

OXFAM IN UGANDA



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As a means of sharing appropriate and scalable urban gardening technologies and practices that can be replicated in their homes, Oxfam in Uganda in July 2024, established a garden at its country office.

To ensure effective management of the garden, on the 6th of February the garden committee team led by Anna Ruyondo the Oxfam in Uganda Seed Rights Coordinator organized its first garden day bringing together staff from the different departments to participate in the operation and maintenance of the office garden.

The garden utilizes a small portion of land of about 20 by 20 feet at the country office by recycling plastic bottles which would otherwise pollute the environment to grow vegetables, herbs and spices.

Some of the vegetables growing in the garden include Sukuma wiki, spinach, okra, spinach and eggplants, fruit trees like tomatoes, Straw berries and Pawpaw and contains spices including lemon grass, basil, coriander, rosemary, Mints, and chamomile among others.

Among key activities carried out during the day was the improvement of existing structures including the vertical wall gardens, containers and tower gardens on which the herbs and spices are planted. The activities were guided by Oxfam partner Jero Farm's Founder Anne Arihomugisha who shared her

experiences with staff on the benefits of agroecology and the increasing need to access safe and clean food.

Jero Farm works to promote agroecological practices in urban settings to showcase utilization of small spaces for maximum agricultural output and has been working with Oxfam in Uganda to build resilient and equitable food systems in the Kampala and Soroti districts.

As a means of improving nutrition, through safe food, Ms. Arihomugisha encouraged staff to set up easy-to-maintain gardens in their homes and put into practice the practices used in the office garden.

During the garden day staff were also involved in planting gardening, planting new vegetables, mulching, weeding, watering and pruning.

The Urban Food Hives (UFH) initiative aims to support regenerative, equitable, and nourishing food systems and in August 2023, Oxfam facilitated an exchange learning visit for its staff to KCCA demonstration sites and JERO Farm in Entebbe where staff were trained on appropriate and scalable urban gardening technologies and practices that staff can replicate in their own homes.

SUSTAINED PARTNERS TRAIN SALES AGENTS IN BIDIBIDI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

In February, Oxfam and its partners implementing the Stronger Access to Innovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (SUSTAINED) project organized a four-day training for sales agents.

The training attracted 18 participants, representative of both refugee and host communities in Bidibidi refugee settlement in, Yumbe who were taken through an interactive training sessions by facilitators from the partner organisations coupled with group discussions, presentations and practical sessions.

The training was meant to increase demand and uptake of off grid and productive use of energy and clean stoves by households and enterprises in the Host and Refugee communities by equipping sales agents with key skills including safeguarding, clean energy use, financial literacy and the Community Accountability Reporting Mechanism (CARM) Policy among others.

The safeguarding component facilitated by Wilson Senyonyi, the Oxfam in Uganda Safeguarding focal person delved into importance of safeguarding in community engagement, particularly concerning *Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)*.

Through group discussions, participants also explored the concept of safe spaces and explored the challenges faced by communities regarding safeguarding, cultural stigma, language barrier, and economic instability with participants highlighting the necessity of *community engagement, empowerment, and advocacy* as solutions.

To address clean energy solutions, the training introduced attendees to sustainable clean energy alternatives, focusing on both technology and the importance of *clean cooking* with Key products including the Ecoca wood stove and cook stoves introduced by facilitators from Pesitho.

Additionally, the training covered aspects of financial literacy where the sales participants were introduced to financial services available through Vision Fund, including various loan options tailored to support agricultural enhancements and local businesses.



The team from Vision Fund conducts a session on Financial Literacy

At the end of the training participants came up with action plans that included the identification of potential customers and awareness creation to attract customers for clean cooking solutions and potential farmers for solar pumps and maize milling machine- services that are to be offered by project partners including D-light. Pesitho and Tulima Solar respectively.

The sales agents were to also be supported to identify and refer customers who require financial support through ECO loans to Vision Fund.

The identification of customers will be supported by the newly trained sales agents with support from refugee leaders, village local council leaders, and project partners to ensure that communities within Bidibidi are able to access clean energy alternatives.

Oxfam in Uganda, Care International Uganda are working under a Mercy Corps led consortium with partners like *I Can South Sudan*, Tulima Solar, Vision Fund, Pesitho and CECI are implementing a one-year project to increase access and utilisation of clean energy for vulnerable refugee and host communities in Yumbe district.

The collaborative effort seeks to enhance energy access in displacement settings in its 24 months of implementation by providing 10,000 households, including refugees and host communities, with reliable and affordable energy sources tailored for electricity, cooking, and income-generation.



For the last 9-months, Oxfam in Uganda and the Communication for Development Foundation Uganda (CDFU) have been implementing the Central Emergency Response Fund - Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) project to strengthen community-based mechanisms for accountability.

To ensure that affected populations are informed, engaged, and empowered to hold humanitarian actors accountable, Oxfam in Uganda and CDFU recently organised a cascading training in 19 sub-counties within the 9 districts of project implementation.

The training targeted local community structures, including district and sub-county leadership to instill essential knowledge and skills related to AAP principles, effective practice implementation, and the establishment of robust community-based mechanisms.

Among the key outcomes from the training was the increased capacity among humanitarian actors, local authorities, and community members to prioritize AAP in their work.

It also improved community engagement and participation in AAP initiatives, ensuring that affected populations are informed, engaged, and empowered.

The cascading AAP Training for communities in Karamoja also enabled implementing partners to strengthen the partnerships among humanitarian actors, local authorities, and community members, ensuring a coordinated and effective AAP approach to enhance accountability among humanitarian actors, ensuring that they are responsive to community needs and concerns.

The trainings were conducted under the Central Emergency Response Fund - AAP project which was funded by UN Women to ensure that humanitarian assistance not only meets the needs of local populations but also aligns with their rights and expectations.

The project was implemented in the Karamoja districts of Abim, Kaabong, Moroto, Karenga, Kotido, Napak, Amudat, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit and sought to strengthen established complaint and feedback mechanisms such as the existing hotlines and regional PSEA network.

Under the programme Oxfam and CDFU also developed a prototype of a Public Community Voices and Accountability Dashboard to visualize feedback collected on community perceptions with the SADD (Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated) approach that is gender, age, and other intersectional data to enhance transparency and inform decision-making.



In 2018, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) launched the National Sexuality Education Framework (NSEF) as a guideline on sexuality education which seeks to create a national direction for response in respect to sexuality education in the education of young people in Uganda.

To seek clarity and guidance on addressing challenges on sexuality education in schools and communities where Oxfam and partners; Femme Forte, Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), CEHURD and Makerere University School of Public Health are implementing the Stand-Up Project, the project team recently hosted a roundtable discussion to identify some of the gaps in the existing Sexuality Education Framework.

In his opening remarks, Edward Mwebaze, the Oxfam in Uganda Head of Programs highlighted the importance of the gathering as a means of finding solutions to address the gaps in the NSEF especially in schools, to improve the impact of the Stand-Up project.

Under the project, Femme Forte implements in schools, targeting adolescent girls and young women aged 10-19 where they raise awareness on SRH services through the peer education model while CEHURD works with adolescent girls and young women, aged 20-29 – who are reached through community outreaches and collaborations with RHU who provide SRH services information at the health centers that they operate from.

Among the challenges identified was the lack of awareness about the NSEF among teachers. Additionally, students often have knowledge that extends beyond what the NSEF covers, highlighting the need for the framework to adapt and expand its scope. CEHURD also highlighted that health facilities are far away, which limits access to SRH services.

Makerere University School of Public Health under this project conducted research to inform project implementation and shared the findings from research on access to SRH services among young people in the Stand-Up project districts

The report emphasized key issues: first, that health workers struggle to communicate effectively with young people, which deters these youths from seeking help; second, the lack of involvement of boys and men in discussions about menstruation, which reduces their potential to provide support; and third, the alarming rise in the number of young people seeking help from herbalists and unqualified health practitioners due to the illegality of abortion.

In response to the findings from the research, participants highlighted the need for all service providers and LC1 leaders to receive training on SRH and how to communicate with young people an also train children on safety tips and the need to involve men in discussions around SRH issues.

Dr. Richard Mugahi, the Commissioner for Infant and Child Health at the Ministry of Health highlighted the importance of involving parents in programming by sharing of SRH information with them. "We haven't done enough to train parents to guide their children with the right information, so we need to focus more on this during project implementation," said Dr Mugahi.

He also called for the improvement of coordination at all levels to involve all key stakeholders including the police, CSOs, district education health officers, and both the Health and Education ministries. Following the meeting, an action plan was drawn to guide project implementation in addressing sexual education gaps in schools.

The Stand-Up project aims to enhance SRHR access for marginalized and vulnerable groups, particularly adolescent girls (ages 10–19) and young women ages 20–29) in Eastern Uganda (Namayingo and Mayuge districts) and West Nile's host communities and settlements (Madi Okollo, Terego, Nebbi, and Arua districts)

THE IMPACT OF IMPROVED SANITATION AND WATER ACCESS AT BUKERE OUTPOST

For years, Bukere Outpost, which serves approximately 1,200 mothers and children who seek health services on a weekly basis, has struggled with temporary and deplorable latrines, as well as a lack of proper water storage.

This has long created challenges for both healthcare providers and mothers not only hindering service delivery but also causing serious hygiene risks to both mothers and staff.

"Mothers who came for vaccinations and nutritional supplements faced many difficulties due to poor facilities and congestion," says Tumuhenze Joshua, the in charge of Bukere Outpost under the Kabarole Research Centre. [Read More on our Website:](#)



The Oxfam Public Health Promotion Team (Left in black t-shirt) lead hands over a 2-stance latrine block @ a reservoir tank at Bukere Outpost (Health Facility)

OXFAM JOINS GOVERNMENT IN EBOLA RESPONSE

Uganda faces a growing public health crisis recently exacerbated by the declaration of an Ebola Outbreak (Sudan) on the 30th of January 2025.

The Ebola Virus Disease (EDV) is a highly contagious haemorrhagic fever which is transmitted through contact with infected bodily fluids and tissues. As of 7th March 2025, cumulatively, 14 cases have been reported, 12 confirmed, 02 probable and 02 fatalities while a total of 08 people have recovered and been discharged.

The districts of Kampala, Wakiso, Mbale, Mbale City, Jinja, Jinja City, Ntoroko, and Fort Portal City are categorised as very high risk.

Oxfam in Uganda while working with Uganda Redcross Society (URCS) with support from the [European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations](#) (ECHO) has developed a 6-months 750,000 Euros response plan that aligns with the Ministry of Health's and will complement government efforts supporting 3 key pillars of WASH/IPC, Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Surveillance.

In focusing on the three pillars, Oxfam seeks to contribute to reduced transmission among the vulnerable populations in the identified high-risk areas through enhanced community engagement, in epidemic preparedness and resilience measures

Over the 6 months of response, Oxfam will:

- Install handwashing facilities in strategic locations like health centres, quarantine stations, and public areas.
- Distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to frontline workers and provide essential sanitation supplies, such as chlorine, soap, and hand sanitizers.
- Enhance community engagement through door-to-door outreach, radio broadcasts, mobile cinema campaigns, and the distribution of educational materials to ensure the public is well-informed about prevention and response measures.
- Work with Local leaders to share accurate information and combat misinformation that undermines adherence to safety protocols.
- Oxfam and its partners will enhance surveillance efforts, provide refresher training for local health volunteers and deploy Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) teams to improve data collection and reporting of suspected cases.
- Additionally, mechanisms for tracking rumors will be established to address misconceptions and myths surrounding Ebola, ensuring that communities have access to verified information.

EBOLA VIRAL DISEASE KEY INFORMATION

Some of the Symptoms of EVD According to the World Health Organization include fever, fatigue, muscle pain, headache, and sore throat, followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, and internal and external bleeding.

Prevention:

Avoid direct contact with infected people or animals, and their bodily fluids. Practice good hygiene and avoid contact with contaminated materials

Reporting:

To report suspected cases send a **FREE SMS** to Ureport on **8500** or call toll free on: **0800 100066**.

For more information refer to the Ministry of Health [Website](#). **STAY SAFE, STAY VIGILANT.**

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