

OXFAM IN UGANDA NEWSLETTER

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OXFAM RELEASES “INEQUALITY KILLS” REPORT



Two women and a child wade through waist-deep water in the streets of the Wimbi neighborhood in Pemba, Mozambique. The flooding was caused by Cyclone Kenneth, which hit the north of the country in 2019.

Oxfam released a report “Inequality Kills” on 17th January, beginning the world economic forum that happens every year. According to the report, over 21,300 people died everyday due to the effects of the pandemic, while the richest people made abnormal profits in the history of billionaire wealth since the 1990s.

The coronavirus pandemic has been actively made deadlier, prolonged, and more damaging to livelihoods because of inequality. Income inequality is a strong indicator of whether you will die from COVID-19 than age. What makes this situation even harsher is that women and girls faced a second pandemic of increased gender-based violence while, as with every crisis, having to absorb the shock of the increased

burden of unpaid care work that keeps them trapped at the bottom of the global economy.

There is a need to undo the structures perpetuating a deadly status quo and build new ones that will redistribute both wealth and power more equitably. Taxing the wealthy people of our society and investing in public services for all will ultimately reduce the cracks in societal structures that covid 19 brought forth.

Oxfam in Uganda participated in the world economic forum online by calling upon the government to invest in public services for all, taxing the wealthy people more and speaking out on the inequality that is existent in our society.

OXFAM STARTS A NEW SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS PROJECT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN WEST NILE AND EASTERN UGANDA.



The Gender justice & Women's rights Coordinator Ms. Nivatiti Nandujja (in red) and the Gender and Protection Coordinator Mr. Ssenyonyi Wilson of Oxfam pose for a group photo with the CAO (in blue suit) and his team in Madi Okollo district during the mapping exercise for the GAC project on SHRs.

Oxfam in Uganda conducted a mapping exercise of Sexual Reproductive Health Service Providers in West Nile (Arua City, districts of Arua, Madi Okollo, Terengo and Nebbi) and Eastern Uganda (Namayingo and Mayunge districts), the selected project locations.

The purpose of the exercise was to engage different stakeholders to support the implementation of the GAC Project. The stakeholders engaged included the District Chief

Administrative Officers (CAOs), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) representatives, UNHCR, District Community Development Officers (CDOs), District Health Officers (DHOs), District Planners and Statisticians.

It was agreed to have inception meetings in each district to harmonize implementation with other service providers towards realizing young women and girls Sexual Reproductive Health Rights.

“Awareness and the realization of sexual reproductive health rights by young women and girls can help reduce teenage pregnancies – CAO Madi Okollo district”

OXFAM SUPPORTS SCHOOLS WITH ENERGY-SAVING STOVES AFTER TWO YEARS OF CLOSURE IN NAKIVALE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



Cooks at Kabazana Primary School – Nakivale Refugee settlement, Isingiro District receive training by JESE staff on operation and maintenance of the newly constructed energy saving cook stoves

Following two years of lockdown and closure of learning institutions, it's challenging to start preparing meals on time for learners and the staff in schools. This is because of the biomass energy crisis instigated by the imbalance between demand and supply of firewood by households, institutions and industries.

To contribute to sustainable development goal seven on affordable and clean energy in Uganda, Oxfam, together with Joint Effort to Save Environment (JESE) under "Strengthening resilience through enhanced local disaster risk management capacities" in Southwestern Uganda, constructed and provided training for both institutional and household energy-saving stoves to schools and individuals in Isingiro district.

The energy-saving stoves save 60% of wood fuel used in food preparation and shorten the time spent preparing it, which will salvage the forests in the district. The stoves also have a cleaner burning process and help decrease indoor air pollution and associated respiratory infections.

The project aims to build 4 institutional cook stoves and 1567 locally produced efficient household stoves by groups of trained women. These will reduce wood consumption as a contribution to promoting environmentally friendly energy conservation techniques with a major focus on refugee communities.

"We opened on 10th January 2022 but as a head teacher, I was thinking of how to feed 1828 pupils in my school because firewood has always been an issue to our meal preparations. But with the newly built energy saving cook stove by JESE, we can even use remains of maize combs, and the food gets ready on time," said Mr. Charles Amarwe, the headteacher of Kabazan primary School in Nakivale refugee settlement Isingiro District. The cooks in the school said, "since we shifted to using this cookstove, heat and smoke do not disturb us. We are more relaxed, and this gives us enough time to rest, which wasn't the case before."

WILL THE BUDGET OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23 ADDRESS ECONOMIC RECOVERY, INCLUSIVE GROWTH, AND SAFEGUARD LIVELIHOODS? – CSOs ASK



Permanent secretary of the ministry of finance Ramanthan Ggoobi briefing the Media on the Quarter 3 expenditure releases for FY 2021/22 and the cumulative budget releases for the 3 quarters.

By the end of June 2021, Uganda's debt stock had increased by 27.4% to UGX 69.5 trillion. This was impaled by the huge loans the government took in a bid to manage the covid 19 pandemic streak that was fast spreading and crippling the economy. On 25th January 2022, the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) conducted a pre-budget dialogue under the theme: "Will the Budget FY 2022/23 Address Economic Recovery, Inclusive Growth and Safeguard Livelihoods?" The dialogue was supported by Oxfam in Uganda alongside World Vision.

The dialogue brought together financial experts, economists and government stakeholders who discussed and gave a preview of Uganda's plunging economy and solutions on how it can be geared towards growth and stability. During the meeting, some of the shortcomings revealed included high

levels of corruption in government offices, inadequate grievance handling mechanisms, absence of client charters and poor understanding of basic standards of public administration/service delivery. **Others included** Increased development of 'Supplementary Budgets', Increased pre-financing of projects and delayed payment of service providers.

CSOs provided solutions and called upon the government to strengthen transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption in service delivery. Mainstream efficient revenue administration instead of increasing tax rates over the medium term and that Parliament should demand a legal framework on public investment management.

I DON'T HAVE TO WALK LONG DISTANCES FOR WATER



Sarah carrying a bucket of water on her head after fetching it from the new water source in Kyaka II refugee settlement

Sarah Kahindo stands with a 10-litre water container on her head, in her purple short-sleeved shirt and black skirt in front of a makeshift tap stand. On one side of the tap stand is a 10,000 black plastic tank and on the other is an incomplete mud and wattle house. Within an arms reach are little children fetching water in plastic containers, in the background is a woman with a smiling gaze and across is a middle-aged man who is muttering to the kids not to splash the precious water down.

13-year-old Sarah is one of the 2000 refugees who have fled fighting in the DRC and have since been settled in Kyaka II refugee settlement. On a normal day, she is desperate to complete her daily chores, and she knows

her mother expects her to collect water every day for cooking, washing, and bathing.

“When we had just arrived in Kyaka II, we used to fetch water from a swamp which was very far, the water was dirty, but we had no option.” She adds, “we didn’t expect to get flowing water, but I was excited when Oxfam put this tank here, it has made our life easier and we are happy.”

A short distance away is Sarah’s household, a temporary mud, wattle and tarpaulin house crammed with utensils and beddings. Besides it, her mother has just finished fixing the family meal.

“I am pleased with the quality of water they give us everyday. The water truck has never stopped coming to bring water for

this tank,” said Sarah’s mother, who we met when we followed up Sarah at her home. “I am not worried when I am cooking food, or washing utensils because the water we use at home is clean.”

Sarah has been studying in DRC in Primary four and expects to continue with her studies here in Uganda. “During school days, I don’t have to walk long distances to the valley to look for water, the water is right here near our home, I will reach school early.”

With funding from UNHCR, Oxfam has constructed and installed temporary water trucking tanks in Mukondo. Works are underway to extend piped water and build a steel reservoir tank to provide sustainable access to safe and clean water, reducing walking distances and increasing productivity time for settled refugees and asylum seekers.

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