

# OXFAM IN UGANDA



## JULY NEWSLETTER



## OXFAM HOLDS ITS ANNUAL 3-DAY PARTNERSHIPS FORUM AND PROGRAMME REVIEW



Partnerships are central to Oxfam's strategy, enabling us to achieve sustainable, transformative impact in the communities we work in.

To strengthen our relationships with our partners, Oxfam in July organised its annual bi-annual Partnerships Forum and Programme Review in Kampala.

The 3-day meeting brought together partners from all four of our thematic programmes to reflect, collaborate, and streamline our partnerships for greater impact.

Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda's Country Director, in his opening remarks, said "This space and face-to-face meeting helps Oxfam and partners to engage openly, meaningfully and constructively, and check the health of the partnership which is very important,"



**Francis Odokorach speaking to staff and partners at the meeting**

Kubwimana Audace, the Director Programme and Influencing, Oxfam in Africa, said, 'Oxfam is a global movement that is locally rooted because of your partnerships. The nature of Oxfam depends largely on our partners, and partnerships make sense when they are likeminded actors, who are keen on bringing equal and just societies.'

The team held a reflective discussion about our programming, evaluating what has been successful, closely examining the emerging issues from the partnership forum, identifying what is currently effective and what isn't, and determining areas that need improvement to enhance the overall quality and impact of our work.



**Dorcas Wambi Mulelengi - Business Support Manager at Oxfam addressing staff during the programme review**

This included presentations and highlights from the thematic (Gender Justice & Women's Rights, Resilient Livelihoods, Governance and Accountability and Humanitarian Response) achievements and roadmap reviews, safeguarding and safe programming updates, media and Communications updates, Finance, Logistics and Human resources.



**Edward Mwebaze, the Head of Programs speaking at the meeting**



## MORE UPDATES

### AFRICA'S INEQUALITY CRISIS AND THE RISE OF THE SUPER-RICH

The new report, launched in July by Oxfam in Africa, ahead of the African Union Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, warns that the explosive concentration of wealth is accelerating inequality, driven by policies that enrich elites while starving public services.

- In 2000, Africa had no billionaires. Today, it has 23 whose combined wealth has soared by 56% in just the past five years, reaching a staggering \$112.6 billion.
- Africa's richest 5% hold nearly \$4 trillion in wealth – more than double the combined wealth of the rest of the continent.

#### In Uganda,

- The richest 5% Ugandans hold more wealth than the rest 95% (51.2% vs 48.8%)
- For every 100 Ugandan shillings created between 2019 and 2023, 51 shillings went to the richest 5%. [Learn more](#)



**FACT**

Africa's richest 5% hold nearly \$4 trillion in wealth – more than double the combined wealth of the rest of the continent.



### RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL LEADERS CHAMPIONING PEACE & UNITY IN REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN WEST NILE

Oxfam in Uganda, with DANIDA funding through Oxfam Denmark, is implementing a 2022–2025 Strategic Partnership Program with local partners, including refugee-led organisations.

One key initiative, the Alliance of Cultural and Religious Leaders, promotes peaceful co-existence and conflict resolution in refugee-hosting areas, acting as an early warning system to address tensions before they escalate. Operating in Rhino Camp, Imvepi, and Bidibidi settlements, the alliance unites leaders from both refugee and host communities, aiming to reach 42,645 people, with 60% being women and girls of reproductive age. [Watch how Religious and Cultural leaders are leading this change](#)

### OXFAM WE-CARE HOLDS ANNUAL LEARNING EVENT IN HARARE



The WE-CARE annual learning event was held in Harare, Zimbabwe in July. WE CARE has been active since its launch in 2013 with the aim of addressing unpaid care and domestic work to promote gender equality and economic development. The initiative aims to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW) to create lasting change for women and girls. "We value care work and acknowledge its importance in sustaining communities and economies. Our aim is to decrease difficult or inefficient tasks, such as collecting water or doing laundry, through advocating for improved infrastructure and services," explained Jeffrey Maganya, Oxfam in Africa Head of Programs.

Oxfam's WE-Care initiative aims to address the heavy and unequal responsibilities of care and domestic work, promoting gender equality and economic development. [Read about WE-CARE programme](#)

## ENGAGING TAX ADMINISTRATORS AND BUSINESS OWNERS IN BULLISA DISTRICT

### SEATINI ENGAGES BULLISA TAX ADMINISTRATORS

SEATINI and Kakindo Integrated Women Development Agency (KAWIDA) with support from Oxfam in Uganda held a training for retooling and mentoring tax administrators in Bullisa district on local revenue mobilisation, allocation, and accountability.

In his remarks, Businge Godfrey, Town Clerk, Biiso Town Council, noted that ever since the project was implemented, the district has realised an improvement tax revenue.

“We’ve seen an improvement in pay and local revenue mobilisation since we started. This improvement has also positively impacted service delivery,” Businge noted.

Balemesa Rogers, the Town Clerk of Buliisa Town Council said that “in the recent financial year, the district targeted UGX 900 million and managed to collect over UGX 800 million (93%).

Businge noted that revenue collection always guides service delivery and welcomes every initiative aimed at improving revenue collection.

“If you are mandated to deliver services, just recognise that you cannot deliver your services without revenue. Let’s be mindful of where we allocate revenues. Are we putting them where people feel the impact? That’s how we motivate them to keep paying,” Businge said.

This was echoed by Henry Ssemenda, a Tax Analyst, who said: “If local governments want citizens and professionals to comply with taxes, they must clearly show how collected revenues benefit the community.”

He stated that local governments should not impose revenue measures such as licences or taxes unless permitted by national law or subsidiary legislation.

Courts use judicial review to prevent illegal or irrational administrative actions, including unlawful taxes or fees by local authorities.

The sub-counties and town councils were guided to always finalize and approve their budgets before national deadlines to ensure inclusion in the national Programme-Based Budgeting System (PBS).

### ENGAGING PROPERTY OWNERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS

SEATINI and KAWIDA also engaged property, hotel, and business owners on local revenue mobilisation, allocation, and accountability for strengthening inclusive dialogue for better local service delivery.

Property tax is imposed on owners, occupants, or possessors of land and buildings. Districts and urban councils are mandated to identify and rate these properties accordingly.

Henry Ssemenda, a Tax Analyst noted that local governments are empowered by Section 83(1) of the Local Government Act (CAP 138) to levy property tax within their jurisdiction, as guided by the Local Government (Rating) Act.

Taxes from properties, hotels and businesses contribute to enhancing service delivery by local governments and reducing overdependence on central government transfers.

It was acknowledged that local hotel tax helps fund municipal services that benefit tourism infrastructure, such as waste collection, security, roads, and roads, indirectly boosting the hospitality sector’s growth and local economic development.

Every local government is required to maintain a comprehensive list of internal revenue sources, including local hotel tax, and track the total potential collectable revenues (Sec. 83(2).

Hotel tax, like property tax, is guided by taxation principles such as fairness and ability to pay, ensuring that those who benefit from local infrastructure and tourism pay their share.

The training brought together property, hotel, and business owners to strengthen their capacity on local revenue mobilisation, allocation, and accountability.

*“If you are mandated to deliver services, just recognise that you cannot deliver your services without revenue. Let’s be mindful of where we allocate revenues—are we putting them to where people feel the impact? That’s how we motivate them to keep paying,” Businge Godfrey, Town Clerk, Biiso Town Council*

**Local hotel tax helps fund municipal services that benefit tourism infrastructure such as waste collection, security, roads, indirectly boosting the hospitality sector’s growth and local economic development**



## EMPOWERING ADVOCATES IN THE DIGITAL AGE THROUGH TRAINING ON DIGITAL RIGHTS AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES UNDER THE RECIPE PROJECT



In a bid to strengthen the capacity of staff and partners and equip them with skills and knowledge on digital rights, emerging tech, and their impact on human rights, democracy, and governance, Oxfam's partner Centre for Constitutional Governance recently organized training on digital rights and emerging technologies. The training was facilitated by Dr. Tolit Charles Atiya, a digital rights and security expert, and Sandra Kwikiriza, a Digital Rights Consultant, with support from Oxfam, under funding from the European Union. It brought together Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Activists and Human Rights Defenders, Communities and Civil Society Representatives/Members Tech Companies, Government Authorities and Media Professionals. Read about the [ReCIPE Project](#)

## KEEP YOUR LAND, KEEP YOUR SEED CAMPAIGN- CONSORTIUM MEMBERS HOLD JOINT ORIENTATION



Oxfam, with funding from NORAD under the "Rooted in Diversity; Partnerships for Food Security and Livelihoods" project joined partners, including Landnet Uganda, Food Rights Alliance, SEATINI Uganda, UCOBAC, PELUM Uganda, UAA and COPACSO to launch the "Keep Your Land, Keep Your Seed" campaign in Soroti District. Day one featured a learning visit to the Adamasiko Cooperative Group Seed Bank and a tour of a local Farmer Field School, where members gained firsthand insights into indigenous seed preservation and agroecological farming practices. On day two, an orientation meeting was held between partners and farmer representatives. Discussions focused on challenges affecting land ownership and seed sovereignty. This meeting laid the groundwork for developing an issues paper to guide future advocacy and engagement efforts. Some of the recommendations include advocating for policy reforms that legitimize customary ownership and protect vulnerable groups from displacement, providing resources for seed saving, documentation, training, and value addition to indigenous varieties and creating a digital and physical directory to link seed banks, track varieties, and coordinate conservation efforts.



## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH CLEAN ENERGY: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KERWA MARKET COMMUNITY FAIR

Oxfam, in partnership with Mercy Corps and CARE International, hosted a clean energy market fair in Kerwa Market in Gawaya, Kerwa, in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement as part of the Supporting Stronger Access to Innovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (SUSTAINED) project.

The event was designed to increase awareness, interest, and access to clean energy solutions. This was through interactive exhibitions, credit financing education, and community engagement. The Kerwa Market Fair was one of several activities aimed at bridging the gap between clean energy providers and communities in need.



*Community members interacting with ECOCA at Kerwa market*

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARKET FAIR

- 309 individuals were sensitized about clean energy technologies, how to access them, and the available credit financing models.
- 60 individuals expressed interest in solar water pumps. Currently, five males are being followed up for water source assessment to determine the feasibility of installation.
- 34 individuals and four saving groups showed interest in acquiring energy products through Vision Fund's credit financing models. Among them, 4 people expressed immediate need for water pumps—loan requests were submitted and are under review, while follow-up continues with the remaining applicants.
- 105 individuals visited the ECOCA stall, with six people expressing interest and referred to Vision Fund for credit facilitation.

### ABOUT THE SUSTAINED PROJECT

[The SUSTAINED project](#) is a collaborative initiative by Oxfam, Mercy Corps, and CARE, implemented in partnership with I Can South Sudan, CECL, Vision Fund, Tulima Solar, D.light, and Pesitho/ECOCA.

It aims to increase access to quality, reliable, affordable, and clean energy solutions for electricity, cooking, and income-generating activities among 10,000 households in refugee and host communities over a 12-month period.



*The community members interacting with Tulima Solar team at the exhibition*



## JOINT PROJECT MONITORING VISIT FOR ROOTED IN DIVERSITY AND CULTIVATING CHANGE IN A WARMING WORLD



In July, Oxfam in Uganda hosted Hilton Mbozi, who is based in Zimbabwe and Santosh Shrestha from Nepal, both working with Oxfam Novib. They were in Uganda for a technical and learning visit.

Hilton and Santosh support the Rooted in Diversity (RiD) and Cultivating Change in a Warming World (CCiWW) projects implemented by Oxfam in Uganda.

They visited farmer field schools, the breeding centres and farmer groups that have specialised in growing indigenous seeds.



*The team visited Golimori Farmer Field School, which with support from ESAFF Uganda, is growing high value crops on a 2-acre agroecological learning centre under the CCiWW project in Adjumani District.*



*In Amuru District, the team visited FFS groups under the RiD Project, enhancing indigenous foodplants that are both nutritious and medicinal*



*At National Semi Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI), Serere, a crop breeding centre under the NARO*



***Geoffrey Owino, the Local Humanitarian Leadership Coordinator interacting with Hon Dr Ruth Aceng, the Minister of Health during the partners forum meeting in Kampala***

In June, the Ministry of Health (MoH) organised an accountability and partner's forum meeting to account for the Sudan Ebola Virus (SDV) response. The Forum was used to jointly review and reflect on how funds that were provided by partners to the government were used for the SDV response.

The meeting convened ministers, MoH technical officials, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, government officials, and partners, and was chaired by Hon. Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, the Health Minister.

Hon Aceng recognised contributions from different partners and stakeholders, including Oxfam. She noted that from the budget projected for Ebola response, the government realized 41% with a gap of 59%.

She noted that the outbreaks will continue, and as such, there is a need to strengthen systems with a focus on research through evidence. She also emphasised the need to move from the traditional approach to the new emerging tools in handling outbreaks.

Dr Aceng also highlighted that quarantine remains an effective method in detecting and managing any form of outbreak and encouraged collaboration, networking and effective partnership between the government and development partners to effectively manage outbreaks.

In January, when the Ebola (Sudan strain) outbreak was declared, Oxfam developed an Ebola response plan that aligns with the MoH and World Health Organisation structures and guidelines. The plan focused on IPC—WaSH, Risk Communication, Community Engagement, and community-based surveillance.

Part of the response was activating a crisis modifier of about 51,000 Euros from [DG-ECHO](#) to contain the transmission, mortality, and mobility of the deadly virus among the vulnerable people in the Mt. Elgon Region.

Implemented by Oxfam and the Uganda Red Cross Society, the initiative enhanced capacity through risk communication and community engagement, established community-based surveillance, and addressed misinformation.

Read how [Racheal Nabuyaka – a community volunteer supported the communities to protect themselves from Ebola virus](#) in Nambiti B Village, Bungokho Sub-County, Mbale District.

Other key intervention measures included installing handwashing facilities in strategic locations like health centres, quarantine stations, and public areas, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to frontline workers and providing essential sanitation supplies, such as chlorine, soap, and hand sanitizers. Learn how [Irene Kharono spearheaded the fight against the spread of Ebola in her community](#)



## STRENGTHENING MEDIA TO RESPONSIVELY REPORT ON THE EMERGING REALITIES IN SRHR



**Journalists from West Nile pose for a group photo after the training. Participants sharpened their skills in crafting strong leads that amplify the voices of vulnerable communities, while using credible sources to shape perceptions and spark meaningful conversations on SRHR.**

In July 2025, Oxfam in Uganda participated in the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) Media fellowship in West Nile under the theme “Strengthening Media to Responsively Report on the Emerging Realities in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).”

The fellowship, which was the 13th of its kind, focused on strengthening media practitioners' understanding of health and human rights while promoting positive and accurate reporting on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

**‘There are still many harmful myths you need to correct through your platforms. The world is constantly changing, and the media plays a key role in uncovering hidden issues. Some of the practices used in communities have no scientific basis and are posing serious health risks and costing lives’**

**--Wilson--**

It engaged journalists and media practitioners from the West Nile region where CEHURD works with Oxfam and partners like Reproductive Health Uganda

and Femme Forte to advance SRHR issues.

Speaking at the training, Senyonyi Wilson, Gender and Protection Coordinator at Oxfam, highlighted that ‘bringing together media practitioners from West Nile region will go a long way in ensuring that the stories we tell truly represent the realities of the communities on the ground.

“There are still many harmful myths you need to correct through your platforms. The world is constantly changing, and the media plays a key role in uncovering hidden issues.,’ Wilson noted.



**Senyonyi Wilson, Gender and Protection Coordinator, who doubles as the Coordinator of Stand-Up at Oxfam addressing the journalists**

Participants sharpened their skills in crafting strong leads that amplify the voices of vulnerable communities, while using credible sources to shape perceptions and spark meaningful conversations on SRHR.

CEHURD, is part of the consortium implementing the Oxfam Stand-Up for SRHR project, implemented in West Nile and Eastern Uganda aimed at increasing enjoyment of SRHR by most marginalized and vulnerable right-holders, particularly adolescent girls and young women.



## OXFAM IN THE PRESS

- [Tax the super-rich'](#)
- [Prime Minister Demands Fair Land Ownership for Ugandan Women](#)
- [Keep Your Land, Keep your Seed Campaign targets land seed rights in Teso, Lango and Acholi](#)
- [Tax the super rich](#)
- [Africa: 'Tax the Super-Rich'](#)
- [Africa's Richest Four Hold More Wealth Than Half the Continent](#)







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