

# **OXFAM IN UGANDA**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**JULY 2022**



## EDUCATION FOR ALL - THE BRICE LEGACY



**Angelo Ogwan, one of the South Sudanese refugee learners who benefitted from the Building Resilience in Crisis through Education (BRICE) project speaking at the project's closeout event . [Oxfam | 2022]**

Oxfam in Uganda and partners concluded a four-year journey lighting a path through the education arena. The journey was a 4-year project (March 2018 - February 2022) named *Building Resilient Learners, Teachers and Education Systems in South Sudan and Uganda*. It was funded by the European Union through a programme titled 'Building Resilience in Crisis through Education' (BRICE).

The project, implemented in Palabek refugee settlement Lamwo District was designed as a nexus responding to humanitarian crisis and drawing on the development approach. Led by Oxfam in Uganda, the project was delivered in consortium with AVSI Foundation in Uganda, Forum for African Women Educationalists Uganda (FAWEU), Luigi Guissani Institute of Higher Education (LGIHE), and Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU).

"The project improved access to quality primary education for learners in both non-formal and formal education systems, to build their resilience and provide them with life skills to enable them lead productive lives," said Benedict Lokiru- the BRICE Project Manager at Oxfam in Uganda.

This contributed to the broader project goal of building

sustainable, resilient, and quality educational opportunities for refugee and displaced children, as well as for those in the host communities in South Sudan and Northern Uganda.

Speaking at the project closure event, the Oxfam in Uganda Country Director, Francis Shanty Odokorach urged the government to take on learning from the project, consider increasing the number of female teachers and increase the budget to the education sector, with specific intervention for those living with disabilities. Accelerated learning according to Francis would be an effective approach to bringing the teenage mothers up to speed with their learning.

Mr. Geoffrey Osborn Oceng, the Resident District Commissioner for Lamwo District, called for continued support to disadvantaged learners even after the end of the project.

While representing the State Minister for Gender, Labor, and Social Development, Hon. Helen Grace Asamo appreciated Oxfam and partners for skilling learners in refugee settlements and said that the lessons learned from the BRICE project will be used to improve people's lives.





**Monica Aling is one of the learners who benefitted from the Building Resilience in Crisis through Education (BRiCE) project. Monica is currently enrolled at Don Bosco Youth Centre in Palabek where she is learning construction and masonry. [Photo by AVSI Foundation]**

**“Joining the Accelerated Education Program was good for me because it was not about my size anymore and we concentrated on assignments. In less than two years, I sat for my Primary Leaving Examinations.”**

Nineteen-year-old Monica Aling, a soft spoken and composed girl who stands at 5’8ft whose stature commands attention went from Kyangwali to Palabek Refugee Settlement. When she she joined the mainstream primary five class, it was even more difficult for her to study. Her height drew the attention of learners in her school and she left.

In 2019, Monica heard from a friend about the Accelerated Education Program in the same block she lived and decided to enroll in term 1 level 2.

“Joining the Accelerated Education Program was good for me because it was not about my size anymore and we concentrated on assignments. In less than two years, I sat for my Primary Leaving Examinations.”

Monica completed her final exams, something that had started to feel unattainable. She also benefited from life skills sessions conducted by AVSI Foundation and this propelled her in a direction of self-discovery. With a shy but confident smile, she expresses her dream to become a mason and a truck driver - a multi skilled woman.

“Attending the life skills training debunked the myth that some activities are only for men and the sole difference between us is the ability to conceive, the rest is a matter of choice and this is why I like construction.”

Monica is currently enrolled at Don Bosco Youth Centre in Palabek where she is learning construction and masonry.



## MY CHILDREN'S HOME WAS DESTROYED BY RIVER NYAMWAMBA



*Rehema and her children at their current home of residence at Muhoya Internally displaced in Kasese District. [Oxfam | 2022]*

River Nyamwamba first began flooding in 2013 and continues to overflow every year in May and sometimes twice a year. It has since destroyed homes, taken lives and displaced the residents of Kasese, making them internally displaced people. 47-year-old Rehema Namale Aryemua, a mother of 10 children, is one of the flood victims who lost her home and later relocated to live in Muhokya Internally displaced people's transit camp in Kasese district.

In January 2020, Rehema bought land near river Nyamwamba after a friend convinced her that the land was affordable. Soon after buying, she started building her home for her children since she was a widow.

"My plan was to build a home for my children, especially my daughters, so that they wouldn't have to suffer after I am gone" said Rehema.

She moved into her finished house with her children after completion in March 2020, where they started gardening and poultry farming. They were able to connect electricity and water to their home. They had barely lived in their home for two months when they received news that river Nyamwamba had burst its banks and was flooding.

The floods kept on ravaging the places near it until they reached Rehema's land. The family wasn't heavily affected by the water since they could still live in their home despite it being there.

Two days later, the water had increased in speed and amount and destroyed some of their crops.

After a week, Rehema's neighbors abandoned their homes in anticipation of more floods, but her family stayed since they had nowhere to go hoping that the floods would eventually stop. They rebuilt their home twice before they also decided to shift after the floods persisted and destroyed their property. They were taken to the internally displaced people's camp by the local government officials and given some food items to fend for themselves.

Rehema and her children resettled in the camp and began to build another house using mud, sand, and wood. They also ventured into rearing rabbits, ducks, and chicken for sale to get income for her family. She currently rents land on which she plants crops like maize, groundnuts, and corn. These are crops that she later sells to raise money for her children's school fees and welfare. One hectare of land is hired out at 150,000Ugx, and Rehema rents at least 3 hectares to produce more crops to get enough income.

Rehema is committed to working hard to ensure that her children go back to school or get involved in securing and learning hands-on skills. "My goal right now is to make sure my children get hands-on skills like knitting, tailoring or any skills that will enable them to survive even if they don't get a formal education," said Rehema. (Please watch Rehema's story here: <https://youtu.be/BTcvyTMUU8M>)



## INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE WATER IN NAKIVALE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



**Anna Tumuhairwe collects water from one of the water points in Kyakashana village for domestic use. [Oxfam | 2022]**

The people of Kyakashana village in Isingiro district have had a challenge of access to clean water making them dependent on the water from ponds and sometimes waiting on the rain to harvest some water. Given the recent adverse effects of climate change, the rain water became more and more scarce as the ponds dried up and others developed muddy water which was undrinkable.

“We used to fetch water from ponds where children had played in and contaminated. It was so bad for us as we couldn’t wash, cook or bath using the pond water. We would get desperate and decide to buy water from Isingiro town where a 20-liter jerrycan costs Shs.500 but also one spends Shs.5000 for transport which is costly,” narrated Tumuhairwe Anna, a resident of Kyakashana.

The other option of clean water they had was to go to lake Nakivale which was time consuming for the women and girls given the 20km distance from their communities in Kyakashana. They resorted to using water from the pond for washing their clothes which got terribly stained and damaged due to the salinity of the water. The children especially girls could not go to school because they were uncomfortable going to school untidy.

Oxfam in Uganda together with their partners (would be good to mention the partners if they are not too many) funded by ECHO constructed and set up a water supply plant system

with 23 water points in different zones of Kyakashana village.

The communities welcomed the water supply they received which is free of charge and close to their homesteads.

The Oxfam WASH coordinator Vincent Ogira stated that the project was approved by the government and done according to government threshold.

“In my area, we now have access to 3 water points since their instalment in January 2022. The children have been going to school earlier now and we are able to cook, clean, wash and even drink it without any problem,” said Anna.

Anna also began rearing animals due to the close water sources that provide water for the animals throughout the day. The water points are regulated whereby water is pumped from the plant to the water points from 7:00am to 1:00 pm for community members to fetch and then closed for the next day. This helps in ensuring that water is not misused or the water points are not vandalized due to constant use through the day.

The chairman of Kyakashana village stated that every water point has a water board which encourages and guides the community members to take care of their water source. The community members also pay a monthly fee of Ushs. 1000 to facilitate maintenance and servicing of the water points when the need arises.



## OXFAM TO UNVEIL €20 MILLION IMPACT FUND TO SUSTAIN SMALL BUSINESSES IN UGANDA



**Emmanuel Ediau (L), the Project Manager Business Development Services at Oxfam in Uganda and other participants at the 2022 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Week held at the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) in July. [Courtesy Photo]**

*By The Independent and Publicist*

Oxfam plans to unveil a 20million Euros (Shs77bn) Impact Fund to support small businesses in line with their goals. The fund, to be unveiled as a pilot project before the end of the year, will support businesses in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Mr. Emmanuel Ediau, the Project Manager Business Development Services at Oxfam in Uganda told media on the sidelines of the a three-day 2022 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Week held at the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) on July 21 that the fund will target innovative businesses that are providing employment opportunities in communities and are empowering women.

He said, the Fund might be increased once the pilot project is successful during the project implementation.

Oxfam's plan is possibly one of the good news for the slightly over 400 small and medium enterprises that gathered at UMA to exhibit their goods and attend interactive sessions to cut business deals.

The event was held under the theme – charting a path to recovery from Covid-19 for MSMEs in Uganda.

Mr. John Walugembe, the Executive Director for the Federation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Uganda (FSME), a membership organization of 734, 000, said, "SMEs have exhibited high levels of resilience even after the COVID-19 pandemic."

Walugembe said, the government's Shs200bn SME Recovery Fund was well intentioned to fasten SME's recovery but the functionality needs to be improved.

Prudence Ukkonika, producer of the popular Ugandan made Bella Wines and Juices, said although they have been informed of the Recovery Fund and other Funds inside the Uganda Development Bank and Microfinance Support Centre, access has remained a big challenge.

However, Hon. Harriet Ntabazi, the State Minister of Trade Industry and Cooperatives said the recovery Fund is still available and that the challenge could be attributed to limited access to information.

"The government will continue to support you through programmes like Emyooga, Parish Development Model and others because we know you are contributing to economic growth," she said, adding that SMEs contribute 90% of the private sector production and employment to the population.



**GIMAC- 4<sup>TH</sup> STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AFRICAN UNION,  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEES, AND PARTNERS**



**Participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> strategic engagement with the African Union, Regional Economic Committees, and partners in July 2022. [Photo by FEMNET]**

Oxfam participated in the 4th Gender Is My Agenda (GIMAC) Strategic Engagement with the African Union, RECs and Partners. The meeting was held under the theme, ‘Strengthening resilience in nutrition and food security on the African continent: Strengthening Agro-food systems, health and social protection systems for the acceleration of human, social and economic capital development’

GIMAC aims to create a space for civil society to monitor the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa. GIMAC Network tracks, advocates for, and monitors the implementation of the SDGEA, which is the AU reporting mechanism for women’s rights. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in collaboration with the network, has developed the Solemn Declaration Index (SDI), as the first ever civil society monitoring tool to assess progress on the implementation of gender equality in Africa.

The key issues that arose from the conference included how peace and security have direct implications on food and nutrition levels on the African Continent as a whole, care work affects mainly women and girls, food and nutrition levels have implications on sexual and reproductive health of all individuals but especially women and girls. The GIMAC meeting drew people from different corners of the African continent.

“The meeting was an exciting opportunity to share experience on critical issues that affect us as a continent related to gender equality, food security and nutrition. It is my considered opinion based on discussions held that we need to use a holistic approach if the issues affecting gender equality, food security and nutrition are to be addressed on the continent,” said Wilson Senyonyi, Gender and Protection Coordinator at Oxfam in Uganda.

## OXFAM IN THE NEWS

1. [Over 2,000 benefit from Accelerated Education program in Lamwo](#): LBS Newsday 6th July 2022
2. [Sanyu Fm English News BRICE closeout](#): Sanyu FM 6th July 2022
3. [Sanyu Fm Luganda News BRICE closeout](#): Sanyu FM 6th July 2022
4. [OKUYINZIKA EBY'ENJIGIRIZA: Bannakyewa baagala abaana abakuze nab bafiibweko](#): Spark TV 6th July 2022
5. [OXFAM project in Lamwo winds up after four years](#): NTV 6th July 2022
6. [Government urged to allocate resources to help refugees acquire education](#): SEE TV 6th July 2022
7. [Government urged to adopt accelerated learning for teenage mothers](#): Nile Post 7th July 2022
8. [Looming diesel crisis fuels fears in Uganda](#): Daily Monitor 16th July 2022
9. [Oxfam to unveil Shs77bn Impact Fund](#): The Independent 27th July 2022
10. [Oxfam announces UGX 77B Impact Funds to sustain small businesses in Uganda](#): The Publicist 28th July 2022

## OXFAM PUBLICATIONS

1. [Uganda's Performance on Land Related SDGs](#)
2. [Building Resilience in Crisis through Education \(BRICE\) Stories](#)

## OXFAM BLOGS

1. [Does the FY2022/23 budget address Uganda's poverty and inequality concerns?](#)



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