

# OXFAM IN UGANDA



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## COLLABORATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND MEASURING IMPACT WERE KEY DISCUSSIONS AT CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEACE DIALOGUE



**PANEL DISCUSSION:** [Here's how it went down LIVE on NTV Uganda!](#) The discussions highlighted the urgent need for collaboration, local leadership, and inclusive action in addressing the growing impacts of climate change and conflict across communities.

"Peace is not the absence of conflict, but rather how that conflict is resolved without causing harm." These were Lydia Ayikoru's remarks as she highlighted the DANIDA Strategic Partnerships Project's aim in Arua last month.

Stakeholders, including refugees, host communities, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and leaders from the districts of Yumbe, Madi Okollo, and Terego, convened to discuss ways of maintaining peace and harmonious living amidst the effects of climate change.

According to Jena Toma, the Deputy Refugee Officer in Arua, "Peace and climate change are inseparable. Without peace, communities can't adapt to changing climate, and without climate action, the foundations of peace are undermined by scarcity, displacement, and conflict.

What stood out from this dialogue was the interconnection between peace and climate change.

The three refugee-hosting districts of West Nile are strengthening the capacities of communities in peacebuilding initiatives to avert the pressure on natural resources in host communities, which is increasing community tensions.

As the RDC of Madi Okollo district put it, "This issue of climate change, we are still undermining it, but the next war that is coming will not be a war of guns, but a war of food insecurity." This dialogue sought to bridge the aforementioned gap and forge ways forward on how communities can live harmoniously amidst the pressure of sharing scarce natural resources.

To address this, Terego district has developed a climate action plan to not only protect the environment but also improve coordination among stakeholders as shared by John Engamvile, the Terego District Environmental Officer. District,

Oxfam's Country Director, Francis Shanty Odokorach, noted that "sustainable peace cannot be achieved without addressing the environmental and economic pressures affecting communities. Likewise, climate adaptation efforts cannot succeed where social tensions and exclusion persist."

He called for stronger coordination between technical and political leaders and investment in climate adaptation and sustainable livelihoods.

"We need to amplify community voices, especially those of women and young people. And we need accountability mechanisms that ensure services and opportunities reach the people who need them most," he noted.

Since January, Jena Toma, the Deputy Refugee Officer in Arua, highlighted that they have received about 80,000 new refugee arrivals, who have been settled in Invempi and Rhino Camp refugee settlements.

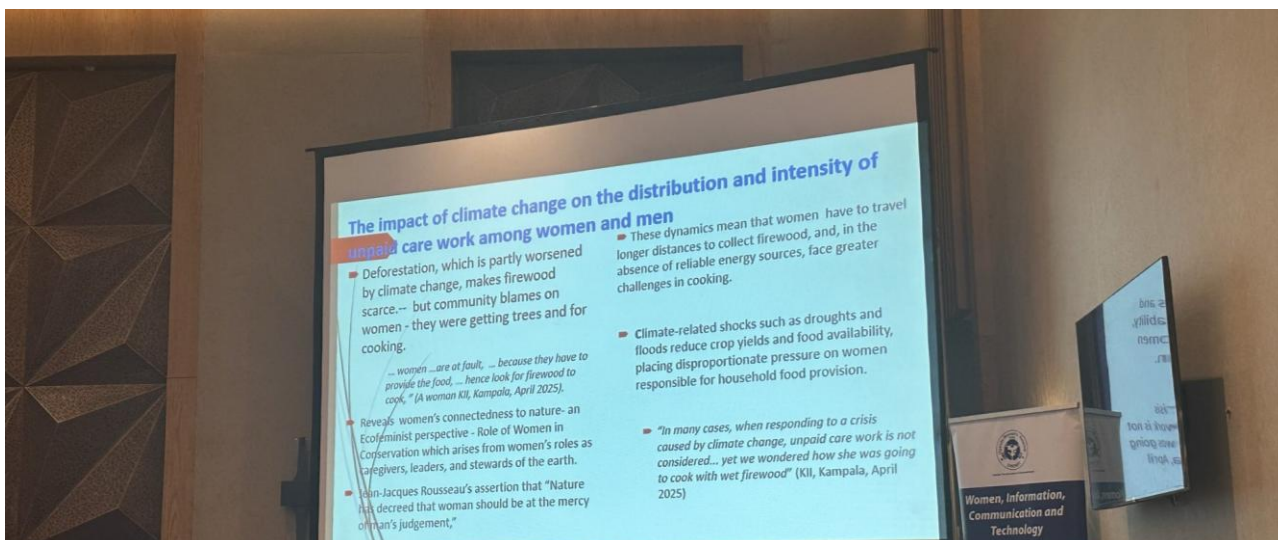
The increase in population has exerted more pressure on land which in turn is bound to set in motion -community tensions over natural resources, which calls for collaboration, and innovative solutions for harmonious living.

## OXFAM CANADA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LAUREN RAVON SHARES UGANDA'S PROGRAM EXPERIENCE



In April, Oxfam in Uganda hosted a team from Oxfam Canada in the West Nile for a monitoring visit to Global Affairs Canada funded projects implemented in refugee-hosting communities (Stand-up for Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights and Geared for Success Projects). The team had several engagements with the stakeholders. Here is what Oxfam Canada's Executive Director Lauren Ravon shares from [her field experience](#).

## OXFAM AT THE WE-CARE ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



Oxfam team led by Francis Shanty Odokorach, joined Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) and other key stakeholders including Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development at the Annual Research Symposium on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work.

The symposium aimed to deliberate on ways of elevating unpaid care as national policy and development priority through locally grounded evidence and lived experiences.

Francis highlighted that unpaid care work remains the invisible foundation sustaining communities, families and economies globally, despite being largely undervalued and underinvested. He called for greater recognition, investment, and policy action on care work.

According to Angela Nakafeero, the Commissioner at Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, evidence shows women and girls continue to shoulder increasing roles and responsibilities due to harmful social norms that privilege men and boys.

She noted that research on Unpaid Care and Domestic Work is critical for evidence-based policymaking by informing solutions, guiding resource allocation, promoting equity and justice, and strengthening accountability at all levels.

Dr. Peace, from Makerere University, shared the findings about the relationship between climate change, unpaid care and gender equality. Rita Aciro, the UWONET's Executive Director urged participants to celebrate the collective effort that has built a truly Ugandan body of knowledge on unpaid care work. [Coverage by NBS TV](#)

## UPDATES FROM THE WEBSITE

### OVERCENTRALISATION OF UGANDA'S ELECTRICITY SUBSECTOR IS UNDERMINING SERVICE DELIVERY

Uganda's electricity subsector is caught in a governance paradox. The core problem is not simply infrastructure. It is overcentralised planning, budgeting, and accountability in the electricity subsector. Local governments where electricity challenges are most visible have minimal formal authority over infrastructure prioritisation, budgeting, maintenance planning, or monitoring. This disconnect means that decisions are often made far from the communities they affect, resulting in mismatches between national priorities and local needs. [Learn more](#)



### PEACE'S JOURNEY FROM THE MINES TO SCHOOL IN KARAMOJA

In January, Peace's days were spent at the gold mines. She sifted heaps of soil searching for tiny glimmers of gold. On a good day, she earned 5,000 shillings, barely enough to buy food. Her parents, worn out by years of mining, relied on her to help put food on the table. With a mobile school in her community and rigorous community sensitisation about the dangers of child labour, Peace seized the chance she had long yearned for to return to school despite her parents' hesitation. [Learn more](#)



### HOLDING TWO REALITIES: REFLECTIONS FROM REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

In November last year, Rachel visited the Rhino Camp, Imvepi, and Bidibidi refugee settlements in Uganda's West Nile Region as part of Oxfam in Uganda's Humanitarian Development & Peace Initiative. In her blog on Substack post, she reflects on what she witnessed during the visit and the realities facing both refugee and host communities. [Learn from her experience.](#)



## OXFAM IN COLLABORATION WITH MBALE AND BULAMBULI DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RESPONDED TO THE EMERGENCIES



Working closely with local leaders, community structures, and district authorities, Oxfam in Uganda with support from Oxfam Great Britain supported villages and households most affected by the crisis in Mbale and Bulambuli districts.

Vulnerable families, institutions, and individuals were identified through a community-led process that prioritised those with the greatest needs. Institutions and households received essential WASH support, including access to safe water, dignified sanitation facilities, hygiene items, water storage containers, water treatment supplies, and improved solid waste management services.

Continuous community engagement on hygiene and sanitation practices also helped families adopt safer behaviours and prevent further public health risks. At the community level, Village Health Teams, local leaders, masons, and artisans played a central role in mobilizing residents, identifying beneficiaries, and supporting the distribution of non-food items.

Their involvement strengthened trust within the response and ensured that assistance reflected local realities and priorities. In areas where water sources had broken down, Hand Pump Mechanic Associations worked alongside district structures to assess, repair, and restore damaged water points.

The restoration of these facilities brought safe water closer to communities and reduced the burden on families who previously had to travel long distances in search of water. By placing communities at the centre of the response, the intervention not only delivered critical support but also strengthened local ownership, participation, and collective responsibility for sustaining the improvements achieved.

### Restoring Dignity, Rebuilding Hope: Menstrual Hygiene Support in Bunambutye Resettlement Camp

In 2024, devastating landslides swept Nambuya Agnes's home in Makoba, Sisi subcounty, Bulambuli district, forcing her and her family to seek refuge in the camp. Through Oxfam's WASH emergency response, Agnes received a dignity kit containing essential hygiene items including a bucket, lesu, reusable sanitary pads, a pair of knickers, bar soap, and a cloth bag. [Learn more](#)

### Improving Access to Safe Sanitation in Flood-Prone Communities of Bulambuli

Oxfam supported the construction of an EcoSan latrine at Kelementine's home. The raised structure was specifically designed to withstand flooding, making it suitable for her environment. Kelementine expresses her gratitude with a smile: "I am very happy with this latrine. It is raised and does not flood like the previous one. It is safe and easy for me to use." [Read her story](#)

### Enhancing Access to Safe Water in Busukuya B Community

Upon upgrading the water source to a handpump, it now provides safer, cleaner, and more reliable access to water for the community. "The water is clean and it is safe to use as you can see" Nabende said. The intervention has also strengthened local management of the facility, with the Water User Committee better able to oversee a functional and safer system. [Learn more about this impact](#)

## OXFAM IN PRESS

- [Over centralisation of electricity sub sector undermines delivery](#)
- [Unpaid care work slowing women's economic progress, government warns](#)
- [Uganda: Unpaid Care Work Slowing Women's Economic Progress, Government Warns](#)
- [Refugees in West Nile Call for Urgent Climate Action as Livelihoods Collapse](#)
- [Experts urge policy reforms to address women's unpaid care responsibilities](#)
- [Climate change and refugee influx deepen pressure on Uganda's host communities](#)
- [The Walrus Talks at Home: Education in Crisis](#)
- [Peace and Climate Change Dialogue on Voice of Life Arua](#)



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