

OXFAM IN UGANDA



MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

OXFAM ORGANISES A SIDE EVENT AT CSW70



In most of our communities in Africa, socio-cultural aspects shape how girls decide on several things including reproductive health.

During the CSW70 side event, Oxfam in Uganda in partnership with Oxfam in Africa and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development organised a side event to discuss how these sociocultural practices affect women's access to sexual reproductive services (SRH) services.

The discussions were based on experiences and insights from a systemization process across different countries implementing projects around SRHR.

Under the theme, **Unmasking the Social and Cultural Norms and Practices Affecting Body Autonomy. Insights from Oxfam in Africa Regional Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Programming**, the meeting focused on discussing social and cultural norms affecting bodily autonomy, particularly for women and girls, across the African countries.

Participants shared insights and experiences from Oxfam's work in 10 African countries, highlighting the impact of harmful practices and the need for policy reform.

The discussion emphasized the importance of addressing intersectional issues such as unpaid care work and the role of men and boys in promoting gender equality.

Key speakers included Fatia Atugonza and Wilson Senyonyi from Oxfam in Uganda, Olawunmi Ifeoluwa Gbolahan from Oxfam in Nigeria, Paul Vingi from Oxfam in Africa and Hon. Justine Kasule Lumumba, the Minister for General Duties and Peace Regis Mutuuzo the state minister for Gender and Culture.

They all shared country-specific examples and strategies for challenging harmful norms while the gender minister emphasized the need for continued advocacy and collaboration to address these issues.

Wilson highlighted successful strategies, including using community-based structures like peer educators and village health teams, and employing drama to sensitize communities about negative social norms.

Wilson also addressed challenges, such as harmful cultural practices like storing menstrual blood and using unverified herbal contraceptives, which expose young people to risks of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

He emphasized the need for collective efforts to dismantle harmful practices and protect the rights and health of young girls.

THE KEY ASKS?

There is need to advocate for increased domestic and donor investment in sexual and reproductive health interventions to fill the existing gaps, especially in the education and health sectors. For instance, the implementation of the protocol which was adopted by all African Union countries to permit 15% of their national budgets.

To advance and promote locally grounded. Rights-based strategies that build on positive cultural values, such as dignity, care, and collective responsibility while challenging practices that undermine their health, autonomy and rights of the women and girls. Let's not forget to keep the voices of young people.

*Watch the [session recording](#) to learn more about the key recommendations from this side event: **Passcode: w@#27v^O***

Ife, the Projector Coordinator, Gender and Safeguarding at Oxfam in Nigeria discussed the importance of addressing social norms impacting women and girls, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Ifeoluwa shared insights on implementing gender-focused projects in challenging environments in Nigeria.

Ife described Oxfam's efforts in Nigeria to establish safe spaces for women and address barriers to accessing reproductive health services, emphasizing the need to transform social norms to support bodily autonomy.

She noted that while policies exist, implementation varies across states and is often hindered by cultural and social barriers, particularly affecting rural, disabled, and adolescent women.

BUILDING A MORE PREPARED HUMANITARIAN TEAM TO STRENGTHEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE



From 16th to 20th March 2026, a group of Oxfam staff from various office locations gathered in Soroti City to enhance their capacity to plan, respond swiftly, effectively, and with dignity to emergencies. Over the five intensive days, 15 members of the Humanitarian Emergency Team (HET) with representatives from various Oxfam in Uganda departments participated in a capacity-building training focused on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and the Emergency Response Protocol (ERP). [Learn more](#)

OXFAM IN UGANDA HOSTS A DELEGATION FROM OXFAM CANADA IN WEST NILE



Oxfam in Uganda hosted a team from Oxfam Canada in West Nile for a monitoring visit to Global Affairs Canada (GAC) funded projects implemented in refugee-hosting communities.

In West Nile region, [Stand-up for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights \(SRHR\)](#) is implemented by Reproductive Health Uganda, CEHURD and Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH) in Nebbi, Madi Okollo, Arua, and Terego districts and Arua City. It aims to increase enjoyment of SRHR by most marginalized and vulnerable right-holders, particularly adolescent girls and young women.

[Geared for Success project](#), implemented by RELON Uganda, War Child Canada, YSAT and CECI Uganda aims to enhance equitable and inclusive learning outcomes for 'refugee, internally displaced and host community children and youth, particularly girls and adolescent girls' in the districts of Yumbe, Terego and Obongi.

Several stakeholders had engagements with the visiting team including project participants in Imvepi refugee settlement, Terego and Arua City alongside Office of the prime minister (OPM) and district technocrats supporting the project implementation

The visiting team lauded Oxfam and partners for impactful interventions in both the schools and the communities like goat rearing, having students involved in making sanitary pads and books.

They finalised their visit with meeting new refugee arrivals in Kiryandongo refugee settlement and OPM to ascertain the magnitude of the current refugee influx and the relevant support needed to address protection needs.

UPDATES FROM THE WEBSITE

CULTIVATING SEEDS OF HOPE: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF ADONG EUNICE, A FARMER FIELD SCHOOL FACILITATOR

In small home in Abolo B Village, Teboke Sub-County, Apac District northern Uganda, a table in the house of Adong Eunice, a small holder farmer is overflowing with groundnuts, guava, sesame, palm fruits, yams, pigeon pea leaves, and other so much more. This abundance tells a story of transformation and offers a glimpse of what strong food systems can look like when farmers are placed at the centre. For Adong Eunice, a mother of eight, that story often begins in the soil long before she even plants a seed. Having dropped out of school in Senior Two, she worked in her fields believing her potential ended where formal education stopped. Like many smallholder farmers in the area, she relied on traditional farming practices, but overtime these practices alone proved unable to withstand the realities of changing climate. [Learn more](#)



DIALOGUE: UNLOCKING UGANDA'S CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION THROUGH TAX REFORM

Are the proposed tax reforms practical and implementable with the current systems? What should be prioritised with the current tax systems and what should be prioritised next? These were some of the questions discussed by stakeholders during the renewable clean energy tax policy validation workshop in Kampala. This convening follows earlier development of a taxation brief under the Supporting Improved Access to Innovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (SUSTAINED) project Phase I and as guided by the directives of the Commissioner, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED). [Read more](#)



EXPERIENCES FROM EXPOSURE AND LEARNING EVENTS FROM THE AGROECOLOGY CENTRES

[Participatory Ecological Land Use Management - PELUM Uganda](#), in partnership with [Oxfam in Uganda](#), hosted an exclusive Exposure and Learning visit from 16-20, March 2026. It was attended by Key stakeholders, including farmers and decision-makers, who toured leading agroecology and Farmer Managed Seed Systems sites. This unique journey showcased practical, scalable models, revealing profitable enterprise economics and market pathways, and provided compelling evidence that agroecology drives productivity, profitability, and resilience across farms, landscapes, and markets. The objective of the exposure visit was to mobilize and expose key stakeholders and decision makers to champion enabling policies, public financing, and institutional practices that support the integration, adoption and scaling up of agroecology and Farmer Managed Seed Systems in Uganda. [Watch the participants share their experiences and key learnings from the visit](#)



BUILDING INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE LAND GOVERNANCE IN WEST NILE AND SOROTI DISTRICT



With funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oxfam in Uganda, together with five partners, implemented the Fair4All project (2021–2025) in Arua, Zombo, and Nebbi districts that strengthened coffee and horticulture value chains that uphold women’s land rights, advance women’s economic empowerment, and ensure environmental justice.

One of the key components of the project was Land Rights, which enhanced women’s access to, control over, and ownership of land, while challenging deep-rooted cultural norms that hinder them.

The land rights component alone reached 1,707 women and youth with land rights-related activities. To achieve this, 21 awareness-raising events on land rights and responsible land governance were organized, utilizing the Land Rights Support Center. This center was established to share Information on land rights where the Information Education and Communication materials (IEC) were designed in user-friendly languages and distributed to project participants in local communities.

Women received training linked to women’s leadership and Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) approaches, as well as the formation of Village Saving Groups and Associations (VSLAs). Area Land Committees and local leaders were engaged to take active roles in supporting women’s access to land rights.

The project was implemented in partnership with Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF), Uganda, Agency for Community Transformation (AFCE), Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), Uganda Agribusiness Alliance (UAA) and Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) Uganda.

Below are the video stories from the communities on how the project impacted their lives.

BREAKING THE NORMS: WOMEN CLAIMING LAND RIGHTS: For years, women in Zombo district, West Nile were told land wasn't theirs to claim. So, they rewrote the rules, women broke through cultural barriers that kept them from owning land. With community leaders and their partners standing beside them, they claimed what was rightfully theirs. [Watch Beriwu Alice narrating this transformation](#)





THE POWER OF WOMEN'S VOICES: In Zombo District, Ayomirwoth Justine, a leader from Ayida village a proof that women's voices matter. Through training in the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology, Justine found the courage to step into leadership - something that was once uncommon in the Alur culture. She confidently leads in her community but also participates in decision-making in her family with harmony and respect. [Explore her story in this video](#)



THE TRAINING THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR WOMEN: Through training by Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) on women's leadership, Gender Action Learning System (GALS), and women's land rights, many women gained confidence and control over their livelihoods. Today, more women have autonomy and access to land, enabling them to start and grow income-generating activities for their families and engage in decision making. [Hear from Adamasiko Farmer's group](#)

LOCAL LEADERS CHAMPION WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS: In Zombo District, West Nile, the Area Land Committees are championing women's land rights. The area chief, Charity Ocaya narrates how land certificates are helping women gain secure access to land. With this security, many women are now confidently investing in coffee farming to improve their incomes and support their families, with support from their partners. [Watch how change is happening](#)



TRUSTED TO LEAD: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP: Meet Jovian Akumu! Watch how stepping into leadership in her savings group changed her life. Through her role, she has been trusted with decision-making, strengthened her voice, and supported members to grow their savings and livelihoods. [Watch her story](#)



BUILDING INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBLE LAND GOVERNANCE: This video shows how partnerships with local CBOs, local leaders, and cultural leaders are helping women break cultural barriers. Women are stepping into leadership, securing land rights, and improving their livelihoods. [Watch the video to learn more](#)



CSO'S ENGAGE PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON THE FY 2026/27 EDUCATION BUDGET



Civil Society Organisations including Oxfam under the stewardship of the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) recently engaged the Parliamentary Education Committee on the FY 2026/27 budget.

This Civil Society Organisation (CSO) position paper in response to the FY2026/27 Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) for the Education and Sports Sector was developed through a consultative and collaborative process involving various civil society actors working on education, equity, and public finance. They included Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER), Oxfam, World Vision Uganda, and members of the Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI), namely Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC), Education Advocacy Network, War Child Canada, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), and Kukuza Education. [Find the details and key concerns that were presented in this position paper](#)



“When we GIVE women and girls information, services, and protection they deserve, Uganda gains a healthier, more productive and more equal future”

WILSON SENYONYI
Gender and Protection Coordinator
Oxfam in Uganda

UGANDA MUST INVEST IN SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS

“As a gender and protection professional, I find realities in the ground heartbreaking and preventable. I see young girls forced into adult responsibilities when they become pregnant instead of being in school. Even when health facilities are available, many girls do not access SRH services. The consequences of this are visible across communities, especially in refugee settings and fishing communities. This is why investments must be sustained and designed around the realities of these young people”. [Writes Wilson Senyonyi](#), Gender and Protection Coordinator at Oxfam.



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