

OXFAM IN UGANDA



JAN-FEB 2026 NEWSLETTER



In January 2026, civil society organizations under the Education Advocacy Coalition, including ISER, Oxfam, World Vision, Education Advocacy Network (EAN), RELI members, and the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), submitted a comprehensive position paper to the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Sports.

The paper responded to the FY2026/27 National Budget Framework Paper (NBFP) and raises critical concerns about the declining investment in Uganda's education sector, particularly the Education, Sports, and Skills Development sub-programme.

It highlights urgent systemic gaps affecting foundational learning, including the lack of publicly funded pre-primary education, which under current law is left entirely to the private sector.

As a result, 60% of children aged 3–5 do not attend school, with the country losing billions through repetition and underage enrolment.

CSOs are calling on the government to amend the Education Act to introduce one year of free public pre-primary education.

Among other key issues raised was the need for the government to increase financing for foundational learning, pre-primary education, Universal Primary and Secondary Education enhancements, school feeding, Special Needs Education, curriculum implementation, university staffing, and technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Civil society organisations also called for strengthened accountability, equitable resource distribution, district-level quotas for student loans, faster policy adoption, and sustained investment to close education gaps nationwide.

The paper also warns of stalled government commitments to increase funding for Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education. Although Cabinet approved a phased enhancement totalling UGX 1.4 trillion, no additional funding has been released.

Find the detailed position paper [here](#)

STANDUP FOR SRHR TEAM PARTICIPATES IN DAKAR LEARNING EVENT



Wilson Senyonyi, the StandUp for SRHR project Lead, speaking at the regional learning event in Dakar

Oxfam in Uganda was represented in Dakar, Senegal at the Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) regional learning event to strengthen advocacy through Research, Collaboration, and Action.

The event, which was organised by the Oxfam in Africa (OIA) Gender Justice team, focused on SRHR because they are fundamental to health and wellbeing, central to sustainable development, and advancing gender equality across Africa and attracted 20 participants, including staff and implementing partners from nine Oxfam country offices.

Oxfam in Uganda was represented by Wilson Senyonyi, the Stand-Up for SRHR project Lead and Brendah Nanteza, the MEAL Officer and was meant to systematise SRHR advocacy and programming experiences across participating countries.

Recognizing the fragmentation within country teams and communities, which hinders sustained and unified advocacy efforts on SRHR, the learning event also aimed to strengthen regional collaboration.

It sought to promote collective advocacy by facilitating structured cross-learning and knowledge exchange among participants from ten African countries, including Uganda.

The workshop used a participatory, learner-centred approach that encouraged active engagement with facilitators introducing key concepts through brief, visual presentations, followed by small-group discussions that applied the content to real-life scenarios.

Groups shared their outputs in plenary for collective feedback and clarification, with exercises that emphasised interaction, inclusion, and practical application to ensure learning was relevant to participants' daily work and community contexts.

From the event, participants produced a comprehensive systematisation document that outlines the capacity of country teams to apply evidence-based learning to future SRHR programming and advocacy, strengthening these efforts.

It also enhanced regional coherence through a validated advocacy framework that supports coordinated policy engagement and participants were able to validate a regional advocacy framework informing coordinated policy engagement at national and regional levels.

Recommendations highlighted the need for flexible and long-term SRHR financing, stronger engagement with finance ministries, and consistent budget tracking to ensure commitments translate into action.

Participants also called for integration of SRHR across standalone, mainstreamed, humanitarian, and development programs, supported by multi-country funding and a common advocacy language



Oxfam in Senegal leadership, OIA Gender justice advisor and representative of Ministry of Senegal opening the SRHR learning event in Senegal.

UGANDA'S METEOROLOGY BODY AND OXFAM DELIVER CAPACITY BUILDING IN KARAMOJA REGION



Between 15th and 21st February, the Department of Meteorological Services (DMS), with support from Oxfam, conducted capacity building training for district officers, Oxfam and Caritas staff, and farmer group representatives from the Karamoja sub-region.

The week-long training brought together participants from the three districts of Amudat, Nakapiripirit, and Moroto to them understand weather and climate information better, to support farmers to make informed decisions.

DMS produces seasonal climate forecasts for the country, including the key rainfall seasons of March-April- May (MAM), June-July-August (JJA), and September-October-November-December (SOND).

These forecasts are vital because most rural communities in Uganda depend on rain-fed agriculture, and the weather information helps them

prepare well, reduce risk, and improve their harvests.

Even though the information is available, many technical officers and extension workers struggle to interpret the forecasts and explain them clearly to farmers, which prompted DMS and Oxfam to organize the training.

The workshop was attended by district officials from production, veterinary and agricultural departments, civil society partners, and extension workers who interact directly with farmers.

It covered key topics such as basic meteorology, forecasting terms, understanding weather patterns, climate change, and how weather affects different sectors like agriculture.

Participants also learned about seed management and took part in group work sessions aimed at identifying ways to improve the use of weather and climate information at the community level.

From the training, participants were able to understand the importance of the timely dissemination of weather forecasts, especially before critical farming decisions are made. They also noted the need to blend indigenous knowledge with scientific forecasts, to help communities trust and use the information more effectively.

Participants across Amudat, Nakapiripirit, and Moroto called for more weather stations, earlier and consistent information sharing, continued meteorology training, strengthened capacity to use equipment, and enhanced sensitization through multiple media, and activation of early warning systems, including community-level radio communication, to better support farmers and local preparedness.

OXFAM AND SEATINI TRAIN TAX JUSTICE ALLIANCE MEMBERS



With funding from the Norwegian government, Oxfam in Uganda implemented the Fair Recovery Project to understand how revenue generated from Uganda's mineral resources is utilised, and whether the benefits are reaching everyone equitably or whether significant gaps exist. The project focused on mineral-rich districts in Uganda, namely: Buliisa, in relation to oil and gas, and Tororo, in relation to cement and limestone.

In February, Oxfam, in partnership with SEATINI Uganda and the Uganda Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (UGEITI) Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), facilitated a capacity-building exercise to understand and assess the revenue potential of Uganda's mining sector.

The workshop brought together 36 selected participants with representation from the Tax Justice Alliance Uganda, the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO), Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), the Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines (DGSM) and other relevant civil society stakeholders.

According to Sophie Nampeewo Njuba, Oxfam's Financing for Development Coordinator, the workshop provided a capacity-building platform for civil society organizations to understand Uganda's mineral sector governance architecture, the tax and non-tax revenue frameworks that govern it, and the principal causes of revenue leakage.

The exercise was also designed to enable participants to analyse the existing legal and regulatory frameworks and practices that hinder effective revenue

collection, as well as to track revenues collected and lost (tax and non-tax) from minerals and related activities over the past five years, from 2020/21 to 2024/25.

Zachary Baguma, a consultant and former Director of the Department of Geological Survey and Mines (DGSM), provided an overview of Uganda's mineral deposits, legal frameworks, licensing processes, and institutional mandates from DGSM.

Although discussions about Uganda's mineral wealth often centre on oil and gas, Baguma emphasised that the country's broader mineral potential, including rare earth elements in Makuutu, iron ore, gold, phosphates, and various industrial minerals, exceeds common appreciation.

Yet according to Baguma, despite this extensive resource base, the mining sector currently contributes only 0.1% to Uganda's GDP.

The training unpacked the key challenges like: self-declaration of mineral volumes without independent verification, widespread smuggling through porous borders, discrepancies between DGSM and Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) data, licensing irregularities, and persistent informality, within the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) segment that often undermines revenue collection

Insights from the Ministry of Finance and URA offered an inside look into tax policy, compliance requirements, and administrative constraints. While Uganda’s fiscal regime is not overly concessionary, enforcement and regulation remain the biggest bottlenecks. Without adequate monitoring capacity, even the best-designed tax policies fail to translate into actual revenue.

CSOs highlighted the struggles faced by artisanal miners, including the high cost of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), complex licensing requirements, and limited knowledge of tax obligations, to exploitative dynamics between miners and middlemen.

KAREP ROLLS OUT GALS CASCADE TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE IN KOTIDO



In February, Oxfam and Warrior Squad Foundation (WSF) conducted a Gender Action Learning System (GALS) Methodology cascading training in the Karamoja sub-region.

GALS is a participatory, community-led methodology that uses visual tools to help women and men envision their futures, strengthen decision-making, and challenge gender inequalities.

Introduced in Uganda in 2007, the approach is used to improve livelihoods, strengthen household collaboration, reduce gender-based violence, and shift harmful social norms.

The training targeted 10 community groups across Napumpum and Kapeta Sub-Counties in Kotido District and was cascaded for over five weeks under the stewardship of Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) to build climate-resilient and gender-equitable households among agro-pastoral communities.

It was conducted under the 3-year Karamoja Agro-Pastoral Resilience and Empowerment Project (KAREP), implemented by Oxfam and WSF to promote Climate Smart Agriculture, Women Economic Empowerment (CSA-WEE) and sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers, especially women.

The February rollout involved 20 TOTs, supported by Community Development Officers (CDOs), training their group members through a structured four-week program in which a new GALS tool was introduced each week.

The sessions progressively covered the Challenge Action Tree, Gender Balance Tree, Empowerment Map, and Achievement Road Journey.

Under KAREP, GALS is being applied to equip families with practical skills for planning, problem-solving, and working together to build resilience in the face of climate change.

This year’s cascade training followed Phase 1, during which Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) were taught tools such as the Vision Road Journey and began using them in their own households.

To ensure the effectiveness of the training, implementing teams will continue supporting TOTs through monitoring visits, spot checks, and coaching to ensure that GALS remains embedded within households and groups.

SALES AGENTS TRAINED IN YUMBE



Siragi Magara Luyima, the SUSTAINED project lead, conducts training on budget analysis

The SUSTAINED II project team recently trained 29 sales agents from both the refugee and host communities in Yumbe district on their roles and responsibilities in driving market access, increasing demand creation and creating product awareness in their communities.

Under the Supporting Stronger Access to Innovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (SUSTAINED) II project, Oxfam, Mercy Corps, CARE, CECI, AYAN, and ICAN South Sudan – together with 10 private sector actors (PSAs), UNEP CCC and the SOLCO partnership are working to increase access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy for refugees and surrounding host communities in Uganda.

This 12-month intervention strengthens the foundational work led in Bidibidi and expands it to Rhino Camp using a Market Systems Development (MSD) and ecosystem approach, and integrated interventions across three pillars, including demand activation, where sales agents are integral.

They play a vital role in shifting behaviours through tailored community engagement and awareness campaigns, as well as promoting climate-smart agriculture practices linked to solar water pumps.

They also support the implementation of a new hybrid compensation model designed to gradually transition sales agents into private sector-led operations.

These agents are better positioned to deliver effective, localized awareness campaigns that increase community knowledge and adopt innovative energy products, including solar water pumps, home systems, and efficient cookstoves.

Their training focused on citizen participation, budgeting and planning, community engagement, budget advocacy and lobbying, clean energy products (such as clean cookstoves, solar refrigeration, and solar water pumps), safeguarding, and feedback and accountability mechanisms within both refugee settlements and host communities.

From the training, the agents were able to improve their knowledge and skills in budget advocacy, clean energy products, and the use of feedback mechanisms set up in their various communities.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CRITICAL MINERALS VALUE CHAIN



Lessons Learned from EITI-ICGLR regional forum in Zambia.
By Siragi Magara Luyima,

The rapid global shift towards renewable energy and green technologies has significantly increased the demand for critical minerals such as cobalt, lithium, nickel, and rare earth elements. These minerals are essential for manufacturing electric vehicles, solar panels, and batteries—technologies central to achieving climate goals.

For resource-rich African countries like Uganda, this demand presents enormous economic potential. However, the benefits of this global transition will only be fully realized if transparency and accountability are entrenched at every level of the critical minerals value chain—community, national, and international.

Recognising this, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), in collaboration with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the European Union, convened a regional forum titled “Transparency in Action: Unlocking Investment in Strategic Minerals for Shared Prosperity in Africa.” [Read More on our Website](#)

ENERGISING REFUGEE ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY: ACTIVATING DEMAND FOR PRODUCTIVE USE OF ENERGY IN UGANDA'S SETTLEMENTS



By Siragi Magara Luyima,

Introduction

Productive Use of Energy (PUE) refers to the application of energy—especially clean and renewable energy—to power income-generating and livelihood-enhancing activities.

It goes beyond basic household use such as lighting or cooking to include activities like solar-powered irrigation, milling, refrigeration, welding, phone charging, and other small enterprises that create economic value.

By enabling such productive applications, PUE enhances livelihoods, promotes entrepreneurship, supports food security, and strengthens resilience, particularly in refugee and host community settings where access to reliable energy can drive self-reliance and sustainable development.

As the global drive toward renewable energy accelerates, Uganda's refugee settlements are emerging as testing grounds for inclusive and sustainable energy solutions.

Hosting over 1.9 million refugees, nearly half in the West Nile region—these communities face a dual challenge: limited access to reliable

Yet, within this challenge lies transformative potential. Through the Supporting Stronger Access to Innovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (SUSTAINED) Project, funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN), Implemented by Mercy Corps, Oxfam, and CARE, a market-systems approach is demonstrating how PUE can power resilience, self-reliance, and economic growth among refugees and host communities.

From solar irrigation and flour milling to clean cooking and phone charging enterprises, renewable technologies are becoming tools of empowerment.

Demand Activation: Turning Awareness into Adoption

Driving demand for renewable technologies in displacement settings requires more than awareness—it requires activation. The SUSTAINED project learned that behaviour change happens when information, trust, and access intersect.

Community-driven outreach using drama, radio, and live demonstrations proved most effective in shifting perceptions. Aligning campaigns with cultural and community events—such as World Refugee Day, Women's Day, and local market fairs—ensured visibility and participation.

These events provided not just exposure, but real opportunities for interaction between suppliers, agents, and potential users. One such activation in Yumbe District saw over 170 participants express interest in solar technologies, leading to 42 solar water pump installations and 12 clean cookstoves within months.

This coordinated sequencing of awareness, agent training, and supplier engagement highlighted how planning can turn curiosity into adoption.

“Energy access is a foundational enabler of protection, livelihoods, and resilience. Integrating PUE into humanitarian programming enhances sustainability.” – Consortium Learning Insight, SUSTAINED Project

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