



Welcome to Our Monthly Newsletter!

WELCOME TO AWYAD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, EDITION OF MAY 2026

We are delighted to share the AWYAD newsletter, edition of May 2026. This publication highlights the remarkable work being carried out to empower women, youth, children, refugees, and vulnerable communities across Uganda. You will find inside, the key program achievement, community voices and success stories, collective effort of our staff, partners, and supporters in advancing protection, education, livelihood, public health and gender equality.

We invite you to explore this edition, celebrating the lives being transformed, share the work to amplify voices and join us in creating last change.

Best Regards,
**AWYAD Communication
Team.**

MR . STEVEN WAMONO

Message from Executive
Director.

Dear Community, Partners, and
AWYAD staff members,

As we commemorate the International Labour Day on 1st May, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to and community leaders whose dedication continues to transform lives across Uganda. At AWYAD we believe that decent work, equal opportunity and safe workspaces are the foundation of sustainable development. Let us celebrate the resilience of workers while renewing our commitment to empowering women, youth and vulnerable communities through dignity, inclusion and meaningful livelihood. Together we will continue building strong, more resilient communities.

Thank you for standing with AWYAD.

At AWYAD we believe that menstrual health is a matter of dignity, equality, and human rights. This month we engaged together with our partners, advocating for improved Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) by engaging women, girls, community leaders, schools, and policymakers in meaningful dialogue that breaks stigma and promotes access to accurate information and essential menstrual health products. Through awareness campaigns, capacity-building workshops, and youth-led advocacy platforms. Our collective efforts are creating communities where menstruation is no longer a barrier to education, health, or opportunity, but a normal part of life that deserves support, respect, and investment.





MAY
14

Strengthening partnership for last impact: AWYAD and Habitat for Humanity Uganda sign memorandum of understanding (MoU).

14 May 2026 marked an important milestone for the African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD) as the organization officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Habitat for Humanity Uganda. This strategic partnership reflects a shared commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable communities through collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development.

The signing of the MoU establishes a strong framework for cooperation between the two organizations, enabling them to jointly design and implement initiatives that enhance the well-being of women, children, youth, and refugee populations across Uganda. By combining their expertise and resources, AWYAD and Habitat for Humanity Uganda aim to deliver greater impact in areas such as community resilience, safe and adequate housing, livelihoods, protection, gender equality, and community development.

This partnership recognizes that sustainable change is achieved through collective action. While AWYAD brings years of experience in protecting vulnerable women and children, promoting livelihoods, and empowering refugee and host communities, Habitat for Humanity Uganda contributes its expertise in improving housing conditions and strengthening community resilience. Together, the organizations will create opportunities that enable families to live in safe environments, build sustainable livelihoods, and improve their quality of life.

Speaking about the partnership, AWYAD reaffirmed its commitment to working with like-minded organizations to expand opportunities for vulnerable populations and to promote inclusive, people-centred development. The organization emphasized that partnerships are essential to addressing the complex challenges faced by refugee and host communities and to ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Memorandum of Understanding also reinforces both organizations' commitment to supporting Uganda's national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to poverty reduction, gender equality, decent work reduced inequalities sustainable communities, and strong partnerships.

As AWYAD and Habitat for Humanity Uganda embark on this new journey together, the partnership represents more than a signed agreement—it symbolizes a shared vision of hope, dignity, and opportunity. Through coordinated action and mutual trust, both organizations are well positioned to deliver meaningful and lasting change for the communities we serve.



Mme UWITONZE GISELE

Gisele's Journey of Hope.

When UWITONZE Gisele arrived in Uganda as a refugee from Burundi, life seemed filled with uncertainty. As a mother of four children, she faced enormous challenges. Without a stable source of income or secure housing, providing food, shelter, and hope for her children became a daily struggle. Everything began to change when African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD) identified Gisele as one of the vulnerable women in need of urgent support. Through its livelihood and protection programme, AWYAD provided her with three months of rental support, giving her family a safe place to live while they rebuilt their lives. In addition, AWYAD provided start-up capital, enabling Gisele to establish a small matooke business.

With determination, hard work, and the opportunity created by AWYAD, Gisele transformed the small investment into a sustainable source of income. Today, she proudly manages her own business, earns a daily income, and is able to provide regular meals, pay for essential household needs, and care for her children's well-being.

Beyond the financial support, Gisele regained something even more valuable —her confidence. She has become a symbol of resilience within her community, inspiring other refugee women to believe that recovery is possible with the right support and determination.

"When I had almost lost hope, AWYAD believed in me. The support for my rent gave my children a safe home, and the start-up capital gave me the opportunity to rebuild my life. Today, I can feed my family and look to the future with confidence. I am deeply grateful to African Women and Youth Action for Development for giving me a second chance."Gisele's story demonstrates the transformative impact of investing in vulnerable women. A relatively small intervention—temporary rental assistance combined with livelihood support—enabled a family to move from dependence toward self-reliance and dignity.



AWYAD Values:

we Value All People: *We believe that every person has a right to live a life with dignity, and is equal to all others. We believe in equity and justice for all women, children and youth. Everyone deserves our respect as we expect them to respect us. We treat each other at work with respect and decorum in speech and action. We believe in inclusivity of all diverse groups of people.*



Activity: Support Women interest groups to provide psychosocial support.

A total of 45 females composing of 02 Ugandans, 13 Burundians, 05 Rwandese, 19 Congolese and 6 Sudanese were reached through group psychosocial support by the women interest group, TPO and AWYAD staff within Rubaga division. Members were able to share experiences among themselves which they believed was good coping mechanism to enable them understand general psychosocial issues faced by women, common causes of their challenges and to enable them share ideas on how to overcome.

During the session, it was noticed that members maintain silence which they shared that is due to lack of trust, fear that information may leak to their husbands or in laws which will put their lives at risk. Due to the silence, majority of the members shared that they are faced with stress, inability to access services or support which eventually affects their physical, psychological, wellbeing resulting to illness, low concentration and unproductiveness. They embraced the session and urged that partners continue with the services as they came to realize that a support should not only be attached to materials and money but they came to appreciate that information is vital in their everyday life.

FREE BODY CHECK - UP AND TREATMENT.

During May, AWYAD and partners: SportLight Initiative, NRC, AHA, JRS continue the campaign of awareness on reproductive health, SGBV Counselling and Mental health. On 23rd May 2026, the activity consisted on screening for disease such as: Malaria, Hypertension, Diabetes, HIV screening, cervical cancer and STI. A large number predominantly by urban refugees and host community had responded massively to this activity which allowed them to better understand their state of health.



KITEBI/RUBAGA DIVISION



Hundreds of Adolescents and Young Women Improved the Rights of Health and Menstrual Hygiene Management (SRHR&MHM).



Youth Mock Parliament on Menstrual Hygiene Management(MHM).



Dr. Kedrace Turyagenda (Permanent Secretary @Educ-SportsUg)
Called for stronger system and shared responsibility to ensure that girls learn with dignity and safety. She urged greater integration of menstrual health accross schools, families , and communities , stressing that no girl should miss school due to her period.

Every Child Girl Deserves to Learn With Dignity.

Empowering Girls, Amplifying Their Voices, and Breaking the Silence:

During the Youth Mock Parliament held on 25th May 2026, the African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD) proudly championed the rights of adolescent girls by advocating for improved Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and menstrual health as a fundamental human rights and public health issue.

Representing the voices of thousands of girls and young women, AWYAD participated in the parliamentary discussions to raise awareness of the barriers many girls continue to face in accessing safe, affordable, and dignified menstrual hygiene products and services. The organization emphasized that menstruation should never be a reason for girls to miss school, experience discrimination, or be denied opportunities to reach their full potential.

During the session, AWYAD called for increased investment in menstrual health education, improved access to sanitary products, the provision of girl-friendly sanitation facilities in schools and communities, and stronger policies that protect the dignity and rights of adolescent girls. The discussions highlighted the importance of breaking harmful myths and stigma surrounding menstruation while encouraging open dialogue among young people, policymakers, and community leaders.

The Youth Mock Parliament provided a unique platform for young leaders to debate issues affecting their communities and propose practical solutions. AWYAD's participation reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that girls' voices are heard in decision-making processes and that menstrual health remains a national development priority.

As an organization dedicated to advancing the rights of women, girls, and youth, AWYAD continues to advocate for inclusive policies that promote gender equality, quality education, health, and dignity for every girl. By championing menstrual hygiene management, AWYAD is helping to create a future where no girl is left behind because of her period.



Muslim leader sharing experience during training of religious and cultural leaders at Super Paradise Hotel.

256 (Men and boys) reached through GBV awareness campaigns.

During this May, we engaged men in Seeta, Bajo and Kyebando.



10 New GBV Incidents Reported and Managed.

Under [@SportLightInitiative](#), a United Nations- supported program which aimed to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, a total of 10 incidents were reported and managed this month .All cases reported by female survivors from diverse nationalities (Somalis, Burundian, Sudanese and Congolese).

We conducted three age -appropriate awareness session on SRHR.A total of **169** (121F,48M) individual adults from diverse nationalities were reached , in Wakaliga, Nsambya, Kevina and Bulenga.



36 Teenage Mothers Assisted during May.



LAUNCH OF THE VITAL PROJECT

On 31st May, AWYAD and partners launched a 2 days opening meeting under the Vulnerability - based Integrated Timely Access to Lifesaving Services (VITAL). Founded by European Union through its civil protection and humanitarian aid department (DG-ECHO), the program will provide lifesaving, support refugees and host-communities accross Uganda. The consortium brings together The Lutheran World Federation, IRC-International Rescue Committee, Uganda Red Cross Society, and Medical Teams International, with distincts roles in implimentation.

MAY
2026

117 Learners visited and given SGVB related PSS



This month we amplified the voice. Supported by World Vision and Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, we hosted 70 radio sports and appeared in 5 DJ mentions in protect SRHR project .

36

TEENAGER MOTHER ASSISTED

During this May, 36 teenager Mothers re-integrated back to school, followed up and given pschosocial Support.





JOIN OUR MISSION

Together We Rise.

At AWYAD, every initiative we undertake is powered by commitment of individuals and communities who believe in the potential of African Women and Youth. From grassroots advocacy to skills development program. Our work spans the communities across the continent and we can not do it alone.

Volunteers are the backbone of our programs. Whether you bring expertise in education, entrepreneurship, mentorship or any community engagement which transforms women and youth life, you always have a place in our network. Our volunteers mentor youth women, facilitate workshops, support community outreach, and amplify the voices of those we serve.

Financial contributions no matter the size, uplift communities, help for training programs, youth leadership forms and improve livelihood for refugees. Every donation translates into real measurable change in the lives of women and youth people striving to build better futures.

Partnership opportunities are also available for organizations, businesses, and institutions aligned with our values. Together we can scale impact and reach more communities.



2,041
TEAMUP enrolled and Reached.

Founded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands and War Child Alliance, we conducted 1,081 Team Up from Bwiriza, Rwamurunga and Kibwera primary school in Kyaka II and Oruchiga settlement, we reached 960 children.

Children Protection, (Case Management, Referrals, Cash transfers).

Children within refugees and host- communities continue to face multiple protection risks, including neglect, abuse, violence, exploitation, child labor, early marriage, psychosocial distress, and family separation. Our child protection support to case management, involves identifying children with protection concerns, conducting comprehensive needs assessment and providing referrals to specialized services. 99 children with protection concerns were identified, 55 (34F, 21M) children were supported with cash, including 12 separated and 11 unaccompanied children.



**Mme Cissy Kimuli (Human
Ressource Coordinator)**



Challenges, Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead Challenges.

Challenges:

Despite significant achievements, several challenges affected programs implantation during May:

Limited transport and logistical resources constrained field supervision and timely service delivery. Insufficient laptops affected reporting efficiency, while shortage of dignity kits, hygiene materials and learning resources limited support for survivors of gender-based violence and vulnerable children.

In some refugee settlement, security concerns and inter-community tensions disrupted community activities and reduced school attendance. Large participation in Team Up sessions also highlighted the need of additional facilitators and recreational materials to accommodate growing numbers of children.

Lessons Learned:

Community participation remains the foundation of sustainable protection programming. Strong collaboration with local leaders, community volunteers, school, caregivers, and humanitarian partners has significantly improved child protection outcomes and GBV prevention efforts.

The integration of psychosocial support, education, community awareness and economic empowerment continues to produce lasting positive outcomes for refugee families.

Looking Ahead:

In the coming months, AWYAD will continue to:

- Expand gender-based violence prevention and response activities.
- Strengthen child protection case management services.
- conduct additional community awareness campaign on violence prevention.
- Continue Team Up and continuous learning through technology sessions.
- support children 's return to school through community mobilization
- Enhance partnership with government agencies, UN partners and other humanitarian organizations.
- advocate for increase investment in refugee protection and community resilience.

THANK YOU !



**African Women and Youth Action
for Development(AWYAD).**
Plot 14/16 Semawata Road,
Ntinda
P.O.Box 116757
Kampala, Uganda
Office: +256393102125
Email:info@awyad.org
Website: www.awyad.org

Get Involved Today

Your donation help us to empower Women and Youth to lead, thrive, and transform their communities. Contact us through any communication channel given behind, support our projects and together we make a difference.



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