



RESTORING OR FALLING SHORT?

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EACOP LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PROGRAMME IN UGANDA



AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

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Acronyms

No.	Acronym	Meaning
1.	AFIEGO	<i>Africa Institute for Energy Governance</i>
2.	AGI	<i>Above Ground Installations</i>
3.	CFR	<i>Central Forest Reserve</i>
4.	CUL	<i>China National Offshore Oil Corporation Uganda Ltd</i>
5.	EACOP	<i>East African Crude Oil Pipeline</i>
6.	FGDs	<i>Focus Group Discussions</i>
7.	GoU	<i>Government of Uganda</i>
8.	IFC	<i>International Finance Corporation</i>
9.	LARF	<i>Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework</i>
10.	LRP	<i>Livelihood Restoration Programme</i>
11.	MCPYs	<i>Main Camps and Pipe Yards</i>
12.	NDP	<i>National Development Plan</i>
13.	PAPs	<i>Project Affected Persons</i>
14.	RAP	<i>Resettlement Action Plan</i>
15.	SDGs	<i>Sustainable Development Goals</i>
16.	TEAM	<i>TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream</i>

Abstract

Introduction

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) contracted a consultant to conduct research between June 2025 and February 2026.

The purpose of the research was to evaluate whether the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project developers and their sub-contractors are fulfilling the commitments that they undertook to observe while implementing the Livelihood Restoration Programme for EACOP-affected people in Uganda.

The livelihood restoration programme, whose implementation began in October 2022 (Sekatawa, 2024) in Uganda, is aimed at restoring the households that were displaced for the EACOP in Uganda to their pre-displacement socio-economic positions, or even better ones (ICS, NewPlan and EACOP, Undated).

The EACOP project developers that include TotalEnergies, China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) as well as the governments of Uganda and Tanzania committed to implement livelihood restoration measures that are contained under Chapter 9 of the EACOP Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for Uganda.

They also committed to comply with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Standard 5 on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement during the livelihood restoration activities.

This research assessed whether the RAP livelihood restoration commitments and IFC Performance Standard 5 were complied with.

The research also assessed the attitudes of EACOP PAPs toward the pipeline, with the aim of ensuring that its development does not conflict with the aspirations of the affected communities.

About the EACOP

The EACOP is a project that includes development of an approximately 1,443km crude oil export pipeline from Hoima in Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

In Uganda, the EACOP is traversing ten districts including Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Kyankwanzi, Mubende, and Gomba. Others include Sembabule, Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera (Directorate of Petroleum -Uganda, Undated).

Land for the EACOP was taken from 3,648 households (PAU, Undated) with an estimated population of 24,744 individuals in Uganda (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

Not all 3,648 EACOP-affected households have received their compensation. Some households are yet to be paid and they filed court cases in 2024 seeking adequate and fair compensation (AFIEGO, 2025).

Methodology

A cross-sectional research design, and mixed-methods research approach was used for this study. Data was collected from 246 EACOP project-affected persons (PAPs) across seven EACOP-affected districts.

The data was collected through questionnaires that were administered to 214 respondents and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), which were participated in by 32 respondents.

This study collected data from the following districts: Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Sembabule, Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera.

The quantitative data was analysed using Excel and the qualitative data was analysed using NVIVO.

Findings

Affected people's attitudes towards EACOP

In engagements held with AFIEGO in 2024, EACOP-affected households from Hoima to Kyotera complained about the estimated distance between their homes and the pipeline (AFIEGO, 2024).

The people observed that the distance is too short, presenting safety fears. This research sought to create empirical evidence of the percentage of households that are dissatisfied or satisfied with the estimated distance between their homes and the EACOP.

First, the research assessed the estimated distance between the PAPs' homes and the EACOP. Of the 246 EACOP-affected people that participated in this study, 66% estimated that their homes were located over 30 metres away from the pipeline while 21% said that their homes were located less than 30 metres away. Thirteen percent (13%) said that they did not know.

The research also assessed the level of satisfaction that PAPs have as regards the estimated distance between their homes and the pipeline. This assessment was particularly important because key government officials argue that communities support the EACOP project, and only imperialistic foreigners as well as their local partners are against the pipeline project (Kamurungi, 2022). Prior to this research, no known empirical evidence existed to back up this assertion. This could lead to the EACOP being developed against EACOP-affected people's aspirations.

¹The EACOP project developers acquired a 30-metre wide corridor for their project. This study assessed whether that same distance existed between the PAPs' households and the pipeline.

When asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the estimated distance between their homes and the EACOP, 37% of the respondents that participated in this research indicated that they were dissatisfied with the distance between their homes and the EACOP while 63% expressed satisfaction with the distance.

The 37% PAPs that expressed dissatisfaction observed that they feared that the pipeline could affect their social and economic wellbeing through negatively impacting health, soil fertility, micro weather conditions and climate stability.

In developing the EACOP therefore, the project developers should ensure that they do not construct the pipeline against the aspirations of the 37% EACOP-affected people that are dissatisfied with the estimated pipeline's distance from their homes.

EACOP's livelihood restoration commitments

This study also assessed compliance by the EACOP project developers and their sub-contractors to the Livelihood Restoration Plan that is contained in the EACOP RAP for Uganda.

The EACOP project developers committed to implement the following programmes to restore or enhance the EACOP PAPs to their pre-displacement socio-economic levels: a core agricultural improvement programme that included the distribution of agricultural inputs, a food security programme that included setting up of vegetable gardens as well as a financial literacy and money management training.

They also committed to implementing an enterprise development and vocational training programme to skill PAPs and their household members to enhance their income generation capacities as well as providing food assistance to PAPs for six months to one year, or more.

Assessment of compliance with livelihood restoration commitments

The EACOP project developers implemented activities under the core agricultural improvement, food security, financial literacy and enterprise development programmes. The majority of the PAPs that participated in this study indicated that they were beneficiaries of the above programmes.

However, 55 indicated that they were not beneficiaries of any of the programmes.

While key activities under the core agricultural improvement, food security, financial literacy and other programmes were implemented, the PAPs that participated in this study observed that huge gaps were seen in the implementation process.

Such gaps include distribution of poor-quality seeds or seedlings, delays in distributing seeds or seedlings, and distribution of less quantities of seedlings than were promised.

There was also a challenge of unfulfilled promises, such as failure to distribute livestock in districts such as Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo and Kyotera.

Other challenges include inadequate financial literacy skills being imparted due to trainings being too short (one-day) and being delivered by a commercial, profit-oriented bank that focused on compelling PAPs to open accounts, as opposed to training them in good money management practices.

Yet other challenges included the fact that vocational training was inadequate as the duration of trainings, spanning 3 to 4 months, was too short. There was also limited impartation of practical skills by trainers, discrimination by the EACOP Company's sub-contractors in selecting of trainees, and absentee trainers, which undermined skilling of PAPs.

The PAPs who participated in this research argue that the above and other major gaps, not to mention failure to pay PAPs fair and adequate compensation, make it impossible for the EACOP Company to restore their livelihoods.

Assessment of compliance with IFC Standards

The IFC Performance standards set the following criteria as needing to be met for a livelihood restoration programme to be considered successful: Restored or improved income levels; Restored or improved household food security; Restored or improved security of tenure; Restored or improved household health and nutrition; and improved gender equality in livelihoods

opportunities.

Others include Restored or diversified income sources; Restored or improved access to markets; Restored or increased yields; Restored or improved consumption and diet; Fewer households living below the poverty level; Improved safety in carrying out livelihood activities; and Restored or improved resilience to natural or economic shocks.

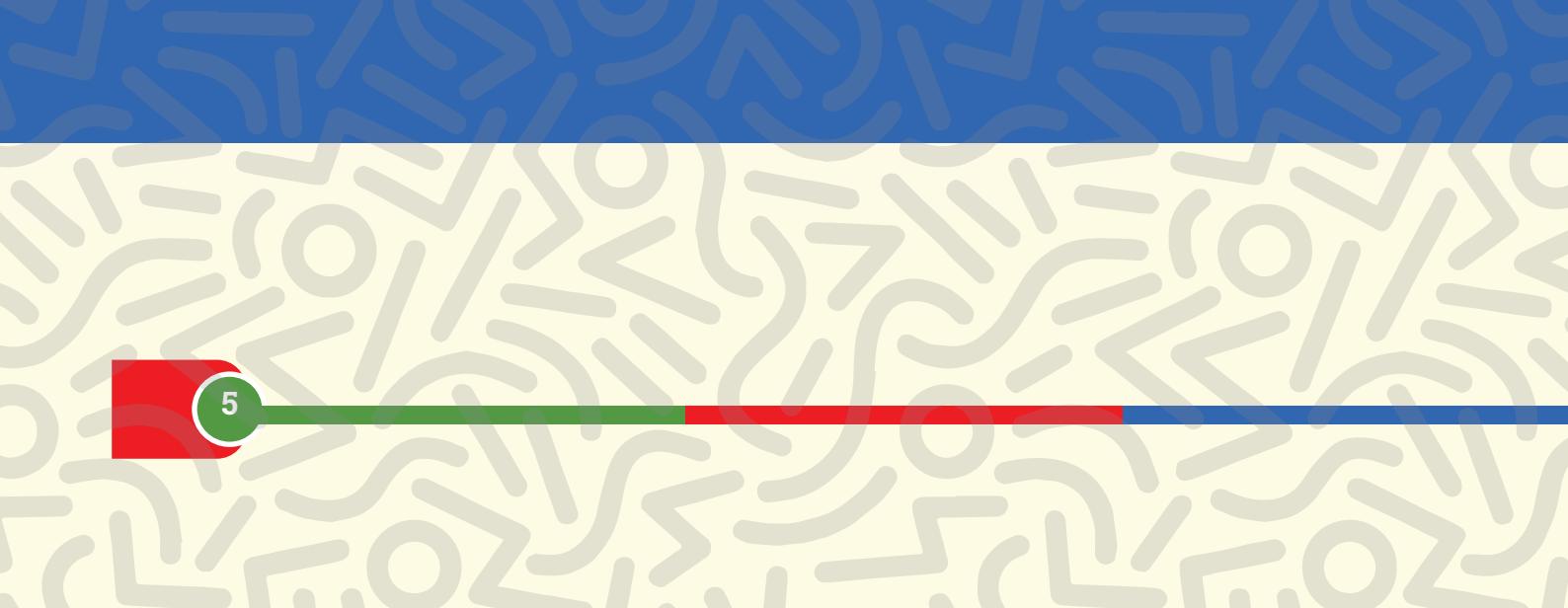
The EACOP livelihood restoration programme limited itself to restoring or enhancing incomes, restoring or improving food security, improving household nutrition and improving gender equality.

The programme therefore did not meet the full livelihood restoration criteria of the IFC Performance Standards. Further, even where the project proponents set out to restore or enhance incomes, food security, and nutrition among others, the PAPs say that they majorly failed.

Recommendations

This research therefore recommends that the EACOP project developers, supervised by the Government of Uganda (GoU), fill the EACOP livelihood restoration implementation gaps contained in this report.

The project developers should also avoid developing the pipeline close to the homes of the 37% households that are dissatisfied with the distance between their homes and the pipeline.



CHAPTER ONE

1.0. Introduction

This chapter contains the introduction, background and problem statement of the study. The chapter also contains the purpose, objectives and significance of the research.

1.1. Introduction to the study

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) contracted a consultant to conduct research between June 2025 and February 2026.

The purpose of the research was to evaluate whether the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project developers and their sub-contractors fulfilled the commitments that they undertook to observe while implementing the Livelihood Restoration Programme for EACOP-affected people in Uganda.

The Livelihood Restoration Programme, whose implementation began in October 2022 (Sekatawa, 2024), is aimed at restoring the households that were displaced for the EACOP in Uganda to their pre-displacement socio-economic positions, or even better ones (ICS, NewPlan and EACOP, Undated).

This research reviewed the livelihood restoration commitments by the EACOP Company, which are contained under Chapter 9 of the EACOP Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for Uganda, and assessed whether the commitments were complied with.

The research also assessed whether the livelihood restoration activities are in compliance with key international standards, namely the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Standard 5 on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement.

Through the RAP as well as the 2016 Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework (LARF) for Petroleum Development and Production, the EACOP project developers committed to comply with the IFC Performance Standards.

Furthermore, to ensure that the EACOP is developed based on the social license of the affected people, this research by AFIEGO assessed the attitudes and perceptions that EACOP-affected people in Uganda have towards the pipeline.

1.2. About the EACOP

The EACOP is a project that includes development of an approximately 1,443km crude oil export pipeline of which 296km are in Uganda (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

The rest of the pipeline, 1,147km, is located in Tanzania. The pipeline is expected to transport crude oil from fields in Western Uganda to the port of Tanga in Tanzania.

The EACOP project also includes development of four main camps and pipe yards (MCPYs) in Uganda as well as above ground installations (AGI) (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

The AGIs in Uganda include two pump stations, a helipad at pump station 2, access roads, main line valve stations, and electric heat tracing sub-stations (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

In Uganda, the EACOP is traversing ten districts, 27 sub-counties and 3 town councils as well as 171 villages (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

The districts through which the pipeline is passing include Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Kyankwanzi, Mubende, and Gomba. Others include Sembabule, Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera (Directorate of Petroleum –Uganda, Undated).

1.3. Background

To develop the EACOP and the above-discussed infrastructure, TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream (TEAM) BV commenced compulsory land acquisition processes for the EACOP project in Uganda in 2018 (EACOP, NewPlan and ICS, Undated).

TotalEnergies was working on behalf of the EACOP project developers who include TotalEnergies, China National Offshore Oil Corporation Uganda Ltd (CUL) and the Ugandan as well as Tanzanian governments.

The land acquisition processes began with land and asset surveys, as well as valuation. The processes also included socio-economic surveys (EACOP, NewPlan and ICS, Undated).

The land and asset surveys as well as valuations were used to assess and value the property of people that were to be displaced for the EACOP in Uganda.

The surveys for the MCPYs commenced in August 2018 while those for the pipeline corridor and AGIs commenced in February 2019 (EACOP, NewPlan and ICS, Undated).

The amount of land that was acquired for the EACOP project in Uganda is 2,740 acres (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

The land was taken from 3,648 households (PAU, Undated) with an estimated population of 24,744 individuals (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

Some of the affected households are yet to receive their compensation, as they are in court, seeking for adequate and fair pay (AFIEGO, 2025).

Through the RAP that provided a framework to guide the compulsory land acquisition processes for the EACOP, the EACOP project developers committed to implement a Livelihood Restoration Programme for the affected people.

The purpose of the Livelihood Restoration Programme is to ensure that project-affected households' livelihoods and standards of living are enhanced, or at least restored (NewPlan, ICS, EACOP, Undated).

The EACOP livelihood restoration activities commenced in October 2022 (Sekatawa, 2024) and were ongoing by the time this research was conducted.

Further, at the time that this research was conducted, several EACOP-affected households were complaining about the fact that their houses are located too near the pipeline corridor (AFIEGO, 2024). The EACOP project developers acquired land a 30-metre right of way for their pipeline.

AFIEGO did not have empirical evidence to determine the percentage of households whose houses are less than 30 metres away from the pipeline, and the attitudes these households have towards the pipeline.

This research sought to cure this gap to provide evidence to the GoU and the EACOP project developers that they can use to develop the EACOP project based on social license from the affected people. Where households are dissatisfied with the distance between their homes and the pipeline, the GoU and EACOP project developers should avoid developing the pipeline near people's homes.



1.4. Problem statement

In June 2025, the GoU launched the country's National Development Plan (NDP) IV (Parliament of Uganda, 2025). The goal of the plan is to "achieve higher household incomes, full monetisation of the economy, and employment for sustainable socio-economic transformation" (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 2025).

The goal is supposed to be pursued through promoting sustainable industrialisation for inclusive growth, employment, and wealth creation.

The NDP IV, which lists minerals as well as oil and gas development, as one of the key sectors that will be invested in to promote attainment of the NDP IV goal, is keen on one thing: leaving no one behind in the promotion of economic growth.

While the above is the case, the oil and gas industry has the potential to negatively impact the socio-economic conditions of PAPs. This is because one of the major challenges associated with compulsory land acquisition and resettlement processes that affect people with land-based livelihoods is that the processes impact the livelihoods of people.

When land and other natural resources from which people derive their livelihoods are compulsorily acquired, affected persons may find it difficult to continue making a living. Indeed, various studies that have assessed the impact of compulsory land acquisitions on oil-affected people in Uganda have showed that some affected people fail to replace part or all of the land lost to projects (Human Rights Watch, 2023), while some acquire land that is less productive than that which they owned prior to their displacement (AFIEGO, 2020 & 2023).

In addition, some affected people are only able to purchase replacement land in areas that are located far away from their pre-displacement homes (Human Rights Watch, 2023), which disadvantages them as these areas may not be endowed with the natural resources that support their livelihoods. For instance, fishers that are displaced from lake shores may find it difficult to make a living if they settle in areas that are not endowed with lakes, rivers or swamps.

The IFC, a member of the World Bank that is focused on stimulating private sector growth, notes that livelihoods are hard to restore because not only are they complex, they are also often drawn from a suite of activities and social or ecological niches which may not be available in the geographical locations in which people resettle (IFC, Undated).

The IFC further notes that individuals or households have differing capacities to take advantage of livelihood opportunities and adapt to changes (IFC, Undated), making it difficult to restore the livelihoods of displaced peoples.

Cognizant of the negative socio-economic or livelihood impacts that displaced people suffer following their resettlement, the EACOP project developers committed to implement a livelihood restoration programme for the EACOP-affected people in Uganda.

Since the EACOP project developers started implementing the Livelihood Restoration Programme in 2022, no known civil society assessment has been undertaken to evaluate compliance by the EACOP Company and its sub-contractors to their livelihood restoration commitments in the RAP.

Yet civil society oversight is critical to ensuring compliance to the commitments to support restoration of the EACOP PAPs' livelihoods. Restoration or enhancement of the affected people's livelihoods is critical to ensuring that Uganda's attains its national and global development goals on ending poverty, ensuring food security, attaining gender equity and others.

1.5. Purpose of research

The purpose of this research therefore was to assess the compliance, or lack thereof, by the EACOP Company and its sub-contractors to the EACOP Livelihood Restoration commitments contained in the EACOP project's RAP for Uganda. The assessment was aimed at supporting efforts to ensure that the EACOP PAPs' livelihoods are restored or enhanced to promote attainment of the NDP IV goal as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This research also covers the perceptions and attitudes that EACOP PAPs have towards the pipeline. Do they have a positive or negative attitude towards living near the pipeline, and why? This assessment was aimed at fostering dialogue to ensure that the EACOP is developed, or not, based on the aspirations of the affected people.

1.6. Objectives

1.6.1. Main objective

The main objective of this research is: To evaluate compliance, or lack thereof, to the EACOP Livelihood Restoration commitments while assessing the project-affected persons' attitudes to the pipeline project in Uganda.

1.6.2. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the research are:

- (i) To document the attitudes that EACOP PAPs have towards the pipeline;
- (ii) To assess the implementation of the EACOP livelihood restoration programme vis-a-vis the commitments made in the RAP; and
- (iii) To make recommendations to improve implementation of the EACOP LRP while providing evidence of the attitudes that EACOP PAPs have to the pipeline.



1.7. Significance of study

As indicated in section 1.5 of this report, Uganda is seeking to promote inclusive socio-economic growth for citizens by 2029/2030. EACOP-affected people, and all citizens, are among those that are targeted by the GoU under the NDP IV.

Furthermore, Uganda is signatory to the SDGs and is seeking to attain goals such as zero poverty, zero hunger, gender equity and others by 2030.

The EACOP project activities could undermine the above goals. This is because the majority of households that were displaced for the EACOP project in Uganda are small-holder farmers.

Chapter 5 of the EACOP RAP, which details the socio-economic conditions of the affected people in Uganda, notes that of the 3,648 households that were displaced for the EACOP project, 86% had members that were involved in agriculture including crop growing or livestock rearing (NewPlan, ICS, and EACOP, Undated).

Further, agricultural lands, fishing grounds including wetlands and rivers, as well as perennial cash crops and food were affected by the EACOP in Uganda.

With affected people's agricultural land as well as food and cash crops being acquired, the affected people are faced with not only a risk of food stress, but income losses as well.

Implementation of the EACOP project's Livelihood Restoration Programme in a manner that restores the people's livelihoods is important for ensuring that the people enjoy food security. It is also important for avoiding pushing more Ugandans into poverty.

The Livelihood Restoration Programme is also integral to addressing gender inequality concerns that could arise if families are impoverished, lack access to sufficient food and others.

This research sought to ensure that implementation of the EACOP project's Livelihood Restoration Programme complies with commitments in the RAP for the PAPs' benefit, and to support Uganda to attain goals under the country's NDP IV as well as the SDGs.

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

2.0. Introduction

To review whether the EACOP project developers and their sub-contractors complied with the pipeline project's Livelihood Restoration commitments, this research reviewed the commitments made in the EACOP project's RAP for Uganda.

These commitments are found under Chapter 9 of the RAP. They are shared below.

2.1. Livelihood restoration commitments in the RAP

2.1.1. Phases of implementation

The EACOP project developers committed to implement the livelihood restoration activities through the following phases:

Phase 1 through which “transitional support to households as a short-term measure to support their food security in terms of dry rations/ food baskets” was to be provided.

This phase was/is supposed to be implemented “within the first 6-12 months as soon as the affected households vacate[d] land” (EACOP, 2024).

Phase 2 through which affected “households [were or are supposed to be provided] with opportunities and support to improve their livelihoods back to pre-project levels through agricultural improvement activities and enhancing skills of household members through vocational training” (EACOP, 2024).

Phase 3 which “involves additional optional packages that will be delivered to project-affected households (PAHs) after Phase 2” (EACOP, 2024).

2.2. Types of displaced persons and their livelihood restoration entitlements

The livelihood restoration entitlements that were to accrue to the EACOP PAPs were based on certain criteria. The criteria included whether a PAP had been physically or economically displaced, or both.

According to the RAP, a physically displaced PAP is one that lost both their land and house to the EACOP project. Economically displaced PAPs are those that lost either land or crops or both to the pipeline. Economically displaced PAPs are described under bullet points 4 to 7 below.

Through the RAP, the EACOP project developers grouped the EACOP PAPs as follows:

- Group 1: Physically Displaced PAPs/PAHs
- Group 2: Customary, Mailo, Kibanja, Bonafide Occupants and Lawful Occupants
- Group 3: Freehold & Leasehold PAPs
- Group 4: Economically Displaced PAPs who lost grazing land
- Group 5: Economically Displaced PAPs/PAHs who lose eligible crops (i.e. perennial), trees, structures or other assets only, but do not lose land or residential dwellings
- Group 6: Economically Displaced PAPs/PAHs in wetland and/or riverbank areas
- Group 7: Economically Displaced PAPs/PAHs in Central Forest Reserve (CFR)

The PAPs were further categorised into sub-groups as shown in the table below, which also indicates the livelihood restoration entitlements due to them, per the EACOP RAP for Uganda.



Table 1: Categories of PAPs and their livelihood restoration entitlement

Group	Livelihood Restoration entitlements
PAPS WHO LOST LAND	
<i>Groups 1A that consists of physically displaced PAPs with legal rights over land</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 core agricultural improvement programme • 1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens • Financial literacy and money management training • 1 support package on enterprise development and vocational training <p><i>*This group was also entitled to additional livelihood restoration activities which were not assessed by this research.</i></p>
<i>Group 2A that consists of PAPs who lost ≤ 20% of land and were potentially vulnerable (Cat. 1 or 2, or has ≤ 0.5 acres remaining)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 core agricultural improvement programme • 1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens • Financial literacy and money management training • 1 support package on enterprise development and vocational training <p><i>*This group was also entitled to additional livelihood restoration activities which were not assessed by this research.</i></p>
<i>Group 2B that consists of PAPs that lost ≤ 20% of land and were not potentially vulnerable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 core agricultural improvement programme • 1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens • Financial literacy and money management training • 1 support package on enterprise development and vocational training
<i>Group 2C that consists of PAPs that lost > 20% of land and were potentially vulnerable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 core agricultural improvement programme • 1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens • Financial literacy and money management training • 1 support package on enterprise development and vocational training <p><i>*This group was also entitled to additional livelihood restoration activities which were not assessed by this research.</i></p>
<i>Group 2D that consists of PAPs who lost >20% of land and is not potentially vulnerable but have ≤ 1.5 acres remaining</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 core agricultural improvement programme • 1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens • Financial literacy and money management training • 1 support package on enterprise development and vocational training <p><i>*This group was also entitled to additional livelihood restoration activities which were not assessed by this research.</i></p>
<i>Group 2E that consists of PAPs who lost >20% of land and were not potentially</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 core agricultural improvement programme • 1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens • Financial literacy and money management training

<p>Group 6A that consists of PAPs who hold a recognisable legal right or claim to the land they occupy/use in the wetland and/or riverbank areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 core agricultural improvement programme • 1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens • Financial literacy and money management training • 1 support package on enterprise development and vocational training
<p>PAPS WHO DID NOT LOSE LAND</p>	
<p>Group 1B that consists of physically displaced PAPs whose dwelling was affected but does not hold a recognisable legal right or claim to the land they occupy and use for their livelihoods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial literacy and money management training • Enterprise Development and vocational training: (Each eligible household eligible to access one support package).
<p>Group 5 that consists of PAPs who lost eligible crops (i.e. perennial), trees or other assets, but not land or residential dwellings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial literacy and money management training • Enterprise Development and vocational training: (Each eligible household eligible to access one support package).
<p>Group 6B that consists of PAPs who do not hold a recognisable legal right or claim to the land they occupy/use in the wetland and/or riverbank areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial literacy and money management training • Enterprise Development and vocational training: (Each eligible household eligible to access one support package).
<p>Group 7 that consists of PAPs/PAHs who do not hold a recognizable legal right or claim to the land they occupy/use in the CFR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial literacy and money management training • Enterprise Development and vocational training: (Each eligible household eligible to access one support package).

2.3. Transitional assistance

In addition to the above entitlements, the EACOP project developers committed to provide “transitional support … to complement compensation payments to ensure that households can meet their basic needs” (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

The project proponents committed to provide the above assistance to enable the affected households to “maintain their standard of living once access to their land had been lost and until they had had an opportunity to restore their livelihoods to pre- project levels.”

Under Phase 1 of the Livelihood Restoration Programme, transitional support was supposed to be “in the form of food baskets and other provisions to ensure households are food secure during the transitional period” (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

The food items that were/are supposed to be provided include beans, rice, cooking oil, salt, sugar and posho (NewPlan, ICS and EACOP, Undated).

The table below shows the transitional support entitlements that were/are due to the PAPs.

Table 2: Categories of PAPs and their transitional support entitlements

Type of PAP	Transitional assistance entitlements
<i>Highly Impacted Households: Physically Displaced PAHs and Potentially Vulnerable PAHs who lose > 20% of land: Groups 1A & 1B Group 2C</i>	<i>Up to 12 months or end of first harvest, post displacement then re-assessed – may extend or be provided at reduced quantities up to end of second harvest if required. (Support will be structured to discourage food dependency).</i>
<i>Partially Impacted Households: PAHs lose land and are either potentially vulnerable or have limited remaining land Groups 2A & 2D</i>	<i>Up to six (6) months and/or to end of first harvest, post displacement. (Support will be structured to discourage food dependency).</i>

This research assessed whether some of the above-discussed RAP livelihood restoration commitments were complied with.

2.4. IFC standards

In the 2016 LARF for Petroleum Development and Production in the Albertine Graben and through the RAP, the EACOP project developers committed to comply with international standards on involuntary resettlement during their compulsory land acquisition processes.

In particular, the EACOP project developers committed to comply with the IFC Performance Standard 5 on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement.

This research assessed what the above standard and other IFC literature on tenets of a successful livelihood restoration programme say. The results of the review are discussed hereunder.

The IFC Module 5 on Livelihood Restoration and Improvement (Undated) observes as follows: “Livelihood improvement, rather than just restoration, is important to offset the opportunity costs borne by displaced households as a result of undergoing a resettlement process. The process of resettlement can decapitalize households, leaving them with less land and reduced livelihood resources.”

The corporation further notes that it is not enough to restore households to pre-displacement levels if they were living in poverty prior to their displacement.

The corporation observes as follows, “... where affected persons live in poverty or in poor conditions before resettlement (e.g., vulnerable people, slum dwellers, and people affected by chronic food insecurity), it is not sufficient for livelihood activities to focus on restoration only; there is no point in restoring affected persons into poverty.

In such situations, livelihood activities must clearly target improvement such that the resettlement project provides a development opportunity out of poverty.”

Criteria for measuring livelihood restoration

The IFC further notes that “a successful livelihood program should result in a household experiencing improvements across several areas. It should be noted, however, that improvements in one area (e.g., standard of housing) do not necessarily offset a deterioration in another crucial area (e.g., reduced income levels).”

The IFC further notes that livelihood restoration and improvement may be characterised by some combination of the following:

- Restored or improved income levels;
- Restored or improved household food security;
- Restored or improved security of tenure;
- Restored or improved household health and nutrition;
- Improved gender equality in livelihoods opportunities;
- Restored or diversified income sources;
- Restored or improved access to markets;
- Restored or increased yields;
- Restored or improved consumption and diet;
- Fewer households living below the poverty level;
- Improved safety in carrying out livelihood activities; and
- Restored or improved resilience to natural or economic shocks.

This research assessed whether some of the above-listed improvements were seen amongst the sampled study population.



CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the research design, study location, sample size and sampling methodology. It also comprises evaluation of the validity and reliability of the different instruments, data analysis used in the study and ethical considerations.

3.1. Research Design

This research adopted a cross sectional research design that involved analysing compliance by the EACOP project developers and their sub-contractors to the EACOP livelihood restoration commitments at a specific point in time.

3.2. Research Approach

Further, the study employed a mixed methods research approach, with data being collected using both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods.

3.3. Study Population

A study population is a set of all subjects a researcher wishes to study. The study population comprised the 3,648 households (PAU, Undated) that were displaced for the EACOP project in Uganda.

3.4. Sampling Procedures

This section discusses the sampling strategy that was employed in this study as well as the study's sample size.

3.4.1. Sampling strategy

Sampling is the process of selecting a finite part of a statistical population to gain understanding of the whole population (Mugo, 2002).

This study collected data from respondents in seven of the ten EACOP-affected districts. These include Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Sembabule, Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera.

The districts were sampled to represent the regions that the EACOP is located in in Uganda. These include Bunyoro, Greater Mubende and Greater Masaka.

Hoima and Kikuube are located in Bunyoro while Kakumiro represents the Greater Mubende region. Further, Sembabule, Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera are located in Greater Masaka.

In addition, the respondents that participated in this study were purposively sampled. Since the study's focus was to understand the EACOP-affected persons' attitudes to the pipeline, as well as compliance to the project's livelihood restoration plan, the affected people were purposively sampled.

3.4.2. Sample Size

Determination of sample size is an important aspect of any research. The sample size should neither be excessively large nor too small. It should be optimum. An optimum sample is one which fulfills the requirements of efficiency, representativeness, reliability and flexibility (Kothari, 2004).

This research used the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula which is commonly used to determine sample size in research studies.

Per the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula, a representative sample for a study population of 3,648 is 348 respondents. The respondents for this study were 246 EACOP-affected people. The sample size for the study was less than the representative sample size due to limited resources that could not allow the researchers to sample 348 respondents.

3.5. Geographical scope

The study area of this research was the ten EACOP-affected districts in Uganda.

Respondents were drawn from seven of the ten districts that were affected by the pipeline project in Uganda.

The respondents were drawn from Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Sembabule, Lwengo, Rakai and Kyotera. This constitutes the geographical scope of this study.

3.6. Time scope

This research was conducted between June 2025 and February 2026. It was conceptualized in June and July 2025. Data instruments were designed and validated in August 2025. Data collection took place between September and October 2025. Thereafter, data analysis and report writing took place between October and December 2025. The research findings were validated in January 2026 and the research report was disseminated in February 2026.

3.7. Data Collection Methods

Data for this research was collected through structured questionnaires that were distributed to 214 respondents in the seven sampled districts.

Data was also collected through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) held in Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo and Kyotera districts. The number of FGD participants was 32.

This brings the total number of respondents for this research to 246.

3.8. Data Analysis

The qualitative and quantitative data that was collected under this study was analysed using NVIVO and Excel software respectively.

3.9. Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations were prioritised during the study to ensure that the rights, dignity, and safety of all participants and stakeholders are respected and protected.

The following ethical principles guided the research process: the researchers sought informed consent from the participants before the questionnaires were administered or FGDs conducted.

In addition, participation in the study was voluntary and participants were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any point without facing any penalties or consequences.

Further, the responses of the participants were kept confidential, and will continue to be kept private to minimise harm.



CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study. The demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented first.

This chapter also discusses the estimated distance between the respondents' homes and the EACOP, as well as the perceptions that the respondents have as regards whether living near a pipeline is safe or not.

This chapter also discusses the livelihood restoration packages that the respondents received, and analyses whether these are commensurate with the commitments made in the EACOP RAP.

The analysis in this chapter also discusses whether the EACOP project developers complied with IFC Performance Standard 5 on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement. The analysis focuses on whether the EACOP project's livelihood restoration programme espouses the tenets of a successful livelihood restoration programme as defined by the IFC.

4.1. Demographic characteristics of respondents

4.1.1. Number of respondents

The table below shows the number of respondents that participated in the study, and from which districts the respondents were drawn.

Table 3: Number of respondents by district

No.	District	Number of respondents	Percentage
1.	<i>Kyotera</i>	49	19.9%
2.	<i>Lwengo</i>	48	19.5%
3.	<i>Kikuube</i>	32	13%
4.	<i>Kakumiro</i>	32	13%
5.	<i>Sembabule</i>	31	12.6%
6.	<i>Rakai</i>	30	12.2%
7.	<i>Hoima</i>	24	9.8%
Total		246	100%

The table shows that Kyotera district had the highest number of participants at 19.9%, followed by Lwengo, Kikuube and Kakumiro at 19.5%, 13%, and 13% respectively. The above districts were followed by Sembabule, Rakai and Hoima which had 12.6%, 12.2% and 9.8% respondents respectively.

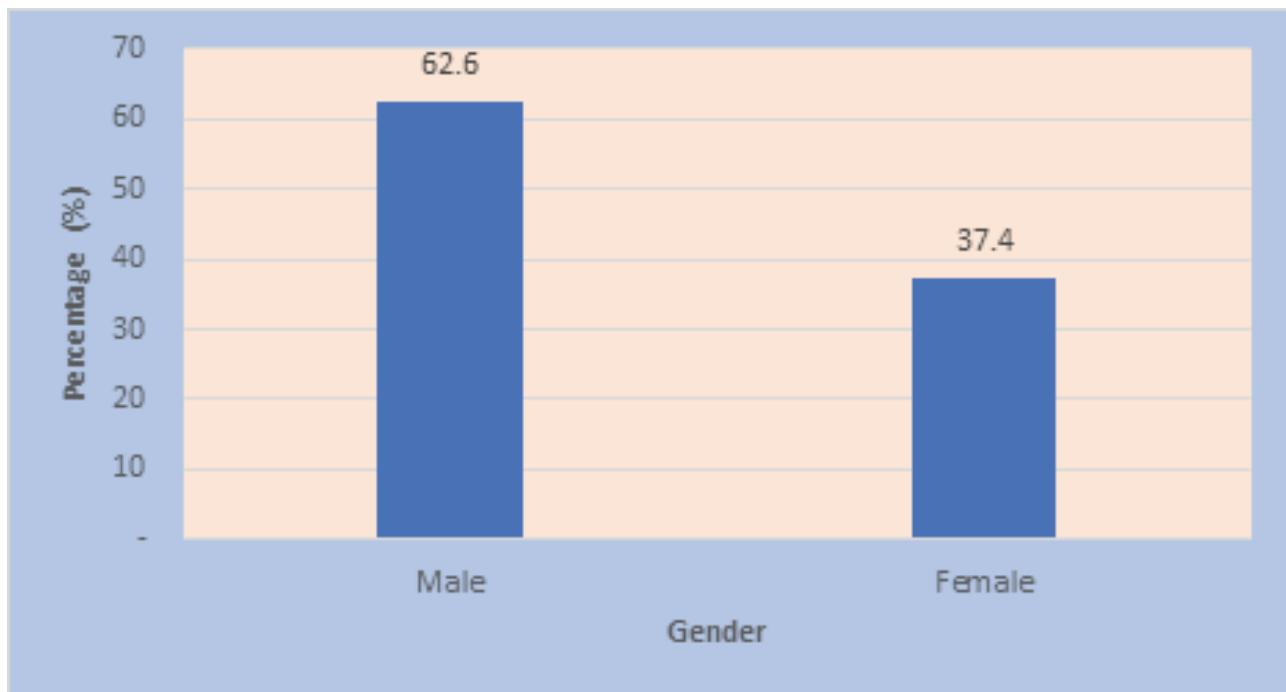
The same number of questionnaires were distributed to all the districts but some districts returned questionnaires with incomplete data. These were discarded and not analysed for this study. This resulted in some districts having a higher number of respondents than others.

4.1.2. Gender distribution

This study assessed the percentage of women and men that participated in the research. Of the respondents, 62.6% were male while 37.4% were women. More may be seen in the graph below.

Worth noting is that while efforts were made to ensure that women and men participate in the study, socio-cultural barriers that concentrate power in the hands of men saw more men participating in the study.

Figure 1: Gender distribution of respondents

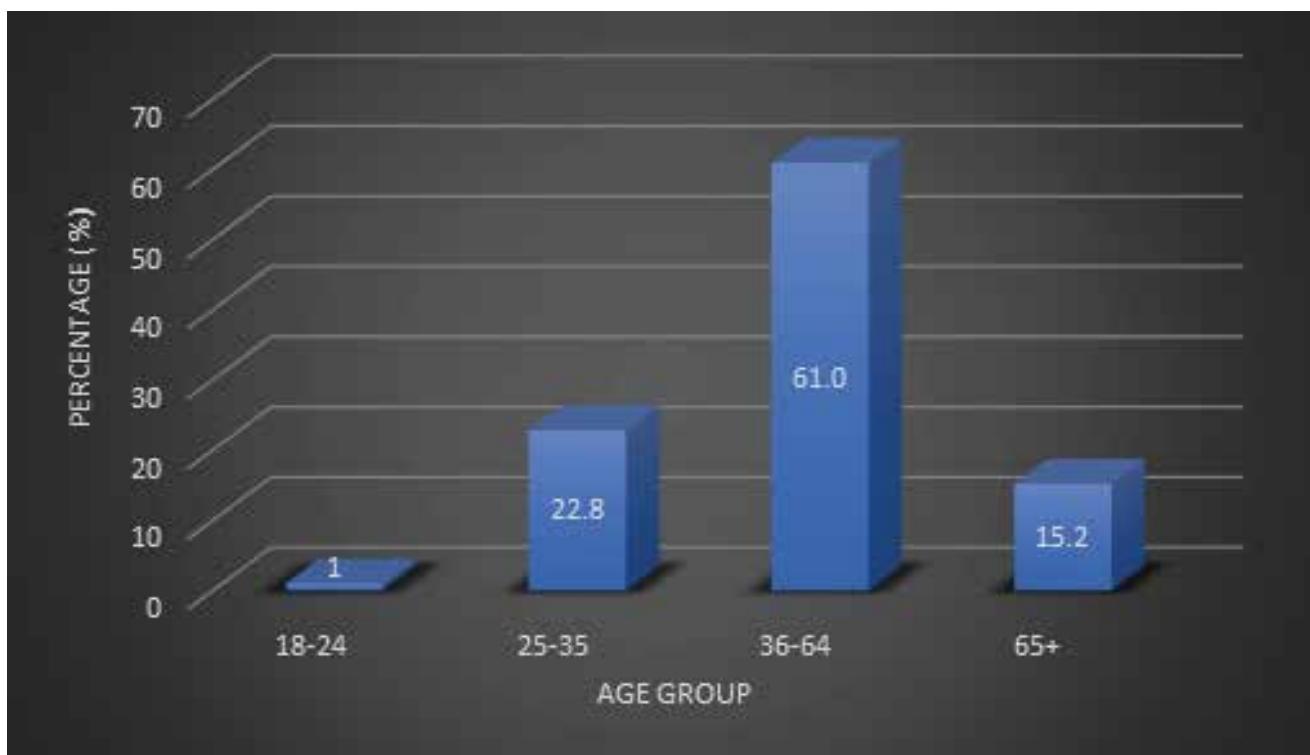


4.1.3. Age distribution

The study also assessed the age distribution of the respondents. Of the research participants, only 1% were between the ages of 18 and 24 years while 22.8% were aged 25 to 35 years. Further, 61.0% of the participants were aged between 36 and 64 years while the rest, 15.2% were aged 65 years and over. More can be seen in figure 2 below.

Less youth aged 18 to 35 years than other age groups participated in the study because the study targeted people who had lost land to the pipeline. Youth ownership of land in Uganda is limited.

Figure 2: Age distribution of the respondents



4.1.4. Education levels

The study assessed the education levels of the participants. Of the respondents, 37.1% had no formal education while the majority, 43.6%, had attained education up to primary level. Further, 11.8%, 3.2%, 3.2% and 1.1% had attained the following levels of education respectively, secondary school, certificate, diploma and degree. More can be seen in Figure 3 below.

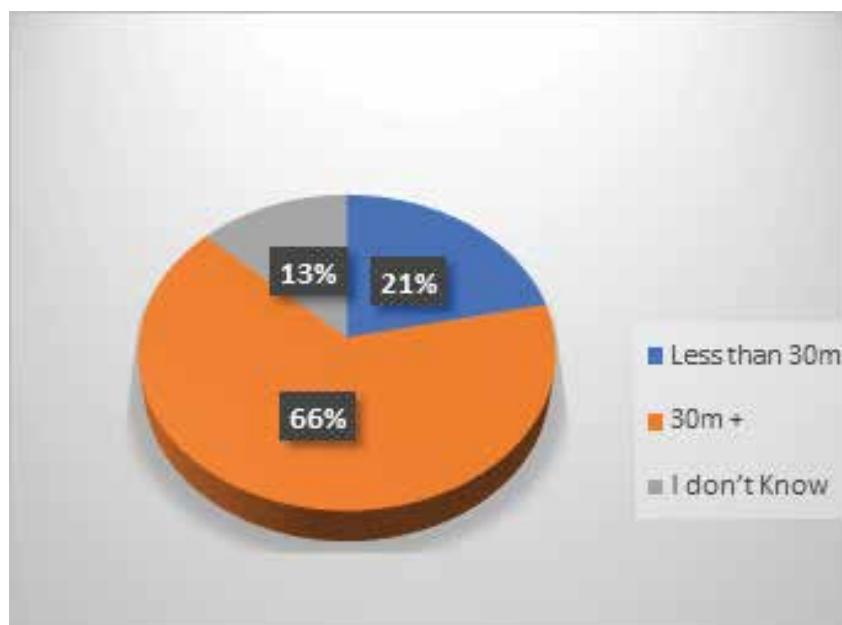
Figure 3: Respondents' level of education



4.2. Distance between homes and the pipeline

The respondents were asked to estimate the distance between their homes and the pipeline. As figure 4 below shows, 66% estimated that their homes were located over 30 metres away from the pipeline while 21% said that their homes were located less than 30 metres away from the pipeline. Thirteen percent (13%) said that they did not know.

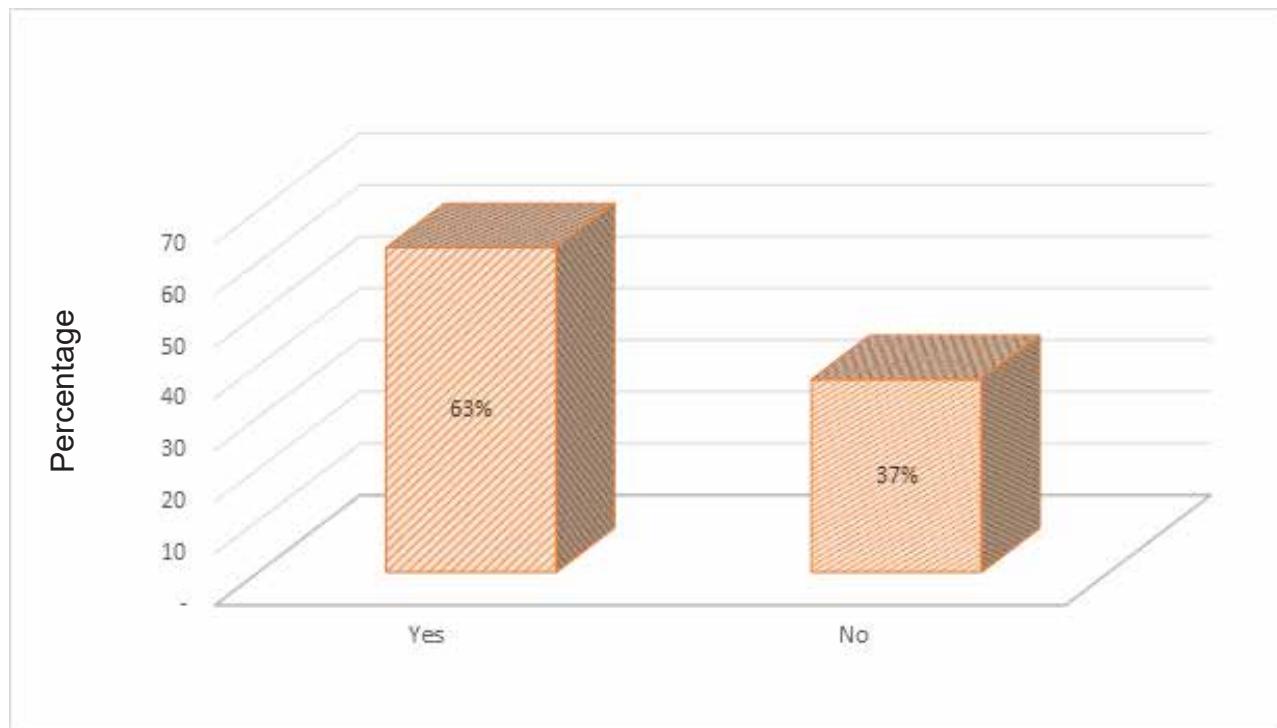
Figure 4: Distance between homes and pipeline



4.3. Level of satisfaction with distance from pipeline

The respondents were asked to share their level of satisfaction with the estimated distance between their homes and the pipeline. As figure 5 below shows, 37% of the research participants indicated that they were dissatisfied with the distance while 63% expressed satisfaction with the distance.

Figure 5: Level of satisfaction with distance from pipeline



During FGDs that were conducted in Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo and Kyotera districts for this study, participants who expressed dissatisfaction with the estimated distance between their homes and the EACOP observed that they were afraid of accidents as well as noise and dust pollution during the construction phase.

They further indicated that they were afraid that their soils would be made less cultivable in case of oil spills, and in case the heated pipeline harmed soil biodiversity which promotes fertility.

Changes in micro weather brought about by clearance of vegetation for the EACOP and climate changes were also cited as reasons that 37% of the PAPs were dissatisfied with living near the pipeline.

The respondents that participated in this research observed that the above could affect their livelihoods and food security.

A male respondent that participated in an FGD in Hoima district in September 2025 observed, “I fear for my life. The pipeline can burst, spill and affect us. We have also been told that the pipeline will be heated. The heat from the pipeline could affect our soils.”

On the other hand, a female respondent that participated in an FGD in Lwengo district in October 2025 noted, “I fear accidents from the construction works. I do not think that my children and I are safe.”

Worth noting is the fact that the perceptions that 37% of the affected people have towards the EACOP are antithetical to views shared by key government officials.

While discussing the attitudes that communities and citizens have towards the pipeline, key government officials argue that it is largely imperialistic foreigners that want to economically sabotage Uganda that are against the EACOP (Kamurungi, 2022). The government officials also argue that oil activities will promote economic development for citizens' benefit (Wamani, 2025).

However, this research shows that 37% of EACOP-affected people are fearful of the pipeline, noting that it could affect their social and economic wellbeing through impacting human health, soil fertility, micro weather conditions and climate stability.

Worth noting is that the IFC underscores the fact that livelihood restoration or improvement includes improving the safety of displaced people while they carry out their livelihood activities. However, 37% EACOP-affected people that participated in this research observed that they are dissatisfied with the estimated distance between their homes and the pipeline.

They cited fear for their safety as one of the reasons that they were dissatisfied with the EACOP project. Without this fear being addressed, the EACOP project proponents cannot say that they have restored the affected people to their pre-displacement levels. They are also failing on a key IFC marker, that of ensuring safety of displaced peoples.



A focus group discussion in Hoima district in September 2025

4.4. Assessment of compliance to Livelihood Restoration Plan

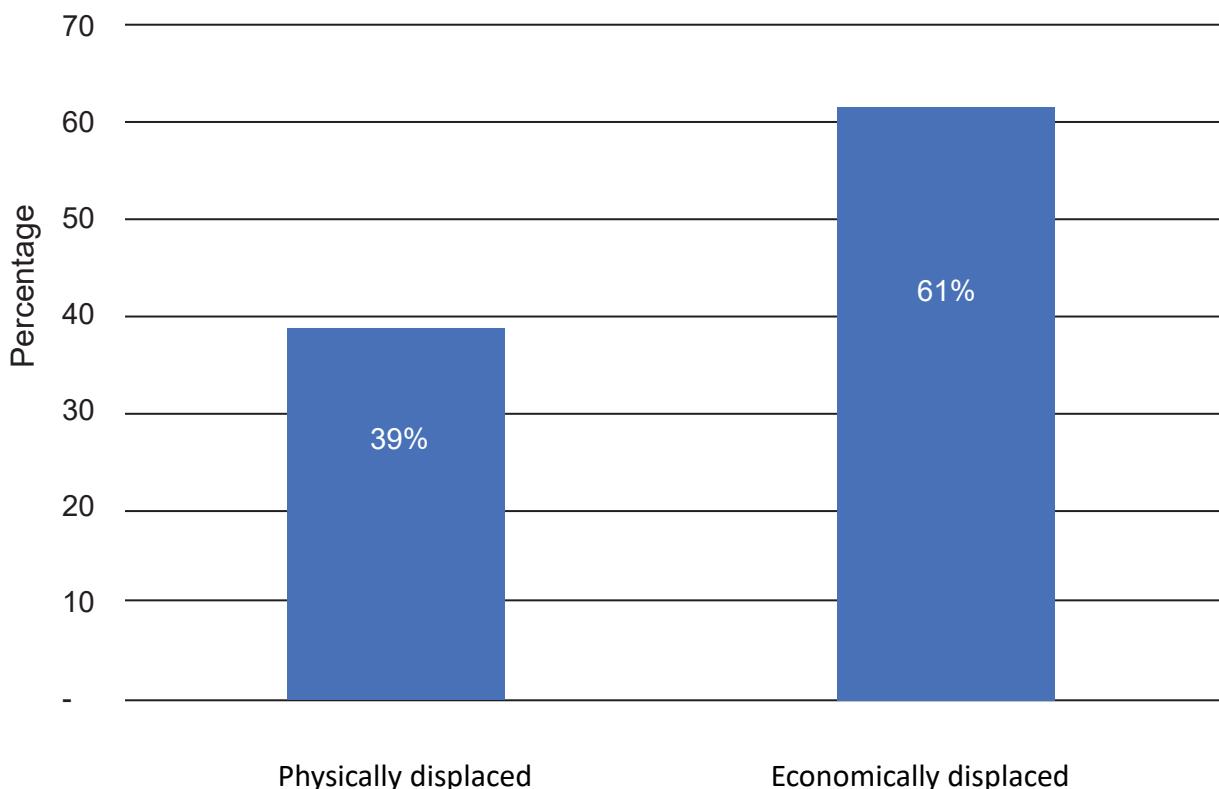
4.4.1. Physical vs. economic displacement

This study assessed compliance by the EACOP project developers and their sub-contractors to the Livelihood Restoration Plan that is contained in the EACOP RAP for Uganda.

Because the affected people who lost both their land and houses (were physically displaced) and those who lost land or crops only (were economically displaced) were entitled to different livelihood restoration options, the study assessed what percentage of the respondents were physically displaced and those that were economically displaced.

As can be seen in figure 6 below, 39% of the respondents that participated in this study were physically displaced for the project while 61% were economically displaced.

Figure 6: Physical vs. economic displacement



4.4.2. Livelihood restoration entitlements received by physically and economically displaced PAPs

The study evaluated the livelihood restoration entitlements that physically and economically displaced PAPs received.

As discussed under Table 1 in section 2.2.2 of this report, physically and economically displaced PAPs were entitled to the following: 1 core agricultural improvement programme, 1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens, financial literacy and money management training as well as 1 support package on enterprise development and vocational training.

Below is a table showing the livelihood restoration options and the number of PAPs, according to this study, that received them.

Table 4: Livelihood restoration entitlements received by research participants

No.	Livelihood restoration entitlement	(LR)	Number of PAPs that received LR entitlement (multiple answers were possible)	% of PAPs that received LR entitlement
1.	1 core agricultural improvement programme	130	24.6%	
2.	1 food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens	116	21.9%	
3.	Financial literacy and money management training	115	21.7%	
4.	1 support package on enterprise development and vocational training	113	21.4%	
5.	None	55	10.4%	
Total		529	100%	

4.4.3. Assessing adequacy of livelihood restoration options

This study assessed whether the affected people considered the livelihood restoration options that they received were adequate.

4.4.3.1. Adequacy of core agricultural improvement programme

First, the study assessed the adequacy of the core agricultural improvement programme that involved distribution of agricultural inputs such as seeds including beans and maize, seedlings such as coffee and banana suckers as well as fertilisers to the affected people. During FGDs that were conducted in Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo and Kyotera districts, the affected people indicated that the core agricultural improvement programme was poorly implemented.

Among others, they cited the fact that seeds or seedlings were delivered late. They also noted that poor quality seeds or seedlings with low germination rates were distributed.

One research participant from Kyotera district observed as follows during an October 2025 FGD, “We were given very young coffee seedlings in May and October 2024. They were also poor quality with some having no roots. Moreover, the seedlings were distributed during the dry weather. I received 70 coffee seedlings, but when I planted, only 20 grew. I watered those coffee seedlings, but they did not grow. They were poor quality!”

Furthermore, the people observed that the EACOP project sub-contractors failed to deliver the quantity of agricultural inputs that were promised to the PAPs with say 100 coffee seedlings instead of 200 being delivered.

In addition, the PAPs noted that the EACOP project sub-contractors failed to deliver some options such as livestock to some PAPs.

A research participant from Kyotera district noted as follows during an FGD in October 2025, “The EACOP project sub-contractors would ask us, ‘Between a goat and coffee seedlings, what do you want?’ If you chose a goat, they would say, ‘we will give you coffee, unless you build a goat shed’. They ended up giving people options that they did not want.”

In districts such as Hoima, the affected people who participated in FGDs indicated that none of them had received livestock. Only fodder was supplied.

An EACOP-affected person who participated in an FGD in Hoima district in September 2025 observed as follows, “Some of us hoped for poultry but up to date, the EACOP project sub-contractors have not given us the poultry. Those who opted for livestock [under the core agricultural improvement programme] have not received any. Some were given fodder for cows and told to use that fodder to feed their already existing cows. However, what I saw is as if our local animals do not like that fodder. They don’t eat it well.”

The IFC cites some of the characteristics of restored or improved livelihoods as restored or improved income levels, restored or increased yields, and restored or improved household food security.

The EACOP-affected people who participated in this research observed that though key activities under the core agricultural security programme that was supposed to restore the affected people’s livelihoods were implemented, key failures such as distribution of poor agricultural inputs, and delayed distribution of agricultural inputs saw some crops such as coffee and bananas that were planted by the affected people failing to grow.

This means that the affected people’s yields may not be restored or enhanced, and the affected people stand to lose out on income. Their food security could also be compromised.

As a result, the EACOP project’s livelihood restoration programme could fail to restore the affected people to their pre-displacement income levels, or even better ones, while improving their yields and food security. This is against the IFC Performance Standards.

4.4.3.2. Adequacy of food security programme

The study further assessed the adequacy of the food security programme that involved setting up of vegetable gardens that was implemented as part of the EACOP livelihood restoration activities.

FGDs were conducted with EACOP PAPs from Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo and Kyotera districts in September and October 2025 to assess the adequacy of the food security programme. The affected people that participated in the FGDs indicated that demonstration gardens were set up in their villages.

In districts such as Lwengo, the affected people indicated that the demonstration gardens aided learning to support food security.

In districts such as Kyotera however, some affected people observed that the gardens did not serve their intended purpose.

One youthful male who participated in an FGD that took place in Kyotera district in October 2025 observed as follows, “Demonstration gardens were set up in Lusese, Kituntu, Lyabuguma and other villages. The garden in Lyabuguma was shifted however and people were told to utilise the gardens in Lusese and Kituntu to learn. However, the biggest number of people here grow

maize, coffee and bananas. The demonstration gardens that were set up by EACOP have nakatti [a vegetable] and cabbage. How can people learn to grow bananas and coffee from vegetable gardens?”

Another male respondent who participated in an FGD that took place in Kyotera district in October 2025 observed as follows, “You cannot say that you want to restore the livelihoods of people you paid inadequate compensation. Some of us failed to replace the land we lost to the EACOP. This means we have less land to grow crops. What purpose does a demonstration garden serve if I have less land on which to grow crops?”

Restored or improved household food security is described as one of the key characteristics of restored or improved livelihoods by the IFC. However, experiences shared by the EACOP-affected people who participated in this research show that food security may not be attained as a result of the EACOP livelihood restoration activities.

This is because the affected people note that with the inadequate compensation that they were paid, some were unable to replace the land that they lost to the pipeline. Research undertaken by AFIEGO in 2023 to assess the socio-economic impact of the EACOP resettlement activities on the affected people showed that 96.6% of the affected people who received cash compensation and bought replacement land between 2022 and 2023 did not get land equivalent to that taken for the EACOP project. This was as a result of being under-compensated.

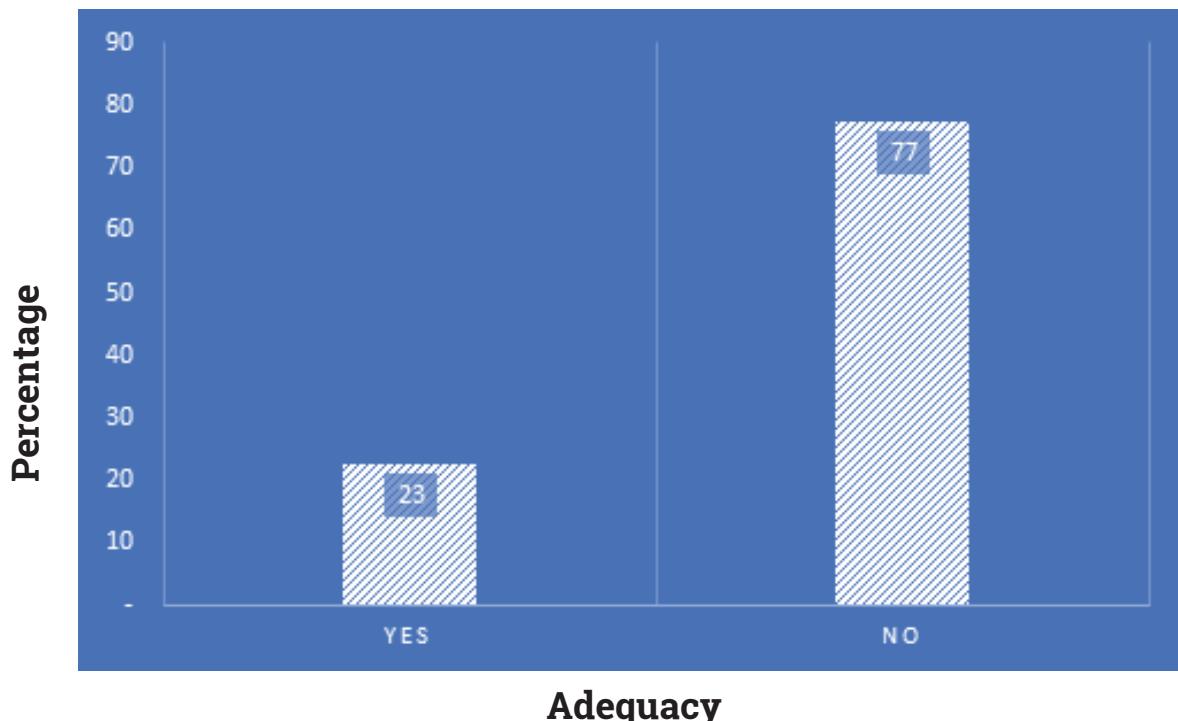
With less land to engage in agricultural activities, the people’s food security is at risk. Moreover, during this study, some affected people observed that the demonstration gardens that were set up to teach PAPs better farming practices to aid food security had vegetables instead of the predominantly grown crops, bananas and coffee.

The PAPs noted that they needed more lessons to aid learning.

4.4.3.3. Adequacy of financial literacy

Financial literacy trainings were conducted by the EACOP project sub-contractors to prevent misuse of compensation money by the affected people. This study assessed whether the financial literacy trainings were adequate. As can be seen in figure 7 below, 77% of the affected people said that the trainings were inadequate, while 23% said that they were adequate.

Figure 7: Adequacy of financial literacy trainings



FGDs were conducted to assess why the respondents gave the above responses. The FGD participants from Hoima, Kikuube, Lwengo and Kyotera districts observed that the trainings were conducted over one day, which denied EACOP PAPs an opportunity to learn. Further, they noted that the sub-contractor that undertook the financial literacy trainings, a commercial bank, was more interested in getting the PAPs to open up bank accounts as opposed to teaching them to spend their compensation responsibly.

One female FGD participant from Hoima district said in September 2025,
“The sub-contractor who conducted the financial literacy training was interested in people opening bank accounts. They were interested in business, and not in people learning. No wonder when people got money, some married more women. The compensation was also too little!”

The IFC notes that improved or restored livelihoods should be characterised by the following: restored or improved income levels, restored or improved household food security and restored or improved security of tenure.

It should also be characterised by restored or improved household health and nutrition, and improved gender equality in livelihoods opportunities among others.

The 77% EACOP-affected people that participated in this research observed that because the financial literacy trainings that they received were inadequate, some PAPs misused the inadequate compensation that they were given after being displaced for the EACOP.

As a result, 96.6% of the affected people that received compensation in 2022 and 2023 did not replace all or part of the land that they lost to the EACOP (AFIEGO, 2023). The people assert that they failed to replace all or part of the land that they lost to the EACOP because they were inadequately and unfairly compensated for the pipeline project.

Without replacing their land, the affected people's income levels are unlikely to be improved due to the EACOP project activities.

The people are also faced with food stress, and may not experience improved health and nutrition.

In fact, the affected people note that dusty conditions and other impacts of construction of the EACOP could worsen their health.

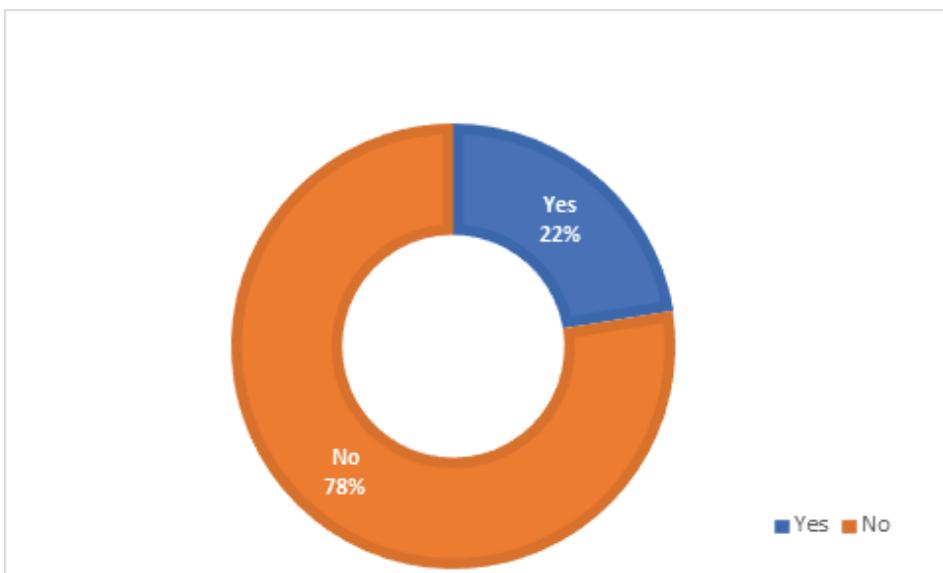
Furthermore, the affected people observed that gender-based violence against women and men was experienced, with wives or husbands leaving their partners or acquiring other partners due to the EACOP project activities. This impacted the emotional wellbeing of the affected PAPs.

4.4.3.4. Adequacy of vocational training

The EACOP project developers supported the affected people to undergo vocational training and enterprise development. The affected people were trained in baking, welding, soap making, tailoring, carpentry, catering, shoe repairs, book making and others.

This research asked the affected people whether the training that they received was adequate or inadequate. Seventy-eight (78)% said that it was inadequate while 22% said that it was adequate. More can be seen in figure 8 below.

Figure 8: Adequacy of vocational skills training



Asked to explain why some considered the vocational training inadequate, one youthful male PAP from Hoima district that participated in an FGD in September 2025 said, “I was trained in catering beginning in August 2024 for four months. I received the training from St. Peter’s Vocational and Training School in Mubende. I did not understand what I was taught. We were not learning most of the time.”

He added, “We were sleeping instead of learning. We also did not do practicals most of the time. I cooked only once during the training. I cooked at Joyce Hotel in Mubende. When we would complain that we were not learning, we were told, ‘Do not bring your big heads [stubbornness] here. We will take you back to Hoima if you complain’”.

Some parents of youth who benefitted from the vocational trainings observed that the youth remain unskilled.

One parent from Kikuube district whose daughter benefitted from the vocational training observed during an FGD in September 2025, “My daughter was trained in tailoring and given a sewing machine. However, she is sleeping at home. She is not using the machine as the three months’ training was insufficient. She has no skills.”

Some youth reported that they were segregated against during the vocational training.

One male youth from Hoima district said during an FGD in September 2025, “They segregated against me when it came to vocational training and enterprise development. They called me on August 4, 2025 to pick feeds for my pigs, but I refused. I asked why I had not been trained. They came to my home on August 13, 2025 and brought a certificate that indicated that I had been trained in piggery, which was not true. They also brought feeds.”

Complaints were also raised as regards the start-up kits that trainees received.

One female EACOP-affected person said as follows during an FGD in Lwengo district in October 2025, “Those who received training in hairdressing were given four packs of braids that they were expected to use in their businesses. That number of braids is insufficient to braid one person’s hair. Is that enough capital?”

Restoring or improving income levels of PAPs is one of the key characteristics of a livelihood restoration programme, per the IFC. To restore or improve the EACOP-affected people’s incomes, it was imperative that the vocational skilling and training programme was implemented adequately.

However, the affected people that participated in this research observed that the vocational skilling programme was marred by short training timelines, failure to give practical skills to the affected people, trainers absconding from teaching the affected people and insufficient start-up kits being given to the affected people. In some districts such as Kyotera, some affected people reported that they had not received start-up kits by October 2025.

The above challenges may not allow the EACOP project to improve the incomes of the affected people.

4.4.4. Transitional food assistance

According to the livelihood restoration commitments made in the RAP, physically displaced PAPs that lost their land and houses were entitled to transitional food assistance for up to 12 months or more. So were PAPs that lost more than 20% of their land to the EACOP project and were potentially vulnerable.

Further, PAPs that lost \leq 20% of land and were potentially vulnerable or had \leq 0.5 acres remaining and those that lost $>20\%$ of land, were not potentially vulnerable but had \leq 1.5 acres remaining were entitled to food assistance for up to six months.

This study assessed whether the above commitments were complied with. Of the PAPs that participated in the study, 75% indicated that they received food assistance while 25% said that they did not receive any.

Further, 74% indicated that they received food for six months, while 23% noted that they received food for one year. 3% said that they received food for three months only. More can be seen in figures 7 and 8 below.

Figure 9: Percentage of PAPs who received food assistance

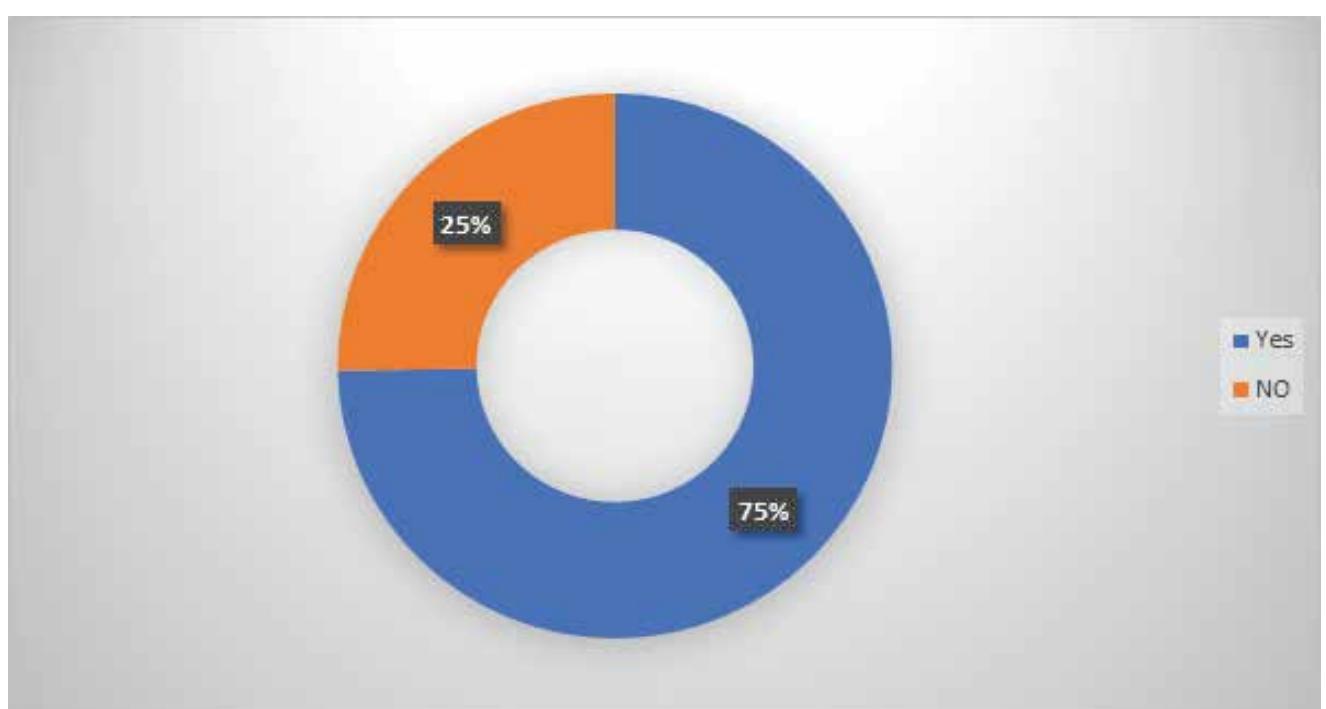
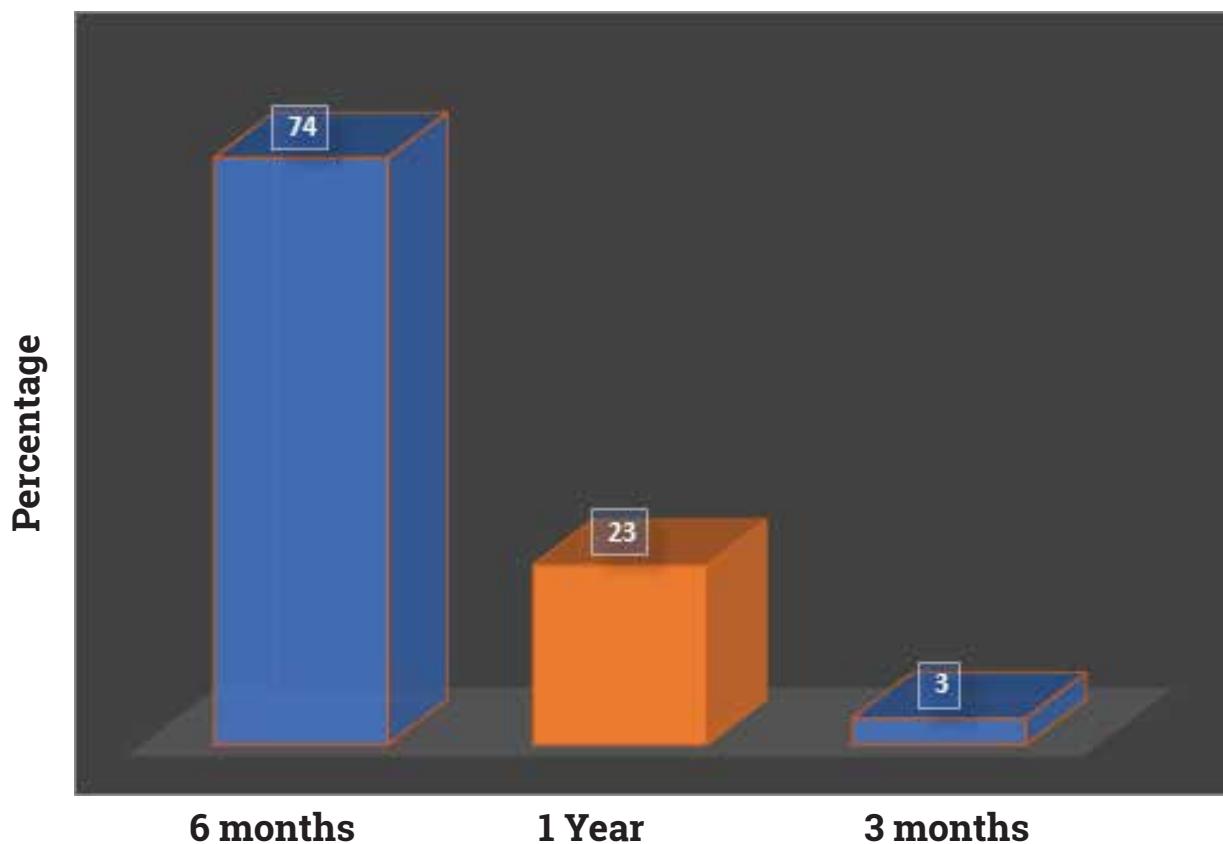


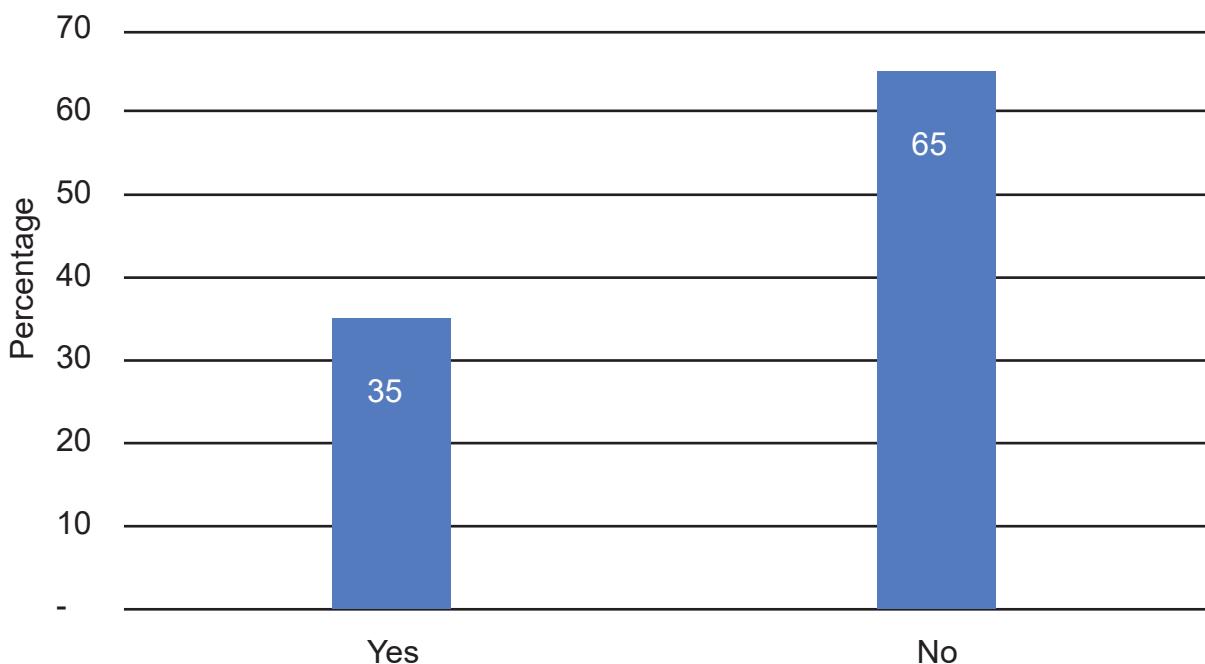
Figure 10: Period within which PAPs received food assistance



4.4.5. Assessing adequacy of transitional food assistance

This study assessed whether the food assistance that was extended to the PAPs was sufficient and of the respondents that participated in this study, 65% said that the assistance was not enough while 35% said that it was. More can be seen in figure 9 below.

Figure 11: Adequacy of transitional food assistance



The way the transitional food assistance programme was implemented raised a number of questions. First, the affected people that participated in this study observed that insufficient sensitisation to enable the affected people to understand the livelihood restoration entitlements due to them was undertaken by the EACOP Company and its sub-contractors.

One EACOP-affected community member said during an FGD in Hoima district in September 2025, “We were sensitised about the livelihood restoration options that we were to be given but were told the positive things only. For instance, everyone was told that they would be given food. However, when it came to time for giving food, only some people received.”

Another EACOP-affected community member from Hoima district observed during an FGD in September 2025, “They [EACOP Company officials] were calling some of the PAPs 2A, 2B, 2C. We did not understand what these 2A, 2B, and 2C things meant. They were hiding some information. They played some tricks with us and they are still doing so.”

Due to the inadequate sensitisation that was undertaken, some PAPs did not understand why some households received food assistance while others did not.

One male participant from Hoima district said during an FGD in September 2025, “People did not understand: why is this PAP getting food, yet I am also a PAP and I am not getting food?”

On whether the food assistance that was given was adequate, participants indicated that it was not. In Lwengo district, EACOP PAPs indicated that they received the following items as part of food assistance: 0.5 litres of cooking oil, 8kg of beans, 8kg of rice, and small packs salt that would be “used once”.

The affected households indicated that these items were not fair.

One female participant from Lwengo district said during an FGD in October 2025, “The options were not fair. If I have a big family and you give me 8kg of rice, is it enough? In addition, I have never seen the packets of salt that they gave us. They were so small. I wonder where those [EACOP] people got those packets of salt.”

Another participant, a male youth from Kyotera district, said during an FGD in October 2025, “They [EACOP Company sub-contractors] would give us two packs of salt, some rice, cooking oil and other items. The items were not enough.”

A female participant from Hoima district observed as follows during an FGD in September 2025, “We received 4kg of each food item including rice, beans, sim-sim and others. We have a family of 30 and 4kg are used up in one meal.”

Some affected people received less food items than others.

A female participant from Kyotera district observed as follows during an FGD in October 2025, “I was given only 0.5 litres of cooking oil. I always received little items and I would receive no explanation as to why I was segregated against.”

One female EACOP-affected person from Hoima district noted as follows during an FGD in September 2025, “There was segregation. We were nine PAPs that neighbor each other. We own the same continuous land, which was inherited. Only 2 out of 9 got food.”

The IFC lists restored or improved household food security as one of the characteristics of a successful livelihood restoration programme. With the affected people noting that some were given insufficient food rations, and with others not being given any, the EACOP project developers cannot claim to have enhanced the food security of all the affected people owing to their livelihood restoration programme.



CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND

RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the conclusion and recommendations of this study.

5.1. Conclusion

The EACOP project developers set out key commitments that they committed implement to restore the livelihoods of the 3,648 households that they displaced in Uganda. These commitments are contained in Chapter 9 of the EACOP RAP.

The commitments include: implementing one core agricultural improvement programme that consisted of providing agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilisers to PAPs. They also committed to implementing one food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens. They further committed to conducting financial literacy and money management trainings for PAPs.

Others include providing one support package on enterprise development and vocational training among others.

The majority of EACOP-affected people that participated in this study indicated that the above commitments had been implemented by the EACOP project sub-contractors. Montrose and HOCADEO implemented the livelihood restoration activities in the Greater Masaka and Greater Mubende sub-regions while Asigma covered the Greater Masaka sub-region.

Some affected households, 55 in total, however indicated that they had not been beneficiaries of the EACOP livelihood restoration activities.

While the majority of the affected people that participated in this research observed that they had benefited from the aforementioned EACOP livelihood restoration activities, the participants observed that the implementation of the livelihood restoration programme was marred by huge inadequacies that could undermine the restoration or enhancement of their livelihoods.

Under the core agricultural improvement programme, seeds, seedlings, fodder, and fertilisers were provided. Livestock was provided to some households while the vast majority of this research's participants noted that they did not receive livestock despite requesting for it.

The respondents that participated in this research underlined the following as mar-ring the core agricultural improvement programme by the EACOP Company and its sub-contractors: late delivery of agricultural inputs, distribution of poor quality seeds, and failure to provide livestock to some PAHs.

In relation to the food security programme consisting of developing and planting of vegetable gardens, the EACOP-affected people that participated in this research noted that demonstration gardens had been set up in various villages. However, some of the gardens contained vegetables as opposed to popularly grown crops, which under-mined learning. Moreover, the people observed that some lost land to the EACOP proj-ect and because they were under-compensated, they were unable to replace this land. This makes it difficult for the project to promote food security as households need land to grow food.

When it comes to the vocational training programme, the EACOP-affected people that participated in this research observed that the vocational training and skilling pro-gramme was undermined by discrimination with some households benefitting while others did not, limited training time, absconding of trainers from classes and failure to provide practical lessons to trainees among others.

As relates to provision of transitional food assistance, the affected people reported that there was discrimination in the distribution of food with some households receiv-ing rations while others did not. The rations that were distributed were considered insufficient by the majority of this research's participants.

Through the EACOP RAP for Uganda, the EACOP project proponents committed to comply with the IFC Performance Standards, especially Standard 5 on Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement.

However, an assessment of key characteristics of a successful livelihood restoration programme shows that the EACOP project developers are yet to comply with the IFC Performance standards.

Some of the key characteristics of a successful livelihood restoration programme as listed by the IFC include restored or improved income levels, restored or improved household food security, restored or improved security of tenure and restored or improved household health and nutrition.

Others include improved gender equality in livelihoods opportunities, restored or diversified income sources, restored or improved access to markets, restored or increased yields and fewer households living below the poverty level among others.

This research concludes that the unfair compensation practices and the other challenges seen with the EACOP project's Livelihood Restoration Programme could fail the EACOP project developers from restoring or improving PAHs' income levels, improving household food security, and improving household health and nutrition.

The above could also undermine the EACOP project developers from improving gender equality in livelihoods opportunities, diversifying income sources, increasing yields and ensuring that fewer households live below the poverty level.

5.2. Recommendations

In lieu of the above, this research recommends the following:

- **The EACOP-affected people that participated in this research observed that there is minimal GoU supervision of the EACOP Livelihood Restoration activities.** Moreover, where GoU have been involved in the compulsory land acquisition processes for the EACOP, they have sided with the developers over the people. In light of this, this research recommends that government supervises the EACOP project livelihood restoration activities and provides biennial reports on the activities, showing how these activities comply with the RAP commitments as well as the IFC Performance Standards. Government should be impartial and work for the people, instead of the EACOP Company.
- **In addition, because there still exist knowledge gaps on the livelihood restoration entitlements to the PAPs,** the EACOP project developers should summarise and translate into local languages the commitments due to PAPs. The summarised and translated information should be shared with PAPs and their leaders including local councils and local governments. This will enable the PAPs and local leaders to monitor implementation of the livelihood restoration activities to enable compliance.
- **Further, the EACOP project developers should end discrimination in the Livelihood Restoration Programme.** Since they sensitised the affected people and informed them that all of them would be given transitional food assistance, the PAPs who were discriminated against should be given their assistance in 2026.
- **In addition, complaints of failure by the EACOP project developers to supply the promised quantities of agricultural inputs such as coffee seedlings arose.** **Less quantities than were promised were supplied to some PAPs.** This was largely seen in Greater Masaka. In addition, some PAPs received poor quality maize seeds, especially in Hoima. Further, some PAPs requested livestock but were yet to receive it by December 4, 2025. The above gaps should be addressed by supplying affected PAPs with the promised quantity and quality of agricultural inputs. Those who were promised livestock but are yet to receive it should be given the livestock.

- **When it comes to the food security programme that involved setting up of vegetable gardens, the EACOP PAPs that participated in this research complained that inappropriate crops (vegetables) as opposed to popularly grown crops such as coffee and bananas were set up in the gardens. The EACOP project developers may have set up vegetable gardens to enhance the health and nutrition of PAPs. However, the developers should also set up training gardens with crops that are most grown by the affected people. This will aid learning.**
- **Further, without reviewing the compensation that was given to the affected people to make sure that it is adequate and fair, the affected people say that the EACOP project developers will not restore or improve food security. The EACOP project developers should therefore review the compensation given to PAPs and top it up to ensure that it is fair and adequate.**
- **In relation to the vocational skilling programme, various gaps including poor quality training were identified by this research.** These gaps should be closed by retraining the PAPs or members of their households. Adequate skills should be given, instead of training PAPs and their household members for the sake of it. In addition, PAPs from Kyotera that are yet to receive start-up kits and those with family members that are yet to be trained in vocational courses should be supported in 2026.
- **Finally, the GoU and EACOP project developers should ensure that independent civil society members and local governments monitor the EACOP project's livelihood restoration programme to ensure compliance to RAP commitments and IFC Performance standards. Development partners should fund civil society and local governments to enable them to monitor compliance alongside the affected people.**

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Appendices: Photo highlights from research activities





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