

Climate Change Awareness Football Gala;

A Call to Action

Vol 2



Dear Partners and Supporters;

We can all agree that climate change is no longer some distant threat we hear about in the news. It's happening right now, and it's hitting our communities hard. From unpredictable weather patterns to crop failures due to extreme heat and heavy rainfall, the effects just keep intensifying.

This is quickly increasing the vulnerabilities of rural communities across Uganda and true to many is that the impacts are undeniable. The situation is even worse for our oil host communities in the Albertine region. Yet, despite these growing threats, there remain significant gaps in climate change awareness and education, leaving many communities unprepared to respond or advocate for sustainable solutions. Recognizing these challenges, our climate change awareness gala aims to bridge this gap through creating awareness and empowering individuals to make informed choices, adopt climate-friendly practices, and, most importantly, demand accountability from leaders and institutions for policies that drive real change and sustainable development.

Christopher Opio, Team Leader ORRA

➤➤➤ A Gathering for Climate Awareness and Community Action

On 25th, February 2025, Oil Refinery Residents Association in partnership with Nature Talk Africa hosted yet another successful Climate Change Awareness Gala in Nyakasinini. The event brought together over 1,000 people, including men, women, and youth from communities around the industrial area in Kabaale Sub County, Hoima District as well as surrounding communities affected by other major oil developments such as Kingfisher, Tilenga, and the EACOP projects. Getting people to show up for climate discussions isn't always easy. Life in rural areas revolves around farming, and with planting season coming up, people are busy. But when we mix climate awareness with something as exciting as football, people come. They play, they cheer, and they listen. That's what made this gala special, it was a mix of fun, learning, and action.



A Platform for Urgent Dialogue

Beyond the thrill of football matches, the gala provided a crucial space for dialogue. Local leaders, community members, and environmental advocates shared insights and strategies to strengthen climate resilience.

Mr. Obe Gyavian, the local council chairperson of Nyakasinini, urged participants to take climate information seriously and apply mitigation measures in their daily lives. He also emphasized the importance of unity, social capital, and developing talent through such community initiatives. Mr. Obegiu Alex, chairperson of the organizing committee, highlighted the gala's role in raising awareness and engaging stakeholders in meaningful discussions about climate change.

Mr. Ongyeer Emmanuel, team leader of Nature Talk Africa, stressed that climate conservation goes beyond tree planting. He encouraged community members to embrace various conservation strategies that enhance resilience in a changing climate.

Mr. Christopher Opio, team leader of ORRA, called for stronger community organization and, most importantly, holding leaders accountable for their commitments on climate action.



Call to Action

Through our different experiences and cultural contexts, everyone can play a part by raising their voice, sharing solutions, and advocating for change. Small steps by a large number of people can help persuade leaders to make the big changes we need. The more people act now and speak up for change, the bigger the pressure on leaders to act. One key focus was also on how we as a community can cause institutional accountability in climate mitigation efforts. One thing that stood out at the gala was women often don't get as much space to voice their thoughts as men and boys do. The men were quick to jump into discussions while women held back.

Another strong takeaway was how much young people want to be part of the solution. Youth from Kaiso told us they wish similar programs could reach their villages too. They're ready to act but need support and more engagement



Our Climate Change Awareness Football Gala has shown that community-driven initiatives can effectively raise awareness and drive action on climate change. By leveraging cultural elements like football and storytelling, we can engage diverse communities and foster a collective movement for sustainability. Climate policies sound great on paper, but we need to see real action at the community level. Authorities must support climate initiatives with funding and implementation strategies that make sense for the people they affect most. Change doesn't happen in isolation. Communities have ideas and solutions they just need support. Investing in grassroots movements, especially youth-led and women-led initiatives, can bring real change.



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