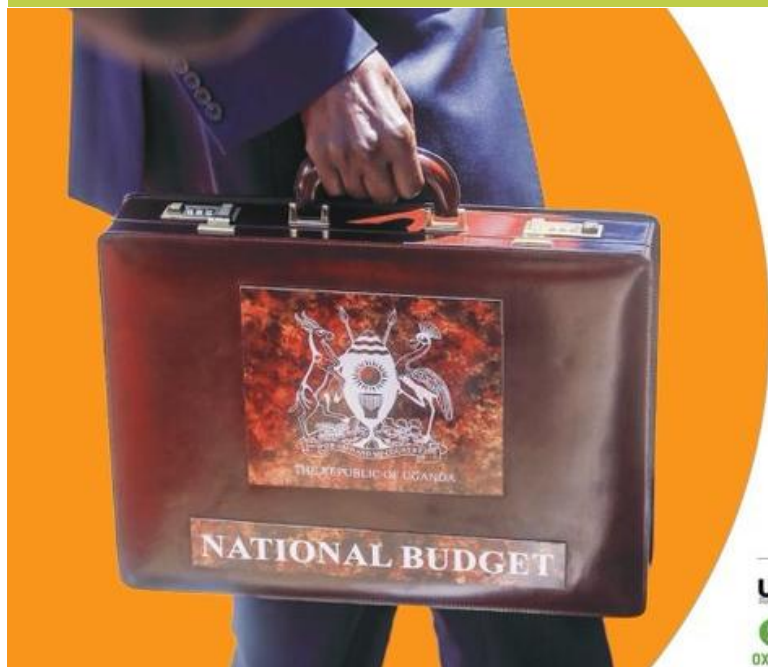


OXFAM IN UGANDA



JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER



FY2025/26

CSO POST-BUDGET DIALOGUE

Theme: Transforming challenges into opportunities: Budgeting for people centered economic growth

WEDNESDAY
18 JUNE 2025
8:00AM - 2:00PM

MESTIL HOTEL, KAMPALA

#UGBUDGET25

Live on UBC TV, Youtube

UBC

EDUCATION OUTLOUD

OXFAM



Diakonia

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Right2Grow

Oxfam in Uganda participated in two post budget dialogues organized by its partner the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), organized by Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as part of the national Budget month.

These dialogues brought together civil society, policy makers, private sector actors, and other stakeholders to share their perspectives on the FY2025/26 financing priorities and their implications to the economy.

The first dialogue under the theme “How Fiscal Reforms Can Unlock Trade and Investment Opportunities in Uganda,”, sought to bridge the gap between fiscal policies, promotion of business opportunities and investments in Uganda.

It was the first ever High-Level Post Budget Dialogue on the Budget to Business (B2B) and it provided a platform to assess how the FY 2025/26 budget will impact trade, investment, and business growth in Uganda.

Attending the dialogue were budget experts, CSO and government representatives, and key government with a focus on ensuring that the budget not only supports sustainable economic growth by aligning budget priorities with private sector needs, promoting investment-friendly reforms, and addressing macroeconomic imbalances, for businesses to thrive and drive Uganda’s economic transformation.

The second dialogue organized on 18th June 2025, was held under the theme “Transforming Challenges into Opportunities: Budgeting for people centered economic growth.”

Sophie Nampewo Njuba, the Oxfam in Uganda Finance for Development Coordinator was a panelist, and evaluated the Budget’s Focus on social sector financing, identifying the wins in the budget for health, education, climate change and the environment, water, sanitation and hygiene, social development sectors and other outstanding gaps for government’s attention.

The dialogue also sought to amplify citizens’ voices and participation in the budget and foster engagement in achieving economic transformation amid fiscal constraints while exploring strategies for strengthening domestic resource mobilization, ensuring fiscal sustainability, and prioritizing key sectors.

As part of the dialogues, CSOs recognized selected high performing government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Local Governments (LGs) through Service Excellence Awards which sought to acknowledge the efforts of the MDAs in bringing up innovations to increase citizen participation in government processes.

The awards were handed over by Oxfam in Uganda Country Director, Francis Shanty Odokorach who commended the winning MDAs and LGs for their exceptional service.

Oxfam in Uganda has urged government leaders to prioritize women land budget allocation as a way of addressing inequality and ensuring sustainable development.

Francis Shanty Odokorach, the Oxfam in Uganda Country Director made the call while speaking at the 2nd National Symposium on Land Governance in Uganda that was held in Kampala on the 27th of June under the theme *"Securing Women's Agricultural Land Ownership: A Political and Development Imperative."*

The event convened government officials, lawmakers, cultural leaders, grassroots women, and civil society groups at the parliament of Uganda to set a clear minimum demand for land governance, outlining commitments that all political actors must address in their manifestos and policy discussions.

In his keynote address, Odokorach underscored the importance of land.

"Land is not merely a resource, "It is a source of dignity, identity, power and long-term security."

He added that "despite women making up 70% of the agriculture workforce, only a small fraction of them legally own land and while sometimes they have access to the land, they don't control it and can't convert it.



Oxfam Country Director, Francis Shanty Odokorach delivers the keynote address at the symposium.

Odokorach also dispelled the often-held belief that women's access to land through male relatives equates to ownership citing that women remain disenfranchised and without authority on the said land. "Where you lack a voice, you cannot invest," he said.

Land remains a critical resource in Uganda, directly impacting livelihoods, economic development, environmental sustainability, and social stability with agriculture employing the majority of Uganda's population.

In a speech conveyed by Lands Minister Hon. Judith Nabakooba, Prime Minister Hon Robinah Nabbanja, made a rallying call for all actors to prioritize land governance.

"This symposium provides the right opportunity to challenge all political actors, to walk the talk and place gender-equitable land governance at the forefront of our manifestos and policy platforms." She said.

Her sentiments were reechoed by Hon. Christine Kaaya Nakimwero, the Kiboga district Woman MP who chairs the Land Management Forum of the Uganda Parliament called upon stakeholders to amplify the discussions on land governance, dispute resolutions, land policies and incorporate issues of land governance in their annual action plans to secure land tenure.

Oxfam in Uganda was also acknowledged and recognised for its role in advocating for land reforms in Uganda, and participation and support.

The symposium which was first organized in 2024 under the theme "Securing land rights to support climate change is a brainchild of the Uganda Parliamentarians on Land Management Forum (UPLMF) in Collaboration with Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and development partners including Oxfam in Uganda and aligns with Oxfam's Land Rights Strategy.

The outcomes from the discussions at the symposium are expected to inform policy development and foster conversation around land rights.

"Despite women making up 70% of the agriculture workforce, only a small fraction of them legally own land and while sometimes they have access to the land, they don't control it and can't convert it."

Francis Shanty Odokorach- Oxfam in Uganda Country Director

MT ELGON STAKEHOLDERS ATTEND DIALOGUE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT



Oxfam in Uganda and partners Uganda Red Cross Society and Caritas Tororo team organized a Waste Management Stakeholder dialogue focused on addressing improper waste management in Mt Elgon region in June.

The dialogue was meant to assess the current waste management practices in Mbale City by identifying key gaps and environmental and health impacts arising from poor waste management, foster collaboration among stakeholders for the development and implementation of a comprehensive waste management plan for the district.

The meeting drew over sixty participants including, Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National Water and Sewerage Corporation, private sector, development partners and Local Government leaders from Mbale City, Sironko, Bududa, Bulambuli, Namisindwa, Butaleja and Mbale districts among others.

The discussion was focused on Mbale district, Mbale city, Sironko town council and other peri-urban centres in the Elgon region, where the challenges of waste management are more pronounced.

The dialogue came at a time when there's an increase in waste generation and improper waste disposal practices which has led to severe environmental degradation, affecting both human health and biodiversity with many communities struggling to cope with the mounting waste around the market dumping sites.

In his remarks Oxfam's Consortium Manager Stephen Olupot highlighted the impact of climate change, including increased population and population participants also acknowledged the need for a comprehensive waste management framework focusing on legal, policy, and institutional aspects essential for effective solid waste strategies.

Key elements of the policy framework included the promotion of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), and the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) approach.

The legal framework in Uganda incorporates national laws and international commitments, establishing standards and penalties for waste management compliance. Several critical policies like the National Environment Act and Electronic Waste Management Policy guide waste management practices.

Dr. Mugonyi Moses, the Mbale City Health Officer, highlighted the key challenges faced by the city such as poor waste segregation, limited infrastructure, mindsets and attitude change remains the most challenging with limited funding/resources and weak enforcement.

Participants acknowledged the importance of collaboration with the private sector and local governments for successful implementation and service delivery.

Oxfam in Consortium with Uganda Red Cross Society and Caritas Tororo are implementing the [“Early Warning, Early Action: Strengthening Multi-hazard Disaster Preparedness in Mt. Elgon sub-region”](#) project in Mt Elgon region. Funded by the European Union Humanitarian Aid, the project aims to enhance community resilience to shocks and stresses through effective and participatory multi-hazard anticipation actions and preparedness measures

58 COMMUNITY BASED VOTER EDUCATORS TRAINED IN VOTER EDUCATION IN MADI OKOLLO



Over 50 community-based voter educators from both host and refugee community members from the two sub counties of Rhino Camp and Rigbo were trained on voter education in Madi-Okollo District.

Organised by Oxfam in partnership with Civic Education Coalition Uganda (CECU), the training was conducted by Peter Bogere, a Project Coordinator at CECU and Christine Chandiru, the Madi Okollo District Returning Officer.

Under the DANIDA Strategic Partnership II (2022–2025), Oxfam is supporting inclusive governance initiatives in the West Nile region which it seeks to strengthen inclusive participation and representation.

The voter education addressed key barriers to inclusive civic participation such as electoral illiteracy, misinformation and social exclusion affecting women, youth and other marginalised groups.

The activity was informed by a prior needs assessment conducted in Rhino Camp and Rigbo sub-counties which revealed among others the conflation of wealth with the ability to participate in elections by youth which limits their involvement, a lack of awareness of Youth and older persons on ongoing SIG elections and the presence of patriarchal beliefs that deem women as unfit for leadership roles.

According to Milly Twinamasiko, the Oxfam in Uganda Linking and Learning Officer, the training achieved the goal of strengthening local capacity for delivering inclusive and impactful voter education in preparation for the July 2025 Special Interest Group elections and other subsequent elections.

The training covered key topics like Understanding the 2026 General Elections and SIG election timelines, distinction between party structure elections and national elections, Nomination processes, eligibility criteria, and voter rights among others.

Facilitators employed Participatory approaches engaging the community-based voter educators through Peer learning, role play, storytelling, and use of real-life examples that resonate with local experiences and also involved key stakeholders—including district electoral officers and local leaders who were involved to ensure contextual alignment, legitimacy, and sustainability.

The training laid a solid foundation for community-led civic education ahead of Uganda’s SIG and General Elections not only improved electoral literacy but also began to shift long-held social and gender norms that hinder democratic participation.

ODK BOARD MEMBERS VISIT UGANDA PROGRAM



Between May 31st to June 6th, 2025, Oxfam in Uganda was honored to host a team of [Oxfam Denmark \(ODK\)](#) Board members in the [Humanitarian Development and Peace Initiative](#) Programme (DANIDA SP) project implementing locations of Madi Okollo, Yumbe and Terego.

The Humanitarian Development and Peace Initiative which is funded to the tune of €810,047 by DANIDA through Oxfam Denmark seeks to achieve a peaceful, gender and climate-just society that upholds all human rights through the promotion of peaceful co-existence, delivery of livelihood and food security, education, climate change, and economic and social justice interventions.

The visiting team which was led by Oxfam Denmark Executive Director Lars Koch also included Executive Committee member Hannah Brejnholt, International Programme Director Bert Maerten and Consultant board member, Silje Amalie Andersen who were joined by an Oxfam in Uganda team led by country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach.



The visiting team interacts with members of Unity farmer group from Omugo refugee settlement who were supported under the Livelihood component of the DANIDA SP II project. The group members were given pigs and trained on how to rear them to support both food and income generation



Edna Abiko, a project staff from Oxfam partner CSBAG presents on the work being done under the project under the budgeting component. The project has trained participatory budget clubs who serve the purpose of monitoring service delivery.

THIRD EDITION OF THE ELGON HALF MARATHON LAUNCHED IN KAMPALA



The Early Warning, Early Action project team pose for a photo with Joshua Cheptegei

In June Oxfam joined the [Joshua Cheptegei Development Foundation](#), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and other partners for the launch of the 3rd edition of the Mt Elgon Half Marathon in Kampala.

The brainchild of Ugandan Olympic Gold medalist Joshua Cheptegei, the Mt Elgon half marathon is an annual event that aims to leverage the power of sports to drive social change.

Oxfam in Uganda was represented at the launch of the marathon by Consortium manager Stephen Olupot and Disaster Risk Management Coordinator Jimmy Asiku who highlighted the importance of the run as a platform to create awareness on environment conservation.

This year's marathon will be held on 1st November 2025 under the theme "Promoting Sports Tourism for Environmental Conservation, Good Health, and GBV Prevention Awareness." and it will serve both as a sporting event but also as a platform to promote sustainable development.

It will involve Marathon Races of 21 km, 10 km, and 5 km—designed to engage participants across various age groups and fitness levels, promoting physical activity, community participation, and sports tourism in the Mt. Elgon region.

As part of the run participants will also engage in initiatives like tree planting and the development of eco-trails in collaboration with the Uganda Wildlife

Authority while also showcasing the natural beauty and cultural richness of the Mt. Elgon area.

Oxfam under the [Early Warning, Early Action: Strengthening multi-hazard Disaster Preparedness in Mt. Elgon sub-region](#) project funded by ECHO is supporting the run by providing over 1000 fruit Tree seedlings to support conservation efforts in the Mt Elgon region.

The seedlings will be planted in Sironko and Mbale in selected schools where the project is implemented and will complement part of the nature-based solutions under the project while address impacts of climate change like floods and landslides.

Organizers will also use the platform for GBV Awareness Campaigns, facilitation of safe spaces, skills-based workshops, and community dialogues will raise awareness about GBV, empower survivors, and strengthen communal support networks, with targeted interventions in Bukwo and Amudat Districts.

The marathon will harness the power of sports to promote climate resilience and social equity also spotlighting the Mt Elgon region as a key biodiversity Hotspot and in its advocacy for gender equality also aligns with Oxfam's vision in recognizing equality of gender as vital in promoting economic, social, and environmental justice.

This year's Marathon is expected to increase awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 15 and 5 and will target over 10,000 residents through campaigns within the next year.



OXFAM TECHNICAL TEAMS CONDUCT FROM MINES TO SCHOOL PROJECT MONITORING VISIT

Oxfam in Uganda in partnership with Resource Rights Africa (RRA) and the Education Advocacy Network (EAN) is implementing a 3-year project titled [From Mines to school](#) to reduce child labour among mining communities in the districts of Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Amudat within the Karamoja sub-region.

The project which is funded by the European Union to the tune of €526,316 is offering alternative education, to former victims of child labour and will also establish income-generating activities targeting vulnerable parents and guardians of victims of child labour while also providing linkages to existing livelihood programs.

As part of its routine project quality assurance, a team of technical staff including Program Learning and Quality, the Governance thematic lead and Media and Communications joined the implementing teams for a monitoring visit of project areas between the 17th- 20th June.

During the visit, teams paid courtesy to the different local government offices in the 3 implementing districts to foster buy-in and strengthen collaboration with government officials as a way of ensuring long term sustainability of the project.

Also visited were 5 Mobile schools including Naror, Utut, Kokwochaya, Napedo, and Nagwoliet where EAN targets out of school young people between the ages of 12-17 through the Accelerated learning program.



Learners attend a lesson at Utut Mobile school, in Moruita subcounty, Nakapiripirit district. Under the From Mines to School Project Oxfam in Uganda and partners EAN and RRA have established six Accelerated Education Program (AEP) mobile schools in some of the region's most challenging-to-reach mining



Oxfam through EAN has set up a Mobile Learning Center at Utut village, Moruita subcounty, Nakapiripirit district where out of school children between 12-17 are able to get an education under the Accelerated Education Programme which condenses the primary curriculum into three levels and helps learners who have missed time in school, catch up and sit their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE)



UPDATES FROM OUR WEBSITE



IN MEMORY OF PETER KAMALINGIN B.L: HE LED NOT FROM ABOVE BUT AMONG US

In June, the Oxfam family learnt of the passing of its former Country Director Peter Kamalingin B.L.

Peter was a man of extraordinary vision and unwavering dedication, a selfless leader who embodied the very essence of humanity, justice, and equality. As Country Director of Oxfam in Uganda from 2012 to 2018, Peter led with courage and humility.

He empowered all those around him, consistently encouraging staff and partners to speak truth to power and challenge the status quo in the pursuit of a just and inclusive society. [Read More on Our Website:](#)



OXFAM IN UGANDA PRESENT AT PARLIAMENTARY ACTION DAY 2025

On 10th June 2025, Philip Talemwa, the Oxfam in Uganda Education Program Coordinator joined Campaign Champions from across the UK in Westminster for Send My Friend to School's Parliamentary Action Day 2025.

This inspiring day of action placed youth voices front at the forefront in a call to protect education amid upcoming cuts to the aid budget. The advocacy focused on the negative impact of UK aid cuts on global education; importance of investing in education through funds such as Education Cannot Wait and the Global Partnership for Education; and a spotlight on girls' education and ensuring inclusive access for all. [Read More on Send my Friend to School's Website](#)



CASH-FOR-WORK LEADING TO RELIABLE WATER SOURCE

In the drought-prone Karamoja region in Uganda, a cash-for-work programme is building resilience and empowering people to construct their own water sources. Through this initiative, people are constructing and distilling valley dams to ensure they have a reliable water source. The project is led by partner organisation, Caritas Moroto, under ICSP.

Each morning, 116 community members arrive by 6am, work until 11am, and earn UGX 10,000 (approximately €2.65) daily. [Read More on Our Website](#)



GETTING GIRLS AND BOYS BACK INTO CLASSROOMS IN UGANDA

For many parents in Karamoja, sending their children into mining is not a choice but a necessity for survival. The European Union funded "From Mines to School" project is getting girls and boys back into classrooms in Karamoja, Uganda.

Aisha Nasio, a 38-year-old mother of four from Utut, has worked in the gold mines for over 11 years. She relied on the help of her two eldest children, a 16-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl, to increase the little income she could earn from the Nyagarina gold mines. [Read More on Our Website](#)

OXFAM IN THE NEWS

- [How women are making a difference on Climate Change](#)
- [Focus turns to role of women at 2nd Symposium on Land Governance](#)
- [Women key to Uganda's drive to adopt climate-smart agriculture](#)
- [From fields to parliament: Uganda's women demand justice at national symposium](#)
- [No Women, No Peace – A Snapshot of Oxfam's Engagement with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Lessons and Opportunities](#)
- [Merit or privilege? The inequality at the heart of Uganda's education system](#)
- [Ugandan who led UNAIDS, Oxfam, ActionAid dies at 50](#)
- [MUBS Guild President to make case for women's rights at Land Symposium June 27](#)
- [Uganda: 'Women Key to Uganda's Drive to Adopt Climate-Smart Agriculture'](#)
- [Giving Women land ownership is a smart investment not charity-Minister Nabakooba](#)
- [Mbale to Host Scenic, Cause-Driven Elgon Run with Joshua Cheptegei](#)
- [Ugandan PM urges equitable land ownership](#)
- [Stakeholders urge prioritisation of women in land governance](#)



OXFAM

OXFAM Plot 3459, Tank Hill Road, Muyenga

P.O. Box 6228, Kampala, Uganda

Email: kampalaooffice@oxfam.org

Website: <https://uganda.oxfam.org>

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*Compiled by Dorah Ntunga, Sarah Mazirwe & Ivan Aboga Rackara
Photos – contributed by various programme teams*