

OXFAM IN UGANDA



JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Oxfam and partner staff engaging with coffee farmers at Gonyobendo Micro-station (Erussi Sub-county, Nebbi district) showcasing the processes involved in coffee production value chain during the Power of Voices project Joint Monitoring visit

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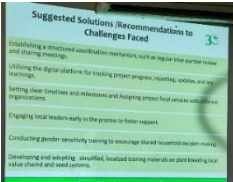
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OXFAM IN THE NEWS

COVER PHOTO: Rose Juan Nyoma, a member of Women Led Fora, Zone3 Bidibidi in West Nile, under DANIDA SP II Project in Oxfam's peace building work:Hannington Muhumuza/Oxfam

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: THE LAUNCH OF THE SUSTAINED PROJECT



On January 23, 2025, Oxfam joined other key stakeholders for the grand launch of the SUSTAINED (*Supporting Stronger Access to Innovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings*) project.

This initiative, in collaboration with Mercy Corps Uganda and CARE International in Uganda, is set to transform the energy landscape for the communities in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement, West Nile – one of the largest refugee settlements in Uganda.

The SUSTAINED Project aims to increase access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy products and services, reduce the 20,000 tonnes of carbon emissions by promoting sustainable energy solutions, reach 5,000 households and impact over 30,000 people with sustainable energy solutions. The project also aims to support smallholder farmers to promote climate resilience and sustainable agricultural practices.

According to the Uganda National Household Survey, 80% of households have limited or no access to electricity. In refugee settlements, this number is even higher, with 95% of households relying on unsafe, polluting, and inefficient energy sources for their basic needs.

The SUSTAINED Project seeks to address this critical gap by providing innovative energy solutions that are both sustainable and scalable.

The launch event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including implementing partners, government representatives, financial institutions, energy companies, and refugee-led organisations.

Oxfam in Uganda's Country Director, Francis Shanty Odokorach highlighted the project's key strategies such as leveraging partnerships with energy service companies, government ministries, and financial institutions to maximize the impact of our efforts, and promoting sustainable energy use to ensure that displacement settings benefit from these solutions, improving the quality of life for thousands of people.

The SUSTAINED Project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This partnership combines global expertise with local knowledge, enabling us to scale impactful, evidence-based solutions that can be replicated in other displacement settings.



Francis Shanty Odokorach, the Oxfam in Uganda Country Director speaking at the launch of Supporting Stronger Access to Innovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (SUSTAINED) Project in Kampala.

UPDATES FROM THE WEBSITE

TAKERS NOT MAKERS

The unjust poverty and
unearned wealth of colonialism

TAKERS NOT MAKERS OXFAM REPORT

In January, Oxfam has released its latest Inequality report dubbed “Takers Not Makers” as business elites gathered in the Swiss resort town of Davos for the annual World Economic Forum. The report established that the ‘Billionaire’s wealth grew by \$2 trillion in 2024 alone, equivalent to roughly \$5.7 billion a day, at a rate three times faster than the year before. An average of nearly four new billionaires were minted every week. The report also shines a light on how, contrary to popular perception, billionaire wealth is largely unearned —60% of billionaire wealth now comes from inheritance, monopoly power or crony connections. [More in the report](#)



IMPROVING HYGIENE AND EDUCATION AT MANAFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Manafa Primary School was selected by Oxfam and the district stakeholders to receive facilities aimed at improving sanitation and water access. The intervention included the construction of two new blocks of latrines and the installation of a rainwater harvesting tank. The construction of the two new latrine blocks has thus increased the total number of functional stances from two to 12. The latrine blocks include five stances for girls and five stances for boys, hence improving the pupil-to-stance ratio from 701:1 to 116:1. [Read more:](#)



MEET AJAMBO CATHERINE, A STUDENT LEADER LEADING CHANGE AT BUKANA SS

As the Head Girl and an active member of the Health Club at Bukana Secondary School, Catherine Ajambo is at the forefront of empowering her fellow students, especially young girls, with information on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) services. “When the health club was introduced, we were given booklets about SRHR, which we use to teach other students. They have important topics like abstinence, menstruation, early marriages, and the effects of drug abuse,” [Catherine explains.](#)



MALE CHAMPIONS FOR COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gone are the days when traditional gender roles dictated how men and women interacted in the home. Women in Bidibidi refugee settlement now have a voice and can easily express themselves due to the supportive structures that have been put in place. As Sukran David Micheal, a Male Champion in Bidibidi Zone 3, explains, this change has been significant. He reflects on a time not long ago when domestic life was marred by gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful stereotypes. [Read more](#)



DANIDA SP II: LIVELIHOODS, SKILLS, VOICE FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN WEST NILE

Since 2022, YSAT Uganda, an Oxfam partner, has been implementing the Humanitarian Development and Peace Initiative (HDPI)—a four-year Triple Nexus Program supporting refugee response in West Nile. Under this initiative, YSAT Uganda focuses on livelihood development, working closely with refugees and host communities. The organization trains farmers in climate-smart agriculture and other agronomic practices while also promoting peacebuilding efforts. The project is funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, through Oxfam Denmark in partnership with Oxfam in Uganda. [Watch their story](#)



HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED AT LOLWE ISLAND HEALTH FACILITY IN NAMAYINGO DISTRICT

For the past 23 years, Stephen Bogere has been in charge of Lolwe Health Centre (H/C3) III on Lolwe Island in Namayingo District. Lolwe H/C3 offers health services such as general medical services, family planning, antenatal care, immunization, and laboratory testing. Thanks to recent initiatives that have significantly improved the quality of services, particularly in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Under the Stand-Up Project, Reproductive Health Uganda works with health workers in the project implementing locations to complement their health care service delivery skills. [Read the story](#)

A CROSS LEARNING JOURNEY BETWEEN WESTERN UGANDA HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM AND KARAMOJA ALLIANCE HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM



Oxfam in Uganda recently organised a cross learning journey between Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform (WUHP) and the Karamoja Alliance Humanitarian Platform (KAHP) in Fort Portal City.

The learning journey focused on bringing together local/national humanitarian actors under the KAHP and WUHP for the learning exchange and sharing of good practices in order to strengthen their capacity on local leadership, influencing and advocacy and increasing their participation, representation and leadership of local actors in decision making platforms at district and regional levels.

In Southwestern Uganda, Oxfam works with local actors and refugee-led organisations under the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform, hosted by World Voices Uganda to support disaster responses while its counterpart, KAHP responds to disasters like prolonged droughts, insecurity, hunger and flash floods among others with support from Oxfam.

Participants reflected on their experiences with different platforms in local humanitarian leadership, shared guidelines, opportunities, innovations, best practices, key lessons on localization, and discussed the challenges in managing local humanitarian leadership.

These insights will guide the next steps for further engagements in strengthening local humanitarian leadership and rapid disaster response management.

Mr. Mustafa Kikusa, the chair of Kasese District Disaster Management Committee, emphasized the district's focus on disaster preparedness, enabling communities to develop sustainable coping mechanisms.

According to Gard Benda, the Country Director of World Voices Uganda the participants resolved that there is need to invest more in prevention, mitigation and recovery but also support local communities with more sustainable interventions as opposed to handouts.

Although the platforms are building blocks in responding to emergencies and disasters in their communities, Gard says they are without challenges.

He noted that 'lack of space for participation in decision making processes, lack of locally based learning models for local humanitarian actors, gaps in policy, legal and institutional frameworks have all led to limited Local Humanitarian Leadership opportunities in delivering effective Humanitarian responses to disasters'.

In Karamoja, Oxfam in Uganda and partners are implementing [RISE-K Project](#) with focus in the three districts of Moroto, Amudat and Nakapiripirit.

Oxfam has empowered over 58 local NGOs and community-based organizations to lead in emergency and disaster response which aligns with the Grand Bargain agreement, which commits global humanitarian aid to support local and national actors to increase their role in leading humanitarian efforts in their region.

THE STATE OF DIGITAL RIGHTS; OXFAM PARTICIPATES IN ONLINE DISCUSSION ON CIVIC SPACE AS 2026 ELECTIONS DRAW CLOSER

WEDNESDAY 22nd JAN. 2025 5PM-7PM

XSPACE
LIVE CONVERSATION

TOPIC:
Context of Digital rights as Uganda prepares for Elections

MODERATOR:
CANARY MUGUME
@CanaryMugume
#RECIPEProject
#DigitalRightsUG

PANELISTS:

- HOOD LUBOWA
Civic Engagement & Digital Rights Lead - Oxfam Uganda
- CHRISTOPHER OKIDI
CEO - Kampala Analytica @ChrisOkidi
- AIDAH BUKUBUZA
Digital transformation and rights Advocate AYDIA Gender and Technology initiative @aidabuk
- JUDITH ATIM
Head of Program Centre for Constitutional Governance (CCG) @judatim

Co-funded by the European Union | OXFAM | RECIPE | CCG

As Uganda approaches its upcoming general elections, Oxfam and the Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG) hosted an X Spaces to discuss the context of digital rights in this face of the forthcoming election season.

Featuring different speakers, including youth from different civil society organisations in digital spaces and data analytics, the panelists highlighted the need for citizen engagement for thriving and citizen engagement in political processes.

This is part of “Recentering the Civic Internet through Partner Engagement (ReCIPE)” initiatives that Oxfam is implementing with CCG – funded by European Union, aimed at creating a value-based digital ecosystem that is safe for both civil society and rights defenders.

As a panelist, Hood Lubowa, Digital Rights and Civic Engagement Lead at Oxfam in Uganda and Lead of the ReCIPE project, highlighted digital literacy and access as crucial drivers of election participation.

He also reaffirmed Oxfam’s commitment in promoting inclusion through digital literacy and meaningful access under various programs & projects, including the ReCIPE Project to enable everyone consume digital platforms.

Lubowa highlighted the widespread digital illiteracy that hinders many citizens from fully engaging with digital technologies which spans both the lack of awareness about the frameworks governing digital and internet use.

Lubowa also highlighted that many citizens, particularly during an election period, are vulnerable to misinformation and disinformation while trying to exercise their democratic rights.

Regarding access, challenges include limited internet penetration and the barriers faced by many, especially women, in accessing essential devices like smartphones or computers. These issues create a context where Ugandans are particularly exposed to digital vulnerabilities.

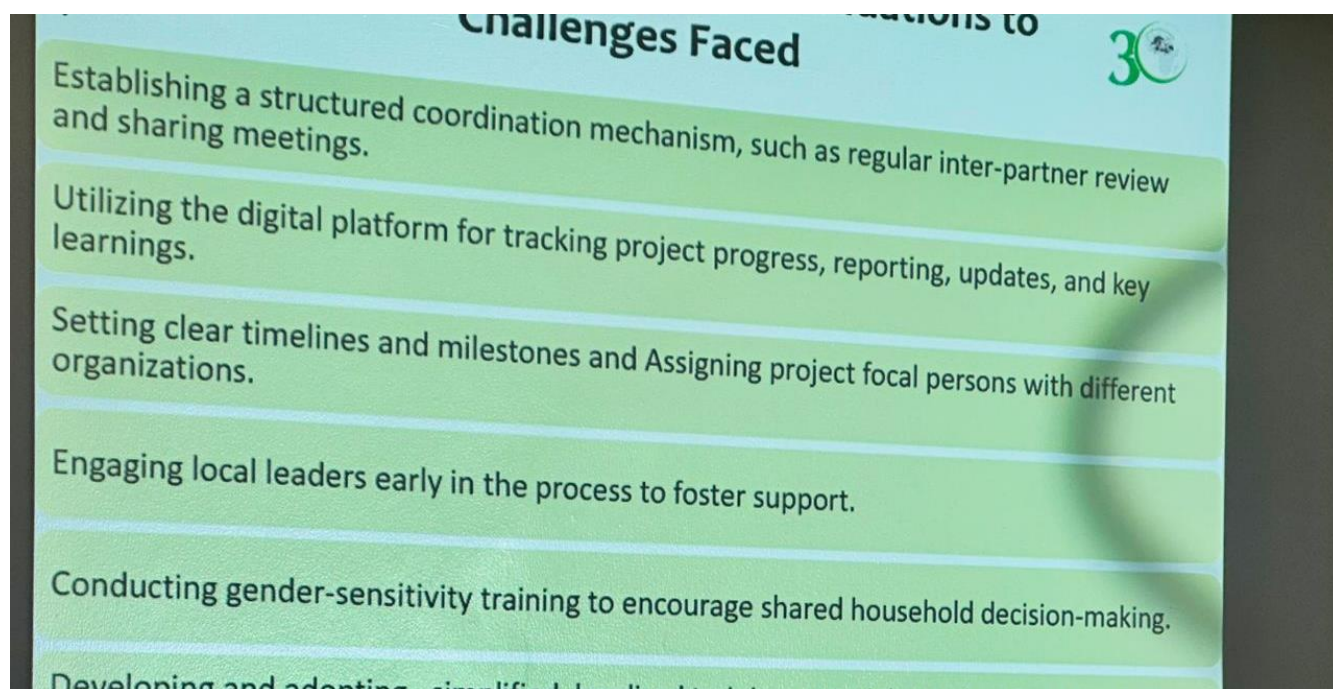
He called upon stakeholders especially the government, the tech companies to come together and close the digital access gaps, such as limited access and affordability of internet, data and access devices.

The ReCIPE project focuses on providing digital skills training and advocating for policies that promote digital rights. By working with stakeholders including the government, tech companies, and telecommunication firms, the project pushes for healthy, citizen-centered policies and practices at all levels. [Read more about ReCIPE project](#)



Hood Lubowa, the Digital Rights and Civic Engagement Lead at Oxfam in Uganda

Watch the X Spaces recording: [The context of digital rights in Uganda ahead of 2026 elections](#)



In January, PELUM Uganda, the lead implementer of the Rooted in Diversity project convened other implementing partners; Oxfam, ESAFF Uganda, Church of Uganda- TEDDO, and EADEN for the annual meeting in Kampala.

The partners met to review the successes from the first year of project implementation, assess challenges, and collaboratively plan for Year II to ensure the project's objectives are achieved. On this project, Oxfam in Uganda is implementing outcome four on the project which looks at a collaborative environment for policy change.

The project will build and enhance functional networks of exchange and opportunities for joint learning among a wide range of actors like farmers, CSOs, and researchers. These networks will bring together diverse cultural backgrounds, context and knowledge on seed and food system issues, to improve food and nutrition security.

The project is intended to enhance local knowledge, skills, and capacities of small-scale food producers to improve food production and consumption in highly variable and poorly predictable agroecologist. RiD is implemented in Uganda, Niger, and Malawi.



The participants discussing during the annual planning meeting. (Right) Anna Ruyondo, the Seeds Rights Coordinator at Oxfam in Uganda sharing On Oxfam's implementing outcome four which looks at a collaborative environment for policy change

OXFAM IN THE NEWS

- [Oxfam urges bold reforms to boost women leadership in agriculture at the CAADP Summit in Kampala](#)
- [CAADP: Oxfam Calls on African Leaders to Push for Inclusive Agricultural Policies](#)
- [The Davos Disconnect](#)
- [New Oligarchy under fire as elites descend to Davos](#)
- [Patients detained, denied care at hospitals funded by World Bank](#)
- [Low uptake of workman's compensation insurance exposes Ugandan employees](#)
- [Why are poor poorer, and the rich richer?](#)
- [Why are poor poorer, and the rich richer?](#)
- [Billionaire Wealth Surges by 2 Trillion](#)







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Photos – contributed by various programme teams*