

CIVIL SOCIETY TASKS GOVERNMENT TO SOLVE THE BLOOD PROBLEM

Last month, Oxfam and its partners launched a public campaign on blood dubbed, “Fund the Health Sector, Fill the Blood Bank,” aimed at tasking government of Uganda to allocate more domestic funds to the health sector so that Uganda Blood Transfusion Services’ Safe Blood Provision Programme meets its annual budget.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that Uganda needs at least 410,000 units of safe blood annually to satisfy its population. However, the blood bank is 48.8 % short of the recommended units of blood per year which leads to death of 1,118 women and girls annually because of over bleeding while giving birth. Civil society has also tasked Uganda Blood Transfusion Services to align blood collection, testing and issuing with WHO guidelines.

The public campaign was flagged off on Thursday 6th February 2019 in Gulu district in Northern Uganda with a regional press briefing and a public procession that led into a regional dialogue. Key participants were district leaders, civil society, the media, and general public.

Shortage of blood is a critical problem in Uganda affecting health services and putting patients’ lives at risk. Because blood is a lifesaving commodity with no substitute especially for women and girls giving birth and suffering hemorrhage, the campaign has, since its launch, attracted media attention (see one of the stories [here](#).) NBS TV also aired a [special report](#) on 10th February to reveal the challenges behind the blood crisis. To bring together citizens’ voices, civil society is collecting offline and online petitions to also ask government to ensure fair taxation and to make blood safe and accessible to all Ugandans across the country. The petitions will be presented to the Speaker of Parliament later this month.

Join us to demand for increased funding to the health sector and particularly the blood programme. Sign the [petition](#) or make your demands on social media using **#TimeToCare4Blood**. Your voice can save a life.



A section of women and men participating in a sub national procession to demand for accessible blood for all. The procession took place on 6th February 2020 in Gulu district.



A section of participants during a sub national dialogue on the blood crisis held in Gulu district on 6th February 2020.



More than 600 people have signed the online petition asking government to increase funding to the health sector and fill the blood bank. Sign the petition now!

USING A RESILIENCE APPROACH TO CREATE A JUST WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY

Between 24th and 28th February 2020, Oxfam staff and partners participated in a resilient development learning workshop in Jinja to explore what Oxfam means by resilient development, gain a sense of what Oxfam's vision for resilient development is, gain new knowledge and insights to apply in projects, and gather feedback to make improvements to be used in different Oxfam country offices.

Some of the lessons learnt were that Resilience Development is about looking at existing challenges from a new perspective and finding new solutions to them. Participants explored the different resilience capacities; adoptive, adaptive, and transformative as short term and long term abilities of individuals and communities to cope with known shocks and stresses, to learn and adjust and develop new strategies to engage with evolving shocks and stresses, and to make intentional change to stop or reduce the drivers of risk, vulnerability, and inequality respectively.

Other lessons learned were on agency, social change processes, context analysis, gender based inequality, Oxfam's framework for resilient development, and many more. Key to note is that resilience development is at the center of all Oxfam's programming as highlighted in the statement below;

"We want a just world without poverty. Today we work towards this vision in a context of new and changing risk. This means that our work must address risk and its causes, as well as the inequality of power that unfairly exposes poor people and makes them vulnerable to shocks, stresses, and uncertainty. We cannot achieve our vision if we do not integrate a resilience approach into our thinking, ways of working, and all our interventions.

While we acknowledge that resilience has different meanings, Oxfam defines resilience as the ability of women and men to realize their rights and improve their well-being despite shocks, stresses, and uncertainty," Resilience Knowledge Hub.



The pictures above show Oxfam staff and partners participating in the resilient development learning workshop in Jinja district between 24th and 28th February 2020.

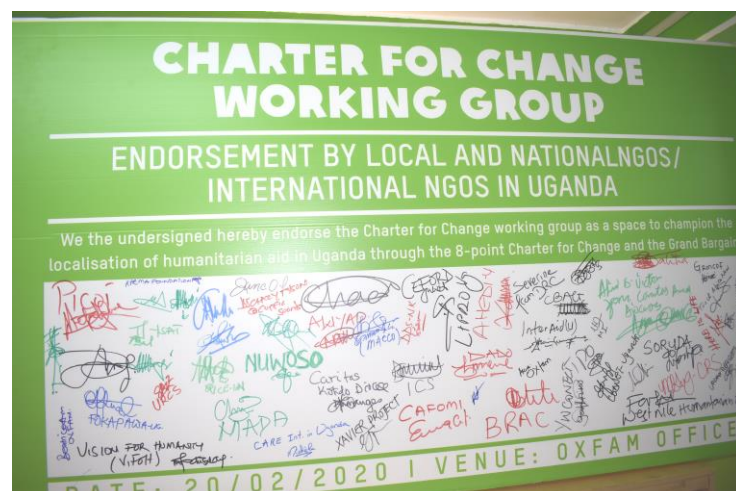
NGOS AND INGOS ENDORSE CHARTER FOR CHANGE

WORKING GROUP

The leadership of more than 50 local and national Non-Governmental Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations endorsed the Charter for Change (C4C) working group as a space to champion localization of humanitarian aid in Uganda in a meeting held at Oxfam on 20th February 2020.

Speaking at the event, Oxfam's Interim Country Director, Jane Ocaya- Irama, noted that the C4C working group will also intentionally focus on engaging and supporting women-led and women's rights organizations to get involved in humanitarian action.

To achieve its objectives, the working group will meet on a quarterly basis. Oxfam believes that this will contribute to promoting ownership, facilitating strategic decision making, accountability and sustainability of the working group.



Signatures of representatives of more than 50 organizations endorsing the Charter for Change working group as a space to champion localization of humanitarian aid in Uganda.

SAFEGUARDING FOCAL POINTS RECEIVE TRAINING ON

PROMOTING A CLEAR AND UNIFIED UNDERSTANDING OF OXFAM'S

APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING

From 3rd to 6th February 2020, Safeguarding Focal Points (SFPs) in the HECA region participated in a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop in Nairobi aimed at promoting a clear and unified understanding of Oxfam's approach to safeguarding.

The training offered a rich opportunity for SFPs to learn with and from other Oxfam HECA Safeguarding Focal Points and to contribute to efforts meant to prevent sexual harassment, abuse, and exploitation.

The training also aimed at improving knowledge and skills in relation to the One Oxfam Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy and the One Oxfam Child Safeguarding Policy to ensure a common understanding amongst Safeguarding Focal Points.

During the training, Safeguarding Focal Points committed to support Oxfam's efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, the abuse of children, and the abuse of vulnerable adults.

Oxfam hopes that this consistent approach to learning will be a catalyst for behavioral change as well as demystification of the concept of Safeguarding through a blended learning approach in a way that encourages a learning culture and embeds Safeguarding in every sphere of the organization.



Safeguarding Focal Points pose for a group photo on 4th February 2020 during a Trainers of Trainers workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya.

OXFAM DOCUMENTS SMES THAT ARE CREATING LASTING IMPACTS FOR UGANDANS

Oxfam's project on Business Development Services is documenting Small to Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) that are contributing to social and economic change in the communities they operate in.

In Uganda, two enterprises were selected namely; **Spouts of Water** which produces water purifiers that provide clean and safe drinking water for homes, schools, hospitals, and other institutions and **Rada Shoes Limited** which assembles affordable leather shoes and bags mainly for school going children.

The products of the documentation which include short videos and photos will be used for Oxfam's fundraising and influencing work to help accelerate the SMEs' impact. The products will also be used to market the enterprises' efforts in transforming their communities by creating employment opportunities, and affordable direct services to Ugandans.

The two SMEs are also in the run to win 15,000 Euros to invest further in their businesses.



A pupil collects safe drinking water from a water purifier produced by Spouts of Water.



One of the workers at Rada shoes limited checking the quality of the shoes that have been produced.

Thank you for reading!