



WE NO LONGER SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR GOVERNMENT, WE ACT!

Twenty seven (27) year old Kigayaza Patrick lives in Lwampanga which is 30 km away from the District headquarters of Nakasongola. We had earlier received training from PACE but focusing mainly on HIV and Family Planning. Advocacy is newly introduced “we did not know that we could do anything with regards to influencing decision making”.

However, the situation has since changed starting from August, 2015 after receiving training from CIDI under ABH in rights and entitlements as well as participatory planning. We have been able to carry out meaningful engagement, advocate and encourage more people to be involved. This has enabled us to get closer to our area members of parliament, sub county leadership, health centre in charges and the community in general. Some of the significant changes we have noticed in the immediate run include; been improved working relationship with the duty bearers, some community priorities have been picked and incorporated into the Sub County plans. One of the major challenges that we have encountered has mainly been distances from our locations to the sub county and District to facilitate follow up.

Patrick is quite satisfied with the strides so far taken but acknowledges that change cannot be realized immediately because advocacy involves mindset change. We plan to continue sensitizing our fellow members to make them know that when they attend meetings to discuss about development, they do not always have to ask for money. Through their participation, positive change can be realized.

The USAID Advocacy for Better Health is a five-year, project implemented by CIDI in Kayunga, Luwero and Nakasongola with funding from PATH in collaboration with Initiatives whose goal is to improve the quality, accessibility, and availability of health services in Uganda by fostering citizen demand and enhancing the capacity of CSOs to advocate for improved responsiveness and accountability by decision-makers and service providers.