



Experience by Resource Rights Africa In East Africa, UGANDA, Karamoja

Only inadequate information is available among the communities in Karamoja on minerals, mining activities and pertaining regulations, laws and policies. Communities have limited knowledge of their rights leaving them vulnerable to exclusion, exploitation, and abuse. Especially women are at risk.

RRA planned to hold community awareness sessions to build and consolidate a broad movement of resistance and social control over extractive activities.

Main characteristics

- Lectures were used as form of awareness raising
- Communities did not participate in the activities
- Overall participation in RRA activities dropped



Experience description

Resource Rights Africa implemented a project in 2019 to address the ecological and extractivism crisis in Karamoja. During the course of implementation, lecture mode was initially used for awareness creation and sensitisation of the communities on their human rights. The complex lectures failed to keep the listeners engaged and there was little community participation. Several sessions would end prematurely due to loss of concentration of the community members. The lecture mode failed to initiate interactions with community members. In addition, this was a deterrent in mobilisation as fewer participants turned up for subsequent RRA events. Thus, RRA achieved little in sensitising the communities and failed to meet its set objectives.



Other characteristics



REASONS FOR FAILURE

- Lectures were too complex to follow
- Community members were bored by the lectures
- Community members were not encouraged to actively participate



LESSONS LEARNED

- Participatory & audience-tailored methods of knowledge sharing maximize efficiency & effectiveness
- Boosting collective imagination & creativity are key components in transformative processes
- Arts open new spaces for public dialogue & reflection



CORRECTIVE MEASURES

- Edutainment instead of lecture
- Puppet theatre was adopted as a more entertaining awareness raising campaign