

CSOS SPARK MOVEMENT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

On the 5th of November 2020, Oxfam in Uganda and Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) launched a campaign at Mestil hotel Kampala that brought together many rights based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and stakeholders to jumpstart the World wide campaign dubbed "ENOUGH!". The campaign launch sparked a movement against violence towards women and girls in Uganda focusing on addressing the negative social norms that tend to promote a patriarchal system and foster acts of violence towards women and girls. Some of these social norms that contribute to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) include the perceptions around bride price and itemization of women, aggressive masculinity and sexual entitlement in some cultures that encourage marital rape, economic violence and so many more.

Speaking at the launch event, Oxfam in Uganda's Country Director Francis Shanty Odokorach said, "Due to many reports that have shown high cases of violence against women and girls in Uganda, the Enough campaign was inevitable. We believe that VAWG has had a long history of inequality between women, girls and men such as unequal power relations, distribution of resources and opportunities. We are asking partners, individuals and the government to challenge ourselves, be bold in the lead to end VAWG and prevent violence during the upcoming election period".

The Enough campaign launch was also graced by a panel of key note speakers who tackled the underlying social, religious and legal issues contributing towards VAWG. "So many churches do not allow women to become religious leaders. The Bible and patriarchs tend to focus on the norms that suit their interests. The bible redeems us women just like Esther. When Jesus came, he that said we are all equal. Therefore, we should use the scripture to train girls to be bold and redeem themselves in difficult situations.



Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda's Country Director urging stakeholders to join in the fight against VAWG



Rev. Esther Sabiti (Right) explaining the religious issues pertaining VAWG



Hon. Winnie Kiiza, the Kasese Woman MP discussing some of the factors standing in the way of women's equality.

It is time to rise, do not keep quiet,” remarked Reverend Esther Sabiti from Kamwokya diocese.

The Enough campaign presents alternatives to violence such as promoting equality for boys and girls or men and women and enforcing laws that deal with VAWG perpetrators. The Kasese Woman Member of Parliament Honorable Winnie Kiiza noted that while people are pushing for gender equality, some men mistakenly think that women want to overpower them and their social positions. VAWG is one of the factors standing in the way of women’s equality and affecting them physically, psychologically and economically. Other factors include inefficiencies in the laws like the Domestic Violence Act, Anti-trafficking In Persons Act and prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act among others.

The Enough Campaign was officiated by the launch of the [Social Norms Report](#) and the “[Bakimanye! Let them Know](#)” song that advocates for equal rights and opportunities for women and urges communities to come together and end VAWG.



Jane Ocaya, Oxfam in Uganda’s Advisor on Women’s Rights making a presentation on research findings in the Social Norms Report



Stakeholders launching the Social Norms Report at the event

CITIZENS EXPRESS CONCERNS IN EXTRACTIVES MANIFESTO

In light of the upcoming presidential elections and in a bid to find out what the people of Uganda expect from the next president concerning proceeds from the Mining and Petroleum sector, Oxfam in Uganda in partnership with Publish What You Pay Uganda (PWYP-U), Action Aid International Uganda, Africa Centre for Energy and Mineral Policy (ACEMP) and Centre for Social and Environmental Rights (CSER) launched the [Citizens manifesto on Mining and Petroleum](#) on 17th November, 2020 at Imperial Royale Kampala.

The manifesto is a compilation of citizens’ voices and a concerted appeal to the next cohort of political leaders in the 2021-2026 political cycle to strive to ensure that the development and management of the petroleum and mining industry resources is fair, just and inclusive. The manifesto which represents citizens’ aspirations for an efficient mining and petroleum sector and inclusive development of that sector in Uganda is as a result of collaborative over the years and engagement with citizens over the past years.

Speaking at the Manifesto launch, Xavier Ejoyi , Action Aid’s Country Director noted that our work focuses on promoting equal participation of Ugandan citizens in the social economic development of their country. Xavier added that CSOs are interested in policy spaces that can either enhance or hinder full participation of citizens especially those living in extreme poverty so that they are able to participate in the social economic development of this country.

The resource potential of mineral and petroleum in Uganda is immense and has been growing over the years. It remains a huge potential for national development and social economic transformation of this country, and can potentially create a dysfunctional state if mismanaged. Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda’s Country Director stated that, Uganda is well endowed with various natural resources mainly minerals oil and gas and the state holds all these resources in trust of the people. The extractives sector in Uganda therefore presents a great opportunity to Ugandans.

On behalf of the citizens, CSOs put emphasis on the need to go beyond the macro economic statistics of the potential of the petroleum and mining sector and understand the impact of the sector's development on all citizens. The manifesto takes particular interest on the structural barriers that exclude especially women and young people in the sector and the implication of these on Uganda's social and economic trajectory. It addresses the issues that communities in the Albertine region and the mineral communities such as Kassanda, Bukuya, Busia, Karamoja, Buhweju and Ntungamo are facing.

In the manifesto, locals voiced what constitutes human rights infringements such as torture, land grabbing and displacement, gender based violence, lack of access to basic public services, evictions, poor or no compensation, among many others resulting from the billion dollar oil development projects. Sophie Kyagulanyi, Oxfam in Uganda's Governance and Accountability Manager said that land compensation is exceedingly delayed, creating speculations. She added that there is lack of transparency on how much is to be considered as compensation for land owners. Sophie advised that there should be a mechanism that allows people to know about how to be compensated, who is to be compensated and by how much. She also emphasized the need to pay attention to the environment during mineral development activities such as mining as well as the general livelihoods of the people in these mineral communities especially those that have been resettled to new locations.

Dickens Amany, the Coordinator of Bunyoro Albertine Petroleum Network on Environmental Conservation, requested for the government's commitment towards the Extractives Industries' Transparency Initiative Processes (EITI) . He also noted that the existing political structure has resulted into the mushrooming of administrative units which has in turn resulted into the petroleum and mining sector lacking substantive technical officials in various capacities which makes it difficult to manage emergencies such as oil spills. Mr. Amany also recommended that the government enhances the skills and capacities of the respective host districts. He also recommended thorough stakeholder engagement during land acquisition and livelihood restoration programs such as financial literacy trainings.

Political Party representatives and aspiring political leaders also declared their commitments to the citizens of Uganda. The Democratic Party's (DP) deputy spokesperson Ms. Ritah Nakyanzi, revealed that the DP

Seeks to establish a national resource committee in Parliament for the oversight of mineral resource development in Uganda. The National Resistance Movement (NRM) representative, John Igumira said that the NRM manifesto seeks to form revenue sharing programs with communities dealing in mining for the benefit of the locals in those regions. Other political parties such as the National Unity Platform (NUP), Forum For Democratic Change (FDC) and Alliance for National Transformation were also in attendance and received the Citizen's Manifesto on Petroleum and Mining a symbolic gesture of their commitment to the citizens of Uganda.



Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda's Country Director highlighting the potential of the petroleum and mining sector in Uganda



Political party representatives receiving copies of the Citizens Manifesto on Mining and Petroleum

OXFAM AND PARTNERS ADDRESS OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES IN A REFLECTION SESSION

Oxfam in Uganda and partners convened at Silver Springs hotel, Kampala on 17th November, 2020 for the Bi-Annual Partners Forum to take a self-reflection on our performance from April 2020 to September 2020. Julius Batemba, Program Quality and Learning Coordinator at Oxfam in Uganda said, “The purpose of this exercise is to assess our progress in the last 2 quarters, track changes realized in our beneficiaries lives and to improve our working relationship which is supposed to be beneficial, collaborative and transformative”.

Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda’s Country Director, said, “This meeting is very important because for Oxfam, partnership is not just a the way of delivering the most important impact in the community, but it is the real deal. We have all been mentioning the word sustainability which is a very important issue for us. It is my hope that together with you we are only able to deepen the impact that we are making and to address the recurring strategic and operational challenges that impact our partnership”.

Oxfam in the past had a five year Global Strategic Framework that run from 2015 to 2019. In consultation with a number of partners, Oxfam decided that it was no longer viable to continue planning for a 5 year period and changed its planning cycle adopting a much longer term view of 10 years with a 3-4 year horizon planning cycle to incorporate emerging issues.

Oxfam also launched its [Global Strategic Framework](#) on 24th November 2020 which will provide strategic direction to our partnership. Oxfam in Uganda in consultation with the partners and key stakeholders is now finalising its Country Strategy that will align to the Global Strategic Framework.

The session was very interactive and yielded new suggestions and recommendations for our future collaborations that are to be considered in the next Country Operational Plan and Oxfam Country Strategy.

The most important attribute of partnership to Oxfam in Uganda is that it remains one of the key approaches that Oxfam uses in Uganda.



Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam in Uganda’s Country Director addressing the importance of partnerships at the forum



Julius Batemba, Oxfam in Uganda’s PQL Coordinator moderating a discussion at the Forum



Oxfam’s Governance and Accountability team and Partners brainstorming on new operational strategies

WIDOW REBUILDS HER LIFE AND BRINGS HOPE TO HER CHILDREN IN KYAKA II REFUGEE SETTLEMENT.

Masika Nzanu Tantine is a 25 year old Congolese refugee living in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement who fled the Democratic Republic of Congo with her 2 children after the tragic death of her husband when fighting broke out in her country in 2019. When she saw her husband die, she had no choice but to flee from Goma with her children and seek refuge in Uganda.

She said, “When I arrived we started life in a small shelter which I built using materials bought from my little savings in Goma. I struggled to cope with life in Uganda because I had no money to take proper care of myself and my children. I started selling charcoal but would end up using the profits to feed my family and it was frustrating. One day, when I saw the Oxfam people digging trenches near my community, I approached them for work and they permitted me to dig the trenches and lay water pipes in Sweswe, Itambabiniga and Kaborogota. This activity was very tedious as I could always return home tired and many times unable to cook for my children”.

Tantine realized the impact this would cause her children and requested her Oxfam supervisor to provide a less demanding and time-consuming job. In August 2020, she was appointed and trained as a pump operator for the Sweswe piped water system. She says, “now, I have enough time to take care of my children”.

Tantine, as a pump operator earns a daily stipend of 10,000 Uganda Shillings which she uses to purchase basic home supplies, provide a balanced diet, buy clothes and Vaseline for the children, sanitary pads and saves the rest for future investments.

“From this job, I have been able to buy 4 ducks, each costing 20,000 Uganda shillings from my savings. These ducks will produce many more ducklings which I will sell in the market to get more money” Tantine explains.

With this opportunity, Tantine knows her life is much better than when she first arrived and looks forward to a better future. She also emphasized the need to join a savings group in her community so that she can afford a better life. She noted that, “After working with Oxfam and saving some money, I hope to buy a mattress for my children to sleep comfortably, a phone for communicating with some of my relatives in Goma and open a merchandise shop to support my family better. I am soon joining a savings group which I will use to keep my money for the future and also boost my business”.

With funding from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Oxfam has been able to provide opportunities like employment to refugees. These in turn have empowered them to become self-reliant and provide several options of development for them.



Tantine attending to a water pump in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN KYANGWALI REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

Mark Charles is a 24 year old South Sudanese refugee married with two children, residing in Kasonga Village block 31 Zone A, Kyangwali refugee settlement. Originally from Upari village, Maiwi sub-county in South Sudan, Mark fled during a civil war that broke out in 2014 and settled in Kyangwali. One of the major challenges he faced upon arrival in the refugee settlement was limited access to safe and clean water.

He narrated his experience and how he turned the situation around for himself and his community. “Ever since I arrived, water shortage has been a problem. The whole village of Kasonga has only five hand pump boreholes which are over-populated by thousands of people which has caused frequent break downs and a more serious crisis for access to clean and safe water.”

Having witnessed the frustration the borehole breakdowns were causing in his village and other parts of settlement, Mark decided to visit the Oxfam office and requested to be trained as one of the hand pumps' technicians in his community. Mark along with three other volunteers were lucky to be selected by the Oxfam Field Engineer because his proposal would help support the repairs of faulty hand pumps in a timely manner.

"We trained for 4 days and later moved with the engineers in the field for 3 days where we repaired 8 boreholes. At the moment, Myself and three other volunteers are skilled in repairing hand pump boreholes all over the settlement and surrounding host community areas" Mark explained.

"I now consider myself a timely rescuer in my community, because when I am called, I am hasty in locating sites with broken hand pump boreholes and restoring them to their functional state" he added.

Oxfam started responding to the South Sudanese and Democratic Republic of Congo refugees in Kyangwali refugee settlement, as the UNHCR implementing Partner for Water supply, sanitation and hygiene from 1st January, 2020 to date. The settlement has a total of 98 hand pumps spread across different zones and villages and this contributes 30-35% accessibility to safe water for consumption for the people living in Kyangwali refugee settlement.



Mark (Left) repairing a broken borehole hand pump

PROVIDING LIFESAVING SUPPORT TO KASESE FLOOD VICTIMS

In May 2020, Kasese district was hit by a wave of flash floods that caused a lot of destruction along their way. Due to the heavy rains, rivers like Nyamwamba, Mobuku and Lhubiriha which originate from the surrounding mountains, over flowed leading to their banks bursting and causing floods.

These floods not only claimed lives but also displaced over 10,000 people. Temporary evacuation camps were established to accommodate the displaced people in places like schools and churches such as Nkaiga Church of Uganda camp. Some of the challenges faced at this camp included limited access to clean drinking water since all the pipelines were swept away and the availability of two latrines supporting over 50 people.

Joy Biira, a 29-year-old mother of two lost her husband in the flash floods and landslides in Kiraro, Kitholu, sub-county leaving her homeless. "I have faced several challenges since my husband died, it is tough, but I have to forge forward with my children. I had some savings which enabled me to buy some vegetables and maize which I roast for money", Biira explained.

Kiraro is located in Kitholu sub-county, in the hills of Kasese district near the Democratic Republic of Congo border. When the heavy rains began, the people living in this area faced two challenges, floods and landslides. The landslides washed away homes and gardens and the floods washed away the only bridge connecting Kiraro to Kitholu. This made access to Kitholu impossible, and only allowed for the provision of support after the water levels receded.

Oxfam and local partner FURA are responding to the flood-affected areas in Kasese district, targeting evacuation centres/camps like Nkaiga Church of Uganda camp in Maliba sub-county, Kabukero Church Of Uganda, Kanamba, Kivengenyi seed secondary school in Karusandara sub-county, Kyarumba Catholic church camp, Kyarumba primary school, Bwitho Parish in Kyarumba sub-county and Kiraro primary school in Kitholu sub-county. The response worth 50,000 Euros is aimed at giving lifesaving support to the flood victims, including the provision of 1,100 hygiene kits (jerrycans and water buckets) for safe water storage and soap to ensure safe hygiene practices like regular hand washing.

Regarding water provision, Oxfam also aims at rehabilitating boreholes and springs that were damaged by the floods and landslides in Karusandara, Kyarumba and Kitholu sub-counties.

“The landslides also damaged our springs, and now I have no choice but to drink directly from the river. I think that’s why my children have been having cases of stomach pain and diarrhoea. I heard that Oxfam and FURA are coming to support us and repair our springs and also give us some items for water. I hope that when I use these materials, they will solve the problem of my children’s running stomachs” says Joy.

Joseph Kabisa, 50, born and raised in Kiraro says the landslides swept away his garden in which he had planted beans, bananas and cassava leaving his wife and 8 children without food. He says, “ I am glad that we all escaped unharmed, and that our house was not swept away. I went back to the house but my wife and children are staying at the camp. I have to go back to try and restart farming. Previously I used to store drinking water in my jerrycan and I am glad I have never fallen sick from any water-borne disease, nor my family. Drinking clean and boiled water is not a new thing to me but I just did not have enough storage. Now that I do, I am going to do as I have been guided by the Oxfam team and I will use these items. I also encouraged my family to always wash their hands with soap and clean water to stay healthy”.



Kasese resident explaining the devastation caused by the flash floods and landslides



Kasese flash floods’ victims receiving hygiene kits

CLIMATE CHANGE ENTHUSIASTS CONVENE TO SAVE MT. RWENZORI GLACIERS

The Rwenzori Fraternity Association-RWEFRA in collaboration with Oxfam in Uganda launched a campaign dubbed “Greening Rwenzori” to save the snow on 10th and 11th December, 2020 in Ntoroko and Kasese districts respectively. The purpose of the campaign is to plant over five million trees on the slopes of Mountain Rwenzori and raise awareness of the effects of climate change in the region.

The Rwenzori region is made up of several districts including Kasese, Kabarole, Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, Kamwenge, and Kyegegwa. In the past years, the region has been on the local, national and international spotlight as a region already affected by

climate change. A dramatic increase in the burning of fossil fuels by industrialised countries like China, USA, and Brazil has raised the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere globally. As carbon dioxide concentrations rise, the atmosphere traps energy from the sun which not only warms the Earth but affects other aspects of climate such as precipitation.

[Field surveys and satellite observations reveal](#) a rapid decline in the area covered by glaciers on the Rwenzori Mountain from 6.5 km² in 1906 to 1.0 km² in 2003. The average rate of decline is approximately 0.7 km² per decade. If present trends continue, glaciers are expected to disappear from the Rwenzori Mountains within the next two decades.

Speaking at the launch event in Kasese Mr. David Bwambale Kongolo, the chairperson of RWEFRA noted that the Rwenzori mountain is a very significant feature with a radius of 210kms stretching from Congo to Bundibugyo. He added that It stands at 5109 meters above sea level and acts as a major water catchment area and that the negative effects of human activities on Mt. Rwenzori are too immense that we cannot just ignore.

Tom Obong Okello, the Executive Director of National Forestry Authority (NFA) said that a scientific study that was conducted a few years back predicts that the glaciers may be no more by 2025 due to human activities. “65% of forest degradation and loss have taken place outside the protected area as land use patterns change and consequently forest cover outside the protected area reduced from 70% in 1990 to 38% in 2015,” Tom explained.

The projected loss of the glacial ice in the Rwenzori Mountains is of utmost importance to the traditional belief system of the Bakonzo, its continuity and its welfare. Longer droughts and more frequent and intense floods brought about by warming impair crop production, hydroelectric power (HEP) generation and transport via footbridges.

Harriet Sibenderana, a small scale farmer in Ntoroko district narrated the negative impact of climate change on subsistence farming in Ntoroko, “ We all depend on subsistence farming. Small scale farmers in Ntoroko have experienced drought which reduced crop yields and resulted into loss of water and starvation. This also affected pastoralists because they had nowhere to graze their animals”.

Speaking on behalf of the Oxfam in Uganda’s Country Director at the launch event in Kasese, Peace Immaculate Chandini the acting Resilient Livelihood Manager said that Uganda is vulnerable to climate change and is the least resilient country in the world. She noted that 70% of Uganda’s population are involved in Agriculture and urged everyone to protect and preserve the environment because it’s from the environment that we are fed. She also noted that climate change is exacerbating poverty and inequality in Uganda and encouraged the communities in the Rwenzori region to go beyond tree planting and also include activities such as proper plastic waste disposal.

Peace Immaculate also called upon the different stakeholders such as District Local Government to support climate actions such as coming up with district ordinances and allocating budgets for climate change

interventions. The Greening Rwenzori Campaign was initiated with a tree planting session which was a commitment from the RWEFRA, local leaders and the communities of the Rwenzori region to continuously plant trees and protect the vegetation and environment for the restoration of the glaciers of Mountain Rwenzori.



Children in Ntoroko district pose for a photo with their tree seedlings



Tom Okello NFA Executive Director (center) planting a tree in Kasese district



Peace Chandini, Oxfam in Uganda’s acting Resilient Livelihood Manager (3rd right) planting a tree in Ntoroko district

CHARTER FOR CHANGE WORKING GROUP ENHANCING

LOCAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

On 15th December 2020, the Charter for Change (C4C) working group came together with National and International Non-government Organizations (INGOs), UN Agencies, donors, signatories and endorsers who have played an increased role in humanitarian response in Uganda to celebrate a 1 year anniversary of the localization of humanitarian action in Uganda in a meeting held at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Kampala.

In November 2019, the C4C working group in Uganda was launched. This group brings together signatories and endorsers allowing local and national NGOs to play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response, as well as hold endorsers accountable for the C4C commitments signed.

The main objectives of this meeting were to; take stock of the achievements of the C4C since its inception, enable smooth transition of coordination and leadership from Oxfam to Street child and from the old chair to the new chair, re-echo the commitment of to the C4C working group, evaluate how far the C4C working group has come towards achieving their objectives, set new annual objectives for 2021-2022 and share the 2021 Action Plan.

The working group for the past one year has made some tremendous achievements; the membership of endorsers has grown and still looks forward to attracting more allies. The call from the Charter4Change working group is that the humanitarian system be more locally-led with the Covid-19 pandemic adding credence to this. In his remarks, Francis Shanty Odokorach, the Country Director of Oxfam in Uganda said, “Today’s economic models are flawed and sexist. They are dividing millions of people and driving them from their homes leaving them with no choice but to forge a life. We are engaging in this conversation where the world we are living in especially during this COVID-19 pandemic has become increasingly unequal. C4C gives us a chance to engage so we can be able to hold those involved accountable”.

Ahead of the World Humanitarian Day held on August 19, 2020, the C4C working group ran a series of interrelated activities in what was termed as the “Humanitarian week 2020” to let INGOs, UN Agencies and Donors know why Localization is important for all those involved in Humanitarian Action.

Referring to the success of the week long activities C4C held on World Humanitarian Day that included a week-long of activities such as localization dialogues, media advocacy through radio talk shows and social media buzz, key recommendations for next steps in localization campaign were generated. Ritah Nansereko, Executive Director AWYAD said, “ We should use the opportunity of having a vibrant C4C working group to attract more signatories and endorsers to join the discussion on localization and make the already signed organizations become more active in pushing for this noble cause”. Refugee integration and legal Officer at Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Mr. Ndahiriwe Innocent also noted that C4C working group is a noble intervention and encouraged the INGOs to work with local organizations because they are the first responders during crises.

C4C working group also focused its discussion on other potential influencing opportunities such as; lobbying International humanitarian donors, UN Agencies and INGOs to make substantial amounts of quality humanitarian funding available to Local and National Humanitarian Actors (LNHAs) in Uganda and reminded the INGOs and UN agencies and donors to fulfil commitments in the Grand Bargain and Charter for Change and their role towards localization.

The meeting was concluded with the celebration of the efforts and the great contribution of local and national humanitarian actors towards responding to the humanitarian crisis in Uganda in the past 1 year and the official handover of power from Oxfam in Uganda to Street Child Uganda and from the old to new Chairperson C4C working group Uganda.



Charter for Change working group members posing for a photo at the event

OXFAM IN THE NEWS

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- Launch of citizens' manifesto on petroleum and mining: 19th November, 2020 <https://youtu.be/02YZnQXVW54>
- Opinion: Refugees are at high risk of catching Coronavirus if medical services in camps don't improve: 27th November, 2020 [Opinion: Refugees are at high risk of catching Coronavirus if medical services in camps don't improve - Nile Post](https://www.nilepost.com/Opinion-Refugees-are-at-high-risk-of-catching-Coronavirus-if-medical-services-in-camps-dont-improve-Nile-Post)
- Save Bugoma Forest Now: <https://www.facebook.com/809014419/posts/10158861033839420/?app=fbl>
- OXFAM concerned about forestation measures: 18th December, 2020. [OXFAM concerned about forestation measures - YouTube](https://www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam-concerned-about-forestation-measures-YouTube)



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