

OXFAM IN UGANDA



NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2023

OXFAM IN UGANDA LAUNCHES RISE-KARAMOJA PROJECT – LEADERS PLEDGE SUPPORT

On the 13th September 2023, Oxfam in Uganda and its partners launched the Resilience, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, and Empowerment of Communities in Karamoja (RISE-K) Project in Moroto district.

The RISE-Karamoja project – funded by Irish Aid will reach approximately 37,000 people in three districts of Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto over the course of five years and is implemented by a consortium consisting of Oxfam in Uganda, Resource Rights Africa (RRA), (working with Centre for Budget and Tax Policy), National Association of Women in Uganda (NAWOU), Caritas Moroto, and The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation (TUNADO).

Justin Tuko, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Moroto district officiated the event which also brought together key stakeholders, including district leadership, government officials, development partners, Irish Aid representatives, representatives from partner organisations and community members.

Tuko expressed optimism for the success of the project citing Oxfam's previous successful and impactful work and a good record in the Karamoja region, such as the North Karamoja Pastoral Development Program (2005-2014) and the Empowering Local and National Humanitarian Actors (ELNHA) project that was implemented by Oxfam in Uganda between 2016-2021.

'Let's go to the ground and inform people that this project is theirs. The sustainability of project is important because even when project ends, its interventions have to continue and not go with the partner,' he noted.

Speaking at the launch, Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda's Country Director called upon the stakeholders to support the successful implementation of the project and call communities to own the project.

"I am hopeful that this project, during this time of climate change will help to improve on the conditions of our communities. We live in a difficult time with effects of climate change and I hope that this project will allow us build our resilience to the different challenges," he added.

Valentina Lokol, the Karamoja Liaison Officer at Irish Aid who represented the project donor, called upon the partners to work closely with the Irish Embassy for the implementation of the project.

RISE-K project is being implemented by Oxfam through the Irish Aid Civil Society Partnership (ICSP) - the project donor and will reach an estimated 37,970 women, youth and other vulnerable people from mining and pastoralist communities who are living under extreme poverty and facing severe labour rights violations.



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**FRANCIS SHANTY ODOKORACH, COUNTRY DIRECTOR,
OXFAM IN UGANDA**

IMPROVED FOOD SECURITY THROUGH INCREASED ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS

Food insecurity remains one of the main challenges, faced by many households across the country.

The study conducted by Economic Policy Research Centre Study on Uganda's major threats to Uganda's food security in 2023 suggest that seasonal changes due to climate change remain one of the biggest challenges facing Uganda. The increasing temperatures, drought, erratic rainfall, and floods adversely affect farmers' yields.

With funding from Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (NORAD), Oxfam and partners have launched a pilot project, titled '*Combating Food Insecurity*' that seeks to improve food security through increased access and availability of nutritious food for 170000 most vulnerable individuals in Terego and Zombo districts.

TARGET: 170,000 vulnerable individuals

PERIOD: 12 months

LOCATION: Terego and Zombo Districts

PARTNERS:

1. Youth Social Advocacy Team
2. Agency for Community Empowerment
3. International Foundation for Recovery and Development

The pilot project reflects the urgent need to reduce food insecurity in the most vulnerable population.

The project will support a wide range of activities that promote climate-resilient food production and income of small-scale food producers as well as food availability in local markets, increase most vulnerable people's immediate access to food through cash-based programs, and enhance nutrition especially among children.



The pilot project was a response that seeks to address food security among the refugees and host communities.

Uganda is of the five countries, including Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, South Sudan and Syria implementing this one-year multi-country project to NORAD on Combating Food insecurity among the most vulnerable refugees and host communities

Combating Food Insecurity will be implemented for 12 months in partnership with the Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT), the Agency for Community Empowerment (AFCE) and the International Foundation for Recovery and Development (IFRAD).

YSAT will handle the cash for work components as well as peace building and land rights sensitization sessions, while AFCE will support poultry rearing, establish bulking centers and organise market days that will be synchronized with the payments of cash for work participants. IFRAD will train project participants on climate-resilient food production, making organic pesticides and manure to improve soil health to produce healthy crops. [READ MORE](#)

"Combating Food Insecurity will be implemented for 12 months in partnership with the Youth Social Advocacy Team (YSAT), the Agency for Community Empowerment (AFCE) and the International Foundation for Recovery and Development (IFRAD)"

ANALYSIS: WHY WE NEED TO PRIORITISE CLIMATE EDUCATION TO TACKLE AFRICA'S CLIMATE CRISIS

From 4th to 8th September 2023, different global leaders, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organisations, Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society organisations, indigenous peoples, local communities, children, youth, women and academia convened in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss Africa's climate change challenges and formulate sustainable solutions.



The recently concluded Africa Climate Summit 2023 clearly highlights the continent's climate challenges and the vulnerabilities of communities. As the world grapples with the consequences of rising temperatures and extreme weather events, it has become increasingly evident that there is an urgent need for climate change response, including climate education

For instance, World Bank statistics show that extreme events leading to disasters such as floods, droughts, and landslides have increased over the last 30 years in Uganda. Over the past two decades, an average of 200,000 Ugandans are affected each year by disasters.

Additionally, increased intensity of heavy rainfall has led to greater impact of floods and are causing more damage due to expanded infrastructure, human settlement and general development of the country.

Presented with such a context, climate education serves as a powerful tool for raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility among individuals.

Although individuals are more aware of climate change and impacts than they were a decade ago, more needs to be done to increase their knowledge especially on their individual contributions to adapting and mitigating the impacts.

For instance providing students with a comprehensive understanding of climate science enables them to comprehend the causes and consequences of climate change. This knowledge empowers individuals to make informed decisions in their daily lives, such as adopting sustainable practices, reducing carbon footprints, and advocating for climate-friendly policies. Moreover, climate education instills a sense of urgency and encourages active participation in climate action, enabling individuals to become agents of change within their communities.

Climate education also equips individuals with the critical thinking skills necessary for evaluating climate-related information. In an era of misinformation and climate skepticism, it is imperative to cultivate a scientifically literate society capable of discerning fact from fiction.

By teaching students to analyze and interpret climate data, climate education enables them to make evidence-based decisions and challenge misinformation. This critical thinking ability is essential not only for addressing climate change but also for navigating other complex societal issues.

Climate education also contributes to the development of a green workforce. As the world transitions to a low-carbon economy, there is a growing demand for professionals with the knowledge and skills to design and implement sustainable solutions. By integrating climate education into academic curricula, educational institutions can prepare students for careers in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, urban planning, and other climate-related fields. MORE OF HIS ANALYSIS CAN BE ACCESSED [HERE](#):

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Oxfam in Uganda in collaboration with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda, Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) and partners; Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI), Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD), and International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) recently held a successful Farmer Managed Seed Systems Caravan and Policy Discourse from 25th - 29th September 2023.

Addressing the press, Josephine Akia Luyimbazi, the PELUM Uganda Country Coordinator described the maiden farmer-managed systems caravan as a platform to "facilitate cross-learning, experiential sharing, showcasing, and dialogue on best practices to strengthen farmer-managed seed systems, for improved household nutrition, food security and income."

The Caravan was conducted in six districts of Soroti, Amuria, Apac, Nebbi, Adjumani and Omoro. Oxfam Resilience and Livelihood Manager - Charles Opiyo noted that the caravan was organised from learnings and lessons that were generated from farmers and other stakeholders over the years and the caravan was intended to put farmers at the forefront of seed systems.

"We wanted to mobilise support and interest for farmer-managed seed systems and to show the country the importance of seed which is a precious gift we can use to alleviate poverty, reduce inequality and promote development," Charles noted. Among the key activities were; exchange field visits to successful farmer-managed field schools where

farmers sourced from different districts moved to opposite districts and learnt from their colleagues comparing farming experiences, and getting introduced to crop varieties that were previously thought to be extinct.

The farmers also visited seed banks and exchanged learnings on different methods of preserving indigenous seeds in different communities.

Composed of two teams, the group that so-journeyed eastern route covered over 12 farmer field schools established and monitored by the consortium in districts of Amuria, Soroti and Apac while the other team began its journey in Nebbi, and journeyed through Adjumani, and finalised in Omoro district.

The farmer-managed seed systems caravan came to a climax in Gulu with a policy discourse and roundtable discussions on Friday, 29th September at Boma Hotel and was graced with district leadership, headed by Hon Douglas Peter Okello, the LCV Chairman of Omoro district.

Speaking at the policy discourse, Okello commended the consortium for its efforts in preserving indigenous seeds.



"I'm converted, and in total support of the institutionalisation of the Farmer field schools because they allow easy access and seed reliability." he added.

The Farmer managed seed systems caravan was organised as part of the Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security program which has been implemented by the Oxfam-led partnership since 2019 and through the years has seen the establishment of over 70 farmer-managed field schools focused on crop improvement and adaptation working with indigenous and farming communities.

LAUNCH OF THE 2ND UGANDA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE REPORT

August 20th 2023 marked three years since Uganda joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) as the 56th member country.

This means that Uganda started implementing EITI global standards that are aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability of the extractive sector management.

Uganda with key stakeholders in September 2023 launched its 2nd EITI report, having produced the first report in 2021.

The launch was attended by key stakeholders such as Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Finance, European Union and civil society actors.



Speaking at the launch, Eng. David Sebagala from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development acknowledged EITI contributions towards positively impacting the way government agencies collect data from the field by ensuring that they collect information that will feed into the report.

Hon Amos Lugoloobi, the State Minister for Finance while launching the report noted that experience from elsewhere shows that countries that are rich with natural resources transform best if they put in place measures to ensure proper utilization and management of their natural resources.

"It is therefore important for the country to develop a robust legal and institutional framework for the extractive industries sector to thrive & have lasting impact for the current & future generations," Lugoloobi noted.

'We encourage the government to integrate the impact of extractive operations on the environment in the EITI reports to trigger actions that enhance the sustainable exploitation of natural resources – Siraj Magara, Energy and Extractive Industries Coordinator at Oxfam in Uganda.

Read the report: [HERE](#)



The report shades more light on the contributions of the extractive sector to the economic and social development of Uganda and the need to improve transparency and good governance at all levels of the extractive industry value chain.

This report also covers various components such as payments made by extractive entities, the revenues received by government agencies and other material payments and benefits to government agencies as stated by Requirement 4.1 of the 2019 EITI Standard and the contributions from extractives to Uganda's economy between July 2020 to June 2021.

Siraji Magara Luyima, Energy and Extractive Industries Coordinator at Oxfam in Uganda participated at the 2nd African Business and Human Rights Forum (ABHRF) hosted by the African Union (AU) recently at the AU headquarters, Addis Ababa.

The forum was organised from 5th to 7th September 2023 in cooperation with United Nations Development Program (UNDP), The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was a much relevant event especially in this era of energy transition.

This engagement was a successor to Danish Institute of Business and Human Rights Roundtable on Realising Human Rights in the Energy Transition in Africa, a discussion that contributed towards collective learning and action in working towards an energy transition that protects and respects human rights.

The participants discussed Just Energy Transition (JET) in Africa, identified gaps, opportunities and challenges associated with the human rights dimensions of the energy transition in Africa.

They also discussed unique Africa-based solutions and suggestions to address the identified challenges aimed at strengthening responsible business conduct and human

rights protection in energy transition discourse so that Africa's development aspirations are more inclusive, equitable and able to champion Africa's agenda successfully.

'Realizing human rights in energy transition era requires a unique, prompt and robust approach considering the speed at which the transition is likely to happen and design of energy sector specific framework arrangements that will expedite interventions in human rights due diligence and responsible business conduct among energy investments in Africa and beyond,' Magara noted.



According to the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) report 2023, Africa has at least a fifth of the world's reserves in a dozen minerals that are critical for the energy transition.

The same report notes that Morocco holds 70% of the world's phosphate reserves, DRC has 50% of the world's cobalt, Gabon holds up to 15% of the world's manganese, and South Africa hosts a phenomenon 91% of the world's platinum, 46% of its yttrium, 22% of its manganese, 35% of its chromium, and 16% of its vanadium. This clearly indicates that Africa is/will be the major attraction of corporate entities that will explore and produce the critical minerals needed for energy transition.

The participants noted that it is important for African states to champion Just Transition approach by embracing the following key values of respecting human rights and do no harm principles, promoting equitable, inclusive and community-led renewable energy development, and building resilience with an intersectional and gender perspective.

The forum suggested recommendations for governments towards moving towards a Just Energy Transition, while observing human rights in natural resources. They include;

- African governments should provide a clear policy framework for a just energy transition, which prioritizes investments in renewable energy that promote local participation and ownership of distributed renewable energy initiatives.
- There is need to make sure renewable energy initiatives are people-centred and promote a democratized energy system that fosters the participation and ownership of local communities with regards to inclusive and equitable energy access.
- Work with regional bodies such as AU, EAC, ECOWAS, and SADAC to set up proper transparency, and human rights monitoring and compliance mechanisms to critically monitor all investments in the energy sector.

ACODE AND OXFAM LAUNCH A PROJECT THAT WILL SPUR WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND CARE SOLUTIONS

A study by the Economic Policy Research Centre notes that in Uganda, women and girls spend around 12 hours per week on unpaid care work, twice as much time as men and boys.

In efforts to address unpaid care work and promote women economic empowerment, Oxfam in Uganda in partnership with Advocates Coalition for Environment and Development (ACODE), launched a project that will work towards addressing incremental change in knowledge attitudes and practices of project participants in women economic empowerment (WEE) and care policy solutions.

Strengthening Capacity for Effective Women's Economic Empowerment and Care Interventions in Uganda is an 18-month collaborative project, funded by International Development Research Centre, aims to improve the design of the early childhood development policy and support the rollout of the National Gender Policy and the Family Policy.

The inception meeting was honoured by Deputy Country Representative of UN Women in Uganda, representatives from Ministry of Labour and Social Development, and other key stakeholders.

Dr. Angella Nakafeero, Commissioner of Gender and Community Development called upon partners to complement work they are implementing on unpaid care work to advance the gender equality and women economic empowerment.



She also reechoed her voice for the need to engage both men and women to participate equitably to change the attitude towards gender equality and handling unpaid care work.

She also shared insights into ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Gender, including designing and revising policies such as the family policy and agenda policy, both of which prioritize women's empowerment as engaging private sector.

Francis Shanty Odokorach – Oxfam's Country Director noted that "there is a lot of inequality in the world going on, however, inequality is hardest felt at the bottom level, to the people who have no voice to speak and defend their rights, while in the households, the people who feel the hardest burden are the women,".

He noted that women's economic empowerment has the potential to transform many women's lives for the better and support economic growth, of which, more concerted efforts across the board and, most especially, commitment at the policy level are required.

UN Women, Deputy Country Representative, Adekemi Ndieli, noted that although gender roles have changed overtime to reflect social roles, gender roles have not been effected at household level - between man and woman.

She noted that research and evidence need to be generated to inform the decision of legislation to bring a shift of that paradigm, and the contributions of unpaid care work to development.

The project is part of the broader "Growth and Equal Opportunities for Women (GROW) East Africa" initiative, which focuses on gender transformation, particularly addressing gender segregation, unpaid care work, and women's collective agency within the world of work.

The project is anchored in the wider spectrum of the Growth and Equal Opportunities for Women GROW East Africa Initiative which spurs gender transformation through advancing gender equality in the world of work with a focus on gender segregation, unpaid care and women's collective agency

IMARA GIRLS FESTIVAL – SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN RIGHTS

Oxfam in Uganda participated at the Imara Girls' Festival – a platform that focuses on celebrating women in all diversities, highlight key issues affecting girls and boys in and out of the school environment and celebrate women, innovation and creativity.



The event brought together various stakeholders such as policy actors, development partners, youth leaders and key individuals working towards women-centered opportunities and solutions.

Under the theme *"Interrogating The Diversity of Spaces for Women in Politics, Economics, Arts, and Business"*, the participants among other things discussed women and girl economic empowerment, sexual reproductive and health rights (SRHR), career and talent among others.

This gave Oxfam and its partners implementing the STAND-UP project an opportunity to showcase their work around SRHR through highlighting the key SRHR issues affecting young people and provide more information on SRHR.

Imara Girls Festival aims to raise awareness and funds to support the establishment of the Imara Women's

Centre (IWC), an initiative of Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) – the key conveners to anchor work on the advancement of women's rights, a place base from which to advance the struggle for gender equality.

"Our participation and support toward establishment of the Imara Women's Center is an indication of our strong continued commitment towards empowerment of women and advancing of women's rights through our work around Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Women Leadership, Women Economic Empowerment and Unpaid care and domestic work," Peace Chandini, the Women Rights' Coordinator noted.

"I would like to bring to your attention the schools drop out due to menstruation and online SGBV which affect women and girls. Through spaces like the Imara Centre, we hope to give activists a space to launch campaigns against these," Solome Nakaweesi, Women Rights Activist.

The festival featured several activities including the Imara Girl's walk, digital campaign, twitter spaces, radio and television talk shows, school outreaches, Imara marketplace and exhibition and Imara Women's football league. The festival was an opportunity for organisations to showcase their products, build their visibility and brand awareness as well as a platform to celebrate female clients.



OXFAM IN UGANDA ADMITTED TO KAMPALA LAND MANAGEMENT THINK TANK

Oxfam in Uganda was honoured to be part of the inaugural Kampala City Land Administration and Management Conference 2023 that happened on the 27th September in Kampala.

The conference, organised by the Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) under the theme “Challenges And Opportunities For Kampala Urban Renewal” was to lay the ground for the creation of a Land Management Think Tank.

“This think tank will guide us into the future, not just for our lifetimes but for our grandchildren and beyond,” said Ms. Dorothy Kisaka, the KCCA Executive Director

The day-long event brought together stakeholders including the government, land rights

organisations, city administrators, the Uganda Land Commission, and representatives from the Buganda Kingdom with the purpose of addressing Kampala City’s land management challenges.

The conference featured a keynote speech by Ms. Naome Kabanda - Director of Land Management, Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development who spoke about land administration and management legal framework and how the government guarantees land rights.

Jimmy Ochom, the Land Rights Coordinator at Oxfam in Uganda was a panelist to a discussion that examined topics on ‘Security of Tenure Innovations, Best Practices And Development Challenges’.

The conversation highlighted the practical interventions on the digital transformation and innovation agenda for land information systems and the need for security of tenure and its implication to infrastructure redevelopment.

As the conference drew to a close, its first gain was achieved in the formation of a Land Management Think Tank for Kampala that will include KCCA, Oxfam in Uganda, UN Women, GIZ, UN-Habitat, The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and other land actors as its maiden members.

Ms Dorothy noted that the think tank will serve as a collaborative platform for experts and stakeholders to formulate policies and strategies that promote responsible land use. It will also address critical issues such as preventing illegal land grabs and safeguarding vital areas like wetlands, schools, and health facilities.



NAMAYINGO DISTRICT LEADERSHIP LAUDS OXFAM FOR REACHING OUT TO REMOTE AREAS

Sigulu Island Primary School is located in Eastern Uganda, in Namayingo District. Unlike other schools, Sigulu Island P/S can only be accessed by water, and it is a two-hour trip from Namayingo District headquarters. This makes its accessibility more difficult.

In this school, Oxfam in Uganda in partnership with Femme Forte and CEHURD are implementing the Stand Up for Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SHRH) The Stand-Up project.

The project trains peer educators in schools on SHRH, human rights and prevention of gender based violence to ensure that they cascade that information to their peers in schools and communities.

In September 2023, Oxfam and partners implementing this Project embarked on a journey to monitor the progress of the project implementation in Namayingo.

Accompanied by a team from Oxfam Canada, the team met different stakeholders, such as district leaders,

peer educators at Sigulu island Primary School and community project participants.



The district leadership appreciated Oxfam and partners for scaling their interventions to Namayingo district, most especially to Sigulu island, noting that the project targeted the right location and population on the island and around the shores of Lake Victoria.

They also noted because of limited secondary schools in Sigulu, the community is faced with high rates of schools dropouts, which come along with high teenage pregnancies and early marriages.

OXFAM IN UGANDA'S COUNTRY DIRECTOR TIPS NGOS ON CONDUCTING SAFEGUARDING

At Oxfam, safeguarding is a set of procedures, measures and practices to ensure that Oxfam upholds its commitment to prevent, respond to, and protect individuals from harm committed by staff and related personnel.

Oxfam also focus on Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, Sexual Harassment (SEAH).

In line with this, Francis Shanty Odokorach – the Country Director of Oxfam in Uganda recently addressed over 30 international organisations and national organisations on safeguarding.

Organised by Internal Risk Management Group, the training brought together organisations that are working towards advancing women's rights and tackling sexual exploitation and abuse of women and girls.

In his key note address, Francis also spoke about risk management, proper ways of conducting safeguarding investigations that would not affect the organisation's reputation.

Francis further shared measures that Oxfam has undertaken to properly safeguard its staff and the communities we work with against sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation.

He also called different organisations to prioritise putting strong systems and measures against sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment.

"If the measures are not taken, the repercussions can damage the reputation of the organisation and cut grants," he noted.

Some of the policies that Oxfam has undertaken to ensure safeguarding were; revising policies such as child protection policy, code of conduct policy, digital safeguarding policies.

Additionally, Francis noted that Oxfam places emphasis on safeguarding and has placed a team at various levels, starting from country, regional to global level to support safe guarding.

Oxfam also has emphasized aspects of capacity building, indicating that Oxfam has mandatory online and physical trainings for all staff globally.

SUPPORTING REFUGEE ENGAGEMENT FORUM TO FORMULATE PLEDGES FOR THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

With funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation project, Oxfam in Uganda supported in the convening of the Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) meeting, organised by the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR among other actors.



The meeting was to ensure that refugee leaders from the various refugee settlements in Uganda are brought at national level to discuss, develop and contribute to policy pledges that will be presented by the government of Uganda at the Global Refugee Forum from 13th to 15th December 2023 in Geneva.

Oxfam in Uganda supported five refugee led organisations to ensure that the views of the refugees are represented the development of policy pledges for GRF.

This was to ensure, the RLOs are supported to influence the humanitarian agenda at the national level

The five-day meeting brought together 38 refugee leaders, comprised of women, men and youth representatives whose voices were used to develop policy pledges for the GRF.

'We need to continue supporting refugees to ensure they remain active and part of the humanitarian spaces at national, regional, and global levels. This is part of our commitment to ensure that no is left behind,' Mr. Owino Geoffrey, LHL & Policy influencing Coordinator at Oxfam noted.

Among the notable policy pledges developed included pledges on education, climate and environment, resilience livelihood and localisation.

On localisation, there was open discussions where refugees leaders and RLOs requested international Non-Governmental Organization to increase funding to local/national actors to help them provide timely response to the community problems.

ENHANCING ACCESS TO EMERGENCY COMMUNAL FACILITIES FOR ALL THROUGH SAN TWEAK APPROACH

The Oxfam Global Humanitarian Team (GHT) technical leads, Public Health Promotion (PHP) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) leads) on behalf of the Global WASH clusters and Oxfam in Uganda WASH Team visited four refugee settlements of Kyaka II, Rwamwanja, Kyangwali, and Nakivaale in south-west Uganda from 28th Sept 2023 to 2nd Oct 2023.

The visit was meant to ascertain the designs of emergency communal and Persons With Specific Needs (PSNs) latrines constructed for the forced displaced persons and stateless persons. The team had engagements with the users on their satisfaction to ensure they fully understood the WASH Tweak approach to allow them to systematically adopt it and actively roll it out themselves, an approach, aiming at enhancing user effective engagement "consulting, modifying and consulting".

Regional WASH cluster coordinators also endorsed the approach and committed to ensuring that it is adopted as an integral part of the monitoring framework to enhance access, usability and ownership of the provided emergency communal latrines.

Direct observations and feedback from a series of focus group discussions (FGD) indicated that in general, there has been a lack of consultation with latrine users across all four settlements. Consequently, there have been limited design modifications to suit the needs of different users, particularly those with physical disabilities, and cleaning/maintenance schedules have not been properly established.

Furthermore, the majority of latrines lacked locks on doors (leading to an immediate lack of privacy), were

damaged in various ways, and some had reached full capacity.

WASH TWEAKS WORKSHOP

On 3rd October 2023, an interactive reflection workshop was held at the Igongo Cultural Centre in Mbarara. Facilitated by the GHT's WASH Technical Leads and attended by various WASH actors from across the region, the workshop was to draw lessons from the different engagements and drive future improvements in the quality of WASH service delivery.

Participants were introduced to the WASH Tweaks approach and its key message of continuous dialogue and consultation with the communities ("consult, modify, consult"), and participated in a series of activities designed to understand the position from users point of view.

Partners appreciated the findings from the field and FGD and agreed on the following key actions:

- Share knowledge at the settlement WASH Cluster level
- Strengthen existing feedback mechanisms at settlement WASH sector level, with the aim of ensuring access to adequate materials for the required modifications to communal latrines.
- Increase and strengthen consultations, modifications, and further consultations tweaking all designs to suit user needs.

All participants left with a deeper understanding of the WASH Tweaks approach and motivation to systematically adopt it and actively roll it out themselves. The regional WASH Cluster Coordinators endorsed the approach and will ensure it is adopted as an integral part of monitoring frameworks to enhance access, usability, and ownership of the provided emergency communal latrines.

The background

According to recent research, an average of 40% of women and girls do not use the communal latrines that agencies build. Feedback from communities gathered during the recent Sani Tweaks project found that a lack of privacy, feelings of embarrassment, and fears of harassment and sexual abuse impact on the use of latrines, meaning the facilities that agencies provide are not being used fully, or at worse, are putting women and girls at risk. If such structures are not used, money, time and resources are wasted and as WASH actors, we are failing to deliver our mandate and responsibility to the communities we work with. This may also lead to risks of open defecation and disease outbreaks, not to mention the impact on the key humanitarian principle of Do No Harm, gender and protection issues, safeguarding and safe programming.



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- Relief Web: Uganda – Landslide injuries and destruction (DG ECHO, Oxfam, URCS, media) (ECHO Daily Flash of 15 September 2023): [READ MORE](#)
- New Vision: Ireland inject sh14b into Karamoja's fight poverty: [READ MORE](#)
- Daily Monitor: Apac residents call for pro-poor land law: [Details](#)
- New Vision: EA Climate crisis. Rich nations pay less than 5%: [READ MORE](#)
- New Vision: Terego, Zombo Food production gets boost: [Read More](#)
- UG Standard: ESAFF Uganda reflects on 7th Land Awareness Week: [READ MORE](#)
- Watch Dog Uganda: Farmer Managed Seed Systems Caravan 2023 Kicks Off in West Nile, Northern and Eastern Uganda: [READ MORE](#)
- Swift Daily News: Ugandan Farmers Kick Off Seed Systems Caravan 2023 To Improve Nutrition, Food Security & Income: [DETAILS](#)
- Soft Power News: PELUM, Oxfam Hold Farmer Managed Seed Systems Caravan: [DETAILS](#)
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