

OXFAM IN UGANDA

NEWSLETTER

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OXFAM

DELIVERING WASH SUPPORT TO REFUGEES IN NAKIVALE SETTLEMENT



Solar panels provided by UNHCR and installed by Oxfam alongside a pump house, a guard house, and an Ecosan toilet constructed by Oxfam. [Oxfam | 2022]

In Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingiro District, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) drilled Kyakashana borehole but left it capped for further motorisation and upgrade. UNHCR mobilised WASH partners to support motorising the borehole into solar powered water supply system.

A Memorandum of Understanding to implement the motorisation therefore came in place between partners. Oxfam with funding from European commission for Civil protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) successively implemented Kyakashana water pump station works and transmission pipeline.

Malteser International with funding from German Federal Foreign Office constructed a 150m³ pressed steel water tank, part of distribution water pipeline, and 21 tap stands of 4 faucets each.

Nsamizi Training Institute for Social Development with funding from UNHCR constructed part of the distribution pipeline.

Engineers without Borders – America with funding from ECHO designed the water supply system in coordination with Oxfam and Nsamizi and was approved by Ministry of Water and Environment.

With ECHO funding through UNHCR, Oxfam further installed 220 solar panels each of 275W to support the system to pump water to the water tanks connected to the taps for water users to access it.

As part of livelihood promotion and fostering ownership, Oxfam engaged refugees and the host community under cash for work basis in the construction of the system. This further fostered peaceful co-existence. For sustainability, local system operators were trained to support in the operation and maintenance of the water system.

The water system is functioning with water reaching all the 21 tap stands. It serves a population of 21,088 people both refugees and host community members in Nakivale Settlement.

Working with the local community has increased project ownership for sustainability. The Kyakashana water system will be operated and managed by UNHCR through their Implementing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Partner for Nakivale – Nsamizi while working with the Nakivale water board that was already enacted by Nsamizi and this will later be part of the planned utility management by National Water and Sewerage Corporation.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND AND WESTERN UGANDA HUMANITARIAN PLATFORM
LAUNCHED TO PUSH THE LOCALIZATION AGENDA FURTHER**



Local and national humanitarian actors during the launch of the Emergency Response Fund and the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform in Kagadi district. [Oxfam | 2022]

Humanitarian actors in Uganda launched the Western Uganda Humanitarian Platform (WUHP) and the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) in Kagadi district on 4th May 2022.

The WUHP and the ERF aim to strengthen coordination and networking among humanitarian actors in Western Uganda, to amplify a collective voice for the local humanitarian actors in influencing the humanitarian agenda at all levels, and to enhance learning and information sharing amongst local humanitarian actors for improved disaster preparedness and response.

‘We are promoting the localization agenda because we want to ensure that local actors are taking lead in decision making to provide quality and rapid humanitarian response. We need to support the WUHP and key stakeholders to address emergency issues,’ said Mr. Gard Benda, the Executive Director of World Voices Uganda, which is hosting the WUHP.

The launch was also aimed at strengthening the capacities of local and national humanitarian actors in providing emergency response services and aid in case of disasters and natural occurrences in their areas, and to discuss how best humanitarian actors can promote joint resource mobilization for local humanitarian action.

In his remarks, Mr. Crespo Mubbalya, the Chairperson of the WUHP said, “The Platform is a strategic intervention by local actors to address issues of uncoordinated and fragmented humanitarian emergency response actions and lack of a voice in influencing the localization agenda.”

This is in line with The Charter for Change Working Group mandate, which was created by local and national humanitarian actors in Uganda in 2020, to advocate for the localization agenda.

The partners suggested that local actors should be given an opportunity to be sector leads, and that donor funding guidelines should be localized.

They also suggested that local actors should be proactive and take up available opportunities to effectively and efficiently deliver humanitarian action.

The launch brought together local and national humanitarian actors from West Nile, Central and Western Uganda, officials from the Office of the Prime Minister, and Local Government.

IMPACTING COMMUNITIES USING THE GENDER ACTION LEARNING SYSTEM
METHODOLOGY



Hon. Asamo Grace Hellen, Minister of State for Gender, Labour and Social Development in charge of Disability Affairs (C) at the closing event of the Empower@Scale project. [Oxfam | 2022]

The [Empower@Scale](#) project came to an end in May 2022 with a positive impact on several households. This was through the implementation and use of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology in several communities.

It was a four-year Multi-country project funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented in consortium of Oxfam and Hivos in Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria.

Empower @ Scale set out to establishing a network of self-sustaining Empowerment Learning Centers (ELCs) for GALS to different clients, including Local Government, Private Sector, CSOs, development actors, humanitarian actors, rural households, research/knowledge, and academic institutions.

ELCs provided an opportunity for people to learn about GALS and the different models of how GALS can be integrated into different development projects or programmes.

The project supported a number of development partners in scaling up the GALS methodology in climate change

programming, peacebuilding, and youth programming among others.

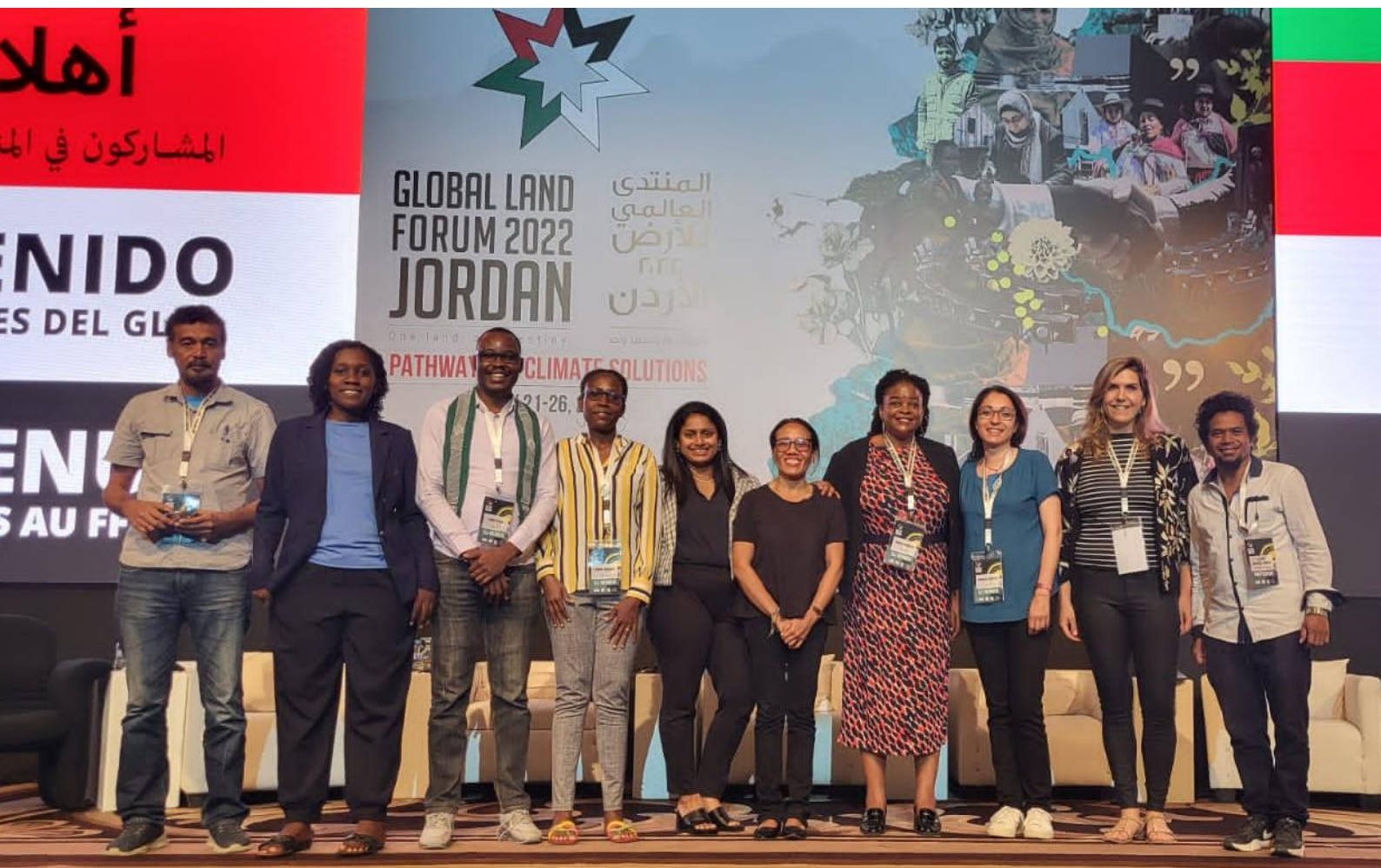
For example, GALS was integrated in the National Oil Palm Project (NOPP), a project under Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF), implemented in the districts of Mayuge, Buvuma and Kalangala.

The project also created increase in productivity for agricultural value chains resulting from joint planning and decision making starting at household level.

While closing the project, Hon. Asamo Grace Hellen, Minister of State for Gender, Labour and Social Development (Disability Affairs) said, “As Governemt of Uganda, we made the commitment to embrace the GALS methodology, and I am happy to see that we have made great steps in integrating it in our programmes.”

GALS is a structured community-led empowerment methodology which aims at creating self-led economic, social and political transformation starting at the community level.

ADVOCATING FOR LAND RIGHTS TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Oxfam staff from across the confederation during the Global Land Forum in Jordan. [Oxfam | 2022]

"Land inequality is the oldest form of inequality and the source of wealth inequality, through dispossession and natural resource extraction fuelling rich monopolies. Today, 70% of agriland is controlled by 1% of farms," said Gabriella Bucher, Oxfam's Executive Director, while delivering a Keynote address during the 2022 Global Land Forum.

The Global Land Forum is the triannual meeting of all member organizations of the International Land Coalition. It is a catalyst to bring together NGOs, research centres, government agencies, institutions, and community-based organizations in the hosting country to build a vision and roadmap for land governance based on local and national priorities. This year's land forum was hosted in Jordan in which Oxfam participated.

The key issues discussed during the land forum included multi-level land use planning for effective, sustainable and transparent land decentralization, climate crisis, youth and land-based opportunities in rural areas, preventing or resolving conflicts through secure access to land, and recognition of women's land and inheritance rights.

Ms. Harriet Mbabazi, the Resilient Livelihoods Manager at Oxfam in Uganda said, "Climate resilient agricultural practices happen on land and since 80% of the food we eat is produced by women, it makes business sense to promote women's land Rights and empower them to engage in value addition to boost their incomes."

In her remarks, Ms. Nivatiti Nandujja, Oxfam in Uganda's Women's Rights Coordinator said, "Land registration and climate change adaptation mitigation, and response provides security of tenure which is critical to democracy, peace, justice, sustainable development and security for all."

Mr. Jimmy Ochom, Oxfam in Uganda's Land Rights Coordinator alluded to the fact that traditional leaders are critical in breaking social norms that hinder women and girls in securing their land rights. "We need to bring them closer to these discussions both nationally and globally. Women are not property, they have rights to own property and other fundamental human rights as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," he added.

KEEP TEENAGE GIRLS AND YOUNG MOTHERS IN SCHOOL- EDUCATION SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS



Minister of State for Primary Education, Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu (4th right sitting on a chair) with other stakeholders in the Education Sector. [Oxfam | 2022]

Oxfam in partnership with the Education Advocacy Network conducted a 2 day national dialogue with stakeholders in the Education sector to discuss barriers to sustainable re-entry, retention, and completion of education by pregnant girls, teenage mothers, and vulnerable children in Ugandan schools.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, young girls faced challenges as many became pregnant during the lockdown. According to a 2021 study report by Oxfam and Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), titled [*The Situation of and Impact of Covid-19 on School Going Girls and Young Women in Uganda*](#), between March 2020 and June 2020, there was a 22.5% increase in pregnancy among girls aged 10-24. Among girls aged 10-14 years, the incidence of pregnancies had increased the most (by a staggering 366.5 percent—from 290 in March to 1,353 in September 2020)

Post the COVID-19 lockdown, many teenage mothers and pregnant girls faced outright backlash from school managements, opinion leaders, and their peers, posing a challenge to their re-entry into school.

“We lose many young girls to intimidation and lack of psychosocial support. An enabling environment both at home and school facilitates re-entry, retention, and completion of school,” said Ms. Angela Nalwanga, Board Chairperson, Education Advocacy Network.

One of the focus areas during the dialogue was inclusive education and formulation of new policies that can

accommodate and support the continuation of education for pregnant, vulnerable, and teenage mothers.

“It takes a lot of personal commitment and change of mindset for someone who was or is pregnant to come back to school. We need role models who have gone through such experiences to come forward and speak about how they made it,” said Hon. Dr. Joyce Moriku Kaducu, the Minister of State for Primary Education.

Mr. Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam’s Country Director, acknowledged and appreciated all the various efforts put into addressing gender inequalities, specifically around education. “We need more allocation of resources to sectors that benefit women like education, health as well as those that would reduce the burden of care on women and girls,” he added.

Ms. Irene Naiga an Education Specialist at the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) advised that skilling should be incorporated into schools as it helps the girls acquire skills at a young age which are helpful in the future.

Participants, who included officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports, the private sector, National planning Authority, the justice sector, civil society, and academia agreed that there is a need for consistent advocacy to ensure that new structures and mechanisms are put in place to support the affected learners.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL LEADERS' CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO AND MANAGE DISASTERS



Isingiro district local leaders who received training in disaster response and management. [Oxfam | 2022]

Isingiro district is ravaged by various natural disasters including pests and diseases, floods, droughts, wild fires, and land conflicts due to depletion of the available natural resources.

With funding from the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF), Oxfam is implementing a project titled, [*Strengthening Resilience through Enhanced Local Disaster Risk Management Capacities*](#) in Isingiro and Kyegegwa districts, aimed at increasing environmental protection in and around Nakivale refugee settlement.

The project also aims at reducing deforestation,

rehabilitating the degraded forests, land and water resources, and rationalizing the use of natural resources.

Oxfam conducted a 5- day training for the disaster management committees of different sub- counties including Mbaare, Masha, Kikagate, Rugaga, and Kushumba in Isingiro district on how to manage and respond to disasters.

The participants appreciated their role and responsibilities on managing disasters in the district. They also gained more skills and knowledge which they will use to respond to natural occurrences that may befall their communities.

OXFAM IN THE NEWS

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