

OXFAM IN UGANDA



APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

GAC PARTNERS CONSORTIUM MEETING HELD IN KAMPALA



Oxfam in Uganda hosted the Global Affairs Canada (GAC) funded partners' consortium meeting on 31st March 2026, at the Country offices in Muyenga, Kampala.

This meeting brought together different GAC-funded partners in Uganda, including Oxfam in Uganda, Right to Play, and Adventist Rehabilitation and Development Agency (ADRA).

GAC funds four consortia, including Stand UP led by Oxfam, She Soars led by Care International, TOGETHER led by ADRA and SHARE led by Right to Play, which all implement Sexual Reproductive Health Rights projects across the country.

The meeting was meant to ensure sustainability and smooth closeout processes for some of the GAC-funded projects that will be ending later this year, and to consult with key stakeholders on various lessons learned and sustainability mechanisms.

During the meeting, participants reflected on key lessons learned over the past five years of project implementation, emphasizing the critical importance of male engagement in all SRHR interventions.

They also highlighted the value of integrating livelihood components to economically empower the most vulnerable individuals, thereby reducing dependency that increases exposure to risks such as early sexual activity and its associated consequences, including teenage pregnancy, child marriage, and sexually transmitted infections, notably HIV/AIDS.

Participants also reiterated the importance of engaging religious and cultural institutions to support the fight against harmful social norms that affect women and girls, especially.

Speaking during the meeting, Edward Mwebaze, the Oxfam Head of Programs, commended the different consortia teams for the great job done so far and urged them to continue playing an important role in advocating for more support around SRHR, given the current shrinking donor support.

GEARED FOR SUCCESS PROJECT TEAM TRAINS WOMEN ON AGLP



Oxfam Canada, through the Geared for Success (GFS) project, developed the Advancing Gender Leadership Programme (AGLP).

AGLP is a comprehensive framework designed to strengthen gender-transformative leadership grounded in feminist principles, power analysis, human rights, and intersectionality.

Between the 30th of March and 3rd April 2026, Oxfam and partners organized an AGLP training that brought together over 30 women from partner organizations and Refugee Led Organisations Networks. (RELON).

It was adapted from an original 10-day curriculum into an intensive five-day training, to equip national partners, Refugee-Led Organisations (RLOs), Women-Led Organisations (WLOs), and frontline humanitarian actors with the skills and tools needed to advance inclusive and effective leadership.

Humanitarian and development actors work in complex and interconnected challenges spanning gender inequality, protection risks, climate change, and peacebuilding.

While women and girls bear a disproportionate share of these impacts, they are also at the forefront of driving transformative change within their communities—yet their leadership remains largely underrecognized.

The first phase of the AGLP delivered a comprehensive, participatory, and practice-oriented training covering key themes from the AGLP project toolkit. Learning was reinforced through daily recap sessions that promoted reflection, clarified concepts, and strengthened continuity across sessions.

Among the key topics covered were gender equality, feminist leadership, and women's rights in humanitarian contexts, with a focus on addressing systemic inequalities in access, decision-making, and service delivery.

Participants also engaged in self-reflection to strengthen leadership identity, articulate personal visions, and build confidence.

The training also looked at gender-responsive humanitarian programming, gender analysis tools, and gender-sensitive Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) for informed decision-making.

Following the training, participants committed to advancing gender leadership beyond the training, which they commended for empowering them to report with increased confidence and for enabling them to acquire the knowledge and readiness to challenge harmful norms.

The first phase of the AGLP successfully strengthened the leadership capacity of women leaders from partner organizations and refugee settlements and established strong foundations for continued transformation, with participants calling for continued use of a phased approach to allow deeper learning, reflection, and application of leadership skills.

The GFS project is a multi-year, gender-responsive initiative implemented by Oxfam Canada and War Child Canada in partnership with Oxfam in Uganda and national partners: Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation (CECI), Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT), and RELON, to enhance equitable and inclusive learning outcomes for refugee and host community children and youth in Uganda and South Sudan.

The initiative is funded by Global Affairs Canada, with the central focus of the project being building the capacity of local organizations through training, technical support, and funding, while promoting women's leadership and collective action in education advocacy.

OXFAM AND CSOS PUSH BACK ON THE PROTECTION OF SOVEREIGNTY BILL



On the 15th of April 2026, the Ministry of Internal Affairs proposed the Protection of Sovereignty Bill (Bill No 13 of 2026).

While the bill's stated objective is to safeguard national independence by regulating foreign influence in domestic, political and economic affairs, it has far-reaching implications for the work of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), blurring the line between legitimate regulation and undue control.

As part of the government's constitutional mandate to provide a platform for citizens and affected groups to share views on a proposed law, the Parliament of Uganda invited Oxfam in Uganda and partners under the International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) Country Directors Network of Uganda and other key stakeholders to share their views on the bill that the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs was processing.

In a Memorandum delivered by a team of INGO leaders representing organisations like Oxfam, Child Fund, Hope Speaks, Brass for Africa and others, INGOs underscored their role in complementing the work of the government

, across both humanitarian and development sectors.

Drawing from a sample of just 41 international organisations, INGOs revealed that over the past five years (2021–2025), the cumulative budget of the sector was over \$1.75 billion, with over \$361 million set to be spent in 2026 under the sector, which has employed an average of 12,559 workers annually over the past five years.

Also highlighted was the contribution of INGOs to government revenue through taxes, averaging more than UGX 142 billion annually.

The INGOs explained that restrictive provisions in the Bill could deter donor funding and lead Uganda to be deprioritized by international partners, potentially reducing investment flows and service delivery across sectors.

Central to the INGO petition were the open-ended definitions of terms such as "foreigner" and "agent of a foreigner." Under Part 1 of the Bill, a foreigner includes "a corporation, company, non-governmental organisation or any other legal entity incorporated, unincorporated or registered outside Uganda. [Read More on Our Website](#)

BREAKING DOWN THE PROPOSED PAYE REVISIONS IN UGANDA'S FY 2026/27 BUDGET

By Sophie Nampewo Njuba

As part of the Government of Uganda's drive to increase its resource mobilisation, taxation remains a key direct source of domestic revenue. One of the ways that it does this is through taxes like Pay as You Earn (PAYE), a monthly income tax withheld by employers from employee salaries, ranging from 10% to 40% based on income.

As part of its FY 2026/27 budget strategy to enhance domestic resource mobilisation, the Government of Uganda has proposed significant revisions to the PAYE structure under the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2026 which was passed by Parliament in late April 2026, to take effect on July 1, 2026.

The new amendments not only provide consideration for low-income earners but also promote progressivity and fairness, in line with the principles of taxation, based on the threshold.

While in the past, employers were required by law to deduct tax from every employee's salary with a minimum threshold of UGX 235,000 (UGX 2,82 million per year), the new tax policy increases the threshold to workers earning UGX 335,000 (UGX 4.02 million per year). Consequently, workers earning less than UGX 335,000 will no longer pay PAYE.

In increasing the threshold, the government is providing vital social protection to low-income earners while acknowledging the rising cost of living.

This not only aligns with the country's poverty alleviation goals under frameworks like the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), 2025/26–2029/30, which seeks to reduce the poverty rate from 20.3% to 14% by 2030, but also with Oxfam's goals to reduce inequality and increase the disposable income of low-income households through progressive taxation.



Previously, workers earning between UGX 235,000 and UGX 335,000 per month were taxed 20%. Under the proposed income tax bill, this entire income bracket becomes tax-exempt, with the 20% tax now applying to the amount by which the income chargeable exceeds UGX 335,000 per month (UGX 4.02 million per year) but not exceeding UGX 410,000 per month (UGX 4.92 million per year).

As a result, workers who don't meet this bracket will increase how much money they take home, which improves tax equity and reduces the burden on vulnerable workers.

Under the proposed income tax, a new tax band is introduced for workers earning between UGX 4.92 million and UGX 5.82 million per year, who will now be taxed more gradually, starting with a base amount of UGX 180,000, plus 25% only on the portion of income above UGX 4.92 million. The implication here is that taxes will now increase step by step with earnings, making it fairer for middle-income earners.

For incomes above UGX 5.82 million up to UGX 120 million per year, the 30% marginal tax rate remains, with incomes above UGX 120 million per year continuing to attract an additional 10% surcharge. This keeps the tax system progressive, with lower-income earners getting relief while high-income earners contribute a larger share.

For taxpayers earning more than UGX 5.82 million but not exceeding UGX 120 million per year, they will be expected to pay UGX 405,000 plus 30% of the amount by which chargeable income exceeds UGX 5,820,000. The government also revised the limit for taxpayers earning above UGX 120 million, where an additional 10% will be charged on the amount by which the chargeable income exceeds UGX 120 million.

While the Civil Society Organisations (CSO), including Oxfam, had proposed a higher threshold of UGX 500,000 to be exempted from PAYE payment, the new revisions are an important step towards equity and inclusion by providing additional disposable income for low-income earning taxpayers and progressively ensuring revenue charges for higher income earners, which fits into Oxfam's drive to fight inequality and vulnerability.

Oxfam in Uganda and CSO partners will continue to advocate for more proposals that promote equity and inclusivity.

SUSTAINED PROJECT MONITORING IN YUMBE

During a field monitoring visit conducted on 21st April 2026 in Yumbe under the SUSTAINED II programme, Oxfam and its consortium partners assessed the progress of clean energy interventions aimed at improving access for refugee and host communities.

The visit, which was part of the broader Quarterly Review Meeting and MEAL technical support activities, provided an opportunity to engage directly with project participants, observe implementation on the ground, and identify key achievements, gaps, and lessons from the first quarter.



Teams were able to review how market systems approaches are supporting demand creation and strengthening private sector engagement, while also reflecting on challenges related to affordability, access, and coordination. Insights gathered during the visit informed discussions during the review meeting, contributing to the development of a joint action plan for the next quarter and reinforcing partners' commitment to enhancing collaboration, accountability, and impact.

[Learn More About SUSTAINED.](#)
[Watch SUSTAINED Project Videos Here](#)



UPDATES FROM OUR WEBSITE



TALKING, SEEING, AND TOUCHING: MY JOURNEY TO AFRICA'S DATA-DRIVEN FUTURE:

Africa's life force should be data, because it is from data that a community inspires knowledge, innovation and growth.

DataFest Africa 2025 brought a fever, carrying revelatory insights that offered practical prescriptions for Africa's destinies as it embraces a well-hewed backbone of data in the age of technological advancement. At the event, the exhibition arena, filled with vintage tech, awakened in me overpowering pangs of nostalgia. [Read More](#)



HOW UGANDA'S FORTHCOMING OIL CASH CAN ACTUALIZE THE TEN-FOLD GROWTH STRATEGY-

By Siragi Magara Luyima

Uganda is approaching a major economic turning point with commercial oil production expected in 2026. The country holds approximately 6.3-6.65 billion barrels of oil in place, with 1.4-1.65 billion barrels technically recoverable.

The two flagship projects; Tilenga (TotalEnergies) and Kingfisher (CNOOC) are expected to deliver a combined peak output of 230,000-240,000 barrels per day.

With production potentially sustained for over 25 years, oil could become a transformative source of revenue, driving Uganda's 10-Fold Growth Strategy, which aims to expand industrialization, infrastructure, exports, and human capital. [Read more on Our Website:](#)



HOW A GROUP OF REFUGEE WOMEN IS TRANSFORMING THEIR COMMUNITY IN UGANDA

In Southwestern Uganda, local and refugee-led organisations are transforming communities through advocacy, economic empowerment, and awareness programs.

With support from the Hilton Foundation Project and Oxfam, women are stepping into leadership roles and driving meaningful change in their communities.

Before the project began, communities struggled to access essential services. Many did not know where to report cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), lacked knowledge of health facilities, and were unaware of legal or organisational support systems. Language barriers and social stigma further complicated the challenge.

[Read More on our Website](#)



ADDRESSING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT AND DIGITAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS-

By Wilson Senyonyi

Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) is essential to the well-being and empowerment of women and adolescent girls. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) presents a significant challenge for women and girls, including refugee women and girls in Uganda.

This affects mainly the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, displaced populations like refugees, and poverty-stricken household members who often lack access to menstrual products, adequate WASH infrastructure, and accurate information.

[Read more on our website](#)

SOLAR IRRIGATION DRIVING PRODUCTIVE USE OF ENERGY (PUE) IN WEST NILE



In Uganda's West Nile region, where long dry spells often impede agriculture, access to energy is proving to be the difference between subsistence and success.

Under the SUSTAINED Project, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), Oxfam, Mercy Corps, and Care are championing the productive use of renewable energy to ensure that clean energy solutions like solar-powered irrigation are not just accessible, but directly improving incomes and livelihoods.

For Alipaga Manisuru, a 34-year-old farmer from Yumbe District, this shift has been life-changing.

Alipaga's journey into agriculture began when he rented a one-acre plot in Jemo Village, where he started growing vegetables to support his wife and two children.

His efforts, however, were often limited by the lack of water. "I depended entirely on the rainy season, and during dry periods, I had to fetch water using a watering can, which was exhausting, time-consuming, and still brought in low yields." [Follow Alipaga's Journey with PUE](#)

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS: POST-IWD DIALOGUE IN AMUDAT



Between the 12th and 18th April 2026, Oxfam in Uganda, represented by Charity Chelangat, the Youth Empowerment Coordinator, participated in a series of post-International Women's Day (IWD) dialogues in Amudat District organized by our partner National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU).

The dialogues brought together project participants, district and sub-county leaders, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) referral pathway actors under the international theme 'Give to Gain' and the national theme "Scaling Up Investment to Accelerate Access to Justice for All Women and Girls in Uganda." [Read More](#)

Participants attend the dialogue in Amudat

THE POWER OF PEER SUPPORT: SCOVIA'S STORY OF FORGIVENESS

For many years, Scovia Keliki, a widowed mother from Vurra Sub-county in Arua District, struggled to raise her daughter single-handedly. Determined to ensure her child received an education, she took on odd jobs, including washing clothes, fetching water, and collecting firewood to earn money for school fees.

Her world was shattered when she found out that her 14-year-old daughter, Mercy (*names changed*), was pregnant.

Overwhelmed by anger and disappointment, Scovia chased her daughter out of their home.

"I was in pain and didn't want to see her," Scovia recalls tearfully. "I kept quarrelling with her and insulting her for being ungrateful, for not recognising all the sacrifices I had made."

A chance encounter would later change the course of their lives. While Mercy attended an antenatal visit at Bondo Health Centre IV, she met Jovia, a peer educator trained by the Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD).

"When I met her, she had been sent away from home," Jovia explains. "I asked for her mother's contact, reached out, and convinced her to come to the hospital so we could talk." [Read More](#)

KAREP IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS CONDUCT PROJECT MONITORING IN KOTIDO



Over the past five years, the Kotido district in the Karamoja sub-region has faced increasing pressure from unpredictable weather, food insecurity, and limited access to sustainable livelihoods.

Against this backdrop, in 2025, Oxfam in Uganda and Warrior Squad Foundation (WSF), with support from the KANE Family, launched the [Karamoja Agro-Pastoral Resilience and Empowerment Project \(KAREP\)](#)—a three-year initiative designed to transform livelihoods and strengthen climate resilience among smallholder farmers.

As the project neared its first year of implementation, Oxfam organised a joint monitoring visit and project review, bringing together partners and the Kotido district local government to reflect on progress, identify challenges, and address them.

KAREP targets 300 smallholder farming households, with a strong emphasis on women in the two Kotido subcounties of Kapeta and Napumpum. It promotes climate-smart agriculture (CSA), improved access to agricultural inputs, and stronger market linkages through collective approaches.

Among the key interventions of the project have been the establishment of Agro-Pastoral Farmer Field Schools (APFFS), integration of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), ecosystem restoration, and rehabilitation of water infrastructure through Cash-for-Work (CfW). Among the key areas visited were Lotwakop-Kokoria Women's Group in and NASDA APFFS/VSLA group IN Napumpum and Kapeta sub-counties, respectively [Read More](#)

STAND UP PROJECT PARTNERS REVIEW PROGRESS IN JINJA

In April, the [Stand Up for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights \(SRHR\)](#) project team, made up of Oxfam staff and implementing partners from Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) and Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) convened for the annual project review meeting in Jinja City.

As the 6.5-year Global Affairs Canada (GAC) funded project nears its end, the two-day meeting brought Oxfam staff and implementing teams in Jinja to not only share knowledge and receive feedback on implementation but to also plan for the coming year while recognizing the impact of the project.

In her opening remarks Oxfam Gender Justice Thematic lead Fatia Atugonza invited participants to showcase what was done, against what we planned to do, and what was achieved in the previous year.

“We need to reflect on what is changing in our areas of implementation and shift focus from not just figures to the impact of the project”.

In its fourth year, the Stand UP for SRHR project recorded significant policy, systems, and community-level achievements that strengthened access to and uptake of comprehensive, rights-based SRHR services, particularly for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), while also improving stakeholder capacity and community ownership.

The project reached a total of 25,804 people with Over 82% of all people reached being under 30 years, demonstrating the project’s strong focus and effectiveness in reaching adolescents and young people, in line with SRHR and youth centered programming objectives.

It also recorded key policy gains through the adoption and completion of key national SRHR frameworks like the approved Post Abortion Care (PAC) Guidelines as an addendum to the Essential Maternal and Newborn Care Clinical Guidelines, and the National Guidelines on Health Education and Life Skills for Out of School Adolescents and Youth (OOSAY), which were also finalized in February 2026.

The two policies will strengthen opportunities for self-care and expand access to lifesaving services and enhance national coordination, consistency, and standardisation of youth-focused health education and life skills programming. [Read More on Our Website](#)

OXFAM IN THE NEWS

- [How mobile schools are making learning easier in Karamoja](#)
- [Talking, Seeing, and Touching: My Journey to Africa’s Data-Driven Future](#)