



## **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, October-December 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><b>Goal</b></p> <p>To build an empowered community that has a voice in oil governance and accountability.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To empower communities and their leaders on oil accountability tracking by the end of 2016</li> <li>ii. To facilitate information dissemination to all stakeholders for knowledge and conflict prevention in the oil rich areas by the end of 2016</li> <li>iii. To enable communities to exploit local business opportunities brought by oil exploration by the end of 2016</li> <li>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</li> </ol>
Location of the project	Arua, Nebbi, Buliisa and Nwoya
Geographical coverage	Arua, Nebbi, Buliisa and Nwoya
Contract start date	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2013
Contract end date	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016

## Progress

Project output/expected result 8	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
<p>Output 1; 800 copies of booklets with oil and gas information obtained from Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. Booklets were distributed to 200 stakeholders, sub county offices, DCDO offices, environment offices, DFO offices, CSOs, cultural institutions, media etc</p>	<p>Activity 1; Obtain and disseminate available accountabilities of oil and gas to local leaders and communities</p>	<p>Oil and gas booklets on the popular version of the oil and gas policy and the progress of the implementation of the oil and gas policy were obtained and disseminated to stakeholders in the four districts of Arua, Nebbi, Nwoya and Buliisa</p> <p>These booklets were supplied in different languages i.e Lugbara for Arua, Lugungu and Lunyoro for Buliisa, Acholi for Nwoya and Alur for Nebbi. English and Kiswahili versions were then distributed in all the four districts to those who preferred them.</p>	
<p><b>Challenges;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ Copies of the booklets obtained were still not enough to appropriately reach every parish and village in the oil hosting communities.</li> <li>☒ Communities in the village reported inaccessibility to such facilities at the sub county offices due to long distances covered to reach the sub county offices thus requested that the booklets be distributed to individuals at local level as well. We still hope to get more copies next time but we still believe that supplying the materials to leaders can help in better interpretation since it is not possible to supply it to everyone.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Recommendations;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ There is need to obtain more copies of the translated version of the booklets to be distributed to parishes and villages so that access can be increased.</li> <li>☒ Mr. Benedict of New vision Nebbi testified that indeed he feels supply of these materials even in translated forms means that their issues are being taken positively and he recommended that the booklets should be taken to the villages and even sub counties that are not affected by oil exploration because this sector has far reaching effects.</li> </ul>			
Project output/expected Result 9	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)

<p>Output 2; 150 Gender Advocacy Group members were trained in five groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ Of the 150 participants,, 115 were female and 35 male.</li> <li>☒ Advocacy issues were identified by each group for community sensitizations based on the need on the ground</li> </ul>	<p>Activity 2; Select and train GAG (Gender Advocacy Group) members in 9 per sub county 2 times in the year.</p>	<p>This activity was implemented in the five sub counties of Anyiribu, Pakwach, Panyimur, Ngwedo and Buliisa sub counties. Each sub county had a total of 30 GAG members trained</p>	
<p>Challenges;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ Some of the groups considered this training as a payable job opportunity thus expecting to be paid for doing the work.</li> <li>☒ High illiteracy rate among many of the members selected making it difficult to make presentations in the official language (English) thus translations took a lot of the time in some districts</li> <li>☒ The perception of gender among the local people is still taken to be about the women. The component of gender equality is at odds with local traditions that places men above women and there was rampant misconception that women will no longer do their household chores if gender equality is achieved. .</li> </ul>			
<p>Recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ The chairman LCIII of Pakwach recommended that the groups should be allowed to freely express themselves in the local language so that the few who can speak, read and write will do the reporting of their work.</li> <li>☒ The group members were clearly told to be change agents in their communities in terms of addressing the social issues among the people and helping communities to prepare so as to tap opportunities from the oil and gas sector. Social problems are known to prevent communities from exploiting opportunities that come with oil and gas.</li> </ul>			
<b>Project output/expected result 10</b>	<b>Planned activity</b>	<b>Status of implementation</b>	<b>Reason for variance (if any)</b>
<p>Output 3; Four community radio dialogues were held and 315 community members turned up for the radio dialogues; of these, 114 were female and 201 were male</p>	<p>Activity 3: Conduct Community-radio dialogues</p>	<p>This activity was implemented in the four districts of Arua, Nebbi, Nwoya and Buliisa.</p> <p>The theme for the dialogue was “Raising voices towards peaceful</p>	

Community voices captured and aired on local FM stations		oil exploitation”	
<p>Challenges;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ The communities of Latoro parish in Nwoya raised an issue of coverage of the local FM used in their area to be sparse due to the distance.</li> <li>☒ Communities still report that their leaders do not reach with information to them. They therefore request to have constant engagements such as sensitization events and radio dialogues to front their concerns</li> <li>☒</li> </ul>			
<p>Recommendations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ The communities in Nwoya recommended different FM stations such as Radio Rupiny or Gulu FM to be used and that there is need for the district local government to think of a radio station in the district since Nwoya doesn't have anyone.</li> <li>☒ There is need to task leaders to engage other leaders and communities frequently for them to appreciate. The Secretary social services Mr. Okecha Fredrick recommended that radio dialogues should record community concerns and responses from the leaders to communities issues so that their questions are answered timely.</li> </ul>			
<b>Project output/expected result 1</b>	<b>Planned activity</b>	<b>Status of implementation</b>	<b>Reason for variance (if any)</b>
<p>Output 4: 204 local leaders and community members were engaged in community government engagement; of the above 66 were female and 138 male</p> <p>Local leaders were able to come up with action plans to engage communities regularly</p>	<p>Activity 4: Hold Government-Community engagements</p>	<p>This activity was implemented in the four districts of Buliisa, Nebbi, Nwoya and Arua with the theme “Reaping from Nature, caring for the future”</p> <p>The objectives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To enable communities appreciate conservation and live in harmony with natural resources.</li> <li>ii. To increase community contribution to environmental conservation and protection.</li> <li>iii. To build a stronger relationship between government bodies</li> </ul>	

		and communities.  This was facilitated by District Environment Officers (DEO), District Forest Officers (DFO) and District Community Development Officers (DCDO).	
<b>Challenges;</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ The representation of women in open dialogues is still low as compared to the men. One councilor from Purongo sub county attributed this to the various domestic chores women are engaged in, saying that this limits their opportunity to receive information on such dialogues thus missing out important lessons.</li> <li>☒ The allowance syndrome inflicted by relief NGOs in the northern region affects implementation of such activities. Many communities still think gatherings organized by NGOs involve distribution of tangible materials such as money, seeds, food and drinks among others.</li> <li>☒ Inadequate funds at local governments creates information gap between communities and their local leaders. The DEO Nebbi testified that it has always been challenging for the district to organize such forums so as to keep the local people informed of what is taking place around them and hearing their concerns due to lack of facilitation to organize such gatherings.</li> </ul>			
<b>Recommendations;</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☒ There is need to strategize and design activities that specifically benefit the women. This will help them discuss openly their concerns without fear.</li> <li>☒ The District Environment Officer Nebbi recommended that whenever there is an opportunity for local leaders to be engaged like such a forum, RICE-WN should involve district leaders since they have stringent budget for some of these activities yet there are many issues on ground</li> </ul>			
<b>Project output/expected result 1</b>	<b>Planned activity</b>	<b>Status of implementation</b>	<b>Reason for variance (if any)</b>
Output 5: 274 individuals participated in the sensitizations with the GAGs  Of the 274, 184 were female and 90 were male	Activity 5: Carryout Community sensitizations using GAGs in every parish	This activity was conducted in five sub counties of Okollo and Anyiribu in Arua, Alwi in Nebbi, Kigwera in Buliisa and Purongo in Nwoya district.  A total of 150 GAGs turned up in the sensitizations. 30 per sub county  Topics covered by the	The remaining 4 sub counties of Pakwach, Panyimur, Ngwedo and Buliisa sub counties will be conducted in January

		<p>groups included; sensitizing parents on school dropouts, resource mobilization as a source of revenue for the communities through making local markets more marketable, over drinking (Alcoholism) in the community</p> <p>These topics were selected by the GAGs after doing baseline studies in their own communities on advocacy issues that affect most.</p>	
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**Challenges;**

- The traditional believes that the girl child is seen as wealth in some families discourages girls from attending school. According Mr. Okello of Alwi subcounty, many girls enrolled in school from P.1 to p.4 and thereafter drop out of school due to a number of factors including the attitude of parents towards educating the girl child thus high dropout rates in a government school with universal primary education.
- The DCDO Nwoya expressed that poor attitude among girls and their parents affect their education. He highlighted that only 2 girls will sit for UACE in Nwoya in Koch Goma secondary school in the year 2014 out of many 37 boys in the same class.
- Communities blamed leaders for not regulating overdrinking among people leading to many other social issues.
- Some GAG members lacked public speaking skills and these were given other roles to play other than speaking to people.

**Recommendations;**

- There is need for continuous sensitization of children at school, parents and teachers to embrace the importance of education.
- There is need to conduct a capacity building training for the gender advocacy groups to increase their ability and confidence to talk to their communities.
- The community members recommended that sensitizations be conducted at parish and or village level for more impact and change of attitude since many people especially men miss such important information due to their poor attitude towards open dialogues on social issues
- Mego Aol Hellen, a community member recommended that there is need for leaders to come up with bylaws if school dropout rate is to be reduced. Strict laws should be put in place for these stubborn boys and girls who do not want to listen to their parents.The

<p>communities recommended that leaders should develop by laws to regulate over drinking in the communities and make follow-up on it.</p>			
Project output/expected result 2	Planned activity	Status of implementation	Reason for variance (if any)
<p>Output 6: 234 local leaders participated in the district dialogues</p> <p>Experiences were shared on the outcomes of the project</p>	<p>Activity 6: Conduct District Dialogues</p>	<p>This was conducted in the four districts of Buliisa, Nwoya, Nebbi and Arua</p> <p>The theme of the dialogue was “seeking district support in reaping from nature, caring for the future”</p> <p>The objectives of these dialogues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To enable participants appreciate the value of natural environment.</li> <li>ii. Enable participants identify opportunities from natural environment.</li> <li>iii. Enable the participants plan for sustainable benefits from natural environment such as vegetation and minerals.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback from the government community engagements and community radio dialogue also formed the basis for the dialogues.</p>	
<p>Challenges;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Some of the leaders took this forum to finger point at each other as regards their roles and responsibilities. This fueled long discussions among the leaders. For instance a traditional believe of women’s access to land brought about bitter discussions between a traditional leader and women representative in Arua district.</li> <li>■ Limited documentation by leaders on subsequent issues at the districts affects trucking of outcome and advocacy work. Many issues surrounding oil and gas, environmental protection, waste management at district level are not documented well thus making follow up is challenging since no evidence is captured</li> </ul>			

☒ Poor reading culture among leaders keeps the knowledge levels low. LCIII of Anaka subcounty said this affects interpretation of policies laws and regulations that leaders would use to support communities “reap from nature and care for the future”.

**Recommendations;**

☒ Mr. Okecha Fredrick recommended that RICE-WN should take an initiative to document all issues related to oil and gas and other natural resources in Nwoya district. He said the starting point is e progress made in removal of the waste that was dumped in Mr. Olwoch’s garden where Total E&P currently is fencing the area to remove the waste.

☒ The LCIII of Anaka urged leaders to be proactive and take initiatives to read items they receive during such dialogues, trainings among others to keep updated on what is happening in the country.

<b>Project output/expected result 3</b>	<b>Planned activity</b>	<b>Status of implementation</b>	<b>Reason for variance (if any)</b>
<p>Output 7: 224 district leaders participated in the advocacy meetings.</p> <p>Of the above, 98 were female and 126 were male</p> <p>Leaders drew action plans for community engagements and integration of work</p>	<p>Activity 7: Organize 4 advocacy meetings with the district leaders</p>	<p>This activity was implemented in the four districts of Nwoya, Nebbi, Buliisa and Arua</p> <p>The theme of the activity was “seeking district support in reaping from Nature, caring for the future”</p>	

**Challenges;**

☒ Many district leaders are not aware of what is happening at grassroots level as concerns conservation of forests and other natural resources. For instance in Nebbi, the alarming issue of use of illegal fishing nets that fetch immature fish from Albert Nile has reduced number of fish in the river yet fishing is a source of livelihood for the people in the area

☒ Communities reported that the political leaders do not take time to monitor the activities going on in the rural areas thus hardships in change of attitude

☒ Limited priority given to advocacy issues forwarded to district leaders affects feedback to the communities. Issues such as continuous integration of discussions on oil, environment and social issues in communities is still limited among leaders, formation of ordinances and by laws to redress some issues is still lacking.

**Recommendations;**

☒ Making follow-up with district leaders on action plans and creating demand for feedback among communities will make them prioritize community concerns.

☒ District leaders need continuous engagement to build their capacity in handling advocacy issues at their levels for increased governance and accountability.

<b>Project output/expected result 4</b>	<b>Planned activity</b>	<b>Status of implementation</b>	<b>Reason for variance (if any)</b>
<p>Output 8: A total of 107 stakeholders participated in the review meetings.</p> <p>48 female and 59 male.</p> <p>Change stories were documented during this activity</p>	<p>Activity 8: Conduct semi-annual stakeholder review meetings</p>	<p>This was implemented in the four districts of Buliisa, Nebbi, Nwoya and Arua.</p> <p>The theme for these reviews was “Enhancing Stakeholder Participation in Results-Based Project Monitoring and Evaluation”.</p> <p>The Progress/status of the project implementation was shared with the stakeholders. Challenges faced in the course of the project were also shared to device way forward for further adjustments and engagements. The objectives were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To assess the progress made towards the achievement of the project objectives</li> <li>ii. To review the progress made by the districts on action points created during previous engagements</li> <li>iii. To document change stories and testimonies from the participants</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Challenges;</b></p> <p></p>			
<p><b>Recommendations;</b></p> <p> Stakeholders recommended that RICE-WN should conduct a social impact assessment because with the discovery of oil in Uganda, many social issues that traditionally were not there have come up. For instance child prostitution in Purongo is becoming rampant; women are allegedly practicing commercial sex as a result of high many</p>			

companies in Buliisa that employ men without their wives nearby.

- ☒ Leaders also recommended that community radio dialogues should not only include community voices with their concerns but responses to concerns be captured before airing the dialogue for the rest of the communities. This gap was cited in places where leaders failed to turn up for the community radio dialogues.
- ☒ Leaders appreciated the review process and recommended that outcomes reported should be followed up from time to time for sustainability.

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

In this reporting period RICE-WN integrated gender through considering women, men, girls and boys in all the activities. More so activities such as district dialogues and gender advocacy group trainings created specific slots for women in the activities. For instance 10 women from the community were specifically invited to participate in the district dialogue bringing on board more women. The GAGs constituted 75% of members being women and 25% being men. The reason for such an engagement was to create change agents for gender advocacy in communities. In the community radio dialogues particular emphasis was also placed on women voices and all the dialogues had women and children voices captured.

### **Emerging issues, Risks and Mitigation**

The training and sensitizations by Gender Advocacy groups in communities drew the attention of the ministry of gender labour and social development. This ministry visited RICE-WN offices in Nwoya, Nebbi and Arua and also visited one GAG group in Anyiribu sub county, Arua district to specifically appreciate and understand how these groups are working on ground. they made verbal commitment to replicate and or make use of these groups to implement government programs under the same ministry. Included in the team was the commissioner Community Development and Literacy Mr. Tumwesigye Everest, Ejoru Alphonse the assistant commissioner Literacy, Akello Harriet senior literacy officer and Frederick Kindi a lecturer from makerere university who asked RICE-WN to share more information about the innovation through GAGS and this was done.

Mr. okecha Fredrick the secretary for community services in Nyoya district requested that RICE-WN should seek support from her partners to conduct a research on social impact assessment of the oil and gas sector. He said currently the district is facing challenges in socio-cultural behaviors such as child prostitution in Purongo sub county, increase in domestic violence among others.

In Buliisa, issues of unrestored ‘murrum’ pits still exist.. Mr Alex Onen, a RICE-WN volunteer in Nwedo reports that the murrum pits, oil sub-contractors of Total E&P dug in Kasinyi village, Oduk 1 village, Kamandindi village in Ngwendo sub county are still unrestored yet these pits are causing accidents to young children and animals. He requested RICE-WN to engage Total E&P or the NEMA to make a follow-up on these holes before it is too late.

The secretary for production and natural resources in Nebbi district, Mrs. Jackline announced to leaders that NFA in the year 2015 will be moving with a GPS to locate the forest reserves that were designated in 1940 thus communities and leaders should be vigilant because settlements in the forest reserves will be displaced.

Leaders were also updated on some of the current issues running in the oil and gas sector such as passing of the public finance management bill into an act awaiting for president's signature. In addition they were updated on the issue of royalties for cultural leaders which they continuously recommended in subsequent dialogues. Cultural leaders are given 1% of the royalties, 6% for district local governments and 93% for the central government.

### **Lessons learnt**

Engaging local leaders at district level in facilitating activities builds their confidence and gain trust from communities to the knowledge they possess. This was witnessed in all the districts where the leaders engaged that is District Environment Officers (DEOs), District Forestry Officers (DFOs) and District Community Development Officers (DCDOs) appreciated RICE-WN for bringing them closure to the grassroots community. The DEO of Nebbi testified that if not for RICE-WN to engage them in sensitizing the communities and getting their concerns as a district they would not know what is happening deep at the grass root level because their offices have inadequate funding to conduct such activities.

We also learnt that the establishment of Gender advocacy groups at sub county level propels deep discussions on the socio cultural impacts of the oil and gas and prepares communities to tap available opportunities in the oil and gas sector. For instance five of the gender advocacy groups have organized several parish level sensitizations on social issues such as school dropout, over drinking, resource mobilization among others which leaders embraced.

Women engagements in activities increases when their capacity built regularly. This was witnessed during the gender advocacy group sensitizations where women represented  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the participants that attended the sensitizations. This was attributed to the gender advocacy group training which encouraged them to actively participate since social issues mostly affect the women.

### **Way forward**

There is need to develop new strategies for drawing more women to high level discussions especially at district and national levels. This will increase their participation even at grass roots levels.

Follow up with leaders on action plans developed during district dialogues on environmental conservation. This will help communities appreciate living in harmony with nature

There is need to make follow up with leaders and oil companies on restoration of well pads especially in Nebbi, Pakwach rii pad which was not well restored causing flooding in the areas thus affecting the feeder roads, murrum holes in Buliisa at in Kasinyi village, Oduk 1 village, Kamandindi village in Ngwendo sub county.

## **Case stories**

### **“Do not leave the religious leaders behind Rev tells leaders and RICE-WN”**

Rev. expressed joy over training of leaders on issue of oil and gas, environment and natural resources, gender etc during the stakeholder reviews in Nebbi district. He said the two local leaders trainings he has attended have given him more information on what is happening in the new oil and gas sector in Uganda. As a result, he mobilized his fellow religious leaders in different denominations to strategize as religious leaders to pass information to the congregation they represent from time to time. ‘Do not leave religious leaders behind if you want your community interventions to succeed’ he said. Religious leaders have the biggest audience and the world will only change given the capacity building interventions such as this.