



EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES

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NEWSLETTER

GRASSROOTS WOMEN UNITE AGAINST CLIMATE INJUSTICE.



Welcome to our inaugural monthly newsletter, this month we bring to you the efforts, demands and power of grassroots women in fighting against the injustice done by the oil and gas projects in the Albertine region of Uganda. The girl power is like a non-existing force that ignites the capacity and strength of communities to stand in resilience and fight for their rights. Thus we bring to you our new untapped resource of how women across the oil project affected communities are transforming climate resistance

into a powerful movement demanding for a just clean, greener and sustainable economy.

In Uganda's Albertine region, something remarkable is happening. Women are not just participating in the fight against climate change—they are leading it. From the oil-rich lands of Bunyoro to the farming communities of greater Masaka, women are organizing, speaking out, and demanding for a future powered by socially owned clean, renewable energy as opposed to fossil fuels.

How the East African Crude Oil Project affected Women are transformed into Climate Justice Champions.

This is the untold story of how the injustices and threats of East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) created a generation of powerful women environmental defenders in Uganda's pristine Albertine region. This is a kind of transformation that turns heads i.e. these are women who transformed from victims to victors.

Before the oil and gas activities started in our communities, women and girls lived and survived by their cultures and African norms up until the greediness of these multi-national companies crept in our peaceful land and survival system. However in the Albertine region, cultural norms historically confined women to specific roles within their communities. Women were primarily seen as caretakers of homes and children, working within traditional boundaries that somehow limited their public participation in decision-making processes affecting their community livelihoods and environment.

This was the reality before oil projects arrived our communities. Women went about their daily lives—farming their ancestral lands, fishing on Lake Albert, raising their families, and maintaining their cultural values—unaware that their world was about to change dramatically.



When the oil and gas activities began in our communities, women in the Albertine region experienced immediate and devastating impacts that shattered their traditional way of life. The lies that swept our communities' land were a true recipe for disaster nothing more or less.

Communities were not able to replace their ancestral farming lands, which had been their primary source of income and food security for generations, there was limited access to Lake Albert which disrupted fishing activities

that many women depended on for both sustenance and economic survival and traditional income sources disappeared overnight, forcing families into poverty and uncertainty.

On top of that, the environmental destruction was one thing that couldn't go unspoken or unnoticed. Clean water sources that women relied on for their families and animals became polluted or inaccessible, soil degradation and environmental changes made traditional farming practices impossible and the environmental disruption increased, human-wildlife encounters between communities and wildlife, putting women and children at risk.

Social and cultural upheaval is even more scarring and slowly eroding with time. This scary reality makes us question what kind of culture our young generation will be guided and groomed? Sacred sites and traditional practices were destroyed or disrupted by oil and gas activities, forced relocations broke apart tight-knit communities that had existed for generations and the influx of outside workers and social disruption led to increased violence against women. They were silenced and pushed to the corner like it's not their home too.

The personal trauma and dignity loss our women and girls faced since the genesis of the oil projects is undeniable. Women who questioned the oil projects faced threats from security forces and company officials. This resulted into another level of threats, intimidations, harassments and mental distress i.e. the combined impact of loss, uncertainty, and trauma created widespread psychological suffering as well as the fact of being treated as obstacles to development rather than valued community members

The awakening: From Victims to Organizers

These devastating impacts could have broken the spirit of our women and girls in the Albertine region. Instead, something remarkable happened. The very challenges that oil projects brought to our doorstep became the catalyst for women and girls' transformation into powerful climate justice leaders.

As one-woman leader from Kikuube district powerfully stated: "We are no longer just caretakers of homes, we are defenders of land, livelihoods, life, and our mother nature."

This awakening didn't happen overnight. It grew from the daily reality of watching our children and families suffer from injustices imposed by oil and gas activities, seeing our farms become barren, and witnessing our communities torn apart by the oil projects that promised prosperity but delivered destruction.

Faced with threats to our families' survival, we had to do something to break these barriers. As women and girls, we began breaking out of traditional cultural norms—not to abandon our roles and responsibilities, but to strengthen our capacity to protect what mattered most. We realized that caring for our homes and children now required us to become community organizers, environmental defenders, and demand for climate justice.



The transformation from victims to leaders required women to develop new skills, forge new alliances, and find their voices in spaces where they had previously been silenced. Women discovered they possessed natural leadership abilities that made them powerful organizers such as developing deep community connections during community engagements, advocating for green sustainable energy alternatives other than fossils and understanding collaborative leadership by building coalitions and creating inclusive movements that bring together diverse voices

What began as a fight for survival evolved into a comprehensive strategy for transformation? Women realized they weren't just fighting against oil activities, they were fighting for their fundamental human rights, something better than fossil fuels like socially owned renewable energy alternatives, i.e. solar, wind, and other inclusive clean energy sources that could power their communities without destroying the environment or displacing families. Sustainable agriculture i.e. farming practices that work with nature instead of against it, ensuring food security, access to health

care, education, clean environment among others for future generations and climate justice where by our women appreciated the recognition that those who contribute least to climate change—like rural women in Uganda—should not bear the heaviest burden of its consequences thus they're invested in demanding for our human and environmental rights.



Our Women's Commitment to Climate Justice

During these May 2025 engagements, women made concrete commitments to continue their fight for climate justice through using our natural community connections to mobilize ongoing resistance and resilience against to fossil fuel projects and advocacy for a just clean renewable energy alternatives ie

- Recording and sharing their experiences to educate others about the real impacts of fossil fuel projects on women and communities.
- Developing comprehensive models for sustainable energy development that prioritize community owned infrastructure and wellbeing over corporate profits.
- Mentoring young women to ensure the movement continues to grow and evolve.

With the ongoing struggle as noted, solidarity support is needed. Despite their remarkable transformation and growing power, women environmental and human rights defenders (WEHRDs) in the Albertine region also continue to face significant challenges that require urgent and honest intervention, engagement and collaboration for all stakeholders in the region to continue amplifying women and girl's voices

The journey from oil victims to climate justice champions represents one of the most remarkable grassroots transformations in recent African

environmental history. These women embody the principle that one leader powerfully articulated: "Nothing for us without us."

Women in the Albertine region are no longer asking for permission to participate in decisions about their future—they are demanding a seat at every table where these decisions are made. They have moved beyond the challenge to creating a comprehensive movement for climate justice that puts women's leadership at the center.

Their work challenges the root causes of climate change while developing alternative economic models that prioritize community wellbeing over corporate profits. They are proving that those most affected by climate injustice are also best positioned to lead the fight for climate solutions. These women believe deeply that "from resistance, renewable energy will sprout."

When fossil fuel companies and governments ignore the voices of affected communities, they create the very resistance movements that will ultimately defeat them. When women are pushed to their breaking point by environmental destruction, they don't break—they organize, they fight back, and they build alternatives.

The future is female and green. The community engagements of May 2025 represent more than assessment meetings—they are a declaration that women will not be silenced in the fight for their communities' survival. The East African Crude Oil Pipeline intended to extract resources and profits from the Albertine region. Instead, it has extracted something far more powerful: a generation of women leaders who refuse to let their communities be sacrificed for fossil fuel profits. Women who have transformed pain into power, victimization into leadership, and resistance into renewable energy advocacy.



May activities in Pictures



Photos from the training of community organizers to strengthen their capacities in promotion of human rights and Climate justice.



Empowering youth on the need to promote and demand for socially owned inclusive green economy alternatives.