

OXFAM IN UGANDA



MAY NEWSLETTER

LEAP PROJECT; PHASE II SUCCESSFULLY CLOSED IN YUMBE, TEREKO AND KYEGEGWA DISTRICTS



The participants pose for a group photo after the close-out meeting of LEAP II Project in, Kyaka, Kyegegwa District

The LEAP II project (Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection of women and girls affected by Conflict, Severe Drought, and Forced Displacement) was successfully closed in Kyegegwa, Yumbe, and Terego districts.

Funded by the Norwegian Embassy through UN Women, the project promoted positive coping mechanisms and economic empowerment through the leadership, empowerment, access and protection of women and girls in crisis affected locations.

Edward Mwebaze, the Oxfam Head of Program (H.O.P) speaking at the event highlighted Oxfam's continued commitment to the localisation of its assistance to better support the communities where it implements its programs.



Edward Mwebaze, the Head of programs addressing the participants at LEAP II Project closure.

"As Oxfam our strategy will continue to be strengthening local partnerships and CBOs, to deliver assistance through such structures. We shall use our networks to advocate on different issues to ensure that resources reach the communities we work with."

The project was implemented by Oxfam, Uganda Refugees Disaster Management Council (URDMC), and SEE (Social, Economic, and Environmental) Impact."

Among key successes achieved under the project shared by Robert Okello, the project lead were increase in income generating activities among women and girls, promotion of VSLAs and women inclusion and the successful design and operationalisation of three community based gender responsive early warning systems in the three districts of implementation.

The project impacted over 45,000 as direct participants and over 9,000 as indirect participants in refugee and host communities with increased access to sustainable non-agricultural livelihood opportunities and increased participation and benefit in Disaster Risk Reduction. Here is a snapshot of the project's impact and reach

- ❖ **REACH: 4,426 individuals (3,360 female and 1066 Males)**
- ❖ **(1,260 Individuals 964 females and 296 males) trained in business and financial skills across the 3 implementing districts.**
- ❖ **1,063 women supported with inputs including high-yielding, fast-maturing, and drought-resistant seeds and simple farm tools to support farming activities**
- ❖ **35 Trainers of Trainers supported with protective gear, coupled with training sessions to support the scale up of the use of energy saving stoves.**
- ❖ **988 individuals (612 women, 376 men) trained on agroforestry and tree planting techniques in Kyegegwa, Kyaka II.**
- ❖ **105 VSLA groups trained in the 3 implementation districts of Kyegegwa, Yumbe and Terego and supported with saving kits**
- ❖ **782 Persons with Special Needs and Special Interest Groups were supported with ready-made Lorena energy-saving cookstoves**

VOICES FROM THE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

We were taught the time and season to plant, how to organise and dig our gardens which has helped us get more yields from our gardens. We were also taught how to set up VSLAs where we get low interest loans that have helped us expand our businesses. **Dawa Amana - Trust farmer group, Bidibidi host community**

Women have fully engaged in leadership and have been able to take up leadership positions in farmer groups and we now have a balance between genders. Because of the group dynamics training which brought different tribes of refugee and hosts together to farm and socialise, we have seen our people peacefully work together. We hope that in the future when you get more funding you can return and also offer the same transformation to other - **Malech Luke Otim - RWC 3, Zone 1, BidiBidi Refugee settlement**

We feared taking up leadership positions and didn't believe in ourselves but through the GALS methodology training we've become confident and are now able to take up roles like being Treasurer which we used to be for only men - **Jackie Maneno - Blessing Farmer group, Block 10, Bidibidi Refugee settlement**

UPDATES FROM THE WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE

HOW NORAD-FUNDED 'COMBATING FOOD INSECURITY' ENHANCED ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD IN TEREKO AND ZOMBO DISTRICTS

In September 2023, Oxfam received funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to implement the Combating Food Insecurity project in the refugee-hosting districts of Terego and Zombo in West Nile. Through its partners, Youth Social Advocacy (YSAT), International Foundation for Recovery and Development (IFRAD), and Agency for Community Empowerment (AFCE), the 12-month project, which aimed to improve food security by increasing access to and availability of nutritious food for most vulnerable households supported 17,000 individuals from refugees and refugee-hosting communities of Terego and other food-stressed communities in the Zombo district of West Nile.

- [Learn more about the impact from the video](#)
- [Learn from the booklet](#)



EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND: EXPERIENCES FROM WESTERN UGANDA HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM

In the spirit of strengthening the local humanitarian leadership, something is changing now. In 2022 and with support from Oxfam in Uganda, the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform (WUHP) was established, and it seeks to position local/national humanitarian actors to advance a common voice in influencing the Humanitarian agenda and providing timely emergency response that meets humanitarian standards.

- ❖ [Watch the Video](#)
- ❖ [Supporting Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform through Local Organisations to Respond Quickly to Disasters](#)
- ❖ [The Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform \(WUHP\) in Uganda: Transforming Disaster Management and Policy Influencing](#)

THE SHOPKEEPER WHO BECAME A COMMUNITY 'DOCTOR'

Edwine Wangira, a 28-year-old from Sisiro village in Namayingo District, is locally known both as a shopkeeper and, humorously, as 'Doctor'." But Edwin isn't a doctor by profession, he's a peer educator trained by CEHURD. Between running his retail shop that deals in household items, he also spends his time educating his community members about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). This is knowledge he acquired from CEHURD training such as the effects of child pregnancy and gender-based violence. [LEARN MORE](#)



UPDATES FROM THE WEBSITE



MAKING FOOD ACCESSIBLE FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN TEREKO DISTRICT

In Tereko District, Oxfam and Uganda Refugee and Disaster Management Council (URDMC) are strengthening the resilience of both refugees and host communities against the impacts of climate change. Through the livelihood component of the Humanitarian, Development and Peace initiative for Crisis affected population in Uganda (HDP) Project, URDMC has trained refugee and host communities on sustainable farming ways such as like climate smart agriculture which is significant in the West Nile region which receives little rainfall. [LEARN MORE](#)

TRAITOR OR COMPANION? THE DIGITAL SPY IN YOUR PALM

The integration of smart devices like phones with other technologies, such as wearables and health applications, has expanded the scope of self-surveillance. While these technologies offer benefits, they also raise questions about the extent to which individuals are aware of and control the data they generate. [LEARN MORE](#)



TRANSFORMING CARE THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED DRAMA AND ACTION IN UNYAMA, GULU CITY

In Unyama Sub-County, Gulu City, a passionate group of 30 community members led by Jackline Akera has turned knowledge into action. With support from Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) and Oxfam under the WE-Care Programme, and mentorship from Mission Uganda, Unyama Women's Drama Group and community caucus are proving that real change begins at the grassroots. [LEARN MORE](#)

BULIISA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGISTERS TAX REVENUE GROWTH

SEATINI Uganda, in partnership with Oxfam, Kakindo Integrated Women Development Agency (KAWIDA) organised a two-day meeting with Buliisa District Local Government (DLG) officials on the implementation Local Revenue Enhancement Plans (LREP). With funding from The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Oxfam, in partnership with SEATINI Uganda, CBTP, KAWIDA, and Osukuru United Women's Network are implementing a 3-year 'Tax for Development' Project in the districts of Buliisa and Tororo and at the national level. [LEARN MORE](#)



OXFAM PARTICIPATES AT THE 3RD ANNUAL JOINT CSO CONFERENCE ON OIL AND GAS IN UGANDA



Siraji Magara, Oxfam's Energy and Extractives Coordinator speaking in a panel discussion on "Business and Human Rights (BHR): Best Practices in the Oil and Gas Sector,"

Oxfam in Uganda joined key stakeholders in the oil and gas sector for the 3rd Annual Joint CSO Conference on Oil and Gas in Uganda, organised by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU).

The annual event serves as a vital platform for dialogue, transparency, and trust-building between the government and civil society organizations (CSOs) across the sector, advancing best practices in business and human rights in Uganda's extractive industry.

This year's conference was held under the theme "*Discerning the Business, Social, and Human Rights Issues in Uganda's Oil and Gas Sector.*" "The theme is crucial in evaluating the progress and impact of Uganda's oil and gas sector," said Ernest Rubondo, PAU's Executive Director.

John Bosco Habumugisha, Deputy Managing Director, East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), highlighted that "we recognize the critical role civil society plays in auditing industry practices and promoting accountability. Your oversight has been instrumental in encouraging compliance among joint venture partners and contractors."

During a panel discussion on "Business and Human Rights (BHR): Best Practices in the Oil and Gas Sector," the panel highlighted the gaps that oil companies face in their efforts to comply with international and national BHR frameworks.

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Siraji Magara, Oxfam's Energy and Extractives Coordinator, stressed the need to recognize the inclusion of communities in crisis in decision-making and promoting citizen participation to ensure that regulations are effectively implemented and enforced.

"The communities should have meaningful participation in the oil and gas industry. The views from the communities should be considered when making decisions. It is not just a matter of saying that communities were consulted, but it is making sure that their views are considered," Magara noted.

He also highlighted the need for a citizen's participation law that ensures that the citizens are consulted and their views are implemented by the duty bearers and policymakers.

- [Read the full conference recap and reflections](#)
- Couldn't attend? [Catch up with the video recap](#)



ENHANCING ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH SKILLS SHARING



AWYAD and Oxfam team pose for a group photo after the capacity building at AWYAD offices in Ntinda, Kampala

The Media and Communications team, headed by Dorah Ntunga, the Media and Communications Coordinator, conducted a capacity strengthening session focused on enhancing the communication efforts of the Advocacy, Partnership, and Communications team at African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD).

AWYAD is one of Oxfam's local partners within its humanitarian initiative. Oxfam's localization agenda prioritizes empowering local and national organizations to lead humanitarian efforts and development programs. This entails transferring power, resources, and decision-making to local actors, acknowledging their expertise and capacity to more effectively address the needs of affected communities.

The capacity strengthening session focused on supporting AWYAD to enhance its presence on social media platforms, its website, and its newsletter. These tools are crucial for improving effective communication and advocacy.

This builds on previous capacity-strengthening training provided to partners by Oxfam in southwestern Uganda, where team members expressed the need for organization-specific sessions.

To tailor the support, an assessment of the platforms and content was conducted. This assessment identified areas for improvement in social media platforms and current content being created by the organisation, helping to evaluate strengths and areas for improvement to inform the training.

This assessment served as the foundation for a roundtable discussion and included practical demonstrations such as designing newsletters, scheduling posts, website management, and writing content.

'Huge thanks to Dorah Ntunga and Sarah Mazirwe for sharing your time, knowledge, and encouragement. Your guidance reminded us that communication is not just about visibility, but about connection, honesty, and purpose. We left the session energized and ready to put what we learned into practice. Every story matters — and we're more ready than ever to tell them well,' AWAYD posted.



The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Uganda launched the National Budget Month for Financial Year (FY) 2025/26.

This is a month long series of activities that bring together different stakeholders; Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), civil society, private sector, development partners and citizens to collectively understand budgetary processes and usher in the new financial year with clear expectations on draft budget approvals for the next financial year.

Some of the activities organised include a Pre-Budget Dialogue, which will be led by the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), and a Budget Reading.

As part of the budget month, a Budget Dialogue will also be organised by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), along with a High level dialogue and post budget discussions organised by Oxfam's Civil Society (CSO) partners; The Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) and the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) respectively.

In his key remarks, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Matia Kasaija called upon Ugandans to pay their taxes for better service delivery and further urged citizens to follow the money and report corruption cases as a way of reducing wastage of government revenue.

Oxfam works with SEATINI and CSBAG to promote fiscal and financial justice, monitor government spending and hold governments, the private sector accountable.

Kasaija said the national budget month is a vital platform for bringing the budget closer to the people, adding that it provides space for dialogue on national priorities and citizen concerns.

"It's an opportunity for all stakeholders to better understand what the approved budget entails and how it will impact their lives," said Hon. Kasaija.

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The budget month proceeds a set of budget activities including the review of the proposed budget during the National Budget Framework Paper (NBFP) and the Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) assessments that later lead to the Draft Budget Estimated and the Tax Bills that are later passed by Parliament into law ahead of the start of

the next FY in July.

The FY 2025/26 budget is expected to total UGX72T of which UGX 37.2T will be domestically generated. There is also need for government to be frugal in its expenditure to enable realization of this budget with the limited revenue sources.

Oxfam and its partners will participate in the budget month activities to promote citizen awareness and participation in the final budget process.

- [Poor performance linked to classroom congestion](#)
- [Poor performance linked to classroom congestion](#)
- [The radical woman's guide to self-care](#)
- [Merit or privilege? The inequality at the heart of Uganda's education system](#)
- [How women are making a difference on climate change](#)



The smallholder farmers of Avono Micro-station, Njao Village, Paidha Sub-county – Zombo district sharing with Oxfam staff and partners monitoring team the coffee processing cycle prior to their bulk sales







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Photos – contributed by various programme teams*