

# OXFAM IN UGANDA

## NEWSLETTER

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## HUNGER LIKELY TO CLAIM A LIFE EVERY 36 SECONDS IN DROUGHT-STRICKEN EAST AFRICA OVER NEXT THREE MONTHS -OXFAM



*A drought- stricken homestead in Putland State in Somalia. [Oxfam | 2022]*

One person is likely to die of hunger every 36 seconds between October 2022 and the end of the year in drought-stricken East Africa as the worst hit areas hurtle towards famine, Oxfam has warned.

Oxfam has warned that the situation in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya is deteriorating fast. In Somalia, it is the worst hunger crisis in living memory, with the number of people experiencing acute hunger already surpassing that of the famine of 2011, when more than a quarter of a million people died. Almost one in six people in Somalia are now facing extreme hunger.

Large parts of the region have suffered four failed rainy seasons –with a fifth likely to unfold over the next three months– as climate change has decimated crops and forced pastoralists to abandon their traditional way of life. The crisis has been exacerbated in many places by conflict, the fallout from COVID-19, and by rising food prices due in part to the war in Ukraine.

Oxfam analysis of the latest available data suggests that the rate at which people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are dying of hunger has increased since May 2022 when it

estimated that a person was dying every 48 seconds and dangerous delays in providing aid to millions on the brink of starvation. Lack of available data meant it was not possible to include South Sudan, which is in the grip of its own hunger crisis caused by flooding and conflict.

Across the four countries, more than 6 million children face or are already suffering acute malnutrition.

Parvin Ngala, Oxfam Horn East and Central Africa Regional Director, said, “The clock is ticking inexorably towards famine and more and more people are dying as hunger tightens its grip.”

After four seasons of failed rains, people are losing their struggle to survive –their livestock have died; crops have failed; and food prices have been pushed ever higher by the war in Ukraine. The alarm has been sounding for months, but donors are yet to wake up to the terrible reality. With another failed rains expected failure to act will turn a crisis into a full-scale catastrophe.

“People are suffering because of changes to the climate that they did nothing to cause. Rich nations which have done most... [continue to press statement.](#)”



# GULU, ARUA, SOROTI CITIES FAIL TO RAISE REVENUE



An aerial view of Gulu city. [Courtesy Photo]

Extracted from *Daily Monitor*, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Authorities in Arua, Gulu, and Soroti regional cities have recorded revenue losses in their first two years of operation as a result of business communities evading taxes. This was revealed during a recent inter-city policy dialogue on local revenue mobilisation and public service delivery in Gulu City.

In Gulu City, the administration ended the 2019/2020 financial year with only Shs1.1b, leaving a deficit of Shs3.4b of the projected Shs4.5b. In 2020/2021, while it claimed to have improved its revenue collection strategies, the city only realised Shs1.7b of the projected Shs4.7b, a figure much less than that of the financial year 2021/2022 at Shs2.7b.

Mr. George Nicholas Kidega, the Gulu City revenue officer, said that the business community has continued to evade taxes.

“There has also been a high default rate among rented stores, including stalls in the markets around the city,” Mr Kidega said. He added that the situation has been worsened by an incompetent team of revenue collectors.

Arua and Soroti authorities have also registered the same challenges. In the financial year 2020/2021, Arua city only

realised Shs2.14b (66 percent) of an estimated Shs3.23b of revenue. Soroti City realised a 21 percent deficit in its budget when it only collected Shs1.2b of the projected Shs1.3b in financial year 2021/2022.

Mr. Henry Ssemanda, a local revenue mobilisation specialist, tasked the city authorities to embrace decentralisation.

“Decentralisation improves the effectiveness of service delivery, whoever gives you the money, is the one who controls you, and that is one big challenge local governments are undergoing, all decisions are made by the central government,” Mr Ssemanda said.

The dialogue was organised by Oxfam in Uganda, SEATINI-Uganda, and the European Union under the Fiscal Justice for Women and Girls project Africa. Mr. Mark Mutumba, the Project Assistant for the Fiscal Justice for Women and Girls project at Oxfam said that the dialogue was convened to enable authorities of the cities develop a platform to influence policymakers on budget priorities.

“People need to see a better level of accountability. This will reduce the level of political fights and influence to an ordinary taxpayer. If the bigger budget is going into administration and not service delivery, it demotivates them,” Mr. Mutumba said.



***A learner participating in the Hand Washing campaigns in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Kamwenge district. [Oxfam | 2022]***

Global hand washing day is an advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

Oxfam commemorated the Global hand washing day on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in Mahani zone, Rwamwanja refugee settlement, Kamwenge district. Together with partners, the day was celebrated with hand washing campaigns in schools under the themes, “keep your hands clean” and “wash your hands.” The awareness campaigns were aimed at sensitizing learners on the importance of proper hand washing at all times with a focus on critical moments such as the recent outbreak of Ebola in Uganda.

The campaign activities included music, dance and drama, hand washing competitions, and showcasing of different innovations that can be used to create hand washing facilities such as locally available containers like bottles and jerrycans.

Mr. Denis Omara, the UNHCR representative and WASH focal person encouraged refugees and the host community to

utilize the locally available materials to create hand washing facilities highlighting that this innovation is convenient and friendly to the environment.

Mr. Asiimwe Agaba, the District Water Officer - Kamwegye emphasized that “30% of diarrheal diseases can be prevented through handwashing.” He appreciated Oxfam and partners for the community interventions to ensure that the handwashing practice is scaled up.

Additionally, Village Health Teams in both the refugee and the host community conducted village meetings in Kyempango and Bishozi to create awareness on the prevention of common diseases through hand washing.

Oxfam and partners including WVI, FCA, AVSI Foundation, ALIGHT, ADRA, LWF, SCI, UNHCR, Kamwenge District Local Government, and OPM continue to work with existing community structures to encourage the scale up of hand hygiene. This is being done through community engagement and sensitization, information education and communication materials, and providing hand washing facilities at household and institutional level.



## WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETINGS: CSOS CALL FOR INCREASED FINANCING TO END POVERTY AND BOOST PRODUCTIVITY IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES



**African CSOs holding a meeting with World Banks' Vice President for Southern and Eastern Africa during the 2022 World Bank Annual Meetings. [Courtesy Photo]**

The 2022 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) took place between October 10 and October 16 2022 at the IMF and World Bank Group headquarters in Washington DC. Participants included Delegates, Observers, Civil Society Organizations, and the Press.

Keystones of the Annual Meetings were the Plenary session, the Development Committee and the International Monetary and Financial Committee meetings. Other featured events included regional briefings, press conferences, and fora focused on international development, the global economy, and financial markets.

Ugandan CSOs including Oxfam, SEATINI- Uganda, Center for Budget and Tax Policy, CSBAG, and others joined global leaders, experts, and activists to discuss how the international community can best respond to the multiple overlapping crises facing developing countries.

In a meeting held with the World Banks' Vice President for Southern and Eastern Africa, Victoria Kakwa, African CSOs discussed austerity, public debt, progressive Domestic Revenue Mobilization, IFC health financing to the private sector, and the current economic outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ugandan CSOs also held a session on Enhancing Domestic Revenue Mobilization through meaningful citizen

participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and equitable resource allocation. The conversation recognized that some of the benefits of the AfCFTA include improving trade among African countries which currently ranges between 15-18%.

In her statement issued on October 14 2022, Ms. Azucena Arbeleche, the Chair of the Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the WBG and IMF on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries), said that the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health and education crises, rising debt, climate change and biodiversity loss, food insecurity, energy-access deficits, fragility, conflict and resulting migration, supply-chain and trade disruptions have steepened the slowdown in global growth, and caused reversals in poverty reduction and a rise in inequality.

The statement asked WBG Management to engage with the Board in a dialogue to enhance the shared vision for the WBG, including strategic priorities, operational approach, and financial capacity to bolster and scale up the response to the world's development challenges.

Mr. Joseph Olweny, the Governance and Accountability Programme Manager at Oxfam in Uganda also said that financing needs to be realigned towards ending poverty and boosting productivity.



## AFRICAN CLIMATE CARAVAN: A DRUMBEAT TOWARDS COP27



**Participants of the African Climate Caravan- Uganda marching for climate justice in Mbale city. [Oxfam | 2022]**

Youth Go Green in partnership with Oxfam in Uganda held the African Climate Caravan- Uganda in Mbale district on the 26-28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 as a COP27 prequel.

The 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference abbreviated as COP27 is an annual global sitting that intends to bring forth coordinated climate actions as the globe transcends into drastic climate crisis. The event will be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on the 6<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

The pre COP27 African Climate Caravan involved a march and dialogue on the expectations of the affected communities during the annual sitting with a witty slogan; 'A drum beat towards COP27.'

During the event, the young voices and local leaders shared on various expectations from the world leaders as they prepare to represent them. They made cries on the need to finance affected communities, inclusion, restoration of destroyed natural resources, preservation of natural resources, protection of forests, the practice of smart agriculture, and sensitization of communities about climate change.

Ms. Laura Muwanguzi, a climate activist under Youth Go Green called for equal representation and meaningful engagement of all classes and gender at COP27.

She called for the inclusion of girls and women on the frontline of ecological crisis solutions as they are the most affected through their daily encounters.

Mr. Jackson Muhindo, the Resilience and Climate Change Coordinator at Oxfam in Uganda called for increased financing for adaptations in communities and joint support to fight climate crisis.

He further urged the young voices of the affected communities to actively participate in restoring what was once lost, and called for sensitization of communities about the climate crisis.

The African Climate Caravan- Uganda also visited Limoto wetlands, a restoration site in Pallisa district which stands as an example of a climate change move on restoration of once destroyed, mishandled natural resources and an adaptation mode for the people in the affected communities.

## OXFAM DEMANDS FOR A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION IN EAST AFRICA



**Hon. Peter Aimat Lokeris, State Minister for Mineral Development, speaking during the multi-stakeholder dialogue on a just energy transition in East Africa. [Oxfam | 2022]**

Oxfam in Uganda organized a regional dialogue on energy transition under the theme; 'Towards a people-centered and just energy transition for East Africa'.

The event featured multi-stakeholders from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia and researchers in the extractives industry who shared on the most efficient ways the industry could operate and benefit all.

During the dialogue, Hon. Peter Aimat Lokeris, Minister of State for Mineral Development, shared on the government's intention to decarbonize the transport sector as complying action for climate change following the Paris Agreement's core aim of limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

Dr. Livingstone Senyoga, a lecturer at Makerere University Business School, Department of Management Sciences, shared his elaborative research on efficient energy transition in which he advised on how it can be instant through investing in advanced mechanization.

He also said that there is a need to integrate all small-scale extractives sectors and employ digitalization in order to fully harvest the benefits from the extractive industries.

Hon. George Odong, a member of the East African Legislative

Assembly (EALA), called for the engagement of policy and decision makers in the dialogue in order to achieve efficient support in the sector.

The dialogue brought forth discussions on efficient processes, questions, challenges, and solutions in the extractives sector at a regional level that stakeholders pondered upon as key issues in aiding the swift progress in the extractive industries.

Eng. Ladislaus K. Leonidas, Principal Environment and Natural Resource Officer at the East African Community Secretariat in Tanzania called for affordable access to energy for the people from the grass roots and development through provision of state-of-the-art infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads.

Mr. Gerald Byarugaba, the Regional Advisor-Extractive Industries, Horn, East and Central Africa (HECA) at Oxfam International, called for an inclusive sector that caters for people from all walks of life.

He called upon the engagement of the locals in the extractive industries through building their skills, understanding and adaption to right procedures of operating, in order to fit into and benefit from the energy transition.





**Mr. Nasuru Magombe elaborates the tragic events of the floods that swept away his home. [Oxfam | 2022]**

Mr. Nasuru Magombe is a resident of Mukhubu Ward, Industrial division in Mbale City. He is a father of three and a vendor of second-hand clothes who once had a home near Lake Namazo.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 when heavy rains poured, Lake Namazo overflowed and destroyed his home among others.

“my children and I were shattered when we watched our house turn into pieces and our property float away.” Mr. Magombe narrates.

Over 10 people were severely impacted from losing houses, farms, and other valuable property.

A few relocated far away from the lake to new settlement areas and others moved in with neighbors who were willing to host them temporarily.

Some of the victims were fortunate to get support from well-wishers with items such as food, mattresses, blankets and temporary shelter.

Before the floods, Mr. Magombe was involved in a taxi operating business but ventured in cloth selling after the business was put to halt.

His zeal to educate his children pushes him to engage in different casual work to be able to put food on the table after the flood and loss of business tragedy that befell him.

He now advocates for climate change adaptation in his community by encouraging others to plant more trees, protect natural resources such as wetlands, lakes and forests, in order to adapt and control climate change.

Mr. Magombe’s dream is to own a taxi transportation business and invest further in his cloth selling business so as to continue providing support to his family.



## ESAFF CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



*Oxfam and ESSAF staff during the celebration at Oxfam offices in Kampala. [Oxfam | 2022]*

Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum Uganda (ESSAFF) celebrated 20 years of nurturing the participation of small-scale farmers in sustainable development processes, for self-reliance through advocacy, capacity building and institutional development with their partner Oxfam in Uganda.

The ESSAF team exhibited products such as honey, maize and cassava flour, coffee that were harvested and packaged from small-scale farmers they support and work with.

Nancy Mugimba Mulimbwa, National Coordinator (ESSAF) Uganda appreciated Oxfam for being part of their journey of pushing for policies and programs that are mindful of small-scale farmers' needs.

She advocated for collective efforts between NGOs sharing similar visions, missions and goals in order to efficiently

cause change in communities through agroecology.

Charles Opiyo, the Resilient Livelihoods Programme Manager at Oxfam in Uganda appreciated the achievements reached in partnership with ESSAF and thanked them for their tireless effort in changing lives through agriculture.

He appreciated their deliberate effort to grow as a farmer organization and their journey in investing and impacting small-scale farmers in the country.

The country Director Oxfam in Uganda Odokorach Shanty Francis applauded the team for their journey with Oxfam and promised future partnerships to aid their common goals.

He recommended continual interactions with ESSAF in order to push for more projects that support farmers hence achieve stability in food security in the country.



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