

Oxfam in Uganda

We work on livelihoods, gender equality, reducing the risk of disasters, climate change, water and sanitation, peace building and governance

In numbers*...

700,000
total people helped

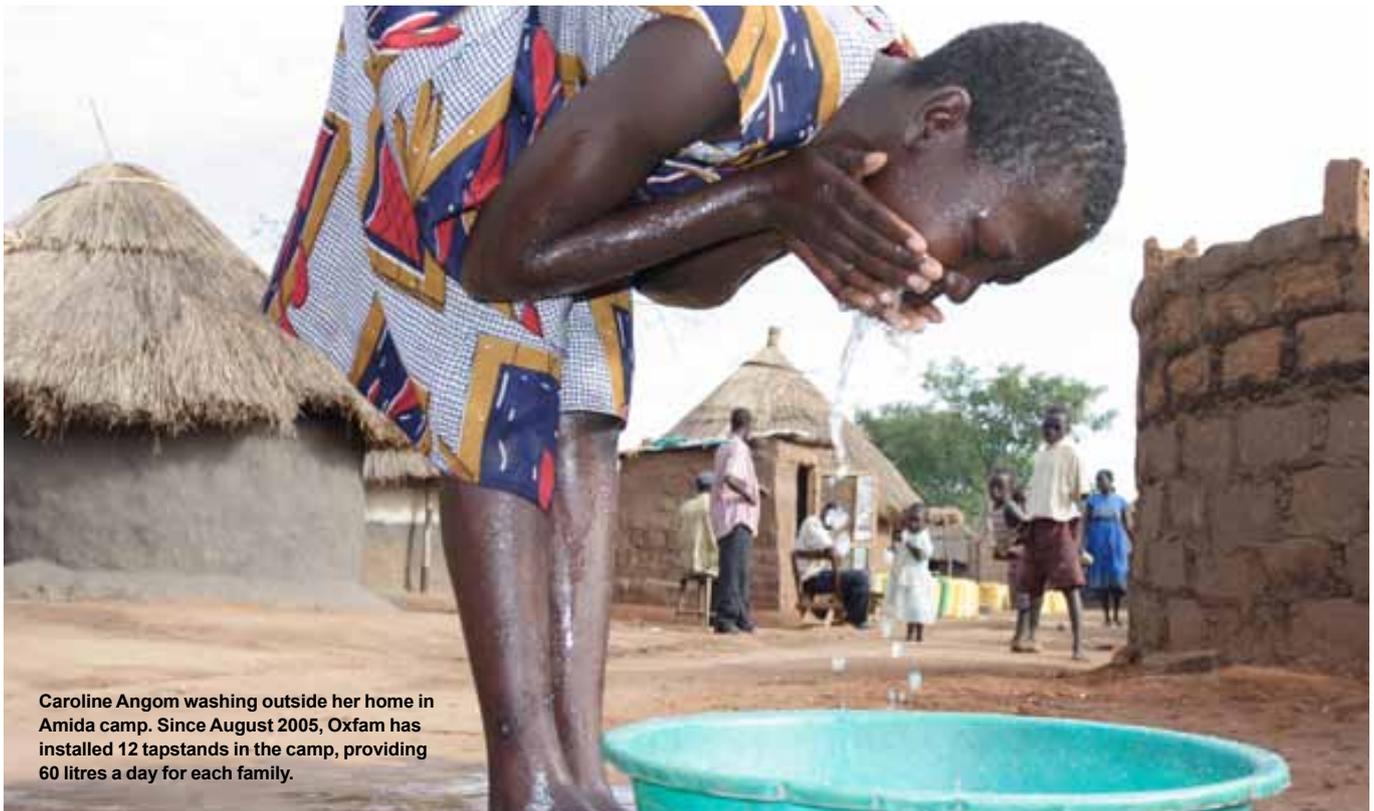
25,000
helped with livelihoods



The situation

Uganda is faced with diverse challenges. In the north, recent decades have seen communities terrorised by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and destroying trade and livelihoods. Pastoralist communities in the north east have suffered years of neglect and an unfettered flow of arms through the porous borders with Sudan and Kenya. In the lush, mountainous south west, climate change is posing serious threats to people's access to water and farmland.

Recently the LRA crisis in the north has eased and security has improved, but this in itself has brought new challenges. Whole swathes of the countryside have been emptied – communities are now starting to return to their homes, but they have little to return to. The villages have been neglected for years and people have little access to basic services. An entire generation has been traumatised by years of abductions and attacks, and communities now need support to rebuild their lives.



Caroline Angom washing outside her home in Amida camp. Since August 2005, Oxfam has installed 12 tapstands in the camp, providing 60 litres a day for each family.

Photo: Geoff Sayer

How Oxfam is helping

We support about 230,000 people to rebuild their livelihoods by providing essential services such as water and sanitation – and providing agricultural inputs, extension support, training and production assets to support agricultural development and other livelihoods initiatives.

In the Karamoja region, we promote the rights of pastoralist communities that suffer from chronic droughts and food insecurity. We have set up water systems, including dams and reservoirs to capture scarce rainwater, and support grain banks so that families are better able to store food for the long dry seasons.

The high prevalence of guns has made traditional cattle raids a deadly affair and exacerbated insecurity in the region. The government has implemented a programme to remove the guns, but has done little to help young herders find alternative sources of income. We train former cattle raiders in skills that help them form peaceful businesses –

for example by making environmentally friendly bricks that use up little of the precious water – and we train vets to vaccinate animals against disease, thus giving them a higher market value.

Villages in the foothills of the Rwenzori mountains, in the south west, have long relied on agriculture, fed by the plentiful rainfall and natural water supply from the mountain glaciers. However, the climate is gradually changing, exacerbated by human activity and livestock grazing. The glaciers are melting and major rivers are also changing course, threatening people's agricultural livelihoods.

The incidences of tropical diseases such as malaria have also risen in recent years. We're working with local partners to help communities:

- reduce the risk disasters present
- adapt by improving agricultural practices
- and lobby the national government to invest in mitigating the human impact of climate change

Fundamental change in Uganda will only come with a shift in government and donor policies. We provide funding and technical expertise to many non-government organisations across Uganda, to help them implement projects and to support their campaigns on behalf of disadvantaged groups. Oxfam partners have been instrumental in responding to some of the major humanitarian emergencies that have struck Uganda, such as flooding and landslides. Many partners also lobby the national government on a wide range of policies, including gender equality, climate change and conflict resolution.

Violence against women is another core concern in Uganda. Oxfam is part of the We Can campaign which works through communities and individuals to change attitudes towards domestic violence.



A local farmer at work in Bundibudyo. Oxfam is working with local NGO's to help farming communities to become more economically and socially resilient to climatic changes.

Photo: James Even