

MONTHLY

FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER

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AFRICAN WOMEN AND YOUTH ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT



Dear Partners and Friends,

Thank you for your continued support to AWYAD's work. This February, we are pleased to share key updates across our programmatic areas: - **Gender and Women's Rights, Youth Empowerment, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment, and Humanitarian Response.**

Our teams continue to make meaningful progress in advancing the rights and well-being of women, youth, and communities. In this edition, you will find highlights from the field, upcoming activities, and stories that showcase the impact of your partnership.

We appreciate your engagement and invite you to share these updates within your networks as we work together to amplify AWYAD's mission.

Warm regards,
Communications Office – AWYAD

CHILD PROTECTION

Accelerating Actions to Eliminate Child Labour Along Agricultural Value Chains



With the support of local leaders, schools, and community members, February brought important steps forward in keeping children safe and promoting their rights. This section captures the highlights from our ongoing efforts across the Busoga sub-region.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



30 youths received psychosocial support.



15 schools strengthened child protection systems.



78 child protection cases identified; **32** resolved.



22 children supported to return to school.



1,000+ people reached through radio and community sensitizations.



15 VSLA groups saved over UGX 6M.



SUCCESS STORY

A 9-year-old boy was found working in a sugarcane plantation during a joint monitoring visit. Local leaders and AWYAD intervened immediately, spoke with his parent, and supported his return to school. He is now enrolled and attending classes at St. Jude Mbaale Primary School.

AWYAD SCALES UP ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES OF CONFLICT - AFFECTED CHILDREN ACROSS REFUGEE-HOSTING AREAS

The **INSPIRE Project** - *“Improving the Prospects of Conflict-Affected Children and Youth in Refugee-Hosting Districts in Uganda”*, has intensified education and protection efforts across settlements as schools reopened this February.

Supported by War Child, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, NRC, and other education and protection partners, the project responded to growing challenges caused by teacher shortages, low school turnout, and reduced humanitarian funding.

INSIDE FEBRUARY: WHAT UNFOLDED IN AWYAD’S INSPIRE PROJECT



CHILDREN FOUND THEIR VOICES

In Kyaka and Oruchinga, **337** children began their first Team Up sessions – laughing, learning, and healing. They explored friendship, respect, conflict, and anger. Those who started out shy were soon leading games and cheering for their peers. Teamwork quickly became their lifeline.



COMMUNITIES STEPPED UP

413 adults gathered in their communities to discuss how to keep children safe. Parents shared stories, CPCs practiced role-plays, and leaders made commitments. Slowly, a safer community is emerging.



CHILDREN LEARNED TO SPEAK UP

With the Good School Toolkit, **684** young learners learned what bullying looks like—and that they deserve better. A P3 girl said quietly, *“I didn’t know I could tell someone.”* Now she does.



PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

AWYAD identified **69** children needing urgent protection - separated, unaccompanied, or at risk. Through home visits, referrals, and assessments, each child began a safer path. One teenage girl shared she misses school monthly due to lack of sanitary pads - now fueling dignity-support efforts.



LEARNING, DIGITALLY & BOLDLY

444 P.3 learners were enrolled in Can’t Wait to Learn. Despite technical hurdles, the excitement was real: children holding tablets like treasures, eager to begin.



AWYAD STRENGTHENS GBV PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS ACROSS KAMPALA



Across Makindye, Rubaga, Kawempe, Central, and Nakawa, **75** role model influencers met to confront harmful norms, share community realities, and commit to ending violence. Many left not just as participants, but as allies ready to speak out and join AWYAD's next trainings.

In Nateete, Entebbe, Kansanga, Nsambya, and Bunamwaya, AWYAD, UNHCR, and NRC met **251** refugees sharing struggles with food, rent, and school fees. Some considered returning to unsafe areas in Sudan. Teams urged them to stay and access support—scholarships, programs, and protection services many weren't aware of.

A MONTH OF VOICES, STRUGGLES & STRENGTH

February opened with conversations quiet ones, tense ones, hopeful ones stretching across Kampala's divisions and refugee communities. Under the UNHCR-supported **Spotlight Initiative**, AWYAD stepped deeper into neighborhoods where women, girls, men, and boys are navigating the silent weight of Gender-Based Violence.

In February, AWYAD identified **12** GBV survivors—nine emotionally abused and three raped. Caseworkers listened, documented, followed up, and connected them to **27** services, from legal and medical support to psychosocial care and child protection. Each referral moved them closer to safety and healing.



A NETWORK OF SUPPORT, GROWING STRONGER

Throughout the month, AWYAD engaged in key coordination spaces—sharing updates at the Protection Working Group, preparing for a donor mission in Kansanga, aligning partners for International Women's Day, and celebrating the launch of the Women-Led Network Uganda Chapter. Each meeting strengthened collaboration and reinforced one message: protection is everyone's responsibility.



One woman described the moment she realized her voice mattered:

"We are not just beneficiaries. We are leaders. We are the future."

AWYAD Leads a Wave of Protection & Empowerment Across Nakivale!



Nakivale Refugee Settlement | Funded by ECHO & CARE

Positive Parenting: 200 Caregivers Trained

Caregivers in Ngarama A & C completed sessions on non-violent parenting and improved family communication

CBTs Reach 235 Adults & 380 Children

Door-to-door GBV/CP awareness and child rights sessions held across multiple villages; foster parents identified for two children

Safe Spaces Serve 204 Women & Girls

WGSS centers in Juru and Rubondo offered GBV prevention, hygiene education, counseling, and recreational activities.

25 Community Structures Equipped

CMC members received working tools like gumboots, umbrellas, torches, and notebooks to strengthen GBV response.

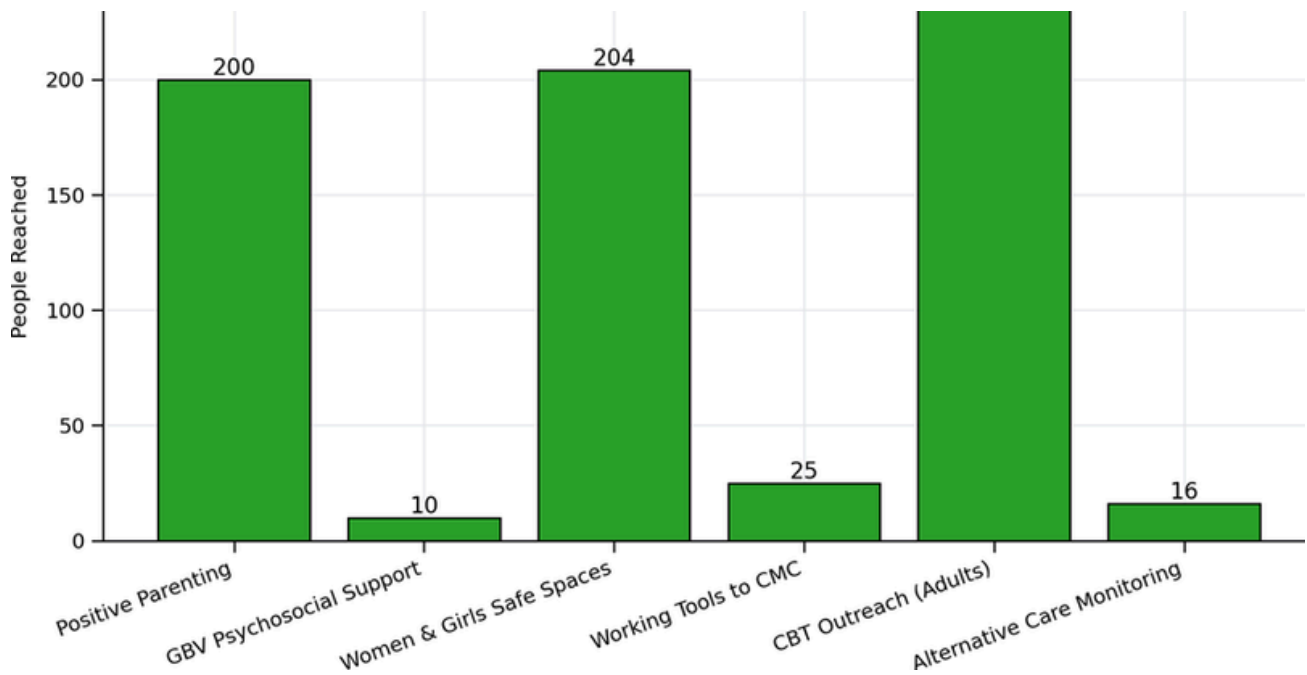
GBV Survivors Supported

10 survivors received psychological first aid, case management, medical referrals, and dignity kits at Nakivale Office.

Foster Care Monitoring: 16 Children Assessed

AWYAD, OPM and partners confirmed children in safe care; food shortages and school gaps noted for follow-up.

AWYAD STEPS - FEBRUARY 2026: PEOPLE REACHED BY ACTIVITY



AWYAD INTENSIFIES SCHOOL RE-ENROLLMENT AND SRHR EFFORTS ACROSS WEST NILE

This February, AWYAD has stepped up efforts to improve school retention and strengthen Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) awareness across Pakwach, Nebbi, and Maracha districts under the PROTECT SRHR Project.

AWYAD teams, together with teachers, cultural leaders, and model girls, identified **1,996 school dropouts**

 **1,182 girls**

 **814 boys**

across **66 government schools**. Through home visits and community sensitization, **346 out-of-school youth** were re-enrolled during the month, alongside **34 teenage mothers** who received psychosocial support to help them remain in school.



Teachers delivered life-skills and SRHR sessions to:

- **5,550** learners in Pakwach
- **4,125** newly reintegrated learners in Nebbi
- **75** selected learners per school in Maracha

These efforts aimed to reduce early marriages, teenage pregnancies, stigma toward teenage mothers, and school dropouts.

Radio Campaigns Mobilize Communities.

To boost re-enrollment, AWYAD ran: **53 radio jingles** in Pakwach for 14 days. 3 district-wide radio talk shows reaching about **2,800 listeners**

Local leaders emphasized the importance of keeping girls in school, supporting pregnant learners, preventing early marriages, and ensuring adolescents have access to accurate SRHR information.

AGRICULTURE GROWTH AND INNOVATION FOR LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT

Throughout February 2026, AWYAD under the AGILE project continued empowering smallholder farmers, youth, and women in Kyegegwa District through agricultural extension, psychosocial support, and strong community partnerships. The month focused on boosting coffee productivity, strengthening nursery operators, and improving emotional wellbeing through PM+ interventions.

40 NURSERY BED OPERATORS TRAINED

A comprehensive training equipped **40 operators (24 men, 16 women)** with skills in:

- Nursery site selection
- Seed selection
- Nursery bed construction & management

Participants demonstrated improved practical and technical skills to produce strong, healthy seedlings.

60 AGRONOMY FIELD MEETINGS HELD

Extension workers engaged **60 coffee farmers (42 men, 18 women)** through on-farm sessions covering:

- Pest & disease identification
- Preventive and integrated pest management
- Practical demonstrations on healthier coffee production

Farmers showed improved capacity to identify pests/diseases and adopt safer, more effective prevention methods.



Managing Problems Sessions

- **27 groups engaged | 323 participants reached**
- Applied a structured seven-step problem-solving framework

Every participant developed a personalized action plan showing increased confidence and capacity in managing daily life challenges.

Strong Coordination with Community Structures

AGILE partnered closely with:

- Community Development Officers (CDOs) for farmer mobilization and group strengthening
- Local Council leaders to reinforce community ownership and encourage youth and women to embrace agricultural and psychosocial activities

These partnerships increased trust, alignment with district priorities, and long-term sustainability.



AWYAD staff explaining ways on how youth can break the inactivity cycle

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (PM+)

AWYAD delivered key PM+ strategies aligned with WHO guidelines to strengthen resilience among women and youth.

Managing Stress Sessions

- **96 participants reached (36 men, 60 women)**
- Gender-sensitive groups ensured comfort and engagement
- Introduced practical slow-breathing exercises to reduce anxiety

Participants appreciated the simple, practical breathing tools for managing anger, fear, and overwhelming thoughts.



EXTENSION WORKERS RECEIVED BICYCLES



10 | YEARS
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

IN

DECEMBER 2026



Upcoming Events



Zero Discrimination Day — March 1



International Women's day celebrations - March 8



International Day of Women Judges — March 10



World Down Syndrome Day — March 21

Thank You



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X

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