



**OXFAM**

# OXFAM IN UGANDA

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PROGRAM 2017 OVERVIEW



### OVERVIEW AND CONTEXT:

**1,021,903**

South Sudanese  
refugees in Uganda

**283,757**

People provided with  
Humanitarian  
Assistance by Oxfam

**202,921**

People reached with  
Water, Sanitation and  
Hygiene

**21,607**

People reached with  
gender and protection

**16,695**

People reached with  
emergency food security  
and vulnerable livelihoods  
including environment

Our country strategy focuses on three thematic goals aimed at promoting women's rights, good governance and accountability, resilient livelihoods and enhancing preparedness, reducing vulnerability to disaster and ensuring an effective response to humanitarian crises. We work in partnership and alliances at local and global levels.

Among the thematic areas of focus, Resilient Livelihoods and Humanitarian Preparedness and Response programmes, specifically relate to the Uganda Government (OPM)'s Settlement Transformative Agenda [STA] and UNHCR's Refugee and Host Population Empowerment [ReHoPE].

Oxfam has a one-program approach that straddles development, humanitarian work and resilience building. These sectors provide evidence for our advocacy and campaigns. We believe that application of good sustainable development tools prevents disasters or enhances community resilience. For this reason, we are committed to investing in research to generate evidence for advocacy and influencing as well as scaling up programmes through developing and testing models with partners and communities in our target locale, the greater north of the country.

The level of direct implementation of emergency programmes is dependent on level and scale of emergency, existing capacity of the partners and the context in which the programs are being delivered. Regardless, Oxfam takes full responsibility to ensure that all programmes (it supports and or implements) meet required global, local and Oxfam standards. This is also partly why Oxfam in Uganda commits significant resources to capacity building, training, coaching and generally program quality investments. To this end, we have an on going humanitarian capacity building programme for 15 national organisations. Our humanitarian partners including CEFORD VEDCO, AWYAD, URDMC, SORUDA, PAG, ADP, URCS, ACORD and KAPDA enable joint implementation of interventions designed with their participation ensuring that local communities are directly involved in implementing the interventions for sustainability.

Committed to building long term resilience, enhancing humanitarian preparedness and response actions.

<https://uganda.oxfam.org>

We carry out conflict and gender analysis before design for all programs. The analysis informs conflict sensitive approaches to be followed. Oxfam applies the “Do No Harm” principle in its programming. Selection of beneficiaries and project participants, recruitments, procurement of local services providers, benefit sharing and such other processes are carefully made against Oxfam conflict sensitive checklist adapted to the context in which the program is implemented. All in all, we value collaboration with other actors, influence humanitarian policy and practices at local, national and regional levels.

### FORGING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER KEY HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

Oxfam has had a global MoU with the UNHCR on Strategic Partnership since 2006. This MoU mandates both organisations to collaborate and coordinate on global & field based IDP and refugee response, policy and advocacy fora. The MoU enjoins both agencies for joint planning; preparedness and response to predictable and rapid refugee emergency situation as well as joint capacity building in various response sectors such as WASH, Livelihood, cash based interventions, resource mobilisation and advocacy.

We also have an MoU with OPM (Office of the Prime Minister) to respond to the needs of South Sudan refugees and host communities in West Nile region and Northern Uganda. Oxfam’s humanitarian response plans are developed in close coordination with OPM particularly at district level.

Oxfam recognises that the Uganda Government (OPM)’s Settlement Transformative Agenda [STA] and UNHCR’s Refugee and Host Population Empowerment [ReHoPE] are closely interlinked strategies that seek to integrate refugee assistance within local service delivery systems whilst gradually attempting to enhance refugee and host communities’ socio-economic resilience and self-reliance prospects. We believe that our “one program” approach this far is consistent with this renewed approach which is why we welcome it fully.

Oxfam seeks support from UNHCR and OPM to feed into and

influence government positioning on key areas including in inter-governmental engagements such as in IGAD, EAC and AU on humanitarian and peace building issues. Oxfam also seeks support from UN-HCR in advocating with international humanitarian donors for more longer term funding instruments which will support in planning and implementing programmes aiming at sustainable efforts for refugees and host communities in achieving self-reliance and resilience.

### EXPERIENCES FROM OUR WORK ON SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES

Since the beginning of 2014, Oxfam, working with local partners has supported around 283,757 South Sudanese refugees and the host communities with safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion. Oxfam has also extended emergency food security and livelihood support that includes energy saving stove, cash for work programme and agriculture based livelihood. This support has a strong component of environment protection inbuilt into it. Oxfam’s intervention also includes gender and protection of refugees and largely using the evidence generated from this work for advocacy. All this interventions are linked to our development work of building the resilience of these communities.

As a key component of the response, Oxfam has and continues to take periodic actions to strengthen the capacity of local humanitarian actors. Beyond “saving lives”, we are strengthening humanitarian capacity of local actors (partners and local governments) as a way of ensuring better, quicker and cost effective preparedness and response to any emergent humanitarian situation.

Evidence from our work confirms that if local partner organizations are supported with capacities and capabilities, we can be able to prevent crisis, reduce lead time for response and achieve efficiencies. We believe that constructive engagement with government, UN agencies especially UNHCR, peer agencies, and local partners on policy and practice issues that have a bearing on the broader humanitarian system is critical for impact. This is why we use the knowledge, evidence and research from our work not just in Uganda but also the region and other parts of the world to inform our policy advocacy. We believe for example that deliberate and early investment in local humanitarian capacity is the most cost effective approach to mitigate current and future emergencies.



## OUR SECTORAL INTERVENTIONS TO THE REFUGEES AND HOST POPULATION

### Providing clean water:

Oxfam is providing water in the settlements of Rhino Camp and Imvepi (Arua district), Bidibidi (Yumbe district) and Palabek (Lamwo district) and previously (until December 2016) in Adjumani. Oxfam has previously drilled 30 Bore holes and currently 32 bore holes are being drilled in the various settlements. A total of 27 Bore Holes have been repaired and or rehabilitated. These are providing refugees and host communities with sustainable water sources and over ten of these will be motorized solar water supply systems. In addition, these systems demonstrate a preparedness plan and cost effective response.

Rainwater harvesting tanks have been installed in institutions (schools and health facilities) to facilitate rainwater harvesting for sustainable access. Oxfam and partners are supplying approximately 14-20 liters of water to each person per day (both refugees and host populations). Oxfam, with support from UNHCR and its own internal resources built 3 hybrid-powered water systems (solar & diesel) which has reduced the cost of water supply. Each system cost approx. USD 120,000 and can serve 10,000 people a day within a radius of 5-6 kms.



### Improving Sanitation & hygiene facilities:

Oxfam has supported the construction of latrines and bathing shelters both communal and individual household ones. Garbage pits at market and schools along with laundry decks for washing clothes at water points were constructed to ensure hygiene at settlement level.

We are using hygiene promotion activities such as supply of hygiene kits, involving children as change agents, training of hygiene maintenance committees in markets and at water points and facilitating weekly environment cleaning campaigns. We have built capacity of users to form committees responsible for ensuring the good usage and maintaining the hygiene standards put in place.

These include hygiene promoters, water user committees, school health clubs and market sanitation committees.

### Saving energy daily:

Oxfam initially designed and distributed energy saving fire shielded rocket stoves, which have reduced the use of fuel, wood or charcoal by half to over 12,652 households. This has also helped in saving time in collecting firewood and cooking, reduced the risk of sexual assault for the women and conflict with host communities over the right to use local forests. To enhance sustainability and resilience, we carried out a training of trainers on energy saving stoves. These trainees have been able to replicate the trainings and many people can now construct energy saving stoves on their own, and for some, this has become an income generating activity.

### Enhancing nutrition through kitchen gardening:

Oxfam supports refugee and host community households to establish kitchen gardens by enabling access to seedlings and farming tools. We encourage these groups to grow vegetables for home consumption to improve on their nutrition. The gardens are easily accessible, easy to maintain and less laborious and can be managed by both men and women. Different varieties of crops like tomatoes, cabbages and green pepper are grown. So far 36,175 people have accessed seeds and tools.



### Building peace & social harmony:

Oxfam also supports the formation and strengthening of peace committees made up of refugee and host communities and engaging in National, Regional and International advocacy to encourage peace building and reconciliation. Oxfam maintains that the safety, security and dignity of people's lives are taken care of through provision of gender sensitive services. For example, we ensure that sanitation facilities are segregated according to gender, provision of solar lamps to unaccompanied minors, paying special attention to the needs of children, survivors of SGBV and persons with disabilities. Peace building and conflict resolution campaigns through Music Dance and Drama have been conducted which have contributed to the reduction of SGBV cases and promoted peaceful coexistence at household level and between refugees and host community.

### Promoting Gender Equity:

Oxfam carries out analysis of the protection needs for the different gender, designed and continue to deliberately implement activities that reduce vulnerability and prevent gender based violence among refugees and host communities. Community structures are nurtured and strengthened like the Gender and Protection Committees and Women Own Forum whose members identify protection threats and risks and refer them appropriately. Women and girls are trained in making Reusable Sanitary Pads (RUMPS). This is majorly in response to the high levels of school dropouts by the girl child for fear of being stigmatised by their male counterparts when they soil their dresses while they are in menstruation periods. Support to mobility for example through access to six motorized tricycle ambulances has facilitated referrals of emergency cases from the community to the nearest health centres.

### Working with Youth:

Oxfam supports young people interventions that also benefit refugees and host communities in areas of practical IT skills, farming as well as creative arts. These are used also for youth mobilisation, peace building and psychotherapy. Vocational skills suitable to refugee situations and appropriate for young people are an area to explore and with further support, Oxfam will look into these. Recreation activities like football targeting mainly the youths have been implemented which have helped the youths to develop their talents but also to live in harmony.

We focus on ensuring that our interventions and those of our partners adopt complementary and synergistic strategies that promote resilience and enhance sustainability. This is effected at local and national levels, ensuring that interventions that respond to emergency crises integrate elements of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and preparedness work in order to reinforce long-term development, as well as policy gains realized through advocacy. All these efforts lead to socio-economic empowerment for the affected population and instil hope in rebuilding livelihoods and promoting stability. This will also be useful for refugees when they return home in future.



### A Route To Scale: Empowering Local Humanitarian Actors For Future Preparedness And Response

Drawing on our experience and with a key focus on building local humanitarian response capacity, Oxfam has embarked on a programme called "Empowering Local and National Humanitarian Actors (ELNHA)" to build on and amplify Oxfam's extensive experience of building the capacity of local humanitarian actors.

The ELNHA program which was launched in 2016, aims to achieve three objectives. First, to strengthen the capacity of local and national humanitarian actors, so they are equipped to lead humanitarian action in their countries and or localities. Second, give local and national humanitarian actors the voice to create a strong domestic humanitarian agenda by giving them the opportunity to design and implement quality humanitarian programs. Third, create more space for local and national humanitarian actors by influencing other international NGOs and donors to contribute to this systemic change.

The programme focuses on selected districts in the greater north including Kotido, Kaabong, Lamwo, Agago, Koboko, and Arua that facing challenges from climate change, prolonged droughts and food insecurity as well as refugee influx due to conflict in the neighbouring countries.

Oxfam's long term engagement with partners and focus on building trust enables effective capacity building trajectories that includes building both 'hard' skills in the technical aspects of humanitarian work in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Emergency Food Security and Vulnerable Livelihoods (EFSVL) and 'soft' skills such

as gender mainstreaming, conflict sensitivity, leadership and accountability, as well as supporting institutional development.



### For more information

Peter Kamalingin | Country Director

Peter.Kamalingin@oxfamnovib.nl

(D) +256 414 390502 | (M) +256 756 739424

Edward Mwebaze | Humanitarian Manager

Edward.Mwebaze@oxfamnovib.nl

(D) +256 414 390525 | (M) +256 750 089527

Srikanta Misra | P F Manager

Srikanta.Misra@oxfamnovib.nl

(D) +256 414 390538 | (M) +256 758 677861