

### #IAMGENERATIONEQUALITY



Oxfam staff pose for a group photo after having a reflection on #IamGenerationEquality on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at Oxfam offices.

reproductive health and rights, feminist action for climate justice, feminist leadership as well as technology and innovation for gender equality.

Oxfam is committed to ensuring gender equality and equity; where both women and men define and share policies, structures, and decisions that affect their lives and society. On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Oxfam staff had a reflection on what #IamGenerationEquality means to them and shared their commitments towards gender equality.

**“The story of women’s struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights,”**

Gloria Steinem, world renowned feminist, journalist and activist.

“#IamGenerationEquality means saying no to social norms that exclude women’s land rights and orchestrate tenure insecurity among women and the girl child,” said Jimmy Ochom, Oxfam’s Land Rights Coordinator. Jimmy called for embracing equality and promoting women’s land rights to improve food security.

Oxfam staff also agreed that both women and men deserve equal economic opportunities, access to information, quality education, and platforms to speak up. It was also noted that unpaid care work robs women of most of their productive hours, widening the gender inequality gap. There is therefore a need for government of Uganda to recognize the value of this care work and capture its contribution in National statistics as well as invest in Infrastructure that reduces the care burden on women.

In Kyaka II Refugee settlement, women’s day was celebrated on 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 at Kakoni playground. The Oxfam team conducted awareness sessions on women empowerment and Gender Equality in the community in different zones.

In Rhino Settlement, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner for Arua District, Akello Alice Apio

The 8<sup>th</sup> March Annual celebration of International Women’s Day (IWD) is an opportunity for all of us to take action for equality and to reflect on how we help to forge a gender equal world. This year, IWD was celebrated under the theme, **“I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights.”** The theme was aligned with UN Women’s new multigenerational campaign, Generation Equality, which marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive roadmap for the empowerment of women and girls worldwide.

#IamGenerationEquality, as part of the wider Generation Equality campaign, has brought together people of every gender, age, ethnicity, race, religion and country, to drive actions that will create the gender-equal world we all deserve. It is mobilizing to end gender-based violence, calling for economic justice and rights for all, bodily autonomy, sexual and

said that there is need to promote gender equality in all aspects of life and encouraged women and men to fight against domestic violence and defilement among girls. Akello made these remarks during the IWD celebrations in the settlement on 10<sup>th</sup> march 2020.

During the national celebrations of Women's Day in Mbale district on 8<sup>th</sup> March, H.E President Museveni noted that gender based violence is deeply rooted in economic dependence and thereby called for the economic empowerment of women and girls.



## UBTS JOINS CIVIL SOCIETY TO DEMAND FOR SAFE AND ADEQUATE BLOOD FOR ALL UGANDANS

On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Civil Society Organisations in partnership with Uganda Blood Transfusion Services (UBTS) held a public procession, public dialogue and a blood donation drive in Kampala.

This was part of a public campaign tasking the Government to increase funding to the health sector to enable UBTS meet its annual targets of collecting, testing and supplying 410,000 units of safe blood as per the WHO recommendations.

The activity was also aimed at promoting blood donation through increased donor recruitment and raising public awareness on the critical need for consistent availability of safe and adequate blood.

Oxfam's Interim Head of Programs, Harriet Mbabazi stressed the blood problem in Uganda by sharing her personal experience where she almost lost her life while giving birth in 2018. She noted that the day's activity had come at a time when the world had recently celebrated the International Women's Day under the theme, "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights," calling upon participants to reflect and act upon issues that not only put women's lives at risk but also widen the gender inequality gap. Harriet concluded by calling upon government to ensure that there is safe and accessible blood in all hospitals, especially for women and girls giving birth.

Important to note however is that UBTS relies heavily on blood donations made by students in secondary

schools. Now that schools are closed, the blood bank has lost a large percentage of its reliable donors.

Additionally, the general public who would participate in more public blood donation drives are also locked in their homes.

Oxfam, working with partners, will continue to engage on the issue even amidst the lock down. Some of the next steps will include urging the Government to support Ministry of Health/UBTS to find safe and accessible ways of blood collections. Oxfam will also continue influencing for an increase in budget allocation to the Health sector.



A public procession to demand for consistent availability of safe adequate blood in Uganda. The procession was joined by police, civil society, students, and the general public in Kampala on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## **NPA TO CONSIDER ISSUES RAISED BY SMALL SCALE FARMERS FOR NDPIII**

In partnership with Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda, Oxfam organized a consultative workshop between small scale farmers and the National Planning Authority (NPA) to give the former a platform to meaningfully contribute to the third national development plan (NDPIII). This event, which took place on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 was used as an opportunity to consult farmers, generate issues, develop and review a technical paper, and present it to NPA representatives.

The small scale farmers raised a number of issues among which was a call for support from government of Uganda to register their land and get customary certificates and ensure land tenure security in order to increase production and productivity of agro enterprises.

At the end of the workshop, NPA advised Oxfam to write a letter to the authority's Executive Director, Dr. Joseph Muvawala, detailing the issues raised by the small scale farmers for possible consideration in NDPIII.



A section of participants during the consultative workshop between the National Planning Authority and small scale farmers to give the latter a platform to contribute to NDPIII ON 18<sup>TH</sup> March 2020.

## **LOCAL AND NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ACTORS TO RECEIVE MENTORSHIP ON RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES**

Oxfam's ELNHA team held a consultative meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 with the Office of the Prime Minister, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Arua District Local Government representatives and the Humanitarian Response Grant Fund partners in West Nile aimed at promoting and supporting localization of humanitarian aid in Uganda.

The stakeholders present committed themselves towards supporting the localization agenda by ensuring that local and national actors are mentored, coached and empowered to respond to humanitarian emergencies.

UNHCR's representative in the Arua sub office, Ms. Runesu Josephine pledged the Commission's commitment to working with Oxfam and also ensure that 25% of funding for humanitarian response is provided to Local and National actors.



Partnerships Coordinator for the ELNHA project, Beatrice Akello (standing in front) making a presentation during a consultative meeting with OPM and UNHCR on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Arua district.



**PLEASE STAY SAFE**