



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES

East African Crude Oil Pipeline Host Communities NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

THE HUMAN COST OF PROGRESS;
UGANDA'S EACOP STRUGGLE.



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In this edition

We draw your attention to the critical issues and demands affecting vulnerable communities in the Albertine region. This month, we highlight our main event, The August Action that consisted of community representatives protesting against the injustices and negative impacts of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project on their lives. We pin point in detail what transpired on the 26th August, 2024, what caused such a brave reaction (grievances) and the outcomes from the non-violent demonstration. As the Government of Uganda, in partnership with oil companies, are still passive about community concerns and fail to give proper accountability and answers, the oil project affected persons from Kisambo, Kijumba, Buliisa, Nyakasenene and Kyakabooga among others appreciated and understood the importance of being resilient, voicing their concerns and standing in solidarity in this #stop EACOP struggle.



The August non-violent Action

On the morning of August 26, 2024, the communities ensnared by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project together with associated projects like Tilenga, Kingfisher and oil refinery embarked on a momentous demonstration, known as the August non-violent Action. This large-scale protest was a resounding cry for justice, driven by deep-seated grievances over insufficient compensation, environmental devastation, and disruptive displacement. What began as a peaceful assembly of over 360 community participants at Kitara Senior Secondary School in Hoima City soon evolved into a dramatic clash as tensions soared between the demonstrators, government authorities and security forces i.e. the Residents City commissioner (RCC), Residents district commissioner (RDC) and other district police officers from Hoima and Kikuube respectively.





Oil project affected communities detained at Kitara secondary school

Oil project affected communities mobilized themselves from the villages of Kisambo, Kijumba, Kyakabooga, Nyakasenene, Nyahira, Kinziranfumbi, Buliisa among other villages, the protesters converged to spotlight the severe ramifications of the EACOP project and its oil exploration activities. Their collective voice echoed a powerful demand for redress, underscoring the profound impact of the pipeline on their lives and their environment. The day that commenced with bright mission of a peaceful demonstration to the oil companies head offices both in Hoima and Kampala dawned with uncalled for police and military enforcement in Hoima which later escorted the communities back to their homes. Simultaneously, a smaller group of ten project affected persons traveled to the EACOP head offices in Kampala, where seven including a young girl were violently arrested and imprisoned in Luzira for over a week. Their arrest stemmed from chanting slogans that expressed their grievances.

The protestors also delivered a comprehensive petition to key stakeholders, including the EACOP head offices in Kampala and Hoima, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, and CNOOC. This petition outlined their concerns and demands. This called for an extensive reaction from the media, the responsible authorities, the project affected communities and the general public, and one would say surely this march created a mark.

The Grievances of the affected communities

- 1. Human rights violations.** The native project affected people from these communities have been intimidated, harassed, arrested, displaced from their land, poorly compensated and the women have faced countless cases of gender-based violence while the youth have faced a high spread of HIV.
- 2. Threats to local economies.** The EACOP project is breaking the little that has been so far sustained. This project poses a threat to the tourism sector which is one of the biggest revenue inflow sector for the government. Not forgetting the fact that its reducing on the chances of survival for the fishing community and sector on top of the inadequate livelihood restoration that was promised by the authorities.
- 3. Environmental and bio-diversity impacts.** EACOP and its associated projects Tilenga and King Fisher projects have done more harm than good. Since these oil explorations commenced in

2018, life has never been the same. There has been an increase in the temperature, human –wildlife conflicts, all kinds of pollution and destructions of animal habitats.

4. **Socio-cultural impacts.**

The existence of this oil in the Albertine has reversed the daily lives of these community people. There has been reports of continued erosion cultural heritage and social disruption in homesteads due to the pressure from the activities brought by these oil companies with support from government.

The demands and concerns of these communities as delivered in the petition that day are in exhaustive, thus for more info

<https://eacophc.org/download/eacop-project-affected-communities-memorandum-of-demands-26th-august-2024/?wpdmml=3053&refresh=66cd5b53f18441724734291>

The outcomes

In the wake of the August Action protest, the oil project affected communities and grass root environmental human rights defenders were grappling with the fallout from the crackdown. Tensions remained high, accompanied by stringent security measures, community intimidations and persistent human rights concerns. Following the arrests of community members, EACOP HC, in collaboration with other human rights defenders, actively worked to secure their release from Luzira Prison and to ensure that their cases are properly addressed and validated which was a success as of 6th September, 2024.



The situation garnered extensive media coverage and public reaction, sparking a robust national debate across social media platforms. This surge in public interest led to a significant engagement between the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), EACOP company line management, security agencies from the Albertine region and 12 Project affected representatives from the affected communities. This crucial meeting, held on September 5, 2024, at Mika Resort Hotel, focused on the commitments and promises made in response to the concerns articulated in the protestors' petition. PAU, involved oil companies and other stakeholders pledged to implement significant changes, with anticipated results expected within three weeks. However today all promises and commitments that were made from that engagement meeting is still empty.



In conclusion, the August Action protest has catalyzed significant attention and dialogue surrounding the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. The ongoing legal and humanitarian responses, coupled with the commitments from the government of Uganda and EACOP, reflect a pivotal moment in addressing the concerns of the affected communities. As stakeholders work to implement promised changes and resolve outstanding issues, the hope remains that these efforts will lead to meaningful improvements in compensation, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. The protest not only highlighted pressing grievances but also demonstrated the power of collective action in advocating for justice green inclusive economy

Drama as breastfeeding mothers, youth protest against EACOP in Hoima

Monday, August 26, 2024



Anti-EACOP protestors at Kitara SS in Hoima City on August 26, 2024. PHOTO: BILL OKETCHO

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EACOP PAPs Storm Hoima City, Demand Halt of Activities

02:04 & Co. • 10 min. update

Olukta Emmanuel

24 Aug 2024 17:02



Protesters demanding a halt to EACOP activities in Hoima City. PHOTO: BILL OKETCHO

Security besieges anti-EACOP project protestors in Hoima – Uganda

By Samuel Baguma - August 26, 2024



Security personnel stand sentry by the gate of Kitara Senior Secondary School in Hoima City where more than 200 protestors claiming to be oil Projects Affected Persons (PAPs) were setting to deliver a petition to the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) in Hoima City. (Image: Samuel Baguma/Kazi-njema Radio Unit)

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One protester, who is also a climate activist, complains about the unfair compensation of people in Hoima whose land is being used for the implementation of EACOP. #NTVNews

1:29

NP NilePost [Account Name]

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Police foil anti-EACOP protests in Hoima

UNCATEGORIZED

Caption not available

Get Involved

Your participation is crucial! Join our efforts to promote sustainable development, advocate for climate justice, and safeguard community rights. Whether it's attending a workshop, sharing your story, or joining a local initiative, your voice matters and the change we fight for begins with us.

About us.

EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE HOST COMMUNITIES (EACOP HC): is an association of EACOP affected communities based in the Albertine region of Uganda, EACOPHC is dedicated to promoting sustainable environmental use, human rights and land rights of vulnerable communities. The organization was formed in 2019 to promote and advocate for the protection of environment and human rights in areas affected by the proposed East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)

EACOP HC works with oil project affected communities, youth, women, religious and local government leaders to ensure promotion of environmental justice and human rights in the EACOP oil project affected areas. Through lobby, research and community education, EACOP HC works with vulnerable communities, cultural, religious and local government leaders to ensure that natural resources are utilized in an environmentally conservation manner and land rights of vulnerable communities are protected.

Reach out to us with your questions, suggestions, or to contribute to our next newsletter. Together, we can create positive change and build a sustainable future for all.

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