REPORT ON THE KASOKOSO COMMUNITY WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT

Commemoration of the International Day of Rural Women

Empowering Marginalized Women for Gender and Climate Justice in the Face of Fossil Fuel Projects

Date	13th October 2026
Venue	Kasokoso Community, Uganda
Organized by	Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WOGEM)
Time	11:00 AM

Women of Kasokoso gathering for the International Day of Rural Women engagement

1. Introduction

Women for Green Economy Movement Uganda (WOGEM) organized a community engagement with women in Kasokoso on 13th October 2026 to commemorate the International Day of Rural Women under the theme of empowering marginalized women for gender and climate justice in the face of fossil fuel projects and the impacts of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The engagement aimed to raise awareness about the links between climate change, environmental degradation, fossil fuel extraction, and women's rights, while strengthening women's participation in advocating for climate justice and sustainable community development.

The engagement recognized the important roles women play in household management, food production, waste management, and environmental conservation, while acknowledging the disproportionate challenges they face due to climate change and environmental degradation. Women, particularly those in marginalized communities, often bear the greatest burden of climate impacts because of their dependence on natural resources for food, water, and livelihoods, yet their voices remain underrepresented in environmental and energy-related decision-making processes.

Discussions also highlighted concerns surrounding fossil fuel projects, including EACOP, and the need to protect women's livelihoods, land rights, access to water, and food security from the potential and documented impacts of oil-related developments. Through interactive discussions and experience-sharing, WOGEM provided a platform for women to reflect on their environmental challenges, share experiences from their community, and explore how collective action can strengthen their voices in demanding gender-responsive climate policies and accountability from decision-makers.

The engagement further built on WOGEM's previous work in Kasokoso, including community clean-up initiatives, and explored opportunities for women to organize into a collective group to promote environmental protection, improve livelihoods, and participate meaningfully in advocacy for gender and climate justice.

Participants during the community engagement session

2. Welcoming Remarks

The meeting commenced at 11:00 AM as scheduled, with welcoming remarks from Madam Apolot, the Kasokoso Woman Councillor. She welcomed the WOGEM team and the women who had gathered for the engagement.

The councillor reminded participants that WOGEM had previously visited Kasokoso to conduct an environmental cleanliness activity. She appreciated the organization for continuing to engage with and support women in the community. She encouraged the women to work together towards improving their community, emphasizing that Kasokoso women are hardworking and capable of contributing significantly to community development.

She officially welcomed WOGEM and opened the engagement, then invited participants to introduce themselves to promote familiarity and interaction among the women.

3. Remarks by the Executive Director of WOGEM Uganda

The Executive Director of WOGEM Uganda, Ms. Ireen Twongirwe, welcomed the participants and thanked them for attending the engagement and consistently responding positively to invitations to participate in community activities.

She encouraged the women to feel free to share their experiences, challenges, and concerns, including issues affecting them within their families and communities. She emphasized that women are agents of change and should not be afraid to speak out about the issues affecting their lives.

Ms. Twongirwe also encouraged the women to build their confidence and speak publicly whenever opportunities arise, including when engaging with the media. She noted that women must be willing to tell their own stories because no one else can fully represent their experiences and concerns on their behalf.

She explained that WOGEM had returned to Kasokoso because the organization believes in empowering women and strengthening their participation in community development. She highlighted that the day's engagement focused on environmental protection and empowering marginalized women to advance gender and climate justice in Uganda.

She emphasized that women should not be viewed merely as victims of climate change and environmental degradation but also as leaders and contributors to solutions. She further informed participants that some women from Kasokoso had previously attended a self-care and well-being session organized at WOGEM's offices, and that feedback from those participants would be shared later during the meeting.

Ms. Ireen Twongirwe and facilitators engaging with Kasokoso women

4. Feedback on Previous Activity in Kasokoso

Ms. Leticia Ahirirwe from WOGEM Uganda thanked the women for attending and encouraged them to actively participate in the discussions and apply the lessons learned in their daily lives. Before introducing the facilitator, she invited women who had participated in previous WOGEM activities to share feedback on the progress made in their community.

Madam Apolot reported that the community was making use of the waste bins provided during the previous environmental cleanliness activity. She explained that one of the bins had been placed at the Kasokoso Police Station and another at the market near the LC1 office. She noted that women had continued working together to separate waste, maintain cleanliness, and improve environmental hygiene within the community. She appreciated WOGEM for supporting the initiative and pledged to continue encouraging women to participate in environmental cleanliness activities.

Esther also reported that women had continued working together to maintain cleanliness in their homes, workplaces, and surrounding areas. She highlighted their efforts to separate rubbish and improve waste management practices.

The feedback demonstrated that the previous environmental engagement had encouraged women to take greater responsibility for maintaining a clean environment. It also highlighted the importance of continued community mobilization, practical environmental initiatives, and collaboration between WOGEM and local leaders.

Community members sharing feedback and experiences

5. Presentation on Climate Change, Environmental Protection and Gender Justice

Ms. Leticia introduced Ms. Shallon Ainembabazi, who facilitated the main discussion. Shallon explained that the session aimed to help women understand their environment, examine why weather patterns were changing, and identify practical ways they could contribute to environmental protection and climate justice. She invited participants to share their observations about changes in the climate and weather conditions and explain how these changes affected their daily lives.

5.1 Women's Experiences of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

The discussion generated several contributions from participants, who shared observations about environmental and climate-related challenges affecting their community.

Changing seasons and planting patterns

Madam Apolot observed that seasons had changed, particularly the timing of planting seasons. Her contribution highlighted the uncertainty that changing weather patterns create for agricultural activities and household food production.

Air pollution from industries

Madam Nakayinzi, a councillor from Namugongo, raised concerns about smoke released by industries and factories into the surrounding environment. She explained that community members inhale the smoke, raising concerns about its effects on human health and air quality.

Deforestation and urban development

The community chairman attributed some of the environmental changes to deforestation and the cutting down of trees. He also raised concerns about increasing development and industrial activities around areas such as Namanve, noting that industrial pollution contributes to environmental degradation.

Fear of speaking out

Jessica Babirye observed that women sometimes fear speaking openly about the problems they experience. Her contribution reinforced the need to empower women with the confidence and knowledge to raise their concerns and participate in decision-making processes.

These contributions demonstrated that women were already observing environmental changes in their communities. However, they needed further information, opportunities for dialogue, and collective platforms to connect their experiences with broader climate and environmental justice issues.

Interactive discussion on climate change and environmental challenges

5.2 Practical Ways of Protecting the Environment

Following the participants' contributions, Shallon explained that protecting the environment begins with individual responsibility and collective community action. She encouraged women to avoid burning rubbish and plastics, stop indiscriminate waste disposal, prevent bush burning, protect trees, and avoid activities that destroy wetlands.

She emphasized that waste disposed of in drainage channels can block water flow and contribute to flooding, which threatens homes, sanitation, and community safety. She encouraged women to dispose of waste responsibly and advise their neighbours to adopt better environmental practices. Change begins with individual actions that gradually influence households and the wider community.

Participants also suggested practical solutions. Anitah Jane Francis encouraged tree planting and the production of organic manure as an alternative to excessive dependence on inorganic fertilizers. Another participant emphasized the importance of reusing available materials, particularly plastics, instead of burning them.

Key practices promoted during the session included:

- Planting and protecting trees
- Properly separating, collecting, and disposing of household waste
- Avoiding the burning of plastics and other rubbish

- Keeping drainage channels free from waste to reduce flooding risk
- Producing organic manure from suitable organic waste
- Protecting wetlands and discouraging unnecessary tree cutting
- Promoting the reuse and recycling of materials
- Mobilizing neighbours to maintain environmental cleanliness

The facilitator emphasized that women have a significant role to play in promoting these practices because of their involvement in household management, community activities, and local livelihood initiatives.

Women discussing practical environmental protection solutions

6. Linking Environmental Protection to Gender and Climate Justice

The discussion moved beyond individual environmental practices to examine the relationship between climate change, women's rights, and gender justice.

Shallon and Ms. Ireen Twongirwe explained that women and marginalized communities often experience the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change despite having limited influence over the decisions that contribute to these problems. Women who depend on agriculture, natural resources, and informal livelihoods may face increased challenges when weather patterns change, food production becomes uncertain, or access to land and other resources is disrupted. These pressures can increase women's unpaid care responsibilities and economic vulnerability.

The facilitators emphasized that climate justice requires more than protecting the environment. It also requires fairness, accountability, meaningful participation, and protection of the rights of people who bear the greatest burdens of environmental harm. Women were encouraged to recognize their rights, organize collectively, engage local leaders, and participate in decisions concerning environmental protection and community development.

6.1 The Impact of EACOP and Fossil Fuel Development on Women

Ms. Ireen Twongirwe and Shallon Ainembabazi introduced the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) as an example of how large-scale fossil fuel projects raise questions about environmental protection, women's rights, livelihoods, and climate justice.

They explained that EACOP is designed to transport crude oil from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania for export to international markets. The project is associated with oil companies and national oil entities, including TotalEnergies.

The facilitators noted that women in communities affected by oil development experience emotional and social pressures arising from land disputes, inadequate or delayed compensation, loss of livelihoods, and uncertainty about their families' future. They highlighted concerns about gender-based violence, including cases where some men physically assault their wives and pressure or force them to sign land-related or compensation documents without explaining their contents or allowing them to make informed decisions. Such practices undermine women's rights, limit their control over land and compensation, and expose them to further vulnerability and exploitation. These challenges also affect women's mental well-being and deepen existing gender inequalities.

The discussion underscored the importance of protecting women's land and livelihood rights, preventing gender-based violence, ensuring women's informed consent and meaningful participation in decisions concerning oil projects, and promoting gender-responsive approaches to climate justice and community development.

The facilitators further discussed the broader climate implications of continued fossil fuel dependence. The extraction and use of fossil fuels contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, which drive global warming and intensify climate-related risks. Communities in Uganda can experience the consequences of climate change even though their contributions to global emissions are relatively small compared with those of major historical emitters.

They emphasized that women in oil-affected communities should be meaningfully involved in decisions about energy development, compensation, environmental protection, and alternative livelihood opportunities.

Communities must also have access to clear information and effective channels for raising concerns and seeking accountability.

Ms. Ireen emphasized that empowering women to speak out is an important step towards holding leaders and institutions accountable. She encouraged participants not to sign documents they did not understand or agree with, particularly where land, property, compensation, or other important rights were concerned. She advised women to seek clarification and consult trusted local leaders before making decisions that could affect their rights and livelihoods.

She further encouraged women to bring forward issues affecting their community collectively rather than approaching leaders only as individuals. Petitions and other collective advocacy approaches can help women present their concerns in an organized manner and strengthen their ability to demand action from responsible authorities. WOGEM would continue supporting women to understand their rights, develop their confidence, and participate in advocacy processes that advance gender and climate justice.

Facilitators and participants during the EACOP and climate justice discussion

7. Strengthening Women's Collective Action and Livelihoods

Towards the end of the discussion, Ms. Ireen encouraged participants to become more innovative and creative in identifying solutions to environmental and livelihood challenges. She emphasized that women could work together to develop practical skills, generate income, and contribute to environmental protection.

She announced WOGEM's intention to support the women in organizing themselves into a group through which they could learn a practical skill and pursue a collective initiative. WOGEM would provide support of UGX 500,000 towards the group's initiative and continue engaging with the women to monitor progress and identify opportunities for further support. The purpose of the initiative was to encourage unity, collective responsibility, skills development, and women's economic empowerment.

The women welcomed the opportunity and participated in discussions to determine the group's identity, leadership structure, and proposed activity.

7.1 Formation of the WOGEM Kasokoso Women Group

The women agreed to establish a community group known as the WOGEM Kasokoso Women Group. The formation of the group marked an important outcome of the engagement, providing a platform for women to organize themselves, strengthen cooperation, and pursue shared environmental and livelihood goals.

The participants also agreed to undertake briquette making as their initial group project. Briquettes made from suitable biomass waste can provide an alternative household fuel and create opportunities for income generation when produced safely and sustainably. The initiative is expected to encourage women to explore productive uses of suitable waste materials, develop practical skills, and participate in a collective livelihood activity.

The women selected their group leadership:

Position	Name
Chairperson	Annitah Jane Francis
General Secretary	Nabukalu Mpande
Treasurer	Esther Nalumansi
Adviser	Apolot (Councillor)
Mobiliser	Namilu Hasfa

The selection of leaders established an initial coordination structure for the group and provided a foundation for organizing meetings, managing group activities, maintaining records, and overseeing the proposed project. WOGEM committed to supporting the group as it begins its activities and to following up on its progress.

WOGEM Kasokoso Women Group — formation and commitment to collective action

8. Feedback on the Self-Care and Well-Being Session

Ms. Ireen invited Lillian, who had previously represented the Kasokoso community at a self-care and well-being session held at WOGEM's offices, to share her experience with the participants.

Lillian reflected on the session and shared that the experience had helped her feel emotionally supported and contributed to her sense of healing. Her feedback provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of creating safe spaces where women can share their experiences, express their feelings, and receive support.

The discussion reinforced the connection between women's empowerment and well-being. Women who experience economic pressures, environmental challenges, family responsibilities, and other forms of stress need opportunities to care for their emotional and mental health. Self-care is not simply an individual responsibility — supportive relationships, community solidarity, and spaces where women can speak freely are important in strengthening their resilience and ability to participate in collective action.

WOGEM encouraged the women to continue supporting one another and to recognize their well-being as an important part of their empowerment.

Reflection on self-care and women's well-being

9. Closing Remarks

The engagement concluded with closing remarks from Madam Apolot, the Kasokoso Woman Councillor. She thanked WOGEM for returning to the community and creating an opportunity for women to learn, share their experiences, and discuss practical solutions to challenges affecting their lives.

She appreciated the women for participating actively in the discussions and encouraged them to put the lessons learned into practice, particularly by maintaining environmental cleanliness, protecting their surroundings, and working together to improve their community.

She welcomed the formation of the WOGEM Kasokoso Women Group and encouraged members to remain committed to their shared goals, cooperate with their elected leaders, and take responsibility for the success of their briquette-making initiative.

The councillor also encouraged continued collaboration between WOGEM, community leaders, and women to promote environmental conservation, women's economic empowerment, and gender and climate justice. The meeting ended with a shared commitment to strengthen women's collective action and continue working towards a cleaner, healthier, and more empowered Kasokoso community.

10. Key Outcomes of the Engagement

The engagement achieved the following key outcomes:

Increased awareness
Women shared experiences of changing weather patterns, industrial pollution, deforestation, and other environmental challenges affecting their community.

Strengthened environmental action
Participants reported progress in waste separation and community cleanliness following previous WOGEM activities and committed to continuing these practices.

Increased confidence and participation
The engagement encouraged women to speak openly about their challenges and to use collective advocacy approaches when engaging leaders and decision-makers.

Formation of a women's group
Participants established the WOGEM Kasokoso Women Group and selected its leadership.

Identification of a livelihood initiative
The group selected briquette making as its initial project, creating an opportunity to combine skills development, environmental management, and potential income generation.

Commitment to group support
WOGEM committed UGX 500,000 in support of the group initiative and committed to continued engagement and follow-up.

Recognition of women's well-being
Feedback from the previous self-care session highlighted the importance of emotional support, healing, and safe spaces for women.

11. Recommendations and Way Forward

Based on the discussions and outcomes of the engagement, the following actions are recommended:

Project support and monitoring
WOGEM should follow up on the proposed UGX 500,000 support, agree on the appropriate use of the funds with the group, and establish a simple monitoring process to assess progress and address challenges.

Strengthening group leadership
The group should establish clear roles, meeting schedules, financial management procedures, and internal accountability mechanisms to promote transparency and sustainability.

Continued environmental education
Women of Kasokoso and local leaders should continue promoting waste separation, responsible disposal, recycling, tree planting, and protection of drainage channels and wetlands.

Women's participation in decision-making
Women should be supported to engage local leaders and relevant authorities on issues affecting their livelihoods, land rights, environmental health, and access to clean energy.

Continued well-being support
Further self-care and well-being sessions should be encouraged to strengthen women's emotional resilience, social support, and participation in community initiatives.

Follow-up engagement
WOGEM should maintain communication with the group, assess the progress of the briquette-making initiative, document lessons learned, and identify opportunities for technical support and partnerships.

12. Conclusion

The Kasokoso community engagement provided an important platform for women to reflect on environmental challenges, share their experiences, and explore practical ways of advancing gender and climate justice. The discussions demonstrated that women are already contributing to environmental protection but require continued support, skills, information, and opportunities to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives.

The formation of the WOGEM Kasokoso Women Group and the selection of briquette making as its initial project were important steps towards strengthening women's collective action and exploring environmentally responsible livelihood opportunities.

Through this engagement, WOGEM reaffirmed its commitment to empowering marginalized women and girls, promoting environmental sustainability, supporting women's economic participation, and strengthening community-led solutions to climate change.

Sustained follow-up, practical skills training, transparent management of group activities, and continued collaboration with local leaders will be essential to ensuring that the initiative delivers meaningful benefits to the women and the wider Kasokoso community.

Empowering women is essential to building a cleaner environment, stronger communities, and a more just and climate-resilient future.