

## RESULTS SUMMARY

### Caritas Uganda's advocacy success battling single-use plastic products

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PROJECT	<b>Title:</b>	Uganda Governance and Poverty Alleviation Program (UGOPAP)
	<b>Partner:</b>	Caritas Uganda
	<b>Country:</b>	Uganda
	<b>Period:</b>	2022 - 2025

**CHANGE**

Caritas Uganda (CU) and the Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform (UFCVP) has carried out an extensive advocacy campaign for over 10 years to address the issues of single-use plastics in Uganda. The advocacy efforts led to parliamentary discussions and ultimately the government introduced an 18 % tax on single-use plastic products like water bottles and disposable diapers in May 2023.

**CONTEXT**

Uganda faces a significant environmental crisis due to the widespread use of single-use plastics like water bottles, plastic bags, and disposable diapers. These items contribute to overflowing landfills, water pollution, and wildlife harm. Over half of all plastic waste ends up in open land, waterways, lakes, or parks, with only 9% being recycled. This underscores the urgent need for measures, such as a plastic tax, to mitigate the impact of plastic waste on Uganda's environment.

**CONTRIBUTION**

Under the UGOPAP program, supported by Caritas Denmark, the advocacy platform Uganda Farmers Common Voice Platform (UFCVP) together with Caritas Uganda (CU) took the lead in coordinating an extensive advocacy campaign to address the issue towards government leaders and members of parliament. The initiatives were in joint alliance with other Civil society organizations like Oxfam, Climate action Network Uganda (CANU), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Bio Vision.

**IMAGES**



*Policy and Advocacy Specialist of CU, Betty Aguti, at a press conference on plastic pollution in 2022*



*CU organized community clean-up and a press conference on plastic pollution during Earth Day Celebrations in 2022*

[See next page for more details](#) →

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES

The UFCVP, established by UGOPAP, led a vigorous campaign against single-use plastics. Their efforts included public awareness and education initiatives, participation in international events like World Environment Day and Earth Day, and media engagements through radio and TV talk shows and press conferences. They also directly interacted with government leaders and members of parliament. An audit identified the most polluting companies to guide these activities. Additionally, Caritas Uganda formulated and presented position papers, organised national and local debates on environmental pollution, and formed alliances with other civil society organisations and environmental activists. These collective efforts garnered significant attention from concerned citizens, increased media coverage, and stimulated widespread discourse on environmental issues.

### LESSONS

The campaign against single-use plastics faced significant challenges due to the politicized nature of the issue, with many Ugandan leaders and politicians involved in businesses dealing with these plastics. Consequently, Caritas Uganda adopted a piecemeal approach, beginning with advocating for a tax increase to make these products less affordable and potentially reduce demand. This strategy acknowledges the complex political landscape and aims to achieve incremental progress toward eliminating single-use plastics in Uganda. This case further shows the importance of coordinated, multi-stakeholder advocacy campaigns and garnering public support through awareness for issues of relevance to communities. Lastly, advocating for taxation has the possibility of both positively changing consumer habits, and advocate for larger policy change of single-use plastic. A total ban remains the ultimate goal for Caritas Uganda, who continues to work towards this objective.

### EVIDENCE

The tax increase is well documented in parliamentary records and articles. CU/UFCVP's advocacy campaign is also well documented through articles and meeting records. Uganda has implemented various measures related to the taxation of plastic products. The Uganda Revenue Authority has specific regulations on excise duty for plastic packaging materials. Manufacturers cannot claim an offset of this duty unless the plastic is recycled or used for specific purposes like export or medicinal packaging. The government also targets plastic bottles in the beverage industry, increasing costs for manufacturers and encouraging recycled material use.

### DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Insert strategy priority
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	(X)
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-

## GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

### Page 1: Results summary

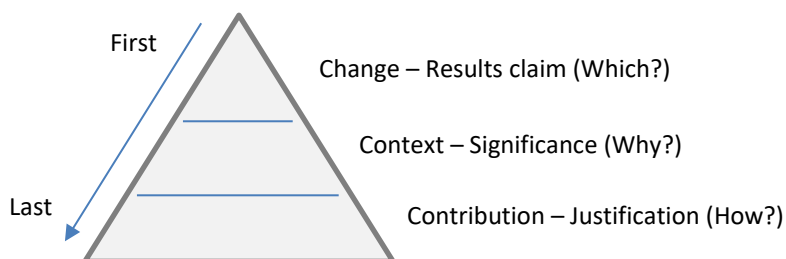
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a “reverse funnel.” First, the “change” section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the “which.” Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the “context” section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining “why” it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the “contribution” section should provide examples to justify for “how” the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. “After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z.”

Figure 1:  
Reverse funnel for communication



### Page 2: Additional information

The second page should provide background and evidence for project’s contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- **Activities:** Whereas the “contribution” section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the “activities” section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- **Lessons:** Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- **Evidence:** A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer “X led to Y, because of Z,” although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- **Domains and development strategy:** Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.