

OXFAM IN UGANDA



JUNE - JULY NEWSLETTER

#EXPLORE OXFAM IN UGANDA



Oxfam team headed by Fati N'zi Hassane – Oxfam in Africa, Director met with Hon Betty Amongi- the Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development in Kampala during #ExploreOxfamUganda Visit

July was a special month for us at [Oxfam in Uganda](#)! We hosted colleagues from Oxfam Affiliates and Oxfam in Africa for a week-long learning experience. The visiting team included representatives from Oxfam Ireland, Oxfam OGB, Oxfam International, Oxfam America, and Oxfam in Africa.

In West Nile, the team visited peace-building, livelihoods, skilling, WASH, and savings interventions.

While in Kampala, Fati N'zi Hassane – the Oxfam in Africa, director visited the CSOs working with Oxfam in Uganda, Oxfam staff, government officials, and UNHCR.

[READ MORE](#) about the details of her engagement with Hon Betty Amongi, the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

While meeting with CSOs, Fati called for continued collaboration in the fight against injustices and poverty.

We were delighted to have the visiting team share their experiences about #ExploreOxfamUG: [WATCH](#)



In West Nile, Alvaro Blanco Garcia from Oxfam Novib interacting with model couples under DANIDA - Peace building component Imvepi Refugee Settlement.

“At Oxfam in Africa, we influence various spaces, including the AU. Our influencing work is informed by the issues and evidence from the countries we work in. As partners, it's crucial to be present and influence where decisions are made for effective change. You need to remember that nothing can stop us when we unite and act as one. For example, CSOs faced challenges influencing the UN tax convention, but our determination and numbers gave us an advantage. Now, the UN General Assembly will draft the convention,”

Fati N'zi Hassane – the Oxfam in Africa, Director

MALE ENGAGEMENT: FATI MEETS THE BODA BOBA RIDERS CHAMPIONING CAREWORK



In the bustling streets of Kampala, where life whirls around in a constant state of motion, a group of boda boda riders (public motorbike transport in Uganda) stand out not just for their skills on the bike, but for their groundbreaking community advocacy.

On 25 July 2024, Oxfam in Africa Director Fati N'ze Hassane, while exploring Oxfam Uganda, had the pleasure of [meeting with this Boda-Boda group](#), which champions care work. According to Fati, this was one of the highlights of her visit! "I am truly energized listening to all these experiences," she said. [READ MORE!](#)



REFLECTIONS ON PARTICIPATION IN THE GIMAC SUMMIT

The 6th Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) Network Strategic Engagement with the African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (REC) and Partners was held in Accra Ghana in July 2024 under the theme "Advancing Educational Transformation for Gender Equity and Sustainability Towards Agenda 2063,"

This was in line with the AU theme for the year: Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa. Oxfam in Uganda was represented by the Women's Rights Advisor, Jane Ocaya Irama.

She attended a series of sessions including the GIMAC meeting from 14-15 July 2024, the GIMAC Youth Advocacy Training on July 13, 2024; and the African Union Commission Gender Pre-Summit on 16-17 July 2024 which was a technical meeting for the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion Initiative WYFEI 2023. She shares her learnings. [READ MORE](#)



LAUNCHING THE MT ELGON CONTINGENCY WAREHOUSE IN MBALE



Oxfam in Uganda and consortium partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas Tororo, and Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) launched the Mt Elgon Regional Warehouse in Mbale City at URCS Offices in July 2024.

The warehouse, funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), provides local actors with access to emergency relief stocks. It keeps Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as hygiene kits, wheelbarrows, buckets, jerrycans, tarpaulins, and blankets.



Participants pause for a group photo after the launch of the warehouse at URCS Offices in Mbale City

The decision to establish the warehouse in the Mt. Elgon region was deliberate due to its susceptibility to various disasters, such as floods, landslides, hailstorms, and epidemics.

The warehouse is one of the disaster preparedness and response actions under the two-year 'Strengthening Community-led Actions on Disaster Preparedness and Response' project that is implemented in Bududa, Namisindwa, Sironko, Butalejja, and Mbale districts (2 sub-counties, per district). [READ MORE](#)

ENGAGING KARAMOJA WOMEN, CLAN ELDER AND CSOS FOR WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



In the bid to promote women's voices and leadership in climate change programming in the region, Oxfam Consults, in partnership with GARD and Oxfam in Uganda in July, conducted training for grassroots women, clan elders, and local NGOs in the Karamoja region.

The training, funded by Global Affairs Canada through Climate Action Africa in a consortium of Alinea International, Econoler, and WSP, aimed to bridge the gaps and build the capacity of grassroots women to raise their voices to ensure that they are heard and understood in climate change mitigation and response.

[READ MORE](#) to learn about the deliberations from the meeting and the elders' pledges to promote women's climate leadership.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Since the elders already have the elder's council, we request them to advocate for the involvement of women in terms of planning, decision making and property ownership especially land. We also requested the clan elders to always involve elderly women to be part of their elder's meetings – **TEKO MAGDALENE FROM NAPAK DISTRICT**

We should engage opinion leaders such as elders, cultural leaders and traditional healers on how to engage, appreciate and promote voices of women because they are the key players in Karamoja community – **BENNETTON LOKALANY FROM KARENGA DISTRICT**



REFLECTIONS FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM IN NEW YORK

The Acting Governance and Accountability Manager, Sophie Nampewo in July 2024 attended a high-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. The HLPF serves as the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). It convenes bodies that carry out and review the 2030 Agenda. The Forum adopts inter-governmentally negotiated political declarations.

The 2024 HLPF supported the implementation of the Political Declaration and other outcomes of the SDG Summit for advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This year's theme was "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions". The key reflections from Sophie. [Read more](#)

KUROILER BIRDS LEAVE THEIR MARK ON ASILI AMAZU'S LIFE

In September 2023, Oxfam received funding from NORAD to implement the 'Combating food insecurity' project in the refugee hosting districts of Terego and Zombo in collaboration with locally-based partners.

Through its partners; Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT), International Foundation for Recovery and Development (IFRAD) and Agency for Community Empowerment (AFCE), the project sought to improve food security through increased access and availability of nutritious food for most vulnerable households.

Geoffrey Asili Amazu, and his wife Doris reside in Aligoi village, Ombokoro parish in Odupi subcounty were some of the participants that received kuroiler birds and maize bran (feeds) to support their poultry keeping. [Learn more from their story](#)

STAND UP PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS IN THREE MONTHS!

Here is a detail account of what has kept the STAND UP project team busy between April and June. Stand Up is a six-and-a-half-year project funded by Global Affairs Canada through Oxfam. Its ultimate goal is to increase the enjoyment of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for the most marginalized and vulnerable right-holders, particularly adolescent girls (10 to 19 years) and young women (20 to 29 years), including those with intersecting vulnerabilities due to sexual or gender orientation, or status as refugees or internally displaced persons. [READ MORE.](#)

THREE VOCATIONAL INSTITUTES RECEIVE STARTUP KITS IN WEST NILE

In a bid to achieve youth employability and self-reliance, Oxfam in Uganda and partners under the Global jet project recently distributed startup kits to three groups of certified students in the three vocational training institutes of Lodonga Technical, St. Jude (Omugo) and Inde technical school). [READ MORE!](#)

"I HAVE ACQUIRED SKILLS IN VEGETABLE GROWING," SAYS FIONA CHELANGAT

Fiona learned about vegetable growing when she joined an Oxfam project on the topic. The group have a shared demonstration garden, which each person also set up at home. Fiona learned how to grow vegetables and uses organic manure instead of chemicals to manage pests and diseases.

"I was growing cassava, beans, and maize, but due to the bad seasons, I was finding it difficult to feed my family. I resorted to burning charcoal, which was profitable because of its ready market," says Fiona. [READ MORE!](#)

WORLD REFUGEE DAY: A CALL FOR LASTING PEACE



The group of performers from I Can South Sudan performing at the World Refugee Day Celebrations. Oxfam through the partners work with I Can South Sudan to promote peace building work in West Nile

On 20TH June every year, Oxfam joins the world to celebrate World Refugee Day, a day that is globally earmarked to recognize refugees.

This year's national celebrations were commemorated in Ofua III, in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in West Nile.

The day attracted delegates from local and national actors, refugees, the host community and their leaders, partner representatives and the donor community under the theme "solidarity with refugees"

This year's campaign focused on solidarity with refugees – for a world where refugees are welcomed, and was celebrated amidst music, dancing, poetry, and celebratory marches.

Speaking at the launch of the event, Ambassador Takuya Sasayama, the Japanese ambassador to Uganda who represented the donor community commended Uganda for welcoming refugees and asylum seekers.

"I can report with confidence that this is a shining example of welcoming refugees from many countries he said."

His sentiments were re-echoed by Peter Gift, the Refugee Welfare Committee Chairperson who thanked Uganda and the hosting community for welcoming them.

He also made a rallying call to stakeholders to

advocate for peace and an end to the different conflicts in neighbouring countries that have led to a high influx of refugees to Uganda. We know that funding will continue reducing, which is what makes peace the best solution" he said.

Douglas Asiimwe, the Commissioner for Refugees at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) recognized the funding challenges but also reassured of the government's commitment in aiding persons fleeing from conflict.

"We have renewed our commitments, most recently at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva last December. Our doors remain open, despite facing numerous challenges, especially dwindling humanitarian funding globally and within Uganda," he said.

Mathew Crentsil, the [UNHCR](#) Country Representative in Uganda informed delegates at the event that they'd been trying to broker peace to solve the South Sudan crisis which is responsible for the influx of refugees into the country.

According to the UNHCR, Uganda across its 13 refugee settlements currently hosts 1,680,000 refugees; a number that continues to grow due to the numerous conflicts in the neighbouring countries with majority of refugees from South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and Eritrea.

A VISIT TO 'TAX FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT' IN BULIISA AND TORORO DISTRICTS



Prof. Dr. Levi Musinguzi Bahemuka, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Buliisa District giving remarks. Photo credit: SEATINI Uganda

In recent years, community engagement in budget monitoring has become increasingly vital in ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective service delivery.

In June, a team from Oxfam in Uganda and the Center for Budget and Tax Policy (CBTP) conducted a monitoring visit in the Buliisa and Tororo districts, under the 'Tax for Development' (T4D) project.

The T4D project, funded by NORAD, is implemented by CBTP and SEATINI Uganda in Buliisa and Tororo District and while at the national level, the project team works with community budget groups (CBGs) through Kakindo Integrated Women's Development Agency, (KAWIDA) and Osukuru United Women's Network.

Community Budget Groups are grassroots organizations that monitor government expenditures at local levels. Their role is pivotal in bridging the gap between communities and policymakers, ensuring that budget allocations align with local needs and priorities.

The visit, among other things, allowed the team to review how CBGs manage and utilize allocated funds, gauge the progress and effectiveness of projects funded through CBGs, and identify gaps in knowledge and skills among CBG members.

The visit provided valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for improving local governance and service delivery which will help the implementing team come up with better ways to improve the project.

In the realm of community development and participatory governance, the CBGs play a pivotal role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of public funds in the health and education sector.

In Uganda, CBGs have been instrumental in advocating for fair resource allocation, especially in resource-rich regions but are often marginalized in regions like Buliisa and Tororo districts.

The three-year project is intended to strengthen the capacity of civil society and investigative journalists to advocate for fiscal justice, enhance financing of priority social sectors, and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Uganda.

A MONITORING VISIT TO RISE-K PROJECT IN KARAMOJA



Field monitoring visits are a crucial aspect of project management, as they enable project teams to assess the progress and effectiveness of projects in the field.

The Oxfam team implementing the Resilience, Inclusiveness, Sustainability and Empowerment of Communities in Karamoja, (RISE-K) project recently joined partners on a week-long visit to Karamoja.

The project is implemented in three districts of Moroto, Amudat, and Nakapiripirit, aiming at an empowered, inclusive, just, and resilient community in the Karamoja sub-region.

The 5-year program – funded by the Irish Aid, is broadly implemented through the Tripple Nexus approach with humanitarian and development components.

The visit began in the Amudat district, where Oxfam and its partners are implementing activities in the Karita and Loroo sub-counties. They visited and interacted with the district officials before proceeding to Karita, where they met with bee farmers and local leaders trained in gender-responsive leadership and budgeting.

[How Gender-Responsive Leadership and Budgeting Transformed Karita Sub-County](#)

In Amudat, the team interacted with education officials, including teachers, district education officers and heads of schools who, in partnership with Oxfam's partner National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU) are setting up functional school structures.

These school structures which include Parent and Teacher Associations (PTAs) and School Management committees (SMCs) serve the purpose of among other things ensuring that schools are being run well and that their assigned budgets are well utilized and carry out advocacy against absenteeism and mobilize learners to return to schools whenever they reopen: [Empowering School Structures for Transformative Change in Loroo](#)

In Nakapiripirit district, the team visited the beekeepers and district leaders that have been trained in Gender Based Violence (GBV) case referral and apiculture groups that are improving their livelihoods through the production and sell of honey in the Moruita and Kakamongole sub-counties.

In Kakamongole, the team also met a team of community members working under the Cash for Work program who were engaged in digging a water reservoir that will be used to preserve water that will be used for production.

The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) is a community-led empowerment methodology that uses principles of inclusion to improve the income, food and nutrition security of vulnerable people. It was in full force in Moroto district, where the monitoring team met couples who's lives had been transformed through the methodology.

[Read Lokut's story: From Drunkard to Devoted Husband: Lokut's Remarkable Transformation through the GALS Methodology](#)

Oxfam and partners also met with the Karamoja Humanitarian platform members in Moroto who are responding to crises, CSOs and local government and representatives of companies engaged in mining activities.





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