

The ActionAid Uganda Weekly 22nd - 28th Oct, 2018

Dear Reader,
We bring you highlights of the Global Platform Uganda launch at which the RDC and CD officiated. We also have a story about a young girl's tale of aggravated defilement and from Kapchorwa, a new report on the Mt Elgon boundaries suffices. Find out the fate of communities allegedly living in UWA land. This and more in this weekly. Enjoy!

Global Platform Launched in Uganda; District Leadership Welcomes the Initiative!





Flavia Nalubega

Apac District was full of life last week on Wednesday 17th October 2018 when AAU launched the Global Platform in style and with oomph. Attended by hundreds of people, majority of who were youth from across the country, the excitement was visible among the young people who rejoiced for the safe space created for them.

The Residential District Commissioner for Apac Akello Beatrice confirmed AAU's love for young people and thanked us for empowering them; 'I worked with ActionAid while in Nwoya where we had a number of engagements to empower youth. We are glad that you have extended such initiatives to Apac,' she said.

The Country Director Xavier Ejoyi confirmed that this space shall be used to train young people, empower them to engage and take part in decision making as young people have the potential to challenge the status quo. 'We are pleased to be launching this space in Uganda today which is in nine other countries,' he said. Follow this [link](#) for more details.

AAU Helps 90year old Widow Regain Her Land after 15 Years of Struggle!



By Flavia Nalubega

In 2003, after the LRA war, Elizabeth Atim of Anaka returned from the camps, and what she found in her former home was bare land, used for cultivation by her neighbor's family. Her 50 acres had been grabbed, thanks to her old age, blindness disability, loss of husband and 7 children. Her struggle to regain the land, with support from her daughters fell on deaf ears; all she got in return were death threats from the neighbours.

Reports to the local council leadership over years did not yield results until AAU Gulu cluster under the Women Land Rights in Northern Uganda Project intervened to ensure she accesses back her land.

She is one of the many women headed families, particularly the disabled women who suffer

the wrath of land theft in Northern Uganda. The local council 111 chairman Geoffrey Opobo confirmed that AAU's intervention has seen a drop in land grab cases from 15 to 5 cases reported per day to his office in Anaka. He applauded the legal aid clinics that were established to provide legal support to affected persons in hard to reach areas of this district.

70year Old Defiles his 6year old Grand-daughter in Anaka!



Valentino Okot (70) who has been held in Police custody for aggravated defilement

By Flavia Nalubega

Valentino Okot, shamelessly smiled in the Police cells of Anaka sub county, Nwoya district where he was held for allegedly defiling his 6 year old grand daughter and infecting her with HIV /AIDs.

The young girl brought this to the attention of her grandmother on her return from Lachor hospital where she had spent nights taking care of their sick son. She narrated how the man trumped on her in the night of Friday 12th October while the grandmom was away and smiled

away after the civil deed. Unfortunately, he was infected and the girl refused to tell anyone until two days later. It was thus too late to save her from HIV/AIDS.

Such cases characterize Nwoya and other war struck areas in Northern Uganda. AAU's Gulu WPC under the leadership of Jennipher Ayot and Alice Nora Kipwola rushed in to support in fact finding to ensure justice is received by the affected girl.

The Mobilisation of Conservative Civil society Around the World!

By Arthur Larok

In an interesting and timely recent publication by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, titled the 'Mobilization of Conservative Civil Society' with cases from 10 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa, our former Country Director, Arthur Larok writes on the 'Conservative Alliance against Gender Justice and Equality in Uganda'.

This publication seeks to probe more deeply into the rise of conservative civil society around the world and uncovers strong momentum behind conservative civil society, including varying aims and tactics within its ranks. The writers explain that gone are the days when civil society space was a given, when governments appreciated the work of civil society actors, when civil society was known for great works in championing the global spread of democracy in the developing and postcommunist worlds. In many countries in the developing and postcommunist worlds, as well as in long-established western democracies, conservative forms of civic activism have been multiplying and gaining traction.

Arthur's article is particularly relevant to our work in Uganda as he writes about one of the most protracted legal reforms in Uganda relating to then, Domestic Relations Bill, then Marriage and Divorce Bill and now Family Bill and how ordinarily diametrically different groups coalesced in an alliance of convenience to defeat various iterations of the law in large part to protect their power and privilege. He challenges the Gender Equality movement to think unconventionally if the long overdue family law is to be passed by Parliament. To get the full story, read [here](#)

**Ministry of Lands Presents a Survey Report with a 211km boundary on
Mt. Elgon National Park**



By David Moses Okello

In a bid to implement the presidential directive on the boundary line of the Mt. Elgon National park, the Minister of State for Housing, Chris Baryomusi presided over the presentation of the report on the re-opening of the boundary for Bugisu and Sebei sub-regions. There have been tensions between Uganda Wild Life Authority and the local communities who are the inhabitants of the Forest and the indigenous communities known as the Ndorobos (Benet) who are among those affected by evictions and land grabs.

While presenting the report, Mr. Shaka the Principle Catographer in the Ministry of lands confirmed that the survey team completed the exercise of demarketing the boundaries and found that the 3654 hectares occupied by the communities in Bukwo, Kapchorwa and Kween are within the UWA protected area. Meanwhile, a total of 290 hectares claimed by UWA is outside the protected area which the report recommends to be given to districts and managed by District Land Boards.

The local leaders however refuted allegations of encroachment and insisted that some of the people accused were temporarily resettled by government in those areas. The leaders also faulted the report for not recognizing resettlement issues which have dragged on for over 10 years.

As a representative of the CSOs, AAU Cluster Coordinator welcomed the recommendation by the Minister to receive more information of the affected communities that are categorised as landless. He added that degazetting remains viable in the interest of peace in the sub region. He observed the need for local leaders to share the final report and called for the respect of human rights especially by the UWA teams.

IN THE NEWS

[Global Platform Uganda Launch](#)

[National Dialogue must be beyond Museveni-Besigye, says Larok](#)

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