

Welcome to the January 2026 Edition of the AWYAD Monthly Newsletter

We are pleased to welcome you to the January 2026 edition of the AWYAD Times monthly newsletter. In this issue, we share key highlights from recent activities and events, offering a snapshot of our progress and the experiences from our work within communities.

This publication reflects our commitment to gathering, analyzing, and sharing information that supports learning, accountability, and impact. We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to making this newsletter possible.

We invite you to enjoy this edition and encourage your continued involvement. Your articles, insights, and feedback remain vital as we work together to uplift our communities.

Regards,
AWYAD Communication Team



Empowering Communities Through AWYAD's Ongoing Efforts

Strengthening Livelihoods Across Kyegegwa District and Kyaka II Refugee Settlement

AWYAD Leads GBV & Child Protection in Western Uganda and Kampala in 2026

AWYAD Amplifying Voices against Child labour in Mayuge District

Rising Strong: Stories of Hope and Protection in Nakivale

AWYAD Champions SRHR and Education Efforts in West Nile

AWYAD Enhances Livelihoods in Kyaka I



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AWYAD CHAMPIONS SRHR AND EDUCATION EFFORTS IN WEST NILE



Fig. 1: Training of teachers

Thanks to support from the **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, AWYAD** and partners **IRC, WVU, RAHU, HI** and **OCA** have helped spark real change across **West Nile**.

In schools, the transformation began with the teachers. Across Pakwach, Nebbi and Maracha, **450 teachers** stepped forward - **92** in Pakwach, **226** in Nebbi and **132** in Maracha. Each received tools, guidance and renewed confidence to help them monitor learner wellbeing, offer mentorship, and respond when a young person needed support. What started as a training quickly grew into a movement of teachers who now serve as guardians of hope for thousands of learners.

As teachers strengthened their role, classrooms filled with new conversations. Through age-appropriate SRHR education, **16,834 learners** gained the knowledge to understand the changes in their bodies, make healthier choices and build the life skills that shape their future. It was more than lessons - it was empowerment, one session at a time.



Fig 2; Senior women teachers with students after a counselling and guidance session.

Beyond the school walls, communities also came alive. Village dialogues, school drives and radio engagements carried the message farther than ever before. In Pakwach alone, **80,000 radio listeners** tuned in. Nebbi's community drives reached **1,966 people**, while Maracha's dialogues brought together **13,910 community members**. Parents, leaders and young people sat in shared spaces to confront the issues that hold their children back, early marriage, alcoholism, harmful norms and the quiet challenges families rarely voice.



Fig. 3: Community dialogues in the community

Impact Story: Jackline's Return to School in Maracha

Amid this momentum came a story that touched the community—Jackline, a 16-year-old from Maracha who had dropped out of P.6 due to pregnancy. After meeting AWYAD staff and her supportive teachers, she found the confidence to return, sit for her exams, and pass. She is now preparing to join P.7, a quiet reminder of what becomes possible when a girl is supported, not abandoned. Her journey continues to inspire other young mothers in the district, showing families and schools that with encouragement, girls can rebuild their dreams and stay on their educational path.



Fig 4; From left: Jackline's mother, Senior Man Teacher, Jackline, AWYAD's Frida Lanyero, and a district-assigned teacher



AWYAD AMPLIFYING VOICES AGAINST CHILD LABOUR IN MAYUGE DISTRICT



AWYAD is implementing a **child protection initiative** in Mayuge District **to eliminate child labour** through community sensitization, government partnerships, and media engagement. We recently partnered with Your Voice - Imanyiro radio station to host talk shows that reached thousands of listeners, empowering them with knowledge on child protection laws, reporting mechanisms, and prevention strategies.

The radio programmes focused on two essential pillars of child protection:

- **Child Protection Legal Framework** – Our guests provided comprehensive insights into Uganda's national legal framework, helping community members understand the laws that safeguard children's rights and well-being.
- **Reporting and Response on Child Protection Cases** – This segment equipped listeners with practical knowledge on how to identify, report, and respond to child protection violations in their communities.
- The discussions were led by senior government officials from Mayuge District Local Government, including the Senior District Labour Officer and the Senior Probation and Social Welfare Officer, whose expertise and insights enriched the conversation and lent authority to the messaging
- These sensitization programmes are part of AWYAD's ongoing commitment to empower communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent and protect children against all forms of violations and exploitation, with particular emphasis on combating child labour in Mayuge District. By leveraging the power of radio, we continue to reach remote communities and create lasting change at the grassroots level.

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Child labour thrives in silence. By bringing these conversations to the airwaves, we are breaking that silence and empowering every listener to become a champion for children's rights."

— AWYAD Programme Team



STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS ACROSS KYEGEGWA DISTRICT AND KYAKA II REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

Thanks to the AGILE Project—implemented by AWYAD and PSFU—livelihoods across Kyegegwa District and Kyaka II Refugee Settlement continue to improve through expanded skills training, stronger market linkages, and psychosocial support for women, youth, and refugees.



Project team visit to Kasule Farmer cooperative in Kasule Subcounty

Beneficiary Enrollment

A total of **1,027** project participants (**51% women**) were enrolled this quarter, reaching **64%** of the annual target. Notably, **73%** are from rural areas, and 10% are persons with disabilities, reflecting the project's strong focus on inclusion.



Community meeting and project participant enrollment in Kakabala sub county

Private Sector Engagement

AGILE mapped **31** new private actors this quarter, bringing the total to **91** businesses across cooperatives, nursery operators, commercial farms, and processors. These partnerships create real job pathways and help shape a market-aligned training curriculum.



One of the private sector players making a submission during a stakeholder mapping meeting.

Curriculum Development for the Coffee Value Chain

AWYAD and PSFU refined a competency-based coffee curriculum through a review of existing manuals, identification of key skills gaps, and consultations with private-sector actors. The updated curriculum will equip youth and women with practical, market-ready coffee value-chain skills.

Mental Health & Psychosocial Support

Eight staff completed PM+ training, enabling them to offer structured psychosocial support. Community sensitization sessions reached **2,111 people**, increasing awareness of stress management and support pathways.

Community & Leadership Engagement

A district inception meeting brought together **33** leaders from OPM, district authorities, cooperatives, and partners. Leaders called for improved vocational sensitization, stronger alignment between training and job market needs, and better seedling production capacity.

Strengthening Community Structures

AGILE supported **44** VSLA groups with **1,176** members, providing training in governance, savings, record-keeping, and financial literacy. Extension workers also helped commercial farmers improve Good Agronomic Practices and market access.



Together, we are building skills, strengthening markets, and expanding opportunities—one community at a time.

AWYAD ENHANCES LIVELIHOODS IN KYAKA I

Building opportunity
and resilience, one
farmer, one season at
a time



In January, our field team in Kyaka 1 has continued to show strong commitment as they support community livelihoods through sustainable agriculture. Their work combines skill, care, and determination.

This season, the team has focused on grafting mango and orange seedlings and raising new coffee clones and cuttings, ensuring a steady supply of healthy seedlings for farmers. As the seedlings mature, they carefully sort and prepare those ready for the market, helping households access improved planting materials and boost income

With the March planting season approaching, preparations are underway - nurseries organized, seedlings assessed, and tools readied to support a productive season.

We appreciate our partners and supporters whose commitment continues to make this work possible - one seedling, one farmer, and one season at a time.



Farmers don't
just grow crops
- they grow
possibilities



In January, AWYAD became the lead agency for GBV and Child Protection services in Western Uganda, strengthening its role in safeguarding refugees across settlements and transit centers.



AWYAD LEADS GBV & CHILD PROTECTION IN WESTERN UGANDA AND KAMPALA

Standing with survivors & protecting children

This month, AWYAD supported **31** GBV survivors in Western Uganda and Kampala, offering Psychological First Aid, safety planning, and key referrals. Community sessions reached **100+** caregivers, strengthening awareness on child safety and school readiness.

Leading protection across settlements

As the new GBV and Child Protection lead, AWYAD assisted **70** vulnerable children across these settlements, including safe relocations from Nyakabande to Nakivale and alternative care placements for children at risk.

LOCATIONS

- Kampala
- Nakivale
- Oruchinga
- Kyaka
- Rwamwanja
- Kyangwali
- Nyakabande



Rising Strong: Stories of Hope and Protection in Nakivale

AWYAD | Funded by ECHO & CARE



January renewed hope in Nakivale through safe spaces for healing and learning."

1 Women & Girls: Finding Safety, Strength, and Voice

At the Kankingi E safe space, **35** women and girls received psychosocial support, learned positive parenting, and improved communication for safety at home. A mother shared, "My children used to fear me, but now I know how to listen," and participants highlighted the need for livelihood and vocational support.



2 Community Structures: Strengthening the First Line of Protection

At Base Camp, **36** community leaders including RWCs, women reps, activists, VHTs, and male role models received GBV prevention and response training.

As key first contacts for survivors, they strengthened skills in identifying abuse, making safe referrals, and offering dignified support. They requested quarterly refreshers to maintain effectiveness.



3 Adolescent Girls: Learning to Protect Their Bodies and Choices

In Kankingi E, **20** adolescent girls attended counselling sessions on personal hygiene, body autonomy, and consent. They learned that their bodies belong to them and that no one may touch them without permission. Girls also raised concerns about water shortages and limited sanitary materials, which affect their dignity and wellbeing.



4 A Survivor's Journey: A Case That Required All Hands

This month, partners met at NRC for a complex GBV case of a survivor who fled danger in her country of origin - only to be followed by her perpetrators into Uganda.

Around one table, AWYAD, UNHCR, OPM, Police, TPO, NRC, and community leaders worked together to build a pathway to safety.

By the end of the meeting:

- She was allocated safer land near the police post
- Psychosocial support and shelter construction were promised
- Police committed to pursuing perpetrators
- Legal counselling was arranged

It was a powerful reminder that protection is strongest when partners act together.

5 Children: Learning to Care for Their Environment

Across Ngarama A & B, **110** children took part in interactive sessions using climate cards, learning about their rights, responsibilities, and how to protect their environment. Many connected these lessons to changes they see at home, with one child saying, "Now I know I can also protect my community."

Total reached in January 2026: **201** people - **35** women & girls, **36** community leaders, **20** adolescent girls, and **110** children.



January showed the impact of safe spaces and teamwork, and AWYAD will keep strengthening livelihoods, hygiene support, and community protection.

PARTICIPATION IN KEY EVENTS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS

AWYAD joined the 20th Graduation Ceremony at Buganda Royal Institute – Mengo, presided over by the Katikkiro.

As partners, we applaud the institute's continued commitment to skilling and empowering youth.



PARTNERSHIPS

AWYAD and Enabel Uganda had an inspiring discussion on strengthening skilling and job placement opportunities for urban refugees — paving the way for a meaningful partnership that empowers lives and expands economic inclusion.



UPCOMING EVENTS



February 6 — International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM

February 11 — International Day of Women and Girls in Science

February 13 — World Radio Day

February 20 — World Day of Social Justice

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Thank You