

OXFAM CELEBRATES AFRICAN WOMEN STANDING UP FOR THE FUTURE WE WANT

As part of celebrating African Women’s Day, Oxfam in Uganda, Uganda Women’s Network (UWONET), the WE-Care Pan-African programme and the Enough campaign team collaborated on a social media campaign to celebrate the diversity of African women. The focus was on the women standing up against violence in their communities as well as those who continue to challenge racist and sexist stereotypes of African women.

The **#AfricanWomenCan** campaign represented WE-Care’s vision of a more equal future for African women and girls, where everyone, including men and boys, governments and businesses, value care work by sharing the workload at home, investing in public infrastructure and services that reduce care work, as well as involving carers in the decisions that affect their lives.

The **#FlipTheScript** | **#LockDownPatriarchy** campaign amplified stories of African women, individual feminist activists, and women’s rights partners who are transgressing norms and doing fantastic work to end violence against women and girls using feminist communication principles.

Through the campaigns, we engaged our Online audiences to celebrate African women and challenge stereotypes and norms that justify violence and discrimination against women on the continent. We also called on governments, business owners, men, and boys to create a future where African women and girls have control over where they can spend their time—be it in education, business, community engagement, and paid work, among others.

The African Union set aside July 31st for the commemoration of the African Women’s Day, popularly known as the Pan African Women’s Day which offers a national, continental and global opportunity to recall and affirm the significant role played by women in the evolution of a strong Pan Africa identity, with shared values, objectives and vision for the future.



One of the online engagements encouraging people to take a step forward to a freer, more equal future for every African woman and girl.



“Dr Stella Nyanzi’s courage is matched only by her artistry. Her work challenges us all to be bold even in the face of persecution and to never forget the power of our eroticism. Even as she strikes terror in the hearts of exploitative employers and dictatorial leaders, Dr Nyanzi retains her trademark humour and tenderness as is evidenced by her insightful poetry. A mother, a scholar, a lover and an artist, Dr Nyanzi embodies the highest of our ideals” Iman Geddy.

Geddy is a graphic designer, illustrator and comic book colourist based in Atlanta.

EDUCATION MINISTRY NOT READY FOR A DEAD

ACADEMIC YEAR

The Ministry of Education and Sports has said that continuity of education is a priority that cannot be compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chairperson of the National Education Taskforce, Ismail Mulindwa said that although the learning interventions put in place by government have been met with many challenges, part of the Education Preparedness and Response plan is to ensure continuity of education before considering declaring a dead academic year.

Mulindwa said this in response to concerns from civil society and teachers about inequalities in access to learning materials during a [talk show](#) on NBS TV to discuss the implications of COVID-19 on education with a focus on education in emergency.

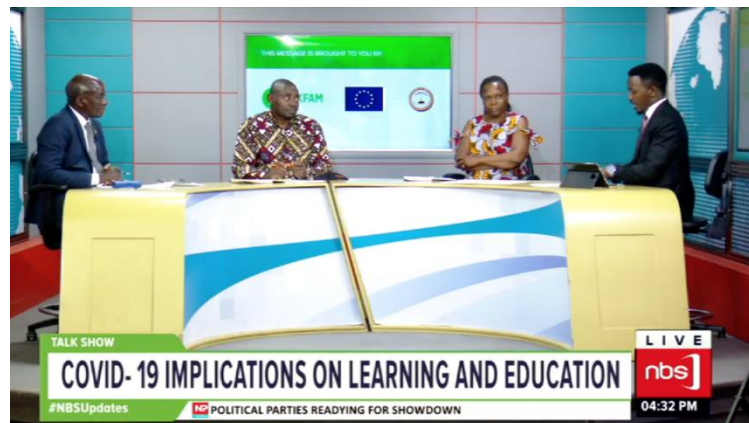
Mulindwa noted that when Uganda was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education created a Preparedness and Response plan which includes several learning interventions such as TV sessions, printed materials for learners, as well as availing learning materials on different websites.

Oxfam's Interim Country Director, Jane Ocaya- Irama said that many learners are unable to make use of the available learning materials. Filbert Baguma, the General Secretary of Uganda National Teacher's Union (UNATU) also said that some learners are completely cut off because they lack TVs, radios, or live in a home environment that does not allow learning to take place. He added that it is very difficult to assess how many learners are attending lessons, which has a big impact on the teaching-learning process.

Mulindwa said that the Ministry of Local Government is registering teachers and learners at village level to assess how best they can interact for continuous learning.

Schools have been closed since march 2020 to control the spread of COVID-19 in Uganda. While some learners can continue to access learning materials, many of them are being left out because they have limited access to television, radios, and printed materials.

The TV talk show was aimed at creating platforms and spaces for citizens to contribute meaningfully to decision making and hold leaders accountable to education commitments and standards in policies and laws.



(L-R) Chairperson of the National Education Taskforce Ismail Mulindwa, the General Secretary of Uganda National Teacher's Union Filbert Baguma, Oxfam's Interim Country Director, Jane Ocaya- Irama, and NBS' Mordechai Muliisa during the talk show. Photo by NBS TV.

SUPPORTING REFUGEES TO FIGHT COVID-19

Between 27th and 31st July 2020, Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation (CECI) in partnership with Oxfam distributed hand sanitizers, radio receivers, dry cells, facemasks and soap to 69 households of the elderly and persons living with disabilities in Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement.

The distribution was aimed at supporting vulnerable groups to effectively prevent the spread of COVID-19. The CECI team reached over 400 people during the distribution, creating more awareness about COVID-19 and how to control its spread.



Some of the people who received materials distributed by CECI IN Bidi Bidi Refugee settlement. Photo by CECI

HUNGER LINKED TO COVID-19 COULD KILL MORE PEOPLE THAN THE VIRUS ITSELF

Last month, Oxfam warned that hunger linked to COVID-19 could kill as many as 12,000 people a day by the end of 2020, potentially claiming more lives each day than the disease itself.

In a [press briefing](#) published on 9th July 2020, Oxfam noted that in the Horn, East and Central Africa (HECA) region, over 47 million people were already food insecure due to the triple crises of floods, locust infestation and now COVID-19.

The briefing was part of Oxfam's global campaign on food insecurity calling upon donor governments to provide emergency assistance to save lives and ensure that food producers get safely back to work.

Lydia Zigomo, Oxfam's HECA Regional Director called upon donor governments to fully fund the UN's COVID-19 humanitarian appeal to mitigate the additional food security impacts of COVID-19.

Oxfam also called for debt cancellation to allow developing countries to scale-up social protection, build fairer, more resilient and more sustainable food systems, take urgent action to tackle the climate crisis, and provide women the opportunity to participate and lead the decisions on how to address our broken food system.

"Governments must ensure that additional loans and any relief due to debt suspension or cancellation, is channelled towards programs that help those most impacted. They should ensure that accountability and transparency in the use of funds, social protection expansion, and increased funding for agriculture are among the priorities," said Corinne N'Daw, Oxfam's Country Director in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



12,000 people a day could die from hunger driven by the pandemic

#ZeroCases
#ZeroHunger

OXFAM

Millions of people were already living in hunger before COVID-19. Lockdowns, job losses, & food price rises could double the number of people who don't have enough to eat.

OXFAM IN THE NEWS

- Radio talk show on the Implications of COVID-19 on the Education sector KFM 2nd July 2020
- Hunger linked to COVID-19 could kill more people than the virus itself, warns Oxfam PML Daily 10th July 2020 <https://www.pmldaily.com/news/2020/07/hunger-linked-to-covid-19-could-kill-more-people-than-the-virus-itself-warns-oxfam.html>
- TV talk show on the Implications of COVID-19 on the Education sector NBS TV 11th July 2020 <https://we.tl/t-jHlk11a7we>
- Hunger linked to COVID-19 could kill more people than the virus itself: Oxfam Kiss Media 15th July 2020 <http://kissmediaug.com/hunger-linked-to-covid-19-could-kill-more-people-than-the-virus-itself-oxfam/>