


## ACTIVITY REPORT

Name of Activity:	<b>Web site Article: Girl-Child headed household in Otuke district.</b>				
Activity Code:					
Project Name:	<b>Strengthening Vulnerable Households</b>				
Date (s) of implementation:	<b>From</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025</b>	
Date of report submission:	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November, 2025</b>				
Location Details:(Include village, parish, sub county, district where applicable)	<b>Oyieromyem village, Olworongu Parish, Okwang sub-county, Otuke district.</b>				
Report prepared by:	<b>Abwot Ruth Patience</b>	Job Title	<b>Social Worker</b>	Sig nat ure	
Report reviewed by:		Job Title		Sig nat ure	
Report approved by:		Job Title		Sig nat ure	

### **Girl - Child headed households in Rural Northern Uganda.**

Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD) has been implementing a project, **‘Strengthening resilient livelihoods for vulnerable households’** in Otuke district through sustainable food, nutrition and income security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. (SVH-project), since 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026. The project has been targeting 400 households in 16 villages, 08 in Okwang and 08 in Adwari sub-counties. The project has 2,070 direct beneficiaries and indirect persons 28,552 totaling to 30,622 persons funded by AWO International and Aktion Deutschland Hilft.

FAPAD SVH project focuses on three results areas of; food and nutrition security, income security and disaster resilience. Using the established social structures with 32 volunteers in the communities’ vulnerable households, care identified and reached with different services from counselling, mediations, documentation, reporting, referrals of cases to appropriate authorities.

Child headed households are common in our communities. These children apparently find themselves in these positions either when they loose parents, or when parents separate or are sent away from the homes, where they should have nurtured them.

This girl-child headed household is not only unique but is an extreme case that increases vulnerability of children and girl child. At 13 years only, she has been able to head the family for the last two years despite the fact that, she has two older brothers aged 20 years and 18 years old and both parents are alive and well. Her ordeal started, when conflict erupted between her parents and there was a separation. During the separation, her mother left a three-year-old child who was asthmatic for he to care take and her father eloped to the second wife's home living them with no clear instruction and provision. According to her, the separation came due to several domestic violence perpetuated by her father to her mother that was life threatening.

At thirteen she wakes up as early as 6:00am, goes to the garden to dig, look for food, collects water, prepares food for the younger siblings with very little provision or no provision at all by the father. Looking very sad, surprised at having a visitor at their home. She, said, she rarely, move out to the neighborhood due to responsibilities, except when going to collect water or going for garden work. Occasionally, her auntie comes to help her with garden work.

The girl has been care taking her younger siblings from provision of food to preparing and welfare to protection. She gets the whole day The girl has been care taking her younger siblings from provision of food to preparing and welfare to protection. She gets the whole day with work and ends with work without resting. The only time she rests is when eating. She basically ahs been ripped off her childhood, rarely laughs, isolated, denied school, lacks clothing to mention but a few.

She had harvested simsim which was drying in the compound, asked who supported her, she said, her auntie was able to help her. When we arrived at their compound she had just been unearthing sweet potatoes for lunch preparation. So, she washed, the sweet potatoes, placed in a source pan ready to boil. Asked if the source was ready, she said, there was no source but, she

was going to pick vegetables and boil to accompany. She goes to the garden to dig, plant, weed, harvest, engage in post-harvest handling, picks vegetables and boils. On the date of visit, she was surprised to see visitors in the company of her father. She offered us seats and went back to peel potatoes for lunch preparation. I then, followed her, greeted her and asked her what her name was, she told me. I then asked, do you have the source for the sweet potatoes prepared? She said, no but I am going to pick vegetables and boil. Woo! I asked her what about the simsim being dried? My auntie helped me with its work? Oh, good what about daddy? He is always out? where does he go? He stays with my step mother most of the time out of the home. So you sleep her alone? Yes, with my younger siblings. What about this child? He is my step brother, a child to my step mother, she just brings him for me to care take and they picks him in the evening. Does she bring him with food or provision? No.

Listening to the story, I was crushed! Talking to myself, all this burdens, why does she not look after him? She had no answer. Generally, the injustices are too many! Thinking to myself, why do adults violate children's' rights! Girls as most violated! All this, interview was without the fathers presence.

I then went to her father, and asked how long will this situation of his thirteen-year-old daughter last? The situation your daughter has been is affecting her mental health. You need to reduce the burdens she carries by you taking on the roles of the family head. Your daughter has already been out of school, overburdened with family responsibilities while to look on.

I want her situation to change, reflect and decide. I will be coming back to follow up on this urgent matter. All the children not only her are at risk of sexual abuses and already under going several abuses e.g. emotional abuse due to isolation yet you, are supposed to be leading this. Have you ever, considered that, these children deserve adult care and guidance? Why can't your second wife stay here? She must have contributed to the conflict between you and the one who left? Why can't she commit to home care now? Instead she is burdening the girl more by bringing her child to be care taken here by your daughter who is already over burden?

Children heading households in the rural setting, are suffering from silent trauma, detached, isolated but their voice needs to be heard! They need child justice, need to go to school, play, grow, develop, learn and become great professional one day.

Unfortunately, the perpetrators are parent and guardians, who have prioritized wrongly. A father who should have been at the forefront of protecting his children and prioritizing provision of basic needs like; food, health, clothing, education, shelter, safety for them, have instead decided to push his children at the forefront of adult responsibility. Ripping them of their childhood and distorting their child growth and development.



**Source FAPAD Photo: Left: Abwot Ruth, Social Worker, FAPAD with 13-year-old family head girl with her sibling at home on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 in Oyieromyem village, Okwang Sub-County, Otuke district.**





**Source FAPAD Photo: A 13-year-old family head girl with her sibling, preparing sweet potatoes for lunch at home on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 in Oyieromyem village, Okwang Sub-County, Otuke district.**