



## OCTOBER OBSERVERS PROJECT REPORT 2023



supporting the community observers in Albertine and greater Masaka regions to continue reporting human and environmental rights violations project report.

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## Introduction

Tasha Research Institute Africa (TASHA) used 20 field Observers from different affected parishes in Albertine and Greater Masaka regions to conduct numerous locus visits and capture testimonies of oil project affected persons on its behalf. The all activities conducted in month of October under this project aimed at assessing the socio-economic impact of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) resettlement and compensation activities on the project-affected persons (PAPs) given the fact that the EACOP requires 2,740 acres of land in Uganda (Petroleum Authority of Uganda, 2021) and this land is being taken from 3,648 project-affected households (PAHs) in Uganda (EACOP Company, 2023). One hundred ninety-one (191) PAHs are primary residents who have opted for resettlement houses (EACOP 2023).

### Summary of activities TASHA performed in the month of October.

- 1- engaged in staff meetings which meeting planned how the months of October was meant to move, activities to be done and to reflect on the status and quality of the previous September report.
- 2- called the Albertine and greater Masaka team one by one to advise them on how to improve the reporting.
- 3- During the period of October is when we engaged in online meeting with the Partnerers, AFIEGO, FOE, and NAPE where resolutions of partner in administering the 26 PAPs came up where I was tasked to draft the budget enabling the joint meeting of partners with PAPs. In the same meeting I was tasked to draft questions from PAPs that they expected from the case so as it could enable the drafting of answer question document to respond to the questions by PAPs.
- 4- In the same month of October where one of the PAP BALIKENDA FRED received intimidation from TOTOAL and partners from the joint venture we took part of my time to report to partners abroad and to all responsible platforms where we felt BALIKENDA can obtain assistance.
- 5- In the same month we took time to report about the arrest of ISMAIL BWOWE who is also one of the 26 PAPs who was incarcerated in KYOTERA CELLS for two weeks without being taken to court.
- 6-collected reports from all observers in their respective areas.

### Other activities conducted under this project.

Date	Activities	Objectives	Participates	Location
6/10/2023	staff meeting	use an appropriate	Maxwell CEO Tasha Barbra, Abdul and Shafik	Kampala
7/10/2023	Updating observer on field photo	plan report	Doreen, Irene,Gerald, Okumu, Milius and Nicholns	Online

16/10/2023	Hone cracked by C I C O company	PAP to be compensated	C I C O	Kigoroby kyakasato Village
17/10/2023	Report writing	Understand how To lay out information In an appropriate Way	Okumu	Online
22/10/2023	Receiving Reports	Stipend	Doreen, Milius Iren, Okumu, Gerald & Nicholns	Hoime

Katusabe Gerald, of Garasoya village reported on 22/10/2023 by informing that on 9<sup>th</sup> /10/2023 he met with kitembo Stephen of kakindo cell buliisa Town council who was affected by oil and gas extraction. He was paid for relocation and left the land but land compensation was paid to another person. So, he is struggling to get the land compensation. All the developments e.g crops and Houses were paid for but land was not paid to any of the family member. The oil company has considered the person who was compensated for the land as insightful owner of the land and yet it is a family land he Plan to continue follow up in November 2023.

Okumu Richard of Buseruka reported on 15<sup>th</sup> –October -2023 where he pointed out that on 13<sup>th</sup> – October -2023 he met with Mrs.Adokorach Mariam of karanwango village in Nyakabingo parish, Buseruka s/c. and they discussed on her occupied piece of land as Reserve meters [neighbor] which next to her compensated land for pipeline construction. This land is being taken by TOTALE and P Uganda company without compacting it.

Total make valuation fairly while compensating for Pipeline they also discussed on the land next to Pipeline /Tilanga project, the land which is to be taken

### **Status**

Currently constructions of oil facilities such central processing facilities (CPF), rising oil rigs, production oil wells, well pads, opening and upgrading of existence roads, oil host communities are continuously experiencing environmental and human rights injustices which has adversely impacted their livelihood, environment, nature and more so it has impoverished communities.

Through implementation of project known as SUPPORTING COMMUNITY OBSERVERS IN ALBERTINE AND GREATER MASAKA REGION OF UGANDA, we have managed to monitor and document some of the challenges which are associated with oil and gas extraction in the region as noted in the report content below and EACOP is still at stage of Land acquisition.

The EACOP involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross- border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania for export to international markets (EACOP Company, 2023). The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima district, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanga region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 kilometers (km), of which 296 km will be in Uganda (EACOP Company, 2023). The pipeline

section in Uganda will traverse ten districts comprising Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Kyankwanzi, Mubende, Gomba, Sembabule, Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera (Directorate of Petroleum, 2023).

Amidst the high demand worldwide to shift from fossil fuels to clean energy, the Ugandan government in 2006 embarked on expeditions to exploit its discovered 1 billion recoverable oil deposits out of 6.5 billion barrels despite being signatory to all treaties forbidding venture into new fossil explorations. To fulfill its objectives, it has done this through a joint venture. The upstream partners include (TATAL energies 56.7 %, CNOOC 28.3%, and UNOC 15% shares respectively) while cross border pipeline partners include (TOTAL energies 62%, CNOOC 8%, UNOC 15% and TPDC 15%) shares respectively. Consequently, the activities of the joint venture have been marred by massive environmental and human rights violations hence the need to voice out these blatant violations which could not have been possible without the aid of monitors and observers through the project supporting the community observers in albrtine and greater masaka regions to continue reporting human and environmental rights

### **Activities by observers.**

In the month of October, TASHA through its observer MARIAM NAJJAGWE, visited KITAHYIMBWA ASIIMWE who is Project affected Person and registered his complaint of failure

to pay for the destroyed. ASIIMWE is resident of KINYANKOLE, KYOTERA DISTRICT and is a

chairperson of KITUNTU mosque, they are Muslims in a group with all the land titles and their land plus two mosques were acquired by EACOP, TOTAL, and new plan as subcontractors.

According to KITAYIMBWA who is the chairperson for all the Muslims, the money that is going to be given to them is too little which totals to 15000000/- yet they took their two mosques, two toilets, water tank and every big tree called (omukunya) plus the land that it is too little for that so they can't accept that a little amount. Total says that if they can't accept that they are going to shift the channel. When our observer asked whether Kitayimbwa and Muslim group have ever written any complaint or signed any grievance form, Kitayimbwa answered in affirmative, but however lamented that their issues were still being neglected.

**Also, in the same October** TASHA's observer BIRIMIYE ROBERT VISITED BWOWE ISMAIL who is also a PAP and who raised to him a complaint of **delay to be compensated and unfair**

**evaluation by EACOP. BWOWE ISMAIL** is a resident of BETHELEHEM town, KITUNTU LC1, NABIGASA subcounty in KYOTERA district. He owns a family of about 12 children plus a wife. And what is more special about him, he is disabled with a characteristic of being unable to walk well arising from his lame leg.

According to BWOWE, his land was acquired by EACOP in 2018 but up to now he has never been fully compensated of all his property. He had cassava, banana plants, coffee and beans on his land but after filling the RAP forms, he found out that his property valued less amount of money. BWOWE feels that the right value for his coffee would have been 88500 per plant, banana 50,000 per plant and also feels that they should give him the promised 30% for 4 years as stated for keeping in possession of his property when not fully compensated and while he can not utilize it as to his will. He claims that when total came, it promised 30% as uplift and that it

would be raised. BWOWE added that it is not his problem but its for total and EACOP who have not paid him in time and that if they can't compensate him, he is going to use his land for other businesses like building the house.

Also, BIRIMIYE ROBERT at the time of reporting this matter, he found BWOWE incarcerated in prison police cell where he had stayed for about 2 weeks without being taken to court or even charged with any offence. BIRIMIYE reported that he found BWOWE in a suffering condition and when he requested the police officers to have a photo with him, he was declined.

**Still in the same October on the date of 15th**, TASHA's observer NTUMWA ROGERS met ASIMWE KITAYIMBWA in KITUNTU village. KITAYIMBWA complained and showed ROGERS his mature coffee that was valued as young coffee when indeed it was mature coffee.

While KITAYIMBWA discussed with observer ROGER, he revealed that he had already been compensated an amount of money and added that not that because he was satisfied with it but because he complained and his issue was always being given a deaf ear. ROGER confesses on visiting the farm indeed he found the coffee mature. KITAYIMBWA and ROGERS in their discussion expressed worries that as individuals they could change nothing much since KITAYIMBWA had already received the money but however expressed hope that if TASHA as an organization intervened, something could change hence called TASHA for help.

Further in October TASHA's observer SSEGUJA IVAN, registered a complaint of low and inadequate compensation from BWANIKA HENRY of KITAKOMAGA LWENGO district. That BWANIKA refused to sign and to receive compensation of his coffee plantation that is going to be affected by the EACOP pipeline project. He said that though the district set compensation rates, for him he believes that these rates are too low. That the evaluation forms indicated that he was supposed to receive 30,000 but he asked at least 80,000 per plant. That although there was a promise to increase on the valuation, BWANIKA still believes the promised increase is still too low.

## SOME OF DIRECT OBSERVERS REPORTS

*Nicholas*

*My fellow observers' thanks 4 da contributions u a giving our nation. See what is happening in Kyakasato. Cracked houses. These houses have not been compacted. Its believed that C I C O company which was supposed to compaciate people left and now there a new company which is not yet known.*

*Nyamahunge Milius Abwooli*

*25<sup>th</sup> /10/2023*

*Kitegwa A Kabaale S/c Hoima*

*On 19<sup>th</sup> -2023 I followed up the issue which happened at kitegwa A kabaale parish, Kabaale S/C Hoima where by*

*Ategekas sugar plantation had been destroyed by stagnant water caused by DOCG (Daqine oil field construction group) where they tried to put some pipes but they were not enough for water to pass through, by now they have put more pipes and water is running very well*

*Mr Ategeka Vicent (P A P) told me that after adding more pipes water was long a problem except the rain is too much. Since the problem was solved on other issues was discussed. I'm planning to visit other PAPS who also have issues.*

*Akangonza kusiima Irene*

*On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 I did my field in kibanjwa kyarusura village about a man called Busing Jackson who has a complaint about UETL company under tilenga project which failed to compacta him over his land where they planted their pole hence destroying his plants such as coffee banana plantation pine trees and cassavas were cut down during the process. Further more after some time they returned in need of constructing a road and they had started to pour maramu where he stopped them from pouring in his land until he's paid Businge is ready to face the court about his issue and is asking for help because they were given a period of two months to remove their plants.*

*Aganyira Doreen*

*On -7<sup>th</sup> –October -2023, we had a meeting with coordinator Barbra discussing about the photos with observer from Hoima and kakumira district it was online*

*On-13<sup>th</sup> –October -2023, we met with coordinator on issue of reporting and sending reports*

### **Issues raised.**

**Arbitrary arrest**, according with Bamutraki William of kiyere village buliisa district an observer he reported that three women were arrested on allegation that they had tried to burn an oil rig at kirama village and people who were arrested are identify as widow call mpairwe, ayebale and they all had younger children.

Oil well pads has been located within communities which has resulted to a lots of negative impacts such as sounds and air pollutions, house cracks due to machine and heavy trucks vibration, oil rig lighting and so on.

**Floods coming out from oil facilities**, abineno Geoffrey an observer from avogera village buliisa district reported about flash floods which invaded community land neighboring an oil rig known as ngara at kisomere village due to rain which occurred on 16/10/2023 and has led to destructions of community properties including crops such as cassava, sweat potatoes neem trees maize and many other

**Land grabbing and disputes**, are inevitable amidst the implementation of oil and gas activities. According with adubango Daniel of rwengabi village in kikuube district the entire community is battling with rich man who is oppressing them and intimidating the community despite the fact that the land matter being in court

*On 16<sup>th</sup> –October -2023 we had meeting informing us to be active*

*On 19<sup>th</sup> –October -2023 I was in field in kitoba sub county kibanjwa.*

*kyarusuura village karongo parish. I had discussion with this woman called Beatrice Ninsiima, we discussed issue about her land, crops which was destroyed By UETL company under Tilenga project. The woman was not compacted but the land used by that company*

**Different compensation rates being used by total in compensation process** , according with nyangi moses an observer of kabolwa village buliisa district he reported that butune grace whose rap no 0220 was compensated at 10 million per acre mean while odeya piyesu rap no 0025 was compensated at 7miliion per acre.

Accident leading to death, ucho marsel of kikuube reported an accident case that happened in excel camp in kyanwali sub county, buhuka parish on 06<sup>th</sup> /10/ 2023 and led to death of the security guard.

Between observer MARIAM and KITAYIMBWA ASIIMWE  
KITAYIMBWA as chairperson of KITUNTU mosque and other Muslims should forma group and  
complain together and even write toother officials complaining in petition.  
Secondly writing and calling in TASHA to come and meet them as a group in order to forge a solution.

**Tasks anticipated to be had ready and the time the observers anticipate to have it ready/ongoing tasks.**

Observer MARIAM anticipates calling upon the Muslims in KITUNTU and district at large to be together and even call the supreme MUFTI or the district cadhi to join the fight.

Observer ROGER anticipates following up on LUBOWA's issue of not evaluating his house that is near the pipeline route.

Observer BIRIMIYE anticipates making a follow up on the grievances written to EACOP and TOTAL plus the district.

Observer SSEGUJA, anticipates following up to push to see BWANIKA's is fairly compensated as on 18th oct-2023 a team from EACOP tried to engage BWANIKA and promised to increase compensation but BWANIKA still remained unhappy.

**SOME OBSERVATIONS**

Communities who neighbors oil facilities are experiencing a negative impacts such as noise, flush floods, house cracks but total cant address them seriously despite engaging them.

Environmental justice has been disrupted as failure by total to managed running waters from their facilities which has caused destruction to community properties  
Compensation rates have not been made available to people who are being affected by the oil project.

## **CHALLENGES**

NTUMWA ROGERS: He faced a challenge of taking photos of some PAPs, since some of them think the observers benefit from the information the PAPs give them, and in the long run some PAPs request for money to take their photos and devour their information.

MARIAM NAJJAGWE: she registered a challenge where the PAPs after giving her information, they did not want to have video or photos with her evidencing the information.

Recommendation: TASHA should call them on PHONE.

BIRIMIYE ROBERT: He registered a challenge faced by the disabled persons who are not able to move where TOTAL meetings are held in time because these meetings are at times for short time and the for the disabled the moving is difficult.

Lack of airtime and personal data to always keep in touch with the rest of the team and the field observers.

The incapacity of my phone, being unable to read a number of document applications.

Inadequate facilitation in terms of salary.

irregularity in welfare for example sometimes provided with lunch and sometimes complete fasting while at office.

Lack of data recording equipment like laptop computer, sound recorder and digital camera to documents filed reports.

Transport costs to field visits haven't been addressed.

Observers from kakuumiro and Holme District are lacking more training. This is because some of them they don't know how to use 5W in their reports, photo taking and video taking.

The training we did was not enough to them

## **RECCOMADATIONS**

Provision of laptop, sound recorder, and digital camera would easy the field documentation.

Communities who stay nearby oil facilities needs to be empowered to petition oil developers against violation of their environmental human rights



PHOTO GALLERY



*An oil production well being so close to community homes*



*Floods from oil facilities has led to destructions on environment and crops*



*Total didn't compensate this house despite being so close to the road*



*One resident's House cracked by CICO heavy tracks near stone quarrying site.*



*A pap with one observer from greater masaka and mosque affected in the region.*

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