

OXFAM IN UGANDA

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2023

PARTNERING WITH THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO TRAIN COMMUNITIES ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN KARAMOJA

Oxfam in Uganda in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister and Moroto District Local Government in November 2023 trained community members of Lotisan and Katikekile sub counties in Moroto district on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), contingency plans and community based early warning systems.

The training is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and the achievement of sustainable development.

The trainers covered topics such as the overview of the national disaster preparedness and management policy, common hazards faced in Uganda, the roles and responsibilities of the District and Sub county and Disaster Management Committees, ways of mainstreaming DRR into district and sub county plans among others.

Moroto district like many districts in Karamoja sub region is prone to several forms of disasters such as drought, pests and diseases and cattle rustling.

Such disasters have adverse effects on the communities especially on vulnerable persons like children, women and persons with disabilities. The training was therefore meant to enhance the capacity of the communities to prepare and respond to shocks and emergencies.



Geoffrey Owino, the Oxfam in Uganda LHL & Policy Coordinator trains DDMC members in Katikekile Subcounty.

The training also targeted community support and district leadership who were taken through Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Contingency plans and Community based Early warning systems under the Resilience, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, and Empowerment of Communities in Karamoja (RISE-K) Project which is purposed to foster sustainable development and empowerment within the Karamoja sub-region, specifically the Nakapiripirit, Moroto and Amudat Districts.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE TRAINING

- There is need to capacitate local humanitarian responders who are always be available to urgently respond the disasters.
- There is need for continuous capacity strengthening training of the Sub County

Disaster Management Committee and Village Disaster Management Committee including refresher training to keep the committee active and alert on disaster issues.

- There is need to strengthen the position of Sub County Disaster Management Committee on advocacy capacity so that they are in position to lobby national government on issues of disaster budget at the subcounty level. This will quicken response by local actors in case of any emergency.
- There is need by Oxfam to have long term development projects such as irrigation in each of the sub county to address the shortage of water during dry seasons.



Participants after the training of SCMDC on Disaster Risk Reduction-2/11/2023 at Katikekile Subcounty-Moroto district



At least 55% of the world's population already live in urban areas and up to 70% of all food produced globally is destined for consumption in urban spaces according to [FAO](#).

World Bank estimates that Uganda's population will reach 68 million in 2035, with 30% of the population (some 20 million people) likely to be living in urban centres as a result of rural-urban migration in search of employment.

It is therefore, crucial for urban dwellers to have knowledge and skills on urban farming and gardening to increase access to healthy, affordable fresh and nutritious food and gardening to increase access to healthy, affordable, fresh and nutritious food.

Oxfam in Uganda partnered with Community Integrated Development Initiative (CIDI) to implement urban food hives activities in Kampala and Soroti Districts to improve on the health of city residents, while reducing the poverty and food insecurity resulting from urbanization.

The project is targeting youth and women in 50 households and two groups composed of 15 – 30 members.

The project is also aimed at enhancing technical capacities and access to technologies, inputs and ability to access production space to grow food through engaging youth and women within the urban poor households to scale up urban farming.

ABOUT THE FIELD MONITORING VISIT

On 23rd November 2023, the resilient livelihood team of Oxfam in Uganda together with CIDI visited some of the groups in Luzira Kampala that were established under the initiative of urban food hives.

They include Single Mothers Farmers' Group, comprising of 65 members and CIVACT Youth Group Uganda with 21, both involved in vegetable growing.

During the visit, it was evident that most of the farmers have come to appreciate the importance of urban farming, noting that it has always been a dream to say that urban dwellers can practice farming.

"All I knew was to do farming, you need to have large piece of land, but I have learnt that even in my small compound, I am able to grow tomatoes, eggplants and tea spices," Grace one of the members noted.

"This training has helped us to reduce costs at home, vegetables and greens are bought daily. When we established the garden in my compound, I no longer spend daily on vegetables, I atleast buy other things like charcoal or cooking oil," Maimuna, the manager of single mothers group added.

Urban Food Hives are not only improving nutrition but are also beacon of environmental protection. Other groups are engaged in recycling and using of plastics to make gardens and plant crops such as

tomatoes, crops, egg plants, onions among others. This according to Maimuna is helping in reducing plastic pollution in their communities.

Nasif Abdallah, the vice chairperson of CIVACT noted that the group, through the farm management training from Jero farm under the CIDI and Oxfam arrangement helped them to learn about the intercropping of different crops such as spring onions to prevent pests, adding that most people prefer buying organic foods, which puts them at an advantage to have a market for their produce in the city.

Like many challenges faced by youth, Nasif noted their group doesn't not have land and so are the members and this limits their productivity, adding that *'if we had land, we would have young people being trained in urban gardening and also still earn from the services we render to people to establish home gardens'*

Most of the members who had not established gardens in their homes pledged to do so after learning from success stories of other members.



CABINET CONSTITUTES COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS - JUSTICE MINISTER REVEALED



Oxfam in Uganda in partnership with Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development Danish Church Aid, Resource Rights Africa and Enabel and other stakeholders organised the 5th Annual symposium on business and Human rights, together with other stakeholders at Sheraton Kampala Hotel.

In a new development, the chief guest – Hon Norbert Mao who is the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs revealed that a cabinet has established a standing committee on human rights to address the increasing human rights abuse complaints in the country.

According to Mao, the committee is made up of a number of other ministers including ministers in charge of defence, internal affairs, gender labor and social development

among others, which has been tasked to develop a national plan of action.

“The law is about asserting rights and redressing wrongs. Sometimes, we have been misunderstood by those who act as if there’s no due process in Uganda, it is there, though low.”

The Chairperson, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Ms. Mariam Wangadya, added that there is a need for protection and promotion of businesses across the country as well as sensitizing businesses on how to respect human rights in their business operations.

“Business and human rights is a concept that emphasizes the responsibility for businesses to respect human rights as well as fulfilling their obligation to respect, protect, and remedy the rights of all businesses involved.” Additionally, Oxfam in Uganda’s Energy and

Extractives Coordinator Siraji Magara who was a panelist to a discussion on ‘*Access to remedy for vulnerable groups in the context of oil and gas developments in Uganda*’ highlighted the need for government to harmonise compensation rates for persons affected by government projects across the country.

“There is need for government to develop strong policy guidelines on ensure that compensation rates are fair adequate, and prompt as stipulated in article 26 of Ugandan Constitution. This will reduce unequal compensation rates for project affected persons,” he noted.

In his closing remarks, Edward Mwebaze, the Head of Programs at Oxfam reechoed his voice that judicial mechanisms for access to justice have not improved citizen’s access to justice in a meaningful way, adding that access to justice remains a costly venture, with inordinate delays in case management and resolution all at a cost of local vulnerable communities.

“As part of their responsibility to respect human rights, business enterprises should exercise Human Rights Due Diligence, meaning they should undertake processes to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for how they address potential and actual impacts on human rights caused or contributed to by their own activities, or which are directly linked to their operations,” he added.

UWONET AND OXFAM VALIDATES 'WE CARE' SCORECARD POLICY STUDY

Women activists want unpaid care work to be recognized as valuable work since it contributes to the social and economic development of societies.

The activists were speaking at a validation workshop at Mestil Hotel where academicians, activists, and government officials gathered to discuss research on the implementation of care policies in Uganda.

Ms. Peace Immaculate Chandini, Oxfam in the Women's Rights Coordinator of Oxfam in Uganda said that there is little attention and value attached to unpaid care work in society. Unpaid care work includes domestic chores, and caring for the children, the sick, and the elderly without any financial or economic benefit.

Research indicates that globally, 78.4 percent of households are headed by women who are increasingly shouldering the financial and childcare responsibilities of a household without support from fathers. The majority of the care work worldwide is undertaken by unpaid caregivers, mostly women and girls from socially disadvantaged groups.

Chandini said that unpaid care work deprives caretakers of the opportunity to engage in other forms of productive work. She said that if care work is recognized as valuable work then society shall then discuss its redistribution such that not only women and girls shoulder the burden of the work.



Redistribution of the unpaid care work, she said would reduce the amount of time women spend on such work and hence create time to engage in other productive ventures. Chandini said that policies in Uganda are still weak as far as promoting unpaid care work as paid work is concerned.

Oxfam and Uganda Women's Network-UWONET Commissioned a study titled "The National Roll-out of the Care Policy Scorecard in Uganda 2022: A Contextualized Analysis of Uganda's Investment and Policy Action on Care and Domestic Work". The study, still

ongoing is headed by Ass. Prof. Mary Sonko from Uganda Christian University.

Chandini however said preliminary results leave quite a lot to be desired in advocating for better policy formulation and implementation for recognition of unpaid care work as work.

Ms. Paulina Chiwangu, the UN Women's Country Director in Uganda said that the world and the country specifically should have a discussion on paying for the currently unpaid care work. She said this can only be achieved when society appreciates the value

of this work and the government introduces and implements favorable policies on care work.



Paulina Chiwangu, UN Women's Country Director in Uganda giving remarks during the workshop

Chiwangu said that the society and all beneficiaries of the different forms of care work should be able to pay for it. She further suggested a mindset change to address issues of societal expectations and gender roles and promote positive masculinity where masculinity doesn't necessarily mean burdening some sections of society including women.

During the meeting, Rita Aciro, the Executive Director of UWONET proposed a better framing of the issue to make it a fundamental

development and social issue that can be modeled into a proper social campaign.

She said often when the discussion of unpaid care arises, it is met with resistance from people who think the campaign is about women wanting to be paid for doing domestic work in their homes and taking care of their children.

According to Aciro, women's engagement in paid care work takes away their opportunity to participate in other public discourse and public allocation of resources among others. She however emphasized that ultimately, the resultant negative outcomes do not only affect the caretakers who are mostly women but the society at large.

Dr. Peace Musiimenta, a lecturer of Gender studies at Makerere University said unpaid care work should not be viewed solely as a burden to the caretakers who are mostly women but as a deprivation of men whom society has told they cannot engage in some work at home

"The men too are being affected. Imagine during COVID when a man wished to help with the kitchen but couldn't be allowed to because society considers that as work for women" said Dr Musiimenta while calling for a reflection on the societal perspective of the concept of masculinity.

Through [The Independent](#)



PARTNERING WITH THE YOUTH TO CONTRIBUTE TO COP28 NEGOTIATIONS

The annual United Nations COP28 climate negotiations began in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30th November and will run up to 12th December 2023.

COP stands for "conference of the parties", with parties being countries that have signed up to the original UN climate treaty (UNFCCC) in 1992 to avoid "dangerous interference" with the climate.

In the month of November, Oxfam partnered with [Fridays for Future Uganda](#) to bring together policy makers and the youth across the country to actively participate in climate action and policymaking in MOCKCOP28 session.

The seminar brought together youth representatives from Kiryandongo, Karamoja, Fort Portal, and Arua districts and helped to integrate youth perspectives and proposals into national and global climate policies, ensuring their voices are heard and considered in climate action effort.

Ms. Najjuko Caroline, the Climate Change Officer at the Ministry of Water and Environment encouraged the youth to take action by increasing their climate literacy through online courses on climate change negotiation, climate change information, and climate science.

She also emphasized the need for Youth organisations to use Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions in proposal



development which will serve as reference documents in climate engagements at the COP28 Meetings.

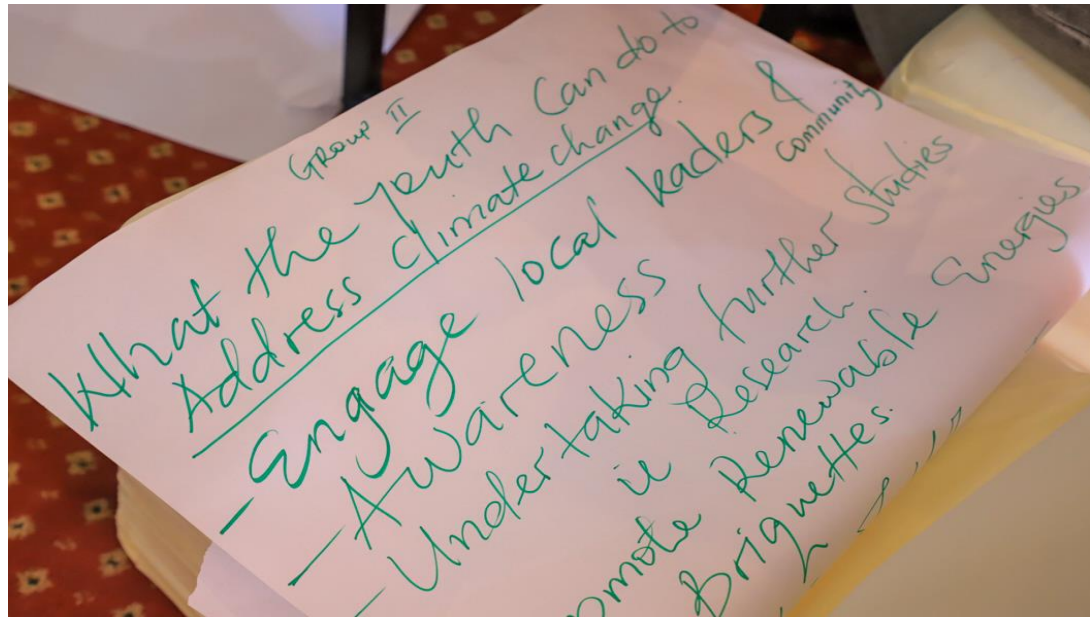
The outcomes of the Mock COP28 Consultative Meeting align with several decisions made at pre COP28 in events would be presented at COP28.

During the workshop, the youth demanded for action to tackle climate change both at the national and at COP28 by world leaders. The establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund, the emphasis on implementing COP commitments, and the focus on climate justice are all positive steps towards addressing the challenges of climate change.

The Recommendations Include:

- Establish a Loss and Damage Fund to create a dedicated loss and damage fund to provide financial support to developing countries that are disproportionately affected by climate change.
- Strengthen implementation of COP Commitments through establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress on the implementation of COP commitments and ensure accountability

- Reduce support for fossil fuels through redirect funding towards renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and sustainable development initiatives. For example solar energy, solar cooking, solar lighting.
- Advance climate justice by prioritizing climate justice in all aspects of climate negotiations and policies and addressing the historical and ongoing injustices faced by developing countries due to climate change.
- Develop and implement a clear Just Transition strategy that supports developing countries in transitioning to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy and provide financial, technical, and capacity-building support to facilitate a just and equitable transition for developing countries.
- Consider debt cancellation or restructuring for developing countries that are heavily indebted and struggling to address climate change and free up resources for developing countries to invest in climate mitigation and adaptation measures.



INTERSECTIONALITY BETWEEN LAND, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TOOL CENTER



In Uganda, women's ownership of land (registered) is at 26% which is a very small percentage versus the ratio of women to men's total population which is at 50:50 (Ministry of Land and Urban Development, 2018).

During the recent symposium organised by Uganda Women Network (UWONET), participants exhaustively examined how land, climate change mitigation, adaptation strategies, and women's economic empowerment intersect.

The symposium thought to address the multifaceted challenges impeding gender transformation and equality in Uganda and also discover practical solutions and opportunities for collaboration that advance

sustainable development, resilience, and inclusive growth.

Jimmy Ochom, Oxfam in Uganda's Land Coordinator presented findings on land inequality and the effectiveness of the Certificate of Customary ownership in defending women land rights in Uganda from a report that was conducted by Oxfam in 2021.

It was noted that women's lack of land limits their ability to diversify in production through the different value chains yet about 80% of women contribute to the agriculture sector where this takes place on land.

On procedure on knowledge and perception, the report found out that 'the majority (44%)

perceive that the procedures are good but a significant proportion of women do perceive they are lengthy in terms of time taken to get CC0 (26%) and costly (8%) -

"Poverty is more than twice as prevalent in rural as urban areas. Over 80 percent of rural households are considered to be vulnerable to poverty compared with under 30 per cent in urban areas," Jimmy noted, adding that we need to need to transform power relations ownership.

This was during UWONET's 5th Annual National Women's Week 2023 under the theme "Women's Organizing Reimagined! Thriving through Adversity" that ran from 16th to 23rd November 2023.

CLIMATE EQUALITY - A PLANET FOR THE 99% - NEW OXFAM CLIMATE EQUALITY REPORT



Climate Equality, a new report released by Oxfam shows that in 2019, the richest 1% of the world's population produced four times more carbon pollution than the entire population of Africa.

This indicates that climate breakdown and inequality are locked in a vicious cycle. When the richest pollute the earth, the poorest and most vulnerable suffer.

The report shows that the richest people, corporations and countries are destroying the world with their huge carbon emissions. Meanwhile, people living in poverty, those

experiencing marginalization, and countries in the Global South are those impacted the hardest.

Women and girls, Indigenous Peoples, people living in poverty and other groups experiencing discrimination are particularly at a disadvantage. The consequences of climate breakdown are felt in all parts of the world and by most people, yet only the richest people and countries have the wealth, power and influence to protect themselves.

READ THE FULL REPORT [HERE](#):

The report analysis has revealed the following in numbers:

- In 2019, the super-rich 1% were responsible for 16% of global carbon emissions, which is the same as the emissions of the poorest 66% of humanity (5 billion people).
- Since the 1990s, the super-rich 1% burned through twice as much of the carbon budget as the poorest half of humanity combined.
- The emissions of the 1% are set to be over 22 times more than the safe limit (the emissions allowed if we are to stay below 1.5°C global warming) in 2030.
- Annual global emissions by the super-rich 1% cancel out carbon savings for almost a million onshore wind turbines.
- The emissions of the super-rich 1% in 2019 are enough to cause 1.3 million deaths due to heat.
- A tax of 60% on the incomes of the super-rich 1% of earners globally would cut the carbon equivalent of more than the total emissions of the UK and raise US\$6.4 trillion to fund renewable energy and a transition away from fossil fuels.

YETA CONDUCTS ROUND TABLE STAKE HOLDER'S MEETING ON PEACE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

YETA, a refugee led organisation and an Oxfam partner convened a meeting that brought district leaders and other key stakeholders in Terego district to discuss the relationship between climate change and peace.

The participants shared views on the conflict aspects related to climate and how stakeholders can contribute in building sustainable peace through meaningful community engagement.

The meeting was also seen as a strategy for stakeholders (the refugee and host community leadership), local governments (both village, sub-county and district), to strengthen, coordinate and team work as well as consult for better approaches on resolving conflicts related to shared ecosystem and how to jointly build durable solutions to addressing them.

According to [UNHCR](#), Terego and Madi Okollo is hosting about 218,000 refugees. In most cases, local communities hosting refugees often experience a high level of poverty and face increased chances of economic vulnerability. This situation as a result may lead to economic competition over scarce resources between host and refugee communities and cause increased social tensions within the society.

Under Danida Strategic Partnership II, YETA received funds from Oxfam to implement the peace building initiative project which started in 2022.

Koriang Martin, the Assistant Settlement Commandant, Imvepi Refugee Settlement noted that apparently, there are limitations in establishment of new woodlots due to land inevitability.

With no cash for work interventions, Martin noted that there is a lot of insecurity alert in Imvepi especially cutting trees in search of money due to the limited funding, partners are drained making it hard to maintain and sustain projects related to climate restoration.

Terego District Environment Officer Enganville John acknowledged that both the Imvepi refugee settlement and host communities are faced with same challenges. Both communities are not maintaining the trees, or protecting the existing woodlots. He encouraged local leaders and stakeholders to always share feedback with the district to take action and fight against factors that contribute to climate change.

'Climate change is more than statistics, it is about the people who are being impacted right now on community health, conflicts, in social and structural destruction, water stress, drying of crops and shortage of water,' he noted.

Some of the takeaways from the meeting;

- The need for continuous sensitisation of the communities, leaders on negative impacts of bush burning and identifying of the culprits to face the law.
- Office of the Prime Minister should work together with education partners to ensure that schools and other institutions are supported with tree seedlings for planting around their compounds.
- Environment actors and partners need to sit together and draft unified report on climate interventions and submit to the district and other stakeholders for informed decision making.
- Farmers needs to be empowered with knowledge on agro-forestry and sustainable agriculture.
- Promoting the planting of seasonal tree seedlings (fruit trees and shrubs for firewood) in the community can create an impact in the community.
- The localization agenda is key and the need for district leaders to lobby for the Refugee led Organisations because they are cost effective to sustain initiatives.

UNIFIED POLICIES ON ACCESS TO LAND FOR INVESTMENT KEY TO AFRICA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION



AfCTA must promote continent's intra-Africa access to land while cushioning citizens from illegal and irregular land acquisition by multinationals.

In the recent September 2023, during an annual State of the EAC address, the Intra-EAC trade was reported to have grown by 11.2 percent to US\$ 10.9 billion in 2022 from US\$9.8 billion in 2021. The increase was attributed to the strong collaboration between the member countries in harmonising the standards and removal of some of the non-tariff barriers. As the EAC continues to register such positive developments, it's critical to look at the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) in providing economic transformation in Africa. Africa's economy is gradually changing as a result of the AfCTA. A free trade area is a zone where nations agree to cooperate economically via the implementation of trade agreements between member nations of the

region. The AfCFTA's only objective is to promote free trade among its member nations by removing trade obstacles such as tariffs and restrictions on land investments.

The deal has the power to significantly alter the economic landscape of the continent. While the need to remove obstacles has been emphasized, insufficient attention has been paid to the immense potential in creating shared policy frameworks, such as with respect to access to land for investment, which may be a significant engine for the continent's economic development. Although land is the foundation of many economic activities, investment and growth are continually hampered by complicated land tenure regimes, unclear property rights, and overlapping claims.

Rich countries from across the globe invest in land in Africa; as a result, arrangements that provide this potential need to be investigated in order to support fast economic development. Although African governments have put in place fiscal policies that make it quick and easy for investors to acquire big tracts of land, the laws sometimes seem to be fairer to foreign investors than to investors from the continent. A provision on uniform investment land access tariff would envision a system in which nationals of all African nations might invest easily in other African nations. If implemented, a systematised tariff strategy for entry to land investment into the AfCFTA will accelerate Africa's economic transition.

Most rural economies in Africa entirely depend on access and maximum utilization of land to generate income. However, increase in demand for this finite resource by multinationals and investors from rich nations has pushed the prices way above the reach of ordinary citizens. This has seen many citizens who cannot afford to buy or rent arable land to sustain life and livelihood migrate to cities to look for other opportunities.

An initiative like the AfCFTA can activate rural economies by implementing unified favorable fiscal policies that allow African Citizens from any part of the continent to easily access land for responsible investments. Such policies must prioritize access to land for agriculture as this would help address the current hunger crisis and poverty.

The AfCFTA should be able to foster fair competition, since nations would often employ innovation to build up business partnerships that support efficient use of land and maximum output. Under such framework, effective utilization of African resources, such as land, entails maximizing profits across the continent.

Through: [Daily Monitor](#)

By Jimmy Ochom – Land Rights Coordinator-
Oxfam in Uganda

IRELAND TEAM CARRIES OUT MONITORING VISIT IN KARAMOJA



A team from Oxfam Ireland recently carried out a monitoring visit to Moroto, Karamoja sub-region where the RISE-K project is being implemented between the 20th and 21st of November 2023.

RISE-K which is an acronym for the Irish Aid-funded Resilience, Inclusiveness, Sustainability and Empowerment of Communities in Karamoja (RISE-K) is a project being implemented by Oxfam in Uganda in Consortium with local partners in the Karamoja sub-region like Caritas Moroto, the National Association of Women of Uganda (NAWOU), The Uganda Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO) and Resource Rights Africa (working with the Center for Budget and Tax Policy).

The 5-year project which was launched earlier in September is purposed to empower a just and resilient community in the Karamoja sub-region and is being implemented in line with Oxfam in Uganda's triple nexus approach.

The Oxfam in Ireland team which was made up of Whelma Villar-Kennedy, the Head of Programme Quality and Partnerships, and Melissa Cooke, the Content Coordinator, Communications and Campaigns were accompanied by the Oxfam country team of Joel Dengel, the Program Quality and Learning (PQL) Coordinator and Jackson Muhindo the Climate Justice Coordinator in a visit which was intended to strengthen relationships and gain in-depth understanding of the ICSP programme and engagement between Oxfam and partners in Uganda.

The team paid a courtesy call to the Moroto district headquarters where the on-ground partners introduced the Oxfam teams to the district leadership team that included among other key persons; George William Wopuwa, the Resident Commissioner, and Kassim Kutosi Nasibu, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) who together with the different district technical teams expressed optimism in the project.

Speaking at the sitting, Kassim Kutosi Nassibu, the CAO Moroto (in photo) assured the team of the collaboration of the district in ensuring that the project is a success.

"We want to assure you that we are all going to work with you to ensure that this development is a success."

—Kassim Kutosi Nassibu

The team visited different project implementation areas from a puppet theatre

group that uses puppets to engage communities and spread information and messages related to the project, to a farmer group braving unfavourable weather conditions and a transformative smallholder beekeeping project that promises to empower people in the communities of Katekekile.



Dennis Amena, (left) from Oxfam Partner Tunado explains the beehive making process while Melissa Cooke and Whelma Villar-Kennedy watch on.

The visit was the first of a series of monitoring visits that will be carried out throughout the five-year duration of the project to ensure that it is running smoothly at every stage and the recommendations picked from the visiting team were shared with the implementing partners to improve the project.

Ms. Whelma Kennedy-Villar commended the consortium for working as a team in implementing the project and pledged the continued support of Oxfam in Ireland in the implementation of the program.

INAGURAL ICSP ANNUAL PARTNER MEETING HELD IN UGANDA



Between the 27th of November to December 1st 2023, Oxfam in Uganda was honoured to host the inaugural Ireland's Civil Society Partnership (ICSP) Annual partner meeting that brought together over 50 representatives implementing the Irish Aid-funded

The meeting which was hosted by Oxfam in Uganda in collaboration with Oxfam in Ireland brought together partners from countries like The Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe who convened at Resort Beach Entebbe to facilitate a cross-learning space and opportunities for connection amongst ICSP teams and partners.

In Uganda, ICSP is implementing the Resilience, Inclusiveness, Sustainability and Empowerment of Communities in Karamoja (RISE-K) program in the three Karamoja sub-region districts of Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto to empower communities in the Karamoja sub-region and according to the

RISE-K project lead Charity Chelangat, the annual partner meeting provided a platform for implementing partners to learn from each other's shared experiences.

"It was an opportunity for country teams to interact and share learning to understand the different contexts where ICSP is being implemented and appreciate the different approaches being used in implementation" she said.



Chelangat speaking at the annual partner meeting

Among the key observations that came from the knowledge sharing was the similarity in different implementation contexts with several challenges especially as regards the need for capacity building for partners, cultural norms that limit the participation of women and challenging climate change effects being identified by country teams across the African continent.

The workshop also had sessions that delved into reporting templates for the project, the different program approaches used across

the different Oxfam teams including the Triple Nexus, One program approach and Theory of Change (TOC) to ensure that they were fully understood.

The discussions also looked at climate change action, content gathering and documentation for accountability as important facets in the implementation of the ICSP projects across the seven project implementing countries.

As the meeting came to a climax, Oxfam was honoured to host Ms Columba O'Dowd, the Head of Cooperation at the Embassy of Ireland and she commended the teams for work being done especially as far as mitigating the effects of climate change.

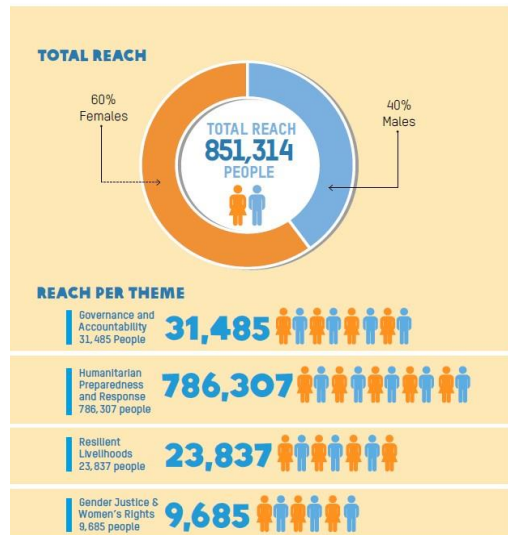
Speaking at the dinner organised on Thursday 30th November, Francis Shanty Odokorach, the Oxfam in Uganda Country Director expressed optimism about the outcomes of the meeting and encouraged the partners to network and engage beyond the meeting to share knowledge and experiences.



A section of Program staff after the meeting

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT - IMPACTING OVER 800,000 PEOPLE



'I am delighted to present to you the annual report for Oxfam in Uganda 2022 /2023. This also marks one year into implementing the [Country Strategic Framework 2021- 2030](#)," Francis Shanty Odokorach – the Country Director of Oxfam in Uganda stated.

In December, Oxfam in Uganda, released the country's annual report of 2022/23, which summarises the progress in addressing poverty and inequality through the four thematic programmes.

Oxfam in Uganda has one program anchored on four broad themes focused on Resilient Livelihoods, Governance and Accountability, Humanitarian and Preparedness Response and Women's Rights Programme became operational at the start of this FY 2022/23.

Oxfam in Uganda implemented 30 projects with 46 partners, impacting the lives of 851,314 people, improving food systems and tackling the challenges that affect small-scale food producers, impacting the lives of persons affected by crisis through empowerment to enable them to cope with shocks, empowering marginalised communities, to holding governments and institutions accountable, and more importantly, empowering women and girls by challenging norms and practices that hold them back to promote gender equality.

Under the [Humanitarian and preparedness response](#), Oxfam and its partners supported over 786,000 people affected by crises, ensuring a timely and quality humanitarian response. [The Resilient Livelihoods programme](#) focused on improving food and income security through a comprehensive approach which impacted over 23,000 people.

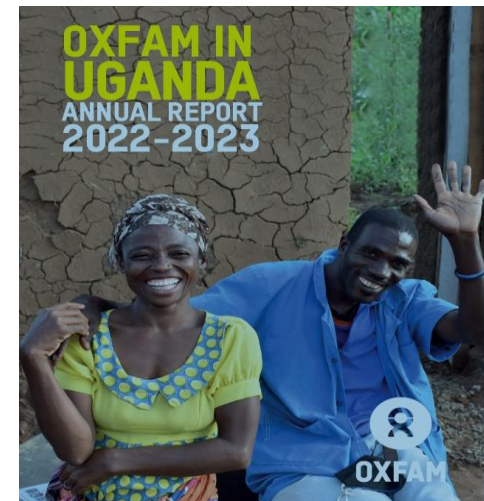
[The Gender Justice and Women's Rights Programme](#) empowers women and girls by challenging discriminatory norms and practices, and promoting gender equality and over 9,600 people were impacted by this programme. The theme strives to transform power relations and tackle the barriers that perpetuate gender inequality.

[The Governance and Accountability team](#) and partners promotes active citizenship, participatory decision-making, and the accountability of governments and

institutions. By empowering marginalized communities, promoting transparency, and strengthening civil society organizations, Oxfam seeks to challenge power imbalances and transform governance systems and over 31,000 people were impacted by this programme.

"We couldn't have achieved all without the unwavering support of our partners, donors, supporters, and staff. Your belief in our vision and your continued commitment to our cause are the driving forces behind the progress achieved," Francis Shanty Odokorach, Country Director - Oxfam in Uganda.

READ THE REPORT [HERE](#)



MBALE AND KYAKA REGIONAL OFFICE TEAMS TRAINED IN DIGITAL RIGHTS



In 2019, Oxfam started the process of developing a Rights in a Digital Age (RIADA) policy compendium that signed off in 2023 to guide our work around participation and advocacy for aspects in regards to rights in a digital age.

In a bid to ensure that digital rights and the RIADA policy is understood by Oxfam staff and partners across the country, the Governance and Accountability programme team recently organized

training sessions for regional teams in Mbale and Kyaka regional offices.

As a way to equip staff and partners with the skills, knowledge, and tools to apply in their daily work, a team of facilitators made up of Philip Kabuye, the Policy Advisor Digital Rights and Space, Oxfam Novib, Hood Lubowa, the Civic Engagement trainee conducted three day trainings in the regional offices training over twenty staff and partners.

The training which were delivered through presentations and group discussions

explored various topics including digital Influencing, Digital Civic Space, security, legal Frameworks, and the Rights in a Digital Age scorecard covering its five pillars including; access and equity, security and digital civic space, responsible data use and privacy, automation and the future of work and governance fitting them within the different contexts in which Oxfam conducts its operations.

Between 3rd-7th December, the team was in Mbale and reached out to over ten staff who appreciated the timeliness of the training as a significant one in helping them to navigate the unavoidable digital landscape.

The next stop for the team of facilitators was the western Uganda district of Fort Portal where Oxfam in Uganda staff and partners that work in Kyaka district were also equipped with similar knowledge and skills between the 17th to 22 December.

The two trainings came on the backdrop of a successful pilot digital rights training that was carried out in Kampala in of October which similarly targeted staff and implementing partners.

Oxfam in Uganda is committed to advancing digital rights and space as detailed in its Country Strategic Framework in order to leverage the power of technology and the training on RIADA policy are key to achieving this goal

SENSITISING COMMUNITIES ON CLIMATE EDUCATION CARAVAN AND COMMUNITY GREENING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Oxfam and partners organised climate education caravan for three days in West Nile in districts of Yumbe, Terego and Madi Okollo.

Attended by selected district stakeholders and educational institutions, the caravan aimed at creating awareness on the need for climate education/ school and community greening, empower communities to embrace good practices of environmental protection and preservation and influencing behavioral change to address environmental challenges in schools and communities.

The caravan attracted two hundred participants drawn from district leadership and selected institutions in to influence education institutions, community and local government leadership's participation in climate change adaptation and mitigation for a sustainable future.

The caravan is part of the Danida Strategic Partnerships II project implemented in the West Nile region by Oxfam and partners supporting green livelihood options through vocational training and agricultural skills development

The caravan was delivered through a pre-engagement activity with mapped stakeholders, actual implementation of the



greening campaign as well as follow up activities with selected District officials namely, district environment officers, District Education Officers and secretaries.

Oxfam in Uganda team also planted trees in all vocational training institutions, district headquarter premises as well as at selected sub-counties. The number of trees planted trees will act as shade, source of food, source of income and climate mitigator to absorb greenhouse gases.

The caravan also interested three district production officers whose mandate links with human activities and the effects they



have on climate change thus, all departments would be encouraged to ensure that climate change issues in their sectors are integrated into the District Development Plans of Terego, Madi Okollo and Yumbe.

Philip Talemwa, Education Coordinator at Oxfam noted that the climate knowledge empowers individuals especially students to make informed decisions in their daily lives such as adopting sustainable practice, reducing carbon prints and advocating for climate friendly policies.

Read Through [New Vision](#):

FAREWELL 2023 – OXFAM IN UGANDA ORGANISES END OF YEAR PARTY



As the year 2023, comes to its evening, Oxfam in Uganda organised a staff end-of-year party that brought together over 40 staff from the country office.

The party that was held at AfroPark Hotel Muyenga brought together staff who over the delicious taste of celebratory cake, snacks, refreshments and conversation reminisced and took stock of what has been a good year.

Speaking at the gathering, Francis Shanty Odokorach, the Oxfam in Uganda appreciated the team for working together in implementing the different projects and ensuring they

were a success.

He also expressed gratitude for the good health of staff.

"I want to thank God, that with all the things that have happened throughout the year, he has kept us all safe" he said.



Mr Odokorach also made a rallying call to staff as the year comes to an end to continue taking care of their physical health, commending them for being proactive in taking care of their physical health through the physical fitness sessions that are held at the country office and highlighting the importance of physical exercise in their wellbeing.

The rest of the evening saw teams participate in different team-building exercises and games more notably the gratitude exercise where staff appreciated each other for the support rendered during the year.



OXFAM'S HOLDS BI-ANNUAL PARTNERS' MEETING



Partnerships are an important component in Oxfam in Uganda's work as detailed in the country Strategic Framework 2021-2030 where the organization commits to adopting transformative partnerships and going beyond mere capacity strengthening but also co-creating with its partners to improve on the quality of its programs.

Accordingly, between 11th – 13th December, through its Program Quality and Learning department, the organization recently held its first Annual Staff Partners Forum & Programme Review Meeting, at Kampala Nile Resort inviting over 50 partner staff and Oxfam staff working in across the different program areas from Resilient Livelihoods, Governance and Accountability, Gender Justice and

Women's rights, Humanitarian Response and Preparedness and other cross cutting departments like safeguarding, communication, finance, funding, logistics and others for a three day meeting.

The meeting was meant to enable the organisation to assess the progress made towards realization of the achievements (milestones/outcomes) as per annual operation plan, reflect on our working relationship and develop concrete actions for realization of the Transformative Partnership.

According to Joel Dengel, the Program Quality and Learning Coordinator, Oxfam in Uganda, the meeting which happens twice in a year also served the purpose of empowering partners to deliver on their work according to the set standards.

"It is important to bring everyone together to have open discussions about our relationship with our partners and these meetings allow us strengthen the capacity of our partners to ensure that together we put up systems that allow them to deliver quality work according to the agreed standards" he said.



The meeting allowed partners and Oxfam in Uganda staff to offer feedback across the board in a broad reflection that not focused on issues like budgeting, fundraising, reporting, reviewing the working relationships between Oxfam and its partners but also examined the progress being made in implementation of projects according to set timelines and troubleshooting and finding solutions to challenges being faced by both partner organisations and Oxfam in Uganda staff.

As the meeting ended, recommendations on how to work closely through strengthening feedback mechanisms with both Oxfam and its partners committing to supporting the cause.

OXFAM IN THE NEWS

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