



# THE BITTER TASTE OF SUGAR

A PHOTO STORY ON THE EFFECTS  
OF SUGARCANE PRODUCTION IN  
LUUKA DISTRICT  
APRIL 2018



UGANDA CONSORTIUM ON  
CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY  
U C C A





An arial view showing how much of the land in Luuka is used for sugarcane growing.





## CHILD LABOUR

One of the most advance negative effects of the sugarcane growing industry in Luuka District is the exploitation of children. Most children in the area work as laborers on the plantations either planting or cutting sugar cane. This has led to increased school drop outs in the area.







Children as young as 4 are used in the plantations to collect and bundle up the cut sugarcane and make it ready for transportation.





A young boy bundles sugarcane together for transportation to a sugar factory.





## LAND CONFLICTS

Due to the increased demands for land in the area for sugarcane growing and the influx of business actors who acquire land to grow sugarcane on a massive scale, land conflicts within Luuka District are rampant which have fueled domestic violence and family disintegration. The RDCs office noted that 80% of the cases reported to his office relate to land conflicts.





## CHILDREN ARRESTED

School going young boys apprehended while cutting sugarcane sit on the floor of a police station in Luuka District. The OC Police cautioned and released them. Such cases are rampant in the district.





#### DISGRUNTLED OUT GROWER ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN HER POINT

Turning to the camera, a woman explains to the UCCA team the genesis of the land conflict. She caught her sister-in-law (background in brown skirt) harvesting her sugarcane.





## FOOD SECURITY

Land in Luuka District is a scarce resource as far as its availability for food production is concerned. Nearly all families are engaged in sugarcane growing leaving little or no land at all for food production. Women complain that men lease out all the land leaving none to grow foods for consumption. Malnutrition levels in the district are high.





## NO MORE LAND FOR GROWING FOOD

A mud house sits surrounded by sugarcane with no land left for food growing





**No Rest For The Weary**

An elderly man takes a break from the sugarcane cutting



**Feeding Affair**

A young boy prepares to eat a piece of sugarcane for his lunch





## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Luuka Districts ranks among the worst performing districts in education. This is largely attributed to the the sugarcane growing industry in the district which has affected most of the sectors. Children no longer attend school. The School heads said they experienced challenges in trying to keep children in school. When these children are assured of daily income, some see no reason to stay in school.





## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

A school block in Luuka District





## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Some companies have supported the community in the area. The local authorities noted that Kakira Sugar periodically undertakes road repairs. they have also built a laboratory for the local secondary school. However, it is noted that this is not a bar to accountability and respect for human rights. A Company's responsibility to respect human rights goes beyond voluntary principles of CSR.





## COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

UCCA staff joined a community dialogue and listened to the challenges faced by the community due to sugarcane growing.





Community Liaison Officer

## TWO SIDES



Chairman Kakira Outgrowers Association  
listens to a question from one of the  
interviewers





## CIVIL SERVICE

Top: Luuka RDC's Office. Top Left: Luuka District Educational Officer Bottom Right: Primary School Head Teacher. Bottom Left: Deputy CAO's Office.





## PACKING PROCESS

Left- Right: A young boy bundles up the cut sugarcane; A young man prepares to pass the bundled sugarcane onto ; his colleague that is standing at the top of the transportation truck





## EVERYDAY LIFE

Left- Right: An elderly man poses for a photo in a sugarcane plantation; Husband and Wife share their experiences working in the fields. Far Right; Having completed loading the truck, the young men on top of the truck prepare to jump down.





## EVERYDAY LIFE

A young boy of school going age helps bundle cut sugar as a way of preparing it for loading onto transportation trucks.





## EVERYDAY LIFE IN LUUKA DISTRICT

20

Top Right: A young boy poses outside of his home. Middle Right: A truck exits a one of Luuka Districts numerous plantations. Bottom Right: A teacher stands outside his living quarters in Luuka District. Left: An elderly woman poses for a portrait in a plantation.



## About UCCA

The Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability (UCCA) is a Civil Society Consortium on corporate accountability aimed at enhancing accountability by corporations, states, international finance institutions and development partners for violations or abuses of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs).

Currently, the UCCA has a founding membership of four organizations specializing in different areas of rights protection, including the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER), the Public Interest Law Clinic at Makerere University Law School (PILAC), Legal Brains Trust (LBT) and the Center for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD).

Other UCCA members are Twerwanaho Listeners Club (TLC), Karamoja Development Forum (KDF), the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiation Institute (SEATINI), the Centre for Economic Social and Cultural Rights in Africa (CESCRA), Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organisation (BIRUDO), Navigators for Development Association (NAVODA), Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO), World Voices Uganda (WVU), Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment West Nile (RICE WN), Teso Karamoja Women Initiative for Peace (TEKWIP), Action Aid International Uganda and International Accountability Project (IAP).





UCCA SECRETARIAT

Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER)

Plot 60 Valley Drive, Ministers' Village, Ntinda

P.O. Box 73646, Kampala - Uganda

Telephone: +256 414 581 041

Web: [www.iser-uganda.org](http://www.iser-uganda.org)