

OXFAM AMERICA

Learn more about the injustice of poverty, how Oxfam works, what we believe, what we are doing to right the wrong of poverty, and what you can do.



THE FACTS: WHAT'S WRONG

- Nearly 870 million people suffer from chronic hunger.
- A child dies from malnutrition or a preventable disease every nine seconds. That's 9,500 children a day.
- Worldwide, 2.5 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. Diseases from unsafe water and poor sanitation kill more people every year than all forms of violence, including war.
- In the past two decades, the number of natural disasters has quadrupled. Over the same period, the number of people affected has increased from approximately 174 million to an average of more than 250 million a year. Poor communities are hardest hit; it is the world's poorest people who are often forced to live in marginal areas and have few resources to withstand disasters.
- Although 66 percent of the world's work falls on women's shoulders, women earn only 10 percent of the world's income.

- Globally, up to 60 percent of women experience some form of physical or sexual abuse during their lives.
- Twice as many girls as boys cannot attend school. Among illiterate adults, there are twice as many women as men. Yet, an educated girl is likely to marry later and have fewer children, and the children of an educated mother are more likely to survive. Attending an extra year of primary school can increase a girl's eventual wages by 10 to 20 percent.

HOW DO WE FIX THE INJUSTICE OF POVERTY?

Oxfam's approach unlocks the power of people against poverty. When we help people exercise their human rights and gain the knowledge, skills, and information they need, they can become powerful agents of change. This accesses their potential and increases opportunities for their families and communities.

Oxfam's approach is about tackling the conditions that cause poverty in the first place, rather than distributing material

goods. We start by asking questions and challenging assumptions. What are the root causes of poverty? What can we do to change the power dynamics that keep people poor?

These questions inform the four categories into which our work falls:

- SAVING LIVES:** Oxfam assists the poorest communities when disaster strikes, but we are also working to ensure greater local resilience and the capacity of local responders and governments to deliver disaster response.
- PROGRAMS TO OVERCOME POVERTY AND INJUSTICE:** Oxfam invests in programs to help people improve their lives.
- CAMPAINING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE:** Oxfam works to change the laws and practices that keep people trapped in poverty.
- PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Because our goal is to eradicate the conditions that allow poverty to exist, we work to change the way people think about poverty.



EXAMPLES OF OXFAM'S WORK

OXFAM AMERICA WORKS NOT ONLY THROUGH OFFICES ON FIVE CONTINENTS, BUT ALSO AS PART OF THE OXFAM CONFEDERATION: 17 SISTER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING COLLABORATIVELY IN 94 COUNTRIES. THIS MEANS THAT WE'RE TACKLING POVERTY AROUND THE WORLD USING STRATEGIES THAT ARE DESIGNED IN AND FOR EACH DIFFERENT CONTEXT.



RENÉ FIGUEROA / OXFAM AMERICA



PABLO TOSCO / INTERMÓN OXFAM

STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS

Although the earthquake of November 2012 was the most powerful to strike Guatemala in decades, the capacity of Guatemalans to respond was also at its strongest. In Central America, Oxfam and our partners are helping communities map hazards, create evacuation plans, and learn the basics of protecting public health in disasters; we are training national partners to become experts at providing emergency water and sanitation; we are urging deeper government investment in reducing risks and in effective emergency response; and we are supporting a regional network that promotes disaster risk reduction. The relief and recovery efforts in the wake of the earthquake reflect a commitment by Oxfam and its allies to putting local people and their elected officials at the heart of humanitarian response.



EVA-Lotta Jansson / OXFAM AMERICA

CREATING A SAFETY NET FOR FARMERS

In December 2012, Oxfam announced an unprecedented turn of fortune for 12,200 farmers facing climate change in Ethiopia. As participants in a new weather index insurance initiative, each received a share of a \$322,722 payout when an adequate amount of rain failed to fall at the right time. It was the first-ever set of large payouts made directly to small-scale farmers in the country. In some cases, the payout was equal to a quarter of a farmer's annual income. The program—now expanding into Senegal—is part of Oxfam's Rural Resilience Initiative, or R4, which also helps farmers improve savings, gain access to credit, and strengthen land management.

BUILDING RESILIENCE

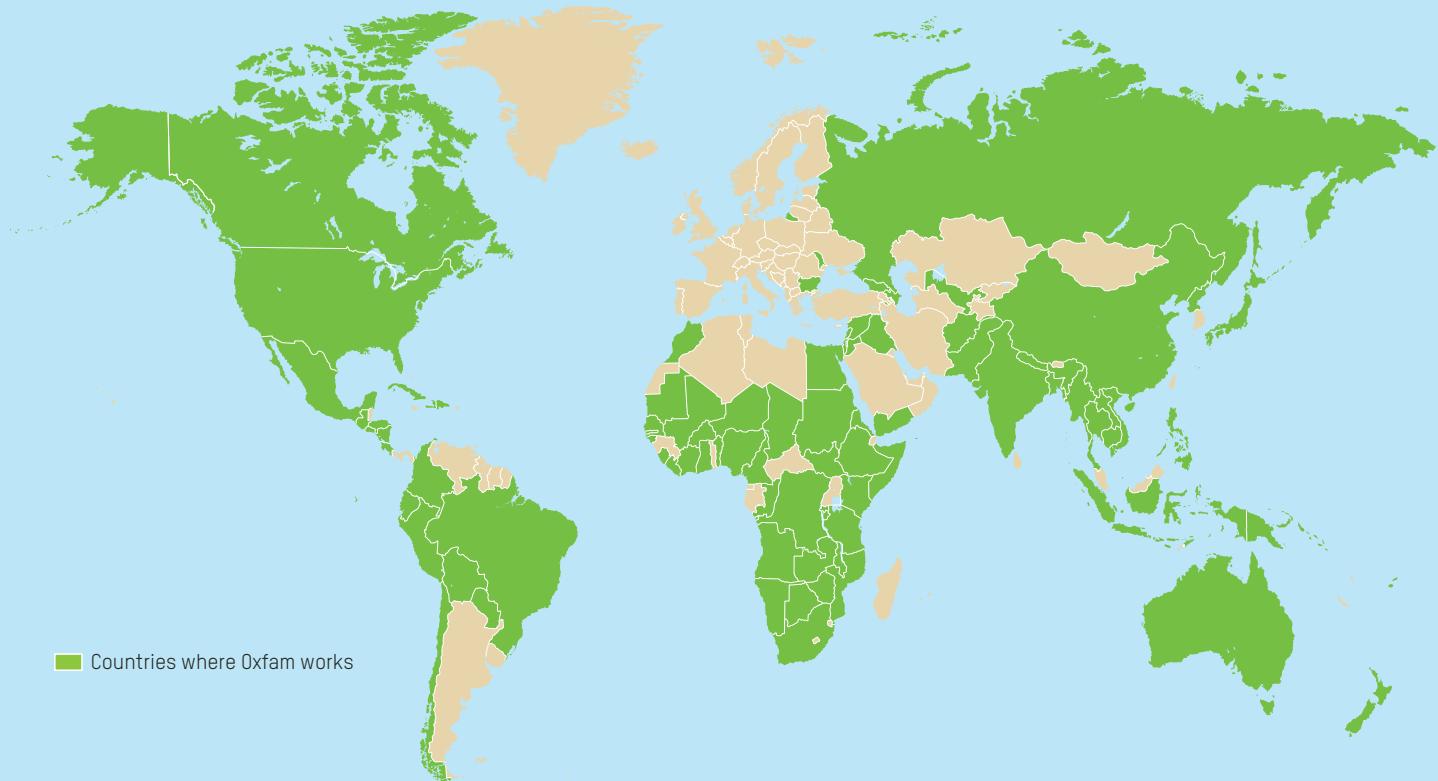
Resilience is key to surviving hardship. That's why, when a serious food shortage ensnared more than 18 million people across the Sahel region of West and Central Africa, Oxfam did more than provide food, water, and sanitation services over the course of 16 months. We helped people find a way to help themselves. All told, our programs reached 1.3 million people, providing many of them with cash distributions. These programs eased short-term needs for food and medical care and enabled families to return to their fields and invest in the next harvest. Farmers who were already participating in Oxfam's Saving for Change—a community savings and lending initiative—had resources in place to cushion them when the food crisis hit: access to credit provided a lifeline they could use to purchase livestock and goods to sell.



RENÉ FIGUEROA / OXFAM AMERICA

PREVENTING GENDER VIOLENCE

As in many parts of the world, women in Central America struggle against systemic discrimination and violence. Gender inequality is not a "women's problem." It requires a fundamental change in the beliefs and practices of all members of society. Oxfam's partners are training women leaders and elected officials, and campaigning for expanded legal protections for women. Working with the Ministry of Education in El Salvador, Oxfam educates youth about discrimination and how to prevent violence against women. In 2010, Oxfam expanded its gender violence prevention program to Guatemala, and now works in both countries to promote gender equity and awareness of the right of women to live without violence.

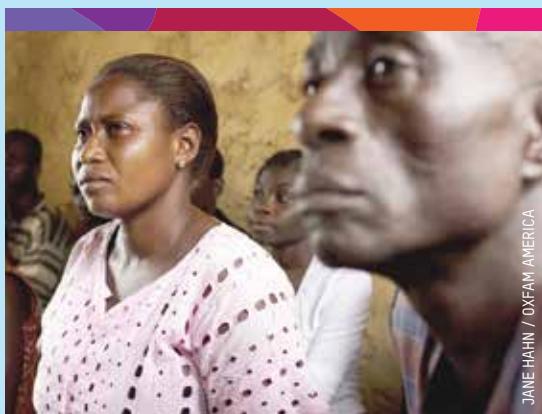


REFORMING AGRICULTURE

Oxfam's work to support rice farmers in Vietnam reached a milestone in 2011: more than one million growers using the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) on nearly 500,000 acres. Oxfam has been supporting farmer training with the nation's Ministry of Agriculture to promote SRI since 2006, as it helps the poorest farmers on the smallest farms to grow more rice (sometimes twice as much) using less seed, less water, and fewer expensive inputs like fertilizer and pesticides. Recognizing Oxfam's leadership in agricultural reform, in 2012 the Vietnamese government requested that Oxfam's associate country director, Le Minh, make formal recommendations for restructuring Vietnam's agricultural sector.

HELPING COMMUNITIES SURVIVE CLIMATE CHANGE

Communities in one of the world's most vulnerable regions are adapting to climate change with Oxfam's support. Indigenous alpaca herders in mountainous Espinar, Peru—where some villages perch at 14,000 feet above sea level—face water shortages caused by changes in rainfall and periods of extreme weather. Oxfam's local partners helped 22 communities become more resilient by building reservoirs and irrigation systems, replanting alpaca pastures with hardier grasses, and installing solar-heated walls to help homes withstand the cold. As the four-year program neared completion in 2013, Oxfam worked with local officials to raise awareness of climate change and to call for increased public investment to bring solutions to more communities.



WORKING GLOBALLY FOR TRANSPARENCY IN THE OIL, GAS, AND MINING INDUSTRIES

Too often, poor communities have no say in the extraction of resources from their land and receive little information about these projects. Using a range of tactics, Oxfam has been fighting for oil, gas, and mining revenue transparency—with major wins from Capitol Hill to Ghana. Through most of 2011 and 2012, Oxfam pushed in the US for implementation of requirements mandated in the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act. After Congress passed the act and President Obama signed it, we waited for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to release its new rules requiring companies to disclose payments to governments. With no movement by early 2012, Oxfam sued the SEC. Meanwhile, in Ghana, Oxfam has been working with 124 organizations—known collectively as the Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas—to ensure that new wealth from oil is used responsibly. By 2011, the group had persuaded Ghana's Parliament to pass a strong bill. A popular petition campaign in Ghana routed a late challenge to the bill. The petition was delivered to the speaker of Parliament, generating wide press coverage before the bill was passed in 2011.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Nearly one out of every three of us lives in poverty. But we see a future in which no one does.

The way we see it, poverty is solvable—a problem rooted in injustice.

Eliminate injustice and you can eliminate poverty. We're not saying it will be quick or easy, but it can be done. We won't patch a problem and then disappear. We won't stand by silently and watch others suffer.

Instead, we stand together against injustice. We recognize our responsibility to hold the powerful accountable. We see people's power to change their lives.

It disturbs us that in a world as rich as ours, many of us go hungry or don't have clean water. Many of us can't claim our human rights.

It's wrong.
And together we aim to do what's right.
Oxfam America. Right the wrong.

TOP THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OXFAM

WE BELIEVE THAT FIGHTING POVERTY IS ABOUT FIGHTING INJUSTICE.

Poverty often arises from the violation of people's basic rights. When someone is denied the right to own land, the right to education, a fair price for the crops they grow, or a fair wage for the work they do, the result is often poverty.

THE PROJECTS WE FUND ARE COMMUNITY DRIVEN.

Locally informed and locally driven solutions to poverty are the best solutions—the most sustainable and most appropriate. We provide local partners with grants for their work and help them build networks and effective organizations that will become self-sufficient. Most important, we work with our partners to learn; what they teach us about the best solutions to poverty is just as valuable as the funding and collaboration we provide.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT POVERTY PUTS PEOPLE IN HARM'S WAY.

Poverty makes people vulnerable to calamities—from armed conflicts to earthquakes. It is poverty that forces people to live in areas vulnerable to floods and landslides, even violence. We help people in these communities reduce their risks and get their governments to support their efforts.

WE HELP PEOPLE LEARN ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AND HOW TO DEFEND THEM.

By educating people about their rights, we help to build strong communities that compel governments and other institutions to deliver on their responsibilities. When citizens hold their governments accountable, they can change the systems that keep people trapped in poverty.

OXFAM TACKLES PROBLEMS AT MANY LEVELS; WE RECOGNIZE THAT LAWS, POLICIES, AND INSTITUTIONS HAVE AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON POVERTY.

Poor people are rarely consulted about major issues that shape their lives. We work to help people directly affected by laws and policies—like trade laws and foreign aid—to have a voice in their formulation. And we wage campaigns to persuade decision-makers to respect the views of poor communities.

WE WILL WORK TO EARN YOUR TRUST.

We are rated highly by leading independent evaluators, including CharityWatch. Oxfam America has the Better Business Bureau's highest rating for charitable organizations by meeting all 20 of its "Standards for Charity Accountability." In 2013, Oxfam received its sixth four-star rating from the nation's largest charity evaluator, Charity Navigator. This ranking places Oxfam among an elite group of charitable organizations nationally.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Each one of us has a critical part to play in the fight against poverty and injustice. No matter who you are, or how busy, you can make a difference.

Visit our website oxfamamerica.org to get involved. You can take actions online, help organize events, raise money, donate, or volunteer.

ABOVE: Harriet Nakabaale (pictured at her home) is an urban farmer in Kampala, Uganda. Her hard work and vision earned her a national award in Uganda for her exemplary service to her community through ensuring food security. *Ami Vitale / Oxfam America*

FRONT: Carmen Cortado and Walter and Sylvia Mercados tend to their crops on new *camellones* (raised beds of land). Oxfam worked through a local partner to build the *camellones* to protect against future flooding in Sobrenia, Bolivia. *Alejandro Chaskielberg / Oxfam*