

OXFAM IN UGANDA



JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



In partnership with Reproductive Health Uganda and the Centre for Health and Human Rights in Development (CEHURD), Oxfam in Uganda is implementing the Stand Up for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) project to increase the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for the most marginalised and vulnerable right holders.

Now in its sixth year, the project has achieved this by addressing key gender inequality and human rights issues, particularly: harmful social norms, traditional practices, and taboos regarding gender and sexuality.

As part of project implementation, Oxfam and partner staff are required to continuously document project progress through stories, photographs, and videos that showcase the changes and impact being achieved.

To strengthen the capacity of the project implementing teams in the aforementioned areas, the Stand Up for SRHR project team recently organised a skills-sharing session for project staff.

The training focused on effective storytelling, photography, videography, digital rights, content development and the use of Artificial Intelligence, among others

Through sessions on SRHR communication principles, storytelling, visual content creation, and digital engagement, participants learnt how digital narratives influence attitudes, shape community perceptions, and ultimately determine whether individuals seek or access critical services.

There was an emphasis on ethical storytelling and the use of informed consent, ensuring that every story shared upholds dignity, respect, and the rights of individuals and communities.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Barriers such as stigma, misinformation, and limited access to relatable and trusted information continue to hinder the uptake of SRHR services. As such, Oxfam is investing in strengthening communication capacity because:

- Stories have the power to humanize issues and break stigma
- Digital platforms can expand reach and amplify accurate information
- Ethical, evidence-based messaging builds trust and confidence in services
- Improving uptake of SRHR services requires intentional, strategic, and ethical communication.



Implementing teams inspect a Barrow pit where the mining activities have led to land degradation.

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project and related oil developments continue to shape communities across Uganda's Albertine region. While the project presents economic opportunities, it has also raised concerns about land acquisition, displacement, livelihoods, environmental impacts, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and social tensions affecting host communities and refugees.

To respond to these challenges, Oxfam and CRED are implementing the extractives component of the Nexus Humanitarian Development and Peace (DANIDA SP II) project.

The three-year initiative seeks to contribute to a peaceful, gender-just and climate-resilient society where human rights are respected and protected.

Between 15th to 21st June, the project implementing team, led by Oxfam Inclusive Governance Manager Pauline Agnes Apolot, conducted a monitoring visit in Buliisa, Hoima and Kikuube districts. The exercise covered EACOP-affected communities, pipeline corridor sites, resettlement areas, and neighbouring refugees and host communities.

The visit combined field monitoring with capacity-building for community monitors, which saw fifteen community monitors (10 men and five women) receive training on gender mainstreaming, protection principles, conflict sensitivity, ethical data collection, Following the training, the monitors participated in a three-day field assessment across the three districts. The exercise documented community experiences and concerns linked to ongoing oil developments and

highlighted several human rights and accountability issues.

One of the most frequently reported concerns was flooding around the Bukola Kingfisher oil fields. Community members linked the flooding to environmental changes resulting from project activities, including land clearing and altered drainage systems.

Residents reported negative effects on agriculture, food security and household incomes, particularly among families that depend on farming and fishing for their livelihoods.

Compensation also came up as a major concern, with many project-affected people reporting delays in payments, inadequate valuation of property and land, and exclusion from compensation processes.

Communities also pointed to weak accountability mechanisms and limited support from local authorities. Respondents felt that grievances were not being addressed effectively and that there was insufficient oversight to ensure companies responded to community concerns. This has contributed to declining trust in formal systems intended to protect rights and resolve disputes.

The monitoring further revealed strained relationships between communities and oil companies. Residents cited limited consultation, poor communication and a lack of transparency in project processes. Many felt they had little opportunity to participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their lives, increasing dissatisfaction and social tension.

Alongside the monitoring exercise, the training equipped community monitors with a stronger understanding of gender, conflict sensitivity and stakeholder engagement, with participants learning how gender roles influence access to resources and decision-making and how to monitor projects in ways that minimise harm and support peaceful coexistence.

As a result, community monitors strengthened their ability to identify protection risks, analyse conflict dynamics, engage stakeholders inclusively, and document human rights concerns accurately and ethically. These skills will support ongoing monitoring and evidence-based advocacy in EACOP-affected communities as development activities continue.

OXFAM JOINS NATIONAL EFFORT TO CONTAIN UGANDA'S EBOLA OUTBREAK

On the 15th May 2026, the Ministry of Health (MoH) declared an outbreak of the Ebola Virus disease caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus strain. The outbreak is linked to a major, ongoing epidemic in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which has seen the World Health Organization (WHO) declare the situation a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

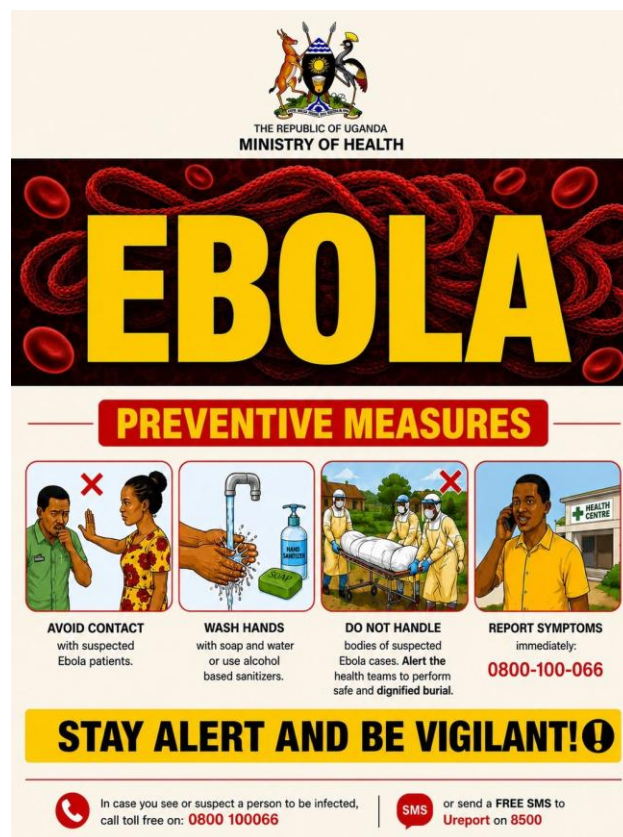
According to MoH data, by the end of June, Uganda had 20 confirmed Bundibugyo Ebola Virus Disease cases; of these cases, 16 individuals had successfully recovered, two tragic deaths occurred, and another 2 were still admitted, with no new cases reported since the 21st June 2026.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is leading the national response by conducting comprehensive contact tracing and isolating confirmed cases in treatment units while also strengthening screening, surveillance, and rapid response capacities at both official and informal points of entry, particularly along the western border, key transit routes, and high-traffic corridors.

To complement the efforts of the MoH, government and other partners, Oxfam is contributing to the response by focusing on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). As part of its outbreak response efforts, Oxfam in Uganda, with funding support from Oxfam Great Britain (OGB) has procured infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies that will be distributed at select Health institutions and communities in the high-risk districts of Kyegegwa and Arua.

The organization has also actively participated in national, regional, and district coordination and task force meetings, while engaging stakeholders to map institutions along the border that are at risk of disease transmission. Oxfam has also worked closely with national and regional coordination platforms to ensure timely access to outbreak response information and updates.

To strengthen its in-country response capacity, the organization onboarded two national Public Health Promotion (PHP) Assistants and conducted staff orientation sessions on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), IPC protocols, and Oxfam's standard operating procedures (SOPs).



The current Bundibugyo Ebola virus outbreak comes against the backdrop of a previous outbreak of the Ebola Virus (Sudan strain), which was declared on 30th January 2025, also prompting a response from Oxfam, which equally supported IPC and RCCE.

Key Information:

How Ebola is spread: through open wounds, touching sick or dead animals, touching an infected person, contact with their vomit, faeces or urine, clothing, bedding, utensils and unprotected burials.

Ebola preventive measures: avoid contact with suspected patients, wash hands with soap and water or sanitizer, do not handle bodies of suspected cases, and report symptoms immediately.

Reporting Outlets: If you observe signs like sudden high fever, bleeding, fatigue, or intense muscle pain:

Call the Ministry of Health toll-free hotline at 0800-100-066. / SMS Alert to 6767 / U-Report 8500



In June, Oxfam in Uganda kicked off the second phase of the Refugee & Local Humanitarian Leadership Advocacy project, funded to the tune of \$160,000 by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

The new project draws from the lessons learned from phase one of the project that ran from 2022 to 2025 to empower refugee-led actors, particularly women-led groups and networks, to become recognised, trusted, and well-resourced leaders who drive equitable, inclusive, and rights-based policy and systemic change across the national, regional, and global humanitarian ecosystem.

Under the 3-year project, Oxfam in Uganda made tremendous achievements in transforming how local and refugee-led organisations shape humanitarian action through deliberate investment in capacity, where more than 35 organisations were assessed, and over 50 local actors across West Nile and Western Uganda were equipped with the skills and confidence to influence policy and engage decision-makers at all levels.

This growing leadership was matched by stronger coordination, which saw the revival of the National Humanitarian Platform and the launch of the Lango Humanitarian Platform, which convened over 100 stakeholders across 9 districts, creating spaces for collective voice and action.

The initiative also reached more than 22,000 community members through advocacy on child marriage, food security, and gender-based violence, contributing to tangible shifts, including declines in teenage pregnancy and

stronger government responses, such as the introduction of SGBV reporting hotlines.

Their advocacy extended beyond communities into national policy spaces, where local actors and refugee leadership engaged Members of Parliament and government institutions, influencing discussions on disaster financing and contributing to ongoing reforms, including the National Disaster Management Bill and Uganda's localisation strategy.

Promoting refugee leadership was also a key achievement with the establishment of a Refugee Advisory Council and participation in global platforms like the Global Refugee Forum, where refugees helped shape national pledges on resilience, education, and climate action.

Partnerships from organisations such as World Voices Uganda, Refugee-Led Organisations and Networks, and women-led groups ensured that resources flowed directly to local actors, enabling them to lead both advocacy and response efforts.

This localised capacity building supported the response during emergencies, such as the floods in Kasese and Kagadi where local actors supported over 100 households and 187 displaced individuals, and restored essential infrastructure, including 10 water points and key transport links that benefited 3,000–5,000 people.

Recognising the fact that Refugee-Led Organisations (RLOs) and Refugee Community Groups (RCGs) have a deep understanding of their communities' needs, yet too often see their voices stop at the local level, the latest phase of the Refugee & Local Humanitarian Leadership Advocacy project will support RLOs and RCGs to reach the tables where policy and funding decisions are made.

By 2029, the project envisions RLOs, RCGs, and their networks not just participating in decision-making spaces at sub-national, national, regional, and international levels but also bringing real capacity and influence to them and driving equitable, inclusive, and rights-based policy and systemic change at all levels.

The project will achieve this by investing directly in the refugees and organisations doing the work through training, mentoring, and hands-on technical support, including secondment, so they can generate their own evidence, advocate on their own terms, and manage the financial, governance, and monitoring systems that make an organisation sustainable and credible in these spaces.

EMPOWERING REFUGEE-LED ORGANISATIONS TO SHAPE POLICIES THAT AFFECT THEIR COMMUNITIES



Oxfam in Uganda Country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach speaking during the dialogue.

Oxfam in Uganda recently convened political and technical leaders, refugee-led organizations, civil society actors, cultural institutions, and development partners from Yumbe, Terego, and Madi Okollo districts for a high-level Inter-District Round Table Dialogue on Peace and Climate Change.

Held under the theme, “Building Peace and Climate Resilience; Strengthening Collaboration for Sustainable Communities,” the dialogue is taking place at Hotel Le Confidential in Arua City and seeks to strengthen collective action on climate resilience, peaceful coexistence, and accountable service delivery across the West Nile region.

The engagement is part of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Initiative for Crisis-Affected Populations in Uganda (HDP Project), implemented by Oxfam in Uganda, and partners, with support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

The dialogue comes at a time when climate-related pressures, including increasing competition over land, water, and livelihoods, continue to affect communities in West Nile, with implications for social cohesion and sustainable development. [Read More on Our Website](#)



Moses Were is one of the community volunteers helping people in Doho Village monitor River Manafwa, observe changing water levels, and share warning information with nearby households before flooding becomes severe.

Whenever heavy rains hit the highlands of Bududa and Mbale districts, Moses Were keeps an eye on River Manafwa.

River Manafwa, which flows from Mount Elgon through Bududa, Manafwa, Mbale and into Butaleja, has a long history of recurring floods caused by heavy rainfall, landslides, and environmental degradation in the Elgon region.

Recurring floods have left a “trail of destruction” for communities living along the river due to loss of lives, displacement of people, destruction of infrastructure and economic hardship.

For years, communities living along River Manafwa experienced recurring flooding with limited warning. Floods often caught families by surprise, spilling into homes and gardens, destroying crops, displacing families and, sometimes, taking lives.

“We used to wait for floods to come and then run,” Moses recalls quietly. “Sometimes people lost everything before help arrived.”

Today, standing beside a river gauge installed in Doho Village, Moses takes regular readings of water levels. What once felt unpredictable now carries signs the community has learned to understand.

Through the EU Humanitarian Aid funded *Early Warning; Early Action* project, implemented by Oxfam, Uganda Red Cross Society, Moses and other members of the Village Disaster Management Committee were trained to monitor flood risks, organize community response, and act before danger escalates.

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The river gauge, which may appear simple at first glance, has become one of their most trusted tools. [Read More on Our Website](#)

“When the water reaches a certain level, we already know what it means,” he says. “We do not wait anymore. We begin warning people.”

Moses Were.



Moses with the community members create embankments around the edges of the riverbanks

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- [POWER THIEVES OR POWER VICTIMS? Why Villagers Are Stealing Electricity as Rural Electrification Fails Under Energy Ministry Watch](#)
- [Climate stress fuels conflict between locals and refugees | Monitor](#)
- [When Villagers Steal Power: Why government should decentralize rural electrification](#)
- [Oil revenues alone cannot fund Uganda's energy transition, experts warn](#)



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