



EAST AFRICAN  
**CRUDE OIL PIPELINE**  
HOST COMMUNITIES

# A JOURNEY OF JUSTICE, SOLIDARITY, AND COMMUNITY STRENGTH



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FROM THE CORRIDORS OF SILENCE  
TO THE CHAMBERS OF CHANGE



## Dear Comrades, Partners, Readers and Guardians of Justice,

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Welcome to our inaugural December newsletter where we invite you to journey with us through the milestones of 2025—a year that transformed our struggle into a movement, our voices into a chorus, and our dreams into the People's Agenda. In this newsletter we depict our work, our achievements, our challenges in 2025 and our way forward in the start of 2026. As we cross this threshold and yield into 2026, we stand in that liminal space where yesterday's struggles become tomorrow's foundations. Behind us lies a year woven with threads of courage, solidarity, and unwavering determination. Before us rises the dawn of new possibilities, illuminated by the work we have done and the vision we have forged.

From the fertile lands of Uganda to the coastal shores of Tanzania, communities along the East African Crude Oil Pipeline corridor have raised their voices—not in whispers, but in resounding declarations that justice cannot be buried beneath the weight of crude ambitions. As one year ends and another begins, we carry forward the momentum of our movement into the fresh terrain of 2026. This newsletter is more than a chronicle of events. It is a testament to the power of organized communities, the resilience of grassroots movements, and the birth of a vision that places people before pipelines, dignity before development rhetoric, and sustainability before short-term gains.

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

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The East African Crude Oil Pipeline stretches across landscapes and lives, carving through communities that have called these lands home for generations. With its promise of prosperity came the reality of displacement, environmental degradation, and the silencing of dissent. Yet where there is oppression, there blooms resistance.



Our work emerges from the recognition that those most affected by extractive oil projects in the Albertine and Greater Masaka regions must be at the centre of decision-making processes. The EACOP host communities are not mere statistics in environmental impact assessments—we are farmers, fisherfolk, students, mothers, elders, and youth whose futures hang in the balance.

Throughout 2025, we have operated on a simple but profound principle: **justice delayed is justice denied, and silence in the face of injustice is complicity**. This principle guided every action we took, every alliance we forged, and every challenge we confronted. The communities along the pipeline corridor face multifaceted challenges: inadequate compensation, loss of livelihoods, environmental concerns, and the criminalization of those who dare to speak truth to power. It is within this context that our work found urgency and purpose.

# Our work: What we did?

## Circular Economy and Green Energy: Reimagining Development

While resisting destructive projects, we also invested energies in proposing and establishing green alternative projects in the oil affected communities where green-livelihood sustainability projects were developed, managed and lead by the youth and women in the communities of Kisambo and Kijumba. Our advocacy for circular economy principles and green energy solutions demonstrated that we are not simply just saying "no" to EACOP—we are saying "yes" to sustainable and community-centred development paths.



We participated in forums on renewable energy, waste reduction, and sustainable agriculture. Communities explored solar energy initiatives, composting projects, climate smart agriculture practices and water conservation techniques. These practical demonstrations proved that another development model is not only possible but preferable thus preaching our clear message and truth i.e. the pipeline represents yesterday's thinking, are we moving backward or forward? Green energy and circular economy principles represent the future that communities deserve—a future where development doesn't come at the cost of environmental destruction and social displacement.

## Standing with the KCB 11: When Solidarity Becomes Sacred

The year 2025 spawned a clarion call that would set the tone for the entire year. Eleven activists—advocates for community rights and environmental justice—faced arrest and intimidation for their peaceful efforts to hold financial institutions accountable. The KCB 11, as they came to be known, became symbols of the price of speaking truth.

We mobilized immediately. Through solidarity campaigns, legal support coordination, and public awareness initiatives, we ensured that their voices were amplified rather than silenced. We organized a press conference, issued a press release and engaged in social media campaigns and discussions on this matter that reached across continents. The KCB 11 court case as well as other environmental cases and arrests we have witnessed happening have proved that one cannot imprison justice; **one can only delay its arrival.**



The solidarity we showed transcended borders and backgrounds. Students, community organizers, environmental activists, community-based organizations and human rights defenders stood shoulder to shoulder, proving that movements are strongest when they refuse to be divided.

## Strengthening the Foundation: Community Organizer Capacity Building

A movement is only as strong as its organizers. Recognizing this, we invested heavily in capacity-building initiatives across the EACOP corridor where youth, women, elderly, students, CBOs and communities actively took part. Through workshops, training sessions, participating in campaigns, reflection meetings, community engagements and knowledge-sharing forums, we equipped community organizers with the tools necessary to advance people-centred agendas.



These weren't abstract training sessions divorced from reality. We focused on practical skills: community mobilization techniques, documentation of human rights violations, negotiation strategies, legal literacy, safety and security and sustainable advocacy methods. Organizers learned to navigate complex power dynamics while staying rooted in community needs and aspirations.

From village to village, we witnessed the transformation of concerned individuals into skilled advocates. Women leaders emerged, youth found their voices, and communities that once felt isolated discovered they were part of a broader network of resistance and resilience.

### **The Community People's Tribunal stood as a watershed moment in this capacity-building journey.**

On August 23rd, during the Africa Week of Action, we convened a groundbreaking People's Tribunal following the Kick total out of Africa (KTOA) global campaign at Kyakabooga resettlement camp—a platform where silence was shattered and truth spoke with unflinching clarity.

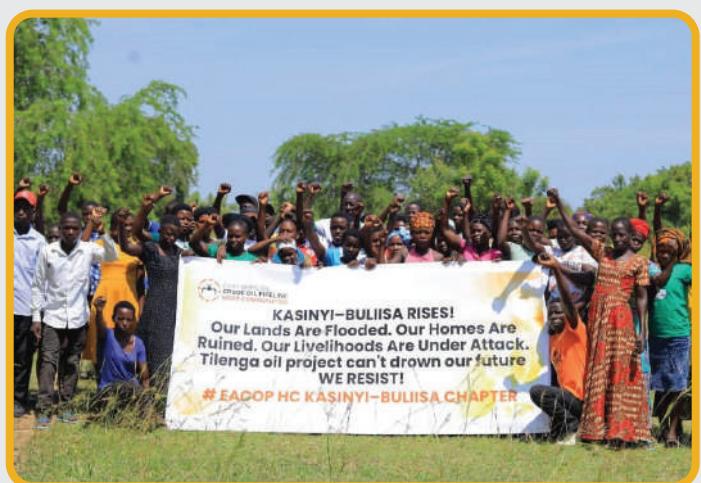
Community members delivered testimonies that exposed the systematic violations perpetrated by TotalEnergies such as inadequate compensation that left families poorer than before oil's discovery, employment discrimination favouring outsiders over skilled locals, gender-based violence disguised as job opportunities, environmental destruction causing human-wildlife conflicts that claimed nine lives, and the repression of those brave enough to speak.



This tribunal wasn't merely documentation of harm—it was an act of reclaiming narrative power, transforming victims into witnesses, and witnesses into advocates demanding accountability, reparations, and energy democracy. The demands articulated that day echoed beyond Uganda's Albertine Region, connecting our struggle to the continental #KickTotalOutofAfrica campaign and proving that organized communities can create spaces where corporate power must answer to people's power.

### Community Chapters: Building the Architecture of Change.

Perhaps our most significant structural achievement was the establishment of community chapters along the pipeline corridor. These chapters became the organizational backbone of our movement—spaces where communities could meet, strategize, share information, and coordinate action.



EACOP Host Communities' chapters are the result of our consistent mobilization and movement building. Each chapter yielding in its own focussed area of impact; prepared to advance people centred agendas, demanding for accountability and justice through peaceful demonstrations and each developed its own character while maintaining connection to the broader movement. Together, they formed a network of resistance and resilience at grassroot level that no single entity could easily suppress or co-opt. The creation of these chapters required patience, trust-building, learning, and deep listening. We didn't impose structures from outside but worked with communities to develop organizational forms that reflected their needs, issues, and concerns.

### **The people's agenda: A New Dawn on December 20th.**

All roads led to December 20th, 2025—the day we launched the People's Agenda. The People's agenda is a comprehensive document that summarizes the concerns, demands, and aspirations of communities affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project with an aim of portraying the urgency and need of accountability and answers from the government, oil and gas authorities, oil companies, and especially the contesting electoral leaders. This document represents the culmination of a year's work, months of consultations, and decades of community wisdom.

#### **Read more here:**

<https://eacophc.org/download/the-eacop-impacted-peoples-agenda/?wpdmld=3272&refresh=695a18d3321311767512275>

The People's Agenda is not a wish list; it is a declaration of non-negotiable principles and a mandate initiated by the oil impacted communities themselves. It articulates what communities demand: genuine consultation processes, fair compensation, fair judicial processes, an end to the arrests and intimidations of EHRDs, environmental protection, respect of community human and land rights, alternative livelihoods, and the right to say no to projects that threaten their well-being.



Crafted through participatory processes involving hundreds of community members, the People's Agenda reflects authentic grassroots priorities. It isn't mediated through NGO jargon or diluted by diplomatic language. It speaks in the clear, powerful voice of communities who know what they need and refuse to be silenced as well as an appeal to the contesting electoral candidates to listen to their cries, take action and accountability of the injustices witnessed.

The launch event itself was historic. Community chapter leaders, environmental human rights defenders, students, and allies gathered to witness this milestone. As the document was formally presented, there was a profound sense that something fundamental had shifted—communities had moved from reactive resistance to proactive agenda-setting.

### **Our Achievements: the light in the path.**

When we measure our year, we see victories both tangible and transformative:

**Visibility Gained:** The EACOP struggle is no longer hidden. Through our advocacy, media engagement, and public campaigns, the challenges facing host communities have gained national and international recognition.

**Networks Strengthened:** We have built alliances with environmental organizations, human rights groups, student movements, and international solidarity networks. Our struggle is now understood as part of broader movements for climate justice and community rights.

**Capacity Enhanced:** Dozens of community organizers now possess skills and knowledge that will serve movements for years to come. This investment in people is perhaps our most enduring achievement.



**Alternative Visions Articulated:** Through our green energy advocacy and circular economy work, we've demonstrated that communities aren't simply opposed to development—they're advocating for better, more sustainable development models.

**The People's Agenda Exists:** We now have a comprehensive document that articulates community demands. This provides a foundation for advocacy, research, and accountability for years to come.

**Solidarity Sustained:** The support shown to the KCB 11 and other activists facing intimidation has created a culture of mutual support that strengthens the entire movement.

### **Our challenges: the tests of our resolve**

Yet honesty compels us to acknowledge the difficulties we face:

**Resource Constraints:** Our work requires funding, and resources remain limited. Many organizers volunteer their time while struggling to meet their own families' needs. Sustaining long-term advocacy with limited resources remains a constant challenge.

**Intimidation and Repression:** Those who speak out face real risks. Activists have been arrested, threatened, and surveiled. Creating safe spaces for advocacy in such contexts requires constant vigilance, safety, security and mutual protection.

**Community Fatigue:** Years of struggle without immediate results can lead to exhaustion and intense mental burn out resulting into psycho-social constraints. Keeping communities engaged and hopeful when change seems slow requires emotional labour and creative strategy.

**Internal Coordination:** Managing a movement spread across hundreds of kilometres, multiple languages, and diverse communities presents logistical and communication challenges.

**Misinformation:** Corporate and government actors have spread narratives that mischaracterize community concerns, movement motivations and EHRD work as enemies of progress and development. Countering misinformation requires constant communication work and strategic community building and strengthening

## 2026: THE ROAD AHEAD

As we step into 2026, we do so with clear eyes and full hearts. The People's Agenda now serves as our North Star, guiding advocacy, organizing, and resistance strategies. It embodies a vision of development that centres human dignity, environmental sustainability, and community self-determination. We carry this vision like a torch, illuminating pathways toward the future our communities deserve.

We stand at year's end not as defeated supplicants but as organized communities with a clear agenda and unwavering determination. The pipeline may cut through the land, but it cannot cut through the bonds of solidarity we have forged.



This year taught us that movements are built through patient organizing, that solidarity is sacred, and that communities possess wisdom that no environmental impact assessment can quantify. We learned that speaking truth to power requires courage, but silence demands a higher price.

To every community member who attended a meeting after a long day's work, to every student who chose solidarity over silence, to every organizer who faced fear but spoke anyway, to every ally who amplified our voices—this movement is yours, and its achievements belong to you.

The road ahead remains challenging. But we walk it together, our steps synchronized by shared purpose, our voices united in common cause. The EACOP corridor may have been intended as a channel for crude oil, but it has become something far more powerful: a corridor of resilience, a pathway of solidarity, and a route toward the justice that can no longer be delayed.

As the Swahili proverb reminds us: "Haba na haba, hujaza kibaba"—Little by little fills the measure. Every action we took in 2025 was a drop that will eventually overflow into transformation.

**2026 awaits. The People's Agenda is launched. The movement grows. Justice calls.**



# EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE HOST COMMUNITIES



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