



Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment – West Nile (RICE-WN)

“Bringing Uganda’s oil to the surface, increasing community capacity to handle oil resource effectively”

0131_RICE-WN

<< 2013/2014, April-June 2014 >>

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Basic Project Information

Profile	
Name of project	Bringing Uganda's oil to the surface, increasing community capacity to handle oil resource effectively
Project goal and objectives	<p>Goal</p> <p>To build an empowered community that has a voice in oil governance and accountability.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To empower communities and their leaders on oil accountability tracking by the end of 2016 ii. To facilitate information dissemination to all stakeholders for knowledge and conflict prevention in the oil rich areas by the end of 2016 iii. To enable communities to exploit local business opportunities brought by oil exploration by the end of 2016 iv. To strengthen local community participation in policy implementation, security, law enforcement and policy reform related to oil and gas by the end of 2016
Location of the project	Arua, Nebbi, Buliisa and Nwoya
Geographical coverage	Arua, Nebbi, Buliisa and Nwoya
Contract start date	1 st December 2013
Contract end date	30 th June 2016

Progress

Project output/expected result 8	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
<p>Output 1: A total of 85 district official participated in the dialogue.</p> <p>District concerns harmonized into regional issues thus strategy papers developed</p>	<p>Activity 1: Regional Dialogue</p>	<p>The regional dialogue was conducted in Arua district. Out of 85 participants in the dialogue, 33 female and 52 male.</p> <p>Twenty district officials were engaged per district</p>	
<p>Challenges;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Some of the targeted facilitators did not confirm their participation thus missing some of the key issues raised in the previous interventions such as environmental concerns which were to be presented by NEMA, members of parliament; of the 9 members of parliament invited from the four districts only one participated in the meeting. The aim of inviting them was for them to present about the progress of the public finance bill and how the communities participate in raising their voices ❑ The leaders complained of the inaccessibility of the PEPD officials at district level to disseminate information to the local leaders and communities ❑ Failure of some community members to read IEC materials due to language barrier. All materials have been produced in English thus some people who do not read English miss the information 			
<p>Recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The leaders recommended that there is need for PEPD to establish offices at the oil hosting districts so that it can be accessible to local people as well. This will easy access to information by all communities and ease coordination with central government ❑ In addition Hon. Okecha Fredrick Secretary for Community service Nwoya district local government recommended that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (PEPD) should take a deliberate effort to sensitize the communities through media programs especially community radios. He said often times the ministry is only seen in fora organized by CSOs like RICE-WN. As a result, in the month of June 2014, PEPD held radio talk shows in the districts of Arua (Radio Pacis), Masindi (King FM) Nebbi (Radio Paidha) and Gulu (Radio Rupiny). It would be good if the ministry facilitated an engagement with the communities. ❑ Participants also recommended that some of the IEC materials be translated 			

into the local language so that the local people can also benefit from the information. The DCDO of Arua said there are many local people who miss information from the IEC materials produced thus a budget line be considered for translating such documents

- The LCV Chairperson (Hon. Patrick Oryam Okello) of Nwoya district local government also recommended that Uganda Wild Life (UWA) should make an attempt to sensitize the communities in the exploration areas on how to live harmoniously with the wild animals. This is because reports have reached to him that elephants are moving to the communities and destroying people's crops and houses; some people have even been displaced by these animals from their own homes. RICE-WN took initiative to include this agenda on community government engagement to make UWA interface with communities.
- The facilitator from UWA recommended that CSOs like RICE-WN should collaborate with other research institutes to conduct a comprehensive scientific research on the relationship between animal movement and oil and gas exploration. This research could help inform the oil companies and the government on whether to continue with exploration at the reserved areas or not.

Project output/expected Result 9	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
<p>Output 2: A total of 80 district leaders were engaged</p> <p>Districts took up a strategic direction on issues affecting the communities. Thus each district developed strategies to increase their participation in oil and gas.</p> <p>PEPD revealed their plan for developing national content and they assured the districts that of upcoming consultation. The presence of their own plans at district level</p>	<p>Activity 2: Advocacy meeting with district leaders</p>	<p>This activity was conducted in Arua; district leaders from all the project districts participated in the meeting. 20 district leaders were selected per district for the engagement. Of the 80 participants there were 33 female and 47 male persons who participated in this activity.</p>	

will make things easy and systematic.			
Challenges; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Not all the leaders targeted especially area Members of Parliament participated in the dialogue thus the views captured were from few leaders ❑ The districts complaint on funds to reach the communities which affects information flow 			
Recommendations; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ There is need to constantly engage the district officials and encourage them to integrate oil and gas information in their daily activities. 			
Project output/expected result 10	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
Output 3: A strengthened Monitoring and Evaluation system in place	Activity 3: Conduct quarterly M&E review meeting	The M&E was not done. It is postponed to next quarter (July – September).	The period selected in the quarter was after all activities take place but was not convenient for some key stakeholders and so it had to be postponed to early July.
Challenges; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The districts do not have strategies in place to support oil and gas exploration activities ❑ Many leaders have not considered preparing their communities to take opportunities from the oil and gas sector 			
Recommendations; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The districts were able to come up with comprehensive strategies to enhance community participation in the oil and gas industry in Uganda. The districts were tasked to compile these strategies as a speaking document to guide their engagement in the oil and gas sector. ❑ The LCV Chairperson of Arua district local government Hon Sam Wadri Nyakua in his recommendation said now that RICE-WN has built the capacity of the local leaders in these four districts, they should take it upon themselves to go back and prepare their communities so that everybody is strategically placed to benefit from this Oil and gas industry. ❑ The District Community Development Officer of Arua district recommended that we should take our children to school if we want to benefit from Oil and gas. This is because most of the employment opportunities are taken up by the educated people most especially those who have done Oil related courses. ❑ The LCV Chairperson of Buliisa district local government Hon Lukum Fred recommended that copies of activity reports be given to the districts so that they can make references to incase need arises. More so, the challenges in the 			

reports can be identified and the district officials are in position to discuss and take action accordingly.			
Project output/expected result 1	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
Output 4: 314 copies of newsletters were printed and distributed to all the four project districts.	Activity 4: produce and disseminate oil and gas information through newsletters.	The newsletter was printed on A3 size paper in English and distributed to all the four project districts Soft copy of the news letter uploaded in RICE WN website (www.riceuganda.org) for the world to read.	
Challenges;			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The prices of printing the newsletters are high yet the budget is not enough. In addition the 300 copies are not enough for all the targeted beneficiaries ■ The newsletter is only in English thus other local communities miss the stories and news captured 			
Recommendations;			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There is need to produce newsletters in the local languages so that the entire population can benefit from it ■ The readers in an assessment form delivered recommended that more pages of those stories need to be captured so that more information is received 			
Project output/expected result 1	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
Output 5: A total of 516 community members participated in the community radio dialogue Concerns and views of the communities on environment and oil & gas were aired on 4 FM radio stations.	Activity 5: Community radio dialogue	The activity was implemented in the four districts of Arua, Buliisa, Nwoya and Nebbi Of the 516 community members, 105 were female adults and 288 were male adults and 211 children Community concerns on environment and oil	

		& gas aired on FM radios i.e Radio Pacis 90.9 FM in Arua and Nebbi, Radio Pacis Gulu and Kings Broad Casting Services (KBS) in Buliisa district	
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Challenges;

- The communities still have high expectations as regards benefits in the oil and gas sector. The concerns aired were related to how different groups such as women, youth, PWDs, Cultural leaders and teachers will benefit from the sector. This poses a big challenge ahead in relation to community capacity building in understanding this sector better
- Many local leaders do not reach with oil and gas information to the communities when called for capacity building trainings, dialogues on community concerns among others
- Expectations of money are still wanting in these communities; many people have the attitude that any community meeting organized by an NGO must have allowances thus managing these expectation is challenging
- Community members do not get access to information points at the district level and sometimes at sub county level; concerns are about grass roots(village level) engagements other than sub county or district level engagements with oil information
- Fear of some community members to raise concerns to be aired on radio. Some participants did not want to speak because they fear that their voices would be aired for public consumption which they said was not good for them.
- Issues of compensation has not been addressed thus communities demanding for updated compensation rates from the district leadership

Recommendations ;

- The chairperson L.C111 of Buliisa sub-county Hon Kubalirwa Nkuba asked the participants to be free to express their concerns on the oil and gas sector. He remarked that this was a great opportunity brought by RICE-WN for the people of Buliisa sub County to advocate and put across their views to the public
- Community members recommended that employment priorities be given to communities in which oil and gas has been discovered. This will yield part of the benefits they are expecting from the oil and gas sector. They further expressed that sponsorship by oil companies should be decentralized further and number of children increased for the sponsorship by government and oil company operating in the area as a benefit to them
- Okumu Nickson, an elder from Anyiribu sub county, Arua district

recommended that there is need to include elders in sharing the oil and gas royalties. “This is so because elders contribute grossly to the communities in which oil is discovered” he said.

- Communities also appealed to leaders about information flow from the top to down. Oil and gas is an industry that is new in Uganda and many do not have information about it thus he recommended that RICE-WN should always bring such fora down to grass roots even at village level for all categories to benefit
- There is need to address compensation rates of the districts; some of them are out of date yet value for some items has increased.

Project output/expected result 2	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
<p>Output 6: A total of 401 people participated in the community – government engagements.</p> <p>Four government-community engagements were conducted</p>	<p>Activity 6: Community – government engagements</p>	<p>This activity was implemented in the four districts of Nebbi, Nwoya, Buliisa and Arua with the theme “Touching communities with oil message”</p> <p>There were two government parastatal bodies and one Oil company that interfaced the communities; these included the Petroleum Exploration and Production Department (PEPD), Uganda wild life Authority (UWA) and Total E&P.</p> <p>The participants (of 401 of this number, 111 were women, 230 were men and 60 were children) were drawn from the local</p>	

		community and their leaders	
<p>Challenges;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The number of women in the community-government engagements was still low; most women are constrained by home work and do not usually get the information for such engagements. ■ Delayed implementation of the government – community engagements and the district dialogue; this was delayed because the government bodies such as UWA, PEPD and Total E&P were fully engaged on the planned dates; UWA officer traveled outside the country, PEPD and Oil company had engagements with stakeholders in the same week. ■ Some of the representatives of the government parastatal bodies could not speak and understand the local languages. Hence translation had to be done. For a lot of time was taken than earlier on planned. ■ Challenge of accessing some targeted government authorities such as NEMA; there are still some community concerns on environment and waste management unanswered yet the people are affected by these factors ■ Many participants at grass roots have high expectations of money when such engagements are organized. The local people are still being infected by the fact that oil and gas is a sector that has a lot of wealth thus any engagement of the nature poses allowances demand from the organizers. 			
<p>Recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There is need to specifically design activities of this nature for the women to receive oil information; this can be done following their calendar and engage them on weekends when they do not have a lot to do. ■ Efforts need to be made to interact with NEMA officials so that they can come on ground to meet the communities and feed them with information on environment, waste management and biodiversity since issues of waste spill are still roaming in the communities and how communities can monitor their own environment. Appointment has been made with NEMA Executive Director in July to build synergies of working together. ■ The participants were urged to feed their brains with information other than feeding their stomach and having an empty mind; The LCIII of Anyiribu Sub county Hon Alitema Hannington Kirima encouraged participants to use the information received in the right way and that they should reach the grass roots communities. ■ The LCV Chairperson of Buliisa district local government Hon Lukum Fred recommended that the Petroleum Exploration and Production Department [PEPD] to be accessible because they are the managers of oil. He said there is need for them to open district level coordination 			

offices so that all citizens can access them.

Project output/expected result 3	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
<p>Output 7: A total of 234 leaders participated in the dialogue.</p>	<p>Activity 7: District dialogue</p>	<p>These were conducted at sub county level in four sub counties of Ngwedo in Buliisa, Purongo in Nwoya, Packwach in Nebbi and Anyiribu in Arua</p> <p>The theme for the dialogues was “strengthening community participation in accountability and governance”</p> <p>This activity was treated as feedback to leaders on the government community engagements and community radio dialogues</p> <p>The participants (Of 234, 84 were female and 150 male) for these dialogues were mostly the district and sub county officials, media, CSOs, Women, youths, PWDs among others</p>	
<p>Challenges;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some of the leaders still have little knowledge on the sector which affected concentration on the topics since there was need to take them through the sector ■ The districts do not have any plan in place to support the communities 			

in terms of sensitizations, follow-ups, radio programs among others. The reason is that there is no funding for such engagements thus communities are only engaged when NGOs such as RICE-WN organize such fora for the people

Recommendations;

- There is need to engage leaders regularly for them to understand their role in information dissemination. Buliisa district LCV Chairperson Hon Lukum Fred strongly recommended leaders need more of such meetings; he appreciated RICE-WN for the continued engagement as promised during the project launch.
- The Representative from PEPD recommended that districts should draw work plans and integrate such interventions in other engagements so that people can get oil information. The Executive Director of RICE-WN further urged religious leaders to share such important information in churches and mosques so that everybody gets oil information. He said they are the leaders that get the greatest number of local communities thus they can make a breakthrough of information during or after service.
- The the Acting CAO who is also DCDO of Buliisa district local government Mr. Barugahara Benard also recommended that oil companies should start sensitizing communities on social issues which seem to arise from the exploration. He remarked that the sub contractors live in communities thus moral drain among young girls and women has arose; thus need to do intensive sensitization on domestic violence, prostitution, HIV/AIDS, STDs etc
- The chairperson Buliisa District land board Mr. Tundulu Sabiiti recommended that communities should register their land so that land wrangles can reduce in the area.
- The leaders recommended that UWA should devise means of trapping the animals from reaching the communities so that the people are protected as well as their crops.

Project output/expected result 4	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
Output 8.1.3: Every parish is sensitized	Activity 8.1.3: Carryout community sensitization using GAGs.	Not done. Postponed for next quarter.	This activity must have been preceded by selection and training of GAGs yet the budget for the selection and training is available for next quarter. So the activity

			is postponed for next quarter (July-September).
Project output/expected result 4	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
Output 8: 18 packages of data were collected from the communities through the volunteers and local leaders , processed and disseminated during engagements with leaders and communities Major issues discussed included polyliners reaching communities in Buliisa, Human animal conflict in Nwoya and Nebbi, environmental degradation through tree cutting for charcoal in all four districts.	Activity 8: collect, process, store and disseminate information from communities on environment and biodiversity concerns	Information was collected from all the four project districts and disseminated to the district stake holders in dialogues. This was done through oil and gas information tracking from print media, data collection by volunteers from grass roots, and calls from community members to RICE-WN staff.	
Challenges;			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A lot of issues generated that could not be discussed all at once. However most of the issues were reverted to sub-county and district leaders to discuss further in their councils. ■ Few numbers of volunteers on ground which affects data collection in the whole parish; of the 90 volunteers that were to be on ground only 30 are working because the budget only sustains the thirty volunteers. 			
Recommendations;			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local leaders still relax about upcoming issues considering them as usual. There is need for local leaders to put accelerated effort towards issues of oil and gas. ■ Environmental conservation in terms of tree conservation and afforestation needs to be addressed by local leaders and non-state actors. 			
Project output/expected result 5	Planned Activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
Output 9:	Activity 9:	This activity has been	Appointment

Copies of oil and gas accountabilities collected and disseminated to communities and local leaders	Obtain and disseminate oil and gas accountabilities.	postponed to the first week of July	was accepted for July by PEPD
Challenges; Having engaged PEPD for nearly two weeks, they suggested that other engagements with RICE-WN be undertaken in the month of July to give them time to attend to other duties already scheduled for Hoima district.			
Recommendations;			
Project output/expected result 6	Planned Activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
Output 10: Coordinated information sharing on oil and gas through media	Activity 10: Collecting and airing community based radio dramas	This activity has been postponed to the first week of July 2014	This was because of the delay by the drama groups to submit scripts of drama. These dramas also need to be approved by PEPD before they are played on radio.
Challenges; Most of the drama groups are not conversant with radio dramas and so coaching them is taking longer time.			
Recommendations;			

Report on gender mainstreaming (how has the organization integrated gender in the reporting period?)

The number of women in leadership is still low in many parts of Uganda including the four districts of Arua, Nebbi, Nwoya, and Buliisa. RICE-WN is a gender sensitive organization that promotes the rights of all categories of people. In order to touch all members of the community with oil message, RICE-WN in Quarter three of the project initiated yet another means of bringing the women on board; this was through providing 10 specific slots out of 50 stakeholders invited in the district dialogues for

all districts (Arua, Nebbi, Nwoya and Buliisa), 5 for the youths, 5 for the PWDs and the remaining for the district and sub county officials, CSOs, Media, religious and cultural leaders etc regardless of their sex.

In other activities that were community based without invitations such as community radio dialogues and community government engagements, mobilization was done through women group leaders, churches, market wardens, LCs among others to draw the women as well to voice their views. All this was successful and women have shown up. In some districts like Buliisa the number of women was nearly equal to that of men in the community - government engagements there were 78 women and 80 men; this number indicates that women are increasingly getting a touch of the oil and gas industry

Emerging issues, Risks and Mitigation

- There is an emerging issue of the animal human relationship; according to UWA represented by the warden monitoring oil and gas activities in all protected areas (Mr. Dhabasadha Moses), the issue of animal human conflict is under discussion in parliament. This came as a result of the advocacy to fence the park using electric wires so as to trap the animals from crossing to the communities. digging a trench which he said has been started from Koch-Goma sub county in Nwoya district with a fence to support it
- The warden also explained other ways to prevent the animals from crossing the park border. This included planting of repellent crops such as red paper, tobacco, and simsim. While an animal like lion, once you notice it never run but rather stand and look at it straight in the eyes without moving an of your body part, for buffalo just seek for any rescue whichever means possible either climbing on a tree or hiding. He urged the district leaders to consider these ways to deter animals such as elephants from crossing to the communities. However communities suggested that UWA should be able to equip the scouts recruited with telephones and vuvuzelas to sound alert messages when animals are crossing. Communities also urged UWA to fulfill their promise of providing bee hives to be placed at the border with the national park so as to repel animals especially elephants.
- Another emerging issue was that the department of petroleum exploration and production intends to open coordination offices at district level before production will commence. Meetings with district officials at exploration areas have been held. This office will provide information and oversee operation and community issues directly..
- NEMA has accepted an appointment from RICE-WN for building synergy in working together. The appointment with Executive Director NEMA and his team will take place in July 11th 2014. This meeting will hopefully be a breakthrough in environment and biodiversity concerns of communities in the project area.
- NEMA, UWA and Total E&P realized need to give open forum for communities to ask them questions of any type. There are promises from these parties to reach communities with open fora.

Lessons learnt

- Engaging communities to interface government parastatals such as UWA and PEPD increases trust of communities in government work. This is because the government bodies have the answers to the concerns of communities.
- Inviting stakeholders for open forum is an easy way of accounting to communities and it helps to build relations among the stakeholders.
- Giving women specific slots to participate in the activities draws more women to raise their voices. This increased women participation as compared to previous interventions where people were invited by offices held yet most of these are occupied by men mainly.

Way forward

- The strategies developed by districts need to be completed in accelerated manner by district. Environment officers who were put in charge of implementation of the activities should continue to take lead. This strategy will help the districts stand firm to develop their area given the activities
- The security officials in Buliisa district need to investigate and withdraw poly liners from communities. These materials used in oil drilling sites find their way to communities who use it for drying cassava, making bathing shelters and other domestic use. Since these liners are used for covering oil waste, they might be dangerous to the health of communities.
- Continued engagement of government and communities to answer questions of concern before production. Mr. Bashir, a communications officer of PEPD told communities “ if it means questions, abuses, wrangles lets sort them now so that when it comes to the production stage, we shall all be speaking the same language” he said the production stage has many opportunities coming which must benefit all Ugandans.

Case stories

Story 1: “It is time to sort out ourselves”



Picture 1: Mr. Bashir Hangi of PEPD(standing left) explaining to communities in Buliisa that it is the right time to raise issues and prepare to benefit during government community engagements.

During the government community engagements in the four districts of Nwoya, Nebbi, Buliisa and Arua, Bashir Hangi, communications officer PEPD expressed to communities that it is time for us to sort out ourselves. In his speech, he said government appreciates the fact that the oil and gas industry is a new sector in Uganda thus the country has a lot to learn and a lot to forget. It is just the first phase of the sector “exploration” that had a number of issues. Communities in the exploration areas have increasingly expressed concerns which we must address in such foras. “even if it means abuses, quarrels, boxing each other, concerns, questions, understanding the sector let’s fix them now so that when the next phase of the sector “production” comes we will be on the same page and work together. This was a positive statement that restored hope in many communities and their leaders. This made the speaker of Purongo (Hon Lukwiya Samson) sub county, Nwoya district say “this is a correct answer you have told us” this was after several concerns answered by the three bodies PEPD, UWA and Total E&P.

Story 2: UWA tells Buliisa, Nebbi and Nwoya districts to account to communities for the revenue sharing grants from UWA.



Picture2: Moses Dhabasadha of UWA telling district leaders to inform communities about the revenue sharing projects funded by UWA.

Uganda Wild Life Authority shares part of its revenue with districts surrounding the national parks which is 20% Park gate fees collection. This money is remitted to districts and they use it every year. During government community engagements that brought together UWA, PEPD, Total E&P and the district and sub county officials, communities asked the district to explain in the presence of UWA what they did with the revenue sharing grants. The youth and women were able to raise their voices and declare that they have never been considered in using those grants from UWA.

The district authorities explained the project that included building schools and health centers. The communities urged their leaders to find time to update them about such projects rather than giving room for guesswork. The representative of UWA assured the communities that support to them will continue and it is all up to them to give their fundable proposals.

Case 3: How did communities in Ngwedo get access to the poly liners? The DISO asks communities and Total E&P.



Picture 3: Picture of poly liner used for storing cassava from a grinding machine in Buliisa.

In the communities of Buliisa, it is common to see poly liners (hard and black polythene) that oil companies use in drilling pads to cover oil waste. The dilemma is how these poly liners find their way to communities. Are they bought or stolen or given? Total E&P failed to answer but sought the assistance of the RDCs office to remove the poly liners from communities so that they can be taken for recycling in Kampala. Communities on their part also failed to answer. The danger with these liners is that some people use it for drying and storing food and this might pose a health risk. The representative of the RDC promised to do something in collaboration with Total E&P.

For RICE-WN, this is an ineffective way of handling the oil resource and it has to be corrected. Follow up with community and security officials to find out how the poly liners reach the communities.



Picture 4: “My voice to be heard on radio is a promotion.” A young man presenting issues on oil and gas opportunities in Arua during community radio dialogues.



Picture 5: A representative of women asking a question on how the women will benefit from the oil and gas sector during a community radio dialogue in Anyiribu, Arua district