LAPSSET: COMMUNITY VOICES
Knowledge, Fears and Expectations.
With the discovery of crude oil in Kenya and Uganda, the government and stakeholders embarked on a plan to construct a heated crude oil pipeline of about 855 kilometres from Lamu to Lokichar to transport the oil. The proposed route is the LAPSSET route encompassing the counties of Turkana, Samburu, Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River and Lamu. The Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas (KCSPOG) aims to document how the pipeline development and the bigger LAPSSET project are affecting the lives of the marginalized groups and communities.

These are their stories.

Jumwa Charo has lived in Hindi, for most of her life. She is a farmer and also keeps goats for milk and meat. Despite living in the area for such a long time, she has no title deed for her piece of land. The government says the area is public land, and she will not be compensated.

“They took me to Bodhei to take a look at the register of people’s names whose land will be passed through by the project.”

“If they displace us and we have no title deeds to defend our land, where shall we go, what shall we do?”

Jumwa Charo
Farmer, Hindi, Lamu County
We meet Letanka Lenaingwisua in Sware, Samburu County. He comes out of his Manyatta, wrapped in a blanket and is quickly flanked by his youngest daughter. Soon, all his four wives surround him. His homestead is permanent, but during the drought, they migrate to find grazing land for their animals.

His is a simple life. When asked about his knowledge of the proposed project he says, “I haven’t heard about the Turkana oil…. What are the benefits of the pipeline? Will it be roads?”

Our conversation is interrupted when he goes to help a goat in distress, give birth.
Pauline Lolngostine is at home on the border of Isiolo and Samburu county. She has been elected Chairperson of the Sera Conservancy, which covers the Lesisian and Sereolipi group ranches. She explains how conservation has transformed her area.

"Ten years ago, conflict was a way of life here but ever since we started the conservancy, conflict has greatly reduced."

"The wild animals attract tourists, and we use the money to fund bursaries and health projects."

"We have heard rumours about the LAPISE project, and we need to sit down and discuss with them."

"We have a say in the matter because we have conserved the area."
Ekaale has been the manager at Kapese Transport and Car Hire Limited in Lokichar town for the last six years. He has seen significant growth in the town over the last three to four years.

"People have increased, more buildings are coming up and, the town is expanding."

"When Tullow started exploring for oil, many people moved to the area because, at the time, no company was giving as many jobs as they were and development followed."

"We haven’t heard much about the proposed pipeline."

"We have seen beacons in some villages, that mark a proposed route for the LAPSSET project."

He is looking forward to getting married in the next few months. His economic situation has improved, it is now possible to do so.

Margaret Puree
Business woman, Lokichar

Margaret is part of a Women’s Group consisting of 127 women who sell vegetables to Tullow.

"Previously we used to take our children for courses such as teaching or have them join the police force. But now, we take them for courses such as Engineering."
We find James Lenyimalei outside his shop in Barsaloi. Originally from Baragoi, he moved to Barsaloi to go to school. Although he often visits Baragoi, he has made Barsaloi his home for 25 years. Other than being a teacher in a local school he owns a shop. At the back of his shop, he has space where he processes Aloe Vera for sale.

“Most of the people here are pastoralists.”

“I took a different path because I am educated and to go back to pastoralism is not easy for me.”

“I don’t think anyone here has any more information about the LAPSSET project because no one has actually come here to talk to us about it. All we hear are rumours.”
We meet Jacob Ewesit in the Turkana side of Baragoi town. He is the chairman of the Turkana community living in Baragoi.

“When the project begins, we expect jobs and increased security. If everyone gets work and we involve all our neighbours - the Pokot, Samburu, Turkana- people will no longer be involved in cattle rustling.”
“Most of our youth have completed high school, so they are capable of doing more than just manual labour when the project comes.”

Godana Sora
Teacher, Garbatula, Isiolo County

“What we need is for the people involved to sit down with the community and tell us the importance of the LAPSSET project.”

Harun Galgalo
Peace Chairperson, Garba Tula, Isiolo County