Women Involvement In Advocacy

Melinda Gates observed that “A woman with a voice is by definition a strong woman. But the search to find that voice can be remarkably difficult”. This newsletter covers a time period within which world celebrated International Women’s Day on the 8th of March 2016. This day is meant to commemorate the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women around the world.

Living Earth Uganda undertakes specific interventions aimed at empowering -

a) entrepreneurs and petty traders especially women from target areas to provide products and services within the emerging economy;

b) empower local women's groups and their leaders to raise awareness among their communities of women's rights;

c) play an active role in promoting transparency, accountability and improved social performance.

d) In the previous national elections, twenty (20) project women leaders (Hoima - 12, Bulisa - 8) stood for elective positions at different levels of whom 8 (67%) succeeded/won.

Todate, the project is witnessing numerous benefits arising from the empowerment of women including:

a) Women group leaders serve as Trainers of Trainers (ToT) and advocates on thematic areas;

b) In Kinubi, an area known to have many widows, women leaders have mobilized the widows and have formed and registered CBO through which they are advocating for rights of widows and lobbying for support;

c) two (2) women from Hoima were able to successfully reach out to Hoima Local Government and lobbied UGX 8m and UGX3 million for the Youth Livelihood Funds and Community Demand Driven Programs respectively to support youth and women groups respectively.

Pictures Above: Women leaders supported by the project participating in women day celebrations
Support to Young Women and Men (Under 25) In Target Areas Benefit From A Vocational Training Programme

Key intervention activities include training of instructors in better pedagogical approaches and industrial trainings (youth work placements). Placements provide an opportunity to students to have hands on experience and skills which are needed in a number of sectors for increasing productivity and identifying talent for employment.

So far 125 (44F, 81M) VTI Instructors have been trained modules such as Health Safety and Environment and 574 (276M, 298F) VTI students have benefitted from placements. Employers reached through forums encourage training institutions to focus on use of modern technology like use of computers and other equipment, customer care, ethics and English which improve the youths’ employability in the modern world.

Social-Economic Empowerment Of Entrepreneurs and Petty Traders

Overall, the project has reached 244 (101F, 143M); business entrepreneurs 579 (430F, 149M) petty traders and 113 (26F, 87M) Socio and Eco entities (people living in rural communities by national parks and reserves where oil exploration is taking place). These are equipped with the necessary skills to enable them derive economic and social benefits from initiatives (community projects, individu-community enterprise) associated with the emerging economy, unique biodiversity and eco-system. Numerous results have been observed during the reporting period including:

- Following the FSE training, 21 participants (7M, 14F) mobilized themselves forming 9 groups and graduated to Business Development. Three (3) of these groups have legally registered
- Four (4) of the FSE graduates (2 Briquettes, 2 Baking) are engaged in training of other FSEs in Buliisa district
- Nine (9) out of the 13 female owned enterprises (of 13 total) have legally registered. Six (6) of these 13 have signed formal contracts to supply different products to local organizations
- The beneficiary business skills enterprises are offering internship placements at a minimal cost
- Hoima district local government has on 2 occasions invited the Uganda Registration Service Bureau, a national entity mandated to do entity registrations sensitise entrepreneurs on the process and need for business registration.
“Using the knowledge I acquired from Living Earth Uganda’s training, I am able to train other farmers to improve their enterprises. I learnt how to keep records for my farm, record incomes and expenditures, and how to market and sell my products. World Vision has now hired me to train other farmer groups in the villages. I teach them how to write their records and do farming as a business. I thank Living Earth for the training” -

John Byaruhanga, M, Project Beneficiary

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ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN THE LAST QUARTER

1. Conducted support supervision for all instructors who have benefited from training of trainers workshops
2. Followed up DIT for accreditation of training modules
3. Facilitated and monitored teaching of HSE in VTIs
4. Organized 1 day placement of 60 students of catering and hotel management
5. Held 2 employers’ forums in Hoima and Masindi to get feedback about work placement programme
6. Facilitated placement of 52 youths for apprenticeship training in motor vehicle mechanics, metal fabrication, tailoring and knitting; 7 of whom are PWDs
7. Delivered 4 training working workshops for social venture enterprise development
8. Delivered 3 training workshops for 90 community leaders
9. Held the inaugural revenue sharing meeting in Buliisa District
10. Delivered 5 business development workshops to 60 MSEs in Hoima & Masindi Districts
11. Delivered 4 business clinics to 19 MSEs in Hoima and Masindi
12. Delivered functional skills training workshops in juice making and, tree nursery bed
13. Commenced the development of STEM pilot projects in 10 secondary schools from Hoima & Buliisa
14. Held a town hall meeting for the business community in Masindi to share opportunities and values
15. A mid-term evaluation exercise was conducted by an external consultant from UK
16. Held about 6 stakeholder engagement meeting with key stakeholders including the project advisory panel

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PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

1. Follow up accreditation of training modules by DIT
2. Delivery of training of trainers (TOT) workshops for instructors
3. Facilitate training of health, safety and environment (HSE)
4. Distribution of HSE signage and materials to 3 pilot VTIs
5. Delivery of 6 social venture enterprise development workshops
6. Delivery of 4 leadership training workshops
7. Delivery of 6 business development workshops
8. Delivery of 4 functional skills training workshops
9. Conduct 4 business clinics for 20 MSEs
10. Hold 2 employers’ forums in Hoima and Masindi
11. Facilitate advocacy and public campaign activities by 9 women groups
12. Hold stakeholder engagement meetings
13. Conduct media training for local journalists
14. Facilitate and follow-up develop of pilot science projects in secondary schools
15. Hold radio and television programmes
16. Produce and distribute the electronic newsletter
PICTORIAL

PICTURE 1: Girls of Teach a Man to Fish Club at Can Njangali Girls HS showcasing their gardens

PICTURE 2: Some of the project beneficiaries being taken into a demonstration on bee harvesting

PICTURE 3: Youth undergoing industrial training at Bugambe Tea Factory in Hoima

PICTURE 4: Instructors in a group photo with Mr. Emmanuel Bampigga National Chairman UGAPRIVI in neck tie

PICTURE 5: LEU Management staff in a group photo during a retreat in Kampala

This publication is based on contributions of Project staff

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