

OXFAM IN UGANDA



AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



In August, Oxfam marked its return to the Karamoja district of Kotido with the launch of the Karamoja Agro-Pastoral Resilience and Empowerment Project (KAREP).

The launch marked Oxfam's return to Kotido where it previously implemented initiatives like the Empowering Local and National Humanitarian Actors (ELNHA) project and North Karamoja Development Program among others that cemented the organisation's reputation in the region.

Speaking at the launch, which was attended by implementing staff, district technical and political teams, and media, Oxfam's Country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach said

"I return today not just with memories but with a renewed purpose and it's just not a launch but a landmark and we're standing at the intersection of memory and momentum where past dedication meets future transformation.



Odokorach speaking at the Launch of KAREP

KAREP, which is funded by the Kane Family to the tune of \$1.1 million, aims to achieve resilient and sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers in the Karamoja Sub-region with focus in the Kapeta and Napumpum sub-counties of Kotido.

It will promote Climate Smart Agriculture, Women Economic Empowerment (CSA-WEE) and sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers, especially women.

Odokorach highlighted the inclusive focus of the project that will seek to empower women.

"If you strengthen a woman, you have transformed a community and we're deliberate about that because we know that when women lead, communities thrive." Said Odokorach.

Nyanga Frederick Emmanuel, who represented Kotido's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) commended Oxfam for bringing KAREP pledging his support for the project and encouraged the district leadership to mobilize communities to embrace the project:

"Interventions come and go, but I want to implore you, our technocrats within local government to persuade our people to embrace KAREP as their own program."

WSF Executive Director Milton Lopiria expressed optimism about the project.

"I believe this project will give us a chance to contribute to the aspirations of this country."

KAREP will rehabilitate and protect degraded ecosystems through initiatives such as Cash for Work. It will also integrate Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) into Agricultural Producer and Farmer Field School (APFFS) activities, manage livestock diseases, and support Community-Based Rangeland Management.



With funding from Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Oxfam in Uganda is implementing an advocacy project strategy through national and local partners, including refugee led organizations under the localization agenda 2016.

As part of the project, a team from Oxfam recently conducted a capacity training exercise in Fort Portal City targeting Refugee Led Organisations (RLOs), local and national Humanitarian Actors working in Western Uganda.

The two-day workshop sought to strengthen and enhance the capacity of RLOS and Local/National Actors to empower them with the knowledge and skills to do their work.

A total of 20 participants attended the training which employed participatory approaches such as questions and answers, presentations, group discussions, and role play.

Throughout the two days of training, participants were taken through the Monitoring and Evaluation framework for proposal development, donor engagement approaches and pitching by a team of OXFAM staff including the Program Quality and Learning Coordinator, Head of Program and the Funding Manager and Humanitarian Program Manager.

During the training, partners learned essential skills in creating effective value propositions, crafting impact stories, and navigating compliance processes.

They also gained insights into stewardship practices necessary for collaborating with institutional donors, foundations, and agencies.

This knowledge helps promote organizational sustainability by diversifying funding sources, reducing reliance on a single donor, and fostering strategic partnerships that support program growth and institutional development.

According to Geoffrey Owino, the Local and Humanitarian Leadership Coordinator, the training enabled Oxfam to enhance the capacity of Refugee Led Organisations and local and national actors in fundraising, pitching and Monitoring and Evaluation in Proposal development.

The three-year project aims to ensure local actors experience a shift in national and international humanitarian systems, whereby they have access, space and power to hold donors and intermediaries to account and they experience improved quality and quantity of funding, involvement in coordination mechanisms, and meaningful partnerships.

The Refugee & Local Humanitarian Leadership Advocacy (Conrad N. Hilton) Project aims to create a more conducive environment for local and national actors to participate in the decision-making processes and influence policies at national, regional and global levels.

STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATE IN CUSTOMARY LAND TENURE REVIEW MEETING



On 15th August 2025, over 40 stakeholders from the local and national levels working on and holding customary land in Uganda convened at Hotel Africana to review the revised National Land Policy on Customary Land Tenure.

The event was organized by Oxfam and its strategic partner, National Land Coalition (NLC) Uganda at the request of the Ministry of Lands and the Committee on Legal Affairs is a part of a series of review meetings.

It was aimed at ensuring that all stakeholders and actors on customary land/tenure are mobilized to make contributions to the provisions on customary tenure in the revised National Land Policy.

Frances Birungi, the Chairperson of NLC Uganda noted that ‘it is necessary to put people at the centre of the decision making’, hence involving different stakeholders is to ensure that all decisions are considered.

The review meeting was attended by representatives from Ministry of Lands, CSOs and members of the NLC and cultural

institutions including Lango, Karamoja, Acholi among others.

The consultants presented the provisions on customary tenure in the revised National Land Policy and identified areas for intervention and action for stakeholders.

Key policy areas of interventions included the need for registration of customary land. ‘People have no evidence of ownership of land. It is very critical for opening customary land for economic activities,’ one of the consultants noted.

He continued to highlight that regulation of land tenure for development purposes is key in the revised policy. ‘Addressing the land tenure insecurity because of the changes in the land usage. The land is coming under population pressure because of development purposes, it has become scarce because of the competing uses,’

Of all the four land tenure systems in Uganda according to the Constitution, it is only one – the customary land tenure that is not registered and regulated.

Recognizing that 70-80 percent of land in Uganda is held under customary tenure, it is crucial to seek contribution of this majority constituency and critically analyze the provisions on customary land in the revised National Land Policy.

As the customs are changing, it is important to note new vulnerable have been created and therefore having new policies that cater for the vulnerable such as children and women is considered.

This was the 7th revision of this National Land Policy Customary Tenure, since mid-last year and the proceedings from the review will inform final National Land Policy.

FAIR RECOVERY PROJECT TEAM VISIT IN BULIISA AND TORORO



Oxfam in Uganda, in partnership with the Centre for Budget and Tax Policy (CBTP) and the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) Uganda, are implementing a three-year project titled “Fair Recovery – Strengthened Civil Society and Media for Fiscal Justice”.

The project aims to promote fiscal justice by supporting progressive and gender-sensitive domestic resource mobilization to advance investment in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It also focuses on building the capacity of civil society organizations and investigative journalists to effectively advocate for equitable tax systems and inclusive budgeting processes.

To assess the progress after two years of implementation, the implementing team recently visited implementation locations of Tororo and Buliisa district where the project is implemented in collaboration with local partners Kalya Women and Integrated Development Agency (KAWIDA) and Osukuru Women Network (OWN).

Oxfam and partners work with community fiscal monitors keep track of service delivery in education and health, identify challenges and engage duty bearers on how to solve the arising issues.

In Buliisa, the team visited Avogera Health Center III, where antenatal services have improved due to the efforts of community monitors. During a routine monitoring visit, the monitors identified the lack of delivery beds as a pressing issue. Their advocacy brought this to the district's attention, leading to action on the matter.

The monitors also helped Buliisa Primary School receive 100 desks after they discovered that students were sitting on the floor during lessons.

In Tororo, at St. John Kayoro Health Center II, fiscal monitors successfully advocated for an increase in the Primary Health Care (PHC) fund from UGX 10 million to UGX 10.5 million, enhancing the facility's capacity to meet community needs. The health center also received a tricycle, which now serves as an emergency ambulance.

The project continues to promote fiscal justice by building the capacity of civil society and media to advocate progressive and gender-sensitive domestic resource mobilization.



After enduring years of marital conflict, Musa Lochoringole, aged 31, and his wife, Vivian Chemkea, aged 25, from Arol village in Karita sub-county, are now enjoying a peaceful marriage, thanks to the benefits of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology.

GALS is a participatory, visual methodology that empowers women and men, especially the marginalized, to plan, act, and collaborate for gender equality and better livelihoods.

Using simple diagrams for visioning, problem-solving, and peer learning, even low-literacy communities are enabled to drive social and economic change.

“Before becoming a model couple, there was no understanding, and we were constantly fighting,” says Musa, who was recruited to become a model couple through the structure of the GALS program.

“Culturally, women are undermined, and our voices are not heard,” says Chemkea, who recalls that her husband made all the decisions in the home and expected her to just follow along.

The couple were among over 30 couples trained in GALS components by Oxfam partner the National Association of Women's Organizations in Uganda (NAWOU).

“We trained them on tools like the Gender Balance Tree (GBT) and Vision Road Journey (VRJ), and we also shared the five love languages and encouraged couples to work and plan together at household level,” says Comfort Ruth Ekigula, a Project Officer at NAWOU.

According to Lochoringole, one of the tools that enabled them to break away from the cycle of conflict within their marriage was the Challenge Action Tree (CAT). [Read More on Our Website](#)



Oxfam in Uganda in consortium with Mercy Corps and CARE are implementing the SUpporting STRonger Access to INnovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (SUSTAINED) project in Yumbe to foster access to clean and affordable renewable energy technologies for people in displacement settings.

As a means of monitoring and reviewing the progress of the project, Oxfam and partners recently visited project locations in Bidibidi where the project is enhancing the effectiveness of market systems interventions in clean energy access for refugee and host communities.

The visit saw the team visit different program sites including village 9 and the ECOCA service point in zone 3 in Bidibiidi refugee settlement and SG group in Kulikulinga in the host community.

They also participated in discussions with model men in village 9, zone 3 on unlocking gender barriers to access and adoption of clean energy and met technicians of the ECOCA service point in zone 3 and interacted with solar water pump user groups.

The engagement further enabled the implementing team to assess progress, identify challenges, obtain feedback and engage consortium partners for enhanced project implementation with a reflection meeting held between implementing partners who reviewed progress against Q2 targets and deliverables, highlighting key achievements, learnings, and implementation gaps.

The SUSTAINED project works with energy service companies (ESCOs) i.e. (PESITHO, Tulima Solar and D.Light), Financial Service Providers (FSPs) (VisionFund), and two Refugee Led Organizations (ICAN South Sudan and CECI) to address both demand and supply side barriers.

The Women's Economic Empowerment and Care Programme (WE-Care), an initiative by Oxfam, has been enhancing gender equality by tackling the burdensome and unequal unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW) faced by women and girls.

For over a decade, Oxfam and its partners have highlighted the economic significance of UCDW in their advocacy efforts, pushing for its formal recognition in policy-making processes.

As part of routine project monitoring, the Oxfam's program implementing team and partners Girls Forum (GAFI), Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) and Mission Uganda visited project locations in Gulu and Kampala.

In Kampala, the team visited Kisa Kya Mukama Savings Group in Ggaba and interacted with couples and individuals trained on unpaid care and domestic work through GAFI and UWONET.

The group received training on the 4Rs framework for addressing unpaid care work—Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution, and Representation and have translated these concepts into their local languages for better understanding.

Implementing partners observed firsthand how group members are applying this knowledge. For example, members are recognizing the issue of unpaid care and domestic work and reducing it by adopting labor-saving technologies such as cooking gas and refrigerators. These changes decrease the time women spend preparing food, giving them more time for productive activities.

According to Peace Immaculate Chandini, the Oxfam in Uganda Women's Rights Coordinator, the visit enabled the team to understand the contextual issues in the different locations and understand how project is working.

By addressing the UCDW gender gap, the WE-Care Programme aims to foster a just and inclusive society where women have greater opportunities for participation in social, economic, and political spheres.

For Joan Kisakye, the change of environment from Kampala to Ocea where she would enroll into Rhino Camp Secondary School was a change that she initially struggled with.

According to her teacher, Mildred Nyakuru, “she was reserved who didn’t socialize freely with her fellow students and wasn’t able to consult teachers which affected her grades.”

Kisakye’s woes were made much worse by a disillusionment with her future and inability to understand what the future held in store for her as she continued to grow.

“I was confused, in a dilemma and didn’t know what was next for me, so I had lost my self-esteem and didn’t think I would ever become someone.”

Femme Forte Peer Educators Club

In 2022, as schools reopened in the aftermath of the COVID19 pandemic which had led to an increase in teenage pregnancies across the West Nile region, Femme Forte working with CEHURD and Oxfam under the Stand Up for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) project introduced a Health club at Rhino Camp High School.

Under the initiative, Femme Forte trained 10 girls and boys on several health-related issues including, life skills, growth and development, reusable sanitary pad making, and personal hygiene among others.

It was the activities of the club that first peaked Kisakye’s interest in making inquiries.

“I saw them regularly cleaning the school compound, burning the girls’ incinerator and counselling fellow students and I was interested and approached one of them.”

Kisakye was recruited as a change agent by Peace Echoniru, then head of peer educators and taken through the concepts of SRHR using the Izuba Manual, a simplified tool kit developed by Femme Forte that is used as a guide on SRHR.

“They taught me about growth and development, harmful gender norms and the importance of personal hygiene” says Kisakye.

It was from this that I also learnt about visualisation of the future which changed everything for me.

The “visualisation of the future” as laid out in the Izuba Manual aims to encourage youth, particularly adolescent girls and young women, to envision their aspirations and potential futures in a positive way by setting long term goals and taking actionable steps towards achieving them through creative exercises and reflection.

“I was able to think of my future more clearly and realized I wanted to become an engineer and have been working towards that goal which has made me surer of the future.”

In visualizing her future, Kisakye was able to draw from her own surroundings for inspiration. [Read More on Our Website](#)



Joan Kisakye has overcome her fear of the future to assume the role of leader of Peer Educators at Rhino Camp High School

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