



The Republic of Uganda
BIGODI VILLAGE, BIGODI PARISH, BUSIRIBA SUB COUNTY
KAMWENGE DISTRICT, WESTERN REGION
KAMPALA -UGANDA
EAST AFRICA

Date: 21st, August, 2015

Your Ref.

Our Ref.

**The World Bank
Inspectorate Division
Washington DC**

Through.

**Joy For Children-Uganda.
Nsimbiziwome, Bukoto
P.o Box 15383 Clock Tower
Kampala Uganda.**

REQUEST FOR AN INSPECTION ON THE IMPACT OF KAMWENGE- FORT PORTAL ROAD WORKS SECTION ON THE COMMUNITY.

We wish to express our concerns as per the above captioned subject to the attention of the inspectorate Division of World Bank as the procedure requires. Our concerns have been forwarded to relevant stakeholders but no substantial progress has been registered at will. If at all any address is made it is insufficient and out of spirit milk.

We are however grateful to the government of Uganda and World Bank for the works going on for the construction of the Kamwenge -Fort Portal road works.

Whereas it is destined to breed positive impact as improved all weather road net work, increase in the volume of trade, increased production and quick access to market centers, it has also resulted into negative impact on the communities along the road axis under construction.

The reason as to why this communication is addressed to the World Bank inspection Division is because there has been a lot of public outcry but of the registered complaints no attention has been registered at will by any implementing agency. The community leaders that are objective cannot be invited in any of the meetings even those we here that World Bank attends. People have been shunned from presenting their views at any forum. Given the degree of less exposure and poverty levels the complainant cannot afford traveling to various offices or even hire a legal representative to that effect.

The negative impact is greatly affecting the Children especially the girl child and such consequences remain for generations.

The negative impact on the said communities is due to the fact that the respective agencies have not fulfilled their obligations.

We are grateful to Joy For Children- Uganda which has always advocated for the Joy For Children and rights of the entire community. This organization has been branded all sorts of names but the little progress seen is due to their reports to your attention.

These presented issues need to be kept highly secret and investigations also as there is local political interferences over this project. This is however not the interest of Government but just of individuals. However these state mergers have powers to antagonize those reporting especially heads of institutions and local leaders and Government workers. We thus ask that those signing this complaint be able to remain anonymous with all communication going through Mr. Ntenga Moses at Joy For Children as our representative.

The various issues that need attention are highlighted here below;

1. **Poor human resource policy and Management.** This has resulted into the following shortcomings;
 - i) **High labor turn over.** Due to un clear workman Policy by the contractor and failure to follow labour laws, the workers are not allowed any security for their jobs. UNRA does not have any body if at all a functional one to protect the rights and privileges of workers. The workers are forced to work for long hours and dismissed at leisure. These impacts on the entire households and their children shall surfer for generations.
 - ii) **Poor Pay.** The salary paid to the workers as drivers, and other cadre staffs is not enough to match the cost of living. The Company does not have a labor camp for them and yet to many cadres no transport allowance allowed. The poor pay does not provide for the livelihood of the entire households. This greatly impact on the Children that still need basic needs that like Education, medical care, and clothing and shelter. The exploit the entire labour force defiles the actual importance of the road works in the areas across.
 - iii) The above results into theft such that they meet their livelihood. This results into dismissal of the affected. But because there is a high level of unemployment people have to be forced to rely on such unstructured employment.
 - iv) **Lack of a labor camp.** This has resulted in allowing the entire labor force to mix with the community at large. This has bred all cultures and sub cultures some of which are greatly disastrous. Thieves have also come up as they pose to be workers of the road works. People have lost their property and domestic animals. We believe the funds for establishment of the labour camp were provided in the road costs and this should have reasonably accommodated a good number. But only the Chinese are allowed the privilege of staying in the labor camp. This policy is highly not only discriminative but allows room for wrong doers to pose as workers in the community and cause such shortcomings.
 - v) **Food insecurity to some households.** The clearance of plantations along the road up to fort portal has claimed a section of food gardens and banana and coffee plantations. The affected homes shall face shortage of food reserves and incomes. The propagators argue

that it a small section, however one should note that the land act concerns all the land not only big chunks of land take note of the road reserve policy in comparison to what has been claimed by the road itself and add the road reserve after construction. All this is a loss to the affected households at the expense of the entire public. While the rest of road users are rejoicing the individual households are suffering with loss of site advantage, loss of land, and property. The end result impacts on the children.

2. **Impregnating of girl children.** Due to high population of workers in small trading centers and many of the workers being the youth and shortly aver the youth age, there is a lot of moral decay among the households. Many girls have been made to get involved in such acts and thus face associated consequences. Many girls have dropped out of school and others impregnated. Although some people believe that this has always happened but, it has greatly increased in these two years especially among school going girls Children. After the start of the road woks in Rwengobe Primary school **seven girls were impregnated in 2014** due to the free life- experience with road workers. In **Bigodi SSS in since 2013 two girls have been registered impregnated by road workmen (one [REDACTED] was in S. 1 was impregnated and left School, [REDACTED] of S. 3 was also impregnated and also left School, many others just leave school without giving any notice to school administration although informal sourcees indicate that it is the road workers who impregnate them and remain unnoticed and are just registered as school drop outs. However when the School got concerned the mentioned were taken a way for fear of following up the cases.**
3. Due to un controlled labour force of life -going boys pulled from all corners of the world including China they seduce the young girls for material items and petty cash. The system has no community liaison mechanisms of sensitizing the teenagers as they need to always be cautioned because they are of tender age and indecisive behavior. Many girls especially have become victims of circumstances. Due to high labor turn over the men in road works cannot easily be traced as they are chased every time and change residences at their leisure. They normally mix with the public at night after work and therefore girls cannot identify the men they sleep with. In Bigodi Primary school one girl dropped in Primary six and one is currently pregnant in **Rwengobe Primary school seven girls** were reported pregnant and dropped out of school. Due to poverty these girls are persuaded to hide and accept presents in case the victim happens to be a road worker.
4. The spread of HIV/AIDS pandemic Coupled with the above and, given the absence of a workplace health policy and HIV/AIDS workplace Policy gives room for uncontrolled spread of such STDS/ STI's infections. A few interventions in place are for only the Chinese staff with no regard to Africans. These impacts greatly on children who are persuaded into having sex and cannot make decision even on use a condom. The AIDS status of these affected children is not established.
5. **Sex harassment of female employees.** There is reported harassment of females who fail to give in for sex. Given the lack of job security it becomes an alternative between losing the job and consolidating it with sex offers. Although this is no talked about greatly because they fear losing their jobs. Currently very few females are employed because of the wickedness of bosses on such a vice.
6. **Emergence of sex workers.** It is also evident; there are even agents to look for girls and women for sex for the Chinese staff and real Chinese Employees. The real Chinese Vehicles are seen in villages collecting these girls and because there is no labor camp one cannot follow up the trend but the end result is moral decay and spread of STD's STI's HIV/AIDS and associated consequences especially on girl children. This has also resulted into marriage breakages. We however pity the girl Child wherever

such developments shall be effected and sympathize with those where such have been implemented.

7. **Increased school dropout and absenteeism and Child labor.** Due to increased population there is petty business emerging along the road. School children drop out or are frequently absent due to such activities. The children are also employed to wash vehicles, sell of pegs, and water fetching. This has also resulted into increased Childs labour. **One** [REDACTED] was under age and was employed in the road works when the School shown concern he was expelled and given no assistance to go back to school. This has also put the School's enrolment to be poorer, and completion rate and retention rate to be as low as 19%.
8. **Poor compensation mechanism.** Many land owners along this road axis and in trading centers have not been adequately compensated and others not attended to. It is quit unfair where structures exist at the same axis/ location sometimes following each other but the compensation differs greatly, and others not compensated at all. On 08th, August 2015 the affected complainants a round Bigodi area had a meeting and resolved to register their complaints into an inventory that can be accessed at source kept by one [REDACTED] the trading center chairman for Business People. This is a clear manifestation of the existence of people who are not compensated
It is also unclear where even people appear to be compensated but are not proper landlords along the road. About one hundred people only in Busiriba remain not compensated.
These impacts on the entire household and greatly on the children whose livelihood depended entirely on the fields/ gardens along the road so far destroyed.
9. **Un proportional compensation.** There is a great challenge that even the amount compensated cannot make one procure an equivalent piece of land or put up a similar structure. The intention of compensation is therefore defiled and greatly compromised and worse still by such lucrative and responsible agencies patterning with such a World Bank funded project. The principle of restoration to original position is not fulfilled. This forces people to believe their voices are not heard and cannot be represented by any organ. This appeal to World Bank inspection Division needs to be honorably received and attended to.
10. **Loss of life and Destruction of people property.** Due to lack of safety measures many people have been knocked along that road. Along the quarry sections and along the road peoples' buildings have been cracked by the vibrations but have not been adequately compensated. Stones blasts from the quarry destroy people's buildings especially in Bigodi there is a live story. In Busimba- Bigodi One [REDACTED]'s building was destroyed and up to now no compensation has been made. It is upon the affected to either accept what has been provided or you accept loss. People took up what has always been provided in fear of losing it all. However those who put in some bribe get reasonable pay at the expense of others.
11. **One** [REDACTED] **aged 34yrs**, was injured by the road works machines and his leg was almost amputated but still no compensation has been given to him. He has been tossed up and down and is almost losing hope and courage. He has been made poor and incapacitated.
12. Plots in trading centers were encroached but some good number in various trading centers and the entire axis remain unattended to. The list is endless and has been forwarded to your attention if UNRA can not honor our complaints.
13. **The electric power line** especially the three phase power line- has been shifted over the roofs of commercial houses in the trading centers especially Bigodi and Nkingo, Kamwenge Town council and

many other trading centers as you can move along and watch for your selves. It is greatly dangerous to live and operate business under the shade of such power line. It is tantamount to being allowed the privilege of suicide. Worse still many of these landlords were not compensated. Bigodi, Nkingo, trading centres live in fear and their lives are at a great risk. Some have resorted to go to court but it is a long and costly process and is challenged by a lot of influence. Given the poverty levels only the rich shall pursue such legal endeavors.

14. **Loss of site advantage.** Whereas the existence of the road is destined to greatly improve the site advantage /subsequent raise in the value of land, instead the plots are losing value because the sizes have reduced and power lines shifted on top of buildings renders such houses unfit for dwelling in. Given the poor amounts compensated one can not extend to acquire the original full plot. Such encroached plots will be challenged under the physical planning authority as Uganda is declared a planning area under the Physical Planning Act 2010.
15. **HEAVY EXPENSES.** The complainant is wasting a lot of funds and other household resources while following up their cases. The UNRA and The contractor seem to be interested in distancing themselves from the average resident. Given the fact that the resident Engineer and Chinese responsible staff do not even know the local language it makes it difficult to approach them by local people. The African staff faces a challenge in advising them as they (Chinese Managers)do not honor the advice given if it is in favour of residents.
16. **Failure to provide access to the main road on major links.** It is very challenging that even where school children cross into the road links have not been provided. A few meters from the labor camp a major link of Mujuruga road to the whole Parish school children of Bujongobe have been blocked. The staffs and Resident engineer have been informed but no action taken so far. Along the road there are developments like Nursery Beds and other production centers but they are denied access as Magombe nursery beds and elsewhere. The links are left with high road side that children cannot climb.
17. **Poor condition of company vehicles.** It is a great risk to meet a road company vehicle. Many vehicles move without lights at night, they cannot even break. On several incidents these vehicles fall off the road and cause accidents. They have caused several accidents and victims go un compensated. Most vehicles are unfit to be on the road but because they are favoured and give in tokens to various enforcers it is difficult to win a case with the company given the poverty of the residents. One of Rwengobe village Busiriba Sub County was knocked by the company vehicle and his leg damaged but close to a year he has not been compensated. People even fear to complain because the company issues are covered under influence. Only the well financialy based landlords can pursue the process of Court.
18. **The above coupled with lack of safety measures as humps and road signs increases the degree of road accidents.** Such are put when monitors are coming and after which they are removed.
19. **Lack of dialogue meetings.** There are no dialogue meetings where the affected could be allowed to air their views. The affected are shunned whenever they raise their issues. All meetings the compromised community representatives are only invited to show up in favour of the contractor's interests and heads of commissions and authorities. Thus, our attempts to raise these concerns with officials from UNRA and the World Bank have not led to a response that addresses our needs and instead the abuses continue.

Appeal. We however appeal that the World Bank Inspectorate Division uses all the expertise to discover all these unlawful practices and bring them to the attention of relevant authorities for redress. It should be noted that we appreciate and recognize such socio-economic infrastructure, but the people's rights should be respected and in return also perform the duties and responsibilities so appropriate.

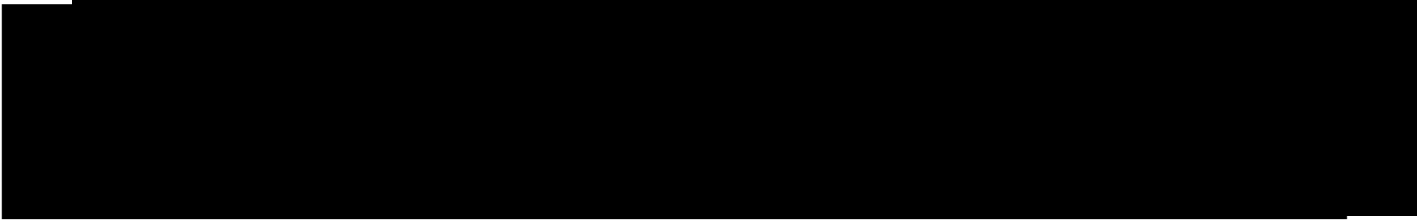
For and on behalf of the voiceless -vulnerable Ugandans who even fear to append their signatures on such a document for fear of being harassed.

The inventory of the people's complaints has been appended to this request letter. All these complainants who attested to the registered complaints on their behalf also appeal to the Division for procedural rectification and legal redress.

For any correspondences Please should pass through Joy For Children- Uganda

For God and my Country.

Yours faithfully



Scan date: 12/17/14
P092837

Bigodi Community
Kamwenge District
06/12/2014

The World Bank ~~Inspection Panel~~,
1818 H Street, NW
Washington DC 20433

USA

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: COMMUNITY CONCERNS WORLD BANK FUNDED UGANDA CONTRACTED CHINA RAILWAY 7TH GROUP CONSTRUCTION PROJECT - KAMWENGE - FORT PORTAL ROAD

Greetings form Bigodi Town Board!

Thank you for funding Uganda and the Construction of the Road to first class bitumen 67 Km Kamwenge - Fort-portal road a project o last 3 years. We are very grateful for your offer to contribute to the development of Kamwenge infrastructure and improvement of the livelihood of the Kamwenge and Kabarole community specifically.

The purpose of this communication is to bring attention to the Inspection Panel of the World Bank about our key community concerns regarding the Road Construction Project

1. Total lack of community participation in the Road construction project

We the community at Bigodi have never been involved in the constructions project since its onset. We have not participated in any regular reviews about the community and its relationship with the project. We are never consulted on any matters affecting the community in relation to the project. There are no community meetings held, our concerns have not been addressed despite our pleas to the road construction manager.

We therefore require that the project henceforth initiate regular community meetings and becomes accountable to the communities they are interfacing with in order to jointly resolve problems as they fall due.

To the best of our knowledge, casual workers are not from our villages and neither are they permanent staff for the company. As a result, when these workers commit crimes, they are not held accountable by the project team as they are easily disposed of as and when the need be. If the casual workers were members of the local communities along the road then there would be clear accountability mechanisms since they would be local members. There is need for permanent casual labourers with clear project worker identification to hold accountable

2. Sexual violence against children

Defilement - There is increasing underage sexual relations by casual labourers and the Chinese. Efforts to report to the police about these cased remain unabated and the criminals on the run. We feel helpless and hopeless in this dire situation. For as little as Ugx 5,000, we have lost our girls who have dropped out of



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school, gotten pregnant and married at 15 years or less. Girls are trapped when coming from school and many are defiled in the nearby bushes.

Child Pregnancies - There is increasing child pregnancies to an extent that at Bigodi secondary school a total of 6 girls were found pregnant in one term and all this attributed to the road workers. The children were handed over to their parents but no follow up action has taken place. Many of these girls were in primary seven and have since dropped out of school. To make matters worse, the men responsible usually dump the girls when they move on to another area. Parents are left with the burden of raising up grand children with no assistance from men who got their girls pregnant.

Trafficking and elopement - There are incidences where the road construction staff have taken the children away and; later come back to introduce the girls as their wives. Others are taken away later abandoned in places away from the area.

Early marriages - There is an increased number of girls getting married to the road construction project staff. Many of the girls are later abandoned by the labourers.

Increased STI - There is increased reported incidence of STI particularly gonorrhoea in the health centres since the road construction project started, sex without a condom goes for 80,000, with a condom 50,000 for adults but with school girls is as low as 10,000. The pregnancies are a clear indication of unprotected sexual intercourse. Although the project health and safety officer claims to distribute condoms to the community members 20 times month, we the people of Bigodi who stay less than a kilometer from the project site have never seen or heard of this initiative.

We request that that for such project rules and regulation against child rights be implemented as per the child protection policy. And if such cases arise the Road construction project team should be held accountable. The Road construction project should have a register and clear identification of all its workers both casual and long term

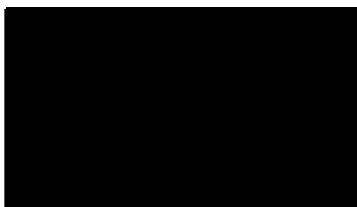
3. Increased child labour and drop out of school

There is an increase in number children dropping out of school to work on the road as casual labourers thus leading to high student absenteeism. Girls are employed in canteens, make shift hotels, and road side businesses and there is increasing number of girls as sex workers in the Bigodi town. The disco halls that go unchecked that has free lady's nights on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday have increased the rate of defilement and lawlessness in the community.

We demand that no more children (in and out of school) should be employed in such hazardous work. The project staff should work hand in hand with the community leaders and local police stations/post to ensure no children are recruited or attend the discos

4. Increased number of accidents on the road and as result of the stone quarry

The road has no/inadequate signpost, and the project vehicles are very old and poorly maintained, therefore there is increased number of hit and run road accidents. The project construction staff are slow to never attend to the accident victims, where they do they dump them in hospitals with no further follow up support.



One boy dropped out school after losing an eye. Although his family has continuously asked for assistance, he has never been helped.

We demand that the Construction project staff - erect visible signpost in all areas of diversion, at bridges to reduce on road accidents. Ensure there is community information before the quarry blasts happen to reduce on accidents and death due to frightening that comes with the blast.

Project health office takes responsibility of accidents arising from the staff on the road until the victims are healed - a case of Henry that lost a leg, and the school boy that lost an eye has since totally dropped out and must be followed up by the project team.

5. **Increased crime including but not limited to theft, community disruption, fights,** - in some cases the police is given the criminals by local council leaders and community members but they are let lose without production to courts.

We demand that the project construction staff provide due identification of their staff both casual and long term so that the community is able to identify the criminals from the project labourers. The Project staff work hand in hand with police and community leaders to manage crime in the community especially the time of paying wages and salaries

6. **Compensation complaints and redress procedure unclear** - there is selective compensation and the compensation does not commensurate the actual value of the property destroyed during the process of opening up the boundaries of the road. In some instances the project has gone beyond the boundaries earlier set and agreed upon with the owners of the properties in question.

We demand that a Local Complaints committee is set up to work closely with the project team and UNRA to resolve these anomalies. We also demand that all that were to be compensated be compensated as agreed so that members can ably relocate

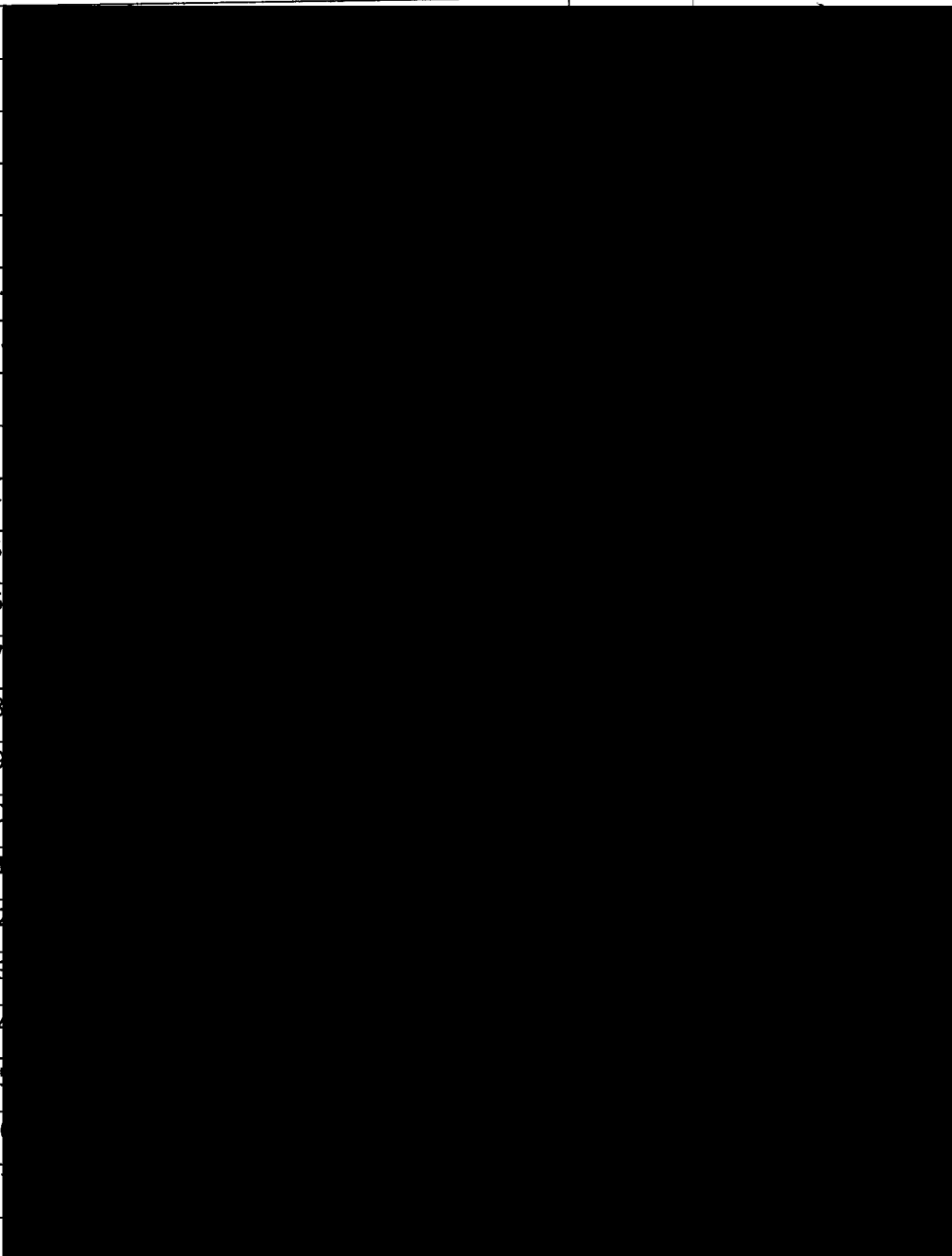
In conclusion, we with no one to turn to, we were advised that since this road was funded by the World Bank, we can write and air out our views to the inspection panel. We hope that you office will take these seriously and look into this situation. We thank you and we look forward to your urgent response.

Signed by:

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Signature]

Name	Signature
[Redacted Table Content]	

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