

# OXFAM IN UGANDA



A project participant from Omugo refugee settlement with her Kuroiler birds following a recent distribution. Under the livelihood component of the DANIDA SP II project, Oxfam in Uganda and AFCE supported select farmers with Kuroiler birds to support their income generation and provide both income and food for refugees.

## APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

# ACHIEVING THE SDGS TARGETS: REALIGNING AGENDA 2063 TOWARDS ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES AND GENDER- PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES

DATE: APRIL 10, 2025  
TIME: 1:00 PM EAT/10 AM GMT  
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SCAN TO REGISTER

The Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission in collaboration with the Government of Uganda convened state and non-state actors in Kampala for the 11th Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (11th ARFSD) in April.

The event aimed to facilitate dialogue on Africa's progress toward achieving the (SDGs) and Agenda 2063- the continent's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into the global powerhouse of the future through for inclusive and sustainable development.

As part of the 11th ARFSD, Christian Aid and Oxfam together with FEMNET, Akina Mama Wa Africa (AMWA), and GIMCA facilitated a multistakeholder panel discussion bringing together representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government, and Civil Society Organizations.

Under the theme "Achieving the SDGs Targets: Realigning Agenda 2063 Towards Addressing Inequalities and Gender-Progressive Economic Policies", participants took stock of the progress made in ending inequality and injustice through informed and empowered citizenry in Africa, drawing from country experiences with Africa.

The Multi stakeholders shared experiences from their respective institutions on how they are addressing inequalities to facilitate development agendas. They also discussed the progress, challenges, and what urgently needs to be done in addressing the gaps towards achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Cognizant of the threat that the SDGs are currently under, governments and key policymakers resolved to urgently

accelerate their commitments to achieving the SDGs by maximizing available resources to prioritize gender equality and the realization of human rights.

The macroeconomic policies, including tax, fiscal, monetary, and trade policies, are important in shaping the development outcomes across Africa and in the pursuit of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. It is essential to understand how these policies impact different gender groups and identify the required actions to accelerate progress.

Key recommendations were on the need for Fiscal justice with policies developed with a gender perspective and an intersectionality lens, Debt justice by debt cancellations and accountable debt mechanisms, and the need for states to enhance access to resources and services for women.

Other recommendations were to strengthen multisectoral collaboration among networks, governments, CSOs, and regional institutions to enhance accountability and share best practices for achieving the SDGs.

Stakeholders also recommended the decolonization of institutions to ensure that marginalized communities have the civic space to safely participate in public decision-making and that their voices are heard.

The 11th ARFSD provided a platform for Africa to assess progress, share knowledge, and implement solutions to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.



## OXFAM REPRESENTED AT REGIONAL CIVIC SPACE WORKSHOP

In April, Oxfam in Uganda participated in a regional Ideation and Learning Retreat on Civic space, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The 2-day retreat was organized by the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) in collaboration with the Ford Foundation.

It was attended by civil society leaders, activists, and experts from seven African countries: Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Botswana.

The retreat aimed to explore and strengthen civic space across the African continent, with a particular focus on the transformative role of digital technologies.

Oxfam in Uganda was represented by Hood Lubowa, the digital rights lead, who participated in a series of interactive plenary sessions, workshops, and networking events and engaged in scenario-building exercises to develop strategies for operating in varying degrees of civic space restrictions.

The discussions emphasized the centrality of democracy and the rule of law as the "central fuse" of civic space, highlighting the interconnectedness of various elements within this ecosystem.

From the shared experiences, it was evident that civil society worldwide faces common challenges, including digital surveillance, internet shutdowns, and restrictions on freedom of expression.



*A team from Kenya shares their experiences during the meeting.*

Through the retreat, civil society leaders and activists also identified opportunities for cross-country collaboration, including knowledge sharing among civil society organizations, joint advocacy to coordinate efforts to address regional challenges, and capacity building to enhance digital literacy and civic engagement skills.

Innovative digital tools and grassroots mobilization continue to provide avenues for civic engagement and resistance.

As a way of consolidating the gains of the retreat, participants developed action plans outlining specific commitments on three main areas:

**Advocacy Initiatives:** Launching campaigns to raise awareness on civic space issues.

**Digital Tools:** Developing and deploying digital platforms for civic engagement.

**Policy Engagement:** Engaging with policymakers to promote supportive legal frameworks



*Participants during the Civic space workshop in Nairobi, Kenya*

## GEARED FOR SUCCESS GLOBAL TEAM VISITS UGANDA



Since 2022, Oxfam in Uganda and War Child Canada, in collaboration with Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation (CECI), the Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT), and the Refugee-Led Organizations Network (RELON), have been implementing the Geared for Success (GFS) project in West Nile.

This €1,783,604 initiative, funded by GAC, aims to empower out-of-school youth and enhance educational opportunities in refugee and host communities.

During a recent visit to Uganda, Nathalie Garon, the Deputy Director of Education Programming at Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and Steve Ashby, the Director of International Development at War Child Canada, visited various locations to assess the progress of the project. [Read More about their visit and project progress here.](#)

## CSOS ENGAGE THE PARLIAMENT ON SRHR



To highlight the urgent sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and broader health issues affecting communities across the country, Oxfam and partners, along with other CSOs, recently met with members of parliament in Kampala.

The meeting brought together Members of Parliament from the Health Committee, Civil Society Representatives - including CEHURD, Oxfam, SRHR Alliance, IPPF and government line Ministries and Departments (Ministries of Gender Labor and Social Development, Lands, Health and Finance, Uganda Planning Authority and Equal Opportunities Commission).

According to Wilson Senyonyi, the Stand-UP for SRHR project lead, the two-day engagement organized by CEHURD aimed to follow up on previously made commitments to improve health outcomes. It also sought to strengthen these commitments, considering emerging priorities as the country approaches elections in the coming year.....[Read More on about this engagement here](#)

## UGANDA DECLARED “EBOLA FREE”

In line with the World Health Organization guidelines, Uganda’s Ministry of Health declared Uganda Ebola-free on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 87 days after the disease was first confirmed.

“Having completed two full incubation cycles, that is 42 days since the last confirmed case was discharged on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and having recorded no new cases amidst sustained surveillance, I now officially declare the current Sudan Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Uganda ended” declared Jane Ruth Aceng, the Minister of Health.

The outbreak, which was first declared on January 30, 2025, had 14 cases registered, with 12 confirmed cases, and 534 people identified as contacts. Four deaths were registered, with two of those confirmed and the other two probable, and 10 people recovered.

Mbale district, Mbale City, Iganga District, Jinja City, and Jinja districts of eastern Uganda as well as Kyegegwa, Bunyangabu, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Kisoro districts in Western Uganda were among the high-risk districts.

To effectively combat Ebola, the Ministry of Health, supported by WHO, collaborated closely with various partners, including Oxfam.

Oxfam in Uganda coordinated a response in the Mt. Elgon region and Kyaka refugee settlement, supporting coordination, risk communication, community

engagement as well as Infection Prevention and Control – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (IPC – WaSH).

The response in Mbale was funded by the [EU-ECHO](#) crisis modifier to the tune of €50,000, which was complemented with a €32,000 funding from Oxfam Australia, while the Kyaka response was funded by Oxfam Hong Kong (OHK) to the tune of 80,000 euros.

Some of the key interventions included the installation of handwashing facilities in strategic locations like health centres, quarantine stations, and public areas as well as the distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline workers and providing essential sanitation supplies, such as chlorine, soap, and hand sanitizers.

With Uganda declared Ebola-free, Oxfam’s public health team continues to complete pending activities supporting recovery and systems strengthening measures, as well as contributing to the establishment of a contingency stock of key IPC-WaSH items in regional emergency warehouses as a preparedness measure.

Across Kyegegwa – Kyaka II and Mbale city (Mt Elgon region), district leadership and stakeholders commended both the technical and financial resources rendered towards the fight against Ebola through the initiatives that were funded by the ECHO crisis modifier, Oxfam Australia, and Oxfam Hong Kong projects. [Read how volunteers were taking Ebola information closer to people in the Mt. Elgon region.](#)

## ORYEKONYEN FARMER GROUP REAPS FROM LARGE-SCALE CASSAVA FARMING.

In Kakomongole village in Nakapiripirit district, a group of 30 dedicated farmers is benefiting from collective cassava farming.

The Oryekonyen farmer group, part of the Resilience, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, and Empowerment of Communities in Karamoja (RISE-K) project, is showing the impact and potential that the project has in empowering the community.

In April, a team from Oxfam in Uganda visited the region for routine monitoring to assess the progress of the RISE-K project, which aims to foster inclusive and resilient communities.

During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet with the Oryekonyen group, which shared their story of large-scale cassava farming. The group, comprising 30 members, collectively owns about six acres of cassava. This has not only improved their economic situation but also enhanced the well-being of their community.





**Oryekonyen farmer group has planted 6 acres of cassava in Kakomongole, Nakapiripirit**

The group has learned to extract multiple benefits from cassava. During the dry season, they enjoy cassava leaves as vegetables, use the tubers for food, and sell for income, and even engage in business by providing cassava cuttings to other farming groups.

The farmers credit the livelihood initiative for transforming not only their individual households but also the community.

Oryekonyen farmer group boasts of being among the first groups to engage in the cassava farming value chain on a large scale, in the community of Kakomongole.

Through a partnership with Caritas Moroto Diocese, they have established connections with the sub-county administration, positioning them as potential suppliers of cassava planting materials for other groups in the area.

This linkage will ensure that they can be considered for future opportunities funded by development partners or the government.

The livelihood initiative is being implemented under the RISE-K project, a 5-year project that seeks to achieve an empowered, inclusive, just, and resilient community in the Karamoja sub-region of Uganda.

Oxfam in Uganda and partners working under the One program approach are also involved in supporting beekeeping, land rights, promoting gender equality and accountability in communities through advocacy which components are implemented by the different partners.

The RISE-K project which is funded by Irish Aid is a collaborative effort under an Oxfam in Uganda led partnership that has Caritas Moroto, Resource Rights Africa (RRA), National Association of Women of Uganda (NAWOU) and The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO).

## MORE ON OUR WEBSITE



### EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND: SUPPORTING WESTERN UGANDA HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM THROUGH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO DISASTERS

In Western and Southwestern Uganda, humanitarian crises happen too often. Sudden heavy rains cause rivers to overflow, flooding entire villages, coupled with mudslides and landslides destroyed homes, infrastructure, livestock, and crops, leaving many people without a place to live or a way to support themselves. [Read More About this Story on Our Website](#)



### THE WESTERN UGANDA HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM IN UGANDA: TRANSFORMING DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND POLICY INFLUENCING

In Western Uganda, communities grapple with a range of humanitarian crises, from floods and landslides to food shortages, often with limited coordination and support. For years, local organizations faced the daunting challenge of responding to these emergencies without a unified platform. Recognizing this need, the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform (WUHP) was established in 2022 with the support of Oxfam and under the stewardship of World Voices Uganda- a local Organization based in Western Uganda. [Read More About this Story on Our Website](#)

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With funding from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mercy Corps Uganda is leading a consortium of partners, including CARE, Oxfam in Uganda, and others, are implementing a 12-month project.

The project aims to ensure that refugees and vulnerable host communities in Yumbe District, Uganda, have improved access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy products and services.

To track the project's progress, the Oxfam implementing team organized a monitoring visit to the project sites in Yumbe District.

The team, consisting of representatives from Oxfam in Uganda, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and I CAN South Sudan (SS), began a four-day visit at the office of the Bidibidi refugee settlement commandant.

During this visit, they sought to foster buy-in for the SUSTAINED project, learned about the current context of the settlement, and strengthened collaboration among partners.

The team met and interacted with members from Ichikirubo Mixed Farm and Silk Group in Kiri Village, Romogi, who were supported with a solar-powered milling machine that is used for maize and millet milling.

They also visited the Ikanga and Green Valley farmer groups, located in Kurikuringa and Kerwa villages, respectively.

The two groups were supported with solar-powered water pumps from Tulima solar, which has enabled members of the farmer group to irrigate their farms.



*The monitoring team together with Ikanga group members tested the usage of the solar water pump.*

During the trip, the team also met with sales agents who were re-oriented on the project, deliverables, and most importantly, their roles and responsibilities towards the success of the project.

Following the visit, the visiting team organised a debrief session with both ICAN South Sudan and Oxfam staff where participants shared key findings, observations, evidence of success, and lessons learnt with recommendations made to help align project implementation.

The SUSTAINED programme adopts a Market Systems Development (MSD) approach, responding to the clear need for linkages to facilitate the entry of quality private sector actors into displacement settings, while ensuring that vulnerable populations can access quality products and services, in a safe, supportive environment.

The project collaborates with energy service companies (ESCOs), namely PESITHO, Tulima Solar, and D.Light; financial service providers (FSPs), such as Vision Fund; and two refugee-led organizations (ICAN South Sudan and CECI) in both refugee and host communities to address demand and supply-side barriers.



*The implementation team interacts with sales agents.*



## YOUNG CREATIVES SHOWCASE SKILLS AT THE STORIES FOR CHANGE END PROJECT EXHIBITION



On 10th April 2025, at Makerere Art Gallery, Kampala, Oxfam in Uganda and Fotea welcomed creatives, media professionals, and industry professionals for an in-depth exhibition of the work done by young creatives under the three - year Stories for Change project.

FOTEA with support from Oxfam in Uganda collaborated with young storytellers working within the creative industries in the fields of photography, videography, written word, illustration, audio and podcasting, to enhance their storytelling and collaborative skills.

In the final year of the program, 12 participants were brought together, including 8 young creatives from the first and second cohorts, as well as four Oxfam partners and staff who were paired with industry professionals for mentoring and tasked with producing creative works.

The works exhibited focused on the impact of climate change, the role of indigenous knowledge in mitigating the effects of climate change, the future of inclusive learning, civic space and access to information beyond digital divides, issues around Gender Based violence among others.

Speaking at the exhibition showcase, the Oxfam in Uganda, Country Director, who was represented by Anne Namakula, the Program Funding Manager, commended the creatives for the different perspectives shown from their work and attributed the success of the initiative to Fotea's dedication to storytelling.

"Fotea's commitment to mentorship, inclusion, and artistic excellence has ensured that this project not only taught creative skills but also helped build careers, sparked critical conversations, and challenged entrenched narratives," Odokorach said.

[Explore the different pieces of work in this project catalogue](#)



*Oxfam in Uganda Program funding Manager Anne Namakula, speaking at the Event*

Throughout the course of the program, which was funded by Oxfam Novib, participants honed their skills and gained valuable experience to help them show the world fresh perspectives on global issues on the program that was implemented in five countries, including the Philippines, Cambodia, Bangladesh, South Africa, and Uganda.



## OXFAM IN THE NEWS

- [Progressive Tax Reforms Key to Solving Uganda's Education Crisis – New Report](#)
- [ActionAid Report: Progressive tax reforms key to solving Uganda's education crisis](#)
- [CSOs Back Proposed Tax Increases on Alcohol, Tobacco.](#)
- [Why Bujagali energy deserves no further tax waivers](#)



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Photos – contributed by various programme teams*