

WOMEN AND GIRLS AFFECTED BY OIL PROJECTS

May 26, 2026

Mr. Philippe Groueix,
General Manager,
TotalEnergies E&P,
Kampala-Uganda.



Dear Sir,

RE: PETITION TO ADDRESS GENDERED IMPACTS OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN UGANDA

INTRODUCTION

As communities, activists, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and citizens around the world unite during the Kick Polluters Global Week of Action from May 23-30 to amplify voices for environmental and social justice, we, women and girls from oil-affected communities in Uganda raise our voices concerning the growing challenges women continue to experience as a result of oil and gas activities.

Uganda's oil and gas sector continues to expand through projects such as the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects. These projects have been promoted as pathways toward economic transformation and national development. However, while development promises progress, many women in project-affected communities continue to bear unequal social, economic, environmental, and cultural costs.

Women are central to household and community wellbeing. They are farmers, caregivers, entrepreneurs, food producers and custodians of family welfare. Their livelihoods are closely tied to land, water, natural resources and social support systems. Yet when oil developments alter access to these resources and transform communities, women are often disproportionately affected.

This petition is being disseminated during the Global Week of Action as a call for solidarity and collective action. It seeks to bring visibility to the lived experiences of women in oil-affected communities and calls upon your office to stand with women whose rights and livelihoods continue to be impacted.

CONCERNS

- a) **Delayed, inadequate and unfair compensation:** Reports by Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) indicate that 99.1%¹ of Tilenga project-affected persons have been

compensated. The same report indicates that 97% of households displaced under EACOP signed compensation agreements while all 727 households affected under the Kingfisher project reportedly received compensation. While these statistics are often presented as progress, many women in affected communities continue to experience the realities behind these figures as document by the media and research¹ reports. Delayed, inadequate, and unfair compensation has created significant hardships for households and especially women.

Women rely heavily on land not only for farming but also for food production, income generation, and sustaining family wellbeing. However, many affected households report that compensation received was insufficient to replace land lost to oil projects. Women often experience greater challenges because many do not hold formal ownership rights over land even though they depend on it for their livelihoods. According to a report² by the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD), women only own 5% to 26% of all registered land in Uganda.

What does this mean? Reduced land access and ownership has diminished women's ability to participate in farming and income-generating activities, thereby increasing household vulnerability and economic dependence. Many women now struggle to provide food, support children's education, and maintain household stability.

- a) Inadequate and culturally inappropriate housing:** Women displaced under the EACOP, Tilenga and Kingfisher projects continue to raise concerns over the replacement houses they received. Many households that previously occupied larger homes with multiple rooms were relocated into standardised houses with fewer rooms and smaller spaces.

Women have expressed concerns that these housing arrangements fail to reflect cultural realities and family structures. In districts like Buliisa and others, concerns have been raised about situations where families with adolescent boys and girls are expected to live in spaces that compromise privacy and dignity. This is worrying to women because overcrowding increases vulnerabilities for girls and may create risks affecting safety and wellbeing.

In addition, the smaller houses and reduced land sizes have disrupted traditional family arrangements where extended families lived together and supported one another. Women who depended on these family support systems now face increased caregiving burdens and social isolation.

¹ <https://www.afiego.org/downloads/research-report-eacop-project-impact-on-affected-people-in-uganda-2>

² <https://mlhud.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Gender-Strategy-on-Land-for-the-NLP-July-2018-reviewed.pdf>

- b) Loss of community resources:** Women continue to face challenges associated with uncompensated community resources and orphan land left after compulsory acquisition. Reports from communities indicate that some public facilities such as community water wells have not been replaced to their original state or better than they were before. The villages affected are in Kyotera, Lwengo and Hoima districts. Furthermore, those that were replaced have already developed cracks and cannot serve the communities' water needs. Water access is particularly a women's issue because women and girls often bear responsibility for collecting water for household use. When water sources become inaccessible, women must travel longer distances and spend more time obtaining essential resources. Similarly, orphan land that became unusable following acquisition processes remains uncompensated in some communities. Women who previously used these lands for farming and household support have lost productive spaces without restoration. These losses continue to increase women's workloads and reduce opportunities for economic independence.
- c) Livelihood restoration challenges:** The Livelihood Restoration Programme were introduced to restore households to pre-displacement conditions or improve their welfare. However, women continue to report challenges regarding implementation. Particularly affected are women heading households, elderly women and those living with disabilities. Reports from the communities indicate that some vulnerable households have struggled to access food after losing land previously used for cultivation. In addition, concerns have emerged regarding distribution of diseased banana suckers, poor quality seeds with low germination rates, delayed agricultural inputs and restrictions regarding livelihood choices. Women who previously sustained households through farming continue to face uncertainty and food insecurity. The failure of livelihood restoration programmes directly affects women because they carry responsibility for feeding families and maintaining household wellbeing.
- d) Human-wildlife conflict:** Women in communities neighboring oil project areas continue to experience impacts arising from increased human-wildlife conflict. Reports from Buliisa district and surrounding communities indicate that wildlife movement into villages has affected community safety and agricultural production. Women have suffered the impacts of crop destruction, threats to household food security, and fear while undertaking routine activities thus some women can no longer safely access water points due to wildlife presence. Others fear cultivating land or carrying out daily activities because of safety concerns. The burden of these disruptions continues to fall heavily on women.

REQUESTS

We request your office to do the following:

- Ensure fair, adequate, timely, and gender-responsive compensation that recognises women's land use and livelihood needs, including for those without formal land ownership documents.
- Provide culturally appropriate replacement housing that reflects family sizes, privacy needs and traditional community structures.
- Restore and improve all affected community resources, including water sources to conditions equal to or better than those that existed before project activities.
- Strengthen livelihood restoration programmes by providing timely, quality, and community-responsive support particularly for vulnerable women.
- Implement effective measures to address human-wildlife conflict and protect women's safety, livelihoods and access to essential resources.
- Ensure meaningful participation of women in all project-related decision-making, consultation, and grievance processes.
- Establish transparent, accessible, and effective grievance and accountability mechanisms for affected women and communities.

Thank you,

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Peninah Muhairwe, 0763677022, Kikuube

SIGNATORIES

No	Name	Institution /Village
1.	Flavia kyamulesire	Kikuube
2.	Kunihira Saidat	Kikuube
3.	Nayebare Abbey	Kikuube
4.	Ayesiga Rosemary	Kikuube
5.	Tusiime Juliet	Kikuube
6.	Kugonza Phiona	Kikuube
7.	Asiimwe Christine	Kikuube
8.	Alice Bachondooza	Kikuube
9.	Nambi Mastulla	Kikuube
10.	Komukama Mary	Kikuube
11.	Mbabazi Harriet	Kikuube
12.	Katusabe Margret	Kikuube
13.	Birungu Evelyne	Kikuube
14.	Tibaleka Janiffer	Kikuube
15.	Kabajulizi Shakirah	Kikuube
16.	Mbabazi Hajarah	Kikuube

17.	Akama Gloria	Kikuube
18.	Ayebare Jackline	Kikuube
19.	Kyaligonza Sunny	Budaka
20.	Alituha Caraine	Budaka
21.	Atuhairwe Juliet	Budaka
22.	Katusiime Naume	Budaka
23.	Kabasinguzi Grace	Budaka
24.	Karuhanga Langton	Budaka
25.	Alituha Vivian	Budaka
26.	Kyosaba Gloria	Budaka
27.	Kyosaba Aidah	Budaka
28.	Atulinda Yedida	Budaka
29.	Domitar Tibakunirwa	Budaka
30.	Ahumuza Praise	Budaka
31.	Aliguma Sayuni	Budaka
32.	Mukonyezi Enoch	Budaka
33.	Komugisa Juliet	Budaka
34.	Kanyabazana Getridah	Budaka
35.	Arinaitwe Precious	Budaka
36.	Kusiima Jolly	Budaka
37.	Alinaitwe Rester	Kijumba
38.	Muhumuza Peace	Kijumba
39.	Asiimire Pamellah	Kijumba
40.	Turimuremba Aneti	Kijumba
41.	Kyomukama Hope	Kijumba
42.	Nakachwa Mercy	Kijumba
43.	Tusiime Harriet	Kijumba
44.	Akankwasa Enid	Kijumba
45.	Abedilembe Samuel	Kijumba
46.	Ahimbisibwe Immaculate	Kijumba
47.	Businge Boneconsira	Kijumba
48.	Adoko Sarah	Buhirigi
49.	Pachutho Athuwa	Buhirigi
50.	Obenju Paula	Bugirigi
51.	Akumu Paula	Buhirigi
52.	Asenzerina Thoola	Buhirigi
53.	Iwuting Joyces	Buhirigi
54.	Andubango topista	Buhirigi
55.	Nyamungu Esta	Buhirigi
56.	Nyan Grace	Buhirigi
57.	Achen Beatrace	Buhirigi
58.	Buliji steven	Buhirigi
59.	Omirambe Buhirigi	Buhirigi

CC

- The Executive Director, Petroleum Authority of Uganda
- The Managing Director, EACOP Company Ltd
- The Minister, Ministry of Gender and Social Development