



MONTHLY ROUND-UP

OXFAM IN UGANDA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

AROUND US

Triple Nexus Learning Event and the Oxfam One Programme Approach

Oxfam in Uganda together with the HECA team held a learning event on the triple nexus last month. The knowledge initiative deepened analysis and understanding of Oxfam HECA's practice and experience in linking humanitarian, development and peace nexus. The meeting also facilitated deliberate reflection among Oxfam staff and partners on the current barriers / blockers and what needs to be done to achieve Oxfam one programme approach.

The team developed an implementation checklist, country commitments as well as support needs. Among other things, the implementation checklist includes Program design informed by a comprehensive context analysis, more reflection and review sessions and realization of transformative partnerships. Interim Country Director, Oxfam in Uganda, Jane Ocaya, also emphasized the need to be deliberately conscious about gender issues while discussing and implementing the triple nexus.

Oxfam In Uganda Calls For Climate Action

Because climate variability and longer-term climate changes have a significant impact on people's lives and livelihoods as well as the national economy, Oxfam worked with allies to organize activities aimed at influencing policy and practice on climate action and justice such as street strikes, an inter university youth dialogue, and mobilization around tree planting and exhibition of climate smart innovations.

We asked the government to pass the Climate Change Bill into law so that people and entities who violate the environment can be better held accountable, to ensure that environment laws and policies are better implemented, to increase financing for adaption in Agriculture and reduce the price of electricity so that even the poorest can afford it.

We mobilized over **6,000** youth to engage in different climate actions, received commitment from the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga to work with young people and agencies like Oxfam on climate action, and worked with new and strategic partners like the Buganda kingdom which is a critical player in issues related to land governance and usage as well as mobilization around climate.

Oxfam also worked with the media to take the campaign to the people using both mainstream and digital media.

Under hashtags **#ClimateStrikeUG** and **#ActOnClimate**, we reached over 70,000 people on Facebook and Twitter alone.

Oxfam in Uganda condemns violence met out on Makerere University Students and Calls for a peaceful resolution of the strike

Makerere University students went on strike on 23rd October 2019 over their dissatisfaction with a proposed 15% tuition increment. Security forces intervened arresting several students with others reported to have been brutally handled during the arrests. Media reports and footage further showed security agencies attacking unarmed students in their halls of residences as well as journalists trying to cover the strike.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- AROUND US
- VOICES FROM WHERE WE WORK
- OCTOBER IN PICTURES
- UPCOMING EVENTS

Oxfam expressed concern and condemned the violence used by security agencies while trying to suppress the ongoing Makerere university students' strike noting that their actions were a violation of human rights and human decency. Find [detailed press statement](#) here.

Supporting Refugees to Enjoy Increased Incomes

As at 30th September 2019, data by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) reveals that the total number of refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda is 1,347,360 with 848,203 from South Sudan while the rest are from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). With limited resources in refugee host communities, the right to a life with dignity for women, youth and men becomes a dream. To empower refugees to mitigate and cope with shocks, Oxfam provides them with vocational and entrepreneurial skills to earn a living and improve their livelihoods.

On the next page, read about Boboya Innocent, a South Sudanese refugee in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Arua district who, through our skills development initiatives, is using construction and brick laying to support his family.

VOICES FROM WHERE WE WORK

Supporting Refugees to Enjoy Increased Incomes

Refugee youth, just like all vulnerable groups across the country, are economically constrained and usually struggle to enjoy increased incomes. Additionally, they have limited access to opportunities and resources which increases their level of vulnerability. Our work on resilient livelihoods has transformed incomes of many refugees and enabled them transition from response to shock.

With our support, refugees are acquiring different vocational and entrepreneurial skills, are putting them into use to earn a living, and have become more positive about how the future will look like for them.

Boboya Innocent, who is the head of his household consisting of his mother and three siblings, is a refugee from South Sudan. Boboya and his family came to Uganda in 2016 when war broke out in his home country. When they fled South Sudan, Boboya had to give up on his education and focus on earning an income to provide basic needs for his family.

“When I came to Uganda, I had no practical skills that would help me generate income to sustain my livelihood and meet basic needs for my family. Because of that, we solely relied on relief food and other non-food items given to us. It was difficult for us to transition from our life in South Sudan to being



Boboya Innocent (R) at a construction site where his group is currently setting up a shelter for persons with disabilities in Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Arua district

refugees in a foreign country,” narrates Boboya.

When Oxfam was recruiting youth to be placed in vocational schools to acquire practical skills in 2017, Boboya was one of the young men selected to learn masonry (construction and brick laying). Oxfam’s initiative was aimed at enabling youth have skills that could earn them income and improve their livelihoods. At the end of the training and course, Oxfam provided the youth with tools to start practicing their newly acquired skills.

Boboya formed a group of 14 youth from both host and refugee, named it Morjita Construction Group, and registered it at the district before it started full operation. Over the years, the group has undertaken different assignments, enabling the youth earn income and improve their livelihoods.

“Since we formed this group, we have gotten contracts from different organizations like *Peace Winds* and *Here is Life* to construct over 50

shelters for Persons with Special Needs. We charge UGX800,000 to construct each house and it takes us about 4 days to complete a structure,” narrates Boboya.

He hopes that his group will get more many more contracts so that they can continue supporting their families and meeting their needs. The group is also determined to carry these skills back home, when peace is restored in South Sudan.

“We are positive that when time comes for us to go back home, we will continue being in business because people will be reconstructing their homes. I have a certificate now, but given an opportunity for further training, I want to be a qualified construction engineer,” says Boboya.

OCTOBER IN PICTURES



Outgoing Chair of the DefendDefenders Board, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana (R), welcomes Oxfam's Governance and Accountability Coordinator, Sophie Kyagulanyi (L) as the newly elected Chair.



Oxfam was represented by Joseph Olweny, Coordinator, Finance for Development Programme in a meeting with the Tax Justice Alliance to develop a paper for CSO tax proposals for FY 2020/21. Olweny noted that Tax issues should be linked to the daily lives of citizens. He added that traditional and religious institutions should be utilized to influence advocacy around taxes and how they benefit all.



This year's #GlobalHandwashingDay climaxed with celebrations at Amuru Primary School in Omugo settlement in Arua district. Run-up activities included working with school going children in the settlements to recap on when, where and how proper handwashing is done.

During Buganda Kingdom's *Bulungi Bwansi* drive in Sentema on 7th October 2019, Oxfam's Rashid Maweje, explained to students that briquettes are a more efficient and environmental friendly alternative to charcoal.



Oxfam staff participating in a tree planting exercise in Garuga on 2nd October 2019.



From 28th to 31st November 2019, Oxfam in Uganda working with the HECA team, held a learning event on the triple nexus. The knowledge initiative deepened analysis and understanding of Oxfam HECA's practice, and Oxfam One Programme Approach.



On 3rd October 2019, Oxfam worked in collaboration with Kampala International University (KIU) to convene the 1st Inter University Dialogue on Climate Change under the theme, **Youth Climate Action**. The dialogue brought together over 800 youth and was used as a platform to encourage them to take a stand on climate justice.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Training on Fundraising – 7th November 2019
- Partner Annual Forum and Programme Review Meeting – 11th to 14th November 2019
- Third Land Learning Journey – 18th to 22nd November 2019
- Launch of the Blood Campaign – 21st November 2019
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence - 25th November to 10th December 2019
- Launch of the Land and Inequality Report – 26th November 2019