



WOMEN ON ENVIRONMENT MISSION(WEM)

Zuri Mall, Floor 1, Najjera 2, P.O. Box 127229, Kampala, Uganda

Tel: _+ 256 200 946900/ Email: info@wemug.org

March 06, 2026


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
KAMPALA- UGANDA**

WOMEN DECRY UNFAIR LAND ACQUISITION IN UGANDA'S OIL AND GAS PROJECTS

As the world marks International Women's Day, Women on Environment Mission (WEM) is calling for urgent action to end the continued marginalisation of women in land acquisition, compensation, and resettlement processes linked to oil and gas developments in Uganda.

Despite national laws and international commitments that guarantee gender equality, women in oil-affected communities continue to face discrimination. Customary land tenure systems, weak enforcement of land laws, and exclusion from meaningful decision-making have left many women recognised only as "users" of land rather than rightful owners. As a result, when land is acquired for oil and gas projects, women are often excluded from compensation and livelihood restoration.

WEM's recent [research](#) shows that compensation payments frequently do not reach women directly. Consultations are often conducted in ways that limit women's participation, and resettlement programmes rarely take into account women's social, cultural, and economic needs. These gaps have increased women's vulnerability, worsened food insecurity, and deepened dependence within households.



Olivia, a project affected person said, “Women are paying the highest price for Uganda’s oil development: losing land, livelihoods, and decision-making power while receiving little or no compensation. Development cannot be called progress when it deepens inequality.”

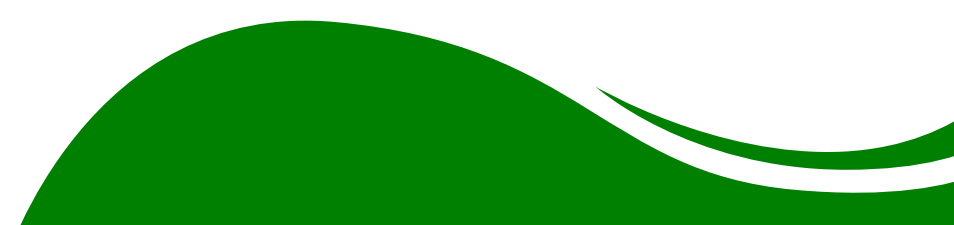
Sarah Kihembo, WEM’s coordinator added, “Poverty and gender inequality fuel violence against women. When women lose land and livelihoods, poverty worsens and so does their vulnerability to abuse. Reducing the risk of gender-based violence requires empowering women economically and protecting their rights to land and livelihoods.”

Caroline Kinkuhaire, a gender and climate advocate noted that women provide over 70% of the labour force in Uganda’s agri-food system, yet only about 16% own land. “Women carry the burden of providing for most households, but without secure access to productive assets such as land, many remain trapped in poverty and exposed to different forms of violence,” she said.

Women from affected communities shared painful testimonies. Beatrice, a project-affected person (PAP), explained: “When the project came, we lost the gardens that fed our families and gave us independence. Our banana plantations, coffee and food crops are gone, and with the security we once had. Today, putting food on the table and paying school fees is a daily struggle. In many cases, compensation was handed to men, and some women were left behind when their husbands walked away. We have carried the burden quietly, but the impact on our lives has been deep and painful.”

Another affected woman from Hoima district said, “Before the land was taken, I could feed my children and sell some produce at the market. Today, I depend on casual labour. We were never properly consulted, and the compensation did not reflect what we lost.”

A lawyer working with affected communities emphasised that these injustices raise serious legal concerns. “Uganda’s Constitution guarantees prompt, fair, and adequate compensation before compulsory acquisition of property. When women are excluded from compensation or decision-making, their constitutional rights are violated. Gender equality is not a favour; it is a legal obligation.”





WEM is therefore calling on the Government of Uganda (GoU), project developers, and financiers to;

- Enforce existing laws that protect women's land and property right;
- Reform discriminatory land and succession laws and customary practices;
- Ensure women's meaningful participation in consultations and compensation processes;
- Guarantee that compensation reaches women directly and transparently;
- Expand legal aid and community awareness programs for women in oil-affected areas; and
- Invest in clean energy rather than fossil fuels

Protecting women's land rights is not optional, it is a legal obligation and a foundation for sustainable development.

WEM remains committed to working with communities, policymakers, and partners to ensure that Uganda's development pathway respects women's rights, livelihoods, and dignity

.....**ENDS**.....



Contact us:
Women on Environment Mission (WEM)
Email: info@wemug.org
Website: www.wemug.org