

OXFAM IN UGANDA



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Conflict in South Sudan and neighboring countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi continues to displace people into Uganda among other countries. The total number of refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda is at **1,331,565** Refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda.

South Sudanese refugees make up the biggest number of refugees at **842,640**.

Whereas the numbers of incoming refugees are reducing, Uganda continues to see an influx.

Since late December 2017, the situation in Kyaka II dramatically changed, with increasing numbers of new arrivals from DR Congo coming in via border crossings in South Western Uganda. This is as a result of the ongoing inter-ethnic and community conflicts taking place in the Eastern parts of DRC. Since January 2019, over **42,056** refugees have fled the DRC, into Uganda

1,331,565

Total number of refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda

842,640

South Sudanese refugees

376,111

DRC refugees in Uganda

5912

arriving in the month of August 2019

635,763

Refugees Reached with Humanitarian work since 2017

270,926

Refugees Reached with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SS Sudan and DRC)

62,000

Refugees Reached with Gender and Protection response

30,300

Refugees Reached with Emergency food security and Vulnerable Livelihoods, including environment

CHAMPIONING LOCAL HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP AGENDA - BUILDING THE CAPACITIES OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL ACTORS



We are strengthening humanitarian capacity of local actors (partners and local governments) as a way of ensuring better, quicker & cost-effective preparedness and response to any emergent humanitarian situation. Some of the joint NGO strides being taken to empower local actors include launch of the first ever humanitarian platform in the country, which works to empower both local and national humanitarian organizations, that are well coordinated, informed and have the ability to influence the humanitarian agenda.

Since its inception, the platform has undertaken a number of activities including; training member organisations in advocacy and communication for humanitarian action; participation in the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Steering Committee to amplify the voice of local and national organizations, participation at the Solidarity Summit and made the case to roll out the Grand Bargain and the localization agenda at country level; compile a database of local and national humanitarian organizations.

IMPACTING LIVES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Oxfam works in consortium with organisations like Engineers Without Borders-USA (EWB—USA), African Women and Youth Action For Development (AWYAD) and Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CEFORD) to deliver projects namely *Integrated WASH, Shelter and Protection response and Multi sectoral assistance to South Sudan Refugees and host communities in Northern Uganda*. These partnerships with local and international actors as well as the government enable us to ensure that the refugees and host communities have adequate water supply, protection from all forms of violence especially sexual gender-based violence – particularly for women and children as well as

resilience to face the challenges and effects of conflict to their lives.

Since 2006, Oxfam has a standing global MoU with the UNHCR on Strategic Partnership, and one with OPM (Office of the Prime Minister) which facilitates joint planning, preparedness and response to predictable and rapid refugee emergency situations in various sectors such as WASH, Livelihood, cash-based interventions, resource mobilisation and advocacy.

Oxfam's humanitarian response plans are developed in close coordination with OPM especially at district level.

PROVIDING CLEAN AND SAFE WATER



Oxfam is providing water to over **200,000 People** in the settlements in Arua, Yumbe, Lamwo and Kyegwegwa districts. To ensure long sustainable water provision, Oxfam has drilled and rehabilitated boreholes to provide refugees with sustainable water sources through handpumps and motorised water systems. Serving **10,000 people** in a day, hybrid water systems that run on solar and generator as alternative power have been established in Rhino Camp, Imvepi, Bidibididi and Palabek settlements. These systems have reduced the cost of water supply and distances people moved for water. Boreholes are also drilled in areas that benefit both refugees and host communities to reduce resource strain and potential tensions, while ensuring everyone has access to water. As a result of these water sources, Oxfam and partners are presently supplying **14-20 litres** of water to each person, per day.

Oxfam and partners have facilitated institutions like schools with rainwater harvesting tanks. These various water supply options have increased the supply and quality of water provided to refugees.

Behavioural change Sanitation and hygiene promotion



Beyond infrastructure, Oxfam integrates hygiene at both institutional and community level. This is done through home improvement (model homes approach), household latrine construction and maintenance, mass handwashing, environmental cleaning including water points and jerrycans, as well as involving children and the community as agents of change.

We encourage formation of and train committees which include hygiene promoters, community mobilisers, water user committees and school health clubs. All this is aimed at increasing knowledge on safe hygiene and sanitation practices among the host and refugee communities. We also supply hygiene kits and involve children as well as the community as agents of change.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE, PROMOTING GENDER EQUITY

Oxfam continues to prioritize awareness creation about gender-based and all other forms of violence and their impact on people's lives.



Community members making reusable sanitary pads (RUMPS)

Through our partners like CEFORD and AWYAD, community structures like the Gender and Protection Committees, Men Own Fora and Women Own Fora are formed, nurtured and strengthened to identify and report protection threats and risks, appropriately following the referral pathway.

We are training women and girls in the making of Re-usable Sanitary Pads (RUMPS), to reduce the number of girls dropping out of school for fear of stigma from their male counterparts when they soil their dresses while in menstrual period.

We also provided Mama kits to various health centers to facilitate safe and dignified delivery for expectant mothers. This has motivated many expectant mothers to deliver from health centers by health professionals, and reduced the risk of infant and maternal mortality rates due to unsafe deliveries.

Lighting to enhance protection

Solar powered street lights have been installed at water points in the different refugee settlements in Northern Uganda. This is a protection measure since most women fetch water during evening and night hours, which compromises their safety.

Oxfam also supplied hand-held Waka Waka solar lights to persons with disabilities and members of the community structures to assist response to violence cases that happen in the night.

Peace building and conflict mitigation

Oxfam supported the opening of recreational facilities like playgrounds in various settlements to enable the youths to engage in such sports as soccer, volleyball and netball. In addition to sports, Oxfam helped establish Music Dance and Drama groups, who are supported with modern instruments to facilitate their engagement in the arts. The recreational activities are aimed at creating avenues in which youths from both host and refugee communities meet and share about gender-based and other forms of violence as well as promoting peaceful co-existence between the refugees and host communities.

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY



Oxfam is also supporting refugee-led organizations in their peacebuilding and peace awareness activities. We are also responding to the protection needs of persons of concern through informed interventions.

Unconditional Cash: Oxfam is providing unconditional cash for food and other essential needs focusing on the extremely vulnerable like the elderly, people with disabilities, child-headed households, women-headed households among other people with special needs.

Cash for work programming: Oxfam is providing short-term employment to refugees and host communities to help ensure that they can earn money to meet basic needs. The jobs include clearing access roads, communal latrine construction, opening of tunnels for water pipelines and making of portable energy stoves to be distributed to people with special needs. This work is carried out based on a selection criterion that is gender sensitive ensuring that the work does not become a burden to those carrying it out.

Kitchen gardening: Oxfam provides refugees and host community households with seedlings (cow peas, amaranthus, okra, onion, tomato and potato vines); farming tools (hand hoe, water can, sprayer and plastic sheet for drying the vegetables) and trainings, to establish kitchen/backyard gardens. This is aimed at enhancing dietary diversity. The gardens are easily accessible, easy to maintain and less laborious and can be managed by both men and women.

Energy-saving stoves: Oxfam designed and distributed fuel-efficient energy stoves at household level both in Bidibidi and Palabek settlements. In Rhino camp and Imvepi, a modified stove that uses briquettes has been adopted because of its portability. Using these stoves will play a significant role in reducing firewood consumption, and by extension contribute to environmental conservations.

Vocational skills training/business grants: We are training youths and women in vocational skills like carpentry, brick laying and concrete practice, tailoring and mechanics (motor /bicycles) repairs. 25 youths in Lamwo have been placed with local artisans in the different trades. 54 youths in Bidibidi recently graduated after sitting the Directorate of Industrial Training assessment. After the training, they are supported with start-up kits to enable them set up workshops and businesses.

Business grants: Oxfam offers business grants to boost business and as start-up for the already existing businesses and startups with winning business proposals, respectively.

PILOTING INNOVATIONS



Sludge management

Oxfam piloted a project to recycle household solid waste into briquettes. 5 groups were formed in Rhino Camp, Imvepi and Bidibidi settlements and in total, 70 people were trained, supported with sets of briquette making machines. Currently, the groups produce 200 kilograms of briquettes on average per day. We are scaling up to the production of faecal briquettes, and in the process of putting up a sludge treatment plant and drying beds where mechanically operated agglomerates for faecal briquette production will be established.

Tiger worms

Oxfam with support from the Germany government (KfW) is piloting the use of Effective micro-organisms and Tiger worms in management of sludge at four selected institutions. This will involve procurement of the micro-organisms that are launched to feed on the faeces thereby reducing the volume and smell.

Water ATMs

Oxfam is piloting Water ATMs in Kyaka II Refugee settlement. These are automated water vending machines that dispense pure water and offer unique and secure mechanism in supporting the financial and operational sustainability of installed water supply schemes, through the use of prepaid smart cards/tokens. Water ATMs address the barriers to inclusion of persons with special needs in accessing equitable water services. Water ATMs work just like the Bank ATMs, except that they dispense water instead of money.

With successful implementation, the learnings will be shared and a possible scale up to other refugee settlements will follow.

Waste Management feasibility studies

Oxfam is partnering with Makerere University School of Public Health and Rootzone Africa to design and assess the effectiveness of different waste (solid, liquid and faecal sludge) treatment and management technologies in Kyaka II refugee settlement. The study, once completed, will recommend appropriate extraction and onsite emergency treatment technology for the faecal sludge.



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