

The ActionAid Uganda Weekly 8th-14th Oct, 2018

Dear Reader,

This week, we bring you an update from the EALA Parliament where some legislators have become ambassadors for the ratification of ACDEG- a charter that calls on democracy and good governance, thanks to ActionAid's intervention. We also bring you details on AAUK team's visit to Lira to document the YESSSEN project achievements, as well as updates from Katakwi and Masindi. Enjoy!

**AA, EACSO Demand EALA legislators to Commit to the Struggle
Towards Democratic Governance For East Africa!**



By Fredrick Kawoya

ActionAid International with The East African Civil Society Organisations Forum (EACSOF) held a very successful meeting with East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA)'s regional affairs committee on peace and security in Arusha Tanzania. They committed to push the member states to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). Hon Akol Rose Okullu from Uganda committed to support and

Parliament members so that they form a task force that shall be the force behind the AC. They also invited ActionAid to brief them about the charter in Zanzibar at the end of October.

This is supported by EC PANAF Project which aims at mobilising citizens and civil society for the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance. It aims at ensuring that African countries are democratic and accountable to their citizens and aligned with the African Governance Architecture of the AU. The project is implemented by ActionAid in 8 countries namely, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone in partnership three regional NGO forums-EACSOFF, SADC CNO and WACSOFF(West African Civil Society Organisations Forum)

**Penny Appeal Foundation, AAUK Proud of youth Farmers under
YESSEN!**



AAUK and Penny Appeal Foundation Documentation team with the YESSEN Project Uganda team and youth farmers in Lira. Courtesy photo.

Edmond Olowo

Lira project area under Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Self Employment and National Development hosted a team of donors from Penny Appeal Foundation and Action Aid UK from 24th to 26th September 2018. The donor visit was basically to carry out documentation of the project activities for experience sharing and fundraising. The donors commended the youth groups (project beneficiaries) for the commitment and enthusiasm exhibited and their ability to acquire knowledge and skills that will make them to be self-reliant but also bring the youth together, build self-esteem, belief and confidence among the youth. The visiting team also commended AAU project staff for the strong partnership and good working relationship with Lira District Local Government stakeholders .

National Youth Camp, 10 Days of Talking Employment, Hard Work, Development!



Youth after a one week camp in Rwenzori region. Courtesy Photo.

By Heran Nanyegere

AAU, UNESCO and Faraja Africa foundation organised a 10 days heritage camp at Rwenzori national camp under the theme "Obuwangwa Bwaffe Munfuna" which was attended by 65 youth who came from the different regions from Uganda. This was aimed to decrease on the poverty gap among the youth mostly because of unemployment yet our communities are blessed with rich resources and heritage that can address the problems at the same time preserve and promote our culture.

The camp informed, skilled and engaged the youth in sustainable development with respect to

planting trees in endangered areas, cleaning of the camp site to rid it of plastics and other harmful materials. They as well attained information from guides and rangers who equipped them with information on how to promote and protect culture and heritage using digital strategic communication skills.

By the end of the camp, young people were guided on how to develop their own businesses using the business canvas model and these enterprises will be monitored for the next six months to measure the successes, failures and the best measures to use in order to sustain their businesses. They were also able to network amongst themselves by sharing cultures with fellows from Northern, Western, Eastern and Central Uganda alongside three international volunteers from German, Tanzania and South Sudan respectively.

Did you know that your Country Director was once a teacher in Bundibugyo? For this, he is unapologetic about working with ActionAid Uganda in the bid to fight corruption which he believes sinks people further into poverty! He revealed this during an interview with the Independent Magazine. Look out for the full story on Friday 12th October for the full story in the magazine.

AAU in Solidarity with Small holder farmers!



By Benjamin Tukei

While Parliament is reported to have sat on Thursday 4th Oct 2018 to discuss the GMO bill, small holder farmers and other CSOs across Teso region gathered in Soroti Independence Gardens to share knowledge and information regarding the indigenous and traditional seed and food varieties and design strategies of scaling up multiplication to avoid their extinction. The regional event was organized by AAU CIDI, Oxfam, PELUM and other NGOs operating in Teso, under the **theme; *Indigenous and traditional food and seed systems, preserving agricultural biodiversity, ending hunger.***

The agricultural fair was focused on three key aspects; Diversity of traditional species of foods, knowledge and documentation of food sovereignty as well as multiple importance of indigenous and traditional foods and seed exhibited.

During the fair, farmers exhibited the various indigenous seed and foods types, purely organic in nature and farmers showcased traditional preservation methods of the indigenous varieties, the endangered varieties and explained their medicinal, economic and nutritional importance. The event was in preparation for the National indigenous and traditional seed and food fair to be held on 19th Oct 2018 at Uganda manufacturers Association (UMA)

AAU pledged to continue promoting and standing up for indigenous crops against GMOs. The trade fair which will now be held every year is meant to mobilize small holder farmers across the country to strengthen mechanisms of preserving indigenous and traditional seed and food varieties. The regional indigenous seed and food fair presented an opportunity for social movement building which is aligned to the 5th CSP priority two, strategic Objective two.

Masindi LRP Trains RA Facilitators, Activista & Service Delivery Monitors on Power Analysis!



By Sharon Clare Shida

ActionAid Uganda through her strategy “Strengthening Struggles for Social Justice” intends to build an alliance of people living in poverty that are able to confront unequal power relations within the communities, families and national level. In light of this, ActionAid also believes that empowering people living in poverty with their rights will enable them hold government official accountable and demand for gender responsive public service delivery. Masindi LRP conducted a two-day training on power Analysis for Reflection Action (RA) Facilitators, Activista and service delivery monitors to empower them create a picture of the political/power landscape in order for them to understand how and by whom power is exercised to cause and maintain problems and conditions that communities seek to change. The training also sought to strengthen community members to be aware of power dynamics in the development process and be able to confront this power.

The training involved group work to enable the participate to discuss and understand how to use the different power analysis Tools for instance peeling the onion, body map, community power map and Flower Power. The participants were encouraged to use these tools in their communities to change the unequal relations from all levels of household through to global institutions.

DID YOU KNOW??

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during an interview with media. Look out for the full story on Friday 12th October for the full story in The Independent Magazine.

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