

OXFAM IN UGANDA



OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

OXFAM TRAINS COMMUNITY STRUCTURES ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND PREPAREDNESS

The Karamoja sub-region faces several disasters, including drought, land degradation, bushfires, and strong winds, among others. These often leave behind unquantifiable losses from road destructions, houses, gardens, animals, and the environment. This negatively impacts the lives of people and keeps them in perpetual poverty.

In a bid to increase the capacity of community disaster management committees to prepare and respond to shocks and emergencies, Oxfam in Uganda between the 14th-18th October trained community support structures on disaster risk reduction and community-based early warning systems.

The four-day training was conducted in the communities of Karamoja subregion. It targeted the Sub-County Disaster Management Committees and the District Disaster Management Committees, which are often at the forefront of responding to disasters in the Karamoja region. A technical team from the Office of the Prime Minister, Department of Disaster Preparedness and Response facilitated the training.



A participant presents on the Disaster Risk Management status of Amudat during the training.

The facilitators engaged over 40 members of the Sub Country Disaster Management Committees (SBMCs) from Moruita, Kakomongole Looor, and Karita sub-counties of Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts. The training was participatory, engaging participants through presentations, group discussions, role plays, question and answer and informative videos.

The training delved into key concepts, including disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness, resilience, risk governance, disaster risk assessment, mitigation, prevention, recovery and response, early warning systems, contingency planning, risk, hazard, and vulnerability.

Key issues identified as impediments to disaster risk reduction included limited access to scientific information from the Uganda National Meteorological Authority for the lower-level disaster management committees at sub-counties and village levels. Additionally, these committees receive limited funding to effectively prevent, mitigate, and respond to disasters. The lack of early warning systems at the sub-county level makes it difficult for communities to have timely information regarding impending disasters.

The training was supported by the five-year Irish Aid-funded Resilience, Inclusiveness, Stability, and Empowerment project in Karamoja (RISE-K). The project is implemented by Oxfam in Uganda in consortium with Resource Rights Africa, Caritas Moroto, the National Association of Women of Uganda (NAWOU), and The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO). The project aims to achieve an empowered, inclusive, and just, resilient community in the Karamoja subregion..

THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION FINANCING FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES



In October, Oxfam in partnership with the Education Advocacy Network, (EAN), Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), and Luigi Giussani Foundation (LGF) held a high-level round table discussion in Arua focusing on education and financing under the theme “From pointing fingers to playing our part, the role of stakeholder engagement in addressing existing challenges, gaps and inequalities in the education and sports sector”.

The West Nile region faces numerous challenges, including early marriages, low teacher salaries, poverty, and insufficient educational resources. These issues significantly contribute to the poor academic performance of learners in the area.

On the backdrop of this, Oxfam in Uganda and its education partners invited teachers, parents, district education officers, the headteachers, political and technical leaders and other stakeholders from the three districts of Yumbe, Terego and Madi Okollo in a day-long roundtable discussion that explored the challenges faced in the education sector with the view of finding sustainable solutions.

During the round table discussion, Hon. Rose Obiga the Woman member of parliament representing

Terego District in a speech thanked Oxfam, and partners EAN, CSBAG and LGF for bringing together the duty bearers.

“We need to come together to advocate for our own issues affecting the region ranging from education, health, shelter and other key components.” She called for the continued engagement of stakeholders to find solutions to the problems facing the education sector.

Hon. Obiga also pledged to hold a separate follow-up meeting with other key stakeholders in Kampala regarding the issues raised, acknowledging that the continued poor performance of the learners in national exams is an issue that must be addressed urgently by all stakeholders to improve performance in the region.

The Commissioner of Basic Education at the Ministry of Education and Sports, Dr. Cleophus Mugenyi, echoed her sentiments. In his remarks, he thanked Oxfam and other stakeholders for supporting the ministry in filling education gaps and committed to holding a high-level meeting with Oxfam, LGF, and CSBAG at the Ministry of Education and Sports to explore funding opportunities within the ministry to support the Vocational training Institutes, especially the youth skilling component.

OXFAM AND PARTNERS MARK INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CARE AND SUPPORT IN KAMPALA



In June 2023, the United Nations declared 29th October the International Day of Care and Support to emphasize the critical role of care work in achieving gender equality and building sustainable societies.

Oxfam in Uganda joined the [Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development \(MGLSD\)](#) on October 29th to commemorate the second anniversary of the Day of Care and Support in Kampala.

The event was celebrated under the theme Transforming Care Systems to Achieve the SDGs in the context of Beijing +30" and brought together CSOs, government and private sector representatives.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Peace Regis Mutuuzo, the state minister at the MGLSD, called

for male engagement in advocating for the reduction of the Unpaid Care Workload, which falls disproportionately on women.

"We need to nurture young boys and men in our homes and teach them to do productive work and share roles in a home. This will ensure that women are also able to get time to do more productive work," she said.



Hon Mutuuzo speaking at the Celebration of the Day of Care and Support.

Ms. Mutuuzo also spoke about the need to integrate planning for care work in government budgets to reduce the roles and responsibilities of women. [Read More About this Story on our Website](#)

"EQUITABLE FUNDING NEEDED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE JUSTICE," NEW OXFAM REPORT REVEALS

A new [Climate and Fiscal Justice study](#) conducted by Oxfam in Uganda and the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) has revealed the need for equitable funding to address the climate change crisis in Uganda.

The report was officially launched by Mr. David Stephen Mugabi, the Director of Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of Water and Environment in Kampala who called for the recognition of climate change as a serious problem that requires dedicated interventions, as the world prepares for COP29 in Baku.



Ministry of Water and Environment's David Stephen Mugabi and Oxfam Country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach launch the Climate Finance Study

"Climate change cannot simply be treated as a cross-cutting affair; it needs specific attention." He said, - highlighting the efforts of his ministry which is developing a climate change strategy to mobilize the funds needed to address climate-related challenges.

Speaking at the launch event in Kampala, Oxfam in Uganda Country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach said, "The report highlights the urgent need for enhanced, equitable climate finance to support the communities in Uganda most affected by climate change."

The report identifies that international adaptation finance to Uganda fluctuated considerably, from USD 80 million in 2019 to a peak of USD 408 million in 2020, followed by a decline to USD 176 million in 2021.

This instability, coupled with adaptation finance accounting for only 27% of total climate funds globally, underscores the need for a robust, consistent increase in adaptation finance at a local level.

Among the key recommendations of the report is the need to broaden the focus of advocacy and monitoring beyond budgetary allocations to

actual releases and expenditure outturns. The report also recommends stringent penalties for government agencies that do not comply with climate-responsive budgeting and fast-tracking the local definition of climate finance for harmonized reporting and tracking.

The report also called for enhanced civic participation in budget implementation and monitoring, the establishment of independent climate finance accountability and tracking frameworks, and engagement of local governments to improve climate finance accountability and tracking.

Uganda currently grapples with the negative effects of climate change, including extreme drought and floods in the Mt Elgon and Karamoja regions respectively.

As COP29, scheduled for November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan, approaches, Oxfam and ACODE urge respective stakeholders to meet climate finance commitments and strengthen accountability frameworks to prioritize funding for communities least responsible for yet the most affected by climate change.

ON OUR WEBSITE



REBUILDING HOPE AMIDST FLOODS IN NTOROKO DISTRICT

Ntoroko District in Western Uganda is no stranger to disasters. For years, the district has grappled with the harsh extremes of devastating floods and prolonged dry spells.

In August 2024, disaster struck once again. Heavy rain led to the River Semiliki sweeping through five villages in the Bweramule sub-country, displacing families, submerging homes, destroying livelihoods, and disrupting every aspect of community life. Yet, amid the devastation, the people continue to be resilient and hope for recovery. [Read More](#)



OXFAM PRESENT AT GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY CELEBRATIONS

Every year on October 15th, the world celebrates Global Handwashing Day, which highlights the critical importance of inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and help achieve SDG 6, which promises sanitation for all by 2030, including access to adequate toilets and handwashing facilities.

This year, Oxfam in Uganda joined key stakeholders, including government representatives and civil society organizations working in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector for the national celebrations of the Global Handwashing Day which were held at the Mandela National Stadium, in Kampala. [Read More](#)



THE SHOPKEEPER WHO BECAME A COMMUNITY DOCTOR

Edwine Wangira, a 28-year-old from Sisiro village, Namayingo district is locally known both as a shopkeeper and, humorously, as a "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 essentials, he also spends his time educating his community members about sexual and reproductive health rights. This is knowledge he acquired from CEHURD training such as the effects of child pregnancy and gender-based violence. [Read More](#)



In October, Oxfam in Uganda and Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) released a climate Finance Study that highlights the need for increased climate financing to address the negative effects of climate change.

SCAN HERE to Access the Oxfam Climate Finance Report

FARMERS AND VSLA GROUPS TRAINED ON THE GALS METHODOLOGY



The Gender Action Learning System (GALS) is a participatory, community-led methodology aimed at promoting gender equality and social inclusion in development processes. It empowers individuals, especially women, through visual tools and participatory exercises to identify and overcome gender-based barriers in their personal and communal lives. GALS facilitates transformative dialogue, shared decision-making, and collective action for equitable and sustainable outcomes.

To support women's participation in society and benefit from access to services and livelihoods, the (LEAP II) project team recently conducted a Gender Action Learning Systems methodology training and Feminist Life Skills for Women, Girls, and Men in Refugee and Host Communities.

The training targeted selected farmers and Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) groups in Yumbe district. A total of 60 individuals, including 28 men and 22 men representing refugee and host communities from 6 targeted farmer and business groups from Bidibidi zones 1 and 2, were trained.

The five-day training covered key methodology concepts like the Vision Road Journey, Achievement Road Journey, Empowerment Map, Gender Balance Tree, Challenge Action Tree, and Marketing Map, which present a structured approach to addressing

inequalities and building capacity for sustainable change. Participants commended the training, with the end-of-training survey indicating that 95% of participants believed that this training would go a long way in helping them improve their household income and address gender inequalities at the household and community level.

This training is part of the activities under the 2-year project 'Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment and Resilience under [Leadership, Empowerment, Access, and Protection \(LEAP II\)](#) of Refugee and Host Community Women and Girls, funded by the Embassy of Norway through UN Women.

The project aims to improve food and income security, self-employment, energy access, and gender-responsive environments for refugee women and host communities.

[More about GALS](#)

The GALS Methodology was first piloted in Western Uganda in 2007 as a gender adaptation of the general Participatory Action Learning System (PALS) and to date has been integrated across different interventions worldwide, including in Agricultural value chains, Gender Based Violence Interventions, Village Savings and Associations, Functional Adult Literacy, climate change and advocacy interventions

In October, Oxfam in Uganda hosted the regional Just Energy Transition (JET) workshop in Kampala. Over fifty participants came from Oxfam affiliates and partners working in energy transition across the continent.

Energy transition refers to the global energy sector's shift from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption- including oil, natural gas, and coal to renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

Speaking at the JET workshop, Mr. Herbert Abigaba, the Principal Energy Officer at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, in his Keynote address at the workshop examined Uganda's Approach to Energy Transition vis-à-vis the Oil & Gas Extraction amidst the current Global Climate Crisis.

"Uganda is one of the countries that have an energy transition plan launched in 2023," he said.



Mr Abigaba speaking at the Workshop.

He also acknowledged the disparity in energy access and cooking practices among the population, as highlighted by the recent Census, which indicated that while 53% of the population has energy access, 90% still uses traditional biomass.

Abigaba also highlighted Uganda's commitment to energy access and sustainability, rooted in the 1995 Constitution, which mandates the promotion

of energy policies that satisfy basic needs while preserving the environment.

Uganda's emissions profile shows that over 80% of emissions stem from agriculture, forestry, and other land use, contrasting with developed nations where energy accounts for most emissions.

Abigaba highlighted the work being done by the Ugandan government to transition to cleaner energy sources.

"The government aims to transition from unsafe cooking methods to clean energy through initiatives like the National Electrification Strategy (NES) and the energy transition framework while leveraging revenues from oil and gas to finance the shift to green energy."

Speaking at the event, Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam's Country Director, spoke about the need to urgently address climate change by supporting the transition to cleaner energy.

"The issue of climate change is a human rights issue and thus should be treated with importance." He said.

During the workshop, which included country teams from all over the continent, including Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Kenya, and Mozambique, participants presented the different efforts their countries are making to transition to cleaner forms of energy.

Florence Gichoya, a representative from the Alliance of Civil Society Organizations for Clean Energy (Access Coalition) that works with Oxfam in Kenya, shared that they'd supported county leaderships like that of Meru and Kitui to develop county energy plans that advance the goal of energy transition also mentioning that the organization has had learning exchanges in July to find ways to work with government and leadership structures. [Read the Full Story on Our Website](#)

OXFAM IN THE NEWS

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