



**CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURE INNOVATIONS**

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**A PROCEEDING REPORT FOR THE LAUNCH OF POWER UP FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IN HOIMA DISTRICT ALBERTINE REGION OF UGANDA.**



4<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

HOIMA DISTRICT

## Introduction

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023, CERAI implemented a joint climate solution campaign in Hoima district, western Uganda. The campaign was aimed at advocating and providing sustainable clean energy solutions to communities affected by East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The need to shape sustainable energy future called for collaborative efforts hence advocating for the transition to renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and supporting community driven initiatives that reduce emissions thus combating climate change. The campaign intended to address the sdg4; hence the slogan “*powerup for climate solutions.*” The main objective of the activity was to provide and improve on the accessibility of Renewable energy solutions to the local communities in Hoima district.



## Campaign objectives

1. Raise awareness about the impacts of climate change in Hoima District communities.
2. Promote sustainable practices to mitigate climate change.
3. Mobilize community participation in climate action agenda.
4. Advocate for policy changes to support and strengthen climate resilience in Hoima District.

## Remarks from the Head of programs CERAI

James Kashoborozi the current Head of programs CERAI, welcomed the activity participants and thanked them for having a good collaboration in a bid to address environmental issues specifically focusing on the energy democracy and energy transition, He further appreciated the partner organizations that is Centre for Environmental Research and Agriculture Innovations (CERAI), Phoenix children Foundation, Fridays for future, Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment (CECIC). “It is absolutely imperative to provide and scale up renewable energy solutions in rural communities especially engaging women groups and local leaders to increase and promote renewable energy access for the rural communities”, the head of programs CERAI said. James went ahead and handed over some of the solar systems to the members in the community who hand registered with our community volunteer team leader.



## Activity proceedings

The *power up for climate solutions* campaign commenced with the welcome remarks from the LC1 chairman of kijumba village. He appreciated the team for supporting their community through offering clean energy solutions to natives of the community. Given that most of the communities in Uganda have limited access to clean energy, on their side it was a milestone worth celebrating. He further expressed his gratitude for putting the women at the fore front in a bid to achieve the energy transition and climate justice targets. He also put it forward that linting their homes will facilitate learning for their children.



*Courtesy picture with community members*

### Message from the power up campaign Team leader.

Edwin Mumbera, the Executive Director, Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment (CECIC), gave his remarks about the power up solutions for climate change saying that as the global community shares profits from the fossil fuel investment, priority should be given to renewable energy investments. This is because it has been notably understood that renewable energy is promising to the future generations hence it requires collaborative and holistic approach to achieve energy transition and climate justice at global scale.



*Courtesy picture Edwin Mumbera, The Campaign team leader addressing the Kijumba community members.*

## Challenges in the community

While financing is the key to unlocking a rapid energy transition, there are barriers. Overcoming these barriers is key to progress. The community highlighted the following challenges that are hindering the energy transition agenda.

- The accessibility of standardized and affordable clean energy systems such as solar systems is a big problem. The people in Kijumba village highlighted they are consistently opted to the use of fossil fuel products to light up their homes. They further put it forward that most of the fuel made energy sources put their health at risk of diseases due to exposure to fumes from candles and burning paraffin.
- Kijumba village being one of the communities affected the EACOP, Kyomukama Faustin expressed her dissatisfaction due to the delays in the compensation given that the pipeline is passing through the land that was initially hers. She therefore calls for urgent attention in regard to unresolved challenges that are affecting her as a widow.
- Government bureaucracy; engaging with local authorities sometimes proved challenging due to bureaucratic processes and competing priorities by the government of Uganda.

## Recommendations

- Policy advocacy and continuity to advocate for policies that support climate resilience and sustainability at the local and national levels.
- Capacity building; provide training and support to local leaders and community members to enhance their capacity for climate action.
- Incentives to the investors in the renewable energy sector is very imperative. This can be achieved if policy formulation encourages massive investment as well as increasing the purchasing capacity of the people. Therefore, the renewable products should be subsidized to accelerate energy democracy and ultimately conserve the environment.

## Conclusion

Mumbere Edwin the campaign lead concluded the event. He appreciated the campaign partners, community leaders and members of the community who actively participated in the campaign. He further assured the activity participants that the agenda of energy transition will continuously be geared up. Further more he highlighted that resource mobilization is being done through partner organizations and development partners.

The power up for climate solutions campaign in Hoima District made significant strides in raising awareness, promoting sustainable practices, and mobilizing community participation in climate action. Despite challenges, the campaign demonstrated the importance of grassroots efforts in addressing climate change and laid the ground work for future initiatives to build on its success.

**\*END\***