

COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY

AMONG REFUGEES AND HOST
COMMUNITIES IN TEREGO AND ZOMBO
DISTRICTS - UGANDA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT OXFAM IN UGANDA.....	02
NORAD COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY PROJECT.....	03
“KUROILER” BIRDS.....	04
THE PEACEBUILDING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMPONENT.....	08
CASH FOR WORK (CFW) INTERVENTION.....	11
GENDER ACTION LEARNING SYSTEM.....	15
CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE.....	18





ABOUT OXFAM IN UGANDA

Oxfam is a global organization that fights inequality to end poverty and injustice. We are working towards a more equal future.

We believe all lives are equal. No one should be discriminated against or live in poverty. We want a world in which everyone can safely speak truth to power, claim their human rights, and build a better future for themselves. We recognize that we cannot achieve this on our own but as a collective power. We, therefore, work in partnership with local and grassroots organisations, civil society, individuals, volunteers, the private sector, and the Government.

In Uganda, we deliver this commitment by providing quality and timely humanitarian support to crisis-affected -vulnerable communities, enhancing resilient livelihoods, promoting gender justice and women's rights, and championing inclusive and accountable governance.

Our work is guided by the Country Strategic Framework (CSF) (2021- 2030), which is organized around four themes with specific goals:

Governance and Accountability

Goal: *Inclusive and accountable governance systems are in place to promote the rights of vulnerable people*

Focus: Building active citizenship, working around the petroleum and mining industry, promoting transformative education, and promoting fiscal justice.

Resilient Livelihoods

Goal: *Vulnerable and marginalized people are*

economically empowered and have resilient livelihoods

Focus: Sustainable access and control over natural and productive resources, gender-sensitive agriculture and the value chains, youth skilling, resilience and adaptation to climate change, and support for business development.

Humanitarian preparedness and response

Goal: *People vulnerable to crises are safe, secure, and resilient and enjoy dignified lives*

Focus: Emergency assistance through Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene promotion (WASH); building resilient livelihoods for crisis-affected communities; strengthening gender and protection systems; enabling inclusive Peace initiatives; enhancing disaster preparedness capacity with communities; Steering Local humanitarian leadership; and Rights in Crisis Advocacy and policy influencing nationally and regionally.

Gender Justice and Women's Rights

Goal: *Women and girls from vulnerable communities are empowered, enjoy their rights, and live in dignity.*

Focus: social norm change, addressing GBV, advocacy around Unpaid Care work, monitoring progress on women's rights commitments, championing the feminist agenda, and addressing sexual reproductive health rights for young people.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO CHANGE THAT LASTS, WE MOBILIZE THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE, INFLUENCE THOSE WITH POWER TO TRANSFORM THE SYSTEMS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT HAVE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON PEOPLE'S LIVES



NORAD COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY PROJECT

In September 2023, Oxfam received funding from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to implement the Combating Food Insecurity (CFI) project in the refugee-hosting districts of Terego and Zombo in collaboration with local partners in West Nile.

Through its partners, Youth Social Advocacy (YSAT), International Foundation for Recovery and Development (IFRAD), and Agency for Community Empowerment (AFCE), the 12-month project aimed to improve food security by increasing access to and availability of nutritious food for most vulnerable households.

Combating food insecurity among vulnerable individuals and households was a pilot project that supported 17,000 individuals from refugees and refugee-hosting communities of Terego and other food-stressed communities in the Zombo district of West Nile. Under the IPC report, these districts appeared as phase 2, which is food-stressed districts.

The €900,000 project supported a wide range of activities that promoted climate-resilient food production and increased the income of small-scale food producers as well as food availability in local markets. The interventions included;

KUROILER BIRDS

Promoting Kuroiler birds aimed to enhance the incomes of households in refugee and host communities. To ensure a wide reach, two hatcheries were established in the Zombo and

Terego districts to support the production of Kuroiler birds at the household level, allowing them to be supplied to multiple households within the communities.

PEACEBUILDING

Due to tensions between refugees and host communities, the project integrated peacebuilding into its implementation. It recruited peacebuilders, particularly from community structures, trained them in peacebuilding techniques, engaged with the community, discussed the importance of peace, and facilitated dialogues and public discussions on why peace is essential.

CASH FOR WORK

The Cash for Work intervention aimed to engage refugees and host communities in public works while providing them income that helped community participants access food and other household needs.

GENDER ACTION LEARNING SYSTEM (GALS)

The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology was applied in the project. The aim was to facilitate the integration of gender in the project interventions, ensuring that both men and women can transform their livelihoods as a result of the project and that no one is left behind.

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Climate Smart Agriculture was implemented, working with refugee and host communities to establish group gardens for vegetables.



KUROILER BIRDS

a chicken breed, improved for both meat and egg production.



Some of the Kuroiler Birds being raised in at the hatchery that was established in Zombo district

This intervention sought to support 3,000 youth and women in Zombo and Terego refugee and host communities with “Kuroiler” birds, a chicken breed improved for meat and egg production and adaptable to local conditions.

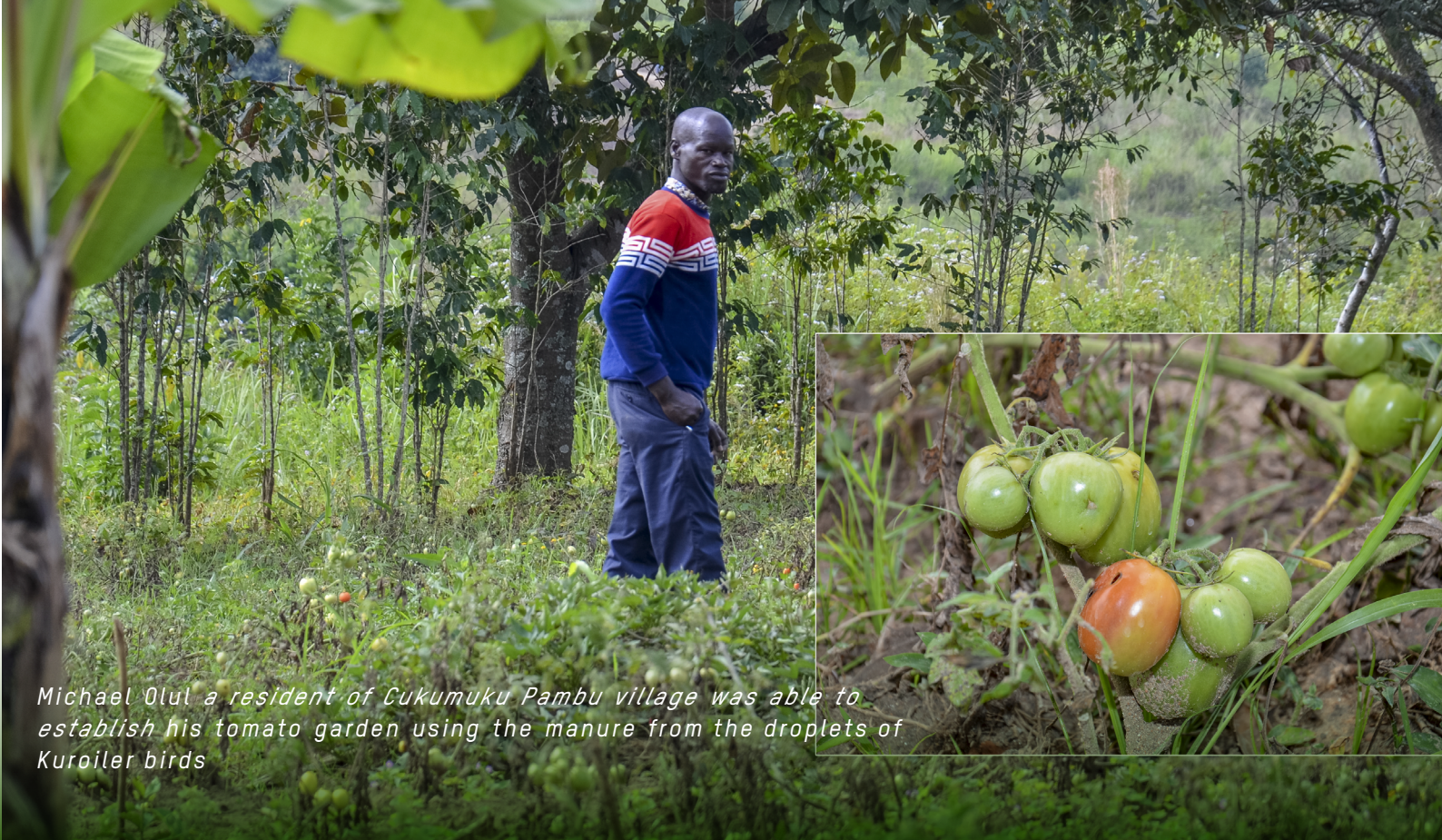
Kuroiler birds were distributed to refugees and host communities in Terego and Zombo during the project implementation. Two community-managed hatcheries, complete with incubators and Kuroiler birds, were constructed and equipped. Additionally, maize and soybean foundation seeds were distributed to supplement poultry feeds. Farmers in both districts received training in hatchery management, chick handling, and climate-smart poultry production and management.

Patrick Omony, the project manager of the Agency for Community Empowerment (AFCE)

says they implemented a poultry production component in Imvepi Refugee settlement and Zombo district host community.

By the end of the project, many households witnessed good nutrition, paid school fees for children, and helped to increase agricultural production. That was one of the project's benefits, which was realized within a short time.

For sustainability, the Subcounty structures, including the Community Development Officers, Subcounty chiefs, and political leadership, were engaged to identify the vulnerable groups affected economically. Being included in the Subcounty database, these groups will likely continue their interventions through other government-supported projects.



Michael Olul a resident of Cukumuku Pambu village was able to establish his tomato garden using the manure from the droplets of Kuroiler birds

INSPIRED TO GROW MY POULTRY BUSINESS

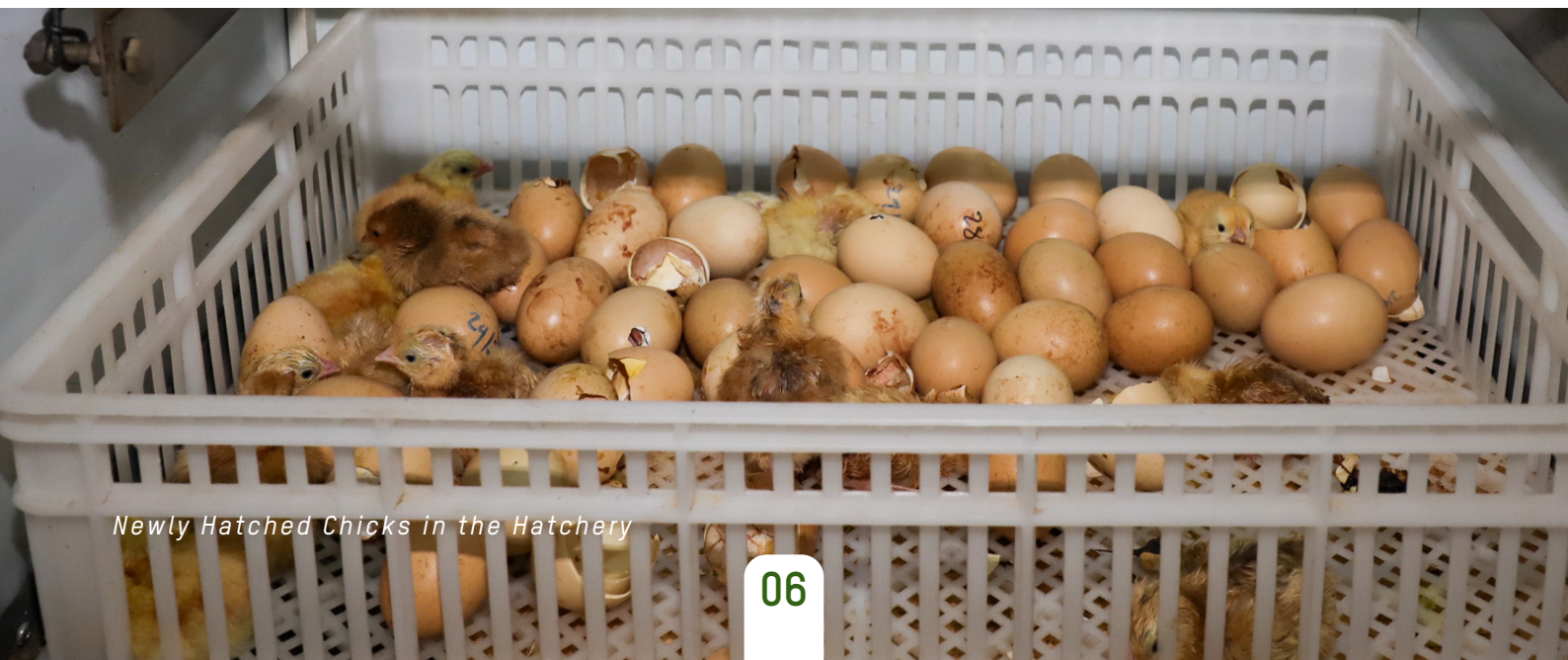
Michael Olul, 38 years old, from Cukumuku Pambu village in Cana parish, Paidha Town Council in Zombo district, says that the five chickens (four hens and one rooster) given to him have produced many eggs, which he sells to earn extra income.

"I now sell the eggs at UGX 12,000 per tray, and we use the others to change the diet, which has greatly helped my family. Additionally, I use the manure from the chicken waste to produce green vegetables like tomatoes for my family because we were trained to make our manure. This has also increased the growth of crops like maize that I have.

According to Olul, they were trained to grow chicken feed and were given maize and soya bean seeds. This has reduced the cost of buying poultry feed.

Since I got the poultry and saw the benefits, I have increased the poultry project, purchased more birds, and constructed a bigger structure for them. I already have more than 100 birds available", Olul said.

Olul said the manure he makes from poultry waste is beginning to earn him income, as neighbors and other farmers are already coming to buy it from him.



Newly Hatched Chicks in the Hatchery



Mark Jacob Masisi is a resident of Aligo village, Ombokoro parish, in Terego district.

COLLECTIVE BENEFITS

Mark Jacob Masisi, 30-year-old chairperson of Aligo Youth Development Association, which has 45 members, said the lives of their members have significantly changed since the Kuroiler birds intervention was introduced to them in 2023.

He mentioned they have been raising Kuroiler chickens collectively for meat and production, along with a 480-capacity incubator for hatching chicks.

"We also produce maize as feed for the chicken and the excess we sell, and this has earned us close to UGX 2 million on a monthly basis since we have a grinding machine. We received proper training from AFCE on how to keep the chickens and managing them. We were also trained on operating the machine, and besides, as a group, each member received five chickens (4 hens and one rooster), and we were given feeders and drinkers. So, right now, apart from the group work, members are also empowered individually at home," said Jacob.

Jacob added that since the beginning of the project, they have produced over 3,000 chickens, which they have sold, generating close to UGX13 million in their bank accounts.

According to him, they plan to expand the project land to make it a model educational site since they have started receiving students from various institutions for learning purposes.

IMPROVED NUTRITION

Gladys Berocan, a 32-year resident of Cukumuku Pambu in Cana Parish, Paidha Town Council, and a market vendor, appreciates the transformation the project has brought her, particularly regarding the kuroiler chicken project.

"We have been empowered by having good diets in the family, thanks to the eggs from this chicken. We are now purchasing other local chickens because we recognize their benefits.

Currently, we know how to feed and vaccinate the chickens. We plan to expand the chicken farm since we now have more than 20 chickens at home; we want to build a larger house", said Berocan.



Gladys Berocan, Cukumuku-Pambu, Cana Parish, Paidha Town Council - Zombo District

A photograph of a man in a white long-sleeved shirt standing and speaking to a group of people. He has his hands outstretched in a gesture. The group consists of several people, including a man in a white shirt on the left, a woman in a patterned dress, and a man in a blue cap in the foreground. They are in a rural setting with a mud-brick building and trees in the background.

THE PEACEBUILDING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMPONENT

The Peace Building and Community Engagement component was implemented by Oxfam through the Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT) between August 2023 and July 2024 in the Rhino Camp and Imvepi Refugee settlements in Terego District.



Jamaica Nelson- Project Officer / YSAT

Jamaica Nelson, the YSAT Project Officer, revealed that to promote peace-building initiatives in the settlements of Imvepi and Rhino Camp, they identified 100 community members with the support of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and community leaders. These members were trained to identify conflict triggers in both refugee and host communities. They later formed conflict resolution and peacebuilding committees, which were categorized as Peace Clubs in the four Zones of the settlements.

“These structures help sustain the project, and whenever we conduct an activity like community dialogues, it is spearheaded by the peace clubs and the lower-level local government leaders.”



Simon Ayambo is the chairperson of the Eden Zone peace club at Rhinocamp Refugee Settlement.

BETTER CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Simon Ayambo, the chairperson of the Peace Club in Eden Zone, revealed that before the refugee population surged to its current level, there were only about 6,000 refugees in the Eden Cluster as of 2016, and the rate of conflicts was minimal and manageable. However, the continuous influx of refugees and asylum seekers tripled to over 19,000, following the arrival of about 13,000 new refugees between 2022 and 2024.

“With the increased population, it became very hard to solve a problem as it was difficult to bring the conflicting parties to resolve their problems together.”

Ayambo is one of the participants who participated in the trainings on peacebuilding and community engagement. He explains that, due to the advanced techniques of conflict detection, handling, and resolution, along with the local leadership structures in the Eden zone, they now realize that the number of conflicts in both the refugee and host community populations in the surrounding area is decreasing each time.

According to Ayambo, among other mechanisms they employed were community dialogues and one-on-one discussions with the conflicting parties.



Victoria Kiden of Ofua IV village, is one of the volunteers trained on conflict resolution under the project.

SHARING RESOURCES.

Victoria Kiden is one of those trained to handle community challenges and shape her communities to foster socio-economic development. Kiden now serves as the Vice Chairperson of Peace Ambassadors in Ofua Zone, Rhinocamp Refugee Settlement.

She explains that through conflict mapping, mediation, and community outreach activities- such as cultural galas, sports events, Independence Day celebrations, and church services- they share peaceful messages that help enrich and enlighten the community's mindsets.

Kiden recounts that the consistent flow of

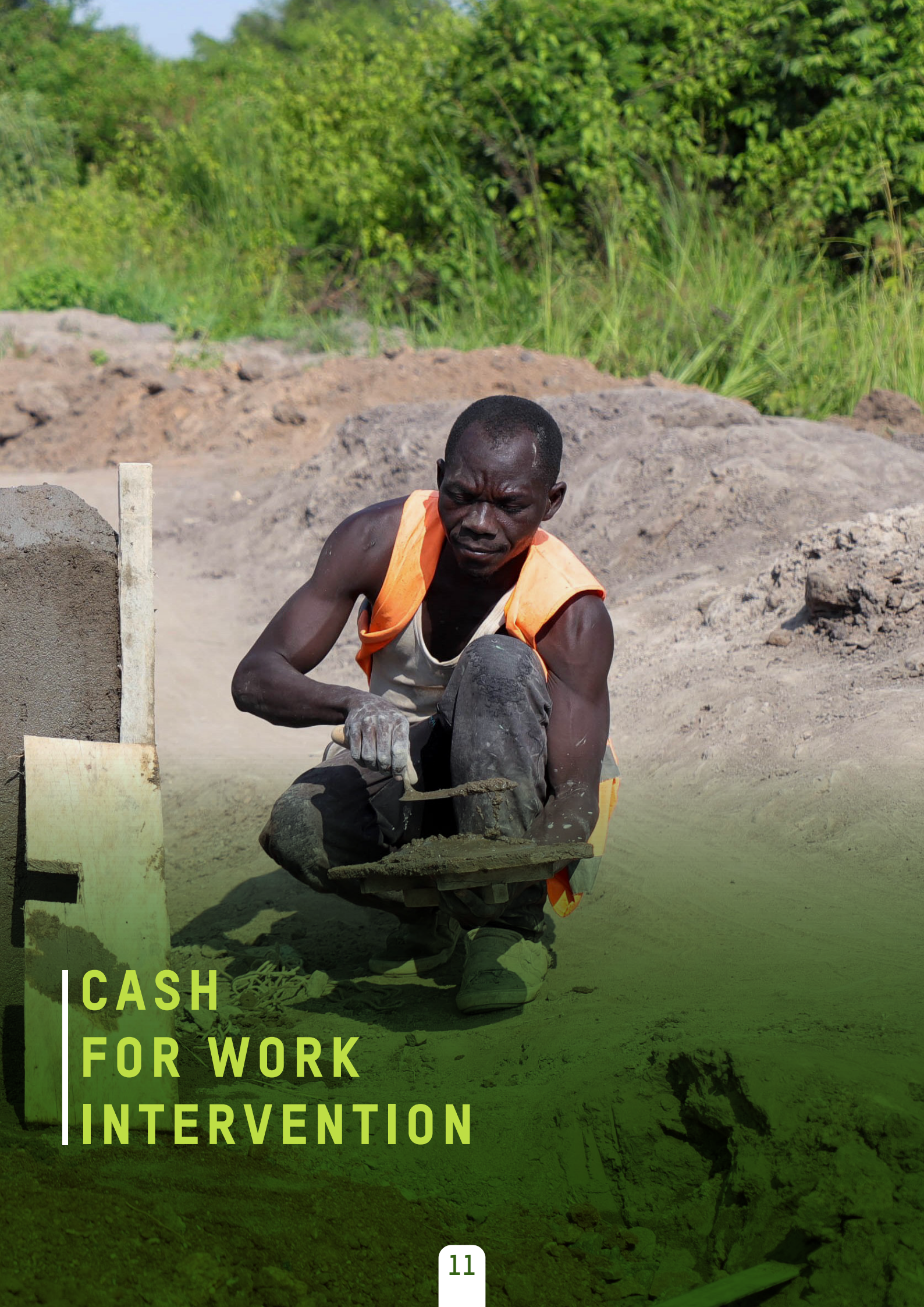
peacebuilding messages to refugees and host communities has removed fears about resource sharing, as refugees now live and work together.

"Initially, refugees were hesitant about allowing the host community to use the Youth Friendly Resource Centre in Ofua Zone, but they now utilize it together through these engagements. We have reduced the number of conflicts, which are no longer as alarming as before," Kiden explained.

Together with her team, Kiden trained 36 more youths as peace-building committees in Omugo VI to expand the message coverage.



Aerial view of Eden Zone, Rhinocamp Refugee Settlement.



CASH FOR WORK INTERVENTION

The Cash for Work intervention aimed to support 2,000 refugee households in participating in cash-for-work activities to construct and rehabilitate community infrastructures. Its ultimate goal was to involve both refugee and host community members in public works, enabling them to earn income to access food and other household needs

The component was implemented in the Terego district by Oxfam through the Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT), which conducted consultations with both refugee and host communities to identify physical infrastructure priorities from different zones of Eden and Ocea. Participants were profiled to work for cash in implementing various projects, including the manual construction of a 4.5-kilometer community access road between the markets of Ocea and Eden in the Rhino Camp and Imvepi refugee settlements, the

construction of rubbish pits in markets and schools to enhance waste management, and the building of VIP latrines in the major markets of Ocea and Eden, among others.

Each participant was required to work three hours a day, five days a week, for the duration of the work, earning UGX 10,000 per day.

“We were able to profile 1,923 participants from both refugee and host communities, with the majority being refugees, totaling 1,196, due to the small population of host community members in these areas. We engaged them primarily to enable them to raise funds to rent land for cultivation and to provide sufficient food while establishing small-scale businesses from the returns to sustain their livelihoods,” explained Jamaica Nelson, the Project Officer for YSAT.



A cash for work Project Participant constructing a culvert bridge in Terego district.



Adrole Mansur-Eden 2 village, Eden zone Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement

Adrole Mansur, a 32-year-old project participant from the host community of Eden Cluster, who worked as a mason on both the road construction project and the construction of the VIP latrine, is now smiling after successfully investing the one million shillings (UGX 1,000,000) he earned from the work to establish a motorcycle garage, a carpentry workshop, and to hire land for crop production. Adrole now has a consistent flow of income that helps him pay school fees for his children at better private schools, allows him to save some money for the future, and enables him to feed his family.

When I received the one million shillings, I sat with my wife to set our investment priorities. We allocated the funds, and now we earn money from my motorcycle garage, where I have employed a mechanic, as well as from my carpentry workshop, where I do the work myself. We generate significant income from these two investments.

Furthermore, I also harvested four sacks of Simsim weighing 250 kg each, and I expect to earn some good money from them. On top of that, I have four acres of cassava plantations for both food and money. All this is a benefit of the Cash for Work intervention."



AFFORDABILITY OF BASIC NECESSITIES

Janet Onzia, 24, another host community participant in Ocea village under the Cash for Work, is currently a renowned supplier of produce in the Ocea market.

Onzia confirmed that she got her startup capital from Cash for Work.

"I received at least UGX 800, 0000 from the Cash for Work intervention, which enabled me to start my own produce business. Now I can take my children to school, bring them to health facilities, clothe them, and ensure we have food in abundance," Onzia narrated.

CASH FOR WORK INTERVENTION SUPPLEMENTED MY CAPITAL BASE

Emmanuel Taban, a 48-year-old refugee in Eden 6 village of the Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement, stated that he has successfully opened a shop through the cash-for-work intervention along with some additional funds that supplemented his capital.

Taban, who now owns one of the biggest shops in Eden market, attributes his startup to the cash-for-work intervention that opened his mind after he received financial literacy training.

"After getting the UGX 400 000, I topped up and bought a bag of sugar and other items to start up my shop. I also used some of the money to rent 5 acres of land from the host communities. These are things that keep me and my family going daily.



Emmanuel Taban-Eden six village, Eden zone Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement





GENDER ACTION LEARNING SYSTEM (GALS METHODOLOGY)



Project Participants showcasing during GALS training

Women, men, and youth (boys and girls) from refugee households in the Zombo and Terego districts were selected for training on the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) approach and mentored to become GALS champions.

Gender Action Learning System (GALS) is a community-led empowerment methodology that utilizes specific participatory processes and diagram tools. It aims to give women and men greater control over their lives, which serves as a foundation for individual, household, community, and organizational development. The key focus of GALS is to analyze and overcome gender-based barriers and address gender inequalities at both the individual and family levels, as these challenges hinder participants from realizing their visions.

The purpose of the training was to facilitate the integration of gender in the project

interventions, ensuring that both men and women can transform their livelihoods as a result of the project and that no one is left behind.

Households and communities were trained on gender justice, focusing on the importance of women's economic empowerment, sharing workload, joint participation in decision-making, and control over resources. Implemented by Agency for Community Empowerment (AFCE) in Terego District, groups to be trained were identified through the Office of the Prime Minister.

"We trained 78 participants and expected them to roll out this knowledge to others. This methodology helps the communities we have engaged understand their life journey and plan for their families. We gave each participant 5 improved breeds of birds that lay eggs and trained para-vets in the communities to help the participants raise the birds."



WE HAVE A JOINT VISION WITH MY CHILDREN

24-year-old Inzikuru Eunice is one of the participants who received the GALS training as well as the startup kits, including Poultry. Inzikuru's vision is to improve her household income and expand her produce business from the money got out of selling the eggs from her birds.

"Before participating in this project, I believed that refugees wait for everything from the partners, but after getting the training plus the chicken, that changed. "I now do farming and business, and in the future, I want to expand my business so that I get more money," Inzikuru said. I can already see the benefits as my children now feed well, and I save with the

savings group. Inzikuru adds that she plans to hire more land for farming and send her children to better schools in Koboko.

Likewise, Joyce Monday, a 34-year-old refugee in Village 7, Zone 1, Imvepi Refugee Settlement, is optimistic that the knowledge she gained through the GALS training has broadened her perspective and united the family, as they now sit down and plan together.

"That training provided me with more ideas on how to involve my children in planning. We now share everything with them, including our vision for the future. We will continue to take care of our poultry to achieve some of the things in our vision."



CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE



Under the Climate Smart Agriculture intervention, small-scale farmers and other food producers have been trained in climate-resilient food production and agricultural practices. These include crop protection techniques, the use of agricultural tools, poultry keeping and animal husbandry, production of organic fertilizers and pesticides,

fisheries, and disaster risk reduction action planning.

The initiative also supported women and youth-led groups to establish vegetable seedling nurseries to supply other women and youth refugees and smallholder farmers with vegetable seedlings

GROWING MORE VEGETABLES, ACQUIRING INCOME FROM MANURE

"I am now able to pay school fees from my children and enjoy a balanced diet from the variety of vegetables I grow." Nancy

Nancy Fuanyir is a 26-year-old with two children in Palekete village, Cana parish in Paidha Town Council Zombo district. IFRAD supported her with farm inputs like okra, onion, cabbage, and maize seeds.

"Initially, I was just farming my garden in a

rudimentary way. However, this project provided us with training on climate-smart farming, and now I know when and how to plant even during the hot season."

Fuanyir, who also received five Kuroiler birds, says she has been able to get eggs from her chickens, which helps her change the family's diet.



Aligo Joel-Village 16, Zone V Invepi Refugee Settlement

Joel Aligo, 50, chairperson of Unity Group in Village 16 zone two in Imvepi Refugee Settlement in Terego district, was among those trained in Climate Smart Agriculture practices in 2023.

Aligo said they were trained in farming practices and chicken rearing, and they identified short-term crops that they wanted to plant, starting with cabbage.

"In the first season, we planted a quarter acre of cabbage, and we managed to obtain sh800, 000 as a group, and we decided to distribute the money to the group members to help them address challenges like school fees. We also encouraged them to have initiatives to plant

the crops and practice kitchen gardening at their homes, which most of them did for food and income", Said Aligo.

Besides crop farming, individuals in the group were also given kuroilers.

Aligo also believes the project has created cohesion as they work as a team in the group, addressing each other's challenges with ease. "We have really gained and will continue as a group beyond the project period since we are already empowered. We are looking forward to renting at least two acres of land to continue with our farming project, where we anticipate getting at least sh5 million after the harvest," added Aligo.





Gilbert UromiRwoth is a farmer in Oyoro village, cana parish - Zombo District

Gilbert Oromrwoth, a farmer in Paidha Town Council Zombo district, commends the climate-smart agriculture project, which has helped them acquire knowledge on the kind of crops they can produce in different seasons. "We have been planting short-term vegetable crops such as tomatoes, cabbage, and maize, among others," says Gilbert.

Gilbert is also proud of the knowledge he acquired in creating organic fertilizer from local materials, especially chicken waste.

"This will help us embrace kitchen gardening around our homesteads. Right now, I have dug a space to produce and store manure. Many people are already approaching me for training, while others buy from me, which also provides me with additional income," Oromrwoth said.





KEY FIGURES

3,055 Households (18,330 individuals)

Were skilled on Climate Smart Agriculture.

1,810 Households

Were trained in Food production

467 Households (2,802 individuals)

Received Agricultural Inputs

467 Households (2670 Individuals)

Received Kuroiler birds for Poultry.

1,963 Households (11,778 individuals)

Received Cash under the Cash for Work Program.



OXFAM

Plot No. 3459, Tank Hill Road, Muyenga, Kampala - Uganda

Website: uganda.oxfam.org

Email: kampalaoffice@oxfam.org