ROUND TABLE MEETINGS ON BEST PRACTICES IN BTVET HELD WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN HOIMA AND KAMPALA

Living Earth Uganda (LEU) held two stakeholders roundtable meetings on best practices in BTVET in Hoima and Kampala.

The report: “Best Practices in BTVET in the context of Oil and Gas: Linkages and Gaps” was presented by the Consultant - Piera Freccero, from UK. For the full report, visit: www.livingearth.org.uk

The meetings were attended by key stakeholders including VTIs, UGAPRIVI, business sector, District Local Government officials, Officials from ministries of Education and Sports (BTVET, DIT, and TIET departments), Energy and Mineral Development (PEPD), Gender, Labour & Social Development (Youth Department), IOCs, donors and representatives of civil society organisations.

ABOUT OIL AND JOBS PROJECT

Living Earth Uganda (LEU) in partnership with Living Earth Foundation, UK, secured funding from European Union, DFID and Comic Relief to deliver a project titled Jobs and Oil

The project is designed to support communities affected by the incoming oil and gas industry in Hoima and Buliisa Districts.

The project aims at supporting access to employment for disadvantaged groups, particularly youths and women, through targeted vocational and technical training and the promotion of local enterprise to supply the workforce and service needs of the burgeoning oil sector.

“"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."” - Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

Project funded by the European Union, UK Department for International Development and Comic Relief
Living Earth Uganda held the National Conference for the Waste to Wealth project in September 2014, at Hotel Africana in Kampala.

The Waste to Waste Project supports entrepreneurs, micro-enterprises, social ventures and community groups to generate an income through waste recycling and to develop public private partnerships (PPP) with local Governments to improve waste collection and waste management in poor slum areas.

The conference was for showcased the successes the project to stakeholders, including government, private sector, donors and CSOs.

State Minister for Local Government, Hon. Alex Onzima (in purple shirt), ED for LEU Swithern Tumwiine (3rd from right), C/M for LEU Robert Ndyabarema (2nd right) and Project Manager- Jobs and Oil project, John Nuwamanya (right); visiting exhibition stalls during the National Conference at Africana Hotel Kampala.

PROGRAMME RESULTS

DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Vocational Training Programme

Vocational Training Programme is meant to support Vocational Training Institutes in the region to enhance their training capacity to produce skilled youth who are easily employable.

Living Earth Uganda works with key stakeholders including Vocational Training Institutes, Ministry of Education Departments, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, and others to train instructors in modern training methodologies and as well as health, safety and environment.

20 instructors have been trained in instruction methodologies and health, safety and environment (HSE). This has resulted into 487 students benefiting from improved teaching methods. By the end of the programme, we aim to train all instructors from Vocational Institutions in Hoima, to benefit the entire student population.

Project funded by the European Union, UK Department for International Development and Comic Relief
WORK PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

The Programme aims at establishing internship, apprenticeship, and work experience opportunities for students; to enable them receive first hand work experience, improved understand of professional contexts, and requirement amongst the youth.

A total of 88 business firms and organisations in Hoima and Masindi have partnered with Living Earth Uganda for student work placement

In an orientation workshop organised by LEU, 50 work placement managers and supervisors in Hoima were sensitised to enhance appreciation of the value of supporting the work placement programme.

LEU in partnership with local firms and organisations secured work placement opportunities for 288 students (177 male and 111 female) that started in December 2014 and will go on upto March 2015.

LEU formed the work Placement Steering Committee which comprise of instructors and managers of business firms and organisations where students are placed for work experience to monitor and guide programme activities.

THE EMERGENCE OF SKILLED & EFFECTIVE BUSINESS SECTOR FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN-LED ENTERPRISES

Business Development Programme

The programme is aimed at strengthening the capacity of entrepreneurs in the project area to manage their businesses strategically, ensure growth in business and income. It also improves their capacity to access contract and credit, and further business expansion to increase employment opportunities for women and youth.

Project funded by the European Union, UK Department for International Development and Comic Relief
Functional Skills Development

The component is fully funded by DFID and its aimed at increasing the capacity of women to hold local authorities accountable on issues that affect them. The training in advocacy and civic education will increase the knowledge and skills of women to lobby local authorities to address issues that affect them, and enhance appreciation of their roles in the communities they live in.

A total of 80 women have received training in advocacy skills and civic education, in training sessions conducted by Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO).

A total of 40 women have formed groups meant to carry out advocacy and public campaigns aimed at increasing women’s participation in leadership, decision making, sensitizing communities about issues affecting women, and how they can be addressed.

LEU has partnered with Makerere University Business School (MUBS) Entrepreneurship Centre to develop, and deliver a business development programme based on courses offered by Open College Network (OCN) of London.

A total of 60 managers of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) including 30 women and 30 men have benefited from the business development training programme.

A total of 10 managers of MSEs have received tailored Business Advisory Services from a business development Consultant to bridge gaps in running their businesses to further their growth.

A total of 185 beneficiaries including 145 women and 40 young men from Hoima & Buliisa have received training in different functional skills which include briquette, soap, candle making, and commercial cookery. The beneficiaries are now able to produce and market their products, and this has created diversified sources of income and business.

INCREASING CAPACITY OF WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING

Women and youth undergoing training in briquette making at Bunyoro Kitara Diocess Youth Entrepreuership, Centre Duhaga

Women leaders from Hoima in a role play on promoting girl child education at a church service in Hoima Municipality

Women leaders from Buliisa District raising issues that affect women during advocacy and civic education training at Buliisa Resource centre

Project funded by the European Union, UK Department for International Development and Comic Relief
PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Monitoring & Evaluation

LEU has established a Project Advisory Panel (PAP) of key stakeholders to monitor project activities and provide inputs and guidance in the implementation of the project.

LEU together with PAP have conducted monitoring exercises of project activities to assess gaps and enhance learning for improved results.

Media and Visibility Actions

The project team distributed project fliers in Buliisa, Hoima, Masindi and Kampala to increase publicity during training workshops and meetings with stakeholders.

LEU Participated in radio talkshows to publicise project activities in the region.

Stakeholder Engagement

LEU Signed MOU with Uganda Association of Private Vocational Institutions (UGAPRIVI) for policy guidance and support to vocational and technical training.

Held Town Hall meetings with key stakeholders in BTVEC and business development in Hoima and Buliisa to enhance buy in from a wide range of stakeholders into project activities.

Held project introduction meeting with the Chairman and officials representing the Chief Administrative Officer of Masindi District Local Government. The officials warmly welcomed LEU and the project to the district and MOU has been signed for smooth operation of project activities.

LEU has received clearance from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to implement project activities in Hoima, Bulisa and Masindi Districts.

LEU has been recognized and invited to stakeholders’ meetings organised by Hoima and Buliisa DLGs and the Joint Venture partners (oil companies) where key issues on development and oil and gas value chain have been discussed.

LEU held the National Conference for the Waste to Wealth project in September 2014. The conference was for showcasing the success recorded in implementing the project to stakeholders who included government, private sector, donors and CSOs amongst others.

 OUR PLANS FOR 2015

1. LEU will organize an Exchange visit for 40 Women Leaders from Hoima and Bulisa to Bushenyi and Kabarole District Local Councils

2. LEU will deliver Training of Trainers (TOTs) for 60 Instructors from VTIs in Pedagogy and Health, Safety and Worker’s rights

3. LEU will deliver functional skills training to 360 women and youth in different skill areas to enhance diversified business opportunities

4. LEU will organize a tri-sector Forum on Eco-enterprise Development

5. LEU will deliver Business Development training to 120 managers of SMEs

6. LEU will deliver Business Skills training to 80 rural enterprises in communities neighbouring conservation areas

7. LEU organize and facilitate 10 women groups to conduct public campaigns to increase women participation in decision making and to address issues affecting women in Hoima and Buliisa

8. LEU will organize and deliver leadership skills training to 270 Community Based Organisation (CBOs) leaders

LEU staff during a monitoring exercise to one of the beneficiaries of functional skills training in Bulisa.
Question: What is the GOAL and OBJECTIVES of the Jobs and Oil project under implementation by LEU?

Answer: The goal of the project is to empower youth and women, alleviate poverty and promote gender equality in the project area.

Objective:
To support access to employment of disadvantaged groups, particularly youth and women, through targeted vocational and technical training and the promotion of local enterprise to supply the workforce and service needs of the burgeoning oil sector.

Question: How long has this project been on course? And what is the target area(s)?

Answer: The project started in October, 2013 and therefore has been on course for 16 months (1 year and 4 months). The project target areas are: Hoima, Buliisa and Masindi in Western Uganda.

Question: What are the project’s key areas of intervention, and why specifically in the Albertine region?

Answer: The project’s key areas of intervention are:

i) A vocational training programme focused on the demands of the oil and gas industry supply chain, established and operational through local training institutions, rendering youths and women employable within the oil sector.

ii) A business training programme that leads to emergence of a skilled and effective business sector wherein youth and women-led enterprises derive income from delivery of service contracts to the oil industry.

iii) Capacity in raising awareness of rights and responsibilities of stakeholders and developing effective monitoring systems, particularly among vulnerable groups such as women and youth, to monitor performance and raise an alarm if performance doesn’t meet agreed standards;

iv) Building a cadre of ecosystems entrepreneurs deriving economic benefits from operating in areas vulnerable to the negative impacts of oil development.

The Albertine region was targeted and specifically Hoima, Buliisa and Masindi because they were among the poorest districts in western Uganda that may not be in position to absorb the shocks that may arise out of the discovery of oil and gas in the region. Secondly the local leadership/opinion leaders after learning of what Living Earth Uganda has done over years in other parts of Uganda, approached and requested Living Earth Uganda to extend its intervention to their area. They liked the approach and the interventions because they were helping the vulnerable groups especially women and youth. Thirdly since there was the discovery of Oil and Gas, and LEU was building on the network experience of LEF in other mature oil producing areas, LEU believed this expertise could be shared to help prepare people in this region. Fourthly there was a call for funding from EC which coincided with the request of leadership of the project area which favored the decision to go ahead with the project. Finally, it was also within LEU’s legal mandate to operate in the project area.

Question: Why is the project focusing mainly on youth and women?

Answer: The reason why the project is focusing on youth and women is because they are the majority, very productive, yet not learned/without skills and very vulnerable.
Question: What are the experiences and lessons learned while undertaking this project in the Albertine region?

Answer: The region has been very receptive, the vulnerable groups are willing and ready to learn and also engage in productive activities in the economy. The intervention has been very successful because of our working through and with existing structures, building networks and synergies.

Question: Do you think Living Earth Uganda is meeting the expectations of its partners (Donor, Government, Oil Companies, Local Leaders, Local Community and stakeholders)

And how?

Answer: We have met the expectations of the partners and donors because we implement the project together with stakeholders. We do not implement the project for them but together with them. The stakeholders further guide the implementation of the project through feedback engagement platforms like stakeholder engagement forums, the project advisory panel (comprising of the local leaders from the areas of operation guiding the team in project implementation), the panel of experts, and key sector players.

Question: Please highlight key achievements of Jobs and Oil project so far?

Answer:
• We have Signed MoUs with Hoima, Buliisa and Masindi district leadership
• Signed MoUs with Uganda Association of Private Vocational Institutions (UGAPRIVI)
• Created employment for Ugandans through establishment of project office in Hoima- 9 new staff and retain 3 old staff(direct)
• Established platform(s) for exchange in the districts but also at national level that benefit communities and contribute to policy
• Work with 11 VTIs to support the training of instructors and placement for work experience where 20 instructors have so far received training in modern instruction methodology; 88 employers identified and over 300 students placed for work experience
• Work with 10 Secondary schools from Hoima & Buliisa to establish the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Programme
• Have developed a business development training programme to promote local enterprises to participate in the oil and gas supply chain where 66 beneficiaries have received business skills training and 215 youth and women trained in functional skills
• We have developed a capacity building programme to increase women participation in leadership and decision making where 80 women leaders have been trained in leadership and advocacy skills.
• We have also to that effect supported 40 women leaders to undertake exchange/learning visits to districts where women have high influence and participation in decision making

Question: What are your prospects of the project, and Living Earth Uganda at large?

Answer:
• That it will achieve the stated estimated results of the project i.e. increased assess of employment through delivery of vocational training programme, emergence of skilled and effective business sector wherein youth and women led enterprises derive income from delivery of service contracts to the oil industry, understanding of links and gaps between training and the labour market through participatory action research etc...
• Getting a follow on project(s) to cover the whole Albertine region but also scale up to reach more beneficiaries(Ugandans)
• Through project impact(s) contribute to improved economy of the Uganda
• Stimulate government, international oil companies and development partners to think alike and enhance sustainability of the project impacts
• Raise the visibility and reputation of Living Earth Uganda in the region and at national level about our ability to turn ideas into action
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PICTORIAL

Picture: Participants attending a stakeholders meeting at Riviera Hotel, Hoima

Picture 2: Participants of a TOT training for VTIs engaging in a group discussion at Millenium Business School

Picture 3: LEU staff visiting a project beneficiary’s home in a monitoring exercise

Picture 4: Living Earth Uganda (LEU) staff posing for a photo during one staff retreat

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