

WE-CARE STORIES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | OCT - DEC 2019

Oxfam in Kenya launches Household Care Survey Report with key stakeholders **p8**

Oxfam in Uganda and partners work with gov't actors and the youth to mainstream unpaid care work issues **p13**

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Sarah Hall WE-Care Programme Manager

PM's MESSAGE

We're pleased to share with you the most recent issue of WE-Care Stories, as we look back over 2019 and plan exciting activities for the coming year.

2019 was an amazing year for WE-Care as we saw the completion of the WE-Care Unilever and Surf funded project in Zimbabwe and the Philippines. In just two years implementing activities, the project has directly benefitted over 79,000 people—mostly women and girls—who now have access to clean water and laundry facilities near their homes. We've also engaged thousands of policymakers and development allies and reached millions of people online with our influencing messages on unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW). To celebrate these achievements, we published two new WE-Care reports that you can download here: **Project Report** and **Evaluation**.

We're also excited to share the **Kenya Household Care Survey Report** that sought to understand how UCDW impacts men, women, boys, and girls at the household level. From Uganda to the Philippines, Oxfam and our partners have continuously worked with different government actors and the youth sector to mainstream UCDW issues and policies—from a high-level strategy meeting and youth movement in Kampala to a legislative forum in Cebu.

This January, we're joining Oxfam's global inequality campaign to call on governments around the world to start addressing the heavy and unequal responsibility of care work that perpetuates gender and economic inequalities. Across different platforms, we'll see **stories that support Oxfam's call**, some of which were told by the **care champions** that WE-Care supported.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue. Thank you for your continued support.

Cover photo story and credit. Ulita Mutambo and her husband Muchineripi Sibanda stand in their bean field where they farm together near their home in Ture Village, Zvishavane Region, Zimbabwe. *Photo by Aurelie Marrier d'Unienville*

NEW WE-CARE PROJECT REPORT AND EVALUATION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

AS THE WE-CARE PROJECT ENDED IN 2019, WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE WITH YOU TWO NEW REPORTS—HOT OFF THE PRESS.

ADDRESSING UNPAID CARE TO CLOSE THE GENDER GAP IN THE PHILIPPINES AND ZIMBABWE: THE WE-CARE PROJECT REPORT 2016–2019

The Women's Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care) programme has been working since 2013 to reignite progress on gender equality by addressing heavy and unequal unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW).

In its goal to tackle this issue, the WE-Care partnership between Oxfam, Unilever and its Surf brand tested a comprehensive package of interventions to reduce and redistribute UCDW for women and girls.



In just two years of implementing activities, around 79,000 people, mostly women and girls, have benefitted directly from water and laundry facilities.

The programme has also engaged more than 1,300 policymakers and over 6,400 development actors and allies, as well as reached more than 34 million people through different online and media platforms.

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The report celebrates the successes of the project and the communities the project has supported, and recognizes the unique contributions of its partners in the Philippines and Zimbabwe. It highlights challenges the project has faced and overcome and documents key lessons to guide future unpaid care programming.

Written by WE-Care Programme Manager Sarah Hall, the report likewise shows how WE-Care has broken new ground and provided robust evidence of how change happens in unpaid care work—influencing Oxfam, our allies, and partners at community, national, and international levels

READ THE PROJECT REPORT HERE

FINDINGS FROM A WE-CARE FINAL EVALUATION: JANUARY 2020

The Women's Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care) programme aimed to support women and girls to have more choice and agency over how they spend their time, enabling them to engage in social, personal, economic, and political activities. This final evaluation continued on page 5...

WE-CARE IN NUMBERS



79,000

people—mostly women and girls—**have benefited directly from water points**.



More than

300,000

people have benefited indirectly through the construction and repair of water points, distribution of time- and labor-saving equipment, and social norms interventions.



1,365

decision makers and over 6,400 development professionals have engaged with the project through meetings, training, publications, and participation in events.



More than

34 million

people have been reached through the media with messages on unpaid care work. of the WE-Care Project in Zimbabwe and the Philippines, funded by Unilever and its Surf brand, sought to understand how change happened as a result of WE-Care interventions, in light of the different 'pathways of change' identified by the project's Theory of Change.

The evaluation findings show that in two years of implementation, the project was successful in reducing women's time on care tasks and in promoting recognition of unpaid care in policies at local level. It also made considerable progress towards more genderequitable distribution of care work, contributing towards shifting both norms and behaviour around unpaid care and domestic work.

This evaluation report was written by Carmen Leon-Himmelstine and Heiner Salomon

READ THE EVALUATION HERE READ THE SUMMARY HERE

WOMEN'S CARE TASKS LESSEN THANKS TO **NEW OR IMPROVED**WATER INFRASTRUCTURE— PROJECT EVALUATION REVEALS

NEW OR IMPROVED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE REDUCED THE TIME WOMEN IN ZIMBABWE AND THE PHILIPPINES SPENT ON CARE WORK AS MAIN TASK.

The water infrastructure, combined with time- and labour-saving equipment (TLSE), made water- and laundry-related tasks 'easier' and allowed participants to do them 'faster' and in a 'healthier' manner, as they reduced the effort required to perform these intense physical activities.

Evidence suggests that the new or improved water points might have been effective in reducing women's time spent on care work, though the effect might have only been on care work as a main task (primary activity).

The evaluation shows that in the **Philippines**, women with access to new or improved water infrastructure reduced their time spent in care as a main activity by **over 2 hours**, while in **Zimbabwe** they reported spending **nearly 1 hour less** on average on these same tasks.

At the same time, the total number of hours spent on all care responsibilities, including supervising dependants, seems less affected.

Participants interviewed reported that the new or improved water infrastructure was closer to their

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households than governmentconstructed water points, which were often far away.

Women also reported that the new water infrastructure was easier to use, citing previous difficulties in pumping water manually (in Zimbabwe), or describing situations where water was not available and had to be purchased (in the Philippines). The new water infrastructure facilitated water-related tasks. particularly laundry activities, with women reporting that they can now wash their clothes at the laundry points and not in the river where the water is not clean.

In both countries, survey findings were inconclusive about the effect of receiving TLSE (e.g. pushcarts, wheelbarrows, water containers) on women's time spent on care work as their main task or on their overall care responsibilities, including supervision tasks. In the qualitative interviews, however, participants reported that

KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS AT A GLANCE



HER TIME, HER CHOICE

Women involved in WE-Care reported having more time to spend on activities of their choice, including paid work.

Women in areas where water and laundry points were built or repaired spent twice as much time on paid work and farming activities in the Philippines and about 33% more on paid tasks in Zimbabwe.

REDISTRIBUTION

In the Philippines, having a household member participating in awareness-raising activities about UCDW was estimated to have increased the time men reported spending on main task by:



over an hour (from 2 to 3 hours on average) Qualitative findings suggest that **outcomes of social norms interventions** depend on different factors:

- participation of both men
- frequent visits of care champions when men and boys are at home
- training/skills of facilitators
- repitition of messages through different channels

REDUCTION

New or improved water infrastructure reduced the time women in both countries spent on care work as a main task compared to women with no access to these infrastructures.





Women and girls interviewed told us that what used to be intense physical activities for women, such as fetching water and washing clothes, are now being done in faster, easier, and healthier manner.

VIEW THE COMPLETE AND HIGH-RESOLUTION VERSION OF THIS INFOGRAPHIC HERE

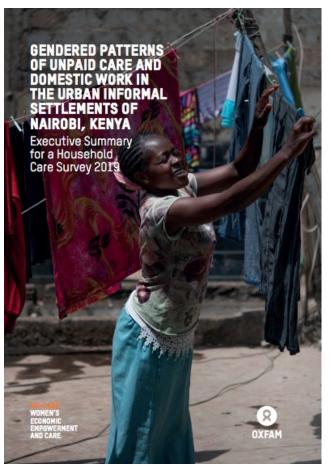
the TLSE allows them to collect water less frequently, facilitates multitasking, and supports different care tasks in the household, e.g. water buckets can be used to collect fuel as well as water, while pushcarts can be used for water- and laundry-related tasks. Before WE-Care, women would

spend more time making multiple trips to carry water for daily tasks or to take clothes for washing.

Qualitative findings also suggest that women who benefitted from both the

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OXFAM IN KENYA LAUNCHES HOUSEHOLD CARE SURVEY REPORT WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

UNDERSTANDING
THE GENDERED
PATTERNS OF
UNPAID CARE
AND DOMESTIC
WORK (UCDW) IN
URBAN INFORMAL
SETTLEMENTS
IN NAIROBI, KENYA

SEE INFOGRAPHIC ON **PAGE 10** FOR SOME OF THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE HCS Nairobi, Kenya—On 3 December 2019, Oxfam in Kenya was invited by Switch TV to share some of the key findings from Household Care Survey (HCS)—a research that sought to understand how UCDW impacts men, women, boys, and girls at the household level, targeting the five informal settlements of Kibera, Mathare, Mukuru, Kawangware, and Korogocho in Nairobi City.

Joyce Mwikali, a domestic worker in one of the informal settlements covered by the HCS, and Ruth Oloo, Oxfam's Women's Rights Strategist, joined a renowned news anchor in a popular morning show titled "Full Circle with Joyce."

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Some of the key discussions during the interview centered on why UCDW should be valued as a social good. Oloo also discussed the importance of recognizing, reducing, and redistributing UCDW, as well as promoting the representation of women in planning and decisionmaking activities on unpaid care work issues.

Mwikali, meanwhile, shared her lived experiences, which raised awareness of viewers on unpaid care issues, evident through call-ins and social media insights.

Following the TV interview, a formal launch of the report—HCS on the Gendered Patterns of Unpaid Care and Domestic Work in the Urban Informal Settlements of Nairobi, Kenya—was held on 5 December. It was officiated by the Interim Country Director for Oxfam in Kenya, Gilbert Makore.



Makore was joined by John Ndoji of the State Department for Gender, who served as keynote speaker, representing the Permanent Secretary Hon. Safina Kwekwe. The department's mandate is to promote gender mainstreaming in national development processes and to champion the socioeconomic empowerment of women.

The event was attended by 43 participants (33 female, 10 male) who represented different community

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KEY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

DISTRIBUTION OF UCDW1 BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN

▼ TIME USE. Women had by far the greatest responsibility for UCDW.

■ WOMEN ■ MEN

TIME SPENT ON PRIMARY CARE²



Women spent an average of 5 hours a day on primary care compared to about 1 hour a day reported by men.

TIME SPENT ON ANY CARE³



Women spent 11.1 hours per day on any care compared to just 2.9 hours per day for men.

TIME SPENT ON PAID WORK



Men spent almost double the time that women spent on paid work (10.5 vs. 5.3 hours per day, respectively).

ACCESS TO CARE SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND EQUIPMENT. Women with access to these tended to spend less hours on any care.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING. Although UCDW is a social good that is necessary for the functioning of society, too much and too heavy tasks can have negative mental and physical health effects.

% of surveyed women who suffered from an injury, illness, disability, or other mental/physical harm due to UCDW

% of surveyed women who suffered from a serious or incapacitating injury due to UCDW



H

Women with access to improved water sources and healthcare facilities spent from 4 to 5 hours less per day on any care



Owning more fuel and washing-related equipment was associated with about 2 to 3 hours less on any care for women.



Women who lived further away from the nearest market tended to spend more time on any care. sectors, civil society organizations (CSO), women's rights organizations (WRO), the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the National Gender and Equality Commission, the Nairobi County Women's Representative, UN Women, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, and media organizations (both mainstream and community radios).

The report findings were welcomed by all stakeholders. Some women from the informal settlements and communities who had been involved in the study were able to share their experiences on performing UCDW tasks

COMMITMENTS FROM SOME KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The State Department for Gender committed to use the findings to mainstream the recommendations into the various initiatives they are currently doing, for instance, in the drafting of the women's employment policy.



The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics promised to engage with Oxfam more as it plans to carry out the first-ever time-use survey in the country.

Likewise, the **WROs and CSOs** that attended the launch committed to use the report findings to **carry out their advocacies on UCDW**.

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PARTICIPANTS' THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

"The government should construct more child day-care centers in informal settlements to reduce the burden of care work on women in the informal settlements of Nairobi."

—Grace Akinyi, a women's rights champion from Kibera informal settlements

"I want to reiterate that we are also going to utilize the findings of the report to come up with strategies on how to integrate UCDW into government economic processes." —John Ndoji of the State Department for Gender

"Providing access to healthcare services reduces travel costs for women, as well as reduces the time taken to receive treatment, hence, allowing time to make money." —Hon. Esther Passaris of the Nairobi County

"The solutions to unpaid care not only require recognition but also multistakeholder engagement to move the conversations forward." —Gilbert Makore, Interim Country Director of Oxfam Kenya

KEY IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Oxfam in Kenya is a member of the Time-Use Survey Committee, which is in the process of planning the first-ever time-use survey in Kenya.

After presenting the findings, Oxfam was invited to make a presentation about the survey at a Time-Use Workshop organized by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and UN Women on 9–10 December 2019. The invitation was for Oxfam in Kenya to share its experiences in carrying out the HCS, as well as to inform the planning process of the time-use survey.

This shifted the thought process around time-use, as it gave a gendered perspective that had been largely ignored in the past.

In January 2020, Oxfam in Kenya will also have various media engagement and public campaigns on UCDW as its country-level contribution in line with the global inequality campaign for Dayos 2020.

For more information about the HCS, write to Amber Parkes at AParkes@oxfam.org.uk or to Ruth Oloo at ROloo@oxfam.org.

READ THE HCS REPORT HERE

DOWNLOAD KEY FINDINGS INFOGRAPHICS HERE

OXFAM IN UGANDA AND PARTNERS WORK WITH GOVERNMENT ACTORS AND THE YOUTH TO

MAINSTREAM UNPAID CARE WORK ISSUES



LOOK BACK AT SOME OF OXFAM IN UGANDA'S ACTIVITIES TO MAINSTREAM UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK (UCDW) IN THE LAST QUARTER. READ BELOW.

INFLUENCING THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Kampala, Uganda—On 5 September 2019, Oxfam and its partner UWONET held a high-level strategic engagement with government ministries, departments, and agencies on the care economy in Uganda.

The engagement was intended to situate UCDW in the country's National Development Plan III (NDP 2020–2025). It was deemed timely, as it coincided with ongoing government and civil society processes to develop the next generation NDP III and, therefore, offered the opportunity to position UCDW at the center of macroeconomic planning.

Additionally, the engagement facilitated a dialogue with

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government technocrats and policymakers on care work issues arising from the water and transport sector.

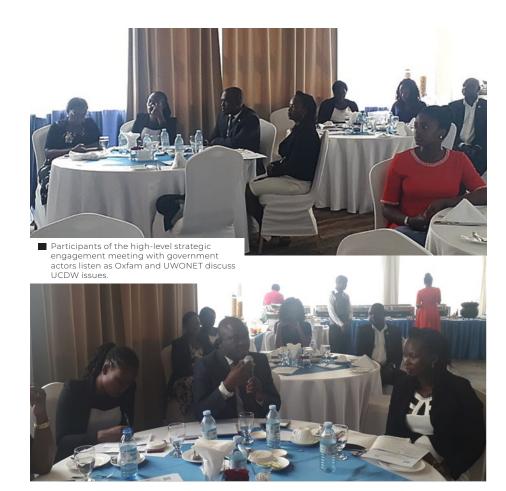
The discussions dwelt on how deliberate investments in water and transport infrastructure can go a long way in reducing and redistributing care work, especially for women and girls who spend 7.5 hours a day on UCDW as compared to men (2 hours).

The NDP III was identified as a useful tool to emancipate women and girls to engage in income-generating activities, and men and boys to share UCDW tasks.

The meeting summarized the relevance of the discourse on UCDW as follows:

 UCDW is a human rights issue, particularly a gender issue, that hinders the realization of

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women's full potential and their participation in private and public spaces.

- UCDW provides a basis for people to engage in paid work. With reduced time spent on UCDW, women will be able to choose an activity of their choice—paid work included.
- There is a need to address the time burden for women.
 Ugandans spend 20 hours everyday on UCDW, and only 4 hours on productive work (UBoS Time-Use Survey 2017/2018).
- The question of economic development vs human development. UCDW contributes to both. It is also important for production and maintenance of human capital.

It was noted that the current NDP did not properly utilize evidence that revealed time-use trends and the opportunity cost of UCDW in the context of health, education, economic activity/productivity, and leadership for both women and men.

Emphasis was instead placed on the need to use recently emerging evidence and data from various sources including the UBoS Time-Use Survey 2017/2018. Hence, during the meeting, it was recommended that interventions should employ the 4R approach of WE-Care (i.e., recognition, reduction, redistribution, and representation) to addressing the care economy.

This would significantly contribute to industrialization and employment creation, among others—but, more importantly, it will uphold the rights of women and girls and promote gender equality.

For the water and transport sectors, it was noted that strategic investment and planning would go a long way in reducing the time women spend on unpaid work, freeing up time to spend on remunerative labour activities, with benefits for children's wellbeing, improved livelihoods, and economywide sustainable productivity growth.

The concluding recommendations included: (1) advocacy for investment to increase access to safe and clean, affordable and available water

supply; (2) integration of gender and care economy concerns in all water and transport programmes; and (3) strengthening of effective enforcement and implementation of existing water laws, policies, and projects.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of women's meaningful inclusion and participation in water and transport policymaking and management at national and subnational levels. This, it was agreed, must be reinforced by adequately resourced gender mainstreaming in public transport planning, design, and implementation, as well as enhancing women's leadership in policy and decision-making process in the transport sector.

"The Ministry of Water is one of the few that has a social worker in its departments, and that has contributed a lot to gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting."

—an official from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

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Lastly, the participants also agreed on the need for more sensitization and awareness creation through education, targeting young boys and girls to change their perceptions of gender roles and stereotypes. This shall be achieved through a curriculum overview and renewal to break existing gender roles.

BUILDING A VIBRANT YOUTH MOVEMENT ON UCDW

The WE-Care project in Uganda held a pre-International Youth Day activity on UCDW. This was done jointly with Makerere University in Kampala to sensitize and increase knowledge among the youth around issues of UCDW and gender roles.

Among other things, the students learned about the recognition, reduction, redistribution, and representation of UCDW, aiming to break the prevailing stereotypes.

The discussion was aimed at changing the youth's mindset on gender roles, easing the care burden on women



and girls' shoulders. Ultimately, the event sought to reap the benefits of having more females involved in productive activities for human development. Photos by Oxfam in Uganda

For more information about the WE-Care Project in Uganda, write to Amber Parkes at AParkes@oxfam. org.uk. or to Charity Namara at @ Charity.Namara@oxfamnovib.nl.

STORIES OF WE-CARE CHAMPIONS

FRONT
OXFAM'S
INEQUALITY
CAMPAIGN

THE RICH AND COMPELLING STORIES
OF CARE CHAMPIONS SUPPORTED
BY WE-CARE HAVE INVIGORATED
OXFAM'S INEQUALITY CAMPAIGN—
ON ITS REPORT AND ON SOCIAL
MEDIA—DURING #DAVOS2020

FOR ITS 2020 INEQUALITY REPORT— TIME TO CARE: UNPAID AND UNDERPAID CARE WORK AND THE GLOBAL INEQUALITY CRISIS—OXFAM FEATURED THE STORY OF ROWENA ABEO. READ HER STORY HERE.



My name is Rowena and I am a daycare worker from Salcedo Town in the Philippines. In the past in my community, women used to just work in the house—cooking, cleaning, and taking care of children. They also fetched water. Men had more opportunities than women.

With all the work that was assigned to women, we could never catch up with the men in our community. There would always be a gap between women and men—with the amount of money they earned, with the education they got, or with the time they could spend on things outside the house.

I've been a day-care worker in a school for ten years. And I'm also a housewife. Being a housewife takes so much time. I have so many things to do that I can't finish right away. The heaviest housework is fetching water. It takes us

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three to four hours to go and get water because our water source is far. We have to go to the river and lift our own water cans.

In the past, my husband didn't help in the household at all. It was a lot of work that I had to do on top of what I did in the school, but my husband and I didn't question it. That changed when we started to attend trainings and seminars and learned about unpaid care work. Now he always helps around the house. He helps me do the housework, like cooking, doing the laundry, and cleaning the house, especially when I am working in the school.

We also have water tanks now through the help of Oxfam and WE-Care partner SIKAT. We finally have taps and a hose, so we don't have to carry water cans and pails anymore. We spend less time fetching water now. While we wait for the water to fill our water cans and drums, we can focus on other work.

Not being responsible for all the work alone, or having to walk long hours to get the water we need, changes who I am. I have more time to help in the community. We have a Self-Help Group, a group for women who live near each other. We help in barangay (village) clean-up drives, and in other activities where women are involved in the community. It's where we also get funding for our livelihood, for the school fees of our children, and for emergencies.

There are many communities where women are still struggling a lot. I am happy that now there is equality here between women and men. Women are more empowered.

Someday I hope this will happen not just here in Salcedo, but hopefully in the whole Philippines. *Photos by Jed Regala*

READ OXFAM'S INEQUALITY REPORT

If you're interested to support WE-Care, you may contact Sarah Hall at SHall2@oxfam.org.uk.

8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE PHILIPPINES JOIN A LEGISLATIVE FORUM ON UNPAID CARE WORK



CREATING POLICIES THAT WORK FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS—A TASK FOR EVERYONE

Cebu, Philippines—In a rare gathering, local legislators (see photo on above) from eight local government units in Eastern Visayas and Mindanao, Oxfam,

WE-Care partners, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government met on 25–27 November 2019 to:

- share impact stories as a result of the implementation of WE-Care ordinances;
- identify salient features of the legislation that brings greater

- impact to reduce, recognize, and redistribute care work; and
- identify strategy to address challenges in policy implementation. Photos by Oxfam in the Philippines

For questions on the forum, write to Leah Payud at LPayud@oxfam.org.uk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES





FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
KNOWLEDGE HUB WEBINAR SERIES (UPCOMING WEBINARS AND RECORDINGS
OF PREVIOUS ONES), WRITE TO AISSA BOODHOO AT ABoodhool@oxfam.org.uk.

CHECK OUT THESE ARTICLES, BLOGS, AND PUBLICATIONS THAT ARE RELEVANT IN OUR WORK

- Women's Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care) Mid-Term Evaluation Report: Philippines I READ NOW
- Rapid Care Analysis: A contextualized tool for the Occupied Palestinian Territory
 READ NOW
- IMF's recognition of unpaid care work undermined by its own harmful policy advice | READ NOW
- 'Even dust can be interesting': the woman who photographs housework |
 READ NOW
- Weekly economic podcast: How to fix the childcare system | READ NOW
- A systems thinking approach for energy markets in fragile places | READ NOW

◀

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT OXFAM

- · Gender Programme Officer | APPLY HERE
- · Gender Specialist EVAWG through Edutainment | APPLY HERE
- · Senior Gender Justice Coordinator | APPLY HERE



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WE-CARE STORIES:

Contact Vin Aranas at MAranas@oxfam.org.uk



WE-CARE STORIES OCT-DEC 2019

The Women's Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care) programme is a regional programme funded by the Hewlett Foundation and Unilever Surf.

For more information about WE-Care, visit our website at **HERE**. You may also contact Mark Vincent Aranas at **MAranas@oxfam.org.uk**.