

OXFAM IN UGANDA

ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023



OXFAM



TOGETHER FOR EQUALITY.

This Annual report covers the period from *April 2022 to March 2023*.

It is an overview of the achievements/ milestones from over 26 projects implemented across all four thematic areas of the Oxfam in Uganda program.

DISCLAIMER:

Efforts were made to ensure that the information in this 2022/2023 report is correct. However, the possibility of errors or unintentional omissions cannot be excluded.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxfam in Uganda acknowledges all the stakeholders engaged in the fight against inequality in Uganda. From the Government to implementing partners, development partners, civil society, the private sector, community leaders and individuals. Your contribution to creating positive change is invaluable. Your support made a considerable contribution to the delivery of our programme and the positive change created.



CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	5
VISION AND MISSION	6
HOW AND WHERE WE WORK	7
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	8
APPROACHES	9
FOREWORD	10
IMPACT	11
STRENGTHENING RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS	12
Highlights	14
Milestones	17
HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE	32
Highlights	33
Milestones	37
PROMOTING GENDER JUSTICE AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS	48
Highlights	50
Milestones	52
THE GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM	58
Highlights	60
Milestones	62
HUMAN RESOURCES	73
INCOMES AND INVESTMENTS	77
PARTNERS	78

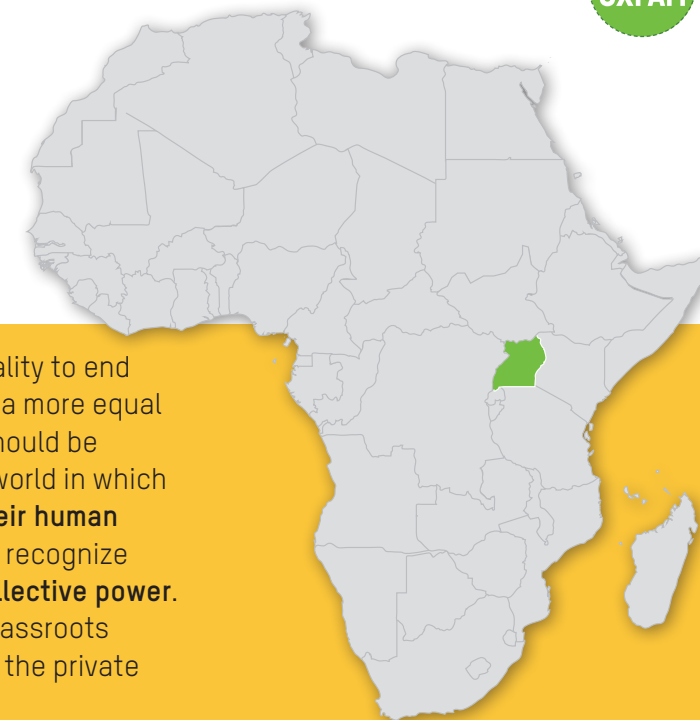
ACRONYMS

Acronym	Explanation
ABYM	Adolescent Boys and Young Men
ACF	Agricultural Credit Facility
ACODE	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
AGYW	Adolescent Girls and Young Women
BoU	Bank of Uganda
BTVET	Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CSBAG	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
DIT	Directorate of Industrial Training
EACOP	East African Crude Oil Pipe Line
EFSVL	Emergency Food Security and Vulnerable Livelihoods
EITI	Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
ICSP-RISE-K	Irish Aid Civil Society Programme, Resilience, Inclusiveness, Stability and Empowerment of Communities in Karamoja
IDRC	Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration
KCCA	Kampala City Council Authority
LGBC	Local Government Budget Consultative
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Authorities
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning & Economic Development
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MoH	Ministry of Health
NBFP	National Budget Framework Paper
NDP	National Development Plan
NUP	National Unity Platform
SEATINI	Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
UCC	Uganda Communication Commission
UCDW	Unpaid Care and Domestic Work
UNOC	Uganda National Oil Company
URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
TUNADO	The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
AOP	Annual Operational Plan
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
MFS	Mobile Financial Services
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
REACH	Relief, Education, and Community Health
RRA	Recourse Rights Arica
UNBS	Uganda National Bureau of Standards
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
DRM	Disaster Risk Reduction
RTI	Research Triangle Institute
FFS	Farmer Field School
YEE	Youth Economic Empowerment
WEE	Women Economic Empowerment
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
AfDB	African Development Bank
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SD-HS	Sowing Seed – Harvesting Diversity
NFA	National Forestry Authority
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
PAPs	Project Affected Persons
PDM	Parish Development Model
WWD	Women With Disabilities





HOW AND WHERE WE WORK



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, work around the petroleum and

mining industry, Transformative education, and 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 to Business Development.

Humanitarian preparedness and response
Goal: People vulnerable to crises are safe, secure, and resilient and enjoy dignified lives
Focus: Emergency and resilient

livelihoods for crisis-affected communities. Contingency planning with stakeholders, Local humanitarian leadership, Peace, protection, National and regional policy influencing, and delivery of timely humanitarian support.

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.



VISION

A Uganda free of inequality and injustice.



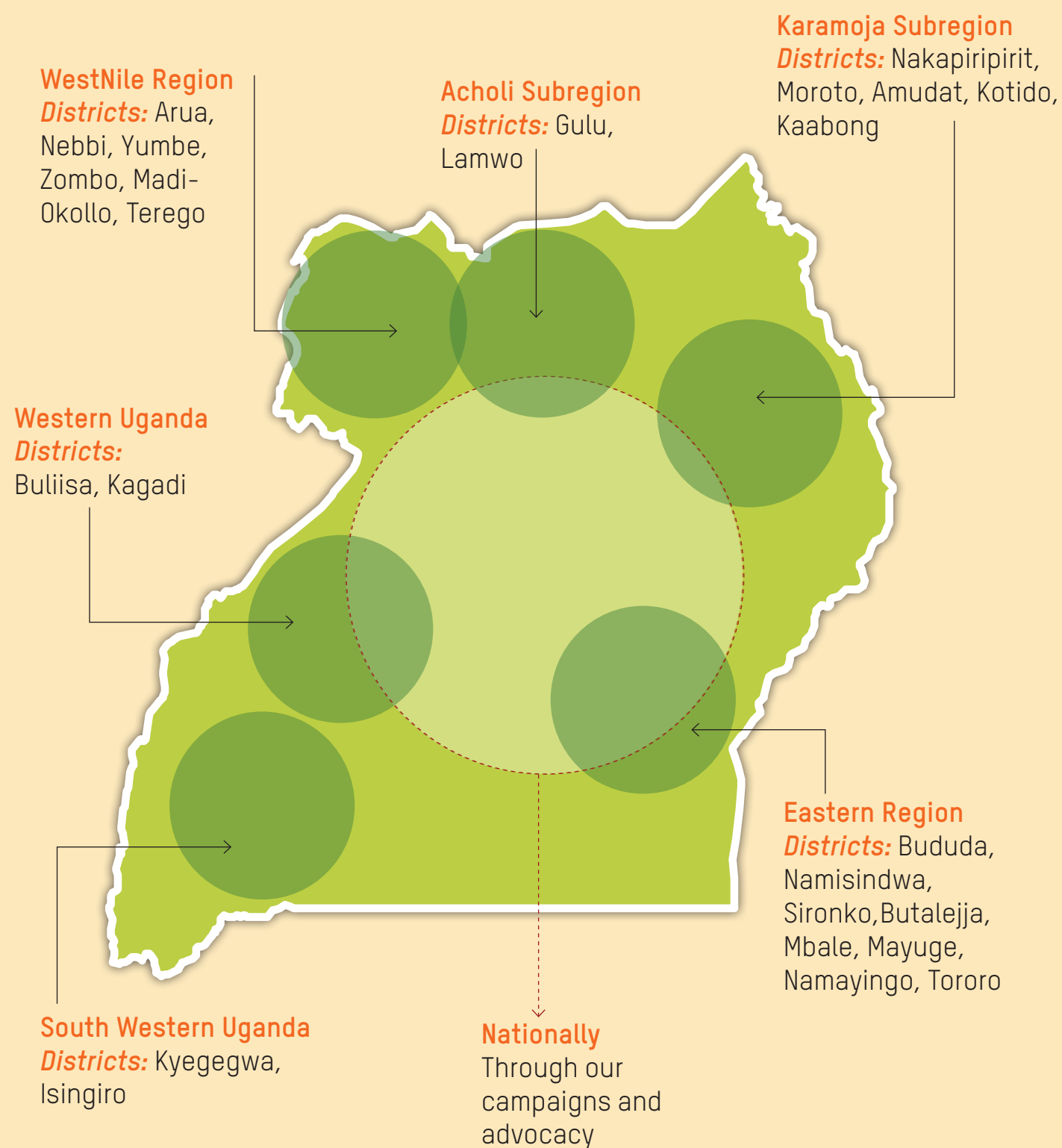
MISSION

To tackle the inequalities that make and keep people poor.



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.

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS



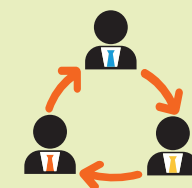
APPROACHES

Oxfam applies cross-cutting approaches through its programme



GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Oxfam promotes gender mainstreaming in the entire country programme with critical analysis and assessments of gender gaps in the project design, implementation, and resource allocation. There is a deliberate effort to ensure there is inclusion of both males and females in various projects, with a target of 60% females and 40% males.



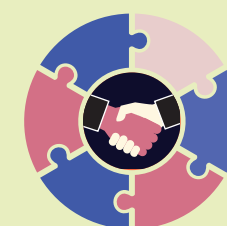
PARTICIPATORY METHODOLOGIES

The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) is one of the major methodologies Oxfam uses across the programmes to transform household gender relations.



FEMINIST APPROACH

The country programme continues to apply feminist leadership principles to enhance women's rights and gender justice within the organization and across our programmes as we seek to ensure that women and men are equal in law and practice. We use a feminist leadership lens to analyze the power relations that keep people in poverty. This informs our approach to tackling social structures and patriarchal systems.



PARTNERSHIPS

We have a 'transformative partnership' model, which provides our partners space and voice to share their ideas. We actively co-create projects with partners and jointly agree on key actions, which strengthens our relationships through to implementation. We adhere to core partnership principles in our engagements, including a culture of tolerance and acceptance. Partners continue to hold Oxfam accountable to the same high ethical standards that Oxfam holds them.



ONE PROGRAMME APPROACH

The country programme has embraced the One programme approach – Triple Nexus through; continued co-creation, co-design of proposals and implementing projects. We promote circularity and circular business models across the programme, including Business Development Services, climate change, youth and women empowerment initiatives.

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present to you the annual report for Oxfam in Uganda 2022 /2023. This also marks one year into implementing the [Country Strategic Framework 2021- 2030](#).

This report summarizes our year of hard work to make a positive difference in communities.

The year had challenges, such as high living costs and new disasters. Despite the challenges, old and new, our team, partners, and participants showed inspiring collaboration and determination.

We made progress in addressing poverty and inequality through our four thematic programmes. From empowering local and national humanitarian actors to supporting farmers and entrepreneurs to advocating for gender equality and supporting communities in times of crisis, each endeavour contributed to our overarching mission of tackling the inequalities that make and keep people poor.

Together, we helped improve the lives of more than 800,000 people in all our programmes. I spent a good part of the year visiting various communities and meeting the people we work with. Beyond these numbers, there is real transformational change led by the people. They have the power and will. They need the capacity, the boost, the space and the enabling environment. This is what our interventions set out to fill.

Our Resilient Livelihoods programme focused on improving food



Francis Shanty Odokorach
Country Director - Oxfam in Uganda

and income security through a comprehensive approach. It facilitated access to improved seed varieties, engaged in climate action campaigns, land advocacy and enhanced the capacity of farmers and entrepreneurs. The Gender Justice and Women's Rights Programme became operational at the start of this FY 2022/23, making significant strides in supporting women leadership as well as challenging patriarchal structures that marginalise women and girls. The Governance and Accountability programme promoted active citizenship, effective resource mobilization and use, and advocated for creating increased space for vulnerable women, youth, and men to participate in decision-making processes. Under Humanitarian and preparedness response, Oxfam and its partners supported people affected by crises, ensuring a timely and quality humanitarian response. They provided skills and knowledge

so that they can mitigate and cope with shocks and enjoy their rights to a life with dignity. Notably, the program established the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform, offering a platform for capacity building among local humanitarian actors.

We formed new partnerships with diverse partners and strengthened our existing partnerships. Programme implementation continued with over 30 projects across all four thematic areas. We couldn't have achieved all without the unwavering support of our partners, donors, supporters, and staff. Your belief in our vision and your continued commitment to our cause are the driving forces behind the progress achieved. We have changed lives and improved systems, policies, and attitudes that drive inequality.

As we reflect on the milestones of the past year, we also cast our gaze forward with a renewed sense of purpose. The challenges that lie ahead are complex, but so is our determination to overcome them. We will work towards a fairer society, guided by our Country Strategic Framework and our organization's principles.

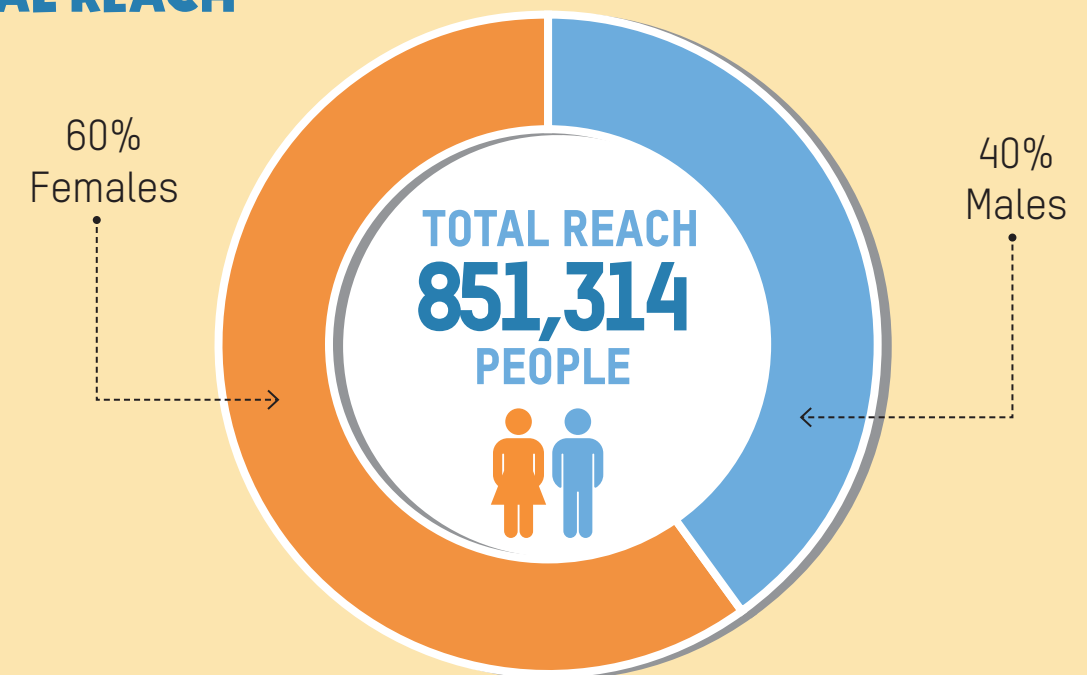
Together, let us forge ahead, driven by the belief that change is possible and within our grasp. With great appreciation,

Francis Shanty Odokorach
Country Director
Oxfam in Uganda

IMPACT

Implemented 30 projects with 46 partners, impacting the lives of 851,314 people

TOTAL REACH



REACH PER THEME

Governance and Accountability
31,485 People **31,485**

Humanitarian Preparedness and Response
786,307 people **786,307**

Resilient Livelihoods
23,837 people **23,837**

Gender Justice & Women's Rights
9,685 people **9,685**

STRENGTHENING RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS

Oxfam and partners improve food systems and tackle challenges that affect small-scale food producers, pastoralists, women, and youth. Together, we improve the skills of smallholder farmers, advocate for fair market systems, and support impact-driven SMEs. Working in collaborative efforts, Oxfam is addressing issues like land rights, access to markets, climate change, value chain inequities, and unpaid care work. By providing support and advocating for change in these key areas, Oxfam is helping to build more resilient and inclusive food systems that can benefit the entire community by increasing food security and incomes.

HIGHLIGHTS





MILESTONES

Increased access, control, and ownership of productive and natural resources such as land, seeds, water, and technology.

SUPPORTED PLANT BREEDING FOR IMPROVED SEED AVAILABILITY

The collaboration between Oxfam, its partners, and the farmers led to impactful initiatives to improve seed quality in the communities.

Enhanced Farmer Field Schools (FFS):

The project successfully linked over 2,000 farmers, including a notable proportion of women (1,280 females, 853 males) from 79 Farmer Field Schools, to breeding institutions. The FFSs played a crucial role in improving seed availability and enhancing crop traits such as drought tolerance, pest resistance, early maturity, and higher yields.

Local Varieties Improved: The emphasis on experiential learning concepts within the Farmer Field

Schools improved seed quality and enhanced local crop varieties, ensuring they are better suited to the specific farming environment. Six Community seed banks (CSBs) were fully operationalized, benefiting all 79 FFS.

Linkage with National Gene Bank: The collaboration with the National Gene Bank allowed for the exchange of knowledge and resources, enabling discussions on the repatriation of lost crops and varieties back to the communities. This connection can be pivotal in

preserving and utilizing the diversity of crops and their genetic resources.

Seeds Entrepreneurship: The transition of 15 Farmer Field Schools into seed entrepreneurship impacted the local seed production and marketing landscape. By engaging in local seed production and filling the gap left by formal seed companies, these entrepreneurial efforts significantly increased access to seeds and technology.

Community Seed Banks (CSBs): The establishment of six fully operationalized Community Seed Banks provided a vital reservoir for high-quality seeds, including locally tested crop varieties to suit the local farming environment. These seed banks support the immediate needs of the seventy-nine Farmer Field Schools and facilitate long-term preservation and conservation of valuable seeds.

HOW A FARMER FIELD SCHOOL IS NURTURING A GENERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS

Urebatriku Farmer Field School (FFS) in Adjumani district began during the Covid- 19 pandemic when many youths were idle and out of school. The FFS took some of these youth out of idleness.

Henry Anyama, a facilitator with Eastern and Southern Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESSAF) Uganda noted that several youths are now involved in the different farmer field groups.

“Youth are very innovative, they are also very helpful when it comes to cultivating because they actively participate in doing all these activities; digging, harvesting and plucking fruits. FFS have a combination of members like the elderly and middle-aged so they need youths to carry out these activities that need a lot of energy.” Anyama says

Youth in the district have benefited from the FFS because they have been able to learn a lot, especially in understanding and appreciating the benefits of neglected and underutilised food species.

In Urebatriku a 30-member FFS group, the youth members picked an interest in growing the hibiscus plant. Hibiscus is a group of flowering plants in the mallow family, Malvaceae, known for significant food nutrients with health benefits. While the

plant’s benefits were known and utilized in the past, certain varieties of the plant are endangered and



underutilised due to habitat loss caused by human development. Urebatriku is reviving the plant along with other neglected and under-utilised plant species such as engoa (a type of simsim) and Lonjokobi another local food plant.

Amongst the three selected plants, the hibiscus specifically boomed because of its added value and many uses. It is used for tea and soup, and can also be processed into wine. “With time, we hope to cultivate the plants on bigger land in order to earn income,” the chairperson said.

Urebatriku, is also cultivating Lima, a bean variety that has been in existence for a while but is now on the verge of extinction. The difference between Lima beans and other bean varieties is that it is high yielding. One Lima bean plant once dropped under a huge tree, will germinate, climb, grow and give high produce.

The FFS were created under the Sowing Diversity Equals Harvesting Security (SD=HS) project which was implemented by ESSAF Uganda, Participatory Ecological and Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda and Oxfam with the aim of ensuring that farmers enjoy their rights and have the capacity to access, develop and improve their food and nutrition.

CREATED AWARENESS ON LAND RIGHTS

Secure land rights are a vital part of an enabling environment that empowers women, promotes inclusive economic growth and reduces extreme poverty and inequality. To create awareness around this, Oxfam in Uganda conducted awareness sessions, including media engagements. Over 50,000 people were reached through televised talk shows. The dialogue effectively raised awareness among the general public regarding the magnitude of land issues, particularly in Kiryandongo. Through in-depth discussions and testimonies from community representatives, viewers were provided with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by communities affected by land grabs. This sparked conversations at various levels, encouraging individuals and communities to take a proactive stance on land rights.

In addition, Oxfam participated in the Global Land Forum in Jordan, addressing key themes such as climate sensitivity, land conflicts, and displacement. Within this forum, Oxfam organized a session on the role of policies in implementing women’s land rights.

The discussions and networking opportunities contributed to knowledge exchange, policy advocacy, and finding solutions to land-related challenges. Oxfam, working with partners, will continue raising awareness as well as calling for secure land rights for all. ■



Oxfam participated in the Global Land Forum in Jordan.

OXFAM in partnership with the National Land Coalition, the Women’s landrights Movement, the Ministry of Lands, housing, and urban development and land actors organized a National Land Forum from 16th-18th/November/2022 under the theme **Taking stock of the National Land Policy in addressing Land inequality in Uganda.**

This National event provided a platform for discussions by the different actors in the land sector on issues around land governance for improved collaboration, cooperation between the actors and improved land service delivery for Ugandans. During the forum, key land actors were recognized.

Nakibuuka Maxentia (In green at the front) was recognised by National Land Forum-Uganda for being a women’s land rights champion at grassroots level. State Minister for Lands, Hon.Persis Namuganza presented the awards.



CAMPAINED FOR THE PROTECTION OF FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

Oxfam and partners conducted a fact-finding mission to assess the encroachment status of Bugoma and Zoka Natural forests. This initiative supported campaigns and advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the importance of preserving these ecosystems. Through campaigns and advocacy efforts, Oxfam mobilised support and fostered partnerships that contribute to the conservation of these ecosystems. This collaborative approach is crucial in ensuring the long-term protection of Bugoma and Zoka Natural forests, thereby securing the benefits for both present and future generations. ■

INCREASED SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY

Together with partners, we conducted trainings that collectively contributed to improved farming methods, environmentally friendly practices, and increased productivity in the agricultural sector. ■

IMPROVED CROP AND SOIL HEALTH

Through Farmer Field Schools and farmer groups in Eastern



and Northern Uganda, farmers received comprehensive training on agroecological principles and practical sessions on topics such

as organic pesticides and manure making. This training improved crop and soil health, enhancing sustainable agricultural production.



IMPROVED HONEY PRODUCTION

To support the beekeeping sector, Apiary Masters were trained and equipped to monitor

the performance of beekeeping groups and provide demand-driven extension services. These Apiary Masters, stationed in different districts, played a crucial role in improving honey production, hive colonization rates, and

overall apiary maintenance. Their presence within the communities led to increased productivity, enhanced handling practices, and contributed to sustainable agricultural production. ■

FRANCIS OLOYA OKELLO – INSPIRING COMMUNITIES TO JOIN BEE FARMING AS A BUSINESS

After completing university in 2014, 32-year-old Francis Okello Oloya from Amuru district failed to secure employment. During this time, Francis learnt of an opportunity to participate in bee keeping and training from HIVE Uganda. He started with four local palm bee hives that he laid at his apiary.

“It was a very good start because I got training to become a master bee trainer which would help me train other blind people to participate in bee keeping.” He adds.

When HIVE Uganda project ended, Oxfam through Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (TUNADO) came in and supported his bee keeping project. He participated in the development of the manual for beekeeping for blind people in Acholi and in the audio translation to Acholi. He was also trained in good climate practices such as planting trees to conserve the environment.

Additionally, he was also trained in using a safer smoker to harvest honey as a way of conserving the environment. Francis was taught on quality harvesting of honey to ensure value for money after harvesting. He uses air tight buckets to store his honey until it is ready for sale to the processors.

Francis is now a model bee farmer in his community, and more especially to the people with disabilities. “I have twelve visually impaired persons in Paboo who come to my apiary to learn and this has boosted our confidence because we are self-employed.” Bee keeping has become a source of livelihood for him and other people living with disabilities. He has since multiplied the bee hives from four to twenty one hives.

Bee keeping has given Francis a vision and a big goal for his community. He is the Director and proprietor of Chance nursery school – an early childhood development centre in Palwong Parish.

“The bee keeping project gave me an idea to start this school because I know in the near future, this apiary will be used as a learning center such that children not only know academics but are able to learn about agriculture at an early age. I want them to integrate farming with bee keeping. I also want them to learn how to conserve the environment,” Francis explains.

Francis notices that although bees may be dangerous, they can as well change a life when well managed. “I have self-worth and other people like me feel that way because our lives are better. It is for that reason that many more people with disabilities are joining bee keeping because they see me and they get inspired. ■



Mr. Oloya harvesting honey on his apiary in Gulu district.

ADOPTION OF CLIMATE-SMART FARMING

Smallholder farmers were trained in agronomic practices, focusing on climate-smart farming such as agro-forestry. Over 205 farmers (123 Females, 82 Males) from Zombo district were trained. The trainings resulted in improved farming methods and increased yields. ■



IMPROVED RESILIENCE OF COFFEE FARMERS

384 smallholder coffee farmers (230 Females, 179 Males) from Nebbi and Zombo districts underwent a refresher training in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This training enhanced the resilience of farmers in the face of climate-related challenges. ■



INCREASED FOOD, INCOME AND NUTRITION SECURITY

IMPROVED VEGETABLE AND SEED PRODUCTION

Farmers in urban areas of Gulu and Nebbi were trained in micro gardening techniques, resulting in the establishment of two models. 500 farmers (250 female and 250 male) received training, empowering them to produce vegetables within limited spaces. Additionally, 10 female food producers in Luzira, a suburb in Kampala, were trained as models and trainers of trainers. Six of them successfully established their gardens using vertical farming techniques. Further, 15 Farmer Field Schools comprising 450

farmers (325 females and 125 males) received seed production skills, business planning, market research, and seed value chain and stakeholder engagement training. This training led to

the establishment of 24 acres dedicated to seed production, created income opportunities for farmers, enhanced food production and improved access to nutritious food for urban communities. ■



CLIMATE SMART FARMING IS KEY IN INCREASING CROP YIELDS

When the BGR project was launched in October 2021 in Zombo District, Mr Anyolitho Leonard and his wife Ngombwegi Alice, were selected by AFCE to be part of the project.

They selected tomatoes as their household income generating activity. With support from the project and were given 50grams of

tomato seeds. They were also trained in climate smart good agronomic practices such as land preparation, timely planting, timely weeding, pest and diseases management, soil and water conservation among others.

Mr Anyolitho and the family made a bumper harvest following the training. They harvested up to 300kgs of

tomatoes and sold each kilogram at UGX2800 giving a total of UGX840,000. They decided to use UGX500,000 to acquire a used motorcycle to ease transportation of their produce to the market and used 340,000shs to buy cement to start construction of a permanent house as they dream to move away from a grass thatched house. ■



SUPPORTED ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT AND DIVERSE QUALITY SEEDS

With support from Oxfam partners, 18 different lines or varieties of beans and groundnuts were obtained from breeding institutions and tested by farmers to determine their suitability. Evaluation exercises confirmed that all the varieties met the breeding objectives, creating opportunities for farmer seed enterprises and local seed production and marketing. ■

COMPETITIVE PRICES FOR BEEKEEPERS

Working with TUNADO and World of Bees, support was provided to beekeeping trading hubs. Reliable markets and competitive prices were ensured for beekeepers. The bee farmers' business stabilization funds grew from 30,000 Euros to 200,000 Euros, facilitating the purchase of bee products by 24 hubs across Arua, Gulu, Nebbi, and Kotido districts. This contributed to increased incomes for beekeepers. ■



HOPE AFTER COVID

The COVID-19 pandemic affected so many people during lockdowns. Manuela Letasi, a mother of one was also one of the many people that lost their jobs during the lock down.

After the lockdown, Manuela came across a training by TUNADO with funding from Oxfam and she joined it. "TUNADO introduced me to honey processing and that's how I picked interest. They taught me how to make honey, Wax and jelly," she says.

After the training, Manuela started Aruu Falls Honey, jelly, Propolis and wax. She is one of the few women processing honey in Gulu district. Her honey is sold at all GASCO supermarkets in Gulu and the MTN service Centre.

"As a woman, I feel good. I am useful in the home and my husband is supportive of my business, "I don't regret leaving my secretary job. I am now self-employed, I am not stressed, I have money and I have enough time for my family," Manuela noted.

From honey processing, Manuela says, she has been able to buy land with her husband and they have planted trees.

Manuela sells 1 kg of honey at UGX20,000, propolis at UGX5000 and 500ml of honey at UGX10,000. However, she faces problems such as lack of enough money to buy honey in big quantities from farmers and poor quality of honey. "Some farmers supply watery honey and that affects our customers," she added.

Manuela hopes to register her business in the future and find a permanent shop where she can sell her honey. Manuela is an inspiration of breaking barriers that women can't participate in the honey value chain.

"Women involvement in bee keeping is less because of the fear for bees so the best we can do is be part of the processing. I usually encourage women to also join this business though some say it needs a lot of money." She adds.

Manuela feels empowered and economically able because her income stream is secured. "Honey processing has opened opportunities for me. I hope this project continues such that more women enroll for the trainings. ■



FACILITATED BETTER PRICES FOR COFFEE FARMERS

Working with our partner AFCE, linkages were created for the farmers to Zombo Coffee Partners

Limited, a speciality coffee export company offering a ready market with better prices per kilogram of coffee. The existence of this company has seen prices of coffee parchment per kilogram increased from 5000 UGX to 10,000 UGX in

2022. Our farmers enjoyed 85% increase in the price of both cherry and parchment coffee. 90% of micro-station group members bring 75% of their coffee for processing in the micro-station during the season. ■



I used to market my coffee on credit and the buyers would delay paying or sometimes run away with my money but these days, there is a ready market for coffee at a good price. We used to sell a kilo of the cherries at UGX 700 but now, when we started producing specialty coffee, we now see our cherries at UGX 2000. My coffee yields have improved greatly because of the training. I got on the suckering and creating contours which enable cherries to have enough nutrients. I have been able to educate my children – Alifua Joyce, 45, Pamitu Parish, Zombo district. ■



INCREASED YOUTH-OWNED BUSINESSES

Youth empowerment in business led to the establishment of 852 youth-owned businesses,

with 596 female and 256 male entrepreneurs. These businesses span various sectors, including snack and fruit vending, salons, meat and chicken roasting, retail shops, second-hand clothing, liquid soap making, tailoring,

cereal processing, agribusiness, and restaurants. The increased incomes realized by these businesses positively impacted the economic well-being of the youth. ■

FROM UNEMPLOYMENT TO ENTREPRENEUR - OMIRAMBE BRIAN'S JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

Brian Omirambe, 29, has defied the odds to create a path to success. Married with one child, his journey began after graduating from Uganda Pentecostal University in 2018. Despite a relentless search for employment, jobs remained elusive until he found a life-changing opportunity through the YEEP project. Prior to his participation in the project, Brian faced mounting pressure from his father to establish his own household as an adult. He made the bold decision to sell his smartphone for 150,000 shillings and embarked on a journey toward independence.

on his family for support. Brian also became a community influencer in his community and his success inspired other people to start small businesses, leading to job creation and economic growth. By applying leadership and entrepreneurship skills, Brian was able to improve his life and lifted others out of poverty. He started advocating against early marriages by highlighting the consequences and educating young girls about sexual reproductive health and how they can protect themselves.

"I have so far managed to encourage seven pregnant girls to return to school by informing them

about the government's new policy that allows pregnant girls to return to school,"

He decided to use his voice to make a difference through participating in radio talk shows to further create awareness on the causes of teenage pregnancies. Brian also led a campaign to end child marriage in partnership with the Alur kingdom. During the campaign, a bicycle race competition was held to create awareness about the effects of child marriage. Brian Omirambe ■

"I acquired practical knowledge in business operations, financial management, and marketing." Brian shares, reflecting on the transformative impact of the training.

After acquiring knowledge and training from AYDL and IFRAD, Brian secured a loan of 250,000 shillings from his saving group to establish a small merchandise shop in his village. As time passed, Brian's business flourished, enabling him to repay his loan and break even. Today, he stands tall as a self-reliant individual, no longer dependent



OXFAM PROJECTS UPLIFTS YOUTH AND WOMEN

Oxfam project uplifts youth, women

ARUA

By Robert Adiga

A six-year project aimed at building economic resilience and fighting gender-based violence among youth and women in West Nile has been hailed for creating a significant impact among the beneficiaries.

Stakeholders said the youth and women have been empowered with entrepreneurial skills and fight gender-based violence through the project. The remarks were made during a project closeout meeting in Arua city.

Oxfam has implemented a six-year 2.8m-euro project in Uganda with funding from Irish Aid focusing women and youth economic empowerment and gender equality.

The project was implemented in eight districts from the three regions of West Nile, Acholi and Karamoja.

BENEFICIARIES TRANSFORMATION
Moses Abedican, a resident of Abindu division in Nebbi district, said he joined the group as a male champion in 2017 and has embarked on training his male counterparts to embrace change and support their spouses as well as live in harmony at home.

"After joining the group, I realised we need to wake up and support women by ending gender-based violence and changing the negative traditional mindset. As a male change agent, I have been moving from home to home, talking to the male household heads not to neglect women's rights, but rather to support them in their endeavours. Many have changed and are now working hand-in-hand with their wives to cause change economically in their homes and this has yielded into peaceful stay at families," Abedican said.

Oliver Kitu, 35, a female councillor of Abindu division, said as a young and first-time councillor, she was trained in public speaking and leadership by Uganda Women's Network.

"As a young woman who has just joined politics, I was not conversant with my roles and could not express myself well. However, the female councillors, through this project, were trained in leadership skills. Right now, I can deliberate well in the council sessions. The 14 female councillors have also formed the district women's caucus where we sensitise communities and other women on how to run their family affairs. Together with men, we'll attain economic empowerment," she said.

Kitu added that as female councillors, after the training, they formed a savings group which is growing fast.

Patrick Omony, the programme manager of the Agency for Community Empowerment, a community-based organisation in Nebbi, said through the project they mobilised over 1,200 smallholder coffee farmers from Nebbi and Zombo to address the issues of inequality.

"We looked at ways to increase



Oxfam country director Shanty (centre) with the district leaders, beneficiaries and partners in Arua



After joining the group, I realised we need to support women by ending gender-based violence and changing our mindset.

coffee production since most of the farmers had less than an acre of land. We trained them on good agronomy practices which have helped them increase productivity and also emphasised the training on land rights to ensure that women also have rights to own land and work together with their male counterparts. The leaders testified that the move helped mitigate the rampant cases of gender-based violence in the area," Omony said.

OXFAM SATISFIED WITH INTERVENTION
Francis Odokorach Shanty, the country director of Oxfam Uganda, said the moment called for celebration following the success of the project.

"Some of the groups are now exporting coffee from West Nile. Issues on gender have seen women take part in leadership and we hope that the impact of the project lives on through the communities cascading the programmes into long-term

developmental plans," Odokorach said. He said the project had achieved all the objectives. He, however, said the project meant to last for five years has ended up taking six years due to the impact of COVID-19. He urged the district officials to replicate the achievements.

LEADERS PLEDGE SUSTAINABILITY
Robert Omuto Steen, the Pakwach district LCS chairperson, said the interventions have helped in tackling the problem of gender-based violence, contributed to economic empowerment among women and youth as well as led introduced of climate-smart agriculture in the district.

"The programme impacted the community and families. The onus is now on us to cascade it at the district level so that nobody is left behind. We also realised that involvement of men and women in leadership has created

PROJECT BACKGROUND
The project was implemented in Pakwach, Nebbi, Zombo, Arua, Gulu, Lamwo, Kotido and Kaabong districts.

The project was implemented by six partners namely: IFRAD, TONADO, AFCE and UWONET under component one (women and youth economic empowerment) and UWONET, PACEGO, NAKERE, WORUDET and NAWOU under component two (gender-based violence prevention in communities and women leadership).

The overall objective is to provide a platform for partners to showcase innovations, share best practices and celebrate achievements realised under the Irish Aid Project, over the past six years of PGI implementation.

"Districts should re-strategise to ensure that the projects are sustained given the fact that they are time-bound. I pledge to mobilise the leadership of the region to embrace and support such programmes that aim at transforming the lives of the people of West Nile," he added.

Omuto added that the element of climate-smart agriculture should continue in the various parts of the region given their harsh climate.



CAMPAIGNED AGAINST AFLATOXINS

Through the Aflatoxin Awareness Campaign, Oxfam in Uganda

collaborated with the Uganda Bureau of Standards to organize a press conference, which effectively reached 2.31 million individuals via media, including

social media. This campaign served as a crucial catalyst in raising awareness about aflatoxins and their detrimental impact on food safety. ■

AFLATOXIN CAMPAIGN

Oxfam in Uganda collaborated with Uganda Bureau of Standards and Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries organised a press conference as part of the Aflatoxin Awareness Campaign.

The campaign was targeting key players in the sector value chain, including farmers, traders, processors, and transporters

as well as the consumers. They put out the information on the practices that should be followed in ensuring the safety of these foods, hence improving quality.

Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda's country director noted that aflatoxins do not only cause diseases but are also responsible for the loss of up to 25% of the food produced in the country. He added that they are

out to help mitigate such a loss to farmers especially the women who grow most of the food.

The other agencies and CSOs in the campaign were the Grain Council of Uganda, National Farmers Federation, Food Rights Alliance, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Eastern and Southern Small Scale Farmers Forum, and the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management-Uganda. ■



STRIKING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

As part of International Earth Week, Oxfam in Uganda actively supported the Fridays for Future

Uganda chapter in mobilizing approximately 200 passionate young individuals for a climate strike in Kampala. Concurrently, climate change public dialogues and waste disposal audits were

conducted in Isingiro district to promote awareness and inspire meaningful climate action. These activities were instrumental in fostering community engagement and action on climate change. ■

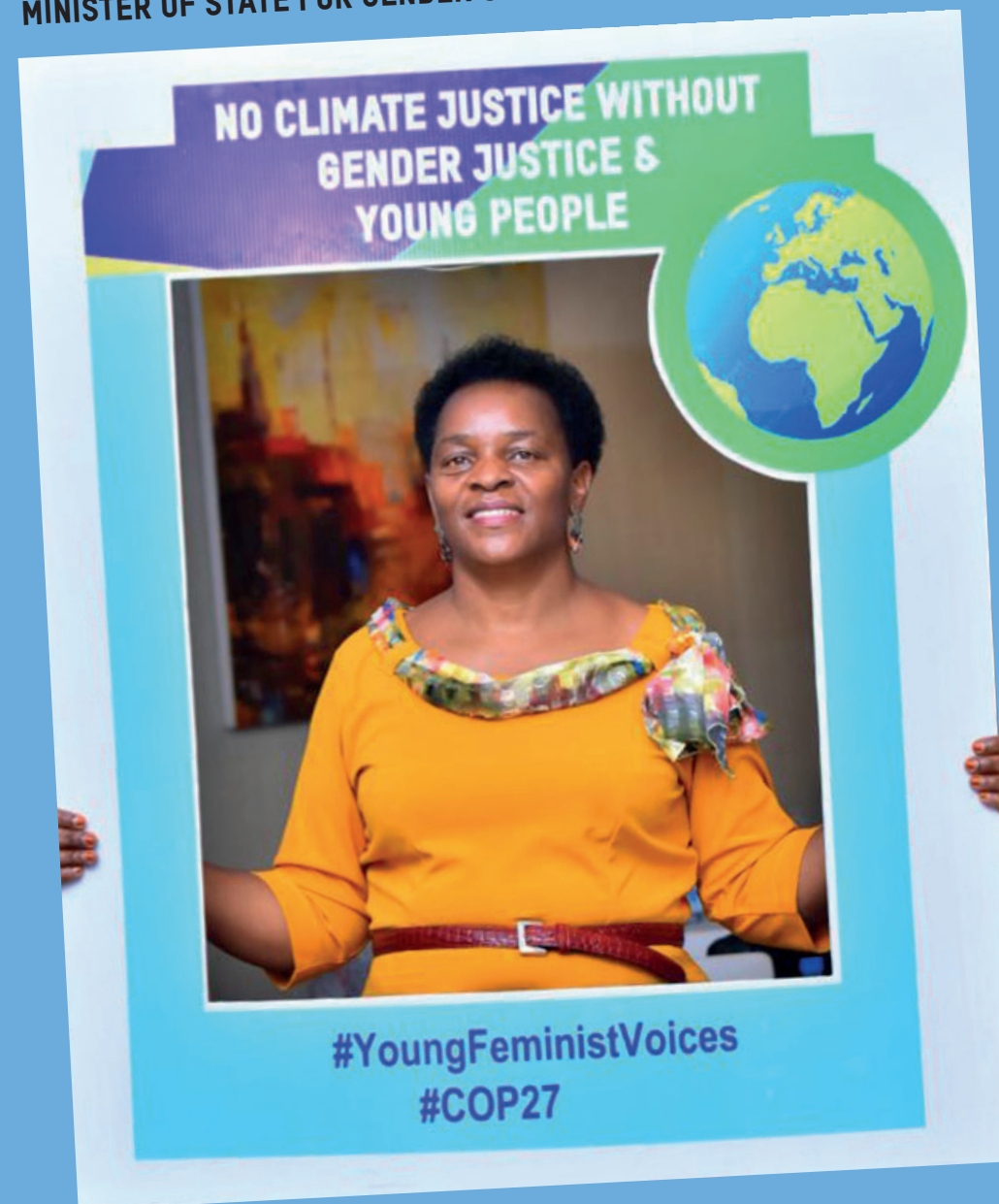


MOBILIZED YOUTH VOICES TOWARDS THE COP27

Youth mobilisation in rural and urban communities to champion environmental protection culminated in an impactful pre-COP27 feminist workshop. During this event, a thought-provoking feminist policy position paper was formulated and submitted to the COP27 presidency, shaping the discourse at COP27. Additionally, a regional pre-COP27 climate caravan involving 75 (57 females and 18 males) enthusiastic youths took place. This facilitated climate walks and engaging dialogues with city leaders on advancing environmental protection. ■



DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CANNOT IMPLEMENT AMBITIOUS CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION TARGETS WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE, COST EFFECTIVE FINANCING FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THIS IS OUR CALL FOR COP27,' HON. PEACE REGIS MUTUZO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR GENDER & CULTURE AFFAIRS.



LAND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

A series of policy dialogues centred around land, food safety, seeds,

climate change, agroecology, and businesses successfully engaged 240 stakeholders. Notably, televised dialogue on land evictions stimulated widespread public awareness and prompted the President of

Uganda to issue a directive halting land evictions nationwide. This pivotal achievement significantly impacted addressing land rights issues and promoting equitable land governance. ■

HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Uganda continued to experience a high influx of refugees from the DRC and South Sudan within the year due to persistent conflicts, food insecurity and inadequate access to essential services in these countries. As of October 2022 an estimated total of over 1.5 million refugees were hosted in Uganda, majorly from South Sudan and DRC. The increasing refugee influx compounded the already risky environment associated with epidemics and pandemics such as Ebola, Cholera, and COVID-19, as well as as competition for the scarce natural resources.

The humanitarian Preparedness and Response programme promotes humanitarian response driven by the principles of protection, equity, inclusion, and justice. By advocating for policy changes, influencing humanitarian actors, and promoting community-led approaches, Oxfam aims to transform the humanitarian system to be more responsive, accountable, and inclusive. This includes addressing issues such as localization, gender responsiveness, and the participation of affected communities in decision-making processes. Oxfam also works with the Office of the Prime Minister, local partners and other actors to deliver an integrated humanitarian response with a focus on Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), Emergency Food and Vulnerable Livelihoods (EFVL), as well as peacebuilding and protection. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

OXFAM CONTINUED TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CRISIS AND TO EMPOWER VULNERABLE WOMEN, YOUTH AND MEN WITH SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE SO THAT THEY CAN MITIGATE AND COPE WITH SHOCKS AND ENJOY THEIR RIGHTS TO A LIFE WITH DIGNITY.



Strengthened actors' capacitate in Joint Action Plans, Advocacy Plans, Humanitarian Principles, and Standards.

Established the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform, offering a platform for capacity building among local humanitarian actors.



12,000

12,000 community members benefited from environmental protection and management activities. These adopted environmentally friendly approaches such as energy saving stoves, and bio gas production.

8

Eight environmental school clubs formed and trained - nurturing a culture of environmental conservation and sustainable practices.

ENSURING A TIMELY AND QUALITY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

343,656

343,656 - disaster-affected community members and the host community were supported through the Southwestern and West Nile refugee responses.

285,945

285,945 - Extended safe water to 285,945 individuals (171,567 Females, 114,378 Males) through the expansion of water pipe networks and meticulous system maintenance.



93,036

93,036 - Sanitation facilities were significantly improved, serving 93,036 individuals (55,821 Females, 37,715 Males)

412,123

Raised awareness among 412,123 people (247,273 Females, 164,850 Males) about positive hygiene practices, a critical step towards preventing water- and sanitation-related diseases.



PROMOTED SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACE-BUILDING

Through the formation of cultural and religious alliances, the program catalysed peacebuilding initiatives within refugee settlements and host communities. Engaging community dialogues, cultural galas, and sports tournaments promoted social cohesion, fostering unity among diverse population groups.

1 1- **CONDUCTED 1 STUDY** on Customary Land Policy in Arua and Terego districts

2 2- **HELD 2 CULTURAL GALAS** bringing together different tribes and cultures/traditions to enhance social cohesion.

2 2 - **SPORTS PEACE TOURNAMENTS HELD**

3 8 - **COMMUNITY DIALOGUES** between the refugees and host communities were held reaching 51,950 people.

1 1- **ROUND TABLE MEETING** on peace and climate change was conducted.

6 6 - **SONGS AND 2 VIDEOS** with messages of peace were produced by Oxfam partner I CAN SSD

4 4 - **REFUGEE**-led Organizations were supported to implement peacebuilding initiatives within the refugee settlements and surrounding host communities in Yumbe, Terego and Madi Okollo districts.

STRENGTHENED CAPACITY:

Oxfam strengthened the capacity of local humanitarian actors with a focus on strength, Voice, and Space.

- **Western Uganda Humanitarian platform:** Oxfam supported the establishment of the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform and its management of the Emergency Response fund facility.
- **Lobbied for Refugee inclusion:** Oxfam lobbied for the inclusion of Refugee Led Network in the Refugee Engagement forum space and engagements are still ongoing.



MILESTONES

DELIVERED TIMELY AND QUALITY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

With a focus on Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), Emergency Food and Vulnerable Livelihoods (EFVL) as well as peace building and protection.

PROVIDED SAFE WATER

Extended safe water access to 285,945 individuals (171,567 Females, 114,378 Males) through the expansion of water pipe networks, hybrid solar water systems and system maintenance.

Solar Hybrid Pumping Systems have now been adopted as one of the durable solutions for water supply development. Oxfam with UNHCR and other

complimentary funding, established hybrid water systems in the various refugee settlements including 1 in Kyaka, 3 in Kyangwali, and 3 in Nakivale. These significantly improved clean water coverage across the settlements and the host communities.

In Kyengegwa district, Oxfam rehabilitated Swese Dam and Catchment area ■

SWESWE DAM REHABILITATION AND CATCHMENT RESTORATION

Sweswe Dam catchment area was mapped among the major natural resources in Kyegegwa/ Kyaka II with an aim of addressing the issues affecting it as a key water resource. Sweswe dam in Kyaka II was drying up yet it is a main water source for two hybrid water supply systems.

A hydrographic survey for Sweswe dam in Kyaka II was conducted and recommendations on water resources catchment protection developed.

A number of activities were undertaken in strengthening resilience through enhanced local disaster risk management capacity' project, that was implemented by Oxfam in Uganda, Joint Effort to Save the Environment (JESE) and Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) – funded by European Union Trust Fund (EUTF). This was to enhance storage of water in the dam and increased water

production. They include:

- Desilting and removal of water weeds from the dam
- Demarcation of Sweswe catchment area with concrete pillars
- Fencing off of 360M of Sweswe dam with a chain link
- Fencing off of 2700M of the catchment area with live markers to prevent encroachment by the neighboring communities.
- Establishment and capacity building of community WASH structures to enhance water management.

Following this, a dam management committee was set up comprising of eight males and three females

to carry out community sensitization around the dam but to also offer protection.

For the purpose of proper maintenance around the catchment area, seedlings comprising of 1100 bamboo, 500 croton, 300 terminalia, 200 Machamia and 200 Musizi tree were planted, and an Environmental Impact assessment (EIA) carried out where findings indicated positive impact like minimized soil erosion, water pollution among others.

"I am very happy I don't have to share a water source with livestock because sometimes they would pollute it with dung, making it even hard to use to prepare a meal at home," Selemani Kadi, Sweswe dam committee member. ■



I participated in trench excavation and pipe jointing for water pipeline extension where I earned UGX 180,000. I was so excited when I received the money and used part of it to complete my house which I had failed to complete due to lack of construction materials. With a completed house, I can now sleep and dream of supporting my children to study up to university level and live a life brighter than mine. I am so grateful. *Jamali Vianney Iradukunda is a 26 years old refugee living in Mukondo B village, Mukondo zone in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement.* ■



IMPROVED SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Sanitation facilities were significantly improved, serving 93,036 individuals (55,821 Females, 37,715 Males) through

community engagement efforts and the distribution of construction materials. Beyond infrastructure, the programme played a pivotal role in raising awareness among a substantial 412,123 people (247,273 Females, 164,850 Males) about positive hygiene practices, a critical

step towards preventing water- and sanitation-related diseases. This was achieved through continuous community engagements, follow-ups and distribution of latrine construction materials which contributed to a scale-up of the sanitation coverage to the required standard. ■

Lightweight dome shaped ferrocement slabs technology were adopted across all the refugee settlements, significantly lowering the cost of latrine construction, increasing longevity, and contributing to environmental protection.



CONTRIBUTED TO THE ADOPTION OF GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES

Cumulatively 412,123 persons out of 350,00 planned for the year are aware of positive hygiene practices. These were reached through hygiene promotional activities such as home visits

by VHTs, boda boda talk, and distribution of IEC Materials depicting key messages on disease prevention, and good hygiene, and sanitation practices. ■



FROM A BUSINESSMAN TO A VHT

Likambu like other refugees in Kyangwali refugee settlement fled his home back in Congo in 2018 due to war. Together with his wife and 8 children, they settled in Kavule village in Kyangwali refugee settlement Kikuube district. From being a businessman back home in DRC, Likambu took up the role of a VHT, a purely voluntary role.

"I became a VHT because the community selected me. Together with other VHTs, we have got trainings on HIV, Ebola, TB, COVID-19, nutrition and how to measure MUAC.

To be a VHT, you must be flexible and committed. We work anytime of the day even in the night sometimes in case of emergencies. We work for 3 hours in the community daily and then we go to the health facility to receive the patients and distribute porridge to pregnant mothers.



All the 10 VHTs in Kavule are under the health facility of Kavule. Everyone has a block they are in charge of. Some of the blocks have 100 households or more.

When we started out, the community was really doing badly in health and sanitation. When we would tell someone to excavate a pit for their latrine, they would think it was us the VHTs responsible. We however sensitized the community in health, hygiene, and sanitation and this changed their mindset and behavior.

This change is evident with the increased number of sanitation facilities but also a reduction in cases like diarrhea, etc.

We are a bridge between the community and the facility. If there is something lacking in the community we are reached, and we guide on how to access services. We have become confidants of clients. If they are not comfortable to come, we go to them and help. We have recently received training on Ebola, and we are telling our community about it.

From being a VHT, working with various organisations like Oxfam, I have been able to take care of my family ensuring they always have the basic needs like food.

There is a lot of work as a VHT and pandemics like COVID-19 increased the workload. My dream is to go back and study to become a doctor. ■

EMPOWERED TO EMPOWER OTHERS

Chantal Mukeshimana, a refugee and resident of Sweswe Kitionzi in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement, says executing her job gives her pride and joy because she's able to help the community and, in turn herself. For instance, if she improves sanitation in the community, infectious diseases won't be able to spread throughout, meaning her household will not also be affected.

Through its Public Health Promotion Team, Oxfam has empowered Chantal and over 400 other VHTs across the various settlements with the knowledge that they have effectively used in their work. ■



STRENGTHENED SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACE-BUILDING BETWEEN DIFFERENT CRISIS-AFFECTED POPULATION



Oxfam supported three refugee-led Organizations (YETA, I CAN SS and CECI) to implement peacebuilding initiatives within the refugee settlements and surrounding host communities in Yumbe, Terego and Madi Okollo districts leading to significant milestones.

ESTABLISHED AND TRAINED COMMUNITY STRUCTURES

Oxfam, CECI, Lugbara Kari, and YETA formed/established and trained three groups of cultural and religious alliance to enhance conflict mitigation and resolve conflicts through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms within their communities. These alliances comprise of refugees, host community members, local leaders such as the Local Council and Refugee Welfare Council representatives, and Parish Chiefs. They were selected based on their positive contribution towards promoting peace in the communities. These alliances are already picking up and engaging the communities on peaceful co-existence which has reduced tension in their communities. Events that create social cohesion



such as sports and cultural galas were identified as key uniting factors that need to be used to enhance peaceful co-existence.

There is harmony among the host community and refugees which has been exhibited through resource sharing. ■



JOHN LONG, A CHAMPION OF PEACE IN IMVEPI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

John Long is one of the refugees championing peaceful co-existence of refugees and host communities under the Oxfam and partner peace-building project. The project supports South Sudanese-led Organisations and Ugandan Community Based Organisations in refugee hosting areas to build peaceful coexistence with refugees and the host communities.

One of the challenges in the refugee settlements is struggle for resources which usually result into clashes between the refugees and host communities. YETA carries out trainings for the communities in aspects of women rights, gender equality, how to cooperate within families and homes, peace building – understanding conflict, and engaging in mediation or dispute resolution relating to incidents of violence among others.

Through the YETA trainings, Long is now a bridge of peacebuilding. “I am able to help in mediation to resolve different conflicts in my community and can ably settle issues.”

“I had a case to handle in my neighborhood, at a home that had a lot of gender based violence (GBV) issues and I realized it was due to drug abuse so with the little knowledge I got out of this project’s training, I intervened and helped them resolve their issues permanently and to date the home is peaceful,” John Long

He continues to help advocate for the equal treatment of women and is now a male champion and leads a group of other men

who are committed to the cause of ending gender inequality.

“I am one of the men struggling to see women and men being able to share issues and see how best we can change the community’s cultural beliefs about women since I live in a community that still believes that women shouldn’t hold key leadership positions.” John has also set his sight on encouraging more men to fight against inequality. Key to this will be coming up with strategies to handle conflicts in the homes of his community members, encouraging men to attend antenatal services with their women and more importantly, supporting women to stand for key leadership positions like those of the Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs).

“For most of my life, I had no respect for women. I did not believe or feel that a woman could make a good decision, or take up any leadership position. All I knew was that a woman’s role is just to do housework, be a companion for the man and raise children,” Long says.

With Long’s shift in attitude towards his wife would come an appreciation and newly found trust for his wife, and he would start recognizing the effort she put in for the well-being of their family.

“I had even to show her my mobile money PINs and food ratio cards, which I had previously kept hidden from her. As a result, many other good things started happening between us for the good of the family,” he added.

For John, the respect for his wife would also reflect on how he relates with other women and he has continued to encourage them to take up leadership positions and make decisions. ■



SUPPORTED A STUDY ON CUSTOMARY LAND POLICY

Lugbara Kari one of the Oxfam partners conducted a study on Customary Land Policy in Arua and Terego districts. This study will support awareness creation initiatives on the nature of land ownership to mitigate any conflicts related to land between the refugees and host communities. This study led to the formulation of the Lugbara Customary Land Rules and Regulations, which will be widely disseminated next year. ■



AWARENESS SESSIONS ON PEACEBUILDING

Oxfam and the implementing partners, (Lugbara Kari, CECI, I CAN SS, and YETA) continued to conduct awareness sessions on peacebuilding, mental health and psychosocial support, Gender-Based Violence, and climate change. This was done through IEC materials, music dance and drama, Debates, Sports, radio talk shows, spot messages, and community dialogues. Two cultural galas bringing together different tribes and cultures/traditions to enhance social cohesion between the refugees and host communities were held. ■



MUSIC FOR PEACE

Oxfam partner I CAN SSD produced six songs and two videos, and held one peace concert. Through “TUKO PAMOJA” Song by I CAN children in collaboration with Fresh Kid and Leyna Kagere, messages on Uganda’s open-door policy and peace were delivered. ■



FACILITATED COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns made gatherings impossible. This was a barrier to any dialogues on existing challenges that were leading to clashes among the refugees and the host community. With the threat to COVID-19 reduced, eight community dialogues were organised through the year. These were spear headed by the cultural and religious alliance. A number of issues were discussed including natural resource sharing and management, respect for values, and beliefs, livelihood challenges at domestic level attributed to power imbalance between men, women, and children which limits their participation in decision making processes at all levels and dealing with the challenge of stray animals. These dialogues enhanced social cohesion amongst the refugees and host communities. 51,950 people (31,170f, 20,780m) were reached with these dialogues. ■

FACILITATED A ROUND TABLE MEETING ON PEACE AND CLIMATE

CECI and Oxfam facilitated one round table meeting on protection / peacebuilding and climate change with the involvement of other implementing partners and sub-county officials. These included NRC, IRC, Mercy Corps, ADRA, the police, CRS, Kululu sub-county, refugees and local leaders. Various conflict triggers were identified, and discussions were guided based on the issues. The meeting came up with action points that will guide programming for the next year. These include; Conducting joint protection/environment

stakeholder mapping and assessment for better engagement, supporting Kululu Sub County to review the bi-law on environmental protection and use of public functions and commemorations to create awareness on environmental protection. All partners were called on to integrate peacebuilding and environmental protection in their programming. ■

LOBBIED FOR REFUGEE INCLUSION

In order to strengthen the voice of the Refugee-led Organisations, Oxfam lobbied for the inclusion of the Refugee Led Network in the Refugee Engagement forum space. Engagements on this are still ongoing. ■

30 members of the Alliance of Religious and Cultural Leaders convened for their quarterly meeting, where they planned to focus their work on the peaceful sharing of resources like water, thatching grass, and building materials between refugees and hosts in 2023.

The Alliance of Religious and Cultural Leaders agreed to work with all refugees/host structures to resolve/prevent

violent conflicts related to resource-sharing, promote women’s participation by engaging Salaam Champions and the Women Forum.

The Alliance agreed to carry out joint awareness creation on resource-sharing and peacebuilding targeting youth, men and women through local spaces like marriage events, churches, and community meetings as a way. ■



STRENGTHENED COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WESTERN UGANDA HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM

Oxfam supported the establishment of the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform. The local humanitarian platform brings together all the Local actors in western Uganda to jointly plan coordinate, and strengthen their capacities to prepare and respond to emergencies in a timely manner. Two capacity-building trainings were undertaken for the members of the Platform on Joint Action Plan, Advocacy, Humanitarian Principles and Standards, and the Charter4change. ■



EFFORTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mapping of Natural Resources was successfully done for both Kyegegwa and Isingiro, and protection plans for mapped natural resources were developed and shared with stakeholders. Other assessments conducted include; lands use assessments, water safety plans, and environmental

and social impact assessments in the respective two districts. Approximately 12,000 (7200 F and 4800 M) community members are adopting and utilizing alternative environmentally friendly fuel options. This number has been reached through the promotion of energy-saving stoves, promoting the use of biogas, and briquette production among others. Through Oxfam partner JESE, 8 environmental school clubs were

formed and trained. These clubs were trained on general principles of environmental protection, the importance of tree planting, solid waste management, and their roles, and responsibilities in promoting sustainable environment conservation and management. These clubs are now instrumental in promoting planting trees and sustaining environmental hygiene in school and also at their homes. ■



An in built energy saving stove constructed at Mpasa SS Kyegegwa District. This has reduced on the firewood consumed because these stoves use less, hence reducing on the use of wood fuel and its subsequent effects on the environment.



Cooking using biogas



The project promoted innovative energy saving measures such as briquettes which are made from various waste material.

PROMOTING GENDER JUSTICE AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Social norms, patriarchy and power relations perpetuate inequality and deny women and girls the opportunities to meaningfully participate in social, economic, and political spheres. Teenage pregnancy, early marriage, and women's lack of control over their bodies and their sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR) continues to hinder the health and socioeconomic wellbeing of women, girls and the entire population in Uganda.

Working with partners, the Gender Justice and Women's rights theme empowers women and girls by challenging discriminatory norms and practices, and promoting gender equality. The theme strives to transform power relations and tackle the barriers that perpetuate gender inequality. Ultimately, Oxfam seeks to create an enabling environment for women's rights and foster inclusive decision-making processes. ■

HIGHLIGHTS



Women leaders have registered growth in numbers and significance.

10,572

Increased knowledge among 10,572 adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) on topics related to Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR).



The Neighbourhood Assemblies successfully lobbied for 3 child care centres in various areas

The gender justice and women's right theme became fully operational at the start of this FY 2022/23.



Documented the experiences of women in leadership

Hosted the We-Care learning Event; the HECA Gender Leads and the Feminist Youth Convening on Climate Change in Preparation for COP 27.



2

2 policy briefs developed



Women leaders successfully lobbied for an increased budget for health and education as well as an ambulance



MILESTONES

INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (AGYW) ON TOPICS RELATED TO SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS (SRHR).

We worked with CEHURD and Femme Forte in West Nile and the Eastern Region. Together, we mapped, selected, and trained peer educators. These educators will create cycles of peer-to-peer learning. These Partner organizations collaborated with government health service providers to conduct peer educator training (Training of Trainers, TOT).

Health units and centres that provide assistance to victims of GBV and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) were equally mapped out.

Progress was made towards increasing knowledge amongst AGYW on where to access sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services as well as referrals for GBV support.

Namugaya Dinnah, Women Councilor Representing Alwi Sub-County in a career talk to the students of Alwi Seed Secondary School Pakwach

The Partners expanded outreach clinics and organized events like football matches to share information about available services. They also appeared on radio talk shows held on Mayuge FM and Arua Radio One to raise awareness. As a result, Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) using data from the Health Management Information System service records reported that 10,572 AGYW were accessing reproductive/medical services, including cervical cancer screening, family planning, HIV and STI testing. ■

Oxfam in Uganda with financial support from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) is supporting Sexual Reproductive Health Services in Uganda under a project called Stand-Up. The project aims to increase the enjoyment of SRHR by the most marginalized and vulnerable rights holders particularly adolescent girls and young women. While officially launching the project in 2022, along other GAC funded projects, Commissioner Reproductive Health, Ministry of Health, Dr. Jessica Nsungwa said; "Young people in Uganda face various sexual and reproductive health risks. The GAC funded projects will help to examine factors associated with comprehensive categories of sexual and reproductive health, including

sexual behavior; sexual education and access to contraceptive services; family planning; prevention of STDs; sexual consent as a right; gender-based violence; as well as HIV testing, counselling, disclosure and support," Nsungwa noted.



EFFORTS TOWARDS BUILDING AN ALL-INCLUSIVE SOCIAL MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER JUSTICE

INCREASED CITIZEN-LED ACTIVISM

Together with partners, we strengthened citizen-led activism. The communities we work with can now recognize and address unpaid care issues with their leaders. In the Naguru Go-down in Nakawa Division, the neighbourhood assemblies reported they negotiated for a childcare space in the Naguru Go-Down market area. This is notable because one of the challenges commonly raised by KCCA authorities is the lack of land for such a development.

Another Neighbourhood Assembly convinced Deliverance Church Naguru to allocate to them land for a childcare centre. Naguru has a high population of single and young mothers who do small businesses and street vending to survive. In Kawuku in Makindye Division, the neighbourhood assembly influenced the Kabbulu Charity Organisation to start up a childhood development centre. Parents within the Kawuku, Bunga and Ssendawula zone areas can leave their children during the day and pick them up in the evening. While this is a private, for-profit facility, the participants said that they are only charged for their children's feeding, a fee of 50,000 UGX (13 USD) per term (3 months). ■

INCREASED INFLUENCE AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

We worked with partners to increase the influence and participation of women leaders

in the council. We also increased their involvement in government programmes. These women leaders are councillors at the Local Council (LCIII) and Local Council (LCV) levels. These leaders used the skills and knowledge from a training on gender-responsive leadership in October 2021. Particularly the caucusing model which promotes solidarity, collective voice and vision, high self-esteem and enhanced knowledge and articulation of women's rights concerns. A number of results were registered from this;

Women leaders have a big impact on decisions about gender, like planning and allocating resources. They are also involved in implementing and monitoring these decisions. For example, in Kotido district, the women leaders district caucus pushed for 2 women as secretaries in the District Executive Council (DEC).

These positions include; secretary education and health and secretary production. In addition, the women leaders pushed for an increase in the budgets for Education and health for the FY 2022/2023; from 3,000,843,112 shillings (USD 801,154) to 4,000,283,290 shillings (USD 1,067,981) in health, and 4,000,903,000 shillings (USD 1,068,146) to 5,000,208,670 shillings (USD 1,334,937) in education.

In Pakwach, the continuous convening of women in political leadership and civil society has over the years led to the formation of a formidable district-based Women's Movement. Subsequently, there was solidarity for women to support women in elective politics. As a result, all the district level councillors were voted back into leadership and now hold key positions in the District Local Council. The Pakwach Women Caucus during the year lobbied for funds to purchase an ambulance for Pakwach General Hospital. The hospital envisages that this will improve its capacity to respond to emergencies. ■



LOBBYING FOR HEALTH CENTRES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS OF WOMEN.

Wadelai HC III is a very high-volume facility with a catchment population of about 22,000. “We don’t only serve Wadelai Subcounty, but Ragem and Pakwinyo Sub counties and districts like Omoro and Madi Okollo. The women councillors of Pakwach District lobbied for the renovation of

our maternity ward. Previously the Wadelai community preferred home deliveries, but with the new renovation, every mother wants to come and deliver here. We now have 16 beds in the maternity ward. We can keep mothers for 24 hours after delivery, as recommended by Ministry of Health, unlike before when we would discharge them

after 6 hours. A new placenta pit was also constructed that helps with the proper disposal of placentas and a resting room for the night staff. We had a poor water supply to the maternity ward, but through the efforts of our women councillors, water was brought closer to the Health Centre.” ■



Namugosa Jamila, acting Maternity in Charge Wadelai Health Centre III Nebbi district

Nimungu Claire Doreen is a councillor for Thatha Division, representing people living with disabilities for Nebbi District Local Government. She lobbied the construction of the ramps at the district headquarter and other public places



STRENGTHENED LINKAGES WITH LIKE-MINDED INSTITUTIONS FOR JOINT INFLUENCING FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND SOCIAL NORMS CHANGE

INFLUENCED ON UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK

Oxfam and UWONET developed two policy briefs titled “Uganda’s Health Care System and Implications for Unpaid Care and Domestic Work” and “Analysis of taxes on energy-saving equipment and its impact on Unpaid care and Domestic Work. The briefs were utilized as an advocacy tool during policy engagements with stakeholders in government and non-government sectors. The specific asks included a call for a reduction in taxes in the costs of energy and accessing health

care services in the country. The issue brief on health critically analyses Uganda’s healthcare system from an unpaid care lens. The issue brief on energy interprets tools, appliances, or devices that can be used to reduce the time and effort needed to perform or complete a care task in a household. It also explicitly explains the taxes applicable to energy-saving equipment necessary for undertaking unpaid care and domestic work.

Both briefs make arguments on how changes in the energy and health sectors can be made to address

unpaid care demands on women, and free up their time for more gainful work. UWONET continues to use the policy brief on health to emphasize the linkage of health with the UCDW conversation at all levels. For example, the brief was presented at the National Dialogue for Ministries, Departments and Agencies held on 24th November 2022. Appointments are being sought with strategic committees of the Parliament of Uganda before which the two briefs will be presented as a bid to influence care-sensitive policy. ■



During the closure of Women's Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care) learning event, Dr. Angela Nakafeero, Commissioner for Gender & Women Affairs at Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development noted that unpaid care work is a form of discrimination, affecting women's access to employment and social services. The learning event was attended by more than 40 representatives from WE-Care programme to reflect on the challenges and successes of its unpaid care programming across Southern and Eastern Africa.



Dr. Nakafeero encouraged the participants to think more about advocacy work and collective action towards shifting the narratives on care being only a woman's responsibility. "To move the care agenda forward, we need a multi-stakeholder approach, as well as transformative partnerships with other actors such as the private sector," she said. ■

TAKING ON ROLES TRADITIONALLY LEFT TO WOMEN

"I have witnessed a very big change after the UWONET women leadership training in Lamwo. Women were not involved in leadership, but the female participation has greatly increased lately, especially in elections. If you compare the chairpersons in Lamwo with other neighbouring districts in the region, we have the highest number of female LC I chairpersons.

We used not to have directly elected female councillors. Right now, Abera sub county, is represented by a female councillor. With the knowledge that we have gained, in the coming election in 2026, we are most likely to have more women in leadership.

From the start of their programmes I have been fully involved in all UWONET engagements. It is important to have more women leaders. As the saying goes, 'When you educate a girl, you educate a nation'. When you empower a woman, you empower the family and the entire community. Women are developmental. The issues women discuss at the council meetings are about improving the household and the community. Unfortunately, based on statistics, in a village of about 80 administrative units, 14 of them are women. This is an average of one administrative unit in a town council. Much as we are advocating for women to be actively involved in leadership, some men discourage them from participating. We need to change their attitude. Our women need to have some resources to effectively participate in elections. Our women lack assertiveness,

some are shy, and cannot talk in public. Even those who are elected, lack debating skills in terms of data and statistics. Women also suffer an inferiority complex brought about by their fellow women. When they stand for leadership, the fellow women bring them down. If we didn't have this, women would have been President by now.

My hope for the future is to have balanced leadership at all administrative levels. Women are known to be sincere, hardworking and less corrupt. We need more women in leadership and that is what we have been deliberately advocating for. This is something I learned during the trainings that have become a part of my life. I have also appreciated Care work more. If you visited my home, I help to do all the work.

There is no work for a woman and I even cook when I need to. I nurture the children and wash clothes for them. I fetch water from a nearby bore hole using a wheelbarrow when there is no water. I would consider myself a role model to other men in the community." ■



Ochana Geoffrey - District Gender Officer Lamwo District Local Government

Oxfam participated in the 4th Gender Is My Agenda (GIMAC) Strategic Engagement with the African Union, RECs and Partners. The meeting was held under the theme, 'Strengthening resilience in nutrition and

food security on the African continent: Strengthening Agro-food systems, health and social protection systems for the acceleration of human, social and economic capital development' ■



Mr Alex Obalim and his wife Concy Akello share care work in their home. Alex says sharing care work strengthens family bonds, sets a good example for children

THE GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

Uganda's tax regime continues to be unfair, with about two thirds of total revenues coming from indirect taxes, such as value-added tax and excise duty. The burden of consumption taxes is borne most by low-income earners. From 2010 to 2017, Uganda lost around \$3 billion, which is nearly 16% of its total tax revenues. The loss happened because some multinational companies, including agribusiness companies, got tax incentives and exemptions. Most don't pay their fair share of taxes (URA, 2018). Uganda has the lowest tax-to-GDP ratio in East Africa, at 11.1%, due to limited revenue collections. According to the Budget Framework Paper, public debt rose from \$19.54 billion in June 2021 to \$20.99 billion in June 2022.

Despite ongoing efforts by EITI in Uganda, the oil and gas sector lacks a strong contract disclosure regime in both policy design and implementation, and has not achieved beneficial ownership and disclosure of extractive revenues. This affects active citizenship and undermines effective transparency and accountability.

Oxfam working with partners promotes active citizenship, participatory decision-making, and the accountability of governments and institutions. By empowering marginalized communities, promoting transparency, and strengthening civil society organizations, Oxfam seeks to challenge power imbalances and transform governance systems. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

6

Presented a CSO position paper on Tax Bills for FY 2022/23 which resulted in the adoption of six recommendations by Parliament, enhancing fair tax policy and practice.



Human rights concerns related to oil projects were identified, verified, and documented, leading to a petition

Organised a parliamentary visit to the oil region



Conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of the Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) on agricultural production and productivity.

In collaboration with SEATINI, finalized the CSO assessment on their networks Influencing Capacity of Fiscal Justice from a Feminist Political Economic Perspective.



Consultations held on the impact of oil projects on human rights and community livelihoods.

39

Adoption of 39 CSO proposals in the Parliamentary Budget Committee report.





MILESTONES

INCREASED ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT AND AFFORDABLE LENDING INSTRUMENTS FOR THE AGRICULTURE SUB PROGRAMME.

Oxfam and Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) undertook an assessment of the effectiveness of the Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) on agricultural production and productivity. The assessment raised key emerging issues including; i) the inexistence of the policy and legal frameworks for the operation of Credit Guarantee Schemes; ii) The need for the expedition of legal appraisals and approval at Bank of Uganda; iii)

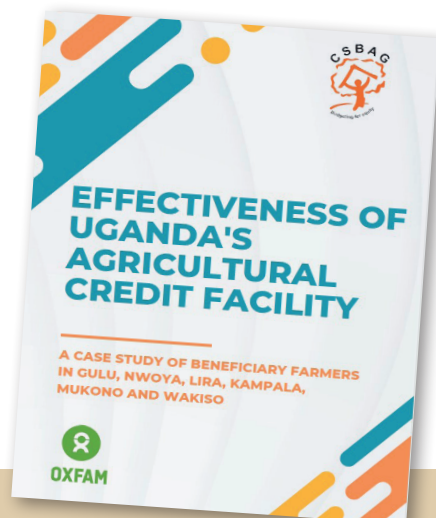
Complimenting ACF loans with other supportive agricultural services iv) Instituting mechanisms to sustain production and productivity enhancement.

A stakeholders' engagement validated the ACF assessment which helped to identify areas of improvement on the key emerging issues. The engagement brought together 31 people (24 male and 07 female) comprising of 09 from

Government Institutions (Bank of Uganda, Ministry of Agriculture, Parliament of Uganda, MoFPED), 1 from the participating financial institutions (DFCU), 3 from the donor Community, 3 from academia (Economic Policy Research Centre - Makerere University), 13 from CSOs (UFAAS, Agency for Community Empowerment, Food Rights Alliance, Uganda Agribusiness Alliance, ACSA, PELUM, SEATINI, CSBAG), Oxfam and ACF Beneficiaries. Comments from the validation meeting informed the finalization of the report to promote CSBAG's advocacy agenda towards influencing policy change for improving agricultural credit financing. ■

Oxfam in Uganda supported CSBAG to conduct a study on the Effectiveness of Uganda's Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) of Bank of Uganda to the beneficiary farmers in Gulu, Nwoya, Lira, Kampala, Mukono and Wakiso districts. The study highlighted a number of recommendations which include, Instituting a policy and legal framework for the operation of credit guarantee schemes,

introducing a separate fund for financing working capital for grain trading, instituting an effective monitoring mechanism for the ACF, complimenting ACF loans with other supportive agricultural services, among others. Learn more about the details of the study here: <https://www.csbag.org/download/effectiveness-of-ugandas-agricultural-credit-facility/>



CSO STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH BOU AND MOFPED ON THE ACF

In order to advance continuous advocacy for policy change towards improving the implementation of the ACF, CSBAG and partners on separate occasions engaged with the Bank of Uganda and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to discuss the key findings from the assessment and pave a way forward to addressing them. In both meetings, commitments were made which CSBAG will follow up to track achievements made. ■

ENGAGED POLICYMAKERS ON MACROECONOMIC EFFECTS

To amplify the debate on the state of the current economic environment in Uganda, Oxfam partner, CSBAG organized a high-level policy dialogue on the implications of Contractionary Fiscal and Monetary policies on Uganda's economy. The debate informed discussions with technocrats, the private sector, and the public on adopting alternative policy measures to boost economic recovery amidst volatile domestic and external pressures for stable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. A total of 75 people participated (27 female and 48 male) from Government Institutions, private sector institutions, donor partners, CSOs, and media. ■

REVISITING TAX EXPENDITURE FOR DOMESTIC REVENUE MOBILISATION IN UGANDA

In partnership with the Center for Budget and Tax Policy (CBTP) Africa, Oxfam convened a dialogue on revisiting tax expenditures for domestic revenue mobilization efforts in Uganda.

The dialogue took place on 30th March 2023. Its objectives included; to track the benefits that Uganda derives from each individual tax expenditure beneficiary, and to validate a report on the current Tax Expenditure Management Framework in Uganda in comparison to the international best practices and possible policy recommendations for the improvement of the Tax Expenditure management framework.

'There is a need for a clear and transparent tax expenditure framework that links the strategy with growth objectives as outlined in the National Development Plan III,' - Ms. Izabela Karpowicz, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Resident Representative in Uganda noted. ■



Ms. Izabela Karpowicz, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Resident Representative in Uganda speaking during a dialogue on revisiting tax expenditures for domestic revenue mobilization efforts in Uganda.

SUPPORTED CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE IN PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

To ensure that the national budget is people-centred, CSBAG in partnership with 6 CSOs participated at the Regional Local Government Budget Consultative (LGBC) workshops aimed at influencing Local Government financing to

deliver effective service delivery in FY 2023/24. During the Regional LGBC Workshops organized by the Ministry of Finance in September 2022, CSBAG spearheaded CSOs in presenting the position paper on Measures for Improving Service Delivery - Experiences from the Civil Society with alternative budget proposals. (<https://www.csbag.org/download/cso-statement-on-measures-for-improving-service-delivery-experiences-from-the-civil-society-2/?wpdmdl=6317&refresh=633a88961c5821664780438>).

The six CSOs that presented in the region LGBCs included; Lango Civil Society Network in Lira; Poverty Alleviation and Community Development Foundation (PACODEF) in Jinja, Kapchorwa Civil Society

Organizations Alliance (KACSOA); Jenga Afrika and Sebei Diocese Community Development and Empowerment (SD-CODE) all in Mbale, Restless Development and Peace is Restored (HURECA) in Jinja. During the LGBC workshops, service delivery concerns were raised including the lack of harmonized communication on the operationalization of the Parish Development Model (PDM) by technical and political leadership, inadequate water for production and climate change effects. CSBAG continuously advocated for the Government to prioritize the establishment and investment in national and regional food reserves and prioritizing financing for small-scale irrigation by availing funding of UGX 20 billion required by MAIF to ensure an all-inclusive budget through the budget cycle for FY 2023/24. ■

INFLUENCED FOR AN INCLUSIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2023/2024

In an effort to ensure that the needs and aspirations of the marginalized and poor Ugandans are reflected in the annual budget FY 2023/24, CSBAG with support from Oxfam organized the CSO retreat attended by 61 people (25 female and 36 male) represented by 34 CSOs to analyse the National Budget Framework Paper (NBFP) FY 2023/24 under the different NDP III program areas from 9th -11th January 2023. As a result, a total of 12 position papers were developed from the retreat including; Agro-Industrialization, Human capital Development, Community Mobilization and Mindset Change, Development Plan Implementation, Private Sector Development, Regional Development, Manufacturing, National Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management, Tourism Development, Food Security and

Nutrition, Disaster Risk Management and Water Sanitation and Hygiene. These papers were compiled into a CSO paper called “Every Shilling Counts FY 2023/24”. Furthermore, a Press Statement was developed to facilitate a press conference towards budget influencing. ■

ADOPTION OF THE CSO PROPOSALS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE NATIONAL BUDGET POLICY FRAMEWORK (NBPF)

CSOs influenced the budget process for FY 2023/24 through the different

parliamentary committees, which led to the adoption of a number of their proposals into the NBPF for FY 2023/2024. To achieve this CSBAG spearheaded CSO engagements with 2 Parliamentary Committees on Agriculture and Local Government while other CSO position papers were shared with the respective committees. As a result, out of a total of 112 CSO proposals presented, 39 (representing 35%) were adopted into the Parliamentary Budget Committee report on the NBPF FY 2023/24. Specifically, out of 14 proposals, 05 were adopted from the CSO paper on Agro-Industrialization. ■

“At the time of approving the FY2022/23 Budget, we still had government agencies that had no approved strategic plans aligned to the NDP III. This affects the foundation of planning and budgeting. The laws are very clear, we just lack the ability to enforce these laws, the Public Finance Management Act outlines clearly what should be done when an offense is committed” – **Julius Mukunda** – Executive Director, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG)



Julius Mukunda – Executive Director, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG)



Sophie Nampewo, Oxfam in Uganda Finance for Development Coordinator
“The role of citizens is to pay taxes & provide constructive feedback on what is being done by government to enable better service provision.”

STRENGTHENED CITIZEN-LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION AND RESPONSIVENESS FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

To strengthen feedback mechanism and dialogue on the role of citizens and government in enhancing coffee production and productivity in Zombo and Nebbi districts, CSBAG in collaboration with AFCE organized district-level dialogues between duty bearers (both District and

Sub- County officials), Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) and Citizens. A paper on Citizens’ Perspectives on the State of Service delivery in Coffee Production was presented by PBCs from Nyapea Sub County in Zombo District and Erussi Sub County in Nebbi District. To solicit commitment from duty bearers to improve service delivery in coffee production, citizens officially handed over their position to the respective district leadership which committed to addressing citizens’ concerns. ■

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED TAX BILLS FOR FY 2022/23

Following the presentation of the CSO position paper on the Tax Bills for FY 2022/23 by SEATINI Oxfam’s implementing partner, Parliament adopted 6 recommendations that had been proposed by CSOs to the Parliamentary Committee on Finance. These were from Stamp Duty, Income Tax, Value Added Tax, and Excise Duty. Oxfam and partner will continue to follow up over the next financial year on their effectiveness. ■

GULU, ARUA AND SOROTI CITIES FAIL TO RAISE REVENUE

Authorities in Arua, Gulu, and Soroti regional cities have recorded revenue losses in their first two years of operation as a result of business communities evading taxes. This was revealed during a recent inter-city policy dialogue on local revenue mobilisation and public service delivery in Gulu City.

In Gulu City, the administration ended the 2019/2020 financial year with only Shs1.1b, leaving a deficit of Shs3.4b of the projected Shs4.5b. In 2020/2021, while it claimed to have improved its revenue collection strategies, the city only realised Shs1.7b of the projected Shs4.7b, a figure much less than that of the financial year 2021/2022 at Shs2.7b. Mr. George Nicholas Kidega, the Gulu City revenue officer, said that the business community has continued to evade taxes.

“There has also been a high default rate among rented stores, including stalls in the markets around the city,” Mr Kidega said. He added that the situation has been worsened by an incompetent team of revenue collectors.

Arua and Soroti authorities have also registered the same challenges. In the financial year 2020/2021, Arua city only realised Shs2.14b (66 percent) of an estimated Shs3.23b of revenue.

Soroti City realised a 21 percent deficit in its budget when it only collected Shs1.2b of the projected Shs1.3b in financial year 2021/2022.

Mr. Henry Ssemanda, a local revenue mobilisation specialist, tasked the city authorities to embrace decentralisation. “Decentralisation improves the effectiveness of service delivery, whoever gives you the money, is the one who controls you, and that is one big challenge local governments are undergoing, all decisions are made by the central government,” Mr Ssemanda said.

The dialogue was organised by Oxfam in Uganda, SEATINI-Uganda, and the European Union under the Fiscal Justice for Women and Girls project Africa. Mr. Mark Mutumba, the Project Assistant for the Fiscal Justice for Women and Girls project at Oxfam said that the dialogue was convened to enable authorities of the cities develop a platform to influence policymakers on budget priorities.

“People need to see a better level of accountability. This will reduce the level of political fights and influence to an ordinary taxpayer. If the bigger budget is going into administration and not service delivery, it demotivates them,” Mr. Mutumba said.

Extracted from Daily Monitor, 28th October 2022. ■

IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY AND PROMOTION OF JUST ENERGY TRANSITION IN UGANDA.

ADVOCACY FOR PIPELINE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

During the year, the human rights concerns in the focus districts (Hoima, Buliisa, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Lwengo, Sembabule, Kyotera) were continuously identified, verified, and documented. A petition dated 13th February 2023 was addressed to the Managing Director of EACOP, under the coordination of CRED one of Oxfam's partners. It highlighted the recurrent and emerging community concerns relating to the project. Some of the concerns highlighted in the petition include violation of communal tenure/ access rights, labour exploitation

by sub-contractors, and failure by the EACOP to adequately resolve persistent complaints. EACOP made a response where it highlighted the actions it has taken and made new commitments for the new/ outstanding issues.

For example, the company will undertake a comprehensive survey of communal resources along the route with the view of ensuring the preservation or replacement of appropriated communal resources such as communal watering points, access roads, etc. Similarly, some of the concerns pertaining to individual project-affected persons have been addressed – this progress has been confirmed by monitors and the PAPs.

Overall, by elevating community grievances, Oxfam and partners secured a commitment from pipeline operator Total Energies and from the Ugandan Petroleum Authority for 15% additional increase in compensation to communities that will be displaced by the pipeline, helping to mitigate losses from two years of project stalling. Total Energies in Uganda issued a supportive statement on human rights defenders, aligned with Oxfam's recommendations.

SUPPORTED THE EACOP PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO BUNYORO AND MASAKA REGION

Oxfam in Uganda worked with CRED to organize a week-long visit of Members of Parliament to the oil region. The Members of Parliament, drawn from across the political divide, convened by the Greater North Parliamentary Forum interacted with oil industry players and communities impacted by oil and gas projects. A monitoring report was prepared to be presented on the floor of Parliament.



The State Minister for Lands, Hon. Sam Mayanja graced the Land awareness for Bunyoro in Kikuube District and emphasized among other key points, the cancelation of certificates of title registered on customary land in the region.

BLOG PIECE BY MAGARA SIRAGI LUYIMA



ENERGY TRANSITION: A NOBLE AGENDA THAT NEEDS TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION

onset of electrification and improvements in energy storage are all key drivers of the energy transition. Transitioning to a low carbon economy is key in tackling climate change challenges as stipulated in the United Nations Development Goal 3 and the 2015 Paris Agreement. It is important to note that fossil fuels are the main contributor to climate change as it produces around 60% of greenhouse gases. Renewable energies are key players regarding world energy supply security and the reduction of fossil fuel dependency and harmful emissions to the environment. Regulation and commitment to decarbonization has been mixed, but the energy transition will continue to increase in importance as investors prioritize environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.

Energy transition refers to the global energy sector's shift from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption – including oil, natural gas, and coal – to renewable energy sources like wind and solar, as well as lithium-ion batteries among others. The increasing penetration of renewable energy into the energy supply mix, the

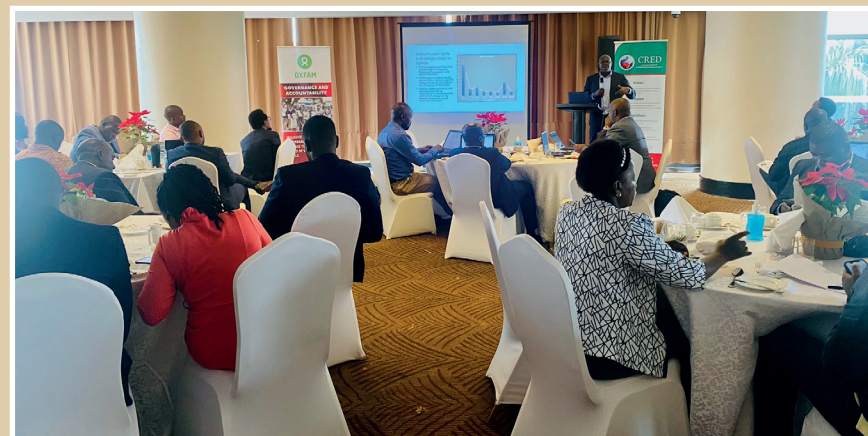
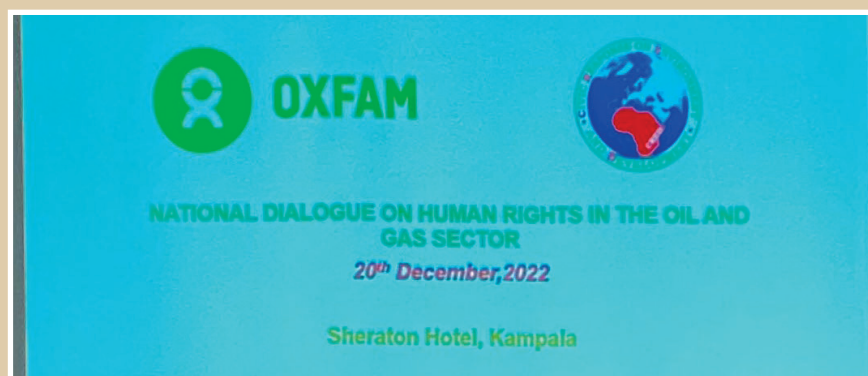
Shift to clean energy challenges

Goal 7 of the UN SDGs emphasizes access to modern energy. Although access to modern energy such as electricity is crucial to addressing other global challenges such as poverty, famine and gender inequality: data shows that 3 billion people, which is more than 40% of the world population, are still relying on polluting and unhealthy fuels for cooking. The figures are worrying in Africa as reports show that 600 million people do not have access to electricity, and around 900 million people lack access to clean cooking facilities. This rampant energy poverty in Africa creates impeccable challenges for energy transition discourse since most people do not have where to transit from and virtually nowhere to transit to. Despite the enormous potential for hydroelectricity, ...

Read more here: <https://uganda.oxfam.org/latest/blogs/energy-transition-noble-agenda-needs-be-translated-action>

In December 2022, Oxfam in Uganda organised the annual national dialogue on human rights in the oil and gas sector in Uganda at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala.

The dialogue brought key stakeholders from the oil and gas sector such as ministry of minerals and environment, Total energies, The Petroleum Authority of Uganda and other key players in the sector.



ENGAGED IN THE EITI DISCUSSIONS

Oxfam participated in four EITI MSG meetings that facilitate EITI implementation in Uganda. The meetings involved validation of the scoping study report for the 2nd EITI report for Uganda FY2020/2021. Key in the validation

discussion was including equitable utilization of resource revenues for the benefit of Ugandans which was missing in the first report. The TV and radio talk shows were held discussing EITI implementation in Uganda. Uganda's admission to EITI, will benefit the country in various ways including (i) promoting accountability by minimizing corruption and mismanagement of revenues from oil, gas, and mining; (ii) improving

the revenue collection process and boosting public finances; and (iii) improving investment climate by giving a clear signal to investors and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) that the Government is committed to improving transparency among other benefits. Civil society equally pledged their commitment to working with all other stakeholders to ensure that EITI is implemented successfully in Uganda. ■

PROMOTED TRANSFORMATIVE AND CIVIC EDUCATION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

AMPLIFIED THE VOICES OF THE MOST MARGINALISED

Oxfam and partners compiled the 'CNN As Equals 'Stories from the Margins'. This was in response to a call for pitches by CNN titled "As

Equals" that aimed to reveal what systemic gender inequality looked like with stories on underreported issues in parts of the world such as Southeast Asia, and East and West Africa. Through our voice project, we were able to highlight stories from Uganda with the pitch guidelines of highlighting human,

3-dimensional narratives, that do not just represent victimization of issues but also represent the tenacity to thrive regardless of socio-political systems that are broken and or affected by unusual circumstances such as global pandemics. ■



Oxfam in Uganda's Extractives and Energy Coordinator Siragi Magara expounding on the concept, opportunities, risks and strategies for planning in extractives during the Energy Transition training workshop that was organised by Natural Resource Governance Institute with key government and Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Multi Stakeholder Group institutions on Energy Transition Planning and revenue transparency:



Minister of State for Primary Education, Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu (4th right sitting on a chair) with other stakeholders in the Education Sector.

Oxfam in partnership with the Education Advocacy Network conducted a 2 day national dialogue with stakeholders in the Education sector to discuss barriers to sustainable re- entry, retention, and completion of education by pregnant girls, teenage mothers, and vulnerable children in Ugandan schools.

"It takes a lot of personal commitment and change of mindset for someone who was or is pregnant to come back to school. We need role models who have gone through such experiences to come forward and speak about how they made it," said Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, the Minister of State for Primary Education.

DEMYSTIFYING DWARFISM, THE STORY OF MBABAZI MARTIN

Mbabazi Dorcus Martin (46) is a person of short stature who prefers to be referred to as, “little person”, however, the community he lives in dissents and inappropriately refers to him as “kateyito” meaning a small human. Medically, Martin suffers a condition called dwarfism. There is approximately 1 in 25,000 (0.004%) chance of a child with dominant dwarfism for two average height parents with no history of dwarfism. “I was the only little person out of 17 children from my mother. This doesn’t have to be a problem but growing up feeling different can be an isolating experience” Martin regrettably said.

The hardest part about being a little person is the discrimination that comes with the appearance of the person. Generally, people are not aware of the problems little people deal with on a daily basis, for example; to the community of Dwooli village in Hoima District, Mr. Martin is a mythical creature and to his biological mother, he is a product of “black magic” and did not deserve to live with the rest of her family.

Martin stressed the issue of being highly discriminated and treated unfairly because of his stature when he said, “I cannot count the number of times my mother slapped me



for being born a “little person.” He added that, being neglected both at home, and at school by his friends and close family members made him feel like he was out of the frying pan and into fire, which has caused him a lot of emotional and psychological pain. The constant attention was exhausting, never stopped and sometimes it was even frightening. This attention has continued well into adulthood.

Martin further reported that, he has challenges in accessing even the basic things such as; door handles, ATMs; even finding the right shoe size is a problem. These are not things most people have to think too hard about because they are placed within easy arm’s reach for most adults of normal stature. In some cases, he has also been wrongly accused of fathering babies who are birthed with the same condition as his in the community where he lives, and

he has had to prove he did not have relations with anyone’s wife.

Recently in the Local Council 3 elections in which Martin was an aspirant, the disregard and unfair treatment for persons with disability was so clear for all to see. His opponents spread all sorts of propaganda about his incapability to take up the position, as though height determined his capabilities as a person.

“How can a short person be our leader?”, the community grumbled endlessly.

The community sensitization and awareness campaigns about fair treatment of persons with disability by Hoima Union of Persons with disabilities (HUDIP) with funding from VOICE have been a breath of fresh air from Martin. The people of Hoima city are slowly realizing that persons with disabilities are human and deserve love and respect.

“Sensitization is changing people’s perceptions about people like me. I now feel more confident in the community because people now understand that dwarfism is a disability just like other forms of disability. I feel like any other human being, and I now know my rights.”, Martin observes.

MADE EFFORTS TOWARDS INFLUENCING THE TVET NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Luigi Giussani Foundation a partner of Oxfam implementing Education in an emergency, developed a civic education module that equips learners and

is being used for instruction in the St. Jude Omugo VTI-Terego district, Lodonga VTI- Yumbe district, and Inde VTI-Madi Okolo district. This is to equip learners with knowledge on advocacy for climate justice, increased education financing, and girls’ education. It further equips them with knowledge about different

stakeholders at sub-national and national levels to engage in policy shifts. Piloting this module is still ongoing with the intention of later engaging the Ministry of Education and Sports through its BTNET and DIT strands to have it incorporated into the TVET national curriculum. ■

GIRLS SHAPING PALABEK

Nineteen-year-old Monica Aling, a soft spoken and composed girl who stands at 5’8ft whose stature commands attention went from Kyangwali to Palabek Refugee Settlement. When she she joined the mainstream primary five class, it was even more difficult for her to study. Her height drew the attention of learners in her school and she left.

In 2019, Monica heard from a friend about the Accelerated Education Programme in the same block she lived and decided to enroll in term 1 level 2. “Joining the Accelerated Education Programme was good for me because it was not about my size anymore and we concentrated on assignments. In less than two years, I sat for my Primary Leaving Examinations.”

Monica completed her final exams, something that had started to feel unattainable. She also benefited from life skills sessions conducted by AVSI Foundation and this propelled her in a direction of self-discovery. With a shy but confident smile, she expresses her dream to become a mason and a truck driver – a multi skilled woman.

“Attending the life skills training debunked the myth that some activities are only for men and the sole difference between us is the ability to conceive, the rest is a matter of choice and this is why I like construction.” Monica is currently enrolled at Don Bosco Youth Centre in Palabek where she is learning construction and masonry. ■



VOICE IN UGANDA NEWSLETTER

November 2022

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV

“UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls”

<https://uganda.oxfam.org/latest/publications/voice-uganda-newsletter>

HUMAN RESOURCE

Our diverse workforce is our greatest asset. The success of our programs and organizational goals depend on their collective efforts, skills, and dedication. Throughout the year, we made significant strides in fostering a supportive and inclusive work environment, enhancing employee engagement, and prioritizing the development and well-being of our team members. We worked with 118 staff, 71 being male and 47 females.

WE WORKED WITH
118 STAFF,
71 BEING MALE AND
47 FEMALES

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

We fostered a culture that values diversity and promotes inclusivity. We ensured equal opportunities for all employees. The Oxfam team comprises of employees from different parts of the country.

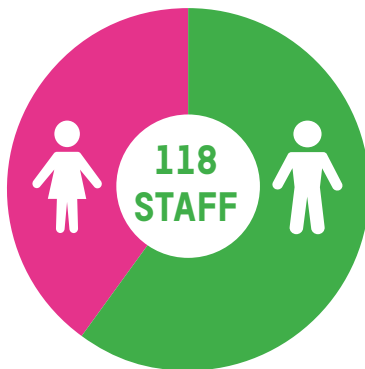
STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

We empowered our staff through training and development programmes. We organized training sessions and workshops to improve skills, leadership, and capacity during the reporting period. All

managers at Oxfam attended a training to help them support and manage their teams better. All staff received refresher training on safeguarding, code of conduct, and integrity. In addition, all staff were required to complete online training on safeguarding, code of conduct, and gender. Our online courses are easy to access and offer flexible learning opportunities for our dispersed workforce.

STAFF WELL BEING

Acknowledging the critical role of employee well-being in achieving



organizational success, we implemented comprehensive programmes to support the physical, mental, and emotional health of our employees. We offered aerobics after work, encouraged staff to take leave, provided counselling services through our health insurers, and offered flexible work arrangements. These initiatives aimed to promote a healthy work-life balance, especially considering heavy traffic, care work demands, and other needs.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

We improved our performance management processes to communicate expectations clearly. We provided regular feedback



<https://www.pexels.com/photo/close-up-photography-of-yellow-green-red-and-brown-plastic-cones-on-white-lined-surface-163664/>

and recognized outstanding contributions. We created effective ways to evaluate performance and promote accountability. This motivated employees to improve and support the organization's mission. The employee and line manager had performance conversations twice a year. Assessment from these culminated into merit-based increments. To ensure recognition of the outstanding staff, annual staff recognition awards were launched. We focused on initiatives to increase employee engagement and create a sense of belonging. To improve teamwork, we used

different methods like regular communication, feedback, recognition, and team-building. We encouraged employees to report misconduct and unwanted behaviours with our open-door policy.

FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

We have feedback mechanisms to receive suggestions and reports confidentially, like suggestion boxes and email addresses. We also have phone numbers and whistle-blowing lines. The safeguarding focal point person ensures that any safeguarding concerns are picked up and addressed according to procedure.

INTERNSHIP AND GRADUATE PROGRAMME

We offered an internship and graduate programme for new graduates and interns. They gained practical work experience and learned how to work in a team on various issues.

We are committed to supporting our employees and encouraging continuous learning. We strive to create an environment where everyone feels appreciated, respected, and empowered to contribute to our mission of ending inequality in Uganda. ■



Some Oxfam staff during the annual programme review and staff party 2022

IMPACT OF GRADUATE INTERNS IN PROGRAMME DELIVERY

The team recognized the positive impact of having graduate interns in improving programme implementation. Their support contributed to enhanced implementation capacity and added value to the team's efforts. This lesson underscores the potential benefits of engaging interns or young professionals to complement the expertise of the team, bring fresh perspectives, and contribute to the achievement of programme objectives.



MY GRADUATE INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE AT OXFAM IN UGANDA /CAREER UP-CLOSE BY CHARITY ASIBAZUYO

During the first month of training, I laid down learning objectives i.e., areas I needed to learn, grow and polish while in the field. I shared these objectives with my team and they greatly embarked on the journey of making this happen. At the end of my final month of training, I had checked off almost everything - a registered success.

I learnt and polished a lot from this training; from work ethics, writing and editing skills to team work and these have greatly helped shape my career. One of my most important skills I attained through this experience was communication skills which has built my confidence and competence in my professional field.

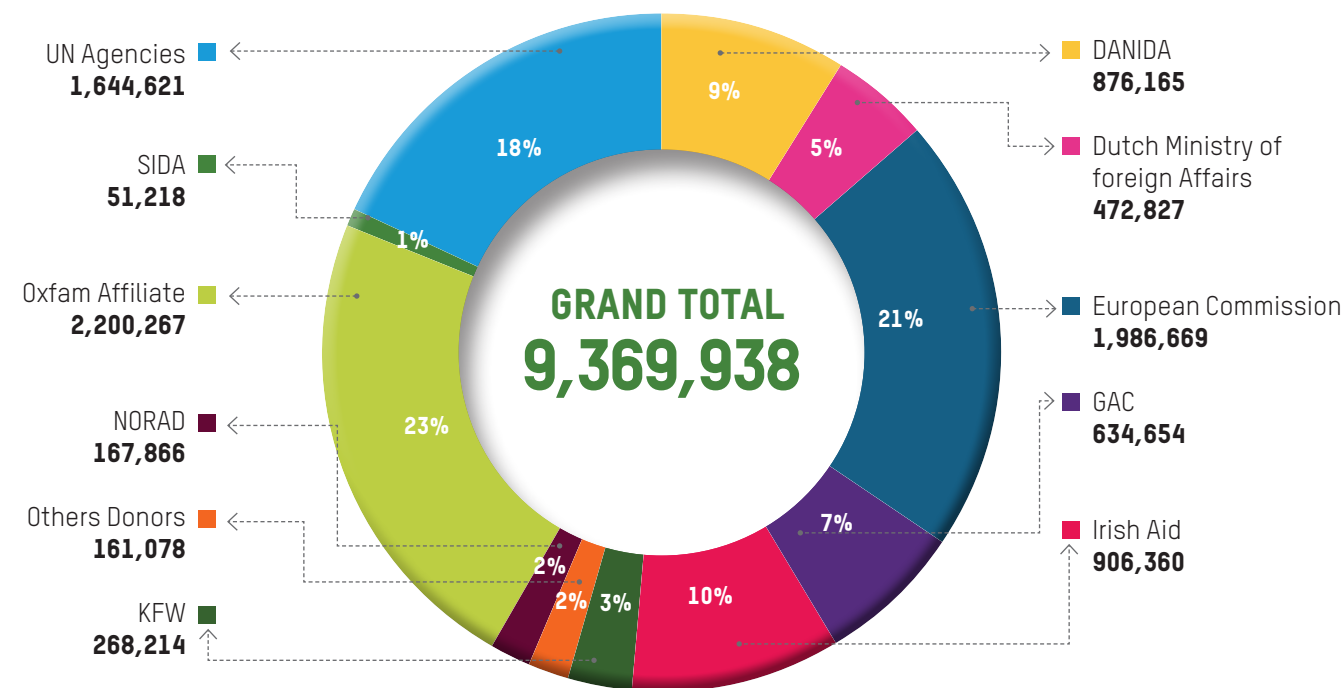
I believe the first work environment experience determines your stability and enjoyment of your profession, thankfully I got a good one. The team I encountered made my time and professional journey worthwhile. Indeed, this internship was excellent grounds for my career development. It has also encouraged and helped straighten out my choices in academic advancement in the near future.

Currently, I'm serving as a Communications Assistant with a missions' agency where I gather, write and edit stories, write newsletters, create media content, manage social media platforms, write reports and more.

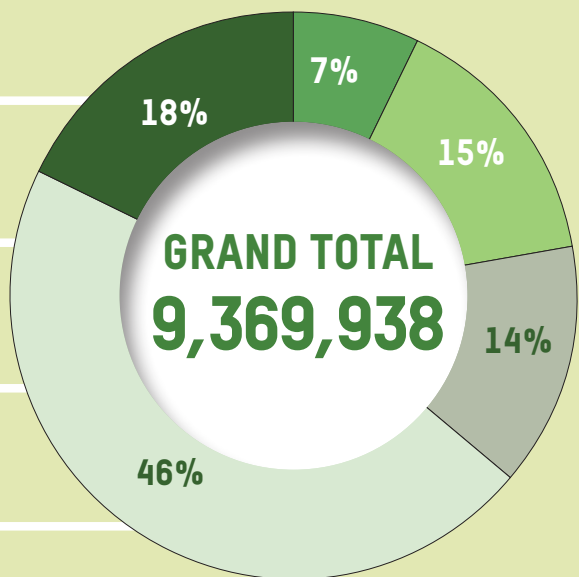
It gives me great joy to have Oxfam in Uganda as a stepping stone to my budding career. This up-close look at my field has helped me get exposed, learn, unlearn, explore and effortlessly blend into my professional field. Thank you for this incredible experience, I truly enjoyed and I am enjoying my career space. ■

INCOMES AND INVESTMENTS

INCOME- FUNDING SOURCES (EUROS)



SECTORAL INVESTMENT (EUROS)



PARTNERS

NO	NAME	ACRONYM
1	Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum	HRAPF
2	Hoima Union of Persons with Disabilities	HUDIP
3	Joy Initiatives Uganda	JOYI
4	Centre for Constitutional Governance	CCG
5	Uganda National Action on Physical Disability	UNAPD
6	Gulu Women Economic Development & Globalization	GWED-G
7	Legal Aid Service Providers Network	LASNET
8	SORAK Development Agency	SORAK
9	Civic Response on Environment & Development	CRED
10	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group	CSBAG
11	The Southern and East African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute	SEATINI
12	Action for Community Development	ACODEV
13	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment	ACODE
14	Community Volunteer Initiative for Development	COVID
15	Youth Go Green	Youth Go Green
16	Uganda Agribusiness Alliance	UAA
17	African Youth Development Link	AYDL
18	International Foundation for Recovery & Development	IFRAD
19	Agency for Community Empowerment	AFCE
20	Uganda Refugee & Disaster mgt Council	URDMC
21	OPEN CAPITAL ADVISORS	OCA
22	LANDNET UGANDA	LANDNET Uganda
23	Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum	ESAFF
24	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management	PELUM
25	Uganda Youth Network	UYONET
26	Community Integrated Development Initiative	CIDI
27	The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation	TUNADO
28	Caritas Moroto Diocese	Caritas
29	Uganda Red Cross Society	URCS
30	Catholic Relief Services	CRS
31	Association of Refugees with Disabilities	ARD
32	Somali Women Union in Uganda Limited	SWUU

33	Youth Empowerment to Act	YETA
34	World Voices Uganda	WVU
35	Lugbara Kari	Lugbara Kari
36	Joint Effort to Save The Environment	JESE
37	Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation	CECI
38	I CAN South Sudan	ICAN SSD
39	Youth Social Advocacy Team	YSAT
40	LUIGI Giussani Foundation	LGF
41	Community Empowerment for Rural Development	CEFORD
42	Femme Forte Uganda	Femme Forte Uganda
43	National Association of Women's Organisation in Uganda.	NAWOU
44	Centre For Health, Human Rights and Development	CEHURD
45	Uganda Women's Network	UWONET
46	FOTEA FOUNDATION LIMITED	FOTEA



Photos of some partners during the 2022 partner review meeting

For more information, please contact:

OXFAM IN UGANDA

Plot No. 3459,
kampala Road, Muyenga
P.O.Box 6228,
Kampala, Uganda.
+256 414 390 500
+256 414 510 242
kampalaoffice@oxfam.org
uganda.oxfam.org

Report compiled and written by: Dorah Ntunga
Content contribution: From all Programme teams
Layout ideas by: Dorah Ntunga & Sarah Mazirwe
Designed by: Jacqueline Omutimba



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