Ahead of the COP-27, young feminist climate activists are calling on global leaders to ensure that African voices and issues are included on the COP-27 agenda. The young activists further demand a loss and damage facility for the most vulnerable countries that contribute less to global emissions yet suffer some of the worst impacts of climate change. Floods and prolonged drought have led to the loss of lives, property, and livelihoods in many African Countries.

This call was made during the young feminists convening on gender and climate change organized by Oxfam, FEMNET, and Akina Mama wa Afrika at Mestil Hotel, Kampala under the theme of transforming gender and climate justice narratives on COP27. The three days meeting brought together over 40 young activists from Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Zambia and DRC.

The meeting leads to the UNFCCC 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 27), which will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from the 7th to 18th of November 2022. It will focus on the implementation and delivery of global commitments bridging gaps towards mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance.

As the meeting is being held on African soil, which is the continent with the highest impact on the effects of climate change, Oxfam and partners saw this as an opportune time to raise and amplify the voices of young people who have been at the fore front of climate action and have the greatest stake in a sustainable and equitable future.

At the event’s opening, Francis Shanty Odokorach, Country Director at Oxfam in Uganda, said, “In the face of climate change, we know women and young people become more vulnerable as the care burden increases on women. The social-economic impacts of these crises make young people, especially girls, more vulnerable in search of alternative living. Climate solutions must therefore include the voices of the most affected.”

Renown young Ugandan climate activist Vanessa Nakate added that, “Many people are referring to this as an African COP, but what will make it African is the presence of African climate activists from the African continent, stories and experiences of African communities and not merely holding the meeting on African soil.”

Hon. Peace Regis Mutuuzo, Minister of State for Gender and Culture Affairs, said that developing countries cannot implement ambitious climate change mitigation targets without sustainable, cost-effective financing from developed countries. Climate Financing must therefore be on the top agenda.

Together, the young people consolidated their collective position to be taken to COP27. Some critical issues they advanced are providing space for young people to speak out, financing the youth agenda and implementing existing policy frameworks for young people’s social and economic transformation.
Working with partners, the Uganda Community Based Association for Women and Children Welfare (UCOBAC) organized the launch of the Stand for Her Land Campaign - Uganda.

The campaign is using the power of collective advocacy and capacity-sharing to leverage the current opportunity to transform gender paradigms and achieve lasting change for women’s land rights.

While presenting the campaign strategy, Agnes Kirabo, Executive Director at Food Rights Alliance said that the campaign’s focus areas include engaging youth and other marginalized groups, social norms and behavior change for women’s land rights, and men as champions for rural women’s land rights.

The Stand for Her Land is a global campaign which started in December 2021 to advance secure and equitable women’s land rights by building a unified, locally-driven movement and bridging the implementation gap.

Despite legal frameworks guaranteeing women’s land rights and substantial local work to strengthen these rights, women in Uganda face persistent challenges in claiming and securing their rights to land.

The campaign’s coalition in Uganda will convene government officials and other key stakeholders at roundtable gatherings to share pilot project lessons, best practices, and outcomes from land rights registration processes. The coalition will work within existing multi-stakeholder platforms centered on women’s land rights.

At the community level, the coalition is working to integrate gender-transformative approaches in the land rights registration and land dispute resolution processes on mailo and customary land. This is being done through community dialogues to identify and transform existing harmful norms limiting women’s land rights.
More than 40 representatives from the Women’s Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care) programme met in Kampala from August 1 to 5, to reflect on the challenges and successes of its unpaid care programming across Southern and Eastern Africa. The Learning Event brought together Oxfam and partners from Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe in fighting this unfair cause.

According to the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC), women in Uganda provide up to 20 hours per week of unpaid care work—twice as much time as men and boys. To address the unequal distribution of care, Oxfam, the Uganda Women’s Network (UWONET), Gals Forum International, Makerere University School of Gender Studies, and Forum for Rights Awareness and Monitoring (FORAMO) engage with government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and other actors at different levels to implement policy frameworks that respond to care, such as improving access to water and care-responsive infrastructure.

The WE-Care programme likewise worked with men and boys to promote mindset and attitude change at the community level, so care is redistributed equally among family members.

“It is no longer strange to talk about care. But there is more work to do on budget and public investment in social sectors to reduce the care workload of women,” said Oxfam in Uganda Country Director Francis Odokorach.

Rita Aciro, the Executive Director at UWONET said, “we have made some strides but there is a long way to go.” Aciro emphasized the need for conviction to connect the dots of care work to the broader challenges that women face, such as inequality, gender-based violence, and climate change. She added that it is impossible to address these challenges without addressing unpaid care work.

In her keynote address to the participants of the learning event, Dr. Angela Nakafeero, Commissioner for Gender and Women Affairs at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, remarked that unpaid care work is a form of silent discrimination, affecting women’s access to education, employment, and social services. With Uganda also battling the adverse effects of climate change and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, women’s unpaid care work is expected to further increase.

Dr. Nakafeero encouraged the participants to think more about advocacy work and collective action towards shifting the narratives on care being only a woman’s responsibility. “To move the care agenda forward, we need a multi-stakeholder approach, as well as transformative partnerships with other actors such as the private sector,” added Dr. Nakafeero.

Esther Namboka - Founder and Executive Director of the Gals Forum International called for establishment of operational child care centres in markets and communities.
INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY: CREATING A WORLD FOR ALL AGES

Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), ILC Africa, Youth Initiative for Land in Africa, and Habitat for Humanity held the Youth and Land Conference 2022 to commemorate International Youth Day under the topic, “The role of youths in responding to land governance, property rights, climate change while building intergenerational solidarity as a contribution to achieving the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the agenda 2030.”

The conference lay at the heart of reducing barriers to youth inclusion in land governance and fostering intergenerational solidarity for improving land governance in the IGAD Region towards sustainable development.

Land is the only thing that appreciates every time, making it the most valuable possession that one can ever own. In Uganda, ownership of land is embedded under Article 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 as amended, granting every citizen of Uganda a right to own land under the different land tenures such as freehold, Mailo, leasehold and customary land tenure.

Promising youth and land interventions have previously strengthened youth organizations and participation in land policymaking processes, supported education and awareness-raising activities for youth to know their land rights, and strengthened youth access to legal services to recognize and defend their land rights.

In his remarks during the conference, Francis Shanty Odokorach, the Country Director at Oxfam in Uganda said, “Young people and other vulnerable groups experience the most extreme forms of poverty and inequality, which is worse if they have experienced conflict or if they do not receive a proper education.” He recommended that “solutions to land inequality lie in better laws and policies and in uprooting traditional development paradigms that celebrate development without looking at the actual impact on people.”

The conference was aimed at increasing the body of available evidence and facilitate the exchange of views through dialogue on intergenerational solidarity for youth inclusion in land governance, exploring ways in which young people can leverage the land resource for employment, sustainable and equitable sharing of land resources that contribute to the attainment of the AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, as well as highlighting innovation and innovative ideas by youth on land governance, access to decent housing and building resilient cities and communities while addressing intergenerational gaps.

Participants of the virtual Youth and Land Conference included governments, Civil Society youth organization representatives, development partners and academia, ensuring regional representation, as well as the inclusion of marginalized youth.
It takes a village of humanitarian workers to save and protect refugees’ lives. On 19th August, Oxfam joined the rest of the world to shine a light on humanitarian volunteers, professionals, and crisis affected people who deliver urgent health care, shelter, food, protection, water and much more to those in need.

Humanitarian workers are tirelessly responding to the refugee influx in Northern and South Western Uganda, providing support to refugees from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo respectively.

Agatha Akandiinda is a Public Health Promotion Assistant working with Oxfam and based in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement. With support from UNHCR, Agatha is one of the humanitarian workers extending WASH services to refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“All people, including refugees deserve to live safe and dignified lives. I work to restore hope to people who have been affected by crises,” said Agatha.

Agatha is proud of the interventions done in refugee settlements including empowering and supporting refugees and host communities to use collective efforts to access clean, safe, and portable water.

CSOS LAY STRATEGIES FOR LOCAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Oxfam in partnership with Joint Efforts to Save the Environment (JESE) and the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) under European Union Trust Fund (EUTF) project held a stakeholders engagement meeting in Kyegegwa district.

The meeting aimed at establishing a common understanding on the progress of the project’s interventions, activities conducted, challenges, recommendations and best practices being experienced during implementation.

Participants, who included refugee desk officers, local government officials, development partners, settlement commandants, and civil society representatives, agreed that there is a need to build local capacities for sustainability.

They also agreed that there is a need to conduct routine coordination of key stakeholders and review meetings, identify cost benefit analysis for energy interventions, identify strategies for continuity of the project, as well as identify technical solutions to mitigate existing challenges within the project.
On 14th June 2022, Hon Matia Kasaija, through the Budget speech, highlighted that the Government’s stance for the FY 2022/23 was neither to introduce new taxes nor increase existing rates. This was on account to support economic recovery in addition to reducing tax leakages. According to the Minister, the amendments are intended to simplify the laws, clarify previously ambiguous provisions, and close loopholes that may lead to revenue leakage.

It’s worth noting that this commitment is an adoption of the 10th parliament recommendation made on Thursday 29th April 2021, with a consideration to review the tax legislation from annually to at least three years. This was aimed at ensuring predictability in decision-making by investors when undertaking investment decisions in Uganda.

With no new taxes introduced in FY 2022/23, this approach offers some remedies that could capture some business and high-income earning individuals into the tax bracket by re-enforcing tax administrative rules and measures.

For instance, measures like the temporary closure of businesses until compliance with the requirements of electronic receipting and invoicing, mandatory disclosure of information on contracted services, mainly under the oil and gas sector, and long-term contracts under the construction sector. Further to push compliance, criminal charges and penalties have been introduced. For example, failure to file an information return for purposes of automatic exchange of information is now punishable by imprisonment up to 10 years, a UGX 50 million penalty charge or both. According to the new amendments, sharing misleading information for tax purposes now attracts a UGX 110 Million penalty. All these “strict” requirements are intended to increase compliance and reduce the leakages that undermine domestic revenue efforts in the country.

As indicated earlier, the amendments in the Domestic Tax laws are meant to increase the tax revenue collection to meet the FY 2022/23 target of Shs. 23,754.9 billion and Shs. 1,795.9 billion for Tax and Non-Tax Revenue, respectively.

While the intention of these measures is good, the question remains on whether... continue reading
OXFAM IN THE NEWS

1. **Women street vendors appeal to men to help with un-paid care work**: UG Standard 6th August
2. **CSOs ask govt to recognize unpaid domestic work**: New Vision 7th August
3. **Lands Ministry, PELUM Uganda take Land Awareness Campaign to Kigezi Sub region**: KMA Updates 20th August
4. **CSOs task govt to open up space for engagement on the COP processes ahead of the COP27 slated to take place in Egypt late this year**: KMA Updates 20th August
5. **The Land Awareness Week 2022**: Salt Media 20th August
6. **News hour**: CBS Radio 26th August:
7. **African Youth Environmentalists hold pre COP27**: New Vision 28th August
8. **No Climate Justice without Gender Justice - Youth Activists Demand**: Capital Radio 28th August
9. **COP27: Young Climate Change Activists call for Investment Policies Favoring Ecosystems**: UG Standard 30th August 2022
10. **Activists ask govt to intervene in combating climate change**: Daily Monitor 30th August 2022

OXFAM PUBLICATIONS

1. **Making Care Count : Stories of Change**
2. **Oxfam in Uganda Newsletter: July 2022**

OXFAM BLOGS

1. **Will the new tax amendments FY 2022/23 contribute towards making Uganda’s tax regime more progressive?**

OXFAM STORIES

2. **I lost my home to floods**
3. **My children’s home was destroyed by river Nyamwamba**

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

Compiled by Charity Asibazuyo and Winnie Kyamulabi
Reviewed by Dorah Ntunga