



# OIL REFINERY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Kabaale-Buseruka Hoima district

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## A REPORT OF AN EXPERIENCE SHARING MEETING BETWEEN ORRA AND NAPE HELD AT BUSERUKA SUB-COUNTY HALL



*Some of the participants pose for a group after the training*

### **Introduction:**

On Thursday July 14, 2022, Oil Refinery Residents Association organized an experience sharing meeting on mobilization of youth, women, elderly, PWDs and persons living with HIV is done.

The meeting was held in Buseruka at the sub county's main hall. The meeting was attended by a total number of 35 participants drawn from ORRA members, representatives from NAPE, women, youth and elders Buseruka sub county, Hoima District.

The objective of this meeting was to enable ORRA share her practical experience with NAPE on mobilization for youth, women, PWDs, elders and persons living with HIV to contribute to the broader understanding of inclusiveness not only limited to women and youth but extending to PWD'S and Persons living with HIV.

## Proceedings;

### 1. Opening remarks from ORRA Chairperson



Ms. Nyamahunge Millius the chairperson of ORRA began by welcoming all participants and sent them a warm greeting. She said ORRA partnered with NAPE and wrote a joint proposal which was luckily funded. She added that the fund was an award which given to the two organizations for the contribution she and her colleague Joan of NAPE have made and the funds was to enable the two organizations carryout experience sharing on how they mobilize their people of interests to attain their goals as organizations. She concluded by wishing everyone a fruitful discussion.

### 2. Introduction to the training and its objectives

Mr. Christopher Opio the program and Communication Officer at ORRA said that ORRA and NAPE have been good partners for long and that it was pleasing to see them implement activities together. He continued to say that the purpose of the engagement to share practical with NAPE on how ORRA conducts mobilization of communities at different levels. He said that NAPE is here to learn good practice or success stories that they emulate while mobilizing their participants in the different areas they do their work. He added that, it's not only sharing about the successes, but also some challenges involved in community mobilization. He requested members of ORRA who were selected to facilitate the discussion to be open and ensure detailed discussion since ORRA has been on ground carrying different activities since 2012. "As an organization that has been on ground since 2012. He concluded by encouraging NAPE staff/members to ask as many questions as possible to ensure they get key information or experience that they may find relevant in doing their work.

### 3. Experience sharing on mobilization of women



Esther Abigaba who is the gender officer at ORRA began by saying that mobilization of communities is a complex thing to do especially rural communities. She added that she has been at the forefront of mobilization at ORRA and testified that a lot have been done to build the organization and the trust people have in ORRA today. Esther said that it's unfortunate that in most of these rural areas, some culture/individuals still restrict women from attending meetings and for some when they attend, they fear to speak in

respect/fear for men.

She said after realizing that majority of women were not participating in their meeting, they started organizing meetings for only women and in these meetings, women were seen lively and open to discussions regarding the challenges they were going through. She continued to say that it was during these separate meetings that they would encourage women to ensure they participate in all meetings and actively engage.

She pointed out that, ORRA invest so much in community social functions or areas to pass any information to women, she said that they have been using community markets, churches, women savings group (ekibina) and that sometime they would target them at community water source areas. She added that some of the approaches used is use of church leaders who normally offer some time upon request to pass some information, training smaller groups who later go on mobilizing other members and radio talk shows.

#### 4. Lesson learning on mobilization of PWDs and challenges



Mr. Androzi Gad who is a member of ORRA and the Chairman Disability Council for Hoima District welcomed participants of the meeting and thanked ORRA executive for inviting him to take part in the training and share his experience with NAPE.

He began by giving the meaning of disability which he referred to as the substantial function that covers the mental, physical and social inability to participate in community

engagements. He said that disabled persons may not be able to perform tasks as well as a normal person and went ahead to list some examples of disability that included being blind, deaf, damp, brain tumor, high IQ, dwarf, crippled, etc.

He said that in most cases the PWDs members can be reached through phone calls and sending of messages to alert them of the ongoing activities or operations in their areas. He said that sometimes

he uses people with capacity who can help in voluntary services like reaching to the homestead of the disabled people for effective mobilization. Sometimes he uses authority and the village structures which help to locate places with disabled persons and make sure they acquire all what they need.

Mr. Androzi added other ways is through reaching out the leaders/structures of PWDs at village levels in case of any information that is intended for their benefits and he says this has been the best way ever for them.

He also mentioned that sometimes they use the church/religious leaders to locate the disabled members in their churches. This has been effective to only members who attend church prayers and has limited access to the rest.

He also noted that village health team (VHTs) have performed a great work in the identification of PWDs since they tend to reach every homestead in a village and they have information on PWDs in their areas and that the other ways is accessing the data from health centers to allocate the children who are born with disabilities within area.

However, Mr. Gad noted a number of challenges they are facing in carrying out the mobilization of the PWDs which included negative attitude towards the disabled in most communities. Some of the disabled are also not considered in various activities that they would even perform since they are taken as failures to the communities.

He also said most big buildings do not have ramps and it's very difficult for those who a crippled to access these buildings using their wheel chairs. This according to him has led to a feeling by PWDs as people who are important in a community. He also said some parents hide away their disabled children which creates hardship in mobilization of such people.

In conclusion, Mr. Androzi requested ORRA to make sure they include the disabled in their executive committee so as to cater for all categories of people so that the PWDs do not feel neglected and overlooked in the organization.

## 5. Experience sharing on engagement with elders and people living with HIV



Mr. Eric Tukamuhambwa is the secretary to the council of elders at Kabaale sub county and in charge distribution of HIV drugs in Kabaale. He said when handling people living with HIV, a high level of privacy must be considered to buy the trust from the patients.

He noted that one of the most considered from of mobilization is use of posters in common places that can be accessed by everyone such as market places, trading centers, etc. In addition, there is a village health team who have information on people living with HIV and these people go directly to homestead with relevant information required and including reaching out to them privately on their phone.

He also said that the use of churches and other religious institutions have worked for them as the leaders pass out the information related to HIV. He said that this method is safe because the entire congregation gets the information and the few suspects take the next step.

He also mentioned that there are several challenges faced with the mobilization of the victims which includes stigma among the victims, lack of funds to access medication periodically and for the youth victims especially they do not allow attending meetings where the health messages are delivered.

He also said there is a big problem of alcohol consumption among the people living with HIV as a way of reducing stress which in return weaken their immunity to diseases.

He concluded by saying that there is still a big gap in service delivery and advocacy in rural areas aimed at promoting rights of the elders and people living with HIV.

## 6. Experience on general mobilization of PAs including the youth



Mr. Innocent Tumwebaze the field officer ORRA said it's always encouraging and fascinating working with the youth. He said that mobilizing the PAPs and youth has not been easy since some would turn against them for being government agents. He said that the youth are so inquisitive and thus one needs to set their agenda clear before you call for village meetings and address them,

on any ongoing program that would need them to take part or not.

Innocent also mentioned that, at ORRA, they use so much church leaders to offer them time to talk to his or her congregation during time of service. Sometimes he said they use the most prominent and respected leaders or persons in the villages to mobilize for meetings including reaching out to their small village groups.

He added that they have also been making use of sport activities to mobilize youth especially during football tournaments where youth come in large numbers and it's easy to pass out a given information.

He concluded by saying that the use of schools is one important ways of mobilizing young people. He said sometimes they reach out school administration to allow them talk youth especially of age 13 and above including mobilizing their parents through these school going children.

## 7. Q&A Session

Ms. Alice thanked ORRA for the continuing to advocate for the rights of especially women to ownership of property and involving them in decision making in families. She also requested ORRA to continue with the support they are offering since through their support they have formed so many groups within their community which is helping empowering more people.

Ms. Kusemererwa Betty greatly thanked NAPE for the longtime partnership working with ORRA to defend communities land rights especially during the compulsory land acquisition in 2012 in Kabaale sub-county.

Mr. Pimundu Steven thanked ORRA executive for the continued efforts to attract more partnership. He requested ORRA to help also include the school going children in the fight against the climate change. He proposed that ORRA would reach out to nearby schools, educate the students and provide them tree seedlings that they can plant both within the school compounds and take others home. This would help in conserving the environment and also maintain good climate for the future.

Mr. Wandera John Bosco just commended ORRA for the fruit tree seedlings they provided him in the past days and also gave a testimony that he began earning from it stating that he earns approximately 400,000 Ugandan shillings from them per season of harvest.

Mr. Kiwedde requested that the girl child must be highly considered as part of the stakeholders in any activity that will be carried out. He argued that a good approach must be invested in communicating to the young girls to enable inclusive development in our community.

Ms. Esther requested all members to make sure that when addressing a group of people, understanding people's problems must be in consideration and possible solutions that can be taken should be revised and implemented. She added that using the right procedures to get solutions to the problems must be key.

#### **8. Feedback from NAPE team and way forward:**



Women.

Ms. Akiiza Joanne of NAPE started by applauding ORRA for bringing women at the forefront of their activities and went ahead to give a brief highlight of the joint project that she said is intended to share experience between ORRA and NAPE including mobilizing women and youth on their fundamental rights through a radio talk show. She added that the project is funded by Women's Peace and Humanitarian Funds together with UN

She noted that the fund was applied through a collaboration between ORRA and NAPE an award that is given to organizations/people promoting women, youth and general human rights.

She further noted that she learnt a lot from the training and thanked ORRA for bringing experienced people to share their experiences regarding mobilization of the different sections of communities.

She concluded by saying that she looks forward to having more collaboration and working together to continue promoting the rights of communities at different levels.

## 9. Closing remarks and departure

Ms. Millius Nyamahunge applauded the participants for sacrificing their time and positive contribution during the training process.

She concluded by saying that ORRA considers all stakeholders and they continue to seek new approaches that ensures equity and equality in community mobilization.

## 10. Pictorial highlights



**The End**