HOIMA AND BULIISA WOMEN LEADERS EXCHANGE NOTES ON HOW TO INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL DECISION MAKING

In order to increase capacity of women to hold accountable local authorities to address their needs and rights, women leaders from Hoima and Buliisa embarked on an exposure visit to Bushenyi and Kabarole, to exchange ideas on the activities of District Women Councilors Caucus of those districts, specifically on how they can increase their participation in decision making.

The two visits were conducted in partnership with Centre for Women in Governance (CEWIGO), of which a total of 40 women leaders from Hoima and Buliisa Districts participated. The women were able to share with their counterparts on a number of activities that can strengthened their voice in decision making. They also discussed how best they can support women to engage in business/ income generating activities.

In addition to the two exposure visits, the 40 women leaders participated in Advocacy and Civic Education Workshops that were held in Buliisa and Hoima, on 2nd and 6th March 2015 respectively. In the meetings, LEU with support from CEWIGO formed 9 women groups who were carrying out advocacy and public campaigns on issues affecting women in Hoima and Buliisa.

TESTIMONY

Name: Katusabe Kubra – one of the participants that participated in the exchange visit to Bushenyi

Designation: Chairperson, Reproductive Health Uganda, Bunyoro

"The training has taught me how to work with other women in a group effectively. I have also learnt how to sustain my business profits.

The trainings have also inspired me to become even more assertive. No wonder I managed to beat men for the position of Chairperson - Reproductive Health Uganda – Bunyoro branch; and I am the only female Chairperson in all 16 branches."
CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR VOCATIONAL COLLEGE TUTORS HELD IN HOIMA

Living Earth Uganda (LEU) conducted a 5-day Training of Trainers for Teaching Skill (TOT - S) workshop for 20 instructors; and another one for Health Safety Environment (HSE) module. This training workshop was attended 20 participants (6 women and 14 men). This training workshop was held at Millennium Business School in Hoima, from 2nd to 5th March 2015.

This followed a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports, Teacher Instructor’s Education Training (TIET) Department, and the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT), where the training modules were presented for critiquing prior to application for certification.

The modules include: Training of Trainers for Knowledge (ToT-K), Training of Trainers for Teaching Skills (ToT-S), Training of Trainers for Evaluation (ToT-E), and Training of Trainers for Visualization (ToT-V), Training of Trainers for Health and Safety (TOT-HS), as well as Training of Trainers for Workers’ Rights (TOT-WR). Designing and delivery of this training programme is aimed at building capacity of vocational training tutors.

These modules for the training of instructors have been presented for certification to the Standards Council under the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT). Training institutions have agreed to incorporate the teaching of HSE in their timetables and the teaching manual to use during instruction is to be developed.

IN OTHER NEWS

“"I used to teach my students without using lesson plans, and scheme of work. But since I attained the training in pedagogy, that was organized by Living Earth Uganda, my teaching style has improved a lot. I now first prepare my scheme of work and lesson plan like a professional.

I am also systematically following the curriculum and teaching activity chronically, and this has given my students an opportunity to participate well in class.

Thanks to LEU for such a good training that has really helped instructors to improve on the way they pass skills and knowledge to learners, to become competitive in the current job market.”

Name: Mugisa John Bosco
Institution: St. Simon Peter Vocational Training Institute
Department: Welding and metal fabrication
Designation: Head of department welding

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MEDIUM AND SMALL ENTERPRISES (MSE) MANAGERS PARTICIPATE IN MICRO-ENTERPRISE TRAINING

Following a successful process of receiving, and reviewing of applications from interested MSE managers and entrepreneurs for the Business Development training program, successful managers were selected to participate. A total of 4 business development training workshops were delivered to these managers in Hoima.

A total of 41 women and 42 men participated in the 4 workshops in Hoima. The programme also conducted a 2-day Post training supervision for 10 MSEs managers.

TESTIMONY

Name: Gabura Faith
Occupation: Propriator - Mother Care Foundation

“I attended Business trainings organized by Living Earth Uganda. I learnt of the trainings from talkshows and announcements on radio; which were inviting interested business persons to apply to participate.

I have got a number of benefits since I attended the training:

1. Preparing and producing a business plan, local regulations for MSES
2. Health and safety at work, and building business relationships
3. Selling and marketing products/services, and making cashflow projections

Benefits since attaining the trainings:

1). I now prepare Business Plan for Mother Care Foundation, which is my road map in all my activities
2). I have discovered that its important to market your services. From the adverts that I put on radio, my customer base has grown
3). My customer care skills have improved too; I now obtain feedbacks from my customers, which help me to improve on my points of weakness
4). I have procured source documents like: receipt books, invoices, cashbooks, payment vouchers; for capturing my business data
5). Segregation of duties has improved, for example: my bursar no longer lacks funds, and authorization by the headteacher.”
The Project has conducted a post functional skills training workshops to locals in Buliisa. The first training in briquette making that was held at Kihungya sub-county Headquarters in Buliisa; where a total of 30 people (13 male and 17 female) benefited. The other in making animal feeds was delivered to 30 beneficiaries (3 male and 27 female) in Hoima.

The programme further conducted 2 functional skills training workshop for making sanitary pads in Hoima Municipality (6th March 2015) and Buliisa (10th March 2015) respectively. A total of 60 entrepreneurs (all females) – 30 from each district participated in these skills training.

“"We learnt about Living Earth Uganda’s programme of functional skills training from a radio talk show. Then some of our group members visited LEU’s regional office in Hoima; and made acquires about the possibility of participating in their trainings. Our members registered to participate in briquete making training. Then 6 of our members were offered an opportunity to participate.

As a result of the training, our group members can now make briquete - honey comb and sticks. also Hoima District Farmers Association identified our group, and so have procured for us: grinders, charring drums, stick and honey comb machines. Generally, our individual income levels have improved.”

LEU TO SUPPORT TEACHING AND LEARNING OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) SUBJECTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A replicable and relevant training and vocational skills programme focusing on oil sector employment is being developed and will be piloted was developed and piloted within 10 secondary schools in Hoima and Buliisa. The stakeholder workshop was held with teachers, directors of studies and selected science and mathematics teachers in Buliisa and Hoima in January this year.

Subsequently a mapping and scoping exercise involving organizing stakeholders’ forum for STEM teachers in Hoima and Buliisa, will be conducted in May 2015.
Question: How have you involved Government leadership and the locals in the region?
Answer: The project operates within the existing legal and policy framework, and therefore involves the relevant government ministries and departments; for example: Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

We got clearance from the Ministry of Energy and mineral Development through the Petroleum Exploration & Production Department (PEPD) to implement project activities in the region as our activities contribute to national content development, which falls under that department.

The mobilization of potential beneficiaries is done through established local government structures, and community based organizations, as well as participating in the monitoring of implementation of project activities.

2. What are your anticipated outcomes of the project to the community?
Answer: The project aims at enhancing skills amongst products of vocational training, to make them employable within the oil and gas supply chain, growth of local enterprises which can supply goods and services in the oil industry chain and, strengthening women voice in leadership and decision making. We also aim at creating a cadre of eco entrepreneurs who operate integrated business that on top of generating revenue, they are able to conserve the environment and wildlife for generations.

3. Which significant challenges has the project met that were never anticipated?
Answer: There has been delayed ratification of the MOU with the Ministry of Education, and absence of qualified women and youth to participate in business development training from Buliisa District.

4. What are you doing about the above challenges?
Answer: We are following up with the Ministry of Education and Sports and have already taken steps towards signing the MOU.

The youth and women in Buliisa who may not qualify for business development training programme, we are already engaging them in functional skills training to enable them diversify their income generating activities and produce goods which they can sell to the increasing population in the region. We are also designing tailor training programme that suits their levels of education.

“By encouraging conservation, increasing investments in clean, renewable sources of energy, and promoting increased domestic production of oil and gas, we can build a more secure future for our country” - Ron Lewis

Project funded by the European Union, UK Department for International Development and Comic Relief
UPDATE ON KEY PROJECT DELIVERABLES

1. Project Advisory Panel (PAP) meeting held on the 22nd January 2015 in Hoima.

2. Stakeholder meetings with Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC), GIZ, Uganda Association of Private Vocational Institutions (UGAPRIVI), and Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT); to share value on how to implement the vocational training programme was held.

3. LEU secured clearance from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) for the implementation of the Jobs & Oil project activities in Hoima, Buliisa and Masindi Districts.

4. LEU participated in a validation workshop organized by Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (PEPD) on the development of local content on 19th February 2015, in Kampala.

5. LEU has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Masindi District Local Government.

6. LEU has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Association of Uganda Oil & Gas Services Providers (AUGOS)

INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRPERSON PROJECT ADVISORY PANEL

Answer: Their capacity has improved in terms of skills in vocational, functional, small business management

Question: How has the project benefited women in Bunyoro?

Answer: Women have been trained in advocacy and lobbying skills/ advocacy and public campaigns

They have formed a Women’s platform to address issues affecting women, youth, and children

Households have improved as they are the major beneficiaries to the project

Question: As a cultural leader, what do you think can be done better to have the project impact more significantly on the local community?

Answer: We can increase outreach program to project areas

The project may involve as many stakeholders as possible to improve on service delivery

We need to source for more funding, to increase the programme coverage and implementation

We can have more talkshows and increased participation in community activities, to exhibit what we have done

Question: What tangible advice has PAP provided to the project to ensure effective implementation?

Answer: We have advised especially on how to create awareness of the project to the communities. For example: using radio talkshows, community gathering, leadership structures of churches, local councils, and Bunyoro Kitara kingdom.

We have also advised on how to identify potential project beneficiaries

Question: How has the project impacted on the youth of Bunyoro?

Answer: LEU has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Association of Uganda Oil & Gas Services Providers (AUGOS)
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL - JUNE 2015

1). 5-Day ToT workshops for instructors in pedagogy
2). Scoping and Mapping for STEM teacher training
3). Identification of placement areas in Masindi
4). Development of teaching manual for HSE
5). Conduct a training needs analysis for eco-entrepreneurs
6). Business Development training for cohort 4; workshop 2 and cohort 5; work shop 1
7). Functional skills training in Buliisa (animal feeds) and post skills support training in Hoima
8). Monitoring and post-supervision of business development training beneficiaries in Hoima
9). Monitoring and post-supervision of functional skills beneficiaries in Hoima and Buliisa
10). Facilitate Women groups to continue conducting advocacy and public campaign activities
11). Stakeholder engagement meetings with different stakeholders in the project area and at national level
12). Meetings with the business community in Hoima/Masindi/ Buliisa held at Town Hall
13). Follow up for possible collaboration with IOCs on the placement program
14). Placement awareness raising workshops
15). Post Business Development and skills training support supervision
16). Staff training in M&E approaches, software and IT skills
17). Conduct an inaugural meeting for panel of experts in Kampala
18). Organizing and conduct study tour to the Niger Delta

PICTORIAL

Picture 1: Caption “Women demonstrating skills in making sanitary pads using local materials during functional skills training in Hoima

Picture 2: Students of internship programme being taken through mechanical lessons - “how to do wheel alignment of a car tire

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

Picture 3: Madam Jane Akugizibwe Chairperson Buliisa District Women Council giving an inspirational talk to women during a leadership training workshop conducted by CEWIGO

Picture 4: Students of internship programme learning at a construction site in Hoima

Picture 5: Students of Millennium Business and Liberty, receiving hands-on training in a salon in Hoima during an internship programme

Picture 6: Entrepreneurs who attained briquette making training, making briquetes at their workshop

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