

Insights for the Baseline Survey for Project-Affected Households (PAHs) — Northern Corridor of the EACOP Project

Background

The discovery of commercial petroleum resources in Uganda in 2006 marked a major milestone in the country's energy sector, attracting significant investment in upstream petroleum activities. Extensive exploration and appraisal efforts led to the confirmation of an estimated 6.5 billion barrels of stock tank oil initially in place (STOIIP), with approximately 1.4 billion barrels deemed recoverable. With these discoveries, Uganda's petroleum industry has transitioned from exploration and appraisal into the development and production phases, creating demand for major infrastructure across the petroleum value chain.

A flagship initiative in this development is the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)—a strategic midstream infrastructure project designed to transport crude oil from Uganda's Lake Albert oilfields to the port of Tanga, Tanzania, for export. The 24-inch thermally insulated buried pipeline, spanning approximately 1,443 kilometers and featuring six pumping stations (two in Uganda), represents an estimated investment of USD 4 billion. Once completed, EACOP will unlock substantial economic potential for both Uganda and Tanzania.

The project's implementation required significant land acquisition guided by a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). EACOP has demonstrated its commitment to environmental protection, responsible business conduct, and respect for human rights through the Livelihood Restoration Coordination (LRC) Project, which seeks to restore and enhance the livelihoods of Project-Affected Households (PAHs) via a structured Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP).

EACOP engaged Montrose to oversee the Livelihood Restoration (LR) program in the northern corridor, ensuring the integration of international best practices. The program comprises four key thematic packages: (1) Food Security, (2) Crop Productivity Enhancement and Diversification, (3) Livestock Productivity Enhancement, and (4) Enterprise Development.

In December 2024, Montrose subcontracted Sequence Development Solutions (SDS) to implement the Enterprise Development Package, focusing on PAHs who operate existing businesses but did not qualify for vocational training. SDS conducted a baseline survey to identify business capacity gaps and inform the design of customized training and mentorship programs aimed at strengthening and expanding local enterprises, thereby contributing to sustainable livelihood restoration.

Baseline Survey Methodology

The baseline survey employed a structured, multi-step approach aligned with industry best practices and designed to ensure comprehensive, reliable results.

The process began with orientation and planning sessions for the consulting team to clarify the assignment's objectives, scope, and logistics. This was followed by pre-activity meetings with the client to finalize schedules, develop and pretest data collection tools, and conduct safety inductions.

A comprehensive data collection tool was designed, validated, and digitized using the Kobo Collect platform. Following client approval and pretesting, the tool was refined and deployed for data capture during fieldwork.

Working closely with Montrose, the SDS team conducted mapping of Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) across districts, sub-counties, and villages to ensure complete coverage. Appointment scheduling was coordinated through EACOP Village Liaison Officers, who provided logistical and contextual support, including language and community entry guidance.

Before deployment, field safety briefings were held in Hoima to reinforce adherence to Occupational Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE) standards.

Fieldwork involved one-on-one interviews and site visits with PAPs at their homes and business locations. These engagements generated both qualitative and quantitative insights, supported by direct observation. This participatory approach ensured that the data collected reflected the real conditions, capacities, and needs of the project-affected communities.

Conclusion

The baseline survey conducted by Sequence Development Solutions (SDS) has provided critical insights to guide the implementation of livelihood restoration activities along the Northern Corridor of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project. The findings have informed the design of targeted training and mentorship programs, directly addressing the unique challenges and opportunities within local enterprises.

This process has not only strengthened SDS's research and development capacity but also reinforced collaboration among SDS, Montrose, and EACOP in promoting sustainable, inclusive economic growth. The survey's outcomes ensure that project-affected households are better positioned to restore and enhance their livelihoods, contributing to long-term community resilience and shared prosperity within Uganda's emerging petroleum sector.