

RESULTS SUMMARY

Oil companies and Human Rights in Uganda

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Oil companies and Human Rights in Uganda
	<i>Partner:</i>	Civic Response on Environment and Development, CRED
	<i>Country:</i>	Uganda
	<i>Period:</i>	2022 – 2025

CHANGE



CRED working in partnership with Oxfam has significantly improved the relationship between Civil Society Organisations, Authorities and Multinational big Oil companies while engaging on community issues. The partners have relied on the community Human Rights Monitoring system and data that has been used to constructively engage the multiple stakeholders, encouraging them to account in a less confrontational manner. This has resulted into enhancements to ensure better compensation packages for oil project affected persons and protection of human rights defenders among others.

CONTEXT

Over the recent years, the operating civic space in Uganda has continuously shrunk due to repressive laws and sensitivities around oil production. The government expects to use oil revenues to fund deficits in its budget. Civil society organizations involved are viewed as a threat to this industry and this has continually manifested in the arrests and harassment of those who attempt to speak boldly about the human rights abuses by the Oil companies of affected communities, the environment and climate impacts of oil production.

CONTRIBUTION

CRED through the financial and technical support of Oxfam has utilised its expertise in human rights to train and equip selected members of the affected communities with skills in community human rights monitoring. Oxfam also supported in establishing links to advocacy platforms at national, regional and global level. The community monitors have been equipped with smart phones to report real time human rights incidents as well generate monthly reports on the state of human rights in the oil and gas sector. The generated data has formed a bedrock of other interventions in the community.

IMAGES		
	Photo: Bashir Twesigye	Photo: Clare Ayebare

[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Human rights monitoring along the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP); is the key activity for this project- the human rights monitoring mechanism is led by a network of 20 community volunteers who gather and report incidents of human rights within the 10 EACOP districts in Uganda namely; Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Kyankwazi, Mubende, Gomba, Sembabule, Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera. The issues generated culminate into dialogue both at regional and national level through Quarterly engagements with the oil companies and Annual Dialogue which both create platforms for relevant stakeholders such as the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, the Oil Companies (Total, CNOOC and the Uganda National Oil Company), Cultural and Political leaders, Academia and Oil affected communities to discuss and generate actionable solutions to the human rights' question. CRED further employs its expertise to provide legal support and redress to human rights defenders and affected communities in Courts of law where they have exhausted the available company grievance mechanisms.

LESSONS

Evidence based dialogue with Authorities and Oil Companies builds better relationships leading to constructive engagement and quick action. Working in collaboration with other like-minded organisations and Government agencies creates a more friendly operating space in an increasingly hostile environment for civil society organisations in the oil and gas sector in Uganda.

EVIDENCE

Oxfam Uganda has been reporting on results in both the semi-annual and annual narrative report in 2023. As a result of this project, Total, the leading Oil developer in Uganda has over time demonstrated commitment to respect of rights of the affected communities by enacting a number of mechanisms such as, a human rights policy, quarterly engagements with CSOs, Publishing Annual Human rights reports and issuing statements on the status of Human Rights Defenders- all these are widely shared both physically and online. Further, during the 2023 Annual Dialogue which was conducted as the 5th Annual Symposium on Business and Human Rights in Kampala, Government through the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the other line ministries renewed their commitment to protect and promote the rights of persons affected by oil and gas development.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Insert strategy priority
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-