has reduced from 14.6% since 2012/2013. This week, ActionAid and other CSO actors together with Government officials will have a dialogue on education financing with a call on the Government to increase the budgetary allocation towards the sector or stand to lose out on the \$100 million grant for education financing.