

OXFAM – UNHCR PARTNERSHIP



BACKGROUND

Since 2014, Oxfam has worked across refugee settlements in the greater North, South, and Mid-Western regions of Uganda, implementing integrated WASH programs with Gender and Protection (including peace-building activities) and livelihood programs. Oxfam is grateful to the UNHCR for having served as WASH implementing partner in Adjumani (Ayilo I, Mirieyi, Alere, and Baratuku) and Rhino, as well as in Yumbe (Bidibidi 2016-2018), Arua (Imvepi 2017-2019), Lamwo (Palabek 2017/18), and currently in Kyaka II (2019 to Dec 2023), Rwamwanja and Kyangwali (2020 to Dec 2023).

MILESTONES

Through its partnership with the UNHCR, Oxfam has made a significant contribution to the WASH sector, introducing new technologies and approaches that have improved the lives of refugees in these settlements. Some notable contributions include:

- The introduction of lightweight dome-shaped ferrocement slabs in 2014 in Adjumani and Rhino

settlements. With support from UNHCR, this technology has been adopted across all the refugee settlements, significantly lowering the cost of latrine construction, increasing longevity, and contributing to environmental protection.



Dome shaped slab latrines used by adopted across all the refugee settlements

- The piloting of Solar Hybrid Pumping Systems in Ayilo I, Baratuku, and OCEA in 2014, which has now

been adopted as one of the durable solutions for water supply development. For example, Oxfam with UNHCR and other complimentary funding, has established over 41 hybrid water systems in the various refugee settlements (2 Lamwo, 5 Mvepi, 12 BidiBidi, 15 Rhino, 1 Kyaka, 3 Kyangwali, and 3 Nakivale). These have significantly improved clean water coverage across the settlements and the host communities.

Location	No of water systems
Lamwo	02
Mvepi	05
BidiBidi	12
Rhino Camp	15
Kyaka	01
Nakivale	03
Kyangwali	03



Water treatment plant

- ✚ Piloting and implementation of the Village Health Team (VHT) approach in Kyaka II, Kyangwali, and Rwamwanja led to a significant reduction in the cost of Health Promotion.
- ✚ Strengthening of field level coordination: Setting up and leading design review sub-committee (Yumbe) under the water supply technical working group that enabled standardisation of designs, appropriate allocation of resources for water development (pooling of funds for better impacts) etc – examples included Oxfam/NRC water project, CRS/ARC (Bidibidi), with EWB/USA supported the development of solar pumping water standards etc



Innovations under Pilots: water ATMs

- ✚ Piloting innovations: Prepaid Water Meters (Water ATMs) in Rwamwanja and Kyaka II, clean energy including Faecal Briquette production, Biogas project in Nakivale, Emergency Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant; Lamella Clarifiers, Tiger worm innovation, Cash for latrines (CBI), Digital water monitoring, setting up spart out lets for hand pumps among others.



Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant

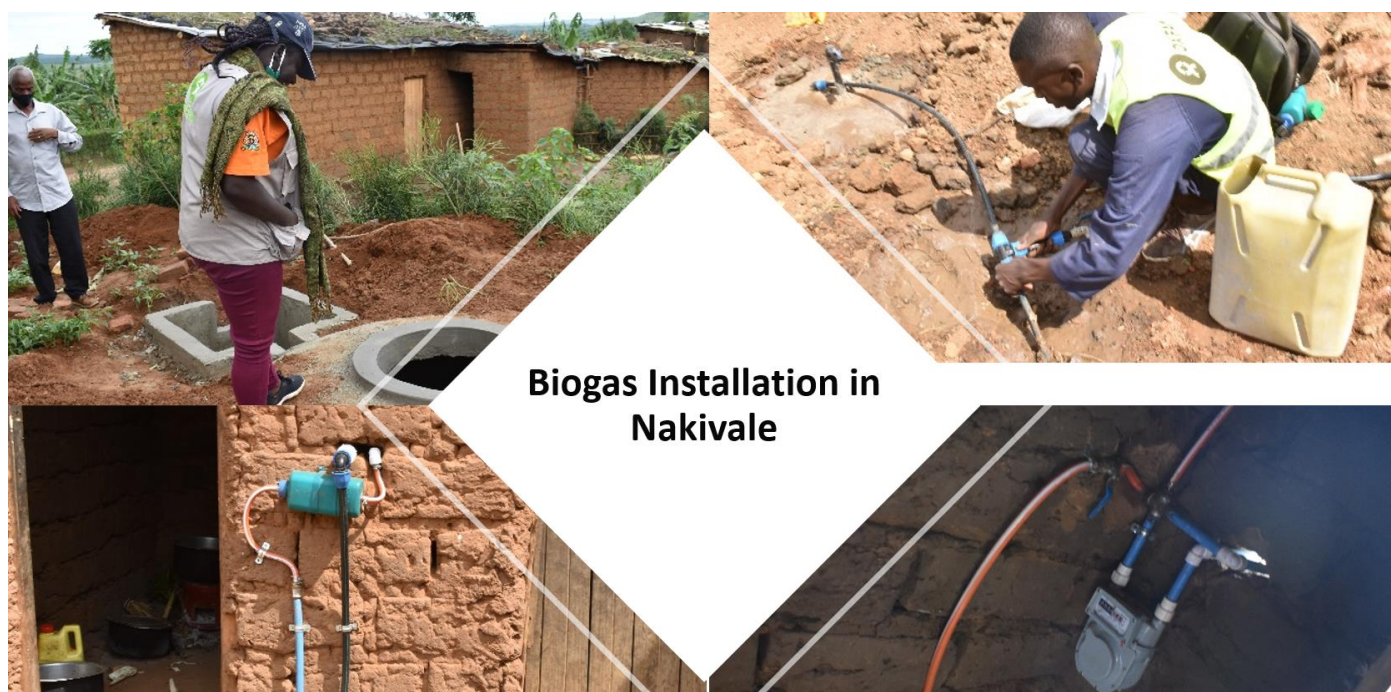
- ✚ For sustainability, we transitioned to utility model. Oxfam formed and trained water boards, constructed over 46 water kiosks as a pilot for migration. We registered success through the water boards who collected 52million UgX in the first year of the pilots. The 46 pilots have since been handed over to Northern Umbrella, which is mandated by Government to handle operation and maintenance of existing water systems. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that all water systems are self-sustained by having all systems under the utility model. To ensure inclusive access, there will be mechanisms for subsidised costs especially for Persons of Concern.
- ✚ Oxfam remains committed to the Charter4Change and the Grand Bargain workstream on localisation.

LOOKING FORWARD

- ➔ Oxfam's new Country Strategic Framework (2021/30) focuses on consolidating our interventions in the Greater North (West Nile, Acholi, and Karamoja) and Eastern Uganda. This has been informed by the levels of poverty and vulnerability to climate change-related disasters compounded by the refugee crisis.
- ➔ The WASH sector has long been a critical component of Oxfam's work in Uganda. Aligned to the country's humanitarian framework strategy 2021/25, we have developed a Humanitarian WASH strategy covering a period of 2021/25.

This is a testament to the organization's commitment to improving access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene for the most vulnerable communities in the country

- ➔ With a renewed focus on sustainability, transformative partnerships, research and innovation, market-based approaches, and system strengthening, Oxfam's WASH efforts are poised to make a significant impact in the years to come. The organization is committed to working with local partners and leveraging its experiences to ensure that the WASH services provided are sustainable and that the crisis-affected community benefits.



**Biogas Installation in
Nakivale**



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