

### CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS UPON GOVERNMENT TO BRING AN END TO THE AGE OF GREED

At the top of the global economy is a small elite who are unimaginably rich. Their wealth grows exponentially over time, with little effort, and regardless of whether they add value to society.

Meanwhile, at the bottom of the economy are women and girls, especially those living in poverty and from marginalized groups, who put in 12.5 billion hours every day of care work for free, and countless more for poverty wages.

Ahead of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Oxfam released a report, ***Time To Care*** to emphasize that governments around the world must act now to build a human economy that is feminist and values what truly matters to society, rather than fuelling an endless pursuit of profit and wealth.

During the Davos week, Oxfam in Uganda worked with its partner, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), to organize a press briefing and a dialogue dubbed, "Decade of the 99- Bringing an End to the Age of Greed," on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

The joint events convened academia, civil society, economists, and media to discuss how government of Uganda can reduce the inequality gap between the rich and the poor as well as reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women.

Oxfam's Interim Country Director, Jane Ocaya- Irama highlighted that Oxfam carried out a study in 2018 which revealed that women spend 8 hours daily on domestic and unpaid care work- the same amount of time people in paid employment, mostly men dedicate to their jobs on average.

She added that for most homes in Uganda, unpaid care work is packaged and framed as a priority for girls while school work and being successful enough to participate in the monetary economy is a priority for boys.

Jane called upon the ministry of gender to work with related ministries and lead the streamlining of clear indicators for tracking SDG 5, target 5.4, in government



UWONET and OXFAM staff addressing a press briefing on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 in Kampala.

action to build a people centered economy that works for structures to show how key sectors such as education, health, water and sanitation, and infrastructure can contribute to reducing carework, and raise awareness among stakeholders in these sectors on how their work can contribute to the redistribution of unpaid care work.

UWONET's Executive Director, Rita Aciro also expressed concern that unfair micro and macro economic policies exhibited by global governments have widened the economic gap between the poor and the rich and between rich and poor countries.

"It is not an accident that we find ourselves in this situation, there has been a deliberate effort to widen this gap. Why is it that only 22 men globally are richer than the entire folk of women in Africa? Asked Aciro, emphasizing the need for deliberate efforts to reverse this trend.

Prof. Grace Bantebya, a lecturer on Gender Studies at Makerere University, said that government needs to invest in a national care system as well as time saving technologies in order to reduce the amount of time women and girls spend doing unpaid care work.

Oxfam's Finance for Development Coordinator, Joseph

Olweny, said that government should take deliberate action to build a people centered economy that works for all, where the rich pay their fair share of taxes.

Oxfam's report also reads that investing in national care systems to address the disproportionate responsibility for care work done by women and girls and introducing progressive taxation, are possible and crucial first steps to ending inequality.

The report also calls upon governments around the world to build a human economy that benefits 99% of the world population and not only the rich 1%.

Prof. Grace Bantebya speaking about the need to invest in a national care system during a panel discussion at the event.



## DR. STELLA NYANZI WINS OXFAM NOVIB/ PEN INTERNATIONAL AWARD 2020

On 16<sup>th</sup> January, Dr. Stella Nyanzi, a prominent Ugandan academic, writer, and feminist activist was awarded the Oxfam Novib/ PEN International Award for Freedom of Expression 2020.

The award, which is in form of a certificate and a cash prize of 2,500 euros is given in recognition of writers, who - despite the consequences - continue to write and to promote freedom of expression.

PEN International's President, Jennifer Clement said the award recognizes the work Dr. Nyanzi has done for women, civil society, and in the defense of freedom of expression. While accepting the award on Dr. Nyanzi's behalf, PEN Uganda's President, Danson Kahyana said,

"Dr Stella Nyanzi's winning of the Oxfam Novib/PEN International Freedom of Expression Award is good news not only to her, but to all freedom of expression defenders in Uganda and elsewhere, for it shows that demonising and harassing a courageous writer does not signal their vocal death. To the contrary, their voice remains fully alive, capable of reverberating far and wide, through platforms that awards like this provide."

Oxfam in Uganda's Interim Country Director, Jane Ocayarama noted that Stella Nyanzi's writing may be considered controversial, but Oxfam recognizes the need to protect unconventional, outspoken, and fearless people like her. Jane added that through Stella's shocking writing, she fuels discussion and debate on unspoken issues within society, such as patriarchy, women's rights, and the limits of political power.



Dr. Stella Nyanzi in Kampala recently. Courtesy Photo

## OXFAM TO DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY BASED SEED BANKS

OXFAM in Uganda has been selected to be part of a committee to draft guidelines for community seed banks across the country.

The committee was formed on 23rd January 2020 during a meeting with the National Agriculture Research Organisation- Plant Genetic Resources Center and Bioversity International, to discuss how seed stakeholders in Uganda can develop a database as well as guidelines for developing community seed banks.

The meeting agreed upon the kind of information needed for the database to be developed and sourced existing literatures that will direct the development of all the necessary guidelines. Oxfam believes that these engagements will facilitate and enable seeds exchange in a more formalized, sustainable and beneficial manner.



A section of participants during the meeting with the National Agriculture Research Organization on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

## SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO PURSUE THEIR SRHR IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Oxfam (Uganda, Novib and South Sudan), Simavi, Save the Children, Population Council, and other partners convened for a 3 day workshop on the More than Brides Alliance (MTBA) theory of change. MTBA works to ensure that young people are able to decide if and when to marry and pursue their SRHR in a supportive environment..

Aimed at gathering information and statistics on child marriage in Uganda and South Sudan, the workshop served as one of the processes required in the ongoing development of the MTBA II program. The MTBA II program is in line with the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) partnership fund intended for capacity strengthening in the area of lobbying and advocacy.



Participants taking a group after the MTBA theory of change workshop. Oxfam in Uganda was represented by Flavia Nambozo, Charity Namara, Jane Ocaya-Irama, Racheal Barbour, and Peace Immaculate Chandini.

## EU HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT HELPING REDUCE RISK OF HYGIENE - RELATED DISEASES IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS

With funding from European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Oxfam is supporting refugees in Rhino Camp, Omugo extension, and Imvepi settlements in West Nile to get a more reliable, sustainable, and safe water supply, aimed at improving their sanitation and hygiene practices.

Oxfam is training refugees in proper handwashing after visiting the latrines, before and after eating food, cleaning in and around their homesteads, as well as safe-keeping of drinking water, all in a bid to reduce the risk of poor hygiene-related diseases like cholera and diarrhoea.

Proper sanitation and hygiene practices have trickled down into communities through Community Hygiene Promoters and children. The latter embrace these practices while at school and thereafter take them into their homes hence contributing to improvement in the overall families' health.

Liberty, a former pupil at Illi Primary School says, "After I learned washing hands with ash, I went home and told my father about it and my whole family started to use ash when washing our hands. These days, I do not get as many stomach aches as I used to and I am happy for that." Patrick, another pupil, also says that when he finished the training on proper hygiene practices at school, he went home and told his family to stop eating food without washing hands. He also worked with his brothers to build a tippy tap near the family's latrine and is now confident that they will not suffer from diseases like diarrhoea."



A student of Illi Primary School in Arua district demonstrates how proper hand washing is done



Patrick narrates the changes he has seen at home since the training on proper hygiene practices.

## GALS FACILITATORS TO SUPPORT SCALING UP GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES IN KENYA, UGANDA, AND NIGERIA

The Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) facilitators' workshop convened in Kenya's Muranga County from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to identify best practices and common principles for facilitating the scaling up of the GALS methodology in communities.

Participants were from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Italy, and Netherlands.

The workshop contributed to scaling up of the gender transformative approach in local communities in Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria and based on demand, offer necessary support to selected IFAD supported projects across South, East and West Africa through the Empower @Scale Project.



The GALS facilitators' training taking place in Nairobi, Kenya last month.