

# OXFAM IN UGANDA

## NEWSLETTER

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## OXFAM LAUNCHES 10-YEAR COUNTRY STRATEGY TOWARDS ENDING INEQUALITY



*A group photo of delegates during the Country Strategic Framework Launch. [Oxfam | 2022]*

A 2022 Oxfam report, [Inequality Kills](#), indicates that while the wealth of the world's ten richest men has more than doubled since the beginning of COVID-19, the incomes of 99% of humanity have fallen and over 160 million more people have been forced into poverty because of the pandemic.

In Uganda, people who were marginalized before COVID-19 have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and measures to curb it such as lockdowns.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, Oxfam in Uganda launched a 10 year strategy (2021 -2030) towards ending inequality in Uganda. Dubbed, Together Against Inequality, the strategy has four thematic areas including Governance and Accountability, Humanitarian Response, Resilient livelihoods and a new distinct theme on Gender Justice & Women's rights.

Mr. Francis Shanty Odokorach, the Country Director at Oxfam said that the strategy is a call, a great opportunity – and, more

than that, a responsibility –to all to come together to make Uganda more equal and fairer for everyone to live and enjoy their rights.

Over the years, Oxfam, working with its partners, has tackled inequality and injustice working with the most marginalized, youth, women and men.

In his remarks, Mr. Daniel Alemu, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that the United Nations (UN) is committed to collaborating with state and non state actors to contribute to the objectives of Uganda's Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan (NDP) III.

"We must work together to ensure that no one is left behind in our collective quest to achieve the SDGs," he added.

The launch of Oxfam's CSF 2021- 2030 brought together diplomatic missions, cultural institutions, academia, Civil society organizations, government officials, and the private sector.

## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTING ON WOMEN AND THE CARE ECONOMY, FEMINISTS CALL FOR MITIGATING STRATEGIES



*Hon. Teddy Nambooze, Woman MP Mpigi district (Extreme Right) together with Oxfam staff pose for photos during the feminist convening on the impact of climate change on women and the care economy. [Oxfam| 2022]*

Majority of Ugandans depend on forest cover for fuel. However, adverse effects of climate change impact women and girls more because they constantly interact with the environment. For instance, women walk longer distances looking for firewood and water due to decline in water levels.

To commemorate the 2022 International Women's Day, Oxfam in partnership with Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) organized a feminist reflection meeting on the impact of climate change on women and the care economy. Ms. Sarah Agwang, the Programs Director at UWONET said that to sustain livelihoods and the economy, workable mitigating strategies for climate change should be adopted.

In his remarks, Dr. Eria Serwajja, a lecturer at the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Makerere

University said that there is need to document the impacts of climate change, women's vulnerability, the care economy, and gender equality. He also added that women and girls in rural settings should be empowered to adapt and build resilience to climate change.

While giving closing remarks, Mr. Francis Shanty Odokorach, Oxfam's Country Director, implored participants to join the movement of change and tackle the gender inequalities intensified by climate change.

In Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Oxfam and its partners commemorated the International Women's Day with a tree planting exercise, calling upon participants to plant trees to reduce the negative effects of climate change.

In the last few years, the rising impact of extreme weather events on agricultural systems has impacted the farming behavior of small-scale farmers, majority of whom are women and intensified gender inequalities.

## OXFAM IN UGANDA HOSTS THE REGIONAL WASH FORUM



**A group photo of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) team after the close of the five day Regional WASH Forum at Mestil Hotel in Kampala. [Oxfam/2022]**

Oxfam conducted a regional workshop on Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), hosted by the Ugandan team. The five-day workshop brought together WASH leads from Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, DRC region, Global Humanitarian Team and Oxfam UK.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide a platform for reflection on how best WASH governance can be improved and build resilience in the region.

As part of the workshop, a field visit to Kyaka II Refugee Settlement was organized. Participants were able to share lessons and best practices from specific countries for adaption and possible scale up. They also reflected on current programming and the new thinking in WASH programming to facilitate timely delivery, effective, first response in a WASH humanitarian situation.

The newly developed WASH strategy was also presented to participants, and they identified priority areas and came up with implementation plans.

Participants through group sessions developed their own country work plans that will enable them to implement the strategy.

While representing Oxfam in Uganda's Country Director, Ms. Margret Nandawula, the Humanitarian Manager said, "We are a known global link for WASH and we should set a standard for what WASH looks like."

Ms. Parvin Ngala, the Regional Head of Programmes for Horn, East, and Central Africa (HECA) noted that, "it is great to see the bigger discussions around social protection and resilience. How do we connect, how do we interconnect gender, technology, accountability, and economic development in our WASH work? Whatever we do, we have to step back and ask how did we do and what can we do better going forward?" She further encouraged participants to ensure the sustainability of the WASH systems that have been put in place.

## OXFAM CELEBRATES WORLD WATER DAY, TREE PLANTING, SANITATION & ENVIRONMENT WEEK IN KYAKA II SETTLEMENT



*Oxfam Staff in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement together with partners during the environment week commemoration on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.*

The World water day, tree planting, sanitation and environment week celebrations/commemorations kicked off in Kyaka II settlement from 20<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. On 21<sup>st</sup> March, Oxfam facilitated community dialogues on household sanitation and hygiene, environment protection and tree planting in Sweswe Dam I and Mukondo C villages.

A clean up of the Bukere centre which is one of the busiest and most populated town centers in the settlement was done on the following day 22<sup>nd</sup> March. This was through house to house sensitization on proper solid waste management with emphasis on payment of collection fees and use of sacks to keep waste till the car collects it instead of the reckless disposal on the road. This involved representatives from the partners, the Refugee welfare committees of the centre and two community groups of solid waste management.

Furthermore, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, cleaning of water points in Byabakora 3 village together with partner representatives and water committee members and the water users was conducted.

The UNHCR representative, Mr. Hillary Agwe, the Environment protection focal person, encouraged the refugees and host communities to protect and maintain the environment and the water sources through tree planting and cleaning of water sources respectively.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the environment week on 24<sup>th</sup> March, the OPM representative, Assistant commandant for Kyaka II refugee settlement Mr. Alex Twogyirwe urged the community members to resort to use of briquettes for cooking and prevent cutting of trees. He also emphasized that a household makes the highest contribution to community sanitation thus each household should ensure proper hygiene and sanitation.

Oxfam worked together with partners including UNHCR, Office of the Prime Minister, NSAMIZI, AAID, PWJ, SEND A COW, AWYAD, ADRA, Joint Effort to Save the Environment and Kyegegwa District Local Government (KDLG) to ensure that the community members fully participated in the environment week and understood its importance.

## CUTTING HAIR TO EARN A LIVING AND BUILD SELF-RELIANCE



*To make a living, Kennedy Ayizuru offers haircuts to refugees in Village1, Cluster1, Zone4, Bidibidi Refugee Settlement. [Joshua Amara| 2022]*

Kennedy Ayizuru is no different from other youth refugees who entered Uganda amidst uncertainty in South Sudan close to 4 years ago. Ayizuru fled his home in Morobo County in South Sudan and is now living in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Yumbe district. Ayizuru left South Sudan with his mother and 2 siblings after his father was brutally killed by armed men, who also abducted and killed many other males.

He settled in Bidibidi on 18th August 2016. Being a teenager with a sickly mother, life was difficult and settling down took a while. For example, trying to construct their home was a challenge, considering the high cost of building materials sold around the refugee settlement.

"The food rations we received could not take my family and I throughout the month because from the quantity served, we had to sell off some of the food to buy other necessities like clothing, seeds, and other food types.

Sometimes we also did barter trade, exchanging a portion of the food ration for the item needed.

When a close friend told me about a program for training youths to acquire skills to have a self-supporting business, my mother encouraged me to join it. I applied for salon and hairdressing and got the opportunity to participate in the training at Lodonga Polytechnic school.

After the training, I was given a startup kit which included assorted salon and hairdressing items like, a hair shaver, scissors, hair oils for different hair types among others. This has helped in creating my salon business at the trading center in our settlement," Kennedy explained.

He set up his business at the trading center in Bidibidi and now supports his mother and siblings. Among other support, he has bought them clothing, change of diet, and hired land for farming.

Kennedy says that the salon business earns him over 15,000 Uganda shillings daily.

"My plan is to expand and move to a bigger trading center and if possible, have two outlets to employ some more jobless youths to work in the salon," he said.

## PROVIDING HANDS- ON EXPERIENCE THROUGH GRADUATE INTERNSHIP



“This program has built my confidence more and redefined the purpose of my career path.”



**Hashara Caroline, Land Rights Graduate Intern at Oxfam in Uganda at her desk. [Oxfam| 2022]**

The graduate internship program with Oxfam has indeed been an educative marathon of four months. I joined the legal profession because of my passion in advocating for the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized people especially women.

Through the internship opportunity, and placement in land rights, Oxfam gave me a lifetime yearned for opportunity to learn, understand and reestablish the purpose of the career path I chose.

Through this internship, I have acquired vast knowledge from different projects within the Resilient Livelihoods team and other thematic programs. During the internship, I learnt and attained skills in report writing, advocacy and campaigning, project implementation, and teamwork among others.

I was given an opportunity to attend conferences and

workshops that have been another great center of education. From these workshops and conferences, I learnt that there is great need for advocating and campaigning for the women’s land rights in Uganda.

I also learnt about the need for establishing strong platforms and customary registrars that shall only focus on customary tenure and issuance of certificate of customary ownership in Uganda.

This program has built my confidence more, redefined the purpose of my career path and impacted vast knowledge in me. If I had missed this educative opportunity, I would have been misguided,” Hashara Caroline, Land Rights Graduate Intern at Oxfam in Uganda.

## OXFAM IN THE NEWS

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- CSF Launch Livestream : YouTube, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, <https://youtu.be/kXLV8Tc0TQc>
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- Uganda: Together Project Launched to Skill Youths, Fight High Maternal Rate Among Young Girls: AllAfrica.com, 31st March 2022, <https://allafrica.com/stories/202204010088.html>
- Cutting Hair to earn a living and build Self reliance: Oxfam Website, <https://uganda.oxfam.org/latest/stories/cutting-hair-earn-living-and-build-self-reliance>



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© OXFAM Plot 3459, Tank Hill Road, Muyenga  
P.O. Box 6228, Uganda Tank Hill Rd, Kampala  
Email:kampalaoffice@oxfam.org

Compiled by Elizabeth Nakiru  
Reviewed by Winnie Kyamulabi and Dorah  
Ntungu