

TAKING CARE OF MY SON HAS TAUGHT ME HOW TO APPRECIATE CARE GIVERS

Tumusiime Kabwende Deo's family made a tough decision not to hire a babysitter for their son when his wife's maternity leave came to an end. One of them had to become a stay-at-home parent to take care of their bundle of joy. Deo opted to do this because his wife had a permanent job.

Despite the challenges that come with caring for a child, Deo observes that nothing feels better than being present for his son as he begins life on earth.

"For me, being a stay-at-home father is the best thing I have ever done. Being with our little boy every day, seeing his first steps, hearing his first words, and teaching him new things is a priceless experience that I can do all over again," says Deo. He also adds that men usually focus a lot on making money but it is not as rewarding as such experiences.

Deo also says that taking care of his son has taught him how to appreciate caregivers who are usually women because this kind of work is very exhausting and more demanding than a job.

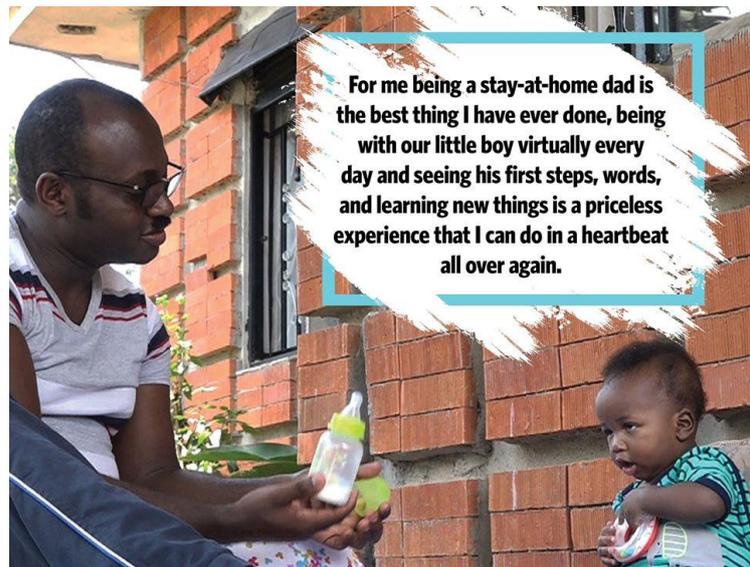
"Most cultures, especially in Africa, do not expect men to reveal a nurturing and sensitive side. This has to stop," says Deo.

As a lead up to Father's Day which was celebrated globally last month, Oxfam in Uganda in collaboration with Oxfam International, Men Care Global, Promundo-US, and local partner, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) ran a campaign from 18th - 21st June dubbed, "How I Care." The campaign was aimed towards shifting the way we think about care work by (1) Calling on Government of Uganda to increase access to affordable household water to reduce women's and girls' heavy and time-consuming unpaid care work and (2) Calling for men to step up and do their fair share of care work.

The campaign sparked off online engagements with over 1,345,722 women and men like Deo, sharing their experiences using the hashtags, **#HowICare** and **#FreeWomensHands**. To ensure that the off-line

audiences are reached, the campaign engaged over 3,700,000 people over a [radio talk show](#). The campaign revealed that a number of men have embraced doing care work especially during the lock-down. However, a considerable number of them still perceive care work as the sole responsibility of the woman.

A lot more work still needs to be done to shift mindsets as well as influence the Government towards recognizing, redistributing and reducing the care workload on women.



For me being a stay-at-home dad is the best thing I have ever done, being with our little boy virtually every day and seeing his first steps, words, and learning new things is a priceless experience that I can do in a heartbeat all over again.

Tumusiime Kabwende Deo taking care of his son. Photo by UWONET.



A woman carrying firewood, a child and a hoe while her husband listens to radio. Photo by UWONET

ENSURING THAT COVID-19 EDUCATION RESPONSE

IS INCLUSIVE

While schools remain closed as a measure to prevent the spread of the Corona Virus, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) has put in place efforts to ensure that learning continues. This is through radio and television programmes as well as through learning materials that have been physically distributed at the district and sub county level.

Despite these efforts, several challenges still exist as some children have no access to the learning channels among other challenges, hence being left behind.

As part of supporting continuity of learning under the Oxfam BRICE (Building Resilience: Education Opportunities in fragile and Crisis-affected Environments) project, Oxfam and partners have been influencing the MoES to ensure that the education response does not further exclude children of the poor and marginalized in the wake of the pandemic.

Besides working with the Ministry of Education to develop the learning materials, Oxfam and partners have rolled out a media campaign to create awareness as well as amplify voices of the affected persons (both teachers and students) on concerns and make proposals on actions that could be taken.

On 17th June 2020, Sophie Kyagulanyi, Oxfam's Governance and Accountability Manager, was joined by Ismael Mulindwa, the Chairperson of the COVID-19 taskforce at the Ministry of Education and Sports and Filbert Bates Baguma, the Secretary General for the Uganda National Teachers' Union (UNATU) on a [radio talk show](#) to discuss the challenges and

opportunities for the education sector under COVID-19. The talk show was one of the interventions aimed at creating platforms and spaces for citizens, women and youth to contribute meaningfully to decision making and holding leaders accountable to education commitments and standards in policies and laws.

Sophie said that there are delays in delivering education materials especially to vulnerable communities like refugee settlements creating inequalities in access to education. Mulindwa said that the Ministry of Education is harmonizing its guidelines with the health standard operation procedures to guide the re-opening of schools.

The media campaign continues and you can get engaged through **#Education4All #COVID19UG**

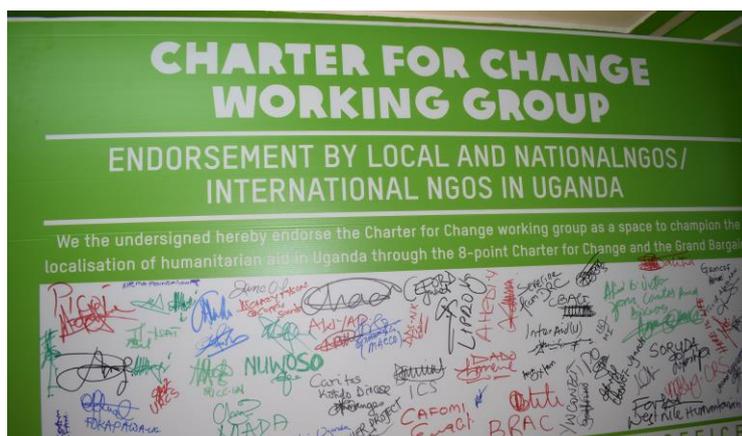


Samuel Rachkara (R), a teacher at Ogilli school in Palabek Refugee Settlement spending time with his students before schools were closed.

A CALL FOR LOCALISATION OF COVID-19 RESPONSE

Through the Charter4Change working group, a lobby letter was developed and shared with over 30 [INGO signatories to the Charter4Change](#) with offices in Uganda requesting their support in taking forward the Charter4Change commitments made at the global level and encouraging them to engage with national and local NGOs on the COVID-19 response and the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) revision process.

International NGOs remain committed to deliver the changes identified in the [Charter for Change](#) within their own organizational ways of working so that southern-based national actors play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response.



Signatures of local and national and international NGOs endorsing the Charter for Change working group as a space to champion the localization of humanitarian aid in Uganda on 20th February 2020.

THIRTY-NINE ORGANISATIONS CALL ON GOVERNMENTS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO ASYLUM SEEKERS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

People seeking safety are trapped at borders across Eastern Africa due to COVID-19 measures. Last month, a coalition of international, national, and refugee-led organizations in the Horn, East and Central Africa (HECA) released a press statement calling upon governments in the region to reopen borders for asylum seekers and to put in place measures that manage the current health emergency while ensuring that asylum seekers can seek protection.

Uganda closed its borders on 20th March to control the spread of Corona Virus. Since then, approximately 10,000 people are displaced along the DRC-Uganda border, waiting to seek asylum in Uganda. On the country's border with South Sudan, hundreds of people have been displaced by recent fighting between government soldiers and armed groups in Central Equatoria State, hoping to cross into Uganda. They are living in makeshift structures and are in urgent need of food, proper shelter, medical care, and access to clean water.

Oxfam's Regional Director in the Horn, East and Central Africa, Lydia Zigomo, called upon regional

bodies such as the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU) to provide more leadership and guidance on how countries can safely open their borders to asylum seekers. Lydia added that the international community must also step in to provide the needed assistance to displaced persons, whichever side of the border they are on. Read detailed press statement [here](#).



South Sudanese refugees fetching water from a newly constructed water system.

GOV'T TO SPEND OVER UGX700BN IN CLEARING DOMESTIC ARREARS

Oxfam in Uganda working with the Finance for Development partners was part of the Post Budget E-conference (2020). Under the theme, *Stimulating the Economy to Safeguard Livelihoods, Jobs, Businesses, and Industrial Recovery*, the discussions were led by the Ministry of Finance, Bank of Uganda, Private Sector Foundation Uganda, the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), and the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG).

Kenneth Mugambe, the Director Budget at the Ministry of Finance, said that Government has injected over UGX700bn in clearing domestic arrears, with a major focus on local companies, a move that was backed by CSBAG's Executive Director, Julius Mukunda.

Dr. Adam Mugume, the Ag. Deputy Governor Bank of Uganda, also noted that although the Bank of Uganda has continuously reduced the Central Bank Rate (CBR) to enhance access to credit, some commercial banks have been hesitant to reduce

their interest rates adding that this may prompt Bank of Uganda to name and shame such commercial banks.

The E-conference took place at the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) House from 23rd to 24th June 2020.



Kenneth Mugambe, the Director Budget at the Ministry of Finance, speaking during the Post Budget E-Conference on 23rd June 2020. Photo by NTV

OXFAM NEWS, STORIES, BLOGS

- Radio talk show on the challenges and opportunities for the education sector under COVID-19
<https://oxfam.box.com/s/ua2dzcwv359dyw5l8kpp6qr57cpg1i3t>
- Radio talk show calling upon men to step up and do their fair share of care work
<https://oxfam.box.com/s/pcm2gr71hwqe2ts8t7gyx7ltut0grjrj>
- Blog piece on the prevailing issues of access to water that is making the fight against COVID-19 difficult and increasing the vulnerability of those already poor
<https://heca.oxfam.org/latest/blogs/covid-19-%E2%80%93-reminder-why-access-water-human-right>
- How I Care stories
 - <https://uganda.oxfam.org/latest/image-story/sharing-care-work-has-improved-my-family-relationship>
 - <https://uganda.oxfam.org/latest/image-story/encouraging-my-boys-be-better>
 - <https://uganda.oxfam.org/latest/image-story/emerging-lockdown-better-father>