



## **We're not against oil, We're against breaching HUMAN RIGHTS!!**

The development of large oil and gas and infrastructure projects in Uganda is underway and has necessitated huge chunks of land intake, and thus the involuntary resettlement of affected persons and the compulsory acquisition of land has been ongoing. Over 5527 households (called "Project Affected Persons" or "PAPs"), corresponding to a total of 31 716 individuals, settling over 1,183 hectares have been displaced paving the way for the Tilenga project located in Buliisa and Nwoya districts. In addition, in Uganda only, a total of 3,648 households (PAPs), corresponding to almost 25,000 individuals, settling over 1,402 hectares of land (2740 acres) have been displaced to pave way for 1445 kilometers heated East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). In Tanzania, a total of 9,898 households (PAPs) and about 61 524 individuals) with over 4,063 hectares (10039 acres) of land have been displaced as well.

The ongoing protests continue to clearly show how frustrated Project Affected Persons are, and some research has actually shown that most PAPs who were compensated in cash failed to acquire similar pieces of land elsewhere,

Last year on 11th November 2024, 15 activists who were protesting Uganda's ongoing oil developments were arrested by police and remanded to Luzira prison. The activists, primarily young Ugandans, were demonstrating against the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), a major project they argue threatens the environment and the livelihoods of local communities. Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson Patrick Onyango confirmed the arrests, stating that the demonstrators are facing charges of common nuisance. TotalEnergies responded to our request by stating that despite engaging with Police and advocating for their release, the Police maintained their protocols, charged them in court the same day and remanded them to prison.

Today 4th April 2025, students we violently arrested as they marched to the Stanbic bank headquarters in Uganda lifting the voices of communities displaced by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. Standard Bank still chooses profit over people, ignoring the suffering of thousands of Project Affected Persons,

Uganda adopted and launched its National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights on October 28, 2021, this is an extract of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) dubbed- the "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework, which underpins one of the commitments in the Universal Periodic Review. The NAPBHR is a key tool in providing guidance to the State and non-State actors on the requirement that all business operations are to be conducted in line with human rights standards. It's believed that its implementation will contribute to positive human rights outcomes, including the creation of decent jobs, the provision of health, education and other services, protection of the environment, and contributing to the advancement of equality by providing opportunities for marginalized groups.

The Government of Uganda is committed to implementation of the NAPBHR as a measure to strengthen the State duty to protect human rights, enhance the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and ensure access to remedy for victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from non-compliance by business entities in the Country.

The Action Plan lays out clear strategies and roles of all stakeholders in its implementation. prevention of violation and abuses of human rights in business operations, mitigation of the negative impacts of businesses on the communities and enhancing access to remedies for the victims of human rights violations and abuses arising from business.

### **References.**

- <https://www.omct.org/en/resources/statements/uganda-crackdown-on-activists-protesting-against-large-scale-oil-projects>
- [https://www.banktrack.org/article/mass\\_arrests\\_in\\_uganda\\_as\\_hundreds\\_gather\\_worldwide\\_urging\\_china\\_to\\_halt\\_eacop](https://www.banktrack.org/article/mass_arrests_in_uganda_as_hundreds_gather_worldwide_urging_china_to_halt_eacop)
- <https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/business-human-rights-environment/business-and-human-rights/eacop-kingfisher-tilenga-uganda-72-arrests-august-2024>