OXFAM IN UGANDA



OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

FROM DEMANDS TO ACTION: STAKEHOLDERS PUSH FOR WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS IN UGANDA



Stakeholders from across Uganda convened in Kampala to discuss ways of advancing women's access to, ownership of, and control over land.

The engagement is taking place under the theme "From Demands to Action: Securing Women's Land Rights for Equality and Empowerment."

Despite legal and policy reforms that promote gender equality, many women continue to face challenges in accessing and controlling land.

Customary practices, climate change, land-related conflicts, and limited access to justice continue to undermine women's land rights.

The Women's Land Rights Movement (WLRM) was established to address these challenges through collective advocacy, policy engagement, and law reform.

The movement brings together more than 40 organisations, including grassroots groups, national civil society organisations, academia, donor partners, and government agencies.

Over the years, WLRM and partners such as the National Land Coalition and the Stand for Her Land Campaign have worked to strengthen women's land rights across the country.

The upcoming 4th National Women's Land Rights Conference provided a platform for reflection, learning, and action.

It will also mark five years of the Stand for Her Land Campaign in Uganda.

Speaking ahead of the conference, Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam's country director highlighted the importance of moving from commitments to practical solutions.

He noted that research supported by Oxfam on Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCOs) has demonstrated their potential to strengthen land tenure security, particularly for women.

The research, conducted in Kasese, Soroti, Butaleja, and Pader, found that reported land encroachment on land occupied by women decreased from 59 percent to 6 percent after obtaining the certificates.

Francis said formalising customary land rights helps protect land claims, reduce disputes, and improve women's confidence in making decisions about their land.

However, he emphasised that documentation alone is not enough. "We need responsive institutions, accessible justice, sustained advocacy, and community-led solutions that place women at the centre of decisions affecting their lives," he said.

He called on stakeholders to strengthen partnerships, amplify women's voices, and promote accountability in land governance. "The time has come to move beyond rhetoric and make tangible commitments that secure women's land rights and advance equality," he added.

The conference generated practical, impact-oriented strategies that will contribute to securing women's tenure rights and promoting inclusive land governance in Uganda.

OXFAM DELEGATION VISITED COFFEE FARMERS IN ZOMBO DISTRICT



A team from Oxfam (Uganda and Italy) and AFCE Uganda visited coffee microstations in Zombo District to engage with farmers and gain insights into the ongoing coffee harvesting season. The visit highlighted the progress of the PAMITU Microstation, which was established with support from Irish Aid and is now fully managed by the local community. Farmers reported that improved processing facilities have helped enhance coffee quality and strengthen market opportunities. Local government support, including the provision of solar dryers for improving post-harvest handling and processing. The team also held discussions with Zombo District leaders and coffee sector stakeholders to explore practical solutions for strengthening Uganda's coffee value chain. The engagement provided an opportunity to learn from farmers, celebrate community-led progress, and identify ways to increase the benefits that coffee production brings to farming households.

RISE-K TEAM SHARE LESSONS ON LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT



Representatives from the Resilience, Inclusiveness, Sustainability and Empowerment of Communities in Karamoja (RISE-K) project participated in the Irish Aid Learning Event on Locally Led Development, showcasing experiences from Karamoja on strengthening community-driven development.

Charity Chelangat, RISE-K Project Lead at Oxfam, and Alum Luana Oloya of Caritas Moroto represented ICSP Uganda at the event.

Funded by Irish Aid, RISE-K Project is implemented by Oxfam in partnership with Resource Rights Africa, NAWO Uganda, Caritas Moroto Services, and TUNADO.

During a panel discussion, they highlighted lessons on promoting equitable and principled partnerships that place local actors at the centre of decision-making and action.

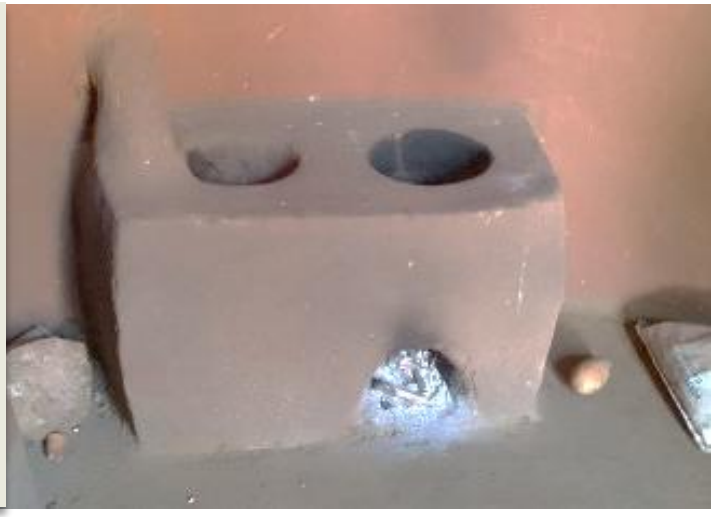
The discussion drew from the RISE-K Project's experience in Karamoja, demonstrating how locally led approaches can strengthen community ownership, accountability, and long-term impact.

The event provided an opportunity to share good practices, deepen learning, and reinforce the importance of empowering local communities to lead development processes that affect their lives. Learn more about RISE K project

UPDATES FROM THE WEBSITE

LOCALLY MADE ENERGY SAVING STOVES AS A CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION MEASURE

The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organization (TUNADO) is championing the construction of energy-saving stoves in the Karamoja districts of Amudat, Nakapiripirit and Moroto under the RISE-K project. In Karita Sub-county, already more than 185 households (couples) have adopted the use of locally made energy-saving stoves. Learn more





LEARNING THROUGH LISTENING – REFLECTIONS FROM STAND-UP FOR SHRH DOCUMENTATION EXERCISE

In October, I spent two weeks in West Nile and Eastern Uganda (Mayuge and Namayingo districts) to document the work that Oxfam and partners are doing to increase access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. My engagements with teenagers, school children, health workers and communities got me learning about different practices that are contributing to access to SRH services, especially for young women and girls. writes Sarah Mazirwe **Read More**

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY RADIO IN DISSEMINATING EARLY WARNING INFORMATION

Michael Mataki, a community radio host, Bududa District uses community radio to share weather alerts, preparedness messages, and safety guidance with communities living across the mountainous areas of Bushika and surrounding villages.

In the mountainous areas of Shihamosi village, Bushika Subcounty, Bududa district, communication has always been a challenge. The terrain is steep, and often difficult to reach different parts of the village. Yet this is also where some of the most dangerous weather-related disasters occur, especially landslides triggered by heavy rainfall. Read more



FOUR YEARS OF SCALING UP DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND ACTION IN THE MT. ELGON REGION



Since September 2022, Oxfam in partnership with Uganda Red Cross Society and Caritas Tororo has been implementing disaster preparedness project to strengthen the capacity of communities, local authorities, and other stakeholders to anticipate, prepare for, and respond effectively to disaster risks.

The project titled 'Early Warning, Early Action: Strengthening Multi-Hazard Disaster Preparedness in the Mt. Elgon Sub-Region' was funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

The project focused on enhancing resilience through improved disaster risk reduction mechanisms, early warning systems, community preparedness structures, and stakeholder coordination, and reached approximately 120,283 people across flood-prone communities.

Here are some of the impact stories from the communities on how the project impacted their lives.

- River gauges were installed to support local flood monitoring and early warning activities. Through trained volunteers, disaster committees, and community structures, early warning information is now reaching approximately 120,283 people across flood-prone communities. Learn more about the significance of rice gauges
- The project has supported 14 community radios across 14 sub-counties to strengthen access to early warning and preparedness information. Preparedness messages and weather alerts are now reaching an estimated 120,283 people in disaster-prone communities. Read how communities utilize community radios
- 140 Village Disaster Management Committees and district structures received training in assessment, reporting, coordination, and preparedness planning and seven contingency plans were developed or strengthened through district and national disaster management systems.
- 140 community action plans and local risk maps have been developed across the project area. These plans help communities identify danger zones, evacuation spaces, and early action priorities linked to floods and other hazards. Catherine's story
- Over 350 district and sub-county officials were trained in preparedness planning, contingency planning, and response coordination. Seven districts have developed or strengthened contingency plans to support early action, coordination, and resource mobilization during emergencies.
- The crisis modifier funding mechanism demonstrated effective collaboration between the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) and project partners, enabling timely action and response to emerging shocks and needs. Community voices on crisis modifier and timely support
- Communities were supported to establish and strengthen VSLA groups, promoting savings, access to community-based financial resources, and improved household capacity to cope with shocks. This is how Masiwe Village disaster committee is saving to respond to disasters
- Communities adopted and participated in a range of environmental management practices, including planting bamboo, opening and maintaining water channels, and tree planting, contributing to improved environmental protection and community resilience. Watch this video to learn about these practices
- The project reached and engaged community members through various resilience-building interventions, strengthening their capacity to prepare for, withstand, and recover from shocks and disasters. Learn how this is done

SUSTAINED PROJECT CLOSED: A YEAR OF ADVANCING ACCESS TO CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN WEST NILE



The SUpporting STronger Access to INnovative Energy Solutions in Displacement Settings (SUSTAINED II) programme came to a close at the end of September, after a year of advancing access to clean and affordable energy solutions for refugee and host communities in Bidi Bidi and Rhino Camp in West Nile.

The programme strengthened energy markets, expanded access to innovative technologies, and promoted sustainable approaches that will continue to benefit communities beyond the project's lifespan.

SUSTAINED was funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kampala and implemented in a consortium led by Mercy Corps, CARE and Oxfam, working alongside local partners, energy companies and financial service providers to improve access to quality, reliable and affordable clean energy. **Here are some of the impact stories:**

Solar-powered deep freezers bring new business to refugees and host community shops: Even when Eunice is working in her garden, customers call to ask for cold water or soft drinks. She returns to her shop to serve them. For the shopkeeper in Siripi, in Uganda's West Nile region, those calls reflect a change in what her business can offer. Eunice received the freezer in February 2026 through the SUSTAINED project's demonstration approach. Now she says she sells three or four cartons of soda a day, each containing 12 bottles. She reports weekly earnings of around UGX 200,000, compared with roughly UGX 50,000 or less before. Learn more

Solar irrigation keeps farmers growing through the dry season: For Gale James in Kogbo A Village, Kerwa Parish, Kerwa Sub-county, Yumbe District, a nearby well holds water throughout the year. But watering his one-acre garden meant carrying water manually, a demanding task that became harder during dry weather. Today, both farmers use solar-powered surface pumps to move water to their gardens. James draws from his well and Vincent from a river, allowing them to keep growing food during the dry season. Learn more

Community sales agents bring clean energy closer to communities: For many families living in refugee-hosting communities, access to clean and affordable energy remains a challenge. Yet, through the work of community sales agents, clean energy solutions are increasingly reaching households, small farms, and small businesses in the refugee-hosting communities. Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) work with community sales agents to promote and connect communities with clean energy technologies. Learn more

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