

# "CHILD LABOUR FREE" WEEK ORGANISED BY ERUSSI SUB COUNTY IN UGANDA

*From 6-10 November 2017, the Erussi sub county - located in Nebbi District in the West Nile region of Uganda – has organised a "Child Labour Free" week. Since two years, the Stop Child Labour project has been implemented in the area by UNATU, CEFORD and supported by Stop Child Labour/Hivos and Education International. The project aims to generate 'Child Labour Free Zones' in which everyone is convinced that children should not be working, but should be in school. The organisation of the Child Labour Free week was initiated locally by the Erussi sub county with their own resource mobilisation and they will continue to do so every year.*

## **A week full of activities**

The Child Labour Free week started on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November with the theme to "Educate our children for skills, development and sustainable livelihoods". During the week, a range of Stop Child Labour community awareness and social mobilisation activities, as well as dance, drama and games in schools have been carried out.



On the final day of the week, a total of 3,500 participants gathered at the Erussi Mission playground for a march through Erussi town. The participants consisted of children from all schools, parents, teachers, members of civil society organisations, police and local government officials. They marched through

town all together, singing and carrying banners and placards with various messages against child labour, such as "School is the best place for children!" and "Please raise your voice against child labour!" By the end of the day, everyone reconvened at the Erussi Mission playground where the children entertained the audience with Stop Child Labour-message integrated dance, music and drama performances.



## Great impact on communities

One of the key initiators of the week and chairperson for the Erussi sub county, Orom Collins Jalacida, showed his gratitude for the great attendance and solidarity to stopping child labour. He claimed to feel proud to be part of the Stop Child Labour project, looking forward to sustain these kind of events: "We are doing all this to make Erussi a completely child labour free zone .....so that is my pride".

Other stakeholders and community members show their support as well. The district local government vice person, Okello Geoffrey, said "it is so significant...it is an eye opener because it is the first of its kind in Nebbi. We wish it would continue year after year so that it will be good for us". Also parents and teachers, as well as children believe that the impact of the Child Labour Free week is great: "Such an event can be a wakeup call for all stakeholders."

