

# OXFAM IN UGANDA



## AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

## LEARNING FROM THE POWER OF VOICES- FAIR FOR ALL PROJECT



Project participants during the learning event

Over twenty-five participants gathered in Kampala for the Power of Voices Partnership, Fair for All Consortium Learning Event from 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

The event organised by Oxfam in Uganda picked up lessons from a prior learning event held in February this year in Accra, Ghana. The Uganda event brought together consortium members and partners from Oxfam in Uganda and other consortium members like the Huairou commission and the Third World Network.

Community-based partners and other key stakeholders were also in attendance which promoted equitable partnerships, knowledge sharing, and collaboration.

Speaking at the event, Sophie Nampewo Njuba, the Ag Governance and Accountability Manager, explained that through the event, they sought to share experiences and learn from each other's implementation of the Power of Voices- Fair for All project in Uganda.

"We aim to identify synergy, collaboration and document learnings from community members to influence change." She said. Consortium members and partners reported achievements such as the increase in the budgetary allocation for the Agro-industrialization program, the establishment of different partnerships with key stakeholders, and the development of policy briefs.

Among the key takeaways were the need for a fair-trade agenda consisting of fair, inclusive policies that benefit smallholder farmers, the need to adapt climate change mitigation to the forefront of interventions, and agricultural trade sustainability.

Charles Opiyo, the Resilient Livelihood Manager who represented Edward Mwebaze the Oxfam Head of Program, expressed gratitude for the partnership and their willingness to work together in a consortium, stating that collaboration is crucial in sharing the vision of a fair and just Uganda for all.

### About the Power of Voices - Fair for All program

Oxfam and partners, Action for Community Development (AFCE), Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers' Forum (ESSAF), Uganda Alliance on Agriculture (UAA), Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), and Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI Uganda) are implementing the Power of Voices – Fair for All program.

The 5-year (2021- 2025) influencing program, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), seeks to create a more just and equitable society by supporting and collaborating with people's rightful demands towards companies, governments, and multilateral organizations for economic, social, and environmental justice and promoting global trade and value chains that are fair for all



Since 2013, Oxfam in Uganda, and partners including Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Girls Forum International (GAFI), and Mission Uganda, have been implementing the Women's Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care) program with funding from the Hewlett Foundation.

WE-Care aims to address Unpaid Care and Domestic Work and shift the unpaid care narrative from being a woman's issue to being a development, economic, and gender equality issue.

Unpaid care work sustains communities and economies globally, providing essential care for children, sick and elderly people, and people with disabilities.

However, this work falls disproportionately on women and girls, limiting their opportunities to participate in decent paid employment, education, leisure and political participation.

According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), women in Uganda spend an average of seven hours on unpaid work, while men spend five hours, allowing them to allocate more time to productive work.

Global statistics from the International Labour Organisation also reveal a similar trend indicating that every day, more than sixteen billion hours are devoted to unpaid domestic and care work around the world.

To address this imbalance, Oxfam and partners have been implementing the 5<sup>th</sup> phase of the Women's Economic Empowerment

and Care (WE-Care) program in Uganda, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, and Kenya.

To mark the first-year milestone of WE-CARE's phase 5<sup>th</sup> phase, the Programme Management Unit held a learning event in Kampala from 5 to 9 August.

The event brought together teams and partners from the implementing countries to reflect on the program's journey, identify better ways of working, and benchmark good practices.

Keynote speaker Dr Angela Nakafeero, the Commissioner of the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, emphasized the need for women and men to share unpaid care work in order to reduce the burden on women and girls.

“We need to work on people’s mindsets to ensure equitable sharing of unpaid care work.” Unpaid Care work impacts on women’s productivity, opportunities to enjoy their rights, and access to paid work,” she said.



Dr Nakafeero speaking at the WE-Care learning event

Francis Shanty Odokorach, the Oxfam in Uganda, Country Director, re-echoed this, stressing the need to actively involve men in sharing care work.

“It is important that we make changes in our society because the only way we can redistribute care responsibility is by men engaging in it. That will then allow women the time to engage in other economic activities.” he said.

Participants were able to co-create an action plan that outlines key strategies and recommendations for adapting WE-Care programs.

[Read more on the WE CARE program.](#)

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Francis Shanty Odokorach  
Country Director | Oxfam in Uganda

READ MORE ABOUT THE COVERAGE OF THE WE-CARE LEARNING EVENT IN THE:

- [DAILY MONITOR](#)
- [CHIMP REPORT](#)
- [NTV UGANDA](#) – English
- [NTV UGANDA](#) – Luganda

## RECIPE PROJECT TO AMPLIFY VOICES OF UGANDANS IN THE DIGITAL SPACE



On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, the state minister for ICT and National Guidance, Dr Chris Baryomunsi, launched the “Recentering the Civic Internet through Partner Engagement (RECIPE) project in Kampala.

The 3-year initiative (2024 – 2027) is being implemented by Oxfam in Uganda and the Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG) with funding from the European Union to leverage digital technologies to amplify the voices of people in Uganda and ensure that their interests are represented in the digital sphere and will be implemented across 10 countries including Uganda.

The RECIPE project seeks to address the pressing challenges in Uganda's digital landscape by fostering a more inclusive and equitable digital environment by leveraging partnerships with various stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector companies, and civil society organizations.

The launch event brought together key stakeholders including Civil Society Organizations, representatives from the European Union, government, media and legal practitioners, innovators, women led organisations and project implementing staff.

Speaking at the launch, Dr Baryomunsi said that the government was intensifying efforts to automate government services and cited examples like the digitization of government services such as the passport, driving permit and land transactions through a land management system.

“There’s a time when government had to fly money to districts like Bundibugyo to pay salaries, but nowadays payments are made digitally.” He said and explained that with technology, transactions and

processes have become convenient and seamless. He also called for the inclusion of all groups of people in the digitization journey.

"We must not leave anyone behind and should bridge the gender and age divide by investing in digital literacy so that we bring everyone on board."

Sarah Bireete, the Executive Director CCG also reiterated the need to bridge the digital divide on internet access.

"73% of women are unable to access the internet in comparison to men. This is huge and should be mitigated if we are to achieve gender equality."

Speaking at the same event, Oxfam in Uganda country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach mentioned that the project will directly contribute to Oxfam in Uganda's strategic objective of advancing inclusive and accountable governance systems that promote the rights of vulnerable people.



Oxfam in Uganda Country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach speaking at the RECIPE project launch.

Odokorach also expressed gratitude for the partnerships enjoyed by the organization throughout its different initiatives.

"Our mode of operation is mainly working in partnerships whether with local government, Civil Society, NGOs and CBOS and we've enjoyed a good relationship that has allowed our programs to succeed" He said.

Dr Chris Baryomunsi also pledged his support for the project and promised that his ministry would work closely with the implementing team to ensure project success. "We assure you that we shall be moving together to ensure that you succeed." He said. Read more about the launch through [The Daily Monitor](#)

## LAND RIGHTS ACTORS CELEBRATE LAND AWARENESS WEEK IN BUSOGA



Between the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, Oxfam in Uganda joined the Ministry of Lands and Housing Development and other civil society organisations to commemorate the 8<sup>th</sup> Land Awareness Week (LAW)

This year's LAW was celebrated in the Busoga sub-region districts under the theme "Promoting Land Rights and Land Use for Inclusiveness and Sustainable Development.

It brought together various stakeholders including communities, district leadership, religious and cultural leaders, CSO representatives and land administration.

Speaking during the opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Land Awareness Week 2024, at Iganga District Headquarters, Mr. Byantalo Hassan, a Land Officer, who delivered remarks on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands, Housing & Urban Development, Ms. Dorcas Okalany recognized the issues being faced in the Busoga region including evictions, homelessness, lack of legal documents for customary landowners, and land fragmentation.

In her remarks, the Permanent secretary called for the involvement of religious and cultural leaders to resolves some of the highlighted issues.

The main celebrations were held in ten districts, including Namutumba, Iganga, Bugiri, Mayuge, Buyende, Kaliro, Jinja, Luuka, Bugweri, and Namayingo. They involved a mobile legal aid clinics where communities were empowered with information on their land rights, a march to create awareness, and radio talk shows.

Community dialogues were also held in the ten districts where topics like sustainable land use, land registration, dispute resolution, understanding the Inheritance and Succession Amendment Act, laws on inheritance and transferring land rights among others were addressed by land experts and the various CSO land rights actors.

Among the key issues highlighted in the Busoga region was land grabbing by especially by commercial entities and the denial of women of their land rights; an issue which is highlighted nationally by the fact that women who make up almost 51% of the population own less than 20% of the land.

According to Jimmy Ochom, the Oxfam in Uganda Land Rights Coordinator, the unequal distribution of land occasions economic inequality and makes it difficult for women to break chains of poverty.

In recent times, Oxfam working under its different projects like the GROW campaign (Land aspects) and Advocacy on Women and land rights has sought to create advocacy around the need for governments to provide secure access to land for smallholder farmers and advocated for the

empowerment of women to access and control their own land as means of driving economic equity.

This work is guided by Oxfam in Uganda's Land Rights Strategy, which outlines how the organization will ensure that marginalized groups and persons, especially women, enjoy their land rights through advocacy and campaigns for land policies that will enable a fair share of natural resources and tenure.

Actors advancing the Land Awareness week include the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, working with Oxfam, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda, The Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESSAF) Uganda, LandNET, Action Aid, Trocaire, and Food Rights Alliance who have supported the event since it was first held in 2017.

The Land Awareness Week was first organized nationally in 2017 in the Acholi sub-region district of Amuru with subsequent events being held in different regions.

## LEAP II PROJECT CONDUCTS BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SKILLS TRAINING



Participants attend Business and financial literacy skill training in Bidibidi zone 2 Yumbe district

According to a needs assessment conducted by Oxfam in 2022, humanitarian aid continues to be the main source of income for refugees following the food ration cuts and move to prioritization by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Uganda is currently home to 1.6 million refugees, majority of whom are settled in the West Nile refugee settlements where Oxfam implements some of its humanitarian programs and in lieu of the ration cuts and reduced funding for humanitarian work, organisations have sought solutions to address the plight of the refugee and host community population.

Working under the Advancing Leadership Empowerment Access and Protection of women

and girls (LEAP II) program, Oxfam in Uganda recently completed business and financial literacy skills training for refugee and host community members in Yumbe and Terego.

The training targeted the existing farmer/VSLA groups in a bid to train and develop capacities of refugee and host community women and youth to establish their own small businesses and enterprises to help them cope with life both in the two refugee-hosting West Nile districts.

It was facilitated by Enima Apolonais and Zubailia Gotre, who are the district commercial officers for Terego and Yumbe district, respectively.

In attendance were over three hundred participants from twelve farmer and VSLA groups in both the host and refugee communities and was delivered through instructor led presentations, role plays, and group presentations and covered topics such as financial literacy, personal financial management, savings, loan management, investment, and planning for old age among others.

With funding from the Norwegian Embassy through UN Women, the organization is implementing the two-year LEAP II project in the

refugee hosting districts of Yumbe, Terego and Kyegegwa to promote positive coping mechanisms and sustainable economic activities for refugee and host community women and girls.

Through the LEAP II program Oxfam in Uganda and partners; Uganda Refugees Disaster Management Council (URDMC) and SEE (Social, Economic, and Environmental) Impact are improving food and income security, self-employment, energy access, and creating gender-responsive environments for refugee women and host communities.

Participants commended Oxfam and partner URDMC for organizing the training and in the final evaluation of the training, 90% of them indicated that they had gained new skills that they would use to improve on their income generating ventures.

In the past Oxfam, through its various programs like the Youth Engagement and Empowerment program (YEEP) and the DGD program, has sought to improve the livelihoods and economic empowerment of refugees and host communities.

## COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

Every year on August 12th, International Youth Day (IYD) is commemorated in different parts of the world. It is a day gazetted to bring youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrate the potential of youth as partners in today's global society.

On August 29th, Oxfam in Uganda staff from different office locations gathered to reflect on youth engagement aligned with the global theme, "From Clicks to Progress; Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development," and the national theme "Skills Development for Enhancement of Youth Opportunities."

During the event, Oxfam staff, partners, and youth representatives reflected on the

youth programming and had open discussions on Oxfam's approach to youth work.

They shared their experiences, learnings, and recommendations with Oxfam to bridge the gap between policy and practice on youth engagement.

Teopista Kizza, the Head of Programs at African Youth Development Link (AYDL), an Oxfam partner that implemented the Oxfam Youth Engagement and Empowerment Program (YEEP), emphasized the importance of involving youth in decision-making.

She appreciated the YEEP project's comprehensive approach, which delivered livelihoods, Governance, and other components. According to Kizza, this is crucial as youth issues are multidimensional and require a holistic approach.

"In working with the youth, we need to understand how they work, what appeals to them, where to find them, and how to influence them," Kizza said, citing the importance of co-creating with the youth.

Derrick Baluku, who benefited from the Oxfam graduate internship program, shared his experience.

"In 2022, I saw an Oxfam advert seeking graduate interns. I applied successfully, passed the interviews, and got posted at an Oxfam partner Organisation, AYDL. The enriching training I got enabled me to compete and get a job at the NGO Forum where I currently work. I cannot emphasize more how these internship opportunities prepare us for the job market."

**Derrick Baluku.**

Baluku spoke about the importance of mentorship in advancing youth empowerment, citing his own experience as proof of its effectiveness. He has found mentors in Oxfam who have been great sounding boards for him. "I recently applied for a master's scholarship, which I received, but I attribute such achievements to the guidance my mentors continue to give me." Baluku proposed that Oxfam consider having mentorship hubs.

At the event, Charity Chelangat, Oxfam's Youth Engagement Coordinator, highlighted the various youth-focused initiatives Oxfam has implemented over the years. She cited a few, like Cool Farming to Arua bits, which empowered youth with ICT and design skills and innovative youth go-budget apps and projects such as YEOP.

She emphasized the need to learn from these initiatives while

considering the current context. She urged participants to consider Uganda's youth-dominated population (over 70%) and the growing digital space in the organization's programming.

*"As Oxfam, we also commit in our Country Strategic Framework (CSF) to work with the youth, including leveraging ICT for innovative youth engagement. Our work should therefore fulfil these commitments."*

Charity Chelangat.

Petra Kango, the Human Resource Business Partner speaking on behalf of the Country Director re-echoed the commitment to youth empowerment as laid out in the CSF and commended the team for the candid reflection and experience sharing from the partner and youth representative. She called on staff to continuously have reflections that enrich learning in programming.



Charity Chelangat speaking at International Youth Day celebrations.

## TACKLING INEQUALITIES IN FOOD SYSTEMS, LAND GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE



With funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Oxfam in Uganda over the course of the next 5 years (2024-2028) will implement the Cultivating Change in a Warming World (CCWW) project in selected district across northern Uganda and the Teso region.

In August 2024, Oxfam and partners launched the project in Soroti, Amuria, Adjumani and Apac districts. The goal was to develop a shared understanding of the project with key stakeholders and establish a collaborative mechanism that will ensure that the project is a success.

The project launch brought together key stakeholders like the district leadership, technical and political teams, farmers and other Civil Society members and farmers who were able to interact with implementing teams and provide input to support the streamlining of the new project.

Through the initiative, which is funded to the tune of €1,120,000, the implementing teams will work with small holder farmers, climate change activists, land rights advocates and local government technical teams & Land boards on a nexus of issues to tackle inequalities in food systems, climate change and land and natural resource governance.

Speaking at the launch of the project in Soroti, Jackson Muhindo, the project lead, and Oxfam Climate Justice Coordinator, explained that the integrated project seeks to strengthen food systems, help communities secure land rights and achieve food and income security.

“Through this project, we want to ensure that rural women and their communities are able to thrive and become empowered agents of change in a fair, green, equal, and safe world.” He said.



Jackson Muhindo speaking at the Project launch in Soroti

The 5-year project which is being implemented by Oxfam, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda, Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESSAF) Uganda and Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) builds upon the years of research and lessons from Oxfam's previous initiatives.

"This project is a significant scale-up of previous initiatives, particularly the Sowing Diversity Equals Harvesting Security (SD=HS) project, which focused on seeds, and the Grow II project, which addressed climate justice." Said Charles Opiyo, the Oxfam in Uganda Resilient Livelihoods Manager.

Speaking at the launch in Adjumani, Mr. Peter Dada Taban, the Adjumani Resident District Commissioner (RDC), pledged his support to the project.

"As the government chief monitor for Adjumani District, it is my distinct honor to pledge our full support towards the successful implementation of the Cultivating Change in a Warming World"

Peter Taban Dada

"Oxfam has consistently demonstrated a commitment to creating long-lasting solutions, and this initiative is no exception."

In Soroti district, Mr. Samuel Enangu, the Soroti district local government Vice chairman while speaking at the project launch in the district expressed his gratitude to Oxfam for the initiative.

"We thank Oxfam for bringing this project to the Teso region and pledge to support you in case of any challenges." he said."

The four implementation districts face several challenges including natural hazards such as drought and flooding, crop failure, widespread land conflicts and food and income security occasioned by the negative effects of climate change.

Oxfam and partners will address some of these challenges working on food and seed systems through the farmer field schools, through promotion of women land rights and empowering rural women and communities to combat climate change and influence climate change policies through campaigns.

"As the government chief monitor for Adjumani District, it is my distinct honor to pledge our full support towards the successful implementation of the Cultivating Change in a Warming World"

Peter Taban Dada,  
Adjumani District RDC

## STAND-UP FOR SRHR PROJECT EMPOWERS WLOS AND YLOS IN WEST NILE



In a bid to build the capacity of Women Led Organizations (WLOs) and Youth Led organizations (YLOs) to proactively advocate for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in their own communities within refugee settlements and host community, Oxfam in Uganda under the StandUP for SRHR project recently concluded a series of 3-day trainings in Arua and Nebbi districts.

The trainings which ran between the 29<sup>th</sup> July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> October were facilitated by a team made up of Wilson Senyonyi, the Oxfam in Uganda Gender and Protection Coordinator, seasoned lawyer and women's rights activist Carol Bunga Idembe and Ms. Rita Dradrimiyo an experienced social worker.

According to Wilson Ssenyonyi, the trainings were meant to enhance the capacity of WROs and YLOs to integrate SRHR considerations into their programming and to also support them in the promotion of rights by addressing and eradicating harmful practices affecting SRHR within their communities.

In attendance were over seventy representatives from district leaders and technical teams, and

WLOs, RLOs and YLOs representative of the districts of Arua, Madi-Okollo, Terego, and Maracha and Nebbi where the StandUP for SRHR project is being implemented.

Among the advocacy issues that came up through the different engagements was Inadequate access to SRHR Information, drug abuse, stakeholder engagement, retention of young people in school, girl child education and low uptake of SRHR among men targeting various groups of people including parents, community leaders, youth, and political leaders.

In partnership with Femme Forte and the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), Oxfam is implementing the StandUP for SRHR project to increase the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for the most marginalized and vulnerable right holders, particularly adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 10-29 years.

The 6.5-year initiative is being implemented in Mayuge and Namayingo districts of the Eastern region, and Nebbi, Madi Okollo, Arua, and Terego districts and Arua City in West Nile region and the training participants were drawn from these districts.

The Nebbi, District Community Development Officer (DCDO) extended his appreciation to the management of Oxfam for working together with the government through the organisation's various programs to support the people of Nebbi especially the vulnerable adolescents and women.

## **ON THE WEBSITE**

### **WE NEED MORE ATTENTION, SOLIDARITY TO ADDRESS REFUGEE FUNDING CRISIS IN UGANDA**

On World Refugee Day, Anne Namakula, the Oxfam in Uganda Program Funding Manager shared her thoughts on the importance of collective advocacy as we address the refugee funding crisis.

Home to 1.6 million refugees and asylum seekers, Uganda has opened its borders and its heart to those fleeing conflict, from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Many of these are women, children, and the elderly. This generous, open-door policy has rightly earned Uganda global admiration and recognition. [Read more about this article here](#)

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### **WE NEED A ROBUST YOUTH SKILLING STRATEGY**

On youth Day Charity Chelangat, the Oxfam in Uganda Youth Coordinator highlights the need for the prioritization of youth capacity as we continue to plan for Youth.

International Youth Day is here, and we are reminded of the immense potential within youth—a generation teeming with passion, creativity, and desire to make a difference. For young people in Uganda and across the globe, this day is more than just a celebration; it is a call to action, a chance to reflect on the strides made toward youth empowerment, and a reminder of the journey ahead. [Read more about this article here](#)

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### **IMPROVING EDUCATION THROUGH TEACHER LEARNING CIRCLES AT LODONGA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE**

At Lodonga Polytechnic Institute in Yumbe district, an innovative approach is transforming how teachers teach and students learn. Teacher Learning Circles (TLCs) are small, collaborative groups created at learning institutions where teachers meet regularly to reflect on their teaching practices, share experiences, and support each other's growth. The aim is to improve student learning outcomes. [Read more About this story](#)

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### **LOCAL ACTORS SHOWCASE DISASTER RESPONSE ACHIEVEMENTS AT OXFAM LEARNING EVENT IN KASESE**

In July 2024, local humanitarian actors gathered in Kasese District, southwestern Uganda, for a learning journey event organized by Oxfam to share insights and progress in their disaster response efforts. The event, part of Oxfam's ongoing initiative to support the Localization Agenda, highlighted the increasing role of local organizations in leading humanitarian efforts in the region.

Edward Mwebaze, Oxfam's Head of Programs, emphasized that the humanitarian platform supported by Oxfam has empowered 58 local NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) to take charge in responding to disasters like floods and landslides. [Read More about this story](#)

## WEE AND CARE ACTORS GATHER FOR COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE MEETING



In a bid to increase information-sharing and utilization of Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) and Care knowledge products by policy makers and other actors, Oxfam in Uganda and partners recently held a community of practice learning workshop in Kampala.

The meeting convened strategic WEE and Care actors from the private sector, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), academia, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Gender, labour & Social Development, (MGLSD) and partners working on WEE and care work to foster learning and facilitate policy discourse.

Oxfam in Uganda and the Advocates Coalition for Environment and Development (ACODE) are implementing a collaborative 18-month program titled "Strengthening Capacity for Effective Women's Economic Empowerment and Care solutions in Uganda project to support policy processes that enhance WEE and tackle Unpaid Care in Uganda.

The keynote address was given by Dr Angela Nakafeero, the commissioner, (MGLSD) who spoke about the need for partnerships to ensure the success of the Community of Practice.

"It is important that we work together and involve everyone to find ways to lessen the resistance to addressing issues of gender at all levels" she said and mentioned that the government has taken steps to tackle Unpaid care work and care.

"We're working towards developing a national strategy on unpaid care work and hope to have it addressed in policy frameworks that will allow us enhance WEE at all levels" she said.

She urged actors to deeply reflect on the importance of the community of practice and to find ways to drive change and develop innovative options/technologies that will shape change while bringing about transformative change in gender and social norms, values, practices and beliefs.

Among the issues that came up for discussion was the need for male engagement which was emphasised by Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha, the Executive Director, ACODE.

"As male champions, we demonstrate the necessity of a male engagement strategy in this journey."

Susan Achen, the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) Program Coordinator while speaking on a panel discussed the need to involve different stakeholders in achieving Women Economic Empowerment.

"We need to engage cultural and religious leaders on Unpaid Care Work since they have the power to use religious doctrines that support care work and promote equality" she said and called for the application of the caucusing approach to advance human rights.

Through the caucusing approach, WEE and Care actors bring together a collection of elected female councilors at subnational level and have discussions with them to inform them of women's interests and advocacy issues.

### WEE and Care Policy Information Help Desk

During the meeting Oxfam Women's Rights Advisor Jane Ocaya-Irama, also launched the WEE and care information help desk which will serve as a point of contact for policy makers and interested parties who need information on care policy and women's economic empowerment.

"The Information help desk will function as a one stop center to provide information to policy makers and interested parties on available research and policies on unpaid care work." Said Ocaya-Irama

The help desk will have a dedicated trained personnel on hand who will provide WEE and care policy information.

The WEE and Care Information Help Desk can be reached through either calling on the Toll free number **0800 200 551** or sending an email at: [UGA.WEECareHelpDesk@oxfam.org](mailto:UGA.WEECareHelpDesk@oxfam.org)

### The Help Desk will comprise of:

- ✚ A fixed toll-free line through which persons can request for information.
- ✚ A mobility feature to ensure that calls are received even off the desk.
- ✚ A dedicated email address to facilitate written communication.
- ✚ A voicemail option to leave a message.
- ✚ A dedicated trained personnel to manage the information help desk.
- ✚ A database of WEE and Care organisations and published research.

## INTERESTED IN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND CARE INFORMATION?

CONTACT OUR HELP DESK  
Toll Free No. **0800200551**  
Email : [UGA.WEECareHelpDesk@oxfam.org](mailto:UGA.WEECareHelpDesk@oxfam.org)



## OXFAM IN THE NEWS

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- [There is a crucial need to alleviate women from the burden of unpaid care work—Dr. Angela Nakafero](#)
- [Women activists called for an arrangement where men and women share household responsibilities, specifically chores like cooking and washing.](#)
- [EMIRIMU GY'AWAKA: Waliwo abaagala abasajja nabo bayambeko abakyala \(Luganda Version\)](#)
- [Activists want men to help women with household chores](#)
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- [Mbale City struggling to regain its lost glory](#)
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*Compiled by Dorah Ntunga, Sarah Mazirwe and Ivan Aboga Rackara  
Photos – contributed by various programme teams*