



UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

OIL IN UGANDA

EMERGING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Special Focus on Selected Districts in the Albertine Graben

A SPECIAL REPORT - December 2013



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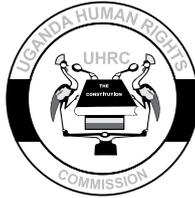
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Cover Photo: An oil rig on the edge of Lake Albert in Western Uganda

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A SPECIAL REPORT

December 2013



**The Right Hon. Speaker of Parliament
Parliament of Uganda
P.O Box 7178
KAMPALA**

Dear Madam.

**RE: UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SPECIAL REPORT
ON ‘OIL IN UGANDA: EMERGING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES’**

The Uganda Human Rights Commission has the pleasure to present to Parliament its special report on emerging human rights issues in the oil exploration and production activities in the Albertine Graben .

The report presents findings of a special monitoring exercise that the Uganda Human Rights Commission undertook from July to December 2013, in five select districts in the Albertine Graben. The exercise was prompted by concerns raised by community members in those districts and complaints we received from the region regarding human rights violations caused by the oil exploration and production activities. The special monitoring exercise was carried out in the districts of Hoima, Buliisa, Amuru, Nwoya and Nebbi. The report presents findings on the human rights issues raised, and recommendations to the different stakeholders on what should be done to promote observance of human rights in the oil industry; pre-empt and redress human rights violations.

On behalf of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, I appeal to you and all other organs of the State, as well as other non-state actors to expeditiously act on the recommendations made in the report in order to safeguard the human rights of all the people engaged in or impacted on by the oil industry.

Yours faithfully,

**Med. S.K. Kagwa
Chairperson
Uganda Human Rights Commission**



“As UHRC we reiterate our commitment to avail the required technical input for the protection and promotion of human rights in the oil and gas industry.”

FOREWORD

The recent discovery of oil in Uganda in the Albertine Graben was received with mixed reactions. To some people, it was a welcome development because of its potential to boost the economy and propel development. However, to others, informed by some unpleasant experiences in some countries, it stirred fear, anxiety and skepticism. The country is thus grappling with managing the prevailing anxiety and speculation based on both real and perceived concerns related to the oil and gas industry.

In view of this, the onus is on all Ugandans to make sure that the oil and gas sector is well managed so that it can effectively support development. Key to this is applying the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development (HRBAD) to the oil and gas sector which would ensure that the ensuing development safeguards human dignity and equitably benefits all. The state as a duty bearer has obligations at various levels to ensure that its own policies, processes and practices as well as those of third parties in the oil and gas industry promote, protect and respect the human rights of all without discrimination. While they are entitled to have their rights respected, right holders also have to fulfil their responsibilities and demand accountability.

It was against this background that UHRC, drawing on its constitutional mandate to among other things, protect and promote Human Rights that it undertook visits to the Albertine Graben to monitor and make recommendations on the concerns that were emerging from the oil and gas industry. UHRC which is the National Human Rights Institution is mandated by the Constitution of Uganda to protect and promote human rights.

Our intervention as UHRC was not just in response to concerns raised by stakeholders and partners that some of the oil and gas activities were putting human rights in jeopardy; it was also informed by findings from our own continuous monitoring. It was important that we undertake a comprehensive study of the situation as it was prevailing then and make specific recommendations on how to ensure that the oil and gas activities do not violate human rights.



This report presents the findings of a UHRC special monitoring exercise in selected districts in the Albertine Graben, where emerging human rights concerns in the oil and gas industry were examined. It also makes recommendations on how to improve the observance of human rights in implementation of policies, processes and practices in the oil and gas industry.

A major finding of the monitoring exercise was that generally there was inadequate information regarding the oil and gas industry at the national level. This inadequacy got worse at the district and community levels. The lack of information creates disempowerment and vulnerability; and this makes it a human rights concern. In such a situation individuals, families and communities become prone to misinformation, speculation and deception thereby getting highly exposed to manipulation, violations and abuse. Information is power and is critical for people's active and effective participation in developing the sector. It is our prayer that the identified information gap is addressed as a matter of urgency so that all stakeholders are empowered to effectively participate in the oil and gas industry as their constitutional right and duty stipulates.

We appeal to Parliament which has shown great interest in the oil and gas activities and their impact to act on this report expeditiously. Parliament has a duty, not only to ensure that violations that have already occurred are redressed, but also to urge government to comply with all the human rights standards in the industry and to institute preventive measures to forestall potential human rights violations and abuses. Since the industry is multi-sectoral in nature, we appeal to Parliament to ensure that each key stakeholder takes action diligently and in harmony with the rest so that we can have a holistic action that is effective. As UHRC we reiterate our commitment to avail the required technical input for the protection and promotion of human rights in the oil and gas industry.

The discovery of oil and gas presents a great opportunity for this country to grow to unprecedented levels in terms of development. Nonetheless, it will take a lot of hard work, commitment, patriotism and respect for human dignity for us to get the best out of the opportunity. We must all embrace it and play our various roles in making sure that it is indeed a blessing through which Ugandans can enjoy its recurrent benefits with their human rights fully respected.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Med S.K. Kaggwa
CHAIRPERSON
UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Uganda Human Rights Commission is grateful to all the stakeholders and partners who expressed confidence in its ability to address the concerns of the people in the Albertine Graben by petitioning it to handle the emerging human rights concerns in the oil region.

UHRC also acknowledges the enthusiasm, invaluable support and guidance of the Chairperson, Members of the Commission and the Secretary to the Commission who responded expeditiously to the people's call and ensured that resources were available for undertaking the monitoring exercise. Special thanks go to Member of the Commission Mr. Agaba Maguru, who was the Team Leader and provided effective leadership throughout the monitoring exercise.

Special gratitude goes to the of UHRC staff who were on the team that undertook the monitoring exercise in Hoima, Buliisa, Nwoya, Nebbi and Amuru districts and in Kampala and Entebbe and compiled this report. These are: Mr. George Ufoyuru, Ms. Rose Mary Kemigisha, Mr. Wilfred Asimwe Muganga, Mr. Willy Agirembabazi, Mr. Kamadi Byonabye, Ms. Rose Atim, Mr. Farouk Nyende, Ms. Priscilla Nyarugoye, Ms. Betty Enangu, Mr. Timothy Munialo, Mr. Alex Kasaija, Mr. Damasco Cwinya-ai, and Mr. Muzafaru Ssemakula. Ms. Rizzan Nassuna, Ms. Rose Mary Kemigisha and Mr. Kamadi Byonabye are especially thanked for their invaluable technical input in compiling and reviewing the report.

UHRC is also grateful to all the individuals and organisations in the Albertine Graben and in Kampala who granted it interviews and provided important information for the report. Special gratitude goes to the community members in the villages that were visited for boldly and candidly airing out their concerns, views and recommendations which greatly informed the report.

UHRC would also like to thank the Government of Uganda and the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) for the financial support that facilitated the monitoring exercise, the compilation and printing of this report.



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ABOUT UHRC

The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) is an independent constitutional body set up under Article 51 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (herein after the Constitution) to promote and protect human rights. It was established in November 1996 under constitutional provisions which were operationalised by the Uganda Human Rights Commission Act, 1997.

Vision: A society that respects human rights and fulfils civic obligations.

Mission: To protect and promote fundamental Human Rights and freedoms in Uganda for sustainable development

Functions of UHRC

The functions of UHRC are stipulated under Article 52 of Uganda's Constitution as follows:

1. To investigate, at its own initiative or on a complaint made by any person or group of persons against the violation of any human right;
2. To visit jails, prisons, and places of detention or related facilities with a view to assessing and inspecting conditions of the inmates and make recommendations;
3. To establish continuing programme of research, education and information to enhance respect of human rights;
4. To recommend to Parliament effective measures to promote human rights, including provision of compensation to victims of violations of human rights, or their families;
5. To create and sustain within society the awareness of the provisions of this constitution as the fundamental law of the people of Uganda;
6. To formulate, implement and oversee programmes intended to inculcate in the citizens of Uganda awareness of their civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people;
7. To monitor the Governments compliance with international treaty and convention obligations on human rights; and
8. To perform such other functions as may be provided by law.



UHRC Powers

The UHRC has the powers of a court:

- To issue summons or other orders requiring the attendance of any person before the Commission and the production of any document or record relevant to any investigations by the Commission
- To question any person in respect of any subject matter under investigation before the Commission
- To require any person to disclose any information within his or her knowledge relevant to any investigation by the Commission; and
- To commit persons for contempt of its orders.

If satisfied that there has been an infringement of a human right or freedom, UHRC may order:

- The release of a detained or restricted person;
- Payment of compensation or
- Any other legal remedy or redress.

UHRC has a Human Rights Tribunal, the decisions of which may be appealed to the High Court if any party is not satisfied with the outcome.

Limitations on the UHRC mandate

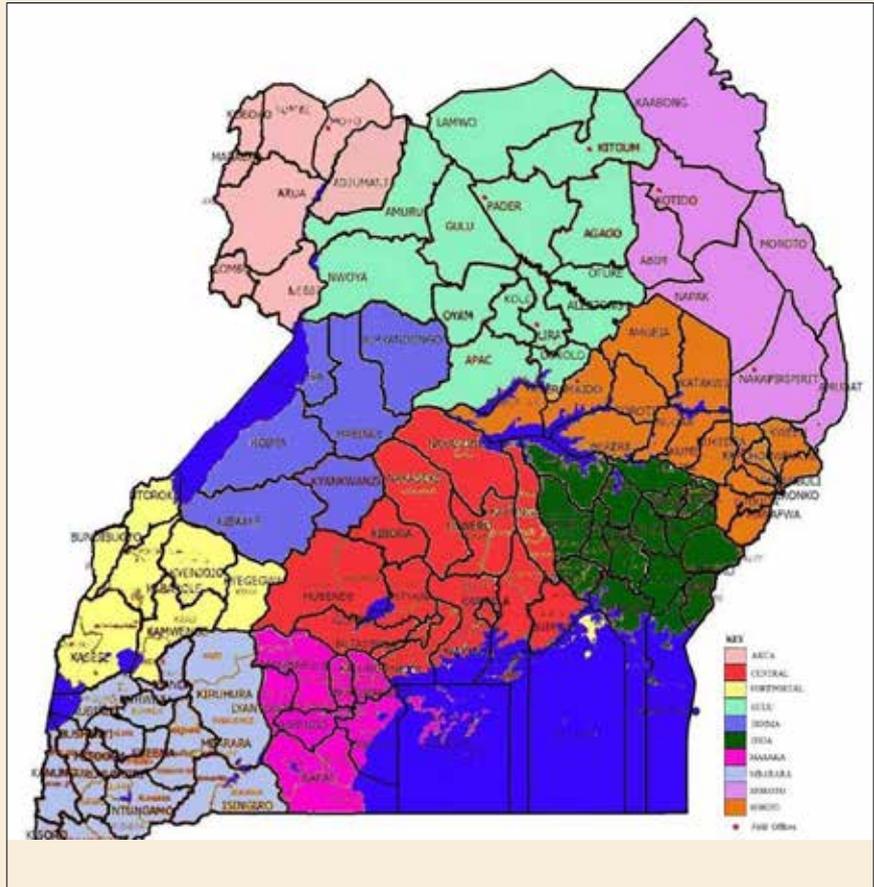
UHRC is barred by the Constitution from investigating any matter pending before a court or judicial tribunal; a matter involving the relations or dealings between the Government and that of any foreign state or international organisation; and a matter relating to the prerogative of mercy.

UHRC operations

UHRC implements its mandate through directorates at head office and regional offices across the country. The five directorates include: Education, Research and Documentation; Monitoring and Inspections; Complaints, Investigations and Legal Services; Regional Services; and Finance and Administration. The regional offices are located in: Arua, Gulu, Kampala, Jinja, Soroti, Moroto, Mbarara, Fort Portal, Masaka and Hoima. The map of Uganda below shows the UHRC regional office jurisdictions.



Figure 1: Map of Uganda showing the UHRC regional office jurisdictions





ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights
AFIEGO	African Institute for Energy Governance
CBO	Community based Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Children
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
LC	Local Council
MEMD	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
NAVODA	Navigation of Development Association
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PAPs	Project Affected Persons
PS	Permanent Secretary
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
RICE WN	Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment-West Nile
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights



UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UN	United Nations
UNRA	Uganda National Roads Authority
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority
VISO	Voluntary Initiative Support Organisation



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) is mandated under Article 52 (1) of the Constitution to monitor the human rights situation in Uganda and Government compliance to international treaty and convention obligations on human rights. The UHRC is further required by the Constitution to publish periodic reports and submit annual reports to Parliament on the state of human rights and freedoms in the country. In fulfilment of these constitutional requirements, and in view of the complaints emerging from the ongoing oil exploration activities in Uganda, the UHRC carried out a monitoring exercise on the human rights concerns in the Albertine Graben. This exercise was conducted in the selected districts of Hoima, Buliisa, Nebbi, Nwoya and Amuru.

During the monitoring exercise, the UHRC interacted with various stakeholders at village, sub-county, district, regional and national levels. Specifically, the monitoring team interacted with community members, district local government leaders, members of Civil Society, security agents, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom officials, officials from oil companies, officials from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and officials from Strategic Friends International (SIF) a consultancy firm responsible for managing the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the development of the refinery.

Arising out of the exercise, the UHRC noted with concern a number of human rights issues emerging from oil related activities in the Albertine Graben. These issues were mainly regarding compensation for land that government was acquiring for oil exploration and production activities. Specifically these issues touched on a wide range of human rights including the right to property; the right to information; rights of vulnerable people like women, widows, the elderly and children; land rights, the right to a clean and healthy environment; labour rights; freedom of movement; the right to participation; the right to self determination; the right to food; the right to education; the right to water; and freedom of expression; among others.

Based on the findings of the monitoring exercise, the UHRC made the following recommendations to specific centres of responsibility for appropriate action:

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

- 1) The Ministry, the district local governments, and other government civic education actors should urgently conduct village-based meetings to explain to residents the various aspects relating to the exploration and production of oil, and in particular, how their compensation is being handled.



- 2) The Ministry should, without any delay enhance information flow and awareness about oil and gas activities to communities and Ugandans at large in order to address the many challenges and concerns that were raised due to lack of or inadequate information. The Ministry should ensure that it effectively implements its Communication Strategy.
- 3) The Ministry should expedite payment of compensation to all PAPs so that it is not devalued by delays and also to calm down the anxiety of the affected people.
- 4) The Ministry and its contracted service provider, Strategic Friends International, should in the compensation and resettlement of the residents of Kabaale, embrace the rights-based approach (HRBA) in dealing with the affected communities.
- 5) The Ministry should organise regular forums for Government, CSOs and other stakeholders to come together to discuss their differences, map out strategies of addressing mutual suspicion and engendering cordial working relationships amongst all parties in the oil and gas sector.
- 6) The Ministry should urgently establish Liaison Desks in the Albertine Graben to enhance access to information as well as quick responses to concerns on a case by case basis.
- 7) The Ministry should establish clear complaints resolution mechanisms within the oil exploration areas and sensitise the communities to utilise them.
- 8) The Ministry should sensitise the community members on the dangers of xenophobia; particularly labelling people “foreigners” based on lack of information and with a motive of denying them equal access to the opportunities in the oil and gas sector.
- 9) Subject to the delicate balance between the requirements of the decentralisation policy and the constitutional provision of oil as a national resource, the Ministry should delegate or share some of its roles with district local governments to enhance effectiveness since the local governments are on the ground and close to the communities. A memorandum of understanding between the MEMD and all District Local Governments in the Albertine Graben would go a long way in streamlining the relationship.
- 10) The Ministry should empower the district officials (both politicians and technical staff) with adequate knowledge on the oil and gas industry in order for them to be able to effectively monitor how the sector is



affecting the people; respond to their issues resulting from the oil and gas industry and also empower them with information. In addition, the Ministry should strengthen, empower and facilitate already existing structures like the Task Force on Oil and Gas in Buliisa district.

- 11) The Ministry in partnership with human rights organisations should undertake capacity building for oil companies in the HRBA so that they mainstream it in their exploration and production processes as well as activities.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

- 1) The Ministry should expeditiously investigate allegations of sexual harassment among the workers in the oil camps; the alleged discrimination between local and expatriate workers; and any other related labour issues so that the rights of workers are safeguarded.
- 2) The Ministry should enhance programmes to empower people with financial literacy to prepare them to properly manage their compensation money as well as increased income expected from oil and gas activities.
- 3) The Ministry should specifically address the issue of exploitation of workers by CNOOC Chinese employees on the basis of language. The Ministry should ensure that Chinese employers do not employ Ugandans on unfair and unfavorable terms due to language barrier just because they do not understand the Chinese language.

The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

- 1) The Ministry should expeditiously issue the special plan for developing the Albertine region in order to manage the prevailing uncertainty, speculation and misinformation among the people.

The National Environment Management Authority

- 1) NEMA should take the lead in conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) and not leave them to the oil and gas companies. The EIA reports should be shared with the general public.
- 2) NEMA should expedite the process of amendment of the NEMA Act to take care of the emerging environmental concerns within the oil and gas sector.



- 3) NEMA should take the responsibility of identifying where toxic substances should be dumped instead of leaving it for oil companies and the individuals who own land in the respective places.

The Oil Companies

- 1) The oil companies should put in place a well-developed human rights policy and effectively implement it during all phases of oil exploration and production to guide on how to deal with the emerging human rights issues.
- 2) The oil companies should conduct human rights impact assessments prior to commencement of activities.
- 3) Corporate social responsibility should be demand-driven. Oil companies should consult the people in order to come up with responsive programmes.

Civil Society Organisations

- 1) Civil society organisations should endeavour to always act professionally and be accountable; they should always strive to advance the interests of the people.



1.0 SPECIAL UHRC MONITORING EXERCISE OF THE OIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN THE ALBERTINE GRABEN

1.1 Introduction

The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) is mandated under Article 52 (1) of the Constitution to monitor the human rights situation in Uganda and Government compliance with international treaty and convention obligations on human rights. The UHRC is further required by the Constitution to publish periodic reports and submit annual reports to Parliament on the state of human rights and freedoms in the country.

In fulfilment of its constitutional mandate, the UHRC has regularly monitored the budding oil and gas sector both to pre-empt and respond to human rights violations. In May 2013, the UHRC received a copy of a petition that had been addressed to the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) alleging violations of human rights by residents in the areas earmarked for oil refinery in Kabaale parish, Buseruka sub-county, Hoima district. (*Refer to Annex A on the petition to the Minister of Energy*). Besides, the UHRC had received numerous allegations of human rights violations from other areas in the Albertine Graben including Nwoya, Nebbi and Amuru districts.

The allegations made were: Irregularities in the valuation and disclosure of compensation rates; coercion of affected residents to accept unfair compensation packages; delayed payment of compensation packages; lack of information on resettlement plans; lack of participation in choosing between possibilities of compensation or resettlement; and threats by some government officials to leaders of CSOs that were advocating for fair compensation packages. In view of these allegations, the UHRC undertook preliminary investigations to ascertain whether they were a true reflection of the situation on the ground. These investigations pointed to the need for a deeper, more comprehensive study and critical analysis of the human rights situation in the Albertine Graben.

In view of the above, the UHRC undertook a special monitoring exercise of oil exploration and production activities in the Albertine Graben, particularly in five select districts of Hoima, Buliisa, Nebbi, Nwoya and Amuru. The exercise aimed at assessing the human rights situation and the extent of observance and respect of human rights in oil exploration and production activities. This Special Report therefore presents human rights concerns and issues from the affected communities and the UHRC findings related to them. It also presents recommendations that should guide the protection and promotion of human rights related to the exploration and production of oil in the Albertine Graben.



1.2 What was involved in the Monitoring Exercise

1.2.1 Timeframe

The UHRC undertook the monitoring exercise from August to November, 2013. Specifically, in August and September, the UHRC monitoring team conducted village, sub-county and district based monitoring activities, while in October and November the team conducted national-based monitoring activities. Thereafter, data analysis and finalisation of the report was undertaken from December.

1.2.2 Areas monitored

The monitoring exercise was conducted in five districts, ten sub-counties and twenty seven villages as highlighted in the table below.

Table 1: Districts, Sub-counties and Villages monitored

SN	DISTRICT	SUB-COUNTY	VILLAGE
1	Amuru	Amuru	Kololo Bana Lakang
		Kilak	Oforro
2	Nebbi	Panyimur	Nyamutagana Abok
		Boro	Boro Central East Boro Central West Kiyaya West Kiyaya East.
		Pakwach town Council	Boropit
3	Nwoya	Purongo	Joga Pabit East and West Lagaji
4	Buliisa	Northern Ward Buliisa Town Council	Kasemene1
		Ngwedo	Kisomere LCI Avogera
		Kigwera	Kigwera
5	Hoima	Buseruka	Kigaaga B Kyapaloni Nyamasoga Nyahaira Bukona A and B Kitegwa Kaiso-Tonya community



1.2.3 Respondents

During the monitoring exercise, the UHRC interacted with various stakeholders at village, sub-county, district, regional and national levels. Specifically, the monitoring team interacted with community members, district local government leaders, members of Civil Society, security agents, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom officials, officials from oil companies, officials from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and officials from Strategic Friends International (SIF) a consultancy firm responsible for managing the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the development of the refinery. (*Refer to Annex 2 on the list of key respondents*).

1.2.4 Monitoring Techniques

The UHRC employed the following monitoring techniques:

1. Review of existing literature, including official documents and data on oil in Uganda;
2. Focus group discussions with the affected people;
3. Formal meetings and interviews with communities around oil fields including some of the affected people, the local and district officials; government officials; representatives of security agencies in the area, opinion leaders; members of civil society and officials of the oil companies;
4. Site visits to the scenes and areas where the oil pads and wells are located; and the specific areas and people affected by the oil related activities; and
5. Observation.

1.2.5 Data Validation

In order to validate information gathered at the different monitoring levels, a number of validation meetings were held at district and national levels with senior officials in government MDAs as well as oil companies. Some of the officials that were met included the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), and Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD); the Chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources of Parliament; the Chief Government Valuer; and the Director, Monitoring and Compliance of National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA).



Others were: the Head of Party and Programmes, Strategic Friends International (SFI); the Communications and Legal Officers of Total E&P; Stakeholder Engagement Officer for Tullow Oil; Senior Planner and Environmental Impact Assessment Coordinator/Head of the Planning Unit, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); and the Country Manager, International Alert.



UHRC monitoring teams meeting respondents in Bulisa District (above) and Hoima District (below)





2.0 OIL EXPLORATION IN UGANDA

2.1 Contextual Background

In Uganda, the existence of commercial oil and gas reserves was confirmed by Hardman Resources Company at Mputa Oil Field in Hoima District on 6th January 2006¹. This was followed by the official announcement by the President of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni confirming the existence of oil reserves in Uganda, particularly in the Albertine Graben, stretching from South Western Uganda, straddling Lake Albert up to West Nile in North Western Uganda². Since then exploration and preparations for its extraction and production have been in full gear by various oil companies on behalf of the Government. These companies are: Tullow, which took over the Hardman Resources Company and Heritage Oil and Gas Limited operations in Uganda; China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC); and Total Exploration and Production (E&P) Uganda. The discovery areas and the licensing status is shown in Figure 2 below.



Exploration activities ongoing in the Albertine Graben.

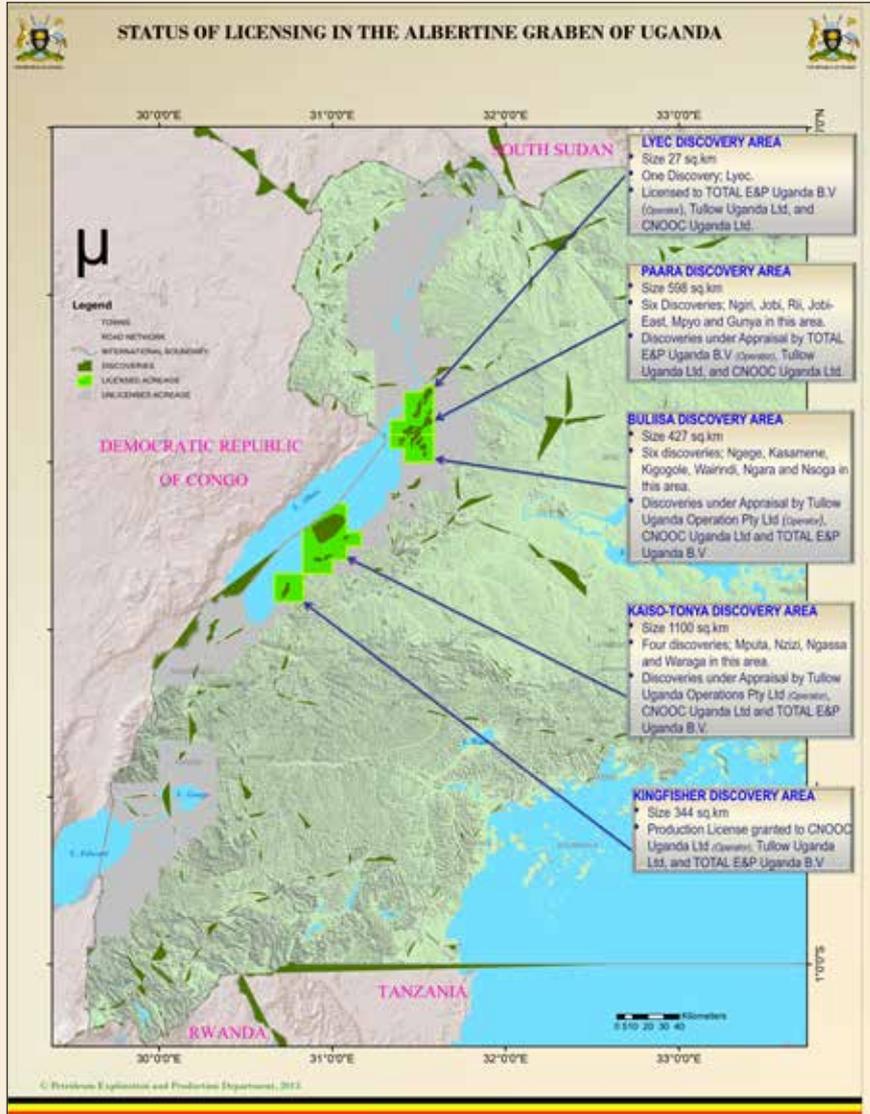
Source: news.ugo.co.ug

¹Oil in Uganda-oil time lime, available at <http://www.oilinuganda.org/categories/oil-timeline> (accessed on 3rd December, 2013)

²Uganda announces oil discovery, <http://www.iol.co.za/newsafrika-uganda> (Accessed on 3rd January, 2014)



FIGURE 2: MAP OF THE ALBERTINE GRABEN SHOWING DISCOVERY AREAS AND STATUS OF LICENSING OF OIL COMPANIES



(Source: Petroleum Exploration and Production Department, 2013)



2.2 Oil industry and the Right to Development

Article 1 of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development defines the right as inalienable by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realised. In this regard, the human person should be seen to be the central subject of any development process. In his report to the UN World summit in 2005, former UN Secretary General, Kofi Anan noted: *“We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights. Unless all these causes are advanced, none will succeed”*.

In some countries where natural resources like oil and gas are explored and refined, there have been noticeable signs of development, while in others, they have led to increased levels of poverty, human rights violations and insecurity as is the case in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. In such countries, development has remained an illusion partly because it is not considered a human right and consequently equal attention is not paid to the implementation, protection and promotion of all categories of human rights. The UN Declaration on the Right to Development provides that the promotion of, respect for and enjoyment of a given human right should not be a basis for the denial of other human rights and fundamental freedoms. Therefore, it is important for key actors in the development discourse to consider the human rights implications for every single investment that a country embarks on, including oil exploration and refining.

In the Ugandan context, the oil and gas industry is expected to be one of the avenues for realising the right to development and in effect a wide spectrum of other human rights. The industry is expected to boost the economy in a holistic manner through constant provision of energy and increased revenue among other incentives. By implication this would contribute to poverty reduction and the realisation of a broad range of human rights such as the right to work, the right to an adequate standard of living, right to health and right to education. In this regard, achieving development through the oil and gas industry require having strategies, mechanisms, policy and legal framework that would ensure respect for, protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

2.3 Legal framework for a human rights compliant oil industry

The human rights legal framework bestows on state parties obligations at different levels to ensure respect for human rights as well as accountability and redress in the event of violations and abuse. States are specifically obliged to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of every person. The obligation to respect obliges the state to ensure that its agents do not violate human rights.



The obligation to protect requires that the state party ensures that third parties do not violate human rights, while the obligation to fulfill human rights means facilitating a conducive atmosphere for the full realisation of human rights through appropriate legislative, administrative, budgetary, judicial, promotional, and other measures. In addition, the obligation to fulfill entails the duty to provide where due to circumstances beyond their control people are unable to access the rights.

In view of the above and regarding the oil and gas industry, states are obliged to protect their citizens against human rights abuses by third parties, including business enterprises engaged in the extraction, production and sale of oil. States are required to do this by instituting appropriate policies, regulation, and adjudication (effective judicial and non-judicial remedies) in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Business enterprises are required to act with due diligence to avoid infringing on the rights of others and to address adverse impacts on the environment, resulting from their activities. The human rights legal framework relevant to the oil and gas industry is at the international, regional and national levels. Since the oil industry is a multifaceted one, the legal framework is equally of a broad nature, encompassing several human rights. Uganda is state party to several international and regional instruments relating to the oil industry, in addition to its own national legal framework as highlighted below.

2.3.1 International legal framework

Uganda is a state party to several core international human rights instruments which provide human rights standards that can be used to ensure a human rights compliant oil industry. These instruments include: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Uganda is also a party to the core International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions. These instruments confer on Uganda as a state party obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the rights provided for.

Other human rights instruments include the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the UN Global Compact; the International Finance Corporation Sustainability Framework; the Natural Resource Charter; and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, among others. As a member of the United Nations Uganda assumed obligations from the commitment it made in being party to these principles and frameworks.



2.3.2 Regional legal framework

At the regional level Uganda has ratified the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and its Protocol on the rights of women in Africa; the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; and the Kampala Convention on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). All these instruments contain human rights standards that must be applied to ensure a human rights compliant oil industry.

2.3.3 National legal framework

Chapter 4 of the Constitution provides for the protection and promotion of fundamental and other human rights and freedoms, which in one way or the other has a bearing on the protection and promotion of human rights in the oil industry. Specifically, Article 244 of the Constitution provides that all minerals and petroleum in, on or under any land or waters in Uganda are vested in the government on behalf of the people of Uganda. The constitution further states that Parliament shall enact laws regulating the exploitation and development of minerals and petroleum.

In this regard, the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act, 2013 was enacted to regulate petroleum exploration, development and production in Uganda; guide the establishment of the Petroleum Authority of Uganda and the National Oil Company; as well as regulate the licensing and participation of commercial entities in Uganda's petroleum activities. In addition, the Petroleum (Refining, Gas Processing and Conversion, Transportation and Storage) Act, 2013 was enacted to regulate oil refinery activities in Uganda.

Government also enacted the National Oil and Gas Policy, 2008, which among others recognises many of the challenges associated with natural-resource wealth and the need to mitigate the potential negative impacts of the extractive industry in order to achieve sustainable development from an exhaustible resource like oil. The policy highlights the need for a long-term national strategy to ensure optimal impacts from oil and gas exploitation by maximising benefits to Ugandans. It further aims at making oil and gas development in Uganda contribute to early achievement of poverty eradication and create lasting value to society. In addition, it explicitly recognises the critical importance of transparency and accountability in handling all aspects of natural-resource management. The policy states:

“Openness and access to information are fundamental rights in activities that may positively or negatively impact individuals, communities and states. It is important that information that will enable stakeholders to assess how their interests are being affected is disclosed. This policy recognises the important roles different stakeholders have to play in order to achieve transparency and accountability in the oil and gas activities. This policy shall therefore promote



high standards of transparency and accountability in licensing, procurement, exploration, development and production operations as well as management of revenues from oil and gas. The policy will also support disclosure of payments and revenues from oil and gas using simple and understood principles in line with accepted national and international financial reporting standards."

The policy conferred on the MEMD the main roles of Government in managing petroleum resources, that is, policy making and implementation; regulation of the sub-sector; and managing the commercial/business aspects. The MEMD is therefore the lead agency in implementation of the National Oil and Gas Policy for Uganda. Nonetheless, the policy recognises the role of other MDAs and provides that parent ministries are responsible for guiding and monitoring the work of the operational/managerial agencies placed under them. In addition, the role of local governments, CSOs, and cultural institutions can play is recognised by the policy particularly regarding advocacy, mobilisation and dialogue with communities empowering them to participate effectively and also hold duty bearers accountable.



The UHRC monitoring team in a discussion with community members of Joga village, Purongo Sub County, Nwoya District



3.0 EMERGING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES FROM THE OIL ACTIVITIES IN THE ALBERTINE GRABEN

3.1 Analysis of the human rights concerns from the oil exploration and refinery related activities

The commencement of oil exploration and refinery activities in the Albertine Graben has been characterised by allegations of human rights violations, among other concerns. These concerns have been on issues related to the environment, compensation, gender and displacement.

When the Government took a decision to construct an oil refinery in Kabaale Parish, Buseruka Sub-county, Hoima district, it necessitated the displacement and relocation of several people from the zoned area, which covers 29 square miles and has 13 villages. The Government through the MEMD developed a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to ensure fairness and transparency in the resettlement exercise. The process of relocating people from Kabaale parish to pave way for the development of the oil refinery is already underway. However, the project affected persons (PAPs) alleged that the compensation exercise was marred by irregularities and their rights were being violated.

The UHRC sought to examine these allegations with a view to establishing the human rights at stake and proposing or taking action to pre-empt any human rights violations. During the monitoring exercise, the UHRC established that there were pertinent human rights issues arising out of both oil exploration and refinery related activities in the Albertine Graben as analysed herein under.

3.1.1 The right to an effective remedy

Human rights concerns:

- **Low compensation rates**
- **Delayed payment of compensation**

Article 26 of the Constitution provides for the right to protection from deprivation of property and guarantees the right of everyone to own property individually or in association with others. The Constitution further provides the conditions for compulsory deprivation of property or interest by government in the public interest, which must be lawful. It requires that there must be provision for prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation, prior to the taking of possession or acquisition of the property and the right to go to court in case one is aggrieved.

There were allegations of low compensation rates, where residents for instance, in Hoima refinery area alleged that they were to be paid compensations that ranged from Ug. Shs. 3.5 to Ug. Shs. 7 million per acre of land, depending on the



location. Residents claimed that this amount was too little to afford them land of the same size elsewhere in the neighbouring communities. They would have preferred to acquire alternative land within the area not only because of their ancestral attachment to the area, but also the anticipated benefits of living in proximity to the refinery when it gets underway. As such they needed land from the nearby communities which they could not afford with the compensation rates they had been offered.

There were also allegations of inadequate compensations for crops that had been destroyed during the seismic surveys in the oil exploration areas. Some residents complained about the compensation rates of cemeteries and tombs. They informed the UHRC monitoring team that the UG. Shs. 200,000 offered for the transfer of graves was not enough for exhuming, transporting and reburying the remains of their dead. Others complained generally that burial sites had not been adequately assessed.

In view of the above, the UHRC established that the disputed rates had been duly determined by the District Land Board in consultation with other technical officials at the district. The technical officials included an entomologist (consulted on valuing bees), agriculturalist (consulted on crops and any other agriculture-related items), officer in charge of forests - the District Forestry Officer (consulted on valuation of trees), among others. Thereafter, the District Valuer harmonised the rates and submitted them to the Chief Government Valuer who by law has the discretion to vary or maintain them in consideration of factors prescribed under the law including location and rates in the neighbouring districts. The Chief Government Valuer informed the UHRC that his office was responsible for determining values for disposal and acquisition of assets and ensure value for money in the transactions. He emphasised that the estimated price for the transfer of an asset reflected the interests of all concerned parties. He added that because of insufficient resources, his office was unable to conduct valuations on its own. Consequently private valuers are engaged but his office approves their final reports.

In addition, while interacting with the Project Manager, Refinery Development Project/Assistant Commissioner Geology of the MEDM, the UHRC established that the compensation rates that were used to pay the PAPs were partly based on the prevailing market prices of land within the district. He revealed that the land within the same area that Government is due to acquire for the PAPs who opted to be resettled is going to cost less than what was paid to the PAPs who opted for compensation. Although the compensation rates that were used to pay the PAPs were professionally determined, valuation at the level of the district was limited to crops, trees and semi-permanent structures while land and permanent structures were valued by technical experts contracted by SFI.



In view of this, the Chief Government Valuer acknowledged the possibility of inadvertently missing out some items that were raised during the disclosure exercise, but ruled out any controversy with compensation rates. He confirmed that the rates for crops and livestock had been provided by the districts in line with the law and while his office approved some of the rates as provided by the districts, it also adjusted others basing on the professional expertise and the mandate vested in his office by law. It was however established that there was a lot of generalisation during these processes, which resulted into under valuation and errors in valuation. As a result, there were cases of unfair and inadequate compensations to some PAPs, which would affect their ability to acquire decent accommodation, which is key in fulfilment of the right to an effective remedy.

Related to the above, there were allegations of delayed payment of compensations of PAPs by MEMD, Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) or the responsible oil companies. In view of this, residents were irked by the long time that had passed after valuation without getting their compensation and yet the process did not factor in inflation and the depreciation of the shilling. Specifically, the valuation exercise in the refinery area ended in June 2012, yet the signing of the compensation agreement was done a year later. Moreover, the compensation agreements were silent on any exact date when payments would be effected. Residents said the compensation rates used in the exercise were for FY 2010/2011 and therefore could not be realistic for compensations likely to be effected in FY 2013/2014. In another instance, residents that were affected by oil exploration in Buliisa district complained of delayed compensation for their crops that had been destroyed during the seismic surveys, while some others had never been compensated at all.

The UHRC further established that in Omuka Exploration Pad Area, Nebbi district, while most of the affected land owners with clear records had been paid by August 2013, two people Mr. Opar Nicholas and Mr. Obomba Donasiano through whose land the access road to Omuka Exploration Pad passed had not yet been paid. Correspondences availed to the UHRC indicated that this was because there was a pending case between National Forest Authority (NFA) and the two men over ownership of parts of their land through which the road passed. It was established that Total E&P policy does not allow payment of compensation where there are disputes on the land in question.

Residents in Ondiek Pad, Abok village, Nebbi district alleged that Total E&P Uganda operations started before the payment of compensation or signing of agreement with the affected people were done. They further complained of delayed payment of compensation for use of their land as they had only been compensated for food crops that had been destroyed during the seismic survey.



The UHRC confirmed that there were delays in effecting of compensation in view of the timeframe between when valuation was done in 2012 and when actual compensation was being effected. It was further observed that the delay in compensation or relocation of the PAPs was causing anxiety amongst them. On the timing of effecting payments, the UHRC learnt from the MEMD that it was an issue of bureaucracy in government, which was being handled to expedite the process. Although SFI alleged that the implementation of the RAP was moving on smoothly and the entire exercise had been conducted using RAP committees which were democratically elected by the affected people at the village levels, there were noticeable delays in the actual resettlement of the PAPs. On the whole, delayed payment of compensation for PAPs continues to undermine the PAPs' right to an effective remedy, particularly the requirement for prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation.

3.1.2 The right to participation

Human rights concerns:

- **Lack of people's participation**
- **Lack of consultation on some corporate social responsibility activities**

Everyone has a right to participate in his/her governance and this right places the primary duty on the state to ensure meaningful participation for its citizens without discrimination. Article 21(1) of the UDHR provides: "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country directly or through freely chosen representatives". Article 25 of the ICCPR states that "Every citizen shall have the rights and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions: (a) to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives". The ACHPR Article 13 (1) states: "Every citizen shall have the right to participate freely in the government of his country, either directly or through freely chosen representatives in accordance with the provisions of the law".

At the national level, Article 38(1) of the Constitution of Uganda provides that "Every Ugandan citizen has the right to participate in the affairs of government, individually or through his or her representatives in accordance with the law". Meaningful participation, which is a key element of the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development, enhances transparency and information sharing which are critical prerequisites in the effective management of the oil and gas industry. Denying people the right to participate in decisions, policies, processes and practices in the oil and gas industry would have far-reaching ramifications for achieving the development goals in Uganda as it would negatively affect human rights.



In some oil exploration and refinery related activities, there were allegations of lack of people's participation. Some residents alleged that they were never consulted during the determination of the compensation rates. They further argued that compensation for the crops destroyed, particularly the perennial crops did not take into account the fact that such crops were providing incomes to families over the years, while that for food crops did not take into account the current market prices.

Some residents also complained that the valuers never consulted them especially on the true worth of their properties. They stated that the rates offered for the trees for instance, were not commensurate with the regular income they were getting through the sale of the tree products. One member, whose mango tree was valued at Ug. Shs. 100,000/= informed the UHRC that she used to get the equivalent of that amount in just one season. Other residents who had food crops like cabbages noted that they were valued at Ug. Shs. 200 yet the market price was Ug. Shs. 2,000. Residents said these were facts the firm conducting the valuations ought to have considered before deciding on the amount to compensate them. Others complained that involuntary relocation and displacement of people for example at Kasemene I was carried out without prior consultation of affected communities and in some circumstances, their free and informed consent.

During the monitoring exercise, the UHRC learnt that oil companies had undertaken activities for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a way of giving back to communities. According to the Petroleum Exploration and Production Department (PEPD) of the MEMD, the activities ranged from facilitating the provision of health services, education and skills training services including scholarships, sport to road safety campaigns all worth billions of shillings. (*Refer to Annex 3 on the List of Corporate Social Responsibility activities undertaken by oil companies*) However, some residents and civil society members expressed concern about the unresponsiveness of some of the CSR activities given that the beneficiary communities were not effectively engaged to participate and decide on what was best for them. In Nebbi, for instance, the District NGO Forum was concerned that the CSR activities undertaken by the oil companies were not demand-driven. The NGO argued that the communities should have a say in what they need and not what the companies think the people need. In view of human rights standards and particularly those related to the right to participation, it is a requirement to involve people in matters that concern them. As a result, the minimal or lack of participation the PAPs in oil exploration and refinery related activities is a potential violation of their right to participation.



3.1.3 The right to self-determination

Human rights concerns:

- **Lack of involvement of the Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom in the oil activities**
- **Kingdom not considered for payment of royalties**

The ICCPR and the ICESCR recognise peoples' sovereignty and the right over their natural resources. Article 1 of the ICESCR provides for the right of all peoples to self-determination in addition to the right to "freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources" for their own ends. It provides that under no circumstances "may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence". Article 21 of the ACHPR equally provides for the peoples' right to freely dispose of their wealth and natural resources. The UN General Assembly Resolutions have also affirmed the sovereignty of the people over their natural wealth and resources. Considering that Uganda is a state party to the core international and regional human rights instruments, it is obliged to respect provisions and obligations enshrined in them, including the respect, protection and promotion of people's right to self-determination.

In view of Uganda's nascent oil industry, people, particularly those in oil exploration and refinery areas are overly enthusiastic about the exploration and refining of oil in the country. Majority of the community members the UHRC interacted with in the oil refinery areas perceived oil refinery activities as investments that would uplift their lives and the status of their region through among others provisions of employment opportunities and better standards of living. However, there were some community members who were pessimistic about the benefits of the industry. The Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom officials faulted government for not involving them in the oil and gas activities within the kingdom's jurisdiction. They further expressed sentiments with regard to probable enjoyment of benefits from the industry as part of their royalties as a kingdom. Regarding this allegation, the UHRC established from MEMD that the issues of royalties being demanded by Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom were a challenge. The legal framework specifies that local governments located in the oil and gas producing areas would benefit from the royalty revenues but the kingdom is not formally recognised as a governance structure within this framework.

Drawing from case law and precedents at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in respect to the Katangese People's Congress in Zaire and the Ogoni people in the Niger Delta in Nigeria, it is important that people are not denied meaningful say in government and in decisions on disposal and benefit of natural resources. The African Commission clearly underscored the obligations of the states to take precautionary steps to protect their citizens to exercise the right to free disposal of wealth and natural resources. It was held that the non-



participation of the Ogoni people and the absence of any benefits accruable to them in the exploitation of oil resources by the Nigerian government and the oil companies was a breach of its obligations under the ACHPR to exercise this right in the exclusive interest of the people and to eliminate all forms of foreign economic exploitation.

In this respect, these experiences could inform the way the government in Uganda handles the concerns of the Banyoro people and their kingdom, who feel that they have a right to benefit more from the oil and gas in their region. Considering that the rights to participation and self-determination are closely connected, it is important that people participate in decision making not only in their governance but also regarding natural wealth and resources. If people do not participate they cannot realise their right to self-determination in the sense of benefitting from the natural resources they have.

3.1.4 The right of access to information

Human rights concerns:

- **General lack of information (information vacuum) on what was happening in the oil activities**
- **No feedback to the PAPs on compensation issues even when they had a direct interest in them**
- **Little effort to enable all the community members in the region understand the legal requirements, procedures, processes and the entire management framework of the oil and gas industry**

Article 41 of the Constitution provides for the right of every citizen to access information in the hands of the state. The Access to Information Act, 2005 further provides the framework of how to access the information and the limitations on the kind of information that can be accessed from the state. In relation to the oil exploration and refinery-related activities in the Albertine Graben, there were allegations from communities and other stakeholders of lack of information about what happened or was happening and the processes involved.

The UHRC established that there had been only minimal efforts and in some aspects none, to enable all the community members to understand the legal requirements, the procedures, processes and the entire management framework of the oil and gas industry in the region. A case in point is of residents in the refinery areas who alleged that after the completion of the property valuation, there was no feedback to the people whose properties had been valued, to give them an indication of how much money they were going to get. Some residents



said they were shocked to learn later of the rates they were offered without knowing how the valuation team had arrived at the final figures. They questioned why the valuation team had not allowed them to raise complaints and omissions before displaying the details of the valuation.

In another instance, some of the residents that were affected by the construction of an access road to Omuka Exploration Pad site in Panyimur Sub County, Nebbi District told the UHRC that they never knew the rate that was used in determining compensation rates as some people who were meant to be paid Ug. Shs. 19million only got Ug. Shs. 2million. Furthermore, residents reported that the compensation agreements were in English and that there were no mechanisms of interpreting the content to them, yet majority could not read or write English. In this regard, there were allegations that some women thought they had signed land use agreements, yet they were actually signing for compensation of destroyed crops, while others signed without knowing what they were signing for.

The UHRC was also informed by residents of Abok village that when Total E&P Uganda hit a dry well in Ondiek Pad, the company never communicated to them the way forward. One of the residents said: *“After the exploration, Total E&P left in the night, took their machines with them and we were left with no information on whether they would return; whether the land use agreements would be extended; and when the land would be restored”*. Residents who were affected by the construction/upgrading of the Hoima-Kaiso Tonya road alleged that they had no information regarding the direction the oil pipeline was likely to take. They had a fear of further inconvenience caused by displacement as a result of the oil refinery. They claimed that due to lack of information they could not prepare in advance for displacement if it happened. Although people anticipated to be displaced in the long run, they said they lived with a lot of anxiety since no one had informed them about it and what could befall them in case it happened.

Furthermore, the area earmarked for the refinery has roads and paths connecting to various neighbouring trading centres as well as other amenities like schools and health centres. The communities neighbouring the refinery area therefore expressed concern that they did not know what would happen to them once they are cut off from these facilities by the refinery. A similar concern was raised by residents with land around the same area, claiming that at the moment they were not allowed to develop or lease their land due to the absence of the physical plan for the area. The residents wanted the government to provide information on the physical plan of the area and how communities neighbouring the refinery would continue surviving without access to such facilities. In view of this, the UHRC learnt from the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development that it was in the process of developing the Land Use Physical Plan that would guide land use in the refinery area.



In addition, the MEMD developed a guiding framework: the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the resettlement of people from the areas earmarked for the refinery. However, this framework was not readily available on the ground among the district officials and community members.

CSOs focusing on oil exploration and refinery-related activities told the UHRC that there was no free flow of information from Government on what was happening in the oil field. They alleged that information and matters of oil in Uganda were being secretly guarded. In relation to this, the Country Manager for International Alert, while interacting with the UHRC monitoring team noted: *“Staff of the oil companies are more accessible than the MEMD staff, leaving a big information gap between the people and government. As a result, some NGOs have taken advantage to of the information gap to push for their own agenda, including misinforming and misleading unsuspecting and vulnerable community members”*. In an interview with the UHRC, the Permanent Secretary, MEMD informed the monitoring team that the ministry had developed a communication strategy to deal with all communication matters but they were still facing challenges from hostile audiences. It was also commendable that Total E&P and Tullow had established Community Liaison Offices (CLO) in Nebbi and Hoima districts respectively to ease communication and access to information between the oil companies and the community members.

What was evident to the UHRC was the inability of government and district officials especially the technical officers based at the districts to adequately counter and respond in equal measure to the amplified voices of some CSOs filling in the information gap. The UHRC also found that there was fear and anxiety among some of the communities in whose areas no oil and gas activity was ongoing especially in Amuru district. This is because there was lack of information on where the oil exploration was to be carried out and the likely implications should the oil wells be found. In view of the primary duty of the state to ensure meaningful participation in the exercise of the right to participation, the UHRC established that there were still gaps in access to information on oil and gas industry in Uganda, which is crucial for informed participation.

3.1.5 Right to a clean and healthy environment

Human rights concerns:

- **Environmental pollution in form of dust, noise and a stench**
- **Irregular waste dumping**
- **Waste spillage from overloaded trucks**

Principle 4 of the Rio Declaration, 1992 states that in order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the



development process and cannot be considered from it. In recognition of the Rio provisions on the environment among other international instruments, Article 39 of the Constitution of Uganda guarantees the right of every person to a clean and healthy environment. In addition, Goal Seven of the Millennium Development Goals provides for states' commitments to ensuring environmental sustainability.

In the same vein, the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and Environment in his preliminary report to the Human Rights Council recognised that: *"All human beings depend on the environment in which we live. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation. Without a healthy environment we are unable to fulfil our aspirations or even live at a level commensurate with minimum standards of human dignity. At the same time, protecting human rights helps to protect the environment"*³. Oil exploration and refinery related activities oftentimes come with environment-related issues, which if no mitigating mechanisms are put in place can be hazardous to living organisms, including human beings.

In light of the oil exploration activities in the Albertine Graben, there were a number of complaints regarding environmental issues. For instance, people in Kasemene 1 oil pad exploration area in Buliisa District complained of pollution of the environment from dust, noise and a stench which affected people's health. It was reported that such pollution mostly affected vulnerable persons like pregnant women, children and older persons. It was further reported that one of the oil companies had dumped waste containing large quantities of lead in Bugana near River Zoria which connects to another river whose water is used by animals and human beings.

In Ondiek Exploration Pad area in Nebbi District, the people complained that the machinery used in the exploration was heavy; it caused vibrations as far as 2km away; was operated both day and night; and made a lot of noise; so people could not sleep for close to three months. They said exploration work began in a dry season but there were no efforts like sprinkling water to manage the resultant dust. They said they suffered cough and flu. The women alleged that the fumes from the machines caused cassava to rot but they did not know where to report. In Kikaya West Oil Pad area, in Nebbi District, it was alleged that as roads were being graded, so many people caught ailments like cough and flu; and ripened cotton pods were soiled from the dust emitted.

Consequently, the farmers could not sell the soiled cotton and this affected their incomes and livelihood.

³Report of the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and Environment, p.4 para 7.



In Nwoya District, it was reported that waste dumping was done on private land in Purongo village with the consent of the owner, Mr. Olwoch Denis. However, the community members alleged that the victim had consented in ignorance of the content of the waste and the likely side effects. Members claimed that the man on whose land waste was dumped was now desperate to have it removed because society was isolating him and his produce. It was reported that two of his wives had deserted him for fear of producing children with deformities.

Regarding the case of Mr Olwoch of Purongo, the UHRC learnt from Total E&P that it had inherited the case from Heritage but explained that preliminary studies had been conducted and the results indicated that the substances dumped in Mr. Olwoch's land were not harmful. The UHRC further learnt that Total E&P now has a subcontractor approved by NEMA, who is managing waste substances, which are being dumped at a consolidated site. Contrary to allegations by the people that Total E&P was not willing to do anything on the issue of Mr. Olwoch, Total E&P explained that it was only waiting for a report from the Government (MEMD) and was ready to implement any recommendations the government would come up with. The UHRC also learnt that as an oil company Total E&P was very keen on ensuring that exploration and extraction of oil activities do not harm the environment and lead to violations of human rights. Total E&P explained that where vehicles of the subcontractors were spilling wastes in the road because of overloading, it had come up with a policy of loading at 75% for dry substances and 50 % for liquid substances to avoid spills.

The UHRC further established from NEMA that it had approved everything done by the oil companies regarding the environment, therefore, there was nothing being done outside the provisions of the existing legal framework. It was also established that in order to deal with environmental issues, NEMA had drafted guidelines for waste management to guide oil companies in the interim period; prepared a sensitivity Atlas for the Albertine Graben; and was in the process of developing an oil spill contingency plan as well as reviewing the waste management guidelines. NEMA had also undergone internal reorganization and established a regional office in Masindi, in addition to building capacity for staff on oil issues. The UHRC learnt that the NEMA Act would soon be reviewed to take care of the emerging environmental issues relating to the oil and gas industry.

In line with the oil exploration and refinery related activities, it is critical to ensure that a high level of precaution is taken with regard to all environmental issues. This would help to mitigate adverse environment-related hazards that might arise as a result of such activities, which could negatively impact on the enjoyment of the right to a clean and healthy environment.



3.1.6 Workers' rights

Human rights concerns:

- **Discriminating against the locals in the area when giving jobs**
- **Language barrier which affected communication and caused misunderstanding, ultimately affecting job security**
- **Restricted access to the oil pads for district labour officers to monitor workers' rights**

A group of rights exist regarding the labour relations between workers and their employers. Article 40 (1) (a) of the Constitution provides that Parliament shall enact laws to provide for the right of persons to work under satisfactory safe and healthy conditions. In view of this, Parliament enacted the Employment Act, 2006, which provides the framework for governing individual employment relationships, inspection of work places by labour officers, and rights and duties in employment, among others. It is a guiding framework to business enterprises with regard to respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, particularly of workers.

Over the years, the oil exploration and refinery related activities, particularly in the Albertine Graben have led to establishment of business enterprises, which are providing a wide range of employment opportunities to many people. These jobs have ranged from technical to casual labour. During the monitoring exercise, the UHRC inquired from the residents about the human rights situation of local workers engaged in oil exploration and refinery activities.

Some residents that the UHRC interviewed at Kisomere Village, Ngwedo Sub County, Buliisa District for example, openly expressed dissatisfaction with the way oil companies were discriminating against the locals in the area when giving jobs. One of the community members had this to say during a focus group discussion: *"They do not give us jobs on the pretext that we are not qualified, yet they go and bring people as drivers from Mbarara who cannot even speak broken English"*. In Kigaaga B, Hoima District, some residents from the oil refinery areas viewed the oil refinery related activities as likely to benefit other people not the residents of the affected area. One particular member noted that the community members were not educated and thus did not possess the requisite knowledge to enable them benefit from the project.

Contrary to these allegations, the Stakeholders' Engagement Officer of Tullow informed the UHRC monitoring team that over 80% of the employees in the oil exploration and refinery related activities were Ugandans and that Tullow has a company policy to employ more local people as long as they have the



required qualifications. Despite the existence of such a company policy, residents continued to complain over unclear terms of employment given to employees by oil companies. They further noted that the communication gap between some employees and the oil company employers was compounded by the language barrier. In the specific case of CNOOC, the locals could hardly understand Chinese and depended on gestures which sometimes were not well understood. In view of these allegations, residents noted that it had become easy for the locals to be hired and fired at ease without any recourse mechanism.

There were also allegations by District Labour Officers (DLOs), particularly in Buliisa District that visiting/inspecting oil pads was restricted and that to access them, they had to give a notice of at least four days. It was further alleged that this prior notice was a hindrance to effective monitoring of operations and workers' welfare by the DLOs. In an interview with the Permanent Secretary for MEMD, he told the UHRC that access to oil pads was restricted because they are strategic installations, which cannot be accessed by anyone at any time and that this was intended to create orderliness and ensure maximum security of the installations. In view of this, the UHRC established that there were no clear guidelines by the MEMD to facilitate easy access to oil pads by the different responsible persons, in this case DLOs, yet they are the first point of redress in labour matters at the district level.

It was further observed that such occurrences were not only creating speculation among community members over the conditions of workers in the oil pads, leading to unfounded allegations but also widening the information gap between oil companies and government on one hand and residents on the other. In light of the above, the UHRC notes with concern that without proper guidelines on monitoring the operations and welfare of workers engaged in oil exploration and refinery related activities, it will be difficult to ensure ultimate protection of workers' rights.

3.1.7 Land Rights

Human rights concerns:

- **Selling off of communal land without following proper procedures**
- **Lack of clarity over the government ban on acquisition of land titles in the Albertine Graben**
- **Inadequate compensation that did not put into consideration land use rights**
- **Delayed restoration of the derelict land**
- **Alleged forced signing of compensation disclosure agreements by some residents**



Article 26 (1) of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda provides for every person's right to own property either individually or in association with others, while Article 237 states that land in Uganda belongs to the citizens of Uganda and shall vest in them in accordance with the following land tenure systems: Customary, freehold, mailo, and leasehold. The Constitution further provides for other legislations that can be used to guide matters of land use and rights.

Such legislations include: The Land (Amendment) Act, 2010, which enhances the security of occupancy of lawful and bona fide occupants on registered land in accordance with Article 237 of the Constitution. The Uganda National Land Policy, 2013 aims at ensuring efficient, equitable and sustainable utilisation and management of Uganda's land and land based resources for poverty reduction, wealth creation and overall social economic development. In general, land laws in Uganda provide a framework for the management and tenure rights and land administration. They further stipulate conditions under which government can acquire land, which includes purchase from a willing seller or through compulsory acquisition in accordance with the right to property provided for in the Constitution. Specifically the 1998 Land Act upholds the Constitution's support to property rights for women and girls by stating in Section 27 that any decision made on customary land according to the customs or traditions that denies women access to ownership, occupation or use of any land or violates rights of women in the 1995 Constitution is null and void. The 2004 amendments to the Land Act give all spouses the right to security of occupancy on family land and require consent of the spouses for transactions of family land.

In the Albertine Graben, where there had been cases of displacement of persons as a result of oil exploration and refinery activities, a number of complaints relating to land rights and land use issues emerged. For instance, in Buliisa District, there were allegations of people selling communal land, without following proper procedures as provided by the law. Some residents reported that much as some people claimed to own this land, most of them did not have land titles. It was observed that there were people who were fraudulently selling such communal land to unsuspecting people.

Residents along Hoima-Kaiso Tonya road alleged that in spite of the government ban on acquisition of land titles in the Albertine Graben there were people that continued to acquire land titles there. Furthermore, in Buliisa District there was evident fear among all the people interviewed that their communal lands could have been fraudulently bought long time ago. Allegations were made that a Kampala businessman hailing from Buliisa District owns over 80% of the land where oil pads are located. It was alleged that in most cases he had prior information about the location of the oil wells from some politicians who were privy to the results of seismic surveys and procured that land. One of the



local leaders said: *“How come that wherever he buys a piece of land, an oil well is discovered there?”*

Residents were also concerned that no responsible state organ(s) had provided them with information regarding who was authorising acquisition of land titles. In relation to this, the Chief Government Valuer informed the UHRC monitoring team that a presidential directive had banned the acquisition of land titles in the Albertine Graben. However, the reports of a moratorium on acquisition of land titles in the Albertine region was refuted by the Hoima Lands Officer as well as the RDC who clarified that no official communication had been received by the district stopping them from issuing land documents. The only area in the district that was reported to have the ban was Kyangwali Sub County.

In relation to the above, some people in Kasemene, Avogera and Kisomere villages said that much as they were displaced from their gardens, no compensation was made for their gardens by the oil companies. There were also reports of people who were removed from their land in 2008 by one of the oil companies but had never been compensated. One of such victims is Mr. Kisémbó of Kasemene, Northern Ward, Buliisa Town Council. Other residents alleged that they had been compensated for their crops especially those that were in gardens where oil pads are located, but could no longer access or use their gardens, yet they were only compensated for the crops. It has taken some residents over six years without using their pieces of land, yet they never received compensation for the land.

In places where exploration activities resulted into dry wells, like Ondiek oil exploration pad, residents complained of delayed restoration of the derelict land. In view of this, the UHRC learnt that Total E&P Restoration Plan was with NEMA pending approval at the time of publishing this report. The UHRC also learnt that there was no approved physical plan by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development for the Albertine Graben and that this was stalling the redevelopment of the areas as well as resettlement plans for the affected persons. It was also reported that the delayed release of the physical plan was interfering with the affected people's land use rights.

Furthermore, there were allegations of forced signing of compensation disclosure agreements by some residents. Residents also alleged that signing of compensation forms was done under duress, with threats that whoever did not sign would lose out completely. Others were told that although they would be allowed to lodge complaints, it would take over ten years to have their concerns addressed, leaving those who did not append their signatures on the forms in a state of uncertainty. They said they had legitimate concerns not to sign because they were not given an adequate explanation regarding the way their properties were valued. In cases where some residents preferred resettlement



to compensation, residents alleged that they did not know when, where and how they were going to be resettled.

In line with land rights related complaints, the UHRC learnt from SFI that it had established a complaints desk in the refinery area, where people were free to lodge their complaints, particularly during the signing of compensation agreement forms. It was further established that arrangements were underway to identify land in the neighboring communities for people who had opted for resettlement. As a process, the Permanent Secretary for MEMD informed the UHRC monitoring team that before the resettlement exercise gets underway, the affected persons shall be given four months' notice to vacate their land after being paid, therefore there was no need for them to worry as nobody would be pushed out without adequate notice. The UHRC also learnt that SFI and MEMD were planning another phase of livelihood restoration programmes to help people on how to use their compensation money and establish small businesses. Considering that oil exploration and refinery related activities often come with displacement and disruption of human activities, failure to handle such matters in an expeditious and human rights compliant manner may result into violations of human rights in general and land related rights in particular.

3.1.8 The rights of vulnerable persons

Human rights concerns:

- **Alleged sexual harassment of workers within the oil camps**
- **Alleged sexual abuse and exploitation of girls by the moneyed foreign nationals working in the oil exploration activities especially road construction**
- **Increase in population or influx of sex workers attracted by the oil workers and the danger of fuelling the spread of HIV/AIDS**
- **Only men were signing on compensation forms yet it was a requirement that both husband and wife should be signatories**
- **Escalating disputes between spouses and within families over compensation money, fuelling domestic violence and disenfranchising wives, children, widows and women farmers**

A vulnerable person is one who cannot provide for him/herself by virtue of the status he/she is in. The European Commission Oil and Gas Sector Guide on Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights acknowledges that different kinds of negative impacts, resulting from oil and gas related activities can fall on different groups and even on individuals within certain groups. Impacts can be more severe when individuals or groups



are vulnerable or marginalised. A case in point is where failure to prepare for the influx of mostly male construction workers results in increased sexual exploitation of or abuse against local women and children.

In the Albertine Graben, the rights of some categories of vulnerable people such as girls and women in search of employment and livelihoods were reported to be under threat. There were allegations of sexual harassment within the oil camps. The RDC Hoima confirmed to have received such reports and was handling them with the relevant authorities. The UHRC also repeatedly encountered allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation of girls in Hoima, most especially sex workers allegedly by the moneyed foreigners constructing the Kaiso-Tonya road. In Nebbi district, the UHRC established that there were fears that the settling of oil workers in the area had increased the population of sex workers, this was likely to fuel the spread of HIV. It was further alleged that some of the Turks constructing the Kaiso-Tonya Road were procuring prostitutes and ending up inviting a number of their colleagues to gang rape them. Most of the officials in Hoima District whom the UHRC interviewed had heard about the allegations although there was no concrete evidence to support it.

The UHRC also established that family disputes and domestic violence were on the rise as women battled their spouses for a share of the money from compensation and the sale of murram for the construction/upgrading of access roads to the oil exploration and refinery areas. The boom in the money available for men was making their wives and children vulnerable as they would be sidelined on decisions regarding its expenditure. In oil refinery areas, women raised a concern that only men were signing on compensation forms yet it was a requirement that both husband and wife should be signatories to the forms. They expressed fears of being sidelined by their husbands when compensation money finally comes through. In one case in Hoima, a widow complained about being disenfranchised since she could not sign the compensation agreement as the owner of the property that was due for compensation. Instead her father in law had signed as the rightful owner of the property of his deceased son. The widow wondered what her fate and that of her six orphaned children would be since they had not been consulted.

In oil exploration areas in Buliisa district, there were also gender dimensions over compensation made for the crops that had been destroyed during the oil exploratory stage. Culturally, majority of men in Buliisa are fishermen while women are farmers. During the time of compensation for the crops, it was the men who registered and actually received compensation money for gardens that women were tilling. The team received reports that some women who insisted to be paid for their gardens that were destroyed suffered acts of domestic violence. To corroborate this, officials from Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom informed



the UHRC monitoring team that cases of gender-based violence were on the increase in the region.

According to an analysis that was carried out by the MEMD on vulnerability in the oil refinery area, there are six categories of vulnerable persons. These were people with disability (PWDs), chronically ill persons, elderly, women, children (under 5) and minority ethnic groups. Specifically, there were 201 PWDs; 106 persons who were chronically ill; 181 elderly persons (aged at least 60 years); 3514 women; 1344 children under five years; and 193 members of the Lendu ethnic minority group⁴. Besides this vulnerability analysis, UHRC established that there were no noticeable mechanisms that were in place or in the offing to address issues of vulnerability among the affected communities in general and their rights in particular. Although the MEMD RAP puts in place mechanism to address issues of vulnerability, at the time of publishing this report, the mechanisms were not adequately implemented to provide a comprehensive safeguard of vulnerable persons' rights.

3.1.9 The right to education

Human rights concerns:

- **Withdrawal of children from school on account of the impending relocation of primary schools from the refinery area**

The right to education is a fundamental right recognised in core international and regional as well as national human rights instruments. Specifically, Article 30 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda provides for every person's right to education. In order for the right to education to be enjoyed it should be among others, affordable and accessible. In view of these standards, during the UHRC monitoring exercise, the monitoring team inquired from the residents in the oil exploration and planned refinery areas on whether oil activities in these areas had an impact on the enjoyment of the right to education.

In the refinery areas, residents informed the UHRC that on learning that Nyahaira and Kyapaloni Primary Schools were going to be relocated, some residents decided to stop their children from going to school. Other residents reported that some children were forced into marriage, while others started engaging in small businesses. When UHRC interacted with the District Inspector of Schools in Hoima district, it was established that such actions by parents were causing a high school dropout rate of children. According to human rights standards, this

⁴Ministry of Energy and Development Department Resettlement Action Plan for the proposed acquisition of land for the oil refinery in Kabaale Parish, Buseruka sub-county, Hoima District. October 2012



was a violation of children's right to education as well as a precursor for possible child labour related issues and other abuses that may arise when the oil refinery gets underway.

3.1.10 The right to freedom of movement

Human rights concerns:

- **The influx of what residents described as "foreigners" into the oil region**

Every human being has a right to freedom of movement. The Constitution of Uganda recognises this right and particularly Article 29 (2) (a) states that every Ugandan shall have the right to move freely throughout Uganda and to reside and settle in any part of Uganda. Oil exploration and refinery related activities the world over have a tendency of attracting people from all walks of life and all parts of the country or region. Specifically, the same can be said of the Albertine Graben where oil exploration and refinery related activities have and continue to attract people from all parts of Uganda and some neighbouring countries. Although people have a right to move freely throughout Uganda and to reside and settle in any part of the country, there were numerous complaints regarding the influx of what residents described as "foreigners".

In this regard, the UHRC established that the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) was aware of the huge influx of people both from the Democratic Republic of Congo and from within Uganda to the oil region. According to the Permanent Secretary, MIA, the Ministry had established a special police unit in charge of oil and gas; had revitalised the registration of all deaths and births in Uganda; intensified immigration inspection by establishing mobile immigration units as well as a rapid response mechanism. To corroborate this, the MEMD in the RAP, noted that 70.7% of the people in the oil refinery area were Alur while the Banyoro comprised only 7.3%, and the remaining percentages was distributed among other ethnic tribes in Uganda as well as neighbouring countries that had a presence in the Albertine Graben. In view of the standards on the right to freedom of movement, the UHRC noted with concern that if these sentiments are not adequately addressed, they could escalate into xenophobic tendencies towards foreigners and people from other parts of the country.

3.2 Other emerging issues from the oil exploration and refinery related activities in the Albertine Region

During the monitoring exercise, there were other emerging issues that needed urgent attention, because they could lead to human rights violations if not checked. These issues are presented and discussed hereunder with a view



to making them known to the concerned authorities so as to put in place preventative measures before they escalate and cause human rights violations.

3.2.1 Non-payment of compensation

There were allegations of non-payment of compensation to some people because their names and the records of their property, particularly destroyed crops were allegedly missing on the list of those that were meant to be compensated. Some of the affected people who complained were from Panyimur Sub Country in Nebbi District. They include: Mr. Onen Lazaro, who said there was no record of his palm oil trees and maize that had been destroyed; Mr. Ouma Goffin, who alleged various crops on one acre of land he had hired for cultivation were destroyed, but his name was not registered for compensation; and Ms. Akumu Dona, who alleged that her cassava was destroyed in the garden, but this was not recorded and her name did not appear among the people entitled to compensation. Other community members complained about non-payment for young crops, which included banana and sisal suckers, as well as palm oil plants, which were allegedly not valued and compensated. In view of this, the affected people said they felt cheated because these young plants and trees would have later benefited them.

In another instance, a resident of Kiyaya West in Boro Sub County Nebbi District claimed that the vibrations from the oil company grader weakened his cotton store, which eventually collapsed. He said as a cotton dealer, without a store for the produce his business was greatly affected and this was his sole source of livelihood. Yet this was not considered for compensation.

Regarding the Hoima-Kaiso Tonya Road the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) Station Manager, Hoima, in an interview with the UHRC monitoring team, explained that there was minimal total displacement of people because the road already existed. He said UNRA was upgrading the 92 km road stretching from Hoima through Kaiso Tonya (shores of Lake Albert), from murrum to tarmac. However, he acknowledged the fact that the road traversed the original alignment with basically realignment to suit the new design (this includes cutting off some corners), and this affected some people. He further noted that although UNRA had considered the affected persons for compensation and that majority had been paid at the time of compiling this report, there were other affected individuals who were not identified during the pre-evaluation for compensation. He cited those whose houses got damaged due to heavy trucks shaking the ground, or those whose access roads to their homes were blocked, or whose homes were left hanging, among other conditions. These he said would be considered for compensation after the post re-evaluation exercise expected after completion of the road.



It should therefore be noted that people who were not compensated at all or whose property was never valued fall in a special category. They should be handled in a special way to ensure that their concerns are addressed in a timely and fair manner.

3.2.2 Human-animal conflict

Human-animal conflict generally refers to the interaction between wild animals and people and the consequent negative impact on people or their resources, or wild animals or their habitat. The allegation of human-animal conflict as one of the resultant effects of oil exploration was common in Nwoya District. Specifically, residents alleged that noise and the movement of vehicles in the national park due to oil exploration and the construction of the Tangi dumping site within the elephant corridor caused the animals, particularly elephants to flee into the villages.

They further alleged that the increased elephant population in the areas resulted into destruction of crops and loss of a life. Specifically, residents of Joga Village in Latoro Parish, Nwoya District alleged that in the past, the elephants would stray once or twice a month and return to the park but since oil exploration activities began, they were permanently within the community. They noted that elephants destroyed crops, houses and even killed a one Grace Akello in January 2012. These among other affected persons claimed that despite their complaints to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) about the elephants nothing had been done, expressing fear that they would suffer famine since the elephants had destroyed their crops, in addition to continued loss of lives.

In light of the above allegations, when the UHRC interacted with officials from UWA, it was established that although peoples' crops were destroyed and someone reportedly killed by elephants, UWA does not pay compensation for the destruction occasioned by wild animals. The UHRC also learnt the Uganda Wildlife Act was silent on such possible compensations. The UWA officials however explained that UWA had not completely ignored people's concerns as mitigation measures had been put in place to reduce on the damage caused by wild life to the communities neighbouring the park. These measures included trenches dug around the park, bee keeping along the borders, and planting of red pepper along the boundaries, in addition to setting up detaches like the one in Aringokec village.

On the same matter, while interacting with officials from Total E&P, the UHRC learnt that the issue of human-animal conflict as a result of oil exploration in Nwoya district arose earlier during exploration activities by the CNOOC and Tullow. This was attributed to the technology that was used in stone blasting that led to the emission of a lot of noise, which scared off animals from the park



into communities. Officials from Total E&P however noted that they were now using high level technology of 3-Dimensions seismic survey, which uses cables and does not have any negative impact on the environment or wildlife. They chose this technology because the majority of the exploration work in Nwoya district was taking place in the wild life area. Despite the interventions place, the UHRC observed that the issue of the human-animal conflict in Nwoya district was still pertinent. The UHRC noted with concern the probable threat to food security and people's lives in the affected communities, highlighting the need for practical ways of taming the straying animals or finding ways of compensating the victims.

3.2.3 Government suspicion of operations of some CSOs

In any functioning democracy, it is a key principle for states to support and nurture a vibrant civil society as it supplements the government's efforts in its delivery of services to the citizens, including protection and promotion of human rights. In agreement with this principle, Navi Pillay, the High Commissioner for Human Rights once said: *"Human rights will not improve much without the direct participation of robust, free and independent civil society"*. In the same vein, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights recognises that a dynamic, diverse and independent civil society, able to operate freely, knowledgeable and skilled with regard to human rights, is a key element in securing sustainable human rights protection in all regions of the world. One of the primary roles of CSOs in good governance is to hold duty bearers accountable for their actions and decisions. However, oftentimes, while executing such among other roles, CSOs and governments tend to disagree on many governance issues, including protection and promotion of human rights.

In view of the above, some of the CSOs the UHRC monitoring team interacted with reported a seemingly hostile relationship between some members of CSOs operating in the Albertine Graben and state agents on matters concerning the exploration of oil. They argued that NGOs were sensitising the population to be able to demand their rights and accountability from government and that was why they were being labelled 'anti-government' and 'saboteurs' of government programmes. This tension was also echoed by the District NGO Forum in Hoima. The monitoring team was further informed that what CSOs were doing, was to sensitise community members on the ongoing activities and pointing out flaws so that people do not become victims in the process. There were reported longstanding suspicions, accusations and counter-accusations between some government officials and members of the CSOs. It was noted that government was accusing CSOs of sabotage while CSOs in turn accused the government of failing to listen to concerns of the people in the exploration of oil.



In view of the above, the UHRC established that since the beginning of oil exploration and refinery related activities there had been a proliferation of NGOs in the Albertine Graben and this was confirmed by both the Hoima RDC and the NGO Forum. What was evident though, were the glaring capacity gaps among CSOs to effectively handle emerging issues, including human rights, related to oil exploration and production. The UHRC further established that due to these capacity gaps, most CSOs had resorted to speculation as well as disseminating misleading information to members of the public, causing unnecessary clashes amongst them and leading to clashes with some government officials.

3.2.4 Unrealistic expectations of the people

During the monitoring exercise, the UHRC observed that there were high expectations among Ugandans with regard to the oil exploration and planned refinery in the Albertine Graben. Most people, particularly in the Albertine Graben were overly anxious about these processes and expectant that when the oil refinery finally gets underway all Uganda's economic and social challenges shall be automatically solved. Some people anticipated to benefit from oil proceeds without necessarily taking part in the oil exploration and refining activities, while others expected cash handouts from government. In light of this, the UHRC noted with concern that if these expectations are not managed from the onset, they may turn out to be a recipe for disaster.

3.2.5 The perceived compromise of NEMA

According to the National Environment Act, Cap.153, the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) is a principal agency in Uganda responsible for management of the environment by coordinating, monitoring, regulating and supervising activities in the field of environment. Although NEMA is a semi-autonomous institution, it is expected to be independent in its operations, particularly while dealing with various entities within the field of environment. In spite of these observations, there were allegations of perceived compromise of NEMA by oil companies. Specifically, there were allegations of lack of independence in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes that were undertaken by practitioners identified by NEMA.

In this regard, a District Senior Environmental Officer that the UHRC interacted with observed that although the practitioners that conducted the EIA were identified by NEMA, they were facilitated by the oil companies; something he alleged may have compromised their work and subsequent report. In the same vein the LCV Chairman for Buliisa District in an interview with UHRC expressed his dissatisfaction with the way some government officials were rubbing shoulders with officials from oil companies. In his words he said: *"If you observe government officials, particularly those from PPED and NEMA, and those from Tullow,*



working while on ground here, you may think they are from the same body; PPED officials are more like Tullow employees, they are always together. There are fears that these officers can easily be compromised while trying to execute their different mandates.” An official from Tullow confirmed that at times, some NEMA officials stayed in the company’s camp, noting that this was not a deliberate move, rather as a result of lack of accommodation in the area.

Besides the above, the UHRC established that NEMA lacked sufficient manpower on ground to effectively monitor operations of oil companies and ensure their compliance to the set environmental standards and policies. It was established that NEMA lacked sufficient funds to effectively handle environmental issues related to oil exploration and refinery related activities in the Albertine Graben. NEMA has strived to put in place a strategy to address its numerous challenges, including the introduction of the Strategic Environmental Assessment, a globally recognised tool that ensures that oil activities are undertaken in a manner that conserves the environment. However, the UHRC established that people in the Albertine Graben have less confidence in NEMA operations. The UHRC further observed that this lack of confidence has and continues to injure NEMA’s reputation in the eyes of the public as well as public trust in its operations.

3.2.6 Inadequate multi-sectoral coordination

The National Oil and Gas Policy, 1998 recognises the important roles different stakeholders have to play in the oil and gas activities. It recognises the oil and gas industry as multi-sectoral; details the roles of other government MDAs as well as non-state actors, besides the MEMD and requires that management of the industry should be done through multi-sectoral coordination. However, this requirement by the policy was being rendered inactive by the very institutions meant to implement it.

From the monitoring exercise, the UHRC established that the management of the oil and gas sector had been over-centralised in the ambit of the MEMD and this had resulted not only in information gaps as all information was to be sought from MEMD, but also the inadequate involvement of the district authorities. The MEMD was responsible for everything yet it was entirely Kampala-based. As such, it was alleged that most district technical officers were merely observers yet they could have been playing an active role. District officials, especially technical staff noted that there were critical matters that they could be addressing if they were given an opportunity to play an active role. This assertion was in view of the fact that they were closer to the people than the players from the centre. There were also allegations that most capacity building programmes pertaining to activities and operations of the oil and gas sector were organised for ministers and parliamentarians but district authorities had not been considered as much in building their capacities to be able to have a meaningful contribution to the processes currently underway.



In relation to the above, the UHRC found that there was hardly any involvement of the district local governments in the five districts covered, yet by their mandate districts would have enhanced the information flow and facilitated mobilisation of the communities. The majority of the local stakeholders felt that they were being sidelined by the officials from Kampala. Indeed the Chairman District Land Board Hoima acknowledged that much of the work regarding compensation of the affected people in Buseruka was done by technical people from the MEMD with district officials having little input in the entire compensation process. It was also established that districts were financially handicapped to even monitor the ongoing processes let alone sensitise the affected residents on what was going on. Besides, there was evident inadequate capacity of most of the district officials in oil and gas management issues, information, technical knowhow, and even lack of interest in keeping up to date with the developments in the industry and indifference to the industry.

The UHRC established that the requirement for the multi-sectoral coordination of the industry was still largely unmet. The failure of government to ensure a multi-sectoral approach to the management of the oil and gas industry was in contravention of the requirements of the National Oil and Gas policy. Consequently, the oil and gas industry seems to have remained a preserve of the MEMD yet the emerging issues needed the multi-sectoral approach. A case in point was the significant gender issues of concern which the MoGLSD was best placed to manage as well as health and environmental issues that could be handled by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water and Environment respectively.

The UHRC confirmed that the gender issues raised by the community members were pertinent, but noted that it took long for the MoGLSD to get on board in spite of its role as stipulated in the National Oil and Gas policy. When the UHRC interacted with the PS MoGLSD, it was established that the ministry had participated in the development of the oil policy but lacked funds to implement any oil related activity. As a result, its roles in the policy remained unimplemented until funds were secured in the 2013/2014 FY. By the time of producing this report, the MoGLSD was beginning to execute its role.

When asked about over centralisation of oil exploration activities and limited involvement of other government MDAs, the Permanent Secretary MEMD attributed this to the nature of the ministry. It was established that the MEMD having largely dealt with rocks in their mining function in the past, with minimal interaction with people, it was learning and gradually adapting to the emerging requirements of the oil and gas activities. The PS acknowledged that human rights, local content and communication were emerging issues which the ministry was now taking seriously. He further admitted that due to the



concentration on geological survey, the ministry had limited manpower to deal with the emerging issues. He however said the demand to bring on board other disciplines had compelled the ministry to put in place a new structure to cater for recruitment of additional staff to handle the functions that were not originally within the ministry. He also added that the planning process to open a Ministry Desk in Hoima district was in advanced stages. In spite of all the efforts in place to ensure multi-sectoral coordination in the oil and gas industry in Uganda, the UHRC notes with concern the lack of a strategy to guide such coordination. The UHRC also noted with concern that the lack of involvement of all concerned in the industry may lead to lack of ownership among key stakeholders, which may negatively impact on the growth of the oil and gas industry in Uganda.



The ruins of a cotton store allegedly weakened by a grader (above left) and one of the boreholes drilled by Total E&P in Nebbi District (right)



Community members in a discussion with the UHRC team in Buliisa District



4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the aforementioned, the UHRC makes some recommendations in order to improve the observance of human rights in the implementation of the oil and gas industry activities. The recommendations are addressed to specific centres for quick and unequivocal action as indicated below:

4.1 The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

- 1) The Ministry, the district local governments, and other government civic education actors should urgently conduct village-based meetings to explain to residents the various aspects relating to the exploration and production of oil, and in particular, how their compensation is being handled.
- 2) The Ministry should, without any delay enhance information flow and awareness about oil and gas activities to communities and Ugandans at large in order to address the many challenges and concerns that were raised due to lack of or inadequate information. The Ministry should ensure that it effectively implements its Communication Strategy.
- 3) The Ministry should expedite payment of compensation to all PAPs so that it is not devalued by delays and also to calm down the anxiety of the affected people.
- 4) The Ministry and its contracted service provider, Strategic Friends International, should in the compensation and resettlement of the residents of Kabaale, embrace the rights-based approach (HRBA) in dealing with the affected communities.
- 5) The Ministry should organise regular forums for Government, CSOs and other stakeholders to come together to discuss their differences, map out strategies of addressing mutual suspicion and engendering cordial working relationships amongst all parties in the oil and gas sector.
- 6) The Ministry should urgently establish Liaison Desks in the Albertine Graben to enhance access to information as well as quick responses to concerns on a case by case basis.
- 7) The Ministry should establish clear complaints resolution mechanisms within the oil exploration areas and sensitise the communities to utilize them.
- 8) The Ministry should sensitise the community members on the dangers of xenophobia; particularly labelling people “foreigners” based on lack of information and with a motive of denying them equal access to the opportunities in the oil and gas sector.



- 9) Subject to the delicate balance between the requirements of the decentralisation policy and the constitutional provision of oil as a national resource, the Ministry should delegate or share some of its roles with district local governments to enhance effectiveness since the local governments are on the ground and close to the communities. A memorandum of understanding between the MEMD and all District Local Governments in the Albertine Graben would go a long way in streamlining the relationship.
- 10) The Ministry should empower the district officials (both politicians and technical staff) with adequate knowledge on the oil and gas industry in order for them to be able to effectively monitor how the sector is affecting the people; respond to their issues resulting from the oil and gas industry and also empower them with information. In addition, the Ministry should strengthen, empower and facilitate already existing structures like the Task Force on Oil and Gas in Buliisa district.
- 11) The Ministry in partnership with human rights organisations should undertake capacity building for oil companies in the HRBA so that they mainstream it in their exploration and production processes as well as activities.

4.2 The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

- 1) The Ministry should expeditiously investigate allegations of sexual harassment among the workers in the oil camps; the alleged discrimination between local and expatriate workers; and any other related labour issues so that the rights of workers are safeguarded.
- 2) The Ministry should enhance programmes to empower people with financial literacy to prepare them to properly manage their compensation money as well as increased income expected from oil and gas activities.
- 3) The Ministry should specifically address the issue of exploitation of workers by CNOOC Chinese employees on the basis of language. The Ministry should ensure that Chinese employers do not employ Ugandans on unfair and unfavorable terms due to language barrier just because they do not understand the Chinese language.

4.3 The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

- 1) The Ministry should expeditiously issue the special plan for developing the Albertine region in order to manage the prevailing uncertainty, speculation and misinformation among the people.



4.4 The National Environment Management Authority

- 1) NEMA should take the lead in conducting the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) and not leave them to the oil and gas companies. The EIA reports should be shared with the general public.
- 2) NEMA should expedite the process of amendment of the NEMA Act to take care of the emerging environmental concerns within the oil and gas sector.
- 3) NEMA should take the responsibility of identifying where toxic substances should be dumped instead of leaving it for oil companies and the individuals who own land in the respective places.

4.5 The Oil Companies

- 1) The oil companies should put in place a well-developed human rights policy and effectively implement it during all phases of oil exploration and production to guide on how to deal with the emerging human rights issues.
- 2) The oil companies should conduct human rights impact assessments prior to commencement of activities.
- 3) Corporate social responsibility should be demand-driven. Oil companies should consult the people in order to come up with responsive programmes.

4.6 Civil Society Organisations

- 1) Civil society organisations should endeavour to always act professionally and be accountable; they should always strive to advance the interests of the people.



5.0 CONCLUSION

On the basis of the monitoring that was conducted by the the UHRC, it was evident that Uganda's budding oil and gas industry has been welcomed by residents in the Albertine Graben. This is an opportunity that Government must harness given the fact that in some countries similar projects were greeted with resistance by the local people. It was also established that Government in general and the MEMD in particular have put in place significant measures and safeguards in the management of the oil and gas industry. Unfortunately, district local governments and the public do not seem to be adequately informed about them, if at all. Consequently, some CSOs have taken advantage of the inadequate presence of the MEMD on the ground to misinform community members and the public at large on what is actually happening. If the MEMD together with other stakeholders strengthened their role as stipulated in the National Oil and Gas Policy for Uganda and enhanced information sharing and awareness creation in a more robust and candid manner, the future of the oil industry would certainly be bright.

In terms of the protection of human rights, quite a number of leaders are yet to appreciate that development is a human right. There is therefore urgent need for state agents and public officials in Uganda to appreciate that development is a human right and that all human rights are interdependent, indivisible, interconnected and interrelated. The need to embrace the HRBA to development is critical in the oil and gas industry now more than ever before.



UHC monitoring team in discussions with community members

Below: A house in Buliisa District reportedly cracked by vibrations from the oil exploration activities





A UHRC staff in the vicinity of oil wells in Hoima District

Below: An open site in Pakwach TC from which murram was excavated by CIVICON still pending restoration





UHRC monitoring teams in discussions with community members in Bullisa District (above) and Hoima District (below)





ANNEX 1: THE PETITION OF THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

PETITION TO HER EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT
HON. IRENE MULONI
KAMPALA
UGANDA

April 9TH, 2013

We, households and residents of, Kabaale Parish, Hoima District, listed and identified below,

Noting that we are the lawful and habitual residents within the area in which the Government of Uganda intends to build an oil refinery and its facilities;

Noting that we overturn previous decisions regarding compensation or relocation sites, based on the lack of adequate information received by us about these issues;

Aiming to prevent arbitrary displacements and to make a final and grounded decision between monetary compensation and resettlement;

Recalling Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), asserting that everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence;

Recalling Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), asserting that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family or home;

Recalling Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), asserting the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions;

Recalling Article 5.3 of the Great Lakes Region Protocol on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons, 2006, also referred to as The Kampala Convention, asserting that in cases of development induced displacement Member States shall obtain, as far as possible, the free and informed consent of those to be displaced prior to undertaking displacement justified by compelling and overriding public interest and development;

Recalling Article 5.4 of the same Protocol, asserting that Member States shall provide full information on the reasons and procedures concerning development induced displacement and, where applicable, on compensation and relocation;

Recalling Article 5.6 of the same Protocol, asserting that Member States shall ensure effective participation of displaced persons in the planning and management of their relocation and resettlement.

Noting that the Republic of Uganda ratified all the international instruments listed above and, therefore, is bound by their terms;

Recalling Article 3.3 of the Ugandan Policy for Internally Displaced Persons, asserting the right of every human being to be protected against being arbitrarily displaced from his or her home or place of habitual residence;

Recalling Article 3.3 of the Ugandan Policy for Internally Displaced Persons, asserting that the prohibition of arbitrary displacement includes displacement in cases of large-scale development projects;

For the reasons above, we the petitioners hereby REQUEST:

- 1) To receive, prior to removal, full information about monetary compensation rates, individualized by householder,
- 2) To receive, prior to removal, full information about relocation sites (including the possibility of prior inspection by selected members of our community), which shall be in similar condition and value of the place that we are currently living;
- 3) To participate, after receiving the information requested above, in a process of choosing between possibilities of compensation and resettlement



HOUSEHOLD NAME	SIZE FAMILY	CONTACT/ID	SIGNATURE
OPIRA Joseph	11		
LONJINO GREBI	19	Vol. 04276076	<i>[Signature]</i>
OWECHI SILVIANU	20	Vol. 05303044	<i>[Signature]</i>
JENNETI FALING	8	Vol. 04276039	
WANADI REMONDO	12	" 05303062	<i>[Signature]</i>
AGENGA JOHNPAWLO	12	" 34593820	<i>[Signature]</i>
OKECHA FESHI	18	" 05303027	<i>[Signature]</i>
		" 34593820	
OYERA SAKILINI	24	" 05303755	Oyera
AMEBALE OLWER	25	ID 1158	<i>[Signature]</i>
ORINGI Robert	9	0780479980	ORINGI
Winyia Julius	13	00402428	<i>[Signature]</i>
OBENRUOTH FEMO	6	ID. 3067	<i>[Signature]</i>
ASARU JAMPOL	6	ID. 0749	<i>[Signature]</i>
CHWINYAI JWONDA	18	" 10170723	<i>[Signature]</i>
JANGERA SILBART	6	0775006913	Jetta
Kyariya JENIVA	6	295	JENIVA
KEIHANGWE STELLAH	10	0782333195	Kelley
T O B S I K A B	8*	ID. 429	Tommas
KILARA GIPATTO	18	0727	
GREGE Afayochan	8	04276047	
ONWANG B.	15		ONWANG
ONONGA GASTO	7	0729892622	ONONGA GASTO
Byaruhanga Chris	6	1980-077510855	Byaruhanga
MUSEVENI GODFREY	8	06048943	<i>[Signature]</i>
OYER FOSTINO	4	078347587	<i>[Signature]</i>
PEUNGA JOHN	5	00884179	P.
OKUMU REJINAL	6	05303782	OKUMU
UFARU BAZIL	15	04276274	<i>[Signature]</i>
MATU AKIM	8		<i>[Signature]</i>
...	...	078918219	<i>[Signature]</i>



HOUSEHOLD NAME	FAMILY SIZE	CONTACT/ID	SIGNATURE
OWECHI JEFIRI	7	0427652 078285605	<i>[Signature]</i>
OKECHI SAVIAN	4	04253764	<i>[Signature]</i>
ONEN MAZAN	10	480697	<i>[Signature]</i>
ONGEYI DENIS	10		<i>[Signature]</i>
OKUMU JEFIRI	9	04276167	<i>[Signature]</i>
OCHAKI KAMIL	7	0757891221	<i>[Signature]</i>
OMIRAMBE JOHN	10	0778116821	<i>[Signature]</i>
OLVAYO OTIENO	17	0788145884	<i>[Signature]</i>
OZELE REJINAL	12	05203167	<i>[Signature]</i>
OMEGA VENNAS	8	0777315763	<i>[Signature]</i>
ORIEK JUMA	7	04276089	<i>[Signature]</i>
OMINJI JERVASIO	28	04276063	<i>[Signature]</i>
OMIRAMBE CHALIS	5	00211334	<i>[Signature]</i>
OKUMU VENASIO	13	04276129	<i>[Signature]</i>
OCHAKI EMANUEL	5	0787345350	<i>[Signature]</i>
ORIEK JEBHOME	7	07845194	
OCHOWUN LEO	18	1104276148 0774891298 11.10170501	<i>[Signature]</i>
OZELE SAVIAN	9	11.10170501	<i>[Signature]</i>
PIRWALK STEPHEN	10	0781836265	<i>[Signature]</i>
PITHUSA ISRAEL	6	04528419	<i>[Signature]</i>
OMOLO SEBHEVE	12	0785173328	<i>[Signature]</i>
OLWONCA HERBERT	19	09738084	<i>[Signature]</i>
AGARWA MARTIN	15	5301381	<i>[Signature]</i>
KUCONZA REHEMA	25	0784819421	
OCHAKI PIIRAMBE	5	0787882779	<i>[Signature]</i>
OAYI JAKISA	4	0783530496	<i>[Signature]</i>
SALVATHOR THOKEA	17	0777217112	<i>[Signature]</i>



ANNEX 2: LIST OF KEY RESPONDENTS

S/N	DESIGNATION
1.	The Country Director, International Alert, Uganda, Great Lakes Programme & the officer in charge of the Oil and gas project
2.	The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs
3.	The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
4.	The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development The Assistant Commissioner in-charge of the Refinery Development Programme The PEDP Communications manager
5.	Chief Government Valuer
6.	Head of Party and Programmes, Strategic Friends International
7.	The Chairperson, Committee on Natural Resources, Parliament of Uganda
8.	Director, Environmental Monitoring and Compliance, Senior Environmental Inspector Environmental Audit Assistant, National Environment Management Authority
9.	The Corporate Affairs Manager & legal Counsel Total E &P, Uganda
10.	Chairperson LC III, Buseruka Sub County
11.	District Water Officer – Hoima
12.	Field Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Tullow Oil-Hoima Office
13.	Chairman District Land Board, Secretary District Land Board and Lands Officer, Environmental Officer/Ag. Natural Resources Coordinator & District Agricultural Officer – Hoima
14.	District Land Valuer – Hoima
15.	Senior Community Development Officer (SCDO) – Hoima
16.	Chief Executive Officer – African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)
17.	Executive Director – Navigators of Development Organization (NAVODA)
18.	Coordinator, District NGO Forum – Hoima



19.	The Deputy Regional Police Commander -Mid western region, Hoima The District Police Commander, Hoima.
20.	Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom Officials - Kingdom's Prime Minister, Kingdom Land Board Chairman, the Minister in charge of Gender and Health &
21.	The LC V Chairman - Hoima
22.	Resident District Commissioner - Hoima
23.	District Environmental Officer- Bulisa
24.	LC V chairman, Nebbi
25.	Deputy RDC, Nebbi
26.	Secretary Social Service, Nebbi
27.	District Health Officer, Nebbi
28.	Senior Environmental Officer, Nebbi
29.	Secretary Finance and Administration, Nebbi
30.	Programme Officer, Nebbi NGO Forum
31.	DPC, Nebbi
32.	Volunteer, Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment- West Nile (RICE WN) Panyimur S/C, Nebbi
33.	Vice Chairperson Jonam Development Foundation (JDF)
34.	OC UWA Got Apwoyo Detach
35.	LC V Chairperson, Nwoya
36.	District Labour Officer, Nwoya
37.	Resident District Commissioner, Nwoya
38.	District Production Coordinator, Nwoya
39.	District Environment Officer
40.	District Police Commander, Nwoya
41.	Programme Coordinator & oil and Gas Project Officer, Voluntary Initiative Support Organization (VISO)
42.	The Station Manager Uganda National Roads Authority -Hoima
43.	District Health Officer
44.	District Speaker
45.	The Secretary Social Services; Secretary Finance and Administration and District Production Coordinator



ANNEX 3: SOME OF THE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY OIL COMPANIES

OIL COMPANY	DISTRICT(S) OF OPERATION	CONTRIBUTION IN THE AREA OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
Tullow	Hoima	<p>Tullow Uganda Operation Pty has facilitated the provision of free HIV/AIDS counselling/ testing and free maternity services to local community members in Kyehoro.</p> <p>It also paid initial salaries for two nurses in Kyehoro Health centre II until it was handed over to Hoima District Local Government</p>
		<p>The oil company has Constructed eight (8) classrooms, twelve (12) two-bedroom teachers housing units and two kitchens with twelve (12) compartments for Kaiso Primary School. These buildings have provisions for water harvesting and four offices one on each block.</p>
	Buliisa	<p>It has constructed Buliisa Health Centre. The project involved construction of six housing units for Nurses, two (2) Doctor's houses, a general ward, maternity ward, one out patient Department and a theatre.</p>
		<p>And hired Tegeka contractors a local company to construct a Community Resource centre in Buliisa district with a separate computer room to be furnished with computers and internet facilities. The Resource centre is to be used as a one stop centre for accessing information related to the District's programs and for mobilizing and sensitizing youth on development activities.</p>



	Hoima	<p>Tullow in partnership with Traidlinks, an Irish non-profit organization, established the Hoima Enterprise Centre to boast local businesses by way of access to business training, information on emerging opportunities and services for development and to help local small enterprises to take advantage of opportunities that will emerge directly or indirectly from the growth of the oil and gas industry through providing information on emerging opportunities for small businesses as well as host fora to share information on oil and gas procurement procedures, standards and ongoing tenders.</p> <p>Under the Tullow Group Scholarship Scheme (TGSS), Tullow Uganda Operation Pty Limited together with the British Council awarded 40 scholarships in 2012 and 2013 to Ugandans to pursue various courses in oil and gas in the United Kingdom. It has also opened admissions for the 2014/2015 academic scholarships. This is aimed at helping nationals participate in the oil and gas industry in order to achieve economic diversification.</p>
Total E&P	Kampala, Nyowa, Nebbi, Bulisa and Masindi	<p>Total E&P Uganda in collaboration with the French Embassy offered three scholarships in 2011-2012 to Government officials from National Environmental Management Authority, Ministry of Finance and Uganda revenue Authority. This is aimed at empowering Ugandans with knowledge in the oil and gas industry</p> <p>It also gave scholarships to 5 students from the districts of; Nwoya, Nebbi, Buliisa and Masindi to study from Kampala schools.</p>



CNOOC	Ntoroko	CNOOC has donated drugs worth UG. Shs85million to Ntoroko Local Government.
	Hoima	It donated assorted scholastic materials and food stuffs to Buhuka Primary School and gave support of Monthly salary top up to 8 teachers of the School and 11 nurses of Buhuka Health Centre
		The oil company also donated US\$50,000 (Shs131 million) as a sponsorship package in support of 70 youths who enrolled for the Basic Skills Training programme at the Nile Vocational Institute in Hoima district.
		It has supported Bunyoro Kitara kingdom in organizing the 18th coronation anniversary and the Bunyoro Amasaza Cup, a football tournament that promotes talent and culture in Bunyoro region
		CNOOC has contributed a total of UGX23, 385,600/- Twenty three million, three hundred and eighty five thousand six hundred shillings towards awarding 60 best students at PLE, UCE and UACE.
		It has facilitated the Road Safety Awareness Project, in which communities alongside busy trading centres, markets and schools have been sensitized on road safety measures; it has also distributed information materials and trained traffic volunteers on road safety in preparation of the increased vehicle traffic along the road when transportation of logistics increases.



		<p>The company facilitated a financial skills training project for the communities affected by the ongoing developments in the oil and gas sector. This is aimed at providing finance management skills to Project Affected People (PAP) and their family members to prepare them to utilize the compensation funds well rather than putting it to waste.</p>
	Hoima	<p>CNOOC contracted Quest Energy a local training company to conduct a training of stakeholders on oil and gas value chain and processes. This aimed at reducing misinformation amongst people in regard to the stage at which oil production is at in Uganda and associated allegations that oil is being sold already. This training targeted District stakeholders in the categories of civil society, politicians, technical staff, and Religious leaders, Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, Kyangwali Sub County and Buhuka Parish. It commenced on 09th to 18th December 2013.</p>
Schlumberger Eastern Oil Field Ltd	Kampala	<p>In 2011, Schlumberger one of the companies providing services to the oil and gas sector in Uganda donated shs. worth USD 3.5million to the Department of Geology and Petroleum Studies Makerere University. The Donation covers software licenses, hardware installation, support and maintenance and training seminars for both the students and lecturers. The company also donated furniture to the laboratory.</p>



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