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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information and to acknowledge all contributors to this programme. Nonetheless, errors or omissions may occur, and we regret any that may have inadvertently occurred.

#### **COVER PHOTO:**

A project participant from Omugo Refugee Settlement holds Kuroiler birds received Under the Poultry Value Chain of the DANIDA SP II project







Oxfam in Uganda annual report 2024 - 2025 ≫ (5)

# **MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR**

WHENEVER I travelled through our various programme areas, from Mt. Elgon to Karamoja, West Nile, and Southwestern Regions, I was reminded that progress sometimes appears ordinary. A farmer irrigating their garden with solar power, a women's group making their bee hives from local materials, a couple digging trenches to prevent flooding, or a group sitting under a tree to resolve community conflicts. These small but powerful moments exemplify what Oxfam in Uganda values: change that arises from within communities. They reaffirm that genuine development should not be handed down but co-created with people who understand their realities best.

Over the past year, Oxfam in Uganda's four programme themes, Resilient Livelihoods, Humanitarian Preparedness & Response, Governance & Accountability, and Gender Justice & Women's Rights, have collectively made a significant impact on communities. Throughout this report, we see how these areas of work interconnect. By economically empowering families, we reduced their vulnerability to crises. By responding to emergencies and strengthening local resilience, we established a foundation upon which citizens can assert their rights and hold leaders accountable. And by advocating for women's rights and inclusion at every stage, we ensured that our work benefits everyone, not just a select few. Overall, our combined efforts reached over 260,000 people (42% females) across Uganda, each figure representing a story of improved livelihoods, lives saved, voices raised, and dignity restored.

Our partnerships were at the heart of every success. We worked with a range of allies from refugee-led and women's rights organisations, to religious leaders, civil society networks, and government bodies. This spirit of co-creation and solidarity drove systemic changes that no single actor could have achieved alone.

and put communities in the

driver's seat. For example, when

refugees and host communities

in West Nile received water and

sanitation services, they were

agriculture training and forums

that immediate relief efforts also

security and peace. This integrated

sustainable impact comes from

addressing problems holistically

and empowering those affected to

to build cohesion. This meant

strengthened long-term food

approach has proven that

shape solutions.

also supported with climate-smart

This annual report serves as both an accountability document and a celebration of our collective achievements. It demonstrates Oxfam in Uganda's accountability to the communities we serve, our partners, and our supporters. We

A unifying thread in all our work have highlighted the outcomes of the trust and funding you have has been the "Triple Nexus" invested in us. These successes confirm that our Country Strategy approach linking humanitarian (2021-2030) is on the right path. action, development, and peacebuilding and a commitment Yet, as we celebrate, we remain keenly aware of the challenges to community-led change. Rather than implementing siloed projects, we deliberately designed programs that reinforce one another

> can withstand these shocks. Most importantly, the resilience demonstrated by communities gives us hope and motivation to forge ahead. In the coming year, Oxfam in Uganda will strengthen its presence in areas like Karamoja, where needs are significant and the potential for impact is substantial. We will continue to focus on the localisation agenda, empowering local humanitarian

relations that cause Inequality. Additionally, we will uphold our focus on the Triple Nexus, integrating humanitarian, development, and advocacy efforts to

None of this can happen alone. We invite you, our partners, donors, and supporters, to remain with us on this journey. Your support, whether financial or technical, has been vital in achieving the

Francis Shanty Odokorach Country Director,



Overall, our combined efforts reached over 260,000 people (42% females) across Uganda, each figure representing a story of improved livelihoods,

lives saved, voices raised, and dignity restored.





# 2024-2025 SUMMARY

#### OUR HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024/2025

Together with our partners, we supported and reached



260,632



**110,000 (42%)** Women & Girls



Young people



People with disabilities



Total projects implemented



#### The four thematic programs contributed to the Reach



Resilient Livelihoods

23,150

People (40% Women)



**Gender Justice** 

27,460 People (61% Women)



Governance and Accountability

8,792 People (58% Women)



**Humanitarian Response** 

201,230

People (39% Women)

#### INTEGRATED "TRIPLE NEXUS" APPROACH:

Humanitarian, Development, and Peace (HDP) efforts were combined to address urgent needs, resilience, and social cohesion.

#### **RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS:**

13 projects empowered marginalised communities through climate-resilient agriculture, economic inclusion, beekeeping, and urban farming, reaching 23,150 people (40% women). Notable successes included increased land access, improved household nutrition, market linkages for coffee and honey, and national-level influence on agroecology policy and land rights.

#### **HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS &** RESPONSE:

Provided emergency water, sanitation, livelihoods, and disaster risk reduction for 201,230 people (39% women), especially in flood-prone and refugeehosting areas. Innovations included cash-for-work, rapid emergency relief, community-led early warning systems, disaster planning, and localised humanitarian leadership.

#### **GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY:**

Supported citizen engagement, fiscal justice advocacy, and legal support for land rights violations. Eight projects reached 8,792 people (58% women), with outcomes including increased civic education, seven tax amendments, and legal redress for land and miningaffected communities.

#### **GENDER JUSTICE & WOMEN'S RIGHTS:**

Advanced policies on unpaid care, reproductive health rights, and genderresponsive budgeting. Influenced laws to end child marriage, improved SRHR access, and boosted women's participation in decision-making. Three projects reached 27,460 people (61% women/girls), transforming social norms and strengthening women's leadership across all themes.

#### INNOVATION & LEARNING:

Oxfam institutionalised adaptive programming, knowledge sharing, and capacity building for staff and partners. GIS-driven risk mapping, digital HR processes, and expansion of peerlearning circles ensured continued improvement in programme quality, efficiency, and staff engagement.

#### **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:**

Total income: €4.7 million, sourced from 10+ international donors and Oxfam affiliates. 72% of funds directly invested in programme delivery.

Key sectors: Humanitarian Response (22%), Governance & Accountability (21%), Resilient Livelihoods (19%), Gender Justice (11%).

#### **CHALLENGES:**

The year presented multiple challenges, including climate shocks, restrictive civic space, funding constraints, and public health crises. Oxfam's local partnerships and adaptive strategies enabled continued impact despite these obstacles.

#### **LOOKING FORWARD:**

Oxfam in Uganda will deepen focus on the triple nexus, and the localisation agenda. Strengthening women's rights, climate action, and community leadership remain top priorities for 2025-2026. Oxfam's commitment to learning, innovation, and partnership will keep driving systemic and sustainable change.



For more details, please read the full 2024-2025 annual report presented below.

To keep up to date with our interventions, follow us on our Socials: @OxfaminUganda.





# **OVERVIEW**

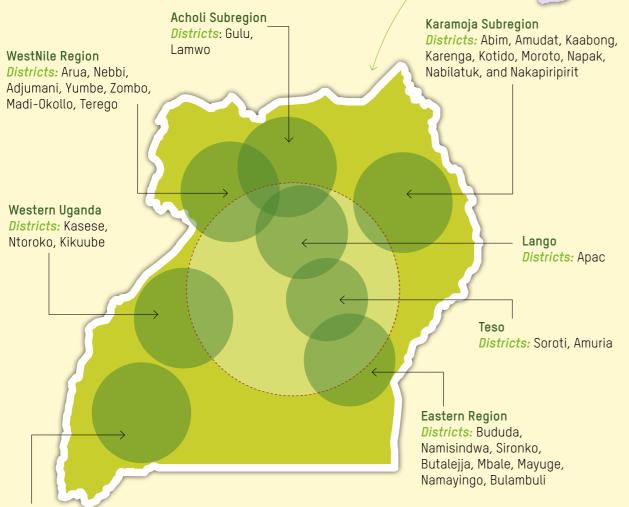
#### WHO WE ARE

Oxfam in Uganda is part of the global Oxfam confederation, dedicated to ending poverty and inequality. Our work is anchored in the Country Strategic Framework (2021–2030), which focuses on four themes. Resilient Livelihoods, Gender Justice & Women's Rights, Humanitarian Preparedness & Response, and Governance & Accountability.

#### LOCATION

We operate in 35 districts across 8 regions and subregions of Uganda.





South western Uganda

Districts: Kyegegwa, Isingiro and Kamwenge





# OUR MISSION

is to address the inequalities that cause and keep people in poverty.

Guided by these

#### **VALUES:**

Equality, Empowerment, Solidarity, Inclusiveness, Accountability, and Courage.







# **APPROACHES**

IN all our work, we consistently apply a set of approaches that guide how we engage with communities, partners, duty-bearers, and systems. These approaches are not standalone but are mutually reinforcing and help ensure our interventions are adaptive and transformative.





#### FEMINIST AND GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH

We adopt a feminist lens that seeks to shift power relations, ensure meaningful participation of women and challenge structural gender inequalities. One of the tools we applied to realise this is the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology that we integrated across all our work, like the coffee and honey value chains, VSLAs, among others.



#### **RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH**

We work from a rights

perspective. We see people as rights holders, and duty bearers as accountable actors. We support communities to claim their rights and influence decision makers to fulfil their obligations. Some of our work during the year included standing with the Kiryandongo community in the face of land evictions, as elaborated in this report. Through the NORAD project in Rakai and Buliisa, we supported local CSOs in conducting participatory public expenditure tracking and budget advocacy, enabling citizens to monitor the use of oil and gas revenue at the district level. In the Oil for Development (OFD) program, community monitors submitted regular human rights and grievance reports to intermediary bodies, which then engaged with oil companies and government agencies, leveraging those reports in policy dialogues.



#### TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND LOCALISED HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

We strive to move beyond transactional relationships to co-creation, joint leadership, and equitable collaboration with local actors, social movements, and non-traditional allies. During the year, among other examples, we engaged refugee-led organizations (RLOs) as key partners, providing funding, capacity building, and leadership roles rather than simply service delivery roles.



#### **ONE PROGRAM APPROACH / NEXUS PROGRAMMING**

Rather than implementing isolated projects, we follow an integrated approach that links humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding work (the "triple nexus") and ensures our interventions reinforce each other. In refugee-hosting districts, our humanitarian WASH interventions were designed simultaneously with longer-term livelihood support, social cohesion activities, and governance engagements, reflecting Oxfam's holistic programming under the HDP Nexus. We run multiple projects, such as the RISE-K and DANIDA SP, that were fully designed with this approach.

#### RESEARCH, EVIDENCE, AND **INFLUENCING**

Research and learning are central to how we design, adapt, and influence policy. Evidence from the ground drives our advocacy and ensures credibility in national and global policy spaces. During the year, we conducted the Climate and Fiscal Justice Scoping Study with ACODE, revealing gaps in Uganda's climate finance architecture and informing national advocacy ahead of COP29. We generated and disseminated gender, care work, and taxation position papers that informed feminist fiscal policies and budget advocacy. Our evidence-based influencing approach enabled Oxfam and partners to shape national dialogues on climate finance transparency and women's economic empowerment, as well as care work, among other engagements.

#### **ICT4D AND INNOVATION**

Oxfam in Uganda continues to invest in ICT4D solutions that enhance accountability, data management, and community participation. Technology is used as an enabler of inclusion, transparency, and real-time decision-making. We integrated mobile applications with community early-warning systems in Mt. Elgon, enabling real-time flood alerts and timely response activation using GIS-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mapping to identify risk zones and inform local preparedness plans. We continued working with the Civic Space Tv to foster digital rights, freedom of speech.



# **KEY CONTEXTUAL CHALLENGES**

THIS year, we navigated a complex landscape characterised by increasing climate disasters, unstable donor funding, global funding reduction and restrictive civic environments. Global funding reductions decreased available resources, limiting service delivery in some areas. Rising climate shocks such as floods, droughts, and landslides affected livelihoods and caused displacement, while youth unemployment remained high, further deepening vulnerabilities.

The country continued to receive refugees from neighbouring countries, and public health challenges, including outbreaks of Mpox, Ebola, and Marburg, further limited community participation and increased strain on the humanitarian sector and limited response budgets.

Meanwhile, large-scale oil projects amidst development have intensified environmental degradation and human rights risks. Teenage pregnancy also remained a major issue, with a national rate of approximately 25% for girls aged 15-19. Factors like sexual abuse, poverty, and cultural norms contributed to the high rates, particularly in rural areas and the Eastern region of Uganda. This has led to significant health and social consequences for young mothers, including high rates of school dropout.

While this context continues to drive inequality in the country, our adaptive strategies and strong partnerships enabled us to stay on course, delivering impactful change with limited resources across our areas of



At River Nyamugasani, in Kasese District, locals are using an improvised footbridge over a channel



# RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD

Resilient Livelihoods (RL) aims to economically empower marginalised and vulnerable communities through enhanced food and income security. Focused on seeds, land rights, value chains, and climate resilience, the programme targets smallholder food producers, pastoralists, women, and youth with limited resources. By employing approaches such as Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Farmer Field Schools, Gender Action Learning, and Village Saving & Loans Associations, RL fosters just economies and climate justice, contributing directly to Oxfam's strategic objectives.



#### GOAL:

Economically empower vulnerable communities to secure sustainable livelihoods.





#### FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

#### **ROOTED IN DIVERSITY (SEEDS FOR RESILIENCE):**

A multi-country program (including Uganda) led by Seeds for Resilience with Oxfam Novib, PELUM, and CIRAD. It builds agro-biodiversity and farmer-managed seed systems for food security and climate adaptation. Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### **CULTIVATING CHANGE IN A WARMING WORLD:**

A 2024-2028 program in Adjumani, Apac, Soroti, and Amuria, implemented with PELUM, ESAFF, and CIDI. It transforms rural food systems to address climate impacts and empower women farmers. Supported by SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).

#### **OTHER PROJECTS:**

Oxfam and partners implemented a total of 13 livelihood projects. Key additional initiatives included:

#### RISE-K (RESILIENCE, INCLUSIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY & EMPOWERMENT IN KARAMOJA):

Improving livelihoods and social inclusion in Moroto, Amudat, Nakapiripirit (2023–2027), with partners RRA, NAWOU, Caritas Moroto, TUNADO. Funded by Irish Aid.

#### LEAP I (LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, ACCESS & PROTECTION):

A short-term project implemented with NAWOU, AWYAD, and NETPIL with **funding** from UN Women in Moroto, Kaabong, Isingiro, and Kisoro. It specifically addressed gender-based violence and women's protection in humanitarian contexts.

#### LEAP II (LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, **ACCESS & PROTECTION II):**

Enhancing refugee and host community women's livelihoods and disaster resilience in Yumbe, Terego, Kyegegwa (2024-2026) with URDMC and SEE Impact. Funded by the Embassy of Norway/UN Women.

#### LAND RIGHTS, CLIMATE & MINING ADVOCACY:

A one-year project with the Land Justice Network securing land rights

and addressing mining's social/ environmental impacts in Busia. Funded by Oxfam US.

#### **URBAN FOOD HIVES:**

Agroecological urban farming in Kampala and Soroti (2021–2024) with CIDI and JERO Farm, improving nutrition, income, and women's empowerment. Funded by Oxfam America.

#### **FOOD SECURITY IN WEST NILE:**

Combating food insecurity in Terego & Zombo (2023-2024) with AFCE, YSAT, IFRAD – reached 17,000+ people with climate-resilient farming, cash-forwork, and nutrition support. Funded by NORAD

#### WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS ADVOCACY:

Empowering women leaders in Lira and Kitgum (2023-2024) to advance land and property rights as part of climate resilience. Funded by Oxfam International.

#### **REFUGEE FARMING SUPPORT:**

November 2023-April 2024 support to refugee and host farmers in Bidibidi, Imvepi, Rhino Camp with inputs, skills, and alternative livelihoods. Funded by the Fred Foundation.

#### SDHS II (SOWING DIVERSITY = **HARVESTING SECURITY):**

Farmer-centered seed systems in Northern Uganda, strengthening crop diversity and seed markets. Phase II, funded by SIDA.

#### WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS AND CLIMATE-**SMART AGRICULTURE IN UGANDA 2024.**

Increasing the food security and income of smallholder farmers in Zombo district. The project trains smallholder women farmers in water-harvesting and climate-smart agronomic practices.

#### Funded by Buddhist Global Relief

#### **JUST ENERGY TRANSITIONS (JET).**

The initiative supported five youth refugee and host community groups from Rhino, Imvepi, and Bidibidi refugee settlements who completed green skills training under DANIDA SPII. This initiative was to supplement skills by providing start-up kits to youth to kick-start viable businesses aligned with what they have been trained in, thereby improving their household income, addressing their basic needs, and increasing access to clean energy. Funded by Global Jet Fund, the initiative was implemented with URDM, YSAT & LUGHI.

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**





#### Access to Resources:

65% of Farmer Field School members accessed land, and 50% now own it.



#### Income Security:

Coffee farmers sold 155,000+ kg of coffee cherries, generating significant income and expanding market reach to Europe and Asia.



#### **Nutrition:**

600+ urban gardens improved household dietary diversity; 60% of refugee households improved nutrition knowledge.



#### **Diversified Livelihoods:**

979 beekeepers earned UGX 107 million and poultry farmers earned UGX 67,726/weekly.



#### Policy Influence:

Advocated for a National Agroecology Strategy and Land Policy revisions, now nearing adoption.







#### **DETAILED ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### INCREASED FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY.



#### **Urban Farming Empowerment**

Over 600 backyard gardens were established in Nakawa Division (Kampala) and Soroti City, equipping women, youth, and school-children with urban farming knowledge and skills. This not only improved household dietary diversity, but also empowered participants as community change agents, spreading sustainable nutrition practices across homes, schools, and the wider community.

One story highlights urban youth turning a crime hotspot into a thriving green space.

#### FROM CRIME **CENTER TO GREEN SPACE**

"We now earn from designing gardens, selling fresh vegetables, and providing seedlings to others starting their own urban farms."

Nassif Mukalu Abdallah. Team Leader, CIVACT Youth Group



#### From Crime Center to Green Space (continued)

IN KITINTALE'S Zone 12, Kampala, a once-abandoned piece of land notorious for crime has been transformed into a flourishing green hub of opportunity and learning. The transformation began when the Local Council 1 chairperson entrusted the space to the CIVACT Youth Group, a team of passionate young people who envisioned turning the site into a demonstration garden.

With training and support from the Urban Food Hives (UFH) Project, these youth discovered that farming isn't limited to rural areas, it can thrive even in the most crowded city spaces. Using recycled materials like plastic bottles and old tyres, they



created vibrant gardens that not only produce fresh vegetables and herbs, but also help combat plastic pollution.

"Before, we thought farming was for people in villages. Now we grow vegetables right here in our ghetto, using bottles and tyres that others throw away."

#### **CIVACT Youth Member**

The group's creativity has yielded more than crops. Their gardens now generate income through vegetable sales and urban garden design services for local residents. They've also built partnerships with organizations such as the Network for Active Citizens (NAC), expanding their reach and sustainability.

What was once a space of fear is now a model of resilience and a safe, green haven. The Urban Food Hives Project was implemented by Oxfam in Uganda in partnership with the Community Integrated Development Initiative (CIDI).

#### **IMPACT**

- Transformed a crime hotspot into a productive garden
- · Created income opportunities through vegetable sales and garden
- Promoted recycling and climate-resilient farming methods
- · Inspired other youth to see farming as a pathway to dignity and independence

Stella Nabatanzi is a member of the CIVACT Youth group that was trained on how to utilise small spaces for farming in Urban areas by Oxfam and partners CIDI and Jero Farm under the Urban Food Hives project.





Justine Namugenyi works, a works at Jero Farm which trained >> Women and Youth groups in good agronomic practices under the Urban Food Hives project



#### Climate-Smart Agriculture for Refugees

In West Nile, 3,150 farmers received training on climate-smart agricultural practices and were supplied with drought-resistant seeds and farm tools. As a result, food availability and dietary diversity increased among refugee households. In Zombo and Terego districts, impact surveys showed 60% of households (1,810 out of 3,055) improved their nutrition knowledge and practices through kitchen gardens and nursery beds.



The farmers received farm inputs for their gardens to improve their livelihoods

host communities through land-sharing agreements.

While access to land and market linkages remain challenges, the progress in Terego District demonstrates how climate-smart solutions and inclusive development can transform lives, turning vulnerable communities into resilient, self-reliant farmers.

> Nyola Farmer group members test a Solar >> Powered water pump acquired by the group to support Agriculture



#### **CASE STUDY**

#### **BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AMONG REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN** TEREGO DISTRICT

IN TEREGO District, Uganda, rural farmers, especially refugees, face the harsh realities of climate change, with erratic rainfall and reduced food aid threatening their livelihoods. To address these challenges, Oxfam and the Uganda Refugee and Disaster Management Council (URDMC), with funding from the Danish Development Agency (DANIDA) through Oxfam Denmark, are implementing the Humanitarian, Development and Peace (HDP) Initiative for Crisis-Affected Populations in Uganda. The project empowers both refugees and host communities through climate-smart agriculture, financial inclusion, and gender equality.

One of the beneficiaries is the Nyola Farmer Group, formed in 2024 in Imvepi Refugee Settlement. Led by James Adrabo, a refugee from South Sudan, the group of 15 members was trained in sustainable farming, solar-powered irrigation, and the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology. They also established a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) to encourage saving, investment, and access to credit.

Before joining the project, members relied heavily on food assistance. "Our livelihoods depended on food aid from WFP and occasional gifts from friends," recalls Adrabo. With support from Oxfam and URDMC, the group received seeds, tools, and irrigation kits, enabling them to grow crops such as tomatoes, eggplants, and cabbages. Their first bumper tomato harvest sold for UGX 960,000, allowing them to expand production and achieve self-sufficiency.

Today, Nyola Farmer Group members can meet their daily needs, reinvest in their farms, and access loans through their VSLA. The project has empowered women to take on leadership roles and inspired cooperation between refugees and



Nyola Farmer group members test a Solar Powered water pump acquired by the group to support Agriculture.



Solar powered Water Pump used for Irrigation by the Nyola Farmer group.

#### **Boost in Production and** Income

Training in agronomic and apiculture practices raised total production in 41% of smallholder farmer households. Remarkably, 979 beekeeping households harvested 21,007 kg of comb honey in 2024/25. Farmers maintained robust vegetable production for food and income, while 110 acres of group farmland were dedicated to cassava, maize, and beans, increasing food security.



A member of Unity farmer savings group plants cassava tubers during a group farming day



The women making bee hives in Karamoja region, working with TUNADO, one of Oxfam's partner working with RISE-K project



One of the members of Luzira Single >> Mothers' Group under the Urban Food Hives Project tending to her vegetables



#### Water Access Improvements

To further support crop and livestock production, over 1,500m<sup>3</sup> of water catchments were restored in Nakapiripirit and Moroto districts using a cash-for-work approach.

The water dam in Nakapiripirit district through the Cash for Work Program provides Water for both livestock and agriculture.



#### IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER THROUGH CASH FOR WORK



Cash for work in progress in Nakapiripirit district

IN DROUGHT-PRONE Karamoja, Oxfam's cash-forwork program empowered 116 community members (68 men, 48 women) to construct and rehabilitate valley dams. Working from 6 am until 11 am, each earned UGX 10,000 (approximately €2.65) daily. They restored 925 m³ of water storage. These community-built reservoirs now ensure a reliable water source during harsh dry seasons. Farmers have started vegetable gardens near the new ponds, and herders no longer trek long distances for water. In Nakapiripirit, participants have expanded into vegetable growing and larger-scale maize production, converting water ponds into permanent valley tanks. Beyond water access, the project promoted economic empowerment. The wages earned helped families buy food, pay school fees, and cover other needs. This initiative illustrates how livelihood programs can build resilience against humanitarian crises, reducing communities' vulnerability to drought.

#### **INCREASED INCOME** SECURITY.

#### Promoted Coffee Value Chain

The Coffee value chain in Zombo district continued to deliver impressive results, with growing international demand from markets in the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Israel, and New Zealand. AFCE expanded market linkages to additional countries, including Japan and the UK. Notably, one micro-station bulked 37,500 kg of Coffee cherries with a buyer pre-financing UGX 90 million, projecting sales of 40,000 kg by December 2024.



A newly erected solar dryer at Gonyobendo Micro-station (Acwera Village, Padolo Parish, Erussi Sub-county, Nebbi District, with support from one of the buyers of coffee from the group.

#### Supported Women's participation in the coffee value chain

Women's participation across the coffee value chain increased beyond production to include post-harvest and marketing activities. As an incentive, women delivering Coffee to the micro-station earned an additional UGX 120 per kilogram, encouraging sustained involvement.



A group of women coffee farmers from Gonyobendo Microstation in Zombo district, sort out coffee to ensure quality.

#### Conducted Financial Literacy to promote

A total of 3,150 households were organised into Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and trained in financial literacy. This has strengthened household savings, improved access to credit, and enabled families to better meet essential needs such as food, healthcare, and education.



The Mungungeo savings group members in a meeting. The group which is found in Warr sub-county in Zombo district has been supported by Oxfam through AFCE under the Power of Voices Partnership project.

#### **Diversified Livelihoods**



In Zombo and Terego districts, poultry farmers supported through training, provision of start-up birds, and market linkages generated an average of UGX 67,726 per week from selling birds and eggs. Similarly, 979 beekeeping households collectively earned over UGX 107 million (EUR 28,400) by selling 21,007 kg of honey at improved market prices.

Anabut poultry farmer group in Imvepi zone two is receiving IĠA(Kuroilier birds, local hens &feeds) with support from Fred foundation.





#### **KUROILER BIRDS TRANSFORMED LIVELIHOODS IN ALIGOI VILLAGE**

**WITH** support from NORAD, Oxfam's Combating Food Insecurity Project improved nutrition and incomes in Uganda's refugee-hosting districts. In Aligoi Village, Odupi Subcounty, Geoffrey and Dorish Amazu received five Kuroiler birds and training on poultry management through AFCE.

"The Kuroiler birds changed our lives,"

said Geoffrey. "Their eggs sold for up to UGX 500, and the birds fetched twice the price of local breeds."

The birds not only increased the family's income but also improved their nutrition. As members of the Aligoi Youth Development Association, the Amazus joined a savings group for the first time and used proceeds from egg

sales to buy five piglets, expanding their livelihood.

Although they faced challenges such as poultry disease, the training in hygiene and disease control helped them sustain most of their flock. Through NORAD's support, farmer groups in Odupi built resilience and food security.



Dorish and her partner Geoffrey Amazu have benefited from the Combating food Insecurity project under which they were trained on poultry rearing and linked to markets to sell their eggs and Kuroiler birds.





Community managed poultry hatchery constructed by Oxfam in Odupi Sub County, Terego district with funding from NORAD under the combatting food insecurity

#### ADVOCATED FOR PROGRESSIVE AND INCLUSIVE POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND PRACTICES ON AGRICULTURE, LAND, NATURAL RESOURCES, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND BUSINESSES

Through an innovative, multistakeholder approach combining grassroots mobilisation, evidencebased advocacy, and high-level policy engagement, we influenced for inclusive, pro-poor, and environmentally sustainable governance across key sectors.

Oxfam, in collaboration with Food Rights Alliance CSOs government agencies and other key players organised a CSO Food Systems Coordination Meeting in Kampala to discuss the role of civil society organizations in transforming Uganda's food systems





CSOs urge government to improve food systems

#### Awareness and Advocacy on **Hazardous Pesticides**

The program increased awareness and advocacy against hazardous pesticides through a high-profile press conference and a sustained public campaign themed "Hazardous Pesticides." As a result, members of the 60 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) reported enhanced knowledge, increased production, and greater use of organic pest control, compost, and liquid manure. This has contributed to safer and more sustainable farming practices.

#### Advancement of National Agroecology Strategy

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is finalizing Uganda's National Agroecology Strategy. Oxfam and its partners influenced this milestone by facilitating engagements between the Minister of State for Agriculture and small-scale farmers presenting a position paper on transitioning to agroecology-based food systems.



Advocacy on hazardous pesticides was done by bringing together key stakeholder including famer field school facilitators and farmers

#### Land Governance Reforms

Oxfam in Uganda and partners have been involved in advocating for the land rights of women and other vulnerable groups. This includes efforts to influence the amendment of land laws, such as the revised national land policy, as well as efforts to protect community rights and ensure women's land ownership.

Nyakidi Alice (69) holding her land certificate. She is one of the project participants under PvP Project that received free land registration support through the Subcounty Land Office



#### **CHAMPIONING LAND RIGHTS**

**OXFAM** and partners convened Uganda's first-ever High-Level National Symposium on Land Governance under the theme "Securing Land Rights to Support Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Food Systems." Held at Parliament and attended by policymakers and civil society leaders, the dialogue underscored the urgent need to protect smallholder farmers, especially women whose livelihoods depend on land. Oxfam's Country Director, Francis Shanty Odokorach, called for equitable land policies that address historical injustices and strengthen community resilience to climate change.



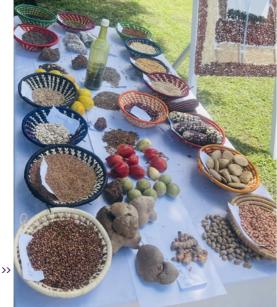


Oxfam in Uganda Country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach speaking at the Land Symposium

Guests at the land symposium

#### Recognition of Indigenous Seed **Varieties**

Oxfam and its partners ensured that farmer-managed indigenous seed varieties were recognized in the ongoing review of Uganda's National Seed Strategy, safeguarding and promoting these varieties alongside commercial seed systems.



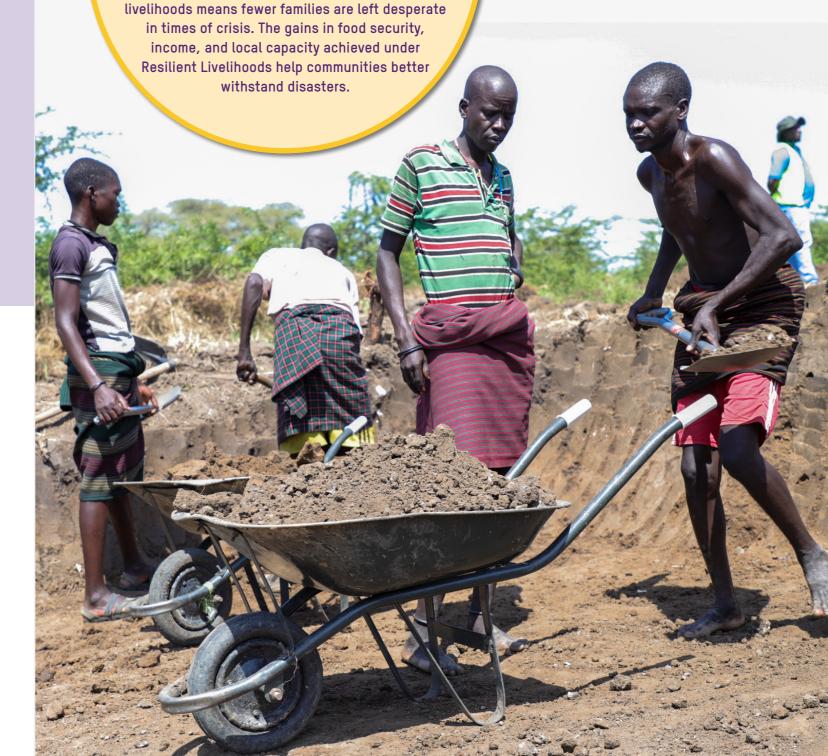


Alfred Okello, from Abripin, Ogwolo, Soroti district, grows the Africa Spider Plant garden in Abripin, Ogwolo, Soroti district, an

A table of indigenous seeds >> showcased during 'Keep your Land, Keep your Seed Campaign' in Okwongodul, Dokolo district

# CROSS-THEME SPOTLIGHT

Building resilient livelihoods helps communities withstand shocks. For example, the Karamoja cash-for-work project under Resilient Livelihoods not only boosted incomes but also created water facilities that provide water for production to the communities during the dry season. Empowering communities with sustainable





# HUMANITARIAN **PREPAREDNESS** 8 RESPONSE

The humanitarian Program focuses on saving lives and strengthening the resilience of communities, especially women, young people and vulnerable groups exposed to crisis.



#### GOAL:

Men, Women, Youth and Children vulnerable to disasters are safe, secure, resilient and enjoy dignified lives.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

To strengthen community resilience and leadership capabilities of local and national humanitarian actors in disaster preparedness, early warning and natural resource management in disaster-affected communities. To ensure a timely and quality humanitarian response in Uganda to those affected by crises. To strengthen social cohesion and peacebuilding between different crisisaffected population groups and ethnicities in Uganda.





#### FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

#### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN MT. ELGON REGION:**

Implemented with Caritas Tororo and Uganda Red Cross and funded by ECHO, this project works in seven districts of Eastern Uganda (Bududa, Namisindwa, Sironko, Butaleja, Mbale, Bulambuli, Mbale City). It trains communities and local authorities to anticipate and manage extreme weather events, linking grassroots preparedness to national disaster and climate policies.

#### **REFUGEE AND LOCAL HUMANITARIAN** LEADERSHIP PROJECT:

An advocacy initiative funded by Conrad N. Hilton Foundation delivered by local and refugee-led organizations in West Nile and Southwest Uganda. Led by RELON (Refugee Led Organisations Network) and World Voices Uganda, it advances the 2016 "localisation agenda" by promoting local humanitarian leadership and ensuring local actors are at the forefront of emergency response.

#### DANIDA SP II - HUMANITARIAN-**DEVELOPMENT-PEACE INITIATIVE:**

A Danida SPII-funded nexus project through Oxfam Denmark operating in

Red cross volunteers under the ECHO-funded project in Mt Elgon, led by Oxfam, carrying sandbags on River Disi in Sironko District. The sandbags create temporary barriers to block, divert and absorb flood water on river during floods.

>> Oxfam in Uganda annual report 2024 - 2025

Yumbe, Terego, and Madi-Okollo. In partnership with refugee-led groups (CECI, YSAT, I CAN, etc.) and national NGOs (URDMC, LGIHE, CSBAG, CRED), it integrates peacebuilding, livelihoods, education, climate action, and human rights advocacy. The project strengthens community resilience, supports equitable access to resources (e.g. around the East African Crude Oil Pipeline), and promotes peaceful coexistence through a holistic Humanitarian-Development-Peace approach (Triple Nexus).

#### **OTHER PROJECTS:**

Oxfam and partners implemented 6 humanitarian projects and responses. Key additional efforts included:

#### **GEARED FOR SUCCESS (GFS):**

MLLERS

A five-year (2022-2027) education project in Uganda and South Sudan, coimplemented with War Child Canada and funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC). It improves inclusive education for refugee, internally displaced, and host community children (especially girls) in Yumbe, Terego, Obongi, and across

the border. The project strengthens community-based organizations, promotes girls' education, and integrates gender equality in schools. (This project also contributes to Governance and Accountability goals.)

#### SUSTAINED:

A clean energy project in Bidi Bidi funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands and implemented with Mercy Corps and CARE international. It aims to provide 10,000 refugee and host households with sustainable electricity and clean cooking solutions via marketbased approaches, ensuring women's equal participation and long-term viability.

#### **EMERGENCY EBOLA RESPONSE:**

An emergency WASH and public health response led by Oxfam in Kyegegwa District. Funded by Oxfam Hong Kong, the objective was to contain an Ebola outbreak among refugee and host communities. It delivered clean water, sanitation, risk communication, community engagement, and infection prevention/control in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement.

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**





#### **Emergency WASH Response:**

Delivered clean water and sanitation Hygiene to 150,000 people within 72 hours, leading to a 25% reduction in outbreaks of

waterborne diseases. Pre-positioned supplies (via ECHO support) and innovative mobile water units enabled this rapid response.



#### Faster Flood Response:

Through the crisis modifier, ensured a timely response to flood victims with a 40% reduction in flood response time.

#### Early Warning Systems:

Established 20 community-based early warning systems in Mt. Elgon disaster-prone districts, leading to quick alerts and a 30% reduction in disaster losses.





Youth in DRR: 500 hectares of degraded land forested by youth



Food Security: Distributed droughtresistant seeds and cash transfers

to 100,000 households, 5,000 women participated in beekeeping projects, improving household food stocks by 15%.



Peacebuilding: Facilitated 20 peacebuilding fora

engaging 120,000

refugees and hosts, resolving 15 land disputes and reducing tensions by 35%.

Fee-based WASH systems: 30 communities implemented feebased WASH systems, reducing dependency on external support.



#### DRR Plans:

Supported development of 15 Disaster Risk Reduction plans, prepositioning stocks for 90,000 people.

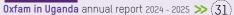
#### 10 communities

managed their own disaster responses independently through the VSLA groups.



#### Public Awareness:

200,000 people reached through radio campaigns on various humanitarian issues.







#### **DETAILED ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ACTORS.

#### District-level collaboration

Oxfam, working with partners Caritas Tororo and Uganda Red Cross, trained 300 local leaders (180 female and 120 male) in Eastern Uganda on disaster preparedness and natural resource management.

These leaders now champion community readiness through their Village and District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs). By activating their community plans, they guide communities in opening trenches and planting Bamboo on the riverbanks. Equally, Youth-led reforestation projects protected 500 hectares of degraded land, achieving a 30% reduction in disaster-related losses. At the district level, the DDMCs have been advocating for contingency funds in their district budgets and leading in conducting rapid assessments, sharing reports with the Office of the Prime Minister and other stakeholders.





#### **EARLY WARNING**

#### Supported the District Contingency Plans

Communities in the Mt Elgon region relied on inconsistent weather alerts, leaving 70% unprepared for disasters, with crops and livelihoods lost annually. District budgets rarely prioritised Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), creating gaps in preparedness. Now, with the intervention of the project, 25,000 households in Mt Elgon use weather forecasts to plan farming and evacuations, reducing losses by 35%. For example, Mbale district local government activated its action plan during the 2025 floods, saving lives and livestock. The five districts in the Eastern region, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, have had their District Contingency Plans approved, and disaster funds allocated in their annual budgets.



Oxfam and partners collaborated with stakeholders including technical teams in Mbale to develop the District contigency plans



#### Community -Led Early Warning Systems

Since 2022, Oxfam and partners have worked for three years to build the capacity of communities in early warning systems. The programme trained 600 community members (55% women) to use rain gauges and apps linked to Uganda's Meteorological Authority, integrating local and scientific forecasting. Community action plans were co-developed through participatory workshops. An innovative approach used radio shows to share forecasts, reaching 50,000 listeners.

Victoria and Naome - river gauge





#### Integration of technology and local knowledge

The 20 established community early warning systems in disaster-prone districts of Elgon run by community structures are now providing timely disaster alerts, enabling the communities to activate their preparedness plans to reduce losses. The innovative approach integrated mobile apps with local knowledge, allowing real-time flood alerts. Local governments are incorporating Early Warning Systems (EWS) into their district plans.

#### RIVER GAUGES PROVIDING EARLY FLOOD WARNINGS TO MT ELGON **COMMUNITIES**

IN THE flood-prone Mt Elgon region of Eastern Uganda, local communities are taking charge of their safety through early warning systems powered by simple, but life-saving river gauges. With support from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Oxfam, and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), 14 gauges have been installed across Sironko, Mbale, Namisindwa, Butaleja, and Bududa districts.

Each morning at dawn, volunteer Naome Khanakwa, a primary school teacher in Sironko, checks the Diisi River gauge and records water levels. If the river rises above safe levels, she alerts a local radio station, prompting early warnings and community evacuation notices. Color-coded flags, red for danger, yellow for safety, visibly signal the community's flood risk. Village disaster management committees reinforce these alerts, ensuring even remote households are warned in time.



Khanakwa Naome, 36, is a river gauge reader. She takes daily readings at 6:30 AM and shares them with the presenters at the community radio station, who broadcast the information to the entire village. Under the Strengthening Community-led Actions on Disaster Preparedness and Response project, Oxfam and partners, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas Tororo, and Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) increased the capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to hazards.

Before these gauges were installed, locals relied on observing river rocks to predict floods, an unreliable method often masked by algae and vegetation. The new system, backed by trained volunteers, mobile communication, and community radios, has created an efficient link between early warning and early action. Communities now take proactive steps such as clearing trenches, digging drainage channels, and strengthening footbridges before floods occur.

This community-led, gender-sensitive approach has built resilience and ownership among residents. While volunteers like Khanakwa work tirelessly without pay, their dedication continues to inspire others. Plans to digitize the gauges promise to further enhance 24-hour monitoring and ensure even faster responses to rising flood threats.

#### DELIVERED TIMELY AND QUALITY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (WASH)

In response to the March 2025 floods that affected Eastern, West Nile, and Southwestern Uganda, the Humanitarian Program provided clean water and sanitation to 150,000 people. The response met Core Humanitarian Standards by reaching 70% of targeted households within 72 hours. In the Eastern (Elgon) region,

timely assistance was possible due to prepositioned Non Food Items (NFIs) supported by the ECHO project. Innovative mobile WASH units, deployed through partnerships with local NGOs, improved access in remote areas and reduced waterborne disease outbreaks by 25%.



#### **CASE STUDY**

#### RESPONDING TO DISASTERS IN MT. ELGON REGION



Oxfam staff interacting with Uganda's Prime Minister, Hon. Robinah Nabbanja and Hon Lillian Aber, State Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness, and Refugees in Bulambuli District, Mt Elgon region where communities were affected by landslides

IN 2024, following a heavy downpour that caused floods and landslides in the Mt. Elgon region in the districts of Butaleja, Bulambuli, and Sironko, Oxfam, partners, and disaster management committees conducted rapid needs assessments, identified the persons who would benefit from relief aid, and sensitised them about the support they would receive before providing assistance. In April 2024, Oxfam in Uganda and partners under the ECHO-funded Strengthening Community-led Actions on Disaster Preparedness and Response project swiftly supported families affected by floods and landslides in Bulambuli, Butaleja, and Sironko districts. Over 8,000 people were impacted, with 1,200 households receiving emergency assistance, including non-food items, cash transfers, and hygiene materials. These rapid interventions helped restore dignity and stability to families who lost homes, crops, and livelihoods. The consortium, led by Oxfam alongside URCS, Caritas Tororo, and CRS, continues to strengthen disaster preparedness through community training on early action and risk reduction.

#### IMPROVING HYGIENE AND EDUCATION AT MANAFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

MANAFA Primary School in Mazimasa, Butaleja, with 1,397 pupils and 15 staff, faced severe sanitation challenges after five of its seven latrine stances collapsed, forcing boys and girls to share facilities and some pupils to resort to open defecation. Oxfam, working with district stakeholders, supported the construction of two new latrine blocks (five stances each for girls and boys) and installed a 10,000-litre rainwater harvesting tank.

The new facilities improved the pupil-toteacher ratio from 701:1 to 116:1 and, for the first time, provided a girls' changing room for menstrual hygiene, helping keep girls in school. Reliable water access has also enhanced handwashing, latrine cleaning, and meal preparation.



A photo of the completed 5 stance for Girls at Manafa PS



Water harvesting tank

Headteacher Yusufu notes that the upgrades will boost hygiene, attendance, and enrolment. The school plans to maintain and safeguard the facilities, but additional support is required for staff latrines, fencing, and classrooms.

The project was supported by Oxfam Global Humanitarian Team (GHT)under the CAT Fund to improve WASH and protection for vulnerable communities in Butaleja District.





#### WATER AND HYGIENE IMPROVE LEARNING IN REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITIES



One of the Water access points constructed by Oxfam under the WASH in schools project to provide clean water

Oxfam PHPO sensitises pupils on the appropriate use of the Menstrual Hygiene Management kits at Ofua 2 Primary School

IN RHINO Camp Refugee Settlement, Oxfam improved school environments by installing 15 water points and building latrines in eight schools. The project provided hygiene kits and trained pupils and teachers in sanitation and reusable pad making, helping girls manage menstruation confidently and stay in school. Teachers reported fewer absences and better performance, while pupils now spend more time learning instead of walking long distances for water. These interventions are transforming education outcomes and promoting dignity among both refugee and host community learners.



#### STRENGTHENED SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACE AMONG REFUGEES AND HOST **COMMUNITIES**

#### Peacebuilding foras unite communities.

To strengthen social cohesion and peace among refugees and host communities in West Nile, Oxfam and the peacebuilding partners facilitated 20 peacebuilding fora, uniting 120,000 refugees and host community members from diverse ethnicities. Women- and youth-led dialogues resolved 15 land disputes, reducing related tensions by 35%.

> Under the Peacebuilding component of the DANIDA SP II project, Oxfam uses male champions as allies for women's rights



**CASE STUDY** 

#### "I AM MAMA PEACE": WOMEN LEADING TRANSFORMATION IN BIDIBIDI

MAKA JOYCE, the Secretary for Women's Affairs in Bidibidi Settlement Zone 2, was once deeply affected by conflict after fleeing South Sudan. Her outlook changed completely after receiving training in gender-transformative leadership, peacebuilding, and psychosocial support from I Can South Sudan (A refugee led organisation) with Oxfam's support.

Inspired by these sessions, Joyce formed the Wake Up Women Group, bringing together refugees and host community women to work jointly on peace and development projects. Their commitment to peaceful coexistence earned them 10 acres of land from the Local Council 1 (LC1) Chairman, which they now use for cultivation and community initiatives.

Her transformation inspired many, including women like Annet Ayike, who credits Joyce's example for changing her own attitude toward peace. Now affectionately called "Mama Peace", Joyce is a local role model who mentors others, promotes harmony, and advocates for productivity and unity between refugees and hosts.



#### Increased access to land through awareness

Radio campaigns, featuring local stories, reached 200,000 listeners, fostering unity and enabling refugees' increased access to land for production. Joint farming cooperatives supported

by the programme-built trust across diverse groups. The active involvement of women in peacebuilding has become a strong catalyst for harmony within refugee-hosting communities. Despite

setbacks such as deep-rooted ethnic divisions, stronger bonds are reported, and local authorities have endorsed peacebuilding frameworks.





#### "I AM WILLING TO GIVE MORE LAND TO REFUGEES TO PROMOTE PEACE": A **HOST LANDLORD'S GESTURE OF UNITY**



Buga Nulu is a Landlord from Bidi Bidi refugee setttlement who volunteered his land to support the refugee community in cultivation.

**BUGA NULU**, a host landlord in Bidibidi Zone 1, chose peace over conflict by voluntarily giving over 70 acres of land to refugees for cultivation. Having recognized that land scarcity was a major source of tension between hosts and refugees, he decided to share his inheritance to promote coexistence and self-reliance.

Buga's decision was inspired by community peace dialogues organized by I Can South Sudan, the Cultural and Religious Alliance, and supported by Oxfam. These discussions helped him understand the refugees' struggles and the value of peaceful relations.

He now advocates for other landlords to follow his example, saying, "Those discussions opened my eyes to the importance of peaceful coexistence." His action transformed a potential conflict trigger into a symbol of solidarity and cooperation, strengthening community bonds and improving livelihoods for both refugees and host families.

In West Nile and Southwestern Uganda, women now hold 40% of Refugee Welfare Council (RWC) leadership roles across 15 settlements, fostering peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities through 25 joint peace structures.







nity Piggery Rearing Group in ugo Refugee Settlement, Village celebrates a key milestone with he birth of 8 piglets. The initiative nighlights the potential for sustainable come generation through pig rearing,

#### **ENSURED EMERGENCY FOOD** SECURITY AND VULNERABLE LIVELIHOODS (EFSVL)

Together with partners, we supported 100,000 vulnerable households in Southwestern Uganda by providing droughtresistant seeds and cash transfers, significantly boosting food security. Diversification through beekeeping projects, integrated with environmental protection, increased income for 5,000 women, enabling them to consistently provide food for their families. Our innovative mobile app connected smallholder farmers to markets. increasing sales by 20% and leading to a 15% rise in household food stocks.

#### STRENGTHENED LOCAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE (DRR)

#### District-level DRR plans enhanced community readiness

During the reporting period, we developed 15 district-level DRR plans, enhancing community readiness and pre-positioning supplies for 90,000 people. As a result of sustained advocacy and stakeholder engagement, the five flood-prone Districts of Butaleja, Mbale, Namisindwa, Bududa and Sironko in the Elgon region of Eastern Uganda have integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) priorities into district planning and budgeting processes, gesturing a shift toward locally led disaster preparedness.



Oxfam and partners collaborated with stakeholders including technical teams in Mbale to develop the District contigency plans

#### Integrating DRR into local governance and planning

District leaders and technical planning teams began recognising the importance of proactive investment in DRR as a cost-effective approach to managing disaster risks. Currently,

DRR interventions, such as community sensitisation, early warning system strengthening, and emergency preparedness training, are being included in annual sectoral work plans of the 5 districts, especially under the environment, health, and production departments.

#### Innovative Risk Mapping Promoted Effective Response

Community-led simulation exercises cut flood response times by 40%, significantly strengthening preparedness. Our innovative risk mapping, developed with refugees and host communities, enabled optimal stock placement. As a result, 10 communities independently managed their own disaster responses.

#### Building a Foundation for **Decentralised Disaster** Management

This is a stepping stone for decentralised DRR, aligning with Uganda's National Development Plan and our vision of resilient communities. It challenges top-down systems by providing local forecasting and advocacy work. We aim to scale this to 100 communities and 10 districts by 2028, advocating for national DRR funding policies. Partnerships with NGOs and governments will expand app access and budget commitments, fostering systemic resilience against climate shocks.



Oxfam and partners trained subcounty officials in Rapid Needs Assessment as a way of Managing disaster Risk Reduction Management





#### LOCALISED HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

In the past, international NGOs dominated humanitarian responses, with local actors receiving less than 5% of available funding and holding minimal decision-making power. Today, this landscape has shifted. Local NGOs now lead 30% of projects, co-design response plans with district authorities, and share inspiring stories, like Amina, a refugee who now leads a WASH committee. Funding increasingly flows directly to local partners, while

joint committees promote inclusive decision-making, fostering resilience and community ownership.

In West Nile and Southwestern Uganda, a localisation policy co-developed with district governments facilitated by Oxfam has enabled 10 local NGOs and refugee-led organisations (RLOs) to secure \$200,000 from diverse donors, including the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Uganda National

NGO Forum. Joint decision-making structures now include 20 communityled committees that directly shape disaster response plans, embedding local leadership at the heart of humanitarian action.

Oxfam served as a Convenor and Capacity Builder, facilitating policy dialogues among communities, governments, and NGOs, and training local humanitarian leaders in advocacy.



Oxfam in Uganda's partners CECI and YSAT were recognized for their dedicated efforts in refugee and humanitarian response at an event organised by UNHCR and Community Technology Empowerment Network (CTEN)

#### **CASE STUDY**

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND: SWIFT SUPPORT THROUGH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WESTERN UGANDA**

IN WESTERN and Southwestern Uganda, recurring disasters, like flooding, landslides, and refugee influxes from the DRC, repeatedly affect lives and livelihoods. Historically, local organizations had to navigate slow, bureaucratic funding flows, limiting their ability to deliver rapid relief.

To address this, Oxfam and local partners established the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform (WUHP) in 2022, coordinated by World THROUGH AN ERF **INVESTMENT OF** \$70,000

Voices Uganda. WUHP empowers 56+ local actors, including women and refugee-led groups, to take the lead in emergency response and policy advocacy. Through the Emergency Response Fund (ERF), local organizations now access resources within 72 hours of a disaster, improving the speed and impact of aid delivery.

WUHP's effectiveness was felt during major floods in 2023 and 2024. When the Nyamwamba and Nyamugasani rivers burst their banks, local NGOs, quickly funded by WUHP, assessed needs and delivered essentials, food, blankets, hygiene kits, and emergency shelter within three days. This rapid response also supported newly arrived refugees at Bundibugyo's Bubukwanga Transit Camp. Beneficiaries, including refugees like Sakina Bulange Sarah, reported restored dignity and hope due to timely and targeted assistance.

Risk management and accountability are central. Partners undergo vetting (PRISMA), submit detailed budgets, have activities monitored, and participate in financial audits, with local authorities ensuring transparency. WUHP prioritizes inclusivity, supporting people with

56,272 **PERSONS** WERE **REACHED**  disabilities and other vulnerable groups, while safeguarding against exploitation through continuous training and community dialogue.

Over two years, \$70,000 from Oxfam enabled WUHP to reach 56,272 people,including 29,571 women and 612 persons with disabilities. The initiative has strengthened local response, improved gender inclusion, and built resilience. WUHP advocates for direct donor partnerships and sustainable contingency funds, ensuring local responders are always ready.

"When local actors lead, recovery is faster, smarter, and more sustainable," affirms Gard Benda, Country Director of World Voices Uganda.

Investing in locally led emergency response is not just efficient, it is essential for effective, dignified humanitarian action.





- 26,701 MEN
  29,571 WOMEN
  16,880 CHILDREN
- **612 PWDS**



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#### LAUNCH OF THE LANGO HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM

**IN LINE** with the Grand Bargain and Charter for Change commitments to strengthen local humanitarian leadership, Oxfam in Uganda and Plan International supported the launch of the Lango Humanitarian Platform (LHP). The event, marked by a public march through Lira City, a radio talk show, and a launch meeting at Margarita Hotel, was organised by the Charter for Change Working Group Uganda.

During the launch, LHP members called for international NGOs to honour

localisation commitments by promoting equitable partnerships that empower local actors, who best understand their communities, to lead humanitarian responses. "Local actors should sit at the decision-making table to co-design solutions with donors," emphasised Julian Joyce Acoko, Chairperson of the Charter for Change Working Group.

Geoffrey Owino, Local Humanitarian Leadership Coordinator, described the platform as a major milestone in advancing the localisation agenda. The Lango sub-region, frequently affected by poverty and climate-induced disasters such as flooding in Amolatar and Dokolo, will benefit from stronger local coordination through the LHP.

Oxfam, together with the Refugee Led Organisations Network Uganda and World Voices Uganda, and with support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. continues to drive this localisation agenda through the Refugee and Local Humanitarian Leadership Advocacy



Oxfam Supported the Launch of the Lango Humanitarian Platform to support the Localization of Humanitarian action in the lango sub-region. Photo from Plan Uganda

#### **CROSS-THEME SPOTLIGHT**

Oxfam in Uganda embraced the triple nexus programming by designing projects that reinforce each other across sectors. For example, the Danida Humanitarian-Development-Peace Initiative in West Nile concurrently addressed emergency needs, long-term livelihoods, and governance issues. While providing immediate support (WASH, protection) to refugees, it also invested in livelihoods, education and engaged communities in peacebuilding dialogues.

Humanitarian response addresses urgent needs and stabilises communities, but lasting recovery depends on just and accountable governance. As emergency efforts are ongoing, communities must be empowered to hold leaders accountable to manage resources fairly, ensuring long-term development and social justice.



# and Environment and Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda's Country

# GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

The Governance and Accountability theme focuses on promoting active citizenship and ensuring effective resource mobilisation and utilisation, including public finance, taxation, and budget advocacy. It also emphasises transformative education and improved governance of extractive industries. The program supports citizens and their organizations through innovative research, capacity building, campaigns, and other advocacy tools. Additionally, it is designed to respond rapidly to emerging issues, such as threats to civil society or policy actions that affect resource mobilisation and use.



#### GOAL:

Strengthen citizen participation, resource mobilization, and government accountability.



#### FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

#### FROM MINES TO SCHOOL:

A 3-year project (2024–2027) in Karamoja (Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Amudat) tackling child labour in mining communities. Implemented with Resource Rights Africa and the Education Advocacy Network and funded by the EU, it addresses harmful social norms and gender inequalities that drive child labour. Using community theatre and the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) approach, the project raises awareness and shifts norms in mining areas. It also strengthens local institutions' capacity to respond to child labour, provides vulnerable families with alternative livelihoods, and advocates for improved legal and policy frameworks to protect children.



#### FAIR RECOVERY, TAX FOR **DEVELOPMENT:**

A 2-year project (2023-2025) in Buliisa and Tororo districts, focused on fiscal justice and gender-responsive budgeting. In partnership with SEATINI Uganda, CBTP, KAWIDA, and Osukuru Women's Network and funded by NORAD, it builds the capacity of civil society and journalists to advocate for fair taxation and increased public spending on essential services.

#### POWER OF VOICES - FAIR FOR ALL:

A 5-year program (2021–2025) led by Oxfam Novib Netherlands with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ( MOFA). Operating in Uganda (as well as other countries), it strengthens civil society coalitions (SEATINI, CSBAG, AFCE, ESAFF, UAA) to advocate for fair trade, decent work, women's rights, and environmental justice in agricultural value chains. In Nebbi and Zombo districts, this program has mobilized farmers and workers to demand better terms in coffee and horticulture trade, pushed for policies protecting labor rights, and ensured

women farmers have a voice in trade discussions. (This project intersects with Resilient Livelihoods through its focus on fair agricultural value chains and with Gender Justice by championing women's economic rights.)

#### **OTHER PROJECTS:**

Eight governance initiatives were implemented.

#### **COMMUNITY VOICES FOR EQUITABLE** AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCE:

A 4-year global Fair Finance International project funded by SIDA, engaging civil society in Uganda (and other countries) to promote responsible banking and investment practices. Fair Finance Uganda works through a CSO coalition to monitor financial institutions and influence their policies on human rights, gender equality, environmental protection, and governance. The project aims to strengthen advocacy capacities, promote transparency, and ensure financial institutions contribute to social and environmental well-being

#### **HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT & PEACE INITIATIVE (DANIDA SP II):**

See Humanitarian section for details.

#### RECIPE (RECENTERING THE CIVIC INTERNET THROUGH PARTNER **ENGAGEMENT):**

A 3-year EU- funded digital rights project with the Center for Constitutional Governance. It empowers civil society, activists, and human rights defenders across 10 countries to advocate for digital rights, online freedoms, and a safer internet. In Uganda, it builds digital literacy and pushes for policies that protect civic space online.

#### **GEARED FOR SUCCESS (GFS):**

See Humanitarian section for details.

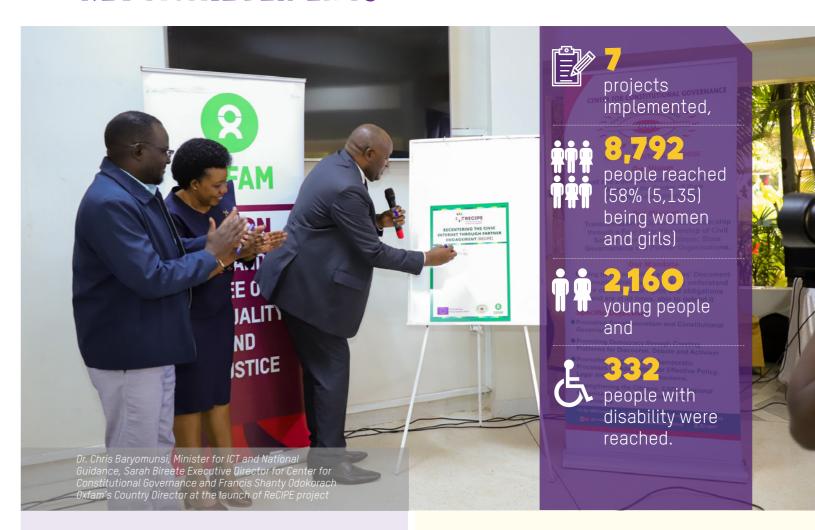
#### **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN KARAMOJA** (ECCAK):

A UN Women/CERF-funded initiative in Karamoja that strengthens Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in humanitarian settings. Implemented with CDFU and UN Women, it empowers community structures (including women and youth groups) to participate in humanitarian decisionmaking and feedback mechanisms. By creating channels for community feedback and training local leaders, it improves transparency and ensures aid in Karamoja is responsive to community

#### STORIES FOR CHANGE:

A collaborative initiative between Oxfam and FOTEA, supporting young creatives in Uganda to tell stories about social change using various media. Funded by Oxfam Novib, this program provides young photographers, writers, and videographers with a platform to develop and showcase projects that address issues like climate change, refugee experiences, and community empowerment.

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**





#### Civic Education:

A national handbook launched. empowering youth to participate in democratic processes.



#### Public Finance Advocacy:

48 policy papers submitted to Parliament, with 7 tax amendments incorporated.



#### Land Rights:

490+ project-affected persons received legal support to challenge land grabs.



#### Climate Education:

Integrated into TVET curricula, with women's leadership in climate justice increasing by 32%.



#### Enhanced civic engagement,

policy influence, and public finance responsiveness. Communities now monitor service delivery and demand accountability.

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#### **DETAILED ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### STRENGTHENED CIVIL SOCIETY SPACE FOR ENJOYMENT OF CIVIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS BY RIGHTS HOLDERS

#### Civic Education Handbook Launched

A major milestone was the development and introduction of a comprehensive Civic Education Handbook for secondary schools. This resource, covering civic rights, responsibilities, and citizen participation, received strong, positive feedback from educators, students, and stakeholders for its capacity to empower young people with vital civic knowledge and engagement skills.



#### **Empowered Grantees and Amplified** Advocacy

Technical and financial support provided to grantees enabled successful joint advocacy initiatives and strengthened their ability to influence decisionmakers. Significantly, four grantees including Sensitize Uganda, Talents Enabling, the Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG), and Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organization (UWOCASO) secured additional funding from other donors, reflecting increased trust in their capabilities.



Participants pose for a group photo after the inception meeting for Uganda Voice Project Grantees at Esella Country Hotel in Kampala- Photo Credit - LASPNET Uganda

#### Capacity Building in Digital Rights and Civic Engagement

Targeted training sessions on digital rights, civic engagement, and digital literacy were delivered by Oxfam in collaboration with CCG. These trainings enhanced participants' abilities to use digital platforms for advocacy, mobilise communities, and counter online threats such as misinformation, hate speech, and censorship. Despite these achievements, Uganda's civic space continues to face serious constraints.



Oxfam in Uganda while working with Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG) launced the comprehensive Civic Education Handbook for secondary schools covering civic rights, responsibilities, and citizen participation to empower youth.

#### **WORKED TOWARDS AN EFFICIENT AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT** SYSTEM THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF RIGHTS HOLDERS

#### Strengthened Community Participation

Oxfam, in partnership with CSBAG, SEATINI Uganda, CBTP, and RRA, achieved significant progress in policy advocacy. We strengthened communities' capacity to engage in budget processes, advocate for improved health and education services, and support decision-makers in resource mobilization.



CBTP Africa team facilitating community dialogues on critical service delivery on education and health the FY 2025-26 in Buliisa district with support from Oxfam. Photo credit - CBTP Africa

#### Media Collaboration and Public **Awareness**

We collaborated with 50 media activists to raise public awareness on government budget priorities for 2024/25. Our efforts resulted in 48 position papers submitted to the Parliamentary Committee of Finance, with seven recommendations adopted in the FY 2024/25 Tax Amendment.



#### Commitments to service delivery

Evidence-based advocacy led to government commitments to enhance service delivery, including local government prioritization of key infrastructure projects. Community engagement on taxation empowered citizens to monitor public spending, demand better services, and contribute to increased local revenue collection at both sub-national and national levels.



40 community monitors of the community fiscal monitoring groups that were trained and ready to actively influence service delivery in Bullisa District. Photo





#### ENHANCED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN, MEN, YOUTH, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS IN DECISION MAKING AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Oxfam, in partnership with Civic Response on Environment and Development (CRED), enhanced the capacities of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in the Albertine region to understand their rights, engage in decision-making, and hold authorities accountable on matters such as compensation, resettlement, and displacement. Over 490 PAPs received legal empowerment, including support in obtaining lawyers for land-grabbing court cases.

Specifically, 462 individuals in Nyairongo village, Kabwoya sub-county, supported by CRED, filed a class suit against the registered proprietors of Block 2 Plot 190 at Buhaguzi Hoima (190 hectares), challenging the illegal registration of community land.

Defendants included Balak Ampaire and the Commissioner Land Registration. The case seeks nullification of the disputed land title. This initiative has

led to stronger observance of human rights during oil project implementation and ensured proper compensation of affected persons.



CRED participated in discussions with Total Energies Uganda on Livelihood Restoration and Agriculture Development Initiatives for Project Affected Persons Photo Credit\_ CRED



A peaceful demonstration by affected communities in Buliisa appeals to the President to urge companies involved in the EACOP project to comply with Uganda's laws on land acquisition and respect human right's Photo credit\_ CRED

#### MILESTONE TOWARDS JUSTICE FOR EVICTED PROJECT-AFFECTED PERSONS IN **KIRYANDONGO**

Over 1,000 Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in Kiryandongo District were forcefully evicted by Agilis Company Limited from Ranches 20 and 21

to make way for commercial farms growing maize, soybean, sunflower, and simsim. Many PAPs lost land that was essential to their livelihood and



Witness Radio in collaboration with Kiryandongo district convened a meeting to discuss the rampant violent and illegal land evictions that have significantly harmed the livelihoods of the local communities in the area Photo credit Witness Radio

cultural identity, with some receiving little or no compensation and others being inadequately resettled. With support from Oxfam, Witness Radio mobilised and organised the PAPs, enabling them to demand their rights and seek redress collectively. As a result, Agilis Company agreed to enter a formal mediation process observed by the International Finance Corporation, giving PAPs a historic platform to voice grievances, demand fair compensation, and negotiate remedies. This marks a significant step towards justice, accountability, and the restoration of dignity for the affected communities.

#### STRENGTHENED THE CAPACITY OF CSOS, LEARNERS, PARENTS, AND TEACHERS TO ADVOCATE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Oxfam and the education partners empowered student clubs, teachers, and local government leaders to advocate for climate education in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. This was achieved through climate education caravans and collaboration with the Directorate of Industrial Training to integrate climate education into the TVET curriculum.

To promote Transformative Education a section of Oxfam and partner staff engaged with the parliamentary Committee on Education and Sports to Present a Memorandum on the National Teacher's bill

Efforts in Yumbe, Terego, and Madi-Okollo districts focused on promoting women's leadership in climate change mitigation by supporting their participation in decision-making. Networks of Vocational Training Institute (VTI) instructors, formed through Teacher Learning Circles (TLCs), further supported these initiatives.

Continuous engagement with VTI students, staff, district officials, and the Office of the Prime Minister increased female participation in newly formed climate justice clubs to 32%. These actions raised awareness among students, communities, and vulnerable groups about the importance of women's leadership. The capacities of participatory budget clubs (PBCs) in West Nile were also strengthened, enabling evidence-based advocacy that led to concrete improvements in school infrastructure, such as new toilets and boreholes.



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#### BULIISA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGISTERS TAX REVENUE GROWTH

SEATINI UGANDA, in partnership with Oxfam and Kakindo Integrated Women Development Agency (KAWIDA), concluded a two-day meeting with Buliisa District Local Government (DLG) officials focusing on the implementation of Local Revenue Enhancement Plans (LREP).

This meeting was a follow-up with Buliisa DLG, to assess the progress of implementing the LREP.

With funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Oxfam, in partnership with

SEATINI Uganda, CBTP, KAWIDA, and Osukuru United Women's Network. is implementing a 3-year 'Tax for Development' Project in the districts of Buliisa and Tororo and at the national level.

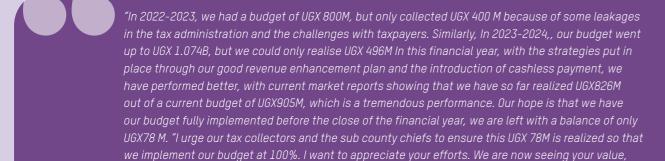
The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of civil society and investigative journalists to advocate for fiscal justice, thereby enhancing the financing of priority social sectors and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Uganda.

Henry Semanda, a Tax Analyst, emphasised that local authorities require specific targets to expand their tax base and improve local revenue generation. He further stated that engaging local citizens, especially farmers, traders, and business owners, on revenue issues helps identify practical strategies for increasing revenue and improving compliance.

During this engagement, James Isingoma, the Buliisa District Accountant shared how the project has enhanced revenue generation and collection at the Buliisa district.



Bullisa district local government officials during a meeting on the implementation of Local Revenue Enhancement Plans (LREP)



ever since you joined in, we are seeing a tremendous improvement in revenue."

#### **CASE STUDY**

#### WHEN YOU ARE A TEACHER, YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL TO THE COMMUNITY."

"THE TLCS have taught me professional conduct and the principles teachers must uphold. As a teacher, the community looks up to you, so character and integrity matter." Hilary Amayo, Instructor at Lodonga Technical

Hilary values the TLCs for their collaborative approach. "We are professionals from different fields sharing knowledge freely. This has diversified my teaching methods and improved how I relate to students," he explains.

The impact is clear. "Student performance has improved, and teachers are now more aware and open to supporting students' needs, such as counselling when necessary."

As secretary of the TLCs, Hilary has also developed leadership and management skills. He notes that

Ladonga a community school, offers informal courses to vulnerable learners, equipping them with skills for future employment, and the TLCs have strengthened the school's capacity to deliver quality education. "Together as teachers and learners, we are transforming the quality of learning delivered here."

**About TLCs** 



https://youtu.be/kfnVlC1cZRE

Teacher Learning Circles (TLCs) are small peer-to-peer coaching groups of teachers who support one another through coaching and collaboration. They are formed after teachers complete their Teacher Education and Professional Development (TEPD) training to help them continue learning and improving their skills together. TLCs were introduced in Ladonga and the other two vocational institutes in West Nile by Oxfam, with support from DANIDA under the Humanitarian Development and Peace (HDP) Initiative. also known as DANIDA SPII. The TLCs and other DANIDA SPII initiatives have been implemented in collaboration with the Luigi Guissani Foundation (LGF). The TLCs foster collaboration, teamwork, and ongoing professional growth among teachers, thereby enhancing the quality of the learning content students

Read more about the TLCS here.



A group of teachers from Yumbe district who are part of the Teacher Learning Circles (TLC) who share knowledge and skills with each other to improve learning outcomes for learners



Hilary Amayo, Instructor at Lodonga Technical



#### A JOURNEY FROM THE MINES TO SCHOOL IN KARAMOJA, UGANDA – MEET MERCY

**16-YEAR-OLD** Mercy stands in her old Croc slides in the dusty compound of the Utut mobile school. She wears a smile that often fades quickly, as if she's lost in deep thought. Around her, other children, some younger and a few older, shuffle in and out of class. When asked what her dream is, she says she wants to become a nurse.

"I want to complete school and help my family and others like the nurses at the health centre do. I, however, do not know if I will be able to finish school to become a nurse," says Mercy Naok.

Just months ago, in January, Mercy's days were spent at the gold mines. She sifted heaps of soil searching for tiny glimmers of gold. On a good day, she earned 5,000 shillings (approximately €1.23), barely enough to buy food. Her parents, worn out by years of mining, relied on her to help put food on the

With a mobile school in her community and increased community awareness about the dangers of child labour, Mercy seized the chance she had long yearned for to return to school despite her parents' hesitation. She convinced her mother that she would still provide for the family. She once attended mainstream school but had to drop out due to a lack of school fees and the pressure to work in the mines.

Despite having another chance at education, the journey remains difficult. Hunger is a silent torture, no meals are provided at school, and at home, the only meal she can rely on comes late in the evening, if she can manage to provide it. Her routine until recently was attending classes until 1pm before

rushing back to the mines in an attempt to earn a meal for the day.

"We close early because most of us are too hungry to focus."

Mercy Naok, Utut mobile school student

It is not uncommon for children like Mercy and even younger to be engaged in child labour

#### From Mines to School project

Funded by the European Union through Oxfam Ireland, the "From Mines to School" project is implemented by Oxfam in Uganda, in partnership with Education Advocacy Network (EAN) and Resource Rights Africa (RRA). The initiative aims to get children out of hazardous labour in the gold mining districts of Moroto, Nakapiripirit, and Amudat and into accelerated learning.

The Accelerated Education Programme (AEP) condenses the primary curriculum into three levels. The goal of these schools is to help learners like Mercy, who have missed time in school, to catch up and sit their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) in record time.

By early 2025, the project had successfully established six Accelerated Education Program (AEP) mobile schools in some of the region's most challenging-to-reach mining areas, including: Nakapiripirit (Naror, Utut), Amudat (Kokwochaya, Nagwoliet), Moroto (Napedo, Akwapua).

#### Mercy's future

The mines Mercy worked in were temporarily shut by the government, citing higher numbers and concerns about hygiene. She now must find casual work after school to try and







provide her family with a day's meal.

Mercy feels there is too much burden on her to support the family of five since her mother and father are suffering from severe back pain after long days of mining. She worries that this hinders her resolve to stay at school.

As Mercy faces the harsh realities of hunger and family duties, the burden of her dreams becomes both her motivation to stay in school and a heavy weight, leading her to deep reflection. How can she concentrate on her studies when each day is a battle for survival?

Mercy's journey is just one of many, echoing the collective struggle of 304 children, so far who have found a path from mines to school.

#### **CROSS-THEME SPOTLIGHT**

Inclusive governance amplifies women's voices. In 2024/25, Oxfam's governance work deliberately elevated women's leadership in decision-making. For example, through budget advocacy training and community dialogues, women began actively participating in local budgeting and compensation discussions, influencing land and resource policies that affect their lives.

Accountable governance and active citizenship lay the groundwork for equity, but true social justice requires transforming power relations between women and men.



# Jane Adili is a member of the Women's fora who serves as a woman leader on the Refugee Welfare Council I (RWCI) committee for Village 8, as part of the women fora she is involved in

# **GENDER JUSTICE** 8 WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Gender Justice and Women's Rights theme aims to address gender inequality by empowering women and girls, promoting their participation in leadership, eliminating gender-based violence, advancing sexual and reproductive health rights, and fostering economic justice for the marginalised.



#### GOAL:

Advance gender equality and women's rights across all areas of life.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

To promote healthier, safer and more equitable gender relations. To increase the capacity of social movements and WROs for legislative and policy reforms that are adequately resourced. To promote equitable social norms and behavioural change through research, policy, and advocacy, Knowledge, learning, and thought-leadership, transformative and strategic partnerships, and the use of Gender-Transformative approaches.





#### **FLAGSHIP PROJECTS**

#### WE-CARE PHASE 5.1:

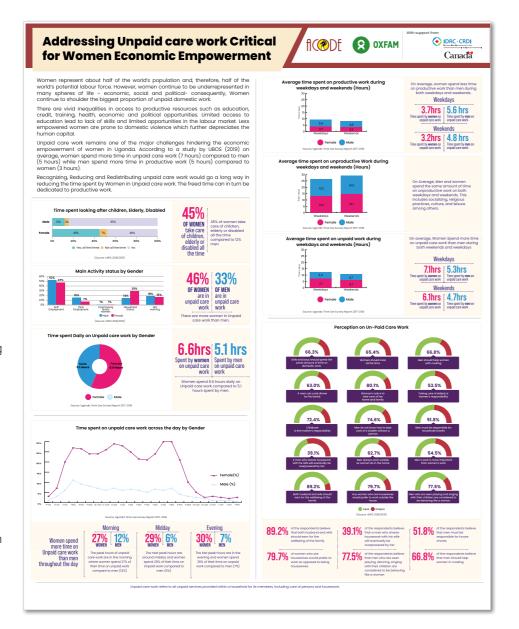
Funded by the Hewlett Foundation, it is an initiative implemented by Oxfam in Uganda with partners UWONET, GAFI, and Mission Uganda. Operating in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe, it focuses on recognizing, reducing, and redistributing unpaid and underpaid care and domestic work (UUCDW) to promote women's autonomy. The programme works by increasing policy recognition of care work, reducing its burden through public investments, and ensuring women's representation in decision-making.

#### STAND UP FOR SRHR (SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS):

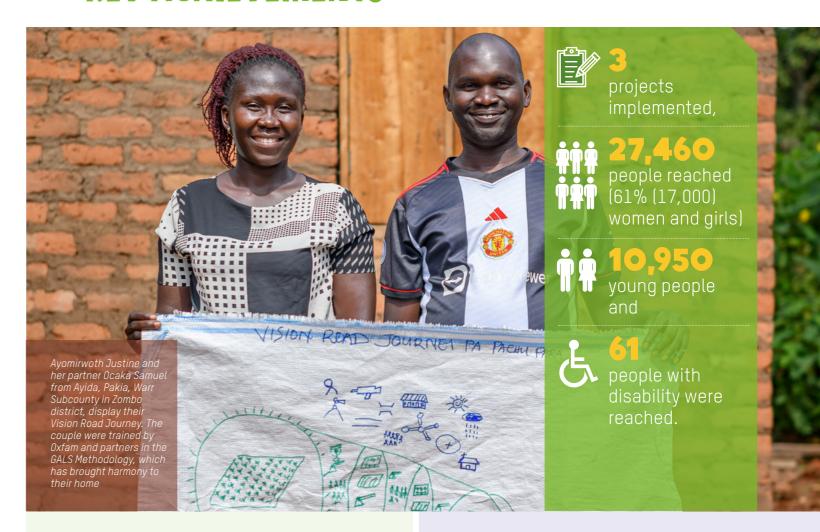
Funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), it is a 6½-year project led by Oxfam Canada in collaboration with IPPF, Guttmacher Institute, CEHURD, Femme Forte Uganda, RHU, and Makerere University. It is implemented in Uganda, Mozambique, and Canada, focusing on improving access to genderresponsive, inclusive, and youthfriendly SRHR services. In Uganda, Stand Up operates in districts like Mayuge, Namayingo, Nebbi, Madi-Okollo, Arua, Terego, and Arua City. The project addresses harmful gender norms around sexual health, strengthens health systems (training providers, equipping youth-friendly corners in clinics), and advocates for better SRHR policies and enforcement.

#### STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE) AND CARE SOLUTIONS PROJECT:

Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), it is a 12-month initiative implemented by Oxfam in Uganda and ACODE. Focused in Uganda, it aims to improve WEE and care-work policy effectiveness by providing technical assistance, gender training, and coalition-building among policymakers. It forms part of the broader GROW East Africa Initiative to advance gender equality and care policy reforms.



#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**





#### **SRHR Access:**

Over 1,846 AGYW and young men accessed SRH services via outreach and youth-friendly clinics.



#### Policy Influence:

Education Ordinance passed in Arua; new by-laws enacted to combat child marriage and mandate school attendance.



#### Care Work Recognition:

The Orthodox Church agreed to integrate unpaid care work teachings into theological guidance.



#### Women's Voice:

Women now actively participate in local budgeting and compensation dialogues, shaping land and resource policies.



#### Systemic Change:

Gender-transformative approaches are shifting social norms, increasing women's participation in decisionmaking, and improving service delivery.

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#### **DETAILED ACHIEVEMENTS**

#### INCREASED EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH) SERVICES

#### Empowered young girls and women through peer education

Oxfam and the Stand Up project partners CEHURD and Femme Forte implemented a comprehensive approach to increase equitable access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services among diverse groups of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Peer education sessions empowered AGYW to confidently access counselling, health information, and STI/HIV testing, enabling informed health decisions.

Community outreach in Singila, Lolwe Island in Namayingo district where communities receive reproductive health services



#### Collaborated on advocacy for SRHR

Meaningful engagement of government, religious, and cultural leaders strengthened advocacy, resulting in milestones such as the enactment of the Education Ordinance in Arua.

Community dialogues provided vital platforms for building awareness and increasing accountability, resulting in ongoing improvements to SGBV referral systems.



To bring urgent sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) issues to the attention of government, Oxfam and CSOs partners under the SRHR aliance engaged members of parliament in Kampala.



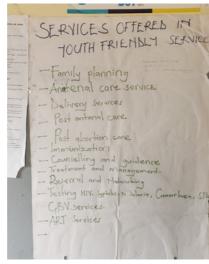
Meet Ajambo Catherine, a student leader leading change at Bukana Secondary School



An award presented to Oxfam from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development for its contribution in advocating for care and support for the most marginalised communities

#### Influenced youth-friendly services

Equipped youth-friendly spaces offered safe and welcoming environments for AGYW to access SRH services comfortably, contributing to an increased uptake. Notably, 70% of rural health facilities in the implementation areas now designate specific days where trained health workers provide confidential services to young people.



Youth friendly services offered at Bukatube Health Centre in Mayuge District under the Stand Up for SRHR Project

#### **CASE STUDY**

#### HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED AT LOLWE ISLAND HEALTH FACILITY IN **NAMAYINGO DISTRICT**



Lolwe Health Center IV whic is found on Lolwe Island, Namayingo district provides Sexual Reproductive Health Rights Services under the StandUP for SRHR project

FOR OVEr two decades, Stephen Bogere has led Lolwe Health Centre III on the remote Lolwe Island in Namayingo District, providing essential medical services to the community. In recent years, the facility has undergone a remarkable transformation through the Stand Up for SRHR Project, implemented by Oxfam, CEHURD, Femme Forte Uganda, Reproductive Health Uganda, and Makerere University School of Public Health, with support from Global Affairs Canada.

Previously, health workers at the facility offered basic family planning services with little follow-up. Today, they provide integrated and patientcentered SRHR care, including counselling, post-abortion care, and

follow-up visits. As Stephen notes, this shift has built trust between the community and health workers and led to a surge in service uptake, from 30-40 clients a month to over 120.

Youth-friendly services have reduced stigma and myths around contraception, leading to increased use of long-acting reversible methods (LARC) and injectables. Proper counselling now ensures women understand their options, resulting in better adherence and satisfaction.

A key factor in this success has been the work of peer educators, trained by CEHURD, who raise awareness about SRHR and dispel myths. Their outreach has connected many like

Joan Tumuheirwe, a 26-year-old from Gorofa village, to free, safe, and reliable family planning services at Lolwe Health Centre. Peer educators also help identify and refer community members for broader health needs, contributing to a healthier, more proactive population.

Beyond the facility, Oxfam and partners have worked with local and cultural leaders to challenge harmful norms and practices. These engagements led the Namayingo District Council to regulate Disco Matanga, a cultural fundraising event often linked to sexual exploitation demonstrating a community-wide commitment to protecting women and girls.





#### MOBILISED SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, COMMUNITY AND FAITH LEADERS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF UNPAID CARE WORK (UCDW)

#### Integrating UCDW principles in the Uganda Orthodox Church

Oxfam and partners, including UWONET, continued engaging decision-makers at both national and sub-national levels to influence gender-related policies. Following our training, leaders and staff of the Uganda Orthodox Church committed to integrating unpaid care

and domestic work (UCDW) principles into their theological principles. We are now finalising a Memorandum of Understanding to co-develop a pastoral letter that will use Orthodox doctrine to raise awareness on unpaid care and domestic work among church members.

A pastoral letter is an open letter from the church leadership to its clergy and laity, providing guidance, instruction, or encouragement on pertinent matters of faith, morals, or social issues relevant to the Church and its members.



Oxfam and partners UWONET and GAFI engaged with leaders of the Uganda Orthodox church who are considered important allies in the reduction of

included priests, national coordinators of the Mothers' Union, youth leaders, and the head of laity,

among others, from Wakiso and Kampala districts." Extracted from the UWONET, X page

"Today, we conducted a capacity-building session for religious leaders on unpaid care and domestic work at the headquarters of the Orthodox Church in Namungoona (St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral). The objective was to enhance religious leaders' understanding and appreciation of unpaid care and domestic work, fostering greater commitment to the 4Rs- Recognition, Reduction, Redistribution, and Representation. This initiative followed the Orthodox Church's outreach to UWONET. Participants

#### **CASE STUDY**

#### BREAKING BARRIERS: MALE CHAMPIONS REDEFINING CARE WORK IN NAKAWA, **UGANDA**

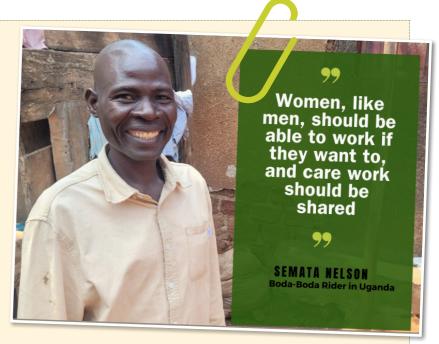
IN THE vibrant heart of Kampala's Nakawa Division, a group of boda boda riders is redefining masculinity by championing male engagement in unpaid care work. Supported by Oxfam in Uganda, UWONET, and Gals Forum International (GAFI) under the WE-Care Programme, these men are proving that transforming social norms starts at the community level. During her visit to Uganda on 25 July 2024, Oxfam in Africa Director Fati N'zi-Hassane met with these male champions, an encounter she described as one of the highlights of her trip. "Change does not happen at the higher level; it starts with us and the way we live," she affirmed.

Oxfam in Africa Director Fati N'zi Hassane meets with a Boda Boda group championing Unpaid Care Work redistribution with support from Oxfam, UWONET and GAFI support



#### **STORIES OF CHANGE**

Semata Nelson, a boda boda rider, grew up in a home that valued shared responsibility but later conformed to traditional gender roles. His marriage collapsed under the weight of inequality, a painful lesson that drove him to become an advocate for sharing care work. Through GAFI's training, Semata learned that dividing household responsibilities empowers women and strengthens families. Today, he inspires fellow men to treat their wives as partners and to see care work as a shared duty rather than a woman's burden.



Semata Nelson is a male champion who is pushing to change societal norms and champion male engagement in unpaid care.





#### STORIES OF CHANGE

Sempijja Steven, another rider, once viewed domestic work as beneath him. After training with GAFI, he began sharing household chores and rebuilding his relationship with his wife and daughter. Their partnership now thrives both emotionally and economically, as his wife's increased earning power complements his income. Together, they have built a more equal, loving family life.

Sempijja Steven is a Male Champion advocating for the Sharing of roles by both men and women to reduce the Unpaid Care work burden on Women





Oxfam in Africa Director Fati N'zi-Hassane, Oxfam in Uganda Country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach and UWONET Executive Director Rita Aciro visited and interacted with Boda boda riders in Nakawa, Kampala who are advocates of sharing of roles by both men and women to reduce the unpaid care work burden

#### **Community Transformation**

According to *Rita Aciro*, Executive Director of *UWONET*, these stories highlight how socialization shapes attitudes toward care work and how men's transformation can heal families and shift community norms. Local leaders report a decline in domestic disputes since the trainings began, and a growing optimism among young people about marriage.

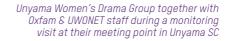
Oxfam in Uganda Country Director Francis
Shanty Odokorach notes that sharing unpaid
care work strengthens family bonds and
boosts economic stability: "By challenging
traditional norms, men like Sempijja are
redefining masculinity and setting a powerful
example for others."

#### **Beyond Nakawa**

The WE-Care initiative continues to amplify these lessons, ensuring that the voices of carersboth women and men inform policy and budget decisions.

#### Influenced the enactment of the household kitchen garden by-law

Additionally, Unyama sub-county leaders enacted a by-law requiring all households to establish kitchen gardens, thereby reducing the time women spend sourcing vegetables from markets and improving household nutrition. Since women are the primary caregivers for the sick in Uganda, better family health means less care burden and more rest for women.





## ENSURED WOMEN AND MEN EQUITABLY PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

Working in partnership with the Resilient Livelihoods theme, the interventions enhanced the capacity of women and youth regarding gender and human rights at both household and community levels. As a result, men and women now recognise their roles in family and community development, with women actively participating in income-generating activities such as market work and membership in community development groups like VSLAs.

### Promoted gender responsive leadership and budgeting.

Gender-responsive leadership and budgeting trainings empowered women leaders to advocate for issues affecting women and marginalised groups. Women now hold more committee positions at the subcounty level, and their views are respected by male colleagues.



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#### Advocated for girls' education and ending child marriage

In Karita, female leaders successfully proposed a by-law mandating children to return to school and ending child marriages, which is now being implemented. Local government leaders adopted gender-responsive budgeting, prioritising service delivery for women and marginalised groups.



#### Improved women's access to water and land rights

In six sub counties, rehabilitation and construction of water sources improved access, reducing the care burden on women. Leaders also joined community dialogues with the Ministry of Lands to develop fair guidelines for land valuation and compensation.



Adoko Juliana fetching water from the borehole at Bwiriza Zone, in Kyaka II Settlement.









#### KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK

Oxfam in Uganda's knowledge and learning practices are guided by our established Knowledge and Learning framework, utilizing various

channels such as project evaluations, monitoring, bi-annual partner reviews, periodic project assessments, and case story documentation. These

initiatives help highlight achievements, pinpoint gaps, and capture lessons learned, many of which inform project implementation.

#### **COLLABORATIVE REFLECTION AND PARTNERSHIP**

Each year, we convene quarterly internal meetings and organize both bi-annual and annual staff forums with partners to assess progress against operational plans, reflect on partnerships, and prioritize actions for transformative partnership goals.

A section of Partners and Oxfam staff discuss better ways to work together during the Bi-annual program review meeting





#### **PROGRAM QUALITY AND LEARNING**

Program Quality and Learning (PQL) is central to our approach, strengthening sustainable change for the women and men we support. PQL guides our knowledge management and ensures evidence-based, high-quality programs. The unit continued to organize thematic reflections, reviews, and forums, as well as participate in project monitoring to track progress and foster organizational learning.

#### **LEARNING AND ADAPTIVE IMPLEMENTATION**

We have deliberately embedded learning in our implementation and influencing strategies, ensuring that evidence gathered at different stages informs adaptive and strategic decisions. Regular reflection meetings, joint monitoring visits, after-action reviews, and check-ins with partners allow us to assess successes, identify areas for improvement, and increase impact.



Oxfam team (Canada and Uganda) and partners implementing Stand Up for SRHR project in Uganda interacting with Namayingo district leaders

#### APPLYING LEARNING FOR IMPACT

A notable example is our adaptation of economic empowerment strategies. Findings from midterm reviews revealed that while Cash-for-Work (CfW) raised short-term incomes especially for women, many participants reinvested earnings into agriculture. This insight led us to connect them with extension services and markets, supporting their shift from short-term relief to sustainable livelihoods. Similarly, feedback from poultry programs showed that households receiving more birds and training saw higher incomes, prompting us to refine targeting and post-distribution support.

#### INSTITUTIONALISING LEARNING AND **SCALABILITY**

To institutionalize learning, we now integrate structured learning agendas into project design, annual planning, and partner grant cycles. New projects include learning questions addressing key knowledge gaps, improvement areas, and scalability. Our urban food systems and seed initiatives have demonstrated promising results and scalability, with real-world learning driving both operational and advocacy strategies.

#### **INNOVATIONS**

Oxfam strengthened the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to enhance disaster preparedness and resilience planning. By training staff in the use of satellite imagery and spatial data, Oxfam supports hazard assessments, community risk mapping, and impact analysis, particularly in flood and drought-prone areas. This approach allows the overlaying of hazard, infrastructure, and population data to pinpoint vulnerable zones, prioritize interventions, and communicate risks clearly to both policymakers and communities.



As the country continues to experience climate-driven shocks, GIS-based DRR mapping remains a scalable innovation with strong potential to enhance community preparedness and resilience.









#### PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Oxfam in Uganda is a rights-based organization committed to building a diverse team that embodies feminist values and supports the Country Program's objectives. Our dedicated staff underpin our success, consistently driving Oxfam's initiatives forward despite challenges. We have made significant strides in creating a supportive, inclusive workplace, enhancing employee engagement and relationships, promoting well-being,

and ensuring timely compensation to keep our team motivated. Our staff of 85 (50 men and 35 women) brings diverse perspectives united by strong commitment to Oxfam's mission.



Oxfam in Africa Director Fati N'zi-Hassane, interacted with Oxfam in Uganda staff and partners during her Explore Oxfam Uganda visit to the country

#### **CAPACITY STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL PARTNERS**

Oxfam in Uganda continues to strengthen the capacity of local partners by improving HR systems, compliance, and grant management. The HR team played a key role in training sessions held in Arua and Fort Portal, increasing local partners' understanding and integration of core HR principles. These engagements focused on aligning HR processes with organizational goals, ensuring labor compliance, strengthening accountability, and fostering inclusivity and staff well-being. Such initiatives have enhanced collaboration, sustainability, and the overall performance of Oxfam-supported programs in Uganda.



Partners brainstorm during a capacity building session organised by Oxfam under the Conrad N. Hilton project to build the capacity of partners in Human Resource, Communications and Digital Rights

#### **CASE STUDY**

#### **COLLABORATIVE SKILLS SHARE**

THE OXFAM in Uganda team, including Communications, Human Resources, Digital Rights, and Safeguarding, conducted training sessions for the staff and partners implementing the DANIDA SP and Conrad N. Hilton Foundation-funded projects in West Nile. The team covered a range of crucial topics including, documentation and storytelling, getting informed consent, social media strategies, branding and visibility, photography, civic space, digital rights and internet governance, developing effective human resources policies, the guidelines for safeguarding and managing recruitment and performance management among others. The participants committed to use the skills and knowledge to improve their organisations. Following this, one of the partners was able to review their communication channels, identify some gaps and reach out for tailored support towards making improvements to their social media platforms, website, newsletters and others



#### **STAFF CAREER** PROGRESSION, LEARNING, **AND HOSTING AFFILIATE STAFF**

Oxfam in Uganda demonstrates meritbased growth through fair competition, allowing several staff members to advance into senior positions, including key international roles. This approach highlights the caliber of talent nurtured within our organization. Our positive culture, strong internal systems, and HR capacity have earned trust from other Oxfam affiliates, positioning us as a host for staff exchanges and learning programs. These collaborations accelerate cross-learning, professional growth, and network-wide capacity building, reinforcing our commitment to investing in people and promoting sustainable development.

> A section of Oxfam staff after a reflection meeting in Kampala.

#### **DIGITALIZATION OF HUMAN RESOURCE INITIATIVES**

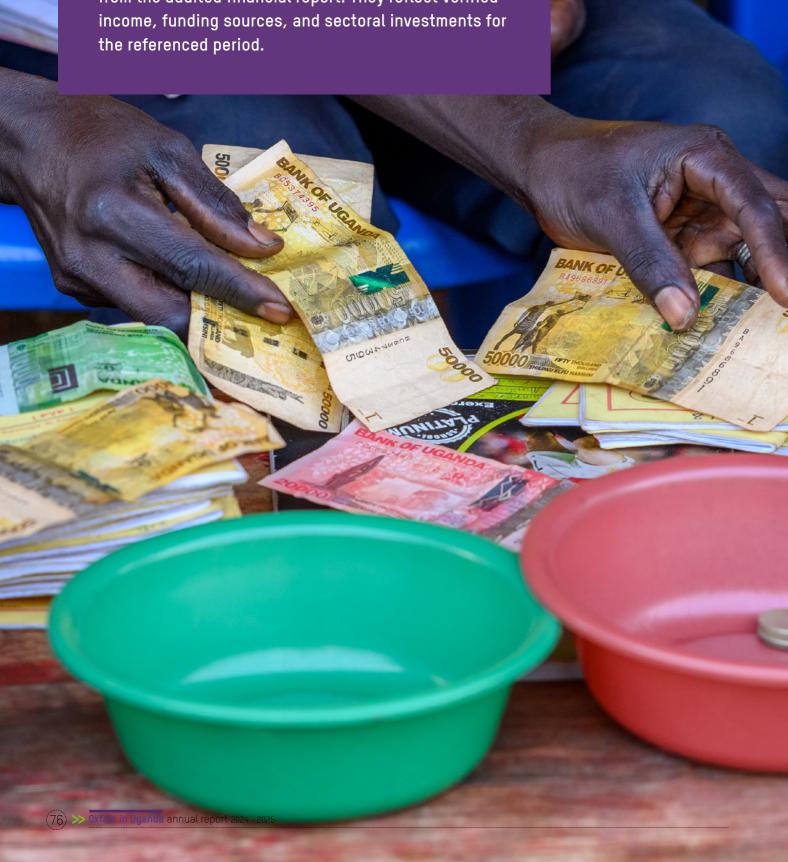
HR is aligning its digitization strategy with Oxfam's Country Strategic Framework to strengthen digital capabilities and improve efficiency. Key HR functions such as leave management, recruitment, contracts, learning, reporting, and IT self-service have been digitized for greater accessibility and engagement. The HR team actively supports staff to adapt to these systems. Various terms and conditions initiated in the revised HR policies have been fully integrated into this digital environment, enhancing efficiency and supporting a paperless HR process.



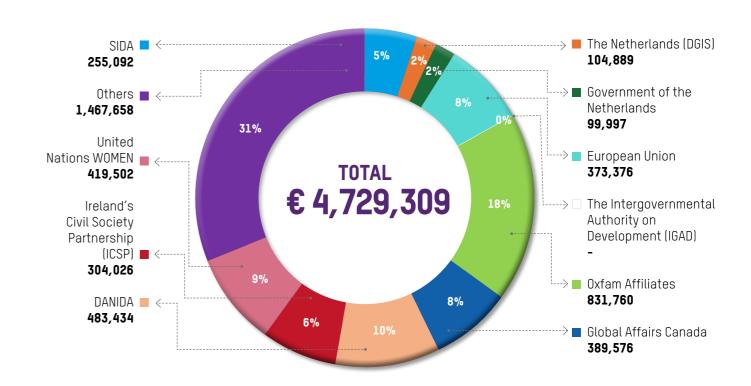


# FINANCIALS & **ACCOUNTABILITY**

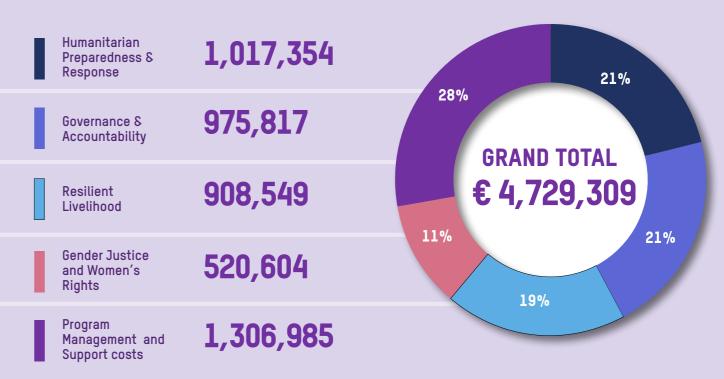
The financial figures presented below are extracted from the audited financial report. They reflect verified the referenced period.



#### **INCOME- FUNDING SOURCES (EUROS)**



#### **SECTORAL INVESTMENT (EUROS)**









NO	NAME	ORG TYPE.	
	GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY		
1	Centre for Constitutional Governance	National	
2	Civic Response on Environment & Development	National	
3	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group	National	
4	SEATINI Uganda	National	
5	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment	National	
6	Education Advocacy Network Ltd	National	
7	Resource Rights Africa	National	
8	Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum	National	
9	Hoima Union of Persons with Disabilities	Local	
10	Joy Initiatives Uganda	Local	
11	Uganda National Action on Physical Disability	National	
12	Gulu Women Economic Development & Globalization	local	
13	Legal Aid Service Providers Network	National	
14	SORAK Development Agency	Local	
15	SENSITISE UGANDA	Local	
16	Children's Chance International	Local	
17	Partners for Community Health and Development Organisation	Local	
18	Stay in School	Local	
19	VOHARO Uganda	Local	
20	Teenage Mothers and Child Support Foundation	Local	
21	Organisation for community Empowerment	Local	
22	Talents Enabling Uganda Ltd	Local	
23	Kabarole Hospital Initiative on Women	Local	
24	Brain Injury Support Organisation Uganda	Local	
25	The She Craft Women's Group	Local	
26	Bukolooto Mosque and Community	Local	
27	Centre for Disability Rights, Research & Governance	Local	
28	Mental Health Uganda	National	
29	Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organisation	National	
30	Hope Alert Network for Devt.	Local	
31	Community Volunteer Initiative for Development	Local	
32	Masaka Association of Persons with Disabilities	Local	
33	Education Advocacy Network Ltd	National	

34	Resource Rights Africa	National
35	Center for Budget and Tax Policy	National
36	MBELENI Foundation Ltd	Local
RESILIENT & LIVELIHOODS		
37	Uganda Agribusiness Alliance	National
38	Agency for Community Empowerment	National
39	ESAFF Uganda	National
40	PELUM-Uganda	National
41	Community Integrated Development Initiative	National
42	The Uganda National Apiculture Dev't Org	National
43	African Women & Youth Action for Development	National
44	SEE -IMPACT LIMITED	National
45	African Women Agribusiness Network Uganda	National
	HUMANITARIAN	
46	Uganda Refugee & Disaster Management Council	Local
47	Caritas Moroto Diocese	Local
48	Uganda Red Cross Society	National
49	Youth Empowerment to Act	Refugee Led Org
50	World Voices Uganda	National
51	Lugbara Kari	Refugee Led Org
52	Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation	Refugee Led Org
53	I CAN South Sudan	Refugee Led Org
54	Youth Social Advocacy team	Refugee Led Org
55	Refugee Led Organisation Network	Refugee Led Org
56	LUIGI Giussani Foundation	National
57	Nature Talk Africa	National
58	Caritas Archdiocese of Tororo	National
59	Somali Women Union	National
GENDER JUSTICE & WOMEN'S RIGHTS		
60	Femme Forte Uganda	National
61	National Association of Women's Organisation in Uganda	National
62	Centre for health Human Rights & Dev't	National
63	Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)	National
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS		
64	FOTEA FOUNDATION LIMITED	National

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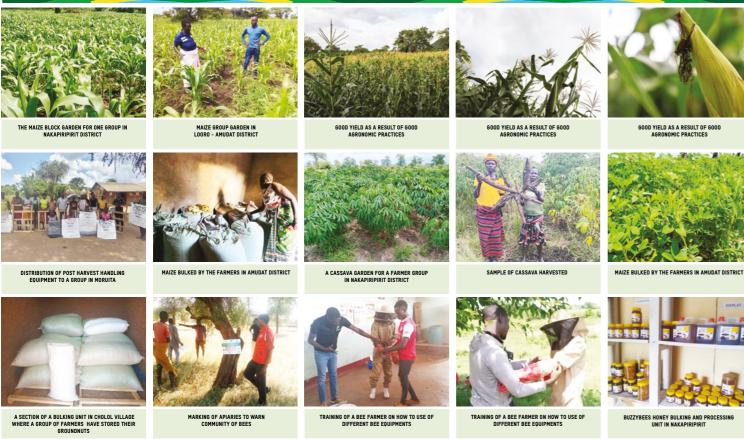


We acknowledge and appreciate the financial support of the RISE K project under the ICSP in the development of this annual report.



# ICSP - UGANDA









cbtp Centre for Budget and Tax Policy

# ICSP - UGANDA























For more information, please contact:

#### **OXFAM IN UGANDA**

www.oxfam.org/uganda

≥ kampalaoffice@oxfam.org

Social: @OxfaminUganda

Tel: +256 31 22 65 384 | 031 22 65 384

#### Follow us on our Social media platforms



The report was led and **compiled by Dorah Ntunga Groves** with support from **all program teams**, PQL, finance, HR, logistics, the Country Director and the communications team.

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