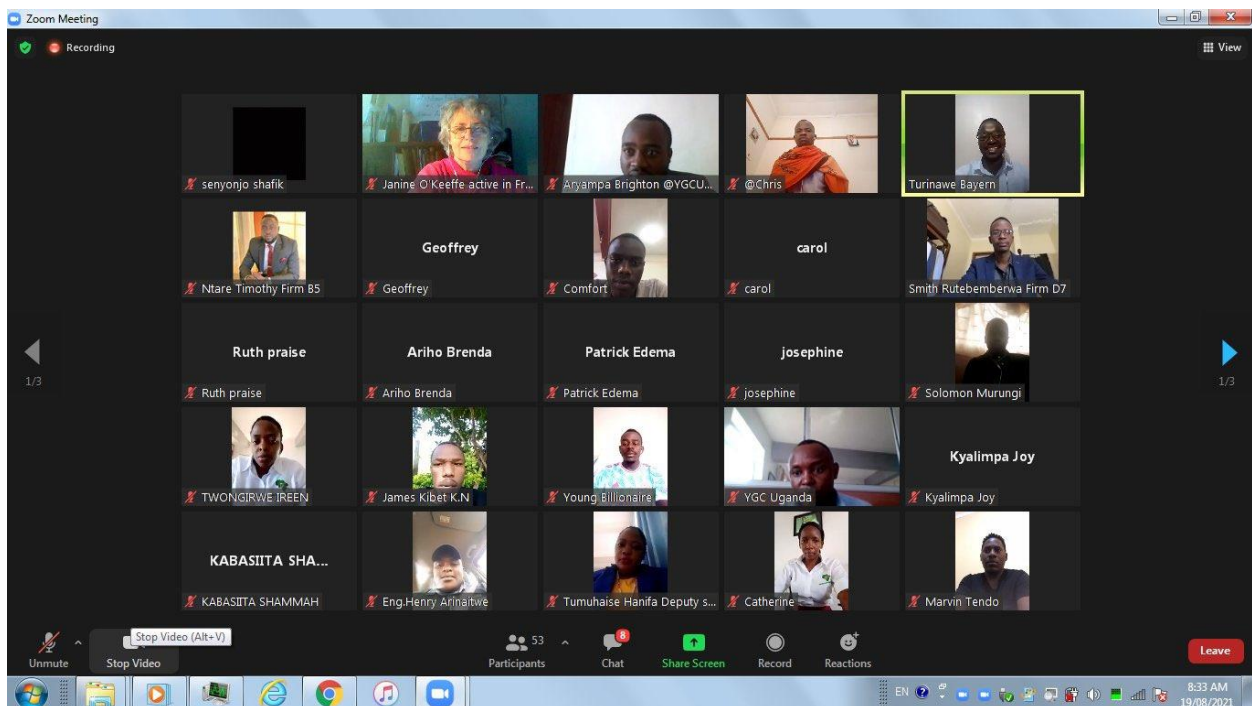




A PROCEEDING REPORT ON THE NATIONAL ONLINE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT TRAINING ON EACOP, OTHER OIL THREATS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER CHANNELS TO STOP THE THREATS WHILE PROMOTING GREEN ECONOMY.



A GROUP PHOTO OF SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH EMPOWERMENT TRAINING.

1. Introduction and Background

On August 19th, 2021, Youth for Green Communities (YGC) organized a three-hour national youth empowerment and training meeting. The meeting involved over 120 youth people from different regions and Higher institutions of learning of Uganda.

The meeting was aimed at raising awareness of the impacts of oil on the environment and communities so that the youth can join the ongoing interventions to prevent those impacts and demand for investments in clean energy

The meeting was facilitated by AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE (AFIEGO) AND YOUTH FOR GREEN COMMUNITIES (YGC).

The meeting was held online for 3 hours hosted by YGC.

The specific objectives of the meeting included:

1. Raising awareness on the status of oil and gas sector in Uganda
2. Engaging the youth in the fight against EACOP and oil threats in Uganda while promoting clean energy alternatives.
3. increasing sensitization and adoption of clean energy and other viable green economic activities among the youth.
4. Training the youth on how to use social media and other media channels to stop bad projects like EACOP and how to promote better alternatives like clean energy and other viable economic activities.
5. Increasing youth participation in ongoing and future government projects.

The meeting, which was attended by over 120 high-level participants included 23 youth leaders (13 females and 12 males) and 102 youth (58 females and 44 males) from different Higher institutions of learning and regions in Uganda.

Below is the link and a further discussion of the meeting's proceedings.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LF6eoIkcEZA6YldVT2x3h-zEUL9fM7uC/view?usp=drive_web

2. Proceedings of the meeting

2.1 Welcome remarks by Mr. ARYAMPA BRIGHTON, CEO YGC

Mr. **ARYAMPA BRIGHTON**, the Chief Executive Officer Youth for Green Communities welcomed the participants to the meeting. He thanked them for responding to the link to participate in the meeting. He noted that the role and influence of the youth is underrated and its upon young people to have their impact felt and it is possible. He welcomed the guest speakers and thanked them for rescheduling their daily programs to be part of the meeting.

He gave a highlight of the unprecedented discovery of oil in 2006. He further noted of the 4 major oil projects including the Oil Refinery, Kingfisher project, Tilenga project and the heated East African Crude Oil Pipelines.

He noted in brief the concerns of the oil developments in Uganda. The concerns he noted in details include but not limited to the following Climate concerns, Human Rights' violations, Small-scale farmers' concerns, Fisheries' sector concerns, Food security, Natural resources and forestry concerns, compromising clean energy access, Risking viable eco-friendly activities, increased debt and others.

He appreciated the government efforts to create jobs but he called on the government to focus on green jobs not oil jobs. The justification was that we young people and other citizens don't have the skills to work in the oil sector, we can only work as temporary casual workers which is sustainably viable.

He noted the objectives of the meeting which was briefly to raise awareness of the EACOP project and other oil threats and how the young people can get involved to stop the same.

Among the expectations, he noted that he expects all the participants to leave empowered on the oil threats and how they can get involved to stop them. He also asked all the participants to disseminate the attained knowledge and enrich other people who were unable to attend the meeting. He called on the moderator to invite the guest speakers.



YGC CEO giving his remarks to the participants.

2.2 Remarks from Guest speakers.

An infographic for an online training session. At the top left is the YGC logo (Youth For Green Communities). The main title is "Online Youth Empowerment Training On Social Media & Oil Threats." with a time slot of "TIME: 9:00AM - 1:00PM". The moderator is Mr. Bayern Turinawe. There are four guest speakers: Mr. Christopher Opiio (Oil Project Affected Person), Ms. Janet Akubane (Social Media Expert/ Influencer), Ms. Janine O'Keefe (Expert On Climate Change), and Mr. Edema Patrick (CSOs AFIEGO). The objectives are listed as: 1. Experience sharing on the impacts of Oil refinery project activities on Community Livelihoods and Environment; 2. Understanding how youth can use social media to stop Oil and Gas threats on Environment and Community Livelihood; 3. Understanding the negative impacts of Oil and Gas activities on Climate Change; 4. CSOs perspective on the impacts of oil activities in Uganda. The meeting details are: 19th August 2021, Zoom Meeting ID: 970 9268 0553, Passcode: 604163.

National Youth empowerment on media, EACOP and other oil threats' guest speakers.

2.2.1. Mr. CHRISTOPHER OPIO, a professional social worker, human and environmental rights activist working with Oil Refinery Resident Association (ORRA). He started by saying that he is also a victim of the oil community displacement to pave way for the refinery and he is giving a personal experience sharing on the impacts of oil refinery project activities on community livelihoods and environment.

- ✓ He noted that upon acquiring land from the locals to pave way for the oil refinery, the government then stopped them from doing any developments on the acquired land. The government set the cut off on 2nd June, 2012 and the locals kept waiting for compensation and resettling.
- ✓ He further noted that the two schools in the affected land were closed in 2013 which led to school drop outs of many affected youths. The displacement came with domestic violence, abandonment of families due to leaving out of women from the acquisition process. For those that received the compensation left their old families and started new families in Hoima town city.
- ✓ Some affected members after failure of government to compensate them, they went to court for redress. Up to now they are still in court. Recently earlier this year, the case was transferred from Kampala High court land division to Masindi High Court instead of expeditious hearing.
- ✓ Chris further noted on the issue of intimidation. He pointed out the police detach in charge of oil who make it difficult to organize communal meetings. Amidst the threats from the security and government, the affected members formed a movement called ORRA advocating for the rights of affected persons. This phone call intimidations, detention of ORRA members, offering jobs to quit advocacy among many others.
- ✓ Most importantly, he mentioned that the youth and women were not involved during the refinery displacement. He further noted that the government and other major players have not learnt their reason. The same problem that happened to oil refinery affected persons is still affecting the EACOP affected persons based on the research done by ORRA this year and AFIEGO in 2009.
- ✓ He also noted on the government narrative about job creation being advanced. He noted that these jobs are a scam. He called the youth to engage the government and invest the existing viable jobs in fisheries, agriculture, tourism and others.

2.2.2 Remarks from the second **Guest Speaker Mr. Patrick Edema.**

Environmental Engineer at Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO). He gave insights on CSOs perspective on the impacts of oil activities in Uganda, what has been and how the young people can get involved.

- As a young person working with CSOs, he noted that oil jobs advanced by the government are not enough. The youth do not even have skills to occupy the few existing jobs. The job opportunities for young people in the green sectors threatened by the exploitation of oil.
- He further noted of other oil projects other EACOP affecting over 8 districts, he named Tilenga and kingfisher. That all these projects pass in critical areas of biodiversity like Taala forests, Wambaya, Murchison falls national park and other sensitize areas. He mentioned that all these areas of natural importance stand threatened by oil threats. People in oil host communities stand chances of bad health conditions like Cancer and others.
- He further noted on emissions. The EACOP is projected to produce 102 million emissions. This will worsen the already existing climate change impacts. He highlighted areas in Uganda already facing the impacts of climate change.
- He also noted the impacts of EACOP on community livelihoods after engagement with AFIEGO. He noted that the government stopped the affected persons from using their lands after assessment. He gave an example of a man in greater Masaka where the EACOP passes whose livelihoods depended on sand mining but he was stopped from mining sand upon government setting compensation cut dates.
- He noted the impacts of oil spills that always come with oil pipeline like EACOP which is a danger to health, wild and aquatic life. He further explained how oil and gases attributes to climate change, noting that EACOP and other oil projects will worsen climate change.
- In his ending remarks, he noted that the CSOs have come in place to engage youth, women, local leaders and local communities and give them this information that they could never get in regard to applicable laws, compensation rights, land valuation and others.

2.2.3 Remarks from the third Speaker **MS. Janine O' Keeffe,**

Climate Australian activist and Fridays for future organizer. Advocate of Black Lives Matter. She shared insights on Understanding the impacts of oil and gas activities on climate change and how can the youth come in to address such impacts using social media and other media channels.

- She started by thanking Youth for Green Communities team for inviting her. She noted that we are in crisis noting the [IPCC reports](#) from 2018 show that the world is crisis both the climate and biological diversity which is the eco system. She noted that Friday for the future started because of this crisis.

- Ms. Janine further noted that the youth of Uganda are extremely important people to bring about the change we need in the world and in Uganda and she implored all the youth to join in with many youths around the world, create contacts, build connects and become a movement to stop destruction of climate and eco systems.
- She further noted that these oil projects may create jobs but destroys what we have left in climate and the small amounts of the original nature remaining. She said it is the reason why we need to stand up as young people, join the activism and change the system create jobs that work with nature but not against job.
- She noted that scientists have proven that the whole industry is working against nature. That nature is an angry beast, that climate is an angry beast and it is already affecting us in Africa.
- If we continue watching and not taking action against carbon emissions, she noted that we are now in the phase of warming planet faster than we are bringing the carbon down from the atmosphere. It is one of the examples that the climate is getting out of control and it is affecting all of us.
- She further noted that Africa has been affected for decades and Europe has not paid attention. she noted that Europe is also feeling it a little bit pointing out that Germany had flooding killing 190 people.
- She implored the participants to read more about climate change, find a way of understanding climate and the eco system. That these issues will affect our lives for the next 50 years. She noted that once youth understand these issues, then they will make a choice to change the finger and speak, become activism not just as individuals but as groups.
- Ms. Janine noted that we need stand against the government to admit that we have a crisis that the climate is in crisis. That the government is caught up in daily routines, they are caught up in making jobs, listening to the oil investors but they are not looking at the future, they are not listening to the future, they are seeing the billions of people that are being affected. We need to step up, read and join the movement to stop the fossils destroying the climate.
- She noted that oil spill can spoil food, water and thousands of lives. And that it is the women and children that suffer the most because it is them that don't get the money, people

who are not important in these decisions. And that it is Africa seen as extras to Europe and America and that's why Black Lives matter and it's the youth with the ability to bring down our governments to cater for our needs.

- She implored the youth to join the Friday for future movement to report climate strikes against the government and fossil fuel companies. She implored the youth to find their voice through social media and other channels to push the government to change the system. We need to push the government to take other countries to court that have ignored Africa needs for decades. She recommended African governments should take Europe to court.

2.2.4 Reactions, Q&A session

- I. Miss Ireen Twongirwe, Executive Director WOGMEM thanked the Guest speakers for the amazing insights and perspectives shared in Uganda and across borders. She reacted by noting the challenges caused by Environment projects Uganda is running right now. She specifically noted the EACOP project and Destruction of Bugoma Forest in Hoima which have affected women a lot through intimidation, flooding, prolonged drought and other related environment destruction. She asked that how best can the youth can we create awareness to create our environment amidst threats and limited resources.
- II. Kutesa Abasa, a law student. He asked about oil and gas that how will the government manage those communities yet they want to get money from oil and gas while they are occupying people's land to build factories and other infrastructures? He also asked whether the land will be reclaimed with its fertility after exploitation of oil? Lastly, he asked why is the government undervaluing People's land?
- III. Ronnie reacted by making two submissions noting that the Bugoma issue was accelerated by the local leaders, that it was even more guarded than Bank of Uganda. He asked to that effect that How are the Youth going to change the mindset of our leaders who are our main betrayers before oil processes enhances? He also noted on the greedy of land valuers. He further asked whether their concerns will reach the intended people because they are even concerns taking our generation and Uganda at large.

- IV. One of the participants called Bayern Turinamukama asked Janine a question about climate financing. How can a youth deep down in Uganda access the ability to facilitate his struggle for green communities? How can they access international funds that turn into grants?
- V. One of the members asked for a clarification whether this oil sector comes with high crime rates.
- VI. Bayern also asked about global warming. That Other Countries like Nigeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia are still producing oil which will eventually cause global warming that will not spare Uganda, why shouldn't Uganda invest in oil and gas and gain like any other country, is it not a miscalculation and detriment to only Uganda which at the end will suffer from oil production of other countries.

2.2.5 Response

- ❖ Janine responded to Climate financing that there is good money to be asked and applied for and she encouraged the young people to learn more about to access that fund. She gave an example of Friday for Future open collective account for Uganda or Tororo. Go Fund Me account.
- ❖ Mr. Edema responded to how oil and gas can increase high crime rates. He noted that these new people taking oils job divert and start smuggling oil infrastructures giving a case study of Nigeria where Africa governments like Uganda have no capacity to protect these infrastructures like EACOP which is over 1443 Km.
- ❖ He further responded to the fertility of land noted that just a small spill kills fertility, that just like these plastics, the land will take trillions of years to regain its fertility.
- ❖ Ms. Janine responded to the global warming and she noted that if Uganda follows the Paris Agreement correctly, global warming will still issue. We need to push our government, Africa governments at large to hold other states accountable. They should hold Europe and other states accountable for producing oil and contributing a lot of emissions to the sky.

3. Training of the youth on how to use social media and other media channels to stop EACOP and other oil threats while promoting green activities.

3.1 Remarks from a social Media Expert, Ms. Carol Atuhair.

- ❖ She noted that we can use social media platforms like Facebook, twitter, Instagram, YouTube and others to raise our voices and create awareness in some organizations in order to stop threats like EACOP and other oil threats while promoting a green economy for Uganda.
- ❖ Carol further said that the youth like us can use social media to seek information and knowledge on climate change, oil and gas status and its possible effects. That **we can look out for those social media experts in different fields, follow climate movements like Friday for the future, friends of the earth, save planet, we don't have time, climate reality, UN** and others to access relevant information.
- ❖ She further noted that the youth can do self-studies through social media. That there are many blogs on the effects of oil and gas with case studies in many Countries like Ecuador, Nigeria and others.
- ❖ She went ahead to note further that there are plenty of scholarships on climate change education, oil and gas being advertised on social media, therefore as young people we should not interest ourselves in only football and entertainment calling it vibes and slaying.
- ❖ She went ahead to say that the youth should take actual steps quoting the Bible that faith without action is vain, we should use social media to reach and engage leaders, plant a tree or two for restoration and stand up against deforestation and general vegetation destruction. Join campaigns like this **STOPEACOP campaign, Save Bugoma forest Campaign** and join the **#HASHTAGS** OF such campaigns. She noted that social media is a self-service, we are the ones who limit ourselves on these spaces otherwise we can do very much.
- ❖ She further noted that **aside social media**, the youth can engage in writing **articles, open letters, advocacy letters** to relevant leaders and pressure them to take immediate action. She further noted that the youth should not shy away from talking about these threats, make use of **opportunities and chances you get on camera, radios and televisions.**



One of the artworks with messages posted by the social media influencer, Friday for the future and most of the participants of the empowerment.

4. Observations, Way forward and Conclusion.

4.1 Observations during the meeting.

- ❖ The participants were shocked upon hearing the challenges that have come with oil and gas sector. They knew less of what is happening in the oil host communities.
- ❖ The participants are less knowledgeable on clean energy and its adoption.
- ❖ The Participants were wondering what ten are the options to the youth Unemployment if the much-anticipated oil and gas is the not the answer.
- ❖ The participants accepted to read more about the climate change and its far-reaching impacts on everyone.
- ❖ EACOP and other threats have already registered a lot of challenges threatening our eco systems, human and environment rights, agriculture, country's clean energy dreams.
- ❖ The government is lost in daily routines but not watching and paying attention to oil activity challenges.
- ❖ The youth has been using social media for entertainment and vibes not knowing it is a self-service and source of knowledge of all aspects.
- ❖ The youth have been less involved and concerned with government projects.

❖ The Participants left with desire to getting involved in ongoing and future projects.

4.2 Way Forward

- I. YGC will write a petition and communique to the government of Uganda through relevant bodies and oil companies in Uganda (total E &P and CNOOC) about the existing challenges on ground as noted and call for an investment in green jobs not oil jobs.
- II. Organize at least two other youth engagements specifically on clean energy sensitization and adoption, and youth capacity building.
- III. Organize a physical meeting with youth leaders from different parts of the country and devise means on how we can bring and empower more young people
- IV. Form youth groups in oil affected communities and train them as environment and human rights observers, and paralegals.
- V. Form a joint group and keeping updating them on or campaigns and the status of oil and gas.
- VI. The youth should write, speak and post these oil threats and promote the best alternatives on our social medias and share with media papers for publications.
- VII. Avail and distribute climate, clean energy literacy to the youth.

4.3 Conclusion

YGC's CEO Mr. **ARYAMPA BRIGHTON** said that YGC shall keep empowering youth in Higher institutions of learning and local communities to get involved in environment and human affected projects to ensure environmental conservation, restoration and respect of all aspects of rights. He noted that it is us the young people to ensure better environment and natural resource governance to benefit all of us, mitigate climate change and save the planet for this and future generations

He concluded by thanking all the guest speakers and participants who turned up in big numbers for the meeting, he added that no hope is lost in fighting for what is right. He noted that the greatest threat to the planet is the belief that some else will save it for us.

He also called upon the youth to continue conducting regular meetings, debates, speaking out, joining conservation and advocacy movements and share information amongst each other to increase awareness, widen these campaigns to mount pressure on the government to take action.

Lastly, he mentioned that it's time for young people to take up leadership positions to make decisions protecting the planet for this and future generations.

List of Participants

Youth leaders.

No.	NAMES	POSITIONS	GENDER	REGIONS & INSTITUTINS	CONTACT DETAILS
1	BAYERN TURINAMUKAMA	Speaker, Uganda Christian University (UCU).	Male	Mukono	075618811
2	ABAHO BERIAN	Vice President, Law Development Centre (LDC), Mbarara Campus	Female	Mbarara	0788614777
3.	NINSIIMA MOREEN	Mbarara University of science and technology Guild Rep	Female	Mbarara	0757407501
4.	MUSINGUZI WILSON	manager eco forestry services ltd	Male	Masindi	0772489348
5.	MURUNGI SOLOMON	Guild President, Hoima, school of nursing and wifery	Male	Hoima	072119737

6.	Onzima Byaruhanga Ronnie	Field assistant Blue cross, Uganda	Male	Hoima	0703421268
7.	Mugisha Evelyn	Guild office, UCU	Female	Mukono	0776625462
8.	RUTEBEMBERWA SMITH	Guild President, LDC lira Campus	Male	Lira	0700729042
9.	BAREKYE GERALD	National Coordinator, Young Peace	Male	Ntungamo	0789215552
10.	NINSIMA AGNES	ED, PEACE BULDERS NTUNGAMO	Female	Rukungiri	0705395442
11	CHARITY PHIONA	Makerere University Rep	Female	Kampala	0705843475
12	Tumuhaise Hanifa	Female Youth councillor	Female	Hoima	0784638820
13	Ninsima Hellen	Vice President, UNSA and Youth Secretary for female affairs	Female	Ibanda	0781622249
14	Kidega Moses	Secretary for Labor Affairs, National Youth Council	Male	Kampala	0757304623
15	Amoko Ronald	Speaker, Northern Uganda Youth Association	Male	Adjuman	0781758623

16	Mumbere Abraham	Kasese Youth Councillor	Male	Kasese	0756838371
17	Biira Bridget	Kasese Female youth Councilor	Female	Kasese	0751034849
18	Kirabo Marion	Makerere University, Gender Minister	Female	Kampala	0786087260
19.	Kyeru Phiona Bridget	Miss Tourism	Female	Jinja	0778016747
20	Magezi Collins	Youth Entertainment Representative	Male	Kampala	0700363849

Other youth participants from different regions of the country.

1. Ayesiga Brian Male 0776911474
2. Solomon Ayebare
3. Henry Arinaitwe
4. Tumuhaise Hanifa
5. Patricia Nakayenga
6. Thembo Geoffrey
7. Solomon Murungi
8. Twongirwe Ireen
9. Nsimire Hilda
10. Mwebaze Percy
11. Fred Burondwa
12. Twongirwe Catherine
13. Nagasha Shallon
14. Kyalimpa joy
15. Patrick Edema
16. Atuhair Carol
17. Kabasita Shammah Joy
18. Aine Carol
19. Marvin Tendo
20. James kibet
21. Balach Bakundane
22. Comfort TUsingwire

23. Nahamya Brian
24. Evelyn Twikirize
25. Aije Geoffrey
26. Arinda Albert
27. Asimwe Edison
28. Apeddel Allan
29. Allan Ahabwe
30. Aturinda Mukama Patra
31. Amoko Ronald
32. Okech Beckham Bbosa Eric Bbosa
33. Nakibuka Sheilah
34. Luyiga Norah
35. Nakachwa Phyllis
36. Kakuma Eva
37. Ntare Timothy
38. Tumusiime Kato
39. Tumusiime Kakuru
40. Isingoma Daphine
41. Kirabo Rachael
42. Ampeire Evas
43. Akena Gerald
44. Tumunkude Frankline
45. Joram Kabundu
46. Joy Martha
47. Katusabe Ronald
48. Elizabeth Namanya
49. Aijuka Kevin
50. Musimenta Suzan F
51. Asaba Desire
52. Karungi Michelle
53. Nicole Margret
54. Kyeru Phiona
55. Margret Tuhaise.
56. Mwebaze Percy
57. Natuha Morris
58. Abaho Solomon
59. Nyango Benard
60. Kanyesigye Evas
61. Opio Chris
62. Janine Okaffee
63. Aryampa Brighton
64. Edema Patrick
65. Obala Shanon

66. Brian Nahamya
67. Aijuka Simple
68. Owachi Derrick
69. Bainomugisha Danson
70. Tugabirwe Bridget
71. Akello Racheal
72. Musimenta Susan
73. Tabitha Esther
74. Nafuka Brenda
75. Nakinganda Rita
76. Ashaba Gloria Sophia
77. Bako Veronica
78. Kangume Maureen
79. Ashaba Cynthia
80. Namanya Mercy
81. Nabimanya Julius
82. Twongirwe Ivan
83. Talemwa Joshua
84. Kubakurugi Dorothy
85. Ariho Brendah
86. Akello Elizabeth
87. Wenene Flavia
88. Atim Belinda
89. Abaho Solomon
90. Nakibuuka Lynette
91. Kintu Yafesi
92. Atim Christine
93. Atim Rachael
94. Nakibuka Suzan Stacey
95. Nakiganda Sherinah