

ORRA 2020: ACHIVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES



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women empowerment sensitization meetings

ORRA, in 2020 amidst the challenge caused by covid 19, we managed to meet and empower 2,000 women in the oil project affected areas of Hoima and Kikuube.

Challenge

There is increased land transactions in the region both for oil projects and individual businessmen.

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WOMEN ARE PRIMARY USERS OF LAND; RESPECT THEIR LAND RIGHTS



A COMMUNITY WHERE WOMEN AND GIRLS LAND RIGHTS ARE OBSERVED

PROTECTION OF LAND RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IS A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE FOR ALL OF US; LET US JOIN HANDS BY REPORTING ALL CASES OF WOMEN LAND RIGHTS VIOLATION TO THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

SUPPORTED BY: OIL REFINERY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Promoting women land rights through publication

To be able to reach out to a large number of our targeted audience, ORRA disseminated 3,000 copies of stickers with messages on women and girl children land rights.

Challenge

There is a high level of illiteracy among the women in the region. Majority of the women do not know how to read and write.

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Media engagements

Through our staff, we conducted media campaigns in both broadcast and print media sharing our opinion with relevant stakeholders in the country. This was also aimed at sending our message to the relevant government authority to take appropriate actions against women land rights abuses and violations

Challenge

Limited resources in terms of money to ensure consistency of the media engagement

Respect women rights on land as primary users

Many scholars have argued that there is a direct relationship between women and girl-children land rights, economic empowerment, food security and poverty reduction. While women's land and property rights are vital to development, the reality remains that in many parts of Uganda, these rights are often not shared equally between men and women, and are routinely violated, denied and given insufficient protection and enforcement.

This has been seen in government compulsory land acquisition and other forms of land transactions, not only do women have lower access to land than men, they are also often restricted to secondary land rights, meaning that they hold these rights through their male family members. Women have been left out in decision making, formalisation of land policies and many other associated land rights. This situation, however, has been worsened by the discovery of oil and gas in the Albertine region.

Women and girls in the oil project affected communities are suffering additional injustices and they lack the means to fight the injustices and defend their rights. These injustices, among others, include family breakdown, denial of access and control of compensation funds, sex food droughts, discrimination of health services, clean water, food insecurity and degraded state of social fabric.

This problem is partly due to our societal setup which is patriarchal and land ownership is dominated by men, who eliminate the majority of decisions related to land use and management. This puts the security of women's land tenure in jeopardy.

Women have been left out in decision making on land matters.



Chris Opi
Women rights



The constitutional right to own land under Article 237 (1) of the Constitution clearly states that land belongs to citizens of Uganda and Article 21 prohibits discrimination based on gender and accords men and women the same status and rights. These women are entitled to own land like any other individuals in the society. In addition, Article 33 provides for special help/ protection for mothers and women because of previous historical discrimination against women and prohibits any customary laws, traditions, or customs that discriminate against women.

In the Land Act, there are two sections that directly address gender, land and property rights. Section 10A of the Land (Acquisition) Act 2004 provides for a woman's security of occupancy on family land, and section 29 requires a signed consent given prior to turning into any land transaction concerning land on which the spouse resides on and on...

However, despite of the above safety women continue to suffer great loss during land acquisition, land sales etc. Most of these losses are well documented on the paper and those who claim not to be involved in such transactions continue to put women and children in a vulnerable situation. The reality was with the development projects in the Albertine region that led to increasing demand for land ownership that led to women's loss on land use and management.

For example, the women affected by the refinery in 2012 contrary to what was made in the consultation (Ordinary RAP 90/02) and the safeguards for women's land fully engaged during the processes. As a result, many children were abandoned, some were in family driven settings. This is one of the reasons why women and girl-children suffer during land acquisition. And with the increase for oil and gas projects in the Albertine region, the situation is expected to worsen unless we put in place and work on women land rights in the oil refinery sector.

Mr. Chris Opi, Women Rights Advocate, Kabaale District

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Representation of women

In 2020, ORRA met with different government departments and ministries to present the plight of women in the Albertine region amidst oil and gas developments.

Challenge

Slow response from government to address some of the issues affecting women in the region, for instance, there is still delayed compensation of project affected persons where women are suffering additional injustices.

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Advocating for clean and safe drinking water
In 2019 after our consistent engagement with government to provide clean water for refinery project affected people in Kyakaboga resettlement, the people were provided with three (3) boreholes in the settlement.

Challenge

Kyakaboga area is very dry and during dry seasons, the boreholes are dry themselves and women have to move over 5 kilometers to river Rwamutonga to fetch water. Therefore, there is need for piped water.

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Installation of electricity in Kyakaboga resettlement
In 2018, ORRA and their partners advocated for power installment. Luckily, in 2019 Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development responded positively.

Challenge

While we appreciate MEMD, our priority was solar as it would be cheaper for these communities who lost their livelihood due to delayed resettlement. We still appeal to MEMD to provide solar panels for the PAPs in addition to the electricity.



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Construction of access roads

One of our biggest engagement with MEMD was to provide access road for the Kyakaboga resettlement residents. In October 2020, government started the construction of the access roads within the settlement.

Challenge

Women still move long distance to access the health Center in Buseruka. We appeal to government to open the shorter route from the resettlement to the health center.



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Mobilizing school going children in Kyakaboga
The compulsory land acquisition for the construction of oil refinery led to school dropout among the children of project affected persons. ORRA has since 2018 been mobilizing parents and children to send their children to school, but above all we have managed to provide scholastic materials to the children.

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Livelihood restoration

We have advocated for livelihood restoration for the project affected people. The PAPs in Kyakaboga resettlement received cows and goats from government.

Challenge

Loss of property due to theft, the project affected people have suffered losses as their animals, crops, etc. are being stolen by outsiders.

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Youth engagement

We are also happy to report that in 2020, ORRA managed to interact with about 1,000 youth and also formed environmental clubs of youth in Kabaale and Buseruka sub county.

Challenge

Massive sale of land among the youth to start businesses targeting oil and gas opportunities. A lot of work is needed to change the mindset of the youth from only focusing their attention on oil and gas opportunities

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Training women paralegals

In 2020, ORRA trained 20 women paralegals on basic legal knowledge to be able to mediate women land rights abuses in their communities, but also make referrals where they fail to handle.

Challenge

Many women need to be trained to help the emerging cases of land rights abuses in the oil region

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Stakeholder engagement

In 2019 ORRA through its staff participated in the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) for both Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects. This was intended to influence NEMA's decisions and also promoting environment conservation

Challenge

The ongoing oil and gas activities are located in critical biodiversity area. 8 of 15 of the protected areas in Uganda are found in the Albertine region

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