EDITORIAL

Living Earth Uganda (LEU) a natural resources and environmental management NGO based in Uganda, in partnership with Living Earth Foundation, UK; secured funding from European Union, DFID, and Comic Relief to deliver 2 projects titled: Jobs and Oil - Improving Access to Youth Employment in Western Uganda and Making Oil Work for Poor People in Uganda

The projects are designed to support communities affected by the in-coming oil and gas industry in Hoima, Buliisa, and Masindi Districts, Western Uganda, at national policy level, through vocational skills training and promotion of local enterprises, to supply labour, goods and services to the oil and gas industry chain.

“USE CO-CURRICULAR METHODS TO MAKE STUDENTS LOVE SCIENCES” - D.E.O BULIISA ADVISES

Teachers of Science subjects have been advised to encourage students to apply their knowledge to undertake science projects as a way of increasing their love for science subjects. It is believed that in the long run this will increase the number of youth taking technology, engineering and vocational courses, increase their chances of getting employment when they complete their studies.

This call was strongly voiced by Mr. Christopher Byenkya, the District Education Officer - Buliisa District Local Government; while making closing remarks at the 4 day training workshop for Science and Mathematics Teachers at Buliisa Community Hall in August 2015. This training was organised by Living Earth Uganda (LEU); under a pilot Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM).

This programme is being implemented in partnership with 10 secondary schools in Hoima and Buliisa. The programme supports students from various science clubs to undertake various projects as a way of appreciating learning science subjects.

The programme kicked off with the training of 46 teachers in Hoima and Buliisa who will teach and supervise students in various science clubs to undertake the science projects in their schools. The students will then showcase their projects in a science fair scheduled for March 2016.
I have been teaching for 10 years. Recently I had training together with other teachers, organised by Living Earth Uganda at Millennium Hotel, Hoima.

In the training we shared experience with teachers from different schools mainly Duhaga, Bwikya, Canon Njangali, Mandela and Albert Secondary Schools. We looked at challenges we have been facing in the teaching and learning of Science for example inadequate apparatuses. Through this training we were able to solve some problems by learning to improvising by using locally available materials to make science likeable by learners.

Workshop facilitators took us through a series of activities, which included giving learners activities to help them integrate the materials in lessons with the rest of their experience in the course. They also took us through project work where we realised that the learning process can be integrated with project work which is beneficial to the students, teachers, parents, and the community around the schools.

These training made teachers in attendance realise the reason why students from upcountry schools have negative attitudes towards science subjects; and these made us agree that all science teachers should endeavour to help students get interested in sciences through project based learning. This can be achieved through:-

1. Giving students hands on activities during the teaching of science subjects at an early stage in their education cycle
2. Involving the students in project work so that they can get tangible products
3. Allowing students to participate in science exhibitions
4. Varying the teaching methods to motivate the learners
5. Organising science tours to visit areas where science is being applied so that learners can appreciate and realise they need to study science.

**FUNCTIONAL SKILLS TRAININGS**

**BULIISA WOMEN TO EARN BIG FROM MUSHROOM GROWING**

Story of women depending on their husbands for everything is not an interesting one especially in rural areas where social cultural setup is often of men dominance. Women in Buliisa have risen up to reverse the status quo and are taking up
opportunities opened up to them by LEU; through functional skills training for petty traders majority of whom are found in women groups.

To create and increase incomes for women and youth in Buliisa, LEU delivered hands on training for two groups. From these groups, 30 beneficiaries were trained in mushroom growing, preservation and marketing. The groups are: Asinguza Baking and Catering Group, and Biiso Mushroom Growers. The groups were supported with startup materials. During LEU monitoring and supervision exercise to the groups trained, it was revealed that Asinguza Baking and Catering Group has planted 50 gardens of mushroom at one of the group member’s and have so far started harvesting for sale; and this could fetch a reasonable income. On the market today, as a kilogram of mushroom costs Ushs.4,000. The group has now decided to expand and build a bigger house that could be used to plant more 200 gardens of mushrooms.

**INCREASING WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT**

**LEU SUPPORTS WOMEN TO SENSITIZE COMMUNITIES ON GIRL CHILD EDUCATION**

LEU facilitated women groups to conduct public campaigns on issues affecting them. These women have been using different approaches to reach to leaders and local communities. One such group is using drama and music to drum up support for girl child in Bunyoro region which has attracted many people to listen to their message. The music is already recorded and the group is in the process of producing video to air on radios and TV stations in the region.

The group exhibited their advocacy and public campaign skills during a community sensitization meeting in Kibingo Village in Businsi Division in Hoima Municipality. The sensitization meeting was attended by local leaders, businessmen and women, youth, students and members from other women groups, among others.

In his remarks the Chairperson LC1 Kibingo Village, Mr. Tophas Kwegondeza urged the people to use the available government programmes like UPE, USE and UPOLET to educate children, and develop Bunyoro Region. He thanked LEU and CEWIGO for empowering women, and pledged his support to the cause.
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

BUSINESS PLAN TRAINING STIMULATES BENEFICIARIES TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Business Development trainings for Masindi District began in August 2015. Mr. Edward Mugisha, a Board member of a local cooperative society called Kituuka Juakali Cooperative Society, was amongst the 20 participants that benefited from 12 enterprises who have received business development training delivered by LEU in partnership with Makerere University Business School.

In the first training, participants were given tips on how they can develop own business plans. From the skills acquired, Edward Mugisha and his cooperative group - Kituuka Juakali responded to a call for proposal from the USAID funded African Development Foundation.

Mr. Mugisha stresses that the knowledge acquired in the business planning training was handy because it helped them to prepare a proposal worth UGX 700 million funding. As we talk, their proposal has so far passed the initial stage for funding. As part of the requirements for that funding, two (2) members of Kituuka Juakali Cooperative Society have been invited to a 2 weeks learning visit to South Korea, where funding for similar projects has been done.
LEU OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO INSTRUCTORS TO UPGRADE THEIR TEACHING SKILLS

Above: Instructors attending a TOT in health, safety and environment (HSE) in a group photograph

TESTIMONIES FROM WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Name: Rebecca Nangobi Kwesiga
Institution: St. Simon Vocational Training Institute, Hoima
Department: Tailoring and Cutting Garments

“...This is my 4th workshop to attend, organized by Living Earth Uganda. Through these trainings, I have learnt to love my job. I have learnt to pass on skills in a simple and precise way, through preparing schemes of work, performance guides, and abling objectives.

I have learnt how to make tale of specifications—assessing your learners, and how far they have understood. This therefore enables me to identify gaps to address.

I have also learnt to know the reason for giving tests to students. Tests motivates students, its a form or tool for awarding certificates and promotions.”

Name: Wetaka Jackson
Institution: Nile Vocational Institute, Hoima
Department: Welding & Metal fabrication

“...This is my 3rd workshop to attend, organized by Living Earth Uganda. Through the trainings, I have learnt to acknowledge my rights as a worker; for example: leave days, and entitled allowances. I have learnt health and safety precautions like: wearing protective gear, caution wording, and fire-fighting equipments.

This training is good. From here, I shall strive to transfer the knowledge acquired to my students and fellow instructors that haven’t got chance to attend. Generally, we have enjoyed the proceedings.”

Project funded by the European Union, UK Department for International Development and Comic Relief
“LEU AND STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT IN THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR VERY BENEFICIAL” - CHAIRPERSON, BBC

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SAM MUGISA - THE CHAIRPERSON BUNYORO BUSINESS CLUB

Question: How significant has been the working relationship between Bunyoro Business Club, and Non-Governmental organizations like Living Earth Uganda?

Answer: The engagement has been beneficial, especially where Living Earth Uganda (LEU) organised trainings in response to gaps that were identified. This has helped some of our progressive members to adjust in the way they do business especially in record keeping, banking, and formulation of business plans, and local business regulations. Compared to other NGOs, LEU’s initiative of providing mentorship trainings to business owners is highly apprehended.

Question: How has the involvement of LEU, especially the business development trainings for youth and women; impacted on businesses in the region?

Answer: As a result of the trainings, youth and women’s creativity and innovativeness have improved. Their businesses have become competitive, and they are not afraid of competition resulting from emerging oil and gas sector suppliers. Therefore our business people are more prepared to benefit from the oil and gas supply chain.

Question: As the chairperson of Bunyoro Business Club, how prepared is the region to the highly anticipated oil and gas industry?

Answer: There has been a lot of expectations and excitement in the region; all entrepreneurs are preparing to tap from the ‘petro-dollars’ through their respective sectors of business, which partly explains the emergency of business associations based on respective interests. Based on baseline survey conducted jointly by Tullow Oil, CNOOC, and Total E & P; it is very clear that the required services are known. Progressive entrepreneurs are now successfully and continuously building relationships to further their businesses in terms of competence, and hence create multiplier effects.

Question: How has Government’s involvement in preparing the business community in the region for the opportunities presented by incoming oil and gas industry?

Answer: Government involvement has been timely though inadequate in other areas. For example issues of certification, and standardization leaves so much to be desired. Some of the processes are expensive and therefore not affordable to majority of the entrepreneurs. Issues of the national content policy and guidelines also need to be fast tracked. Issues of information gap still existing as well. The public private partnerships (PPPs) should be encouraged and promoted by Government to ensure Ugandans benefit but this can only happen if there is deliberate policy in that line.

Question: What are the lessons learned and recommendations for partners like Living Earth Uganda, and Government; regarding ensuring win-win interventions for communities affected by oil and gas sector?

Answer: All stakeholders should be involved for the sustainability of initiatives, Ministry of Energy should ensure relevant information in this sector is known to the public like issues regarding procurements but this has been left to oil companies whose motive is profit making hence favoring international companies who meet the bidding requirements easily. On the side of NGOs their focus should mainly be on building local capacity and not inciting the population using the Dutch disease scenario, this is because most of the messages have been packaged negatively impacting greatly on the mindset of the population, we do appreciate Living Earth because their focus has been building local capacity and translating the ideas into action.
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Held 4 radio talk shows in Hoima and Masindi to speak about the project interventions. On the shows beneficiaries gave testimonies of project interventions.

- Produced and distributed the 3rd edition of the project quarterly e-newsletter

- Updated LEU website with project information and uploaded thereon all editions of the project e-newsletter

- Held a stakeholder engagement meeting with principals and directors of VTIs in Hoima to get feedback on the activities LEU is partnering with them

- Delivered two 5-day training of trainers (TOT) workshops to 41 instructors in pedagogy where 16 instructors (8 male and 8 female) including 2 disabled female instructors participated in training of trainers for skill (TOT – S). The second group of 25 instructors (13 female & 12 male) underwent a 5-days training in the second ToT module of training of trainers for evaluation (ToT – E)

- Delivered a training of trainer to 16 instructors (14 Male and 02 Female) in health, safety and environment (HSE)

- Delivered orientation 2 training workshops on the use of the health, safety and environment (HSE) teaching guide and assessment criteria to of 33 instructors.

- Printed and distributed training and teaching manuals for health, safety and environment (HSE) to 10 vocational training institutions in Hoima to have a standard format for instruction and assessment in HSE

- Conducted support supervision for instructors who have participated CPD training. The exercise was carried out with support of personnel from the district and municipal education departments, as well as the regional office of Uganda Association of Private Vocational Institutions (UGAPRIVI)

- Enrolled 284 students (138 Male and 80 Female) for internship and work experience placement in Hoima and Masindi out of which we conducted supervision/follow-up of 218 students

- Delivered two (2) training of trainers’ workshops to 46 STEM teachers from 10 secondary schools in Buliisa and Hoima. These have started training students during the term that opened in the second week of September 2015

- Conducted support supervision for STEM teachers in Hoima and Buliisa. 70% of the teachers have submitted project proposals and list of students for the pilot school science programme

- Selected and contracted 2 consultancy firms to develop modules and deliver training in leadership skills and social venture enterprises development in rural areas respectively.

- Training modules for leadership and social venture enterprise development were developed and signed off by LEU & LEF.

- Delivered 4 business development training workshops; introduction to the course/prepare and produce a business plan and EHS at work and building business relationships to 20 beneficiaries (05 female and 15 male) in Masindi and Buliisa 17 beneficiaries (09 female and 8 male) in Buliisa

- Held a review meeting with MUBS Entrepreneurship Centre on the progress of the Business Development training programme.

- Conducted Monitoring of eleven (11) MSEs in Masindi and Buliisa Districts.

- Held a stakeholders’ engagement meeting with micro and small enterprises in Hoima Municipality

- Conducted monitoring and support supervision to 32 beneficiaries in Hoima, Buliisa and Masindi

- Delivered two (2) records management workshops for 42 MSE managers in Masindi and Buliisa (23 & 19 respectively)

- Delivered a 1-day records manage-
Project funded by the European Union, UK Department for International Development and Comic Relief

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2015

1. Deliver 2 training of trainers (TOT) workshops for 40 instructors in pedagogy
2. Enrollment, placement and supervision/monitoring of students in internship and work experience placement
3. Hold a stakeholders meeting on strategies to increase enrollment of girls in vocational skills training
4. Hold 1 placement steering committee meeting
5. Deliver 6 social venture/enterprise training workshops
6. Deliver 6 leadership training workshops for community leaders
7. Advertise for and select new applicants for the business development training programme
8. Deliver 4 business development training workshops
9. Deliver 2 records management training workshops
10. Conduct post training support supervision/monitoring of business development beneficiaries
11. Conduct 2 business clinics for MSEs in Hoima
12. Deliver 2 functional skills training workshops in Buliisa and Hoima
13. Provide support supervision and monitoring for beneficiaries of functional skills training.
14. Facilitate and organise women groups to undertake public campaigns in Hoima and Buliisa
15. Conduct support supervision and monitoring to groups undertaking campaigns in Hoima & Buliisa
16. Deliver 2 training workshops for 50 STEM teachers from Hoima & Buliisa
17. Facilitate training of science students (clubs) to pilot school science programme
18. Finalise production and distribution of project quarterly e-newsletter
19. Hold the quarterly project advisory panel (PAP) meeting
20. Undertake study visit to the Niger Delta
21. Produce Calendars (2016) and T-shirts for visibility of the project and LEU
22. Hold 3 radio talk shows in Hoima & Masindi
23. Holding stakeholder engagement meetings with different stakeholders in the project area and at national level.

- Delivered one functional skills training workshop to 20 beneficiaries (17 female & 3 male) in Hoima Municipality
- Delivered one functional skills training workshop to 23 beneficiaries (19 women & 3 men) in mushroom growing in Buliisa District
- Delivered one functional skills training workshop in liquid soap making in Masindi for 37 beneficiaries (29 female and 8 male)
- Conducted a post training support supervision and monitoring to 33 beneficiaries of functional skills training in Hoima and Buliisa
- Delivered 3 sessions of business advisory services to 10 MSEs in Hoima
- Facilitated 6 women groups involved in advocacy

- Conducted the selection and recruitment of fifty (50) teachers to be trained under the STEM programme. The training will be delivered during holidays that will start mid-August 2015
- Held the inaugural panel of experts meeting in Kampala where six (6) out of ten (10) nominated members participated
- Hosted and held meetings with a team from GIZ/E4D: SOGA project to identify areas of possible collaboration
PICTORIAL OF MEDIA VISIT TO HOIMA

Picture 1: Left: Carol Ariba (New Vision), 2nd left: Malcolm Musiime (NTV), Michael on camera (NTV), centre: John Nuwamanya (LEU); visiting Hoima D.E. Os - Godfrey Sserwanja Akiiki in his office

Picture 2: Media team interviewing John Byaruhanga, in his vegetable garden

Picture 3: The media team visiting Baguma’s bakery, and his worker demonstrate how they bake bread, and cakes

Picture 4: One of the interns under LEU placement program, that was retained at Glory Summit Hotel, Hoima; narrating her story to Malcolm of NTV

Picture 5: Another placement program intern, on a digital machine at a modern motor vehicle garage
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