



## WEEKLY

April 13 - APRIL 19

### Agriculture needs higher budget allocations

ActionAid together with the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group on Wednesday organized a National Pre-Budget dialogue themed: "Every Shilling Counts" at hotel Africana. The dialogue was the first of its kind since the passing of the Public Finance Management Act 2015. The dialogue was attended by over 500 stakeholders including farmers, community monitors, youth, persons with disabilities, development partners and government officials.

Apio Polly, an ActionAid supported farmer from Katakwi decried the proposal by government to reduce the agriculture budget which will mainly affect agriculture research and extension services. She added that by allocating only 3% of the national budget to agriculture, the government continues to contravene its earlier commitment in the Malabo declaration to allocate a minimum of 10% of the national budget to the agriculture sector.

Apio further castigated government for allocating over 50% of the agriculture budget to NAADs secretariat without any clear implementation strategy and targets for utilization for national level activities while nothing is allocated to the local Governments where the rural farmers operate.

Responding to farmers concerns, the acting Commissioner, Budget, Policy and Evaluation in the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Robert Okudi stated that the resource envelope was inadequate and therefore, could not meet every need.

"Uganda has chosen to concentrate and invest heavily in infrastructure since it's the unifying sector. It benefits all other sectors like Agriculture, Health, Tourism, Education, among others."

Mr. Okudi however welcomed the civil society proposed interventions for enhancement of domestic revenue mobilization.

The Former Minister of Agriculture Ms. Victoria Sekitoleko tasked the Government to empower farmers with the technical knowhow and strengthen Uganda Development Bank to provide agriculture financing to farmers.

### ActionAid moves to promote rights in schools



Some of the primary school participants who were trained in children's rights

Excitement was in the air as pupils, teachers, School Management Committee members, and parents from 9 schools converged in Pallisa at Nagwere Guest House conference hall for three day training on Promotion of Rights in Schools, organized by ActionAid, Pallisa LRP.

The training attracted participants from Pallisa, Budaka and Kubuku districts. The AAU Program Development Manager, Richard Olong, and ActionAid Kotido staff David Moses Okello facilitated the training.

Parents were concerned about the change in the local language alphabet that is used in lower primary. This sparked a heated debate prompting the District Education Officers of Pallisa and Budaka to intervene. They informed parents that the introduction of the new letters was meant to capture the true essence of the language because includes sounds that are unique to each language and yet did not have representation in the alphabet.

The children who attended the training were excited about the exposure and greater understanding of children's rights.

"We have been studying children's rights. I now understand their importance, relevancy, and real life scenarios," remarked one of the pupils.

The parents added that the inadequate infrastructure and facilities at school and the poor remuneration that the teachers receive is contributing to abuse of children's rights at school. They appealed to the district education offices to address these issues.

The training ended on a high note with each school making an action plan for promoting children rights in schools.

**WHAT WILL SWAY YOUTH VOTES IN 2016: READ MORE [HERE](#).**

**THE UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, MUKONO (UCU) HAS JOINED OUR FIGHT AGAINST HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTRY. READ MORE [HERE](#).**

**AUSTRALIA'S CHARITIES ARE SCALING BACK PROGRAMME SUPPORT. READ MORE [HERE](#).**



### Stakeholders rethink free trade agreements

The National Development Strategies is a three-country programme being piloted in Uganda, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. It focuses at the long-term development plans and policies needed by the countries to successfully achieve these plans. ActionAid Uganda and SEATINI organized a three days Introductory Training to Policy Space and the National Development Plans at Fairway Hotel in Kampala.

Rick Rowden the Manager Policy and Governance from ActionAid International facilitated the workshop and was hosted on the hot seat at KFM to talk about the shrinking policy space and the consequences it has on Uganda's industrialization process.

Participants from civil society, Academia, ministry of Trade and Industry, Min of Finance, Uganda Manufacturers Association and the private sector attended the workshop.

The Introductory training to Policy Space and National Development Plans provoked the participates to think about the consequences the Free Trade Agreements and the Bilateral Investment Treaties that countries like Uganda are being forced to sign to promote industrial development and employment opportunities. These its believed will lead to an increase in wages, tax base and investment in public sector like health and education.

There an emphasis to build strong working relationships with Civil society, private sector, academia, media and the public sector as a way of having the state fully participating in the industrialization process.

### WEEK AHEAD:

- Saida Bogere, the sponsorship Coordinator is in Ghana for the Sponsorship annual meeting.
- AAU will conduct a management audit committee meeting on Wednesday
- The program thinking team is locked in a program review meeting at ActionAid head office.
- Country director Arthur Larok will be in Ethiopia.

### Women land rights project registers success in its cycle



The DPC responds to concerns.

ActionAid Masindi LRP was in Lira last week to facilitate a bi-annual dialogue on the progress of the soon-to-be-phased-out Women Land Rights project in the Lango sub-region. Participants included cultural, political, and technical leaders from the districts of Oyam, Lira and Pader.

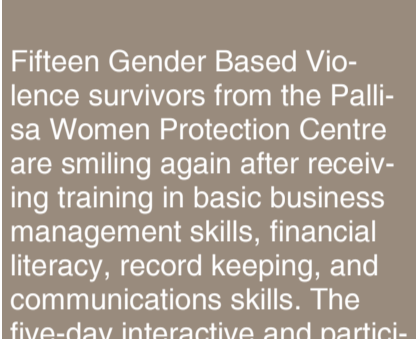
The general sentiment from the participants was that the project was a resounding success and yet a lot still needed to be done. This was evidenced by the desperate requests for help by the women outside the areas of engagement.

The legality of the LCIII courts and the whole LC system at large stole the summit and became so contentious that the DPC of Lira had to step in with a caveat of caution on the participants' claims. After the dust had settled, participants were in agreement that sustainability of the processes initiated by the Women Land Rights project were guaranteed

During its cycle, the project sought to shift the collective community psyche informed and fashioned by a patriarchal legal system that in many cases discriminates against women. The project has rescued and emancipated women from the vice of poverty through access, control and ownership of land which is a principal source of their livelihood.

In Oyam district, 370 cases of land wrangles referred to the ActionAid trained mediators were successfully resolved in favour of women.

### GBV Survivors set for Entrepreneurial roles



GBV Survivors during the training

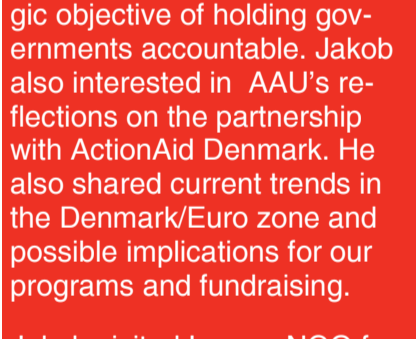
Fifteen Gender Based Violence survivors from the Pallisa Women Protection Centre are smiling again after receiving training in basic business management skills, financial literacy, record keeping, and communications skills. The five-day interactive and participatory training organized by ActionAid took place at Pallisa Gardens Guest house.

This is the second group of survivors to be trained. The group will also receive start-up capital and storage boxes for their Village Savings and Loans Associations.

Each of the women trained drew an action plan that clearly indicated and committed them to certain dates when a visit will be made to monitor the progress of the business start-up.

The women were very grateful to ActionAid for supporting them in their journey to rebuild their lives, families and communities. They sang and danced as they braced themselves for their new roles as entrepreneurs in Pallisa.

### Denmark Chief calls for stronger linkages



Jakob looks at the teachers house construction project by the community. He called for stronger linkages so that the Government can take over such projects

Last week, ActionAid Uganda was honoured to host Jakob Kirkemann Boesen, the International Director of ActionAid Denmark. Jakob was in the country to get more orientation on how we work. Jakob was interested in the AAU program cycle and programing framework with focus on the strategic objective of holding governments accountable. Jakob also reflected on AAU's reflections in the partnership with ActionAid Denmark. He also shared current trends in the Denmark/Euro zone and possible implications for our programs and fundraising.

Jakob visited Iganga NGO forum and had an experience with the neighbourhood assemblies. A neighbourhood assembly (N/A) is a group of community members that come together to analyse issues affecting them and work to demand for accountability from duty bearers to deliver on their mandates. Jakob also interacted with ACCU, DENI-VA and their board members on how they are managing the anti-corruption campaign and network interventions respectively.

In his feedback, Jakob indicated that there was remarkable progress that can be built on for better results ahead. He believes that there is need to strengthen the local, national, and international linkages to support the assemblies to demand for government intervention.

He also recommended a more robust format for planning to include outcomes and budgets segmented against the specific donors for easy follow up.