



Oxfam
Exchange

SPRING 2002

OXFAM LAUNCHES TRADE CAMPAIGN

HOPE'S EDGE: THE NEXT DIET FOR
A SMALL PLANET

ANNUAL REPORT 2001 – SUMMARY



**MAKE
TRADE
FAIR**



Oxfam
America

OXFAM EXCHANGE
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creating lasting solutions to poverty,
hunger, and social injustice.*

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Trade Campaign Off and Running

On April 11, in a noise heard far beyond the borders of the Hong Kong harbor, Oxfam crushed a shipping container emblazoned with various trade injustices that Oxfam is fighting to abolish.

Amid cheers from a throng of enthusiastic supporters and international media, Make Trade Fair won the day.

Oxfam's trade campaign was launched.

Within hours of the Hong Kong debut, events were held in 25 cities including Brussels, Dublin, Geneva, Mexico City, San Salvador, and Washington, D.C. These events ranged from press conferences and symposiums to a rock concert in London's Trafalgar Square.

Oxfam's trade campaign seeks to unite concerned citizens around the world in calling for fair trade policies that will help move millions of people out of poverty.

Nobel Prize Professor Amartya Sen, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and musician and social activist Bono were among those who endorsed the campaign. "Oxfam has got it right," said Bono. "It wouldn't cost much to change the rules of trade so that poor countries can work their way out of poverty. But the world's leaders won't act unless they hear enough people telling them."

To find out more about the "Big Noise", read about our Make Trade Fair campaign on page 4 and visit our trade website at www.maketradefair.org.

Martin Sheen Endorses Fair Trade Coffee

Stay tuned for a new Public Service Announcement featuring "West Wing" celebrity Martin Sheen, as he enjoys a cup of Fair Trade Certified coffee and encourages consumers to buy the product and make a difference with every cup.

The Fair Trade certification enables participating farmers to bypass intermediaries and sell directly to importers at prices that give them a fair share of the profits.

The world coffee market fell to an all-time low of 45 cents a pound in 2001, resulting in widespread unemployment, migration, hunger and poverty in many regions of Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

For more information on Fair Trade Certified coffee and the Oxfam America Fair Trade Coffee campaign, visit www.oxfamamerica.org.

And watch for Martin Sheen on your local television station.

letters

We welcome reader's comments and ideas. Please include your name and address and mail to Editor, Oxfam Exchange, Oxfam America, 26 West Street, Boston, MA 02111-1206 USA. Send email to editor@oxfamamerica.org or fax to 617-728-2596. We will print as many letters as possible, but reserve the right to edit for space and clarity.

Oxfam America was chosen as one of America's top 100 U.S. charities by *Worth Magazine* in 2001. Oxfam was one of 21 organizations recognized in the category of "Relief and Development," all of which shared the following characteristics according to *Worth*:

"They work effectively with other groups on the scene, sharing information and resources. They focus tightly on their missions and don't venture into areas in which they lack expertise. And they involve local leaders in program design and implementation, which helps ensure lasting results after they move on."

Regarding your decision to put Senator Hillary Clinton on the cover . . . I fully support it. The former First Lady traveled the world presenting American values and spotlighting such issues as the role of microcredit to impoverished women in leading them to capitalist enterprise, improved living and educational standards, and healthier prospects for the future. It was, in part, because of her efforts that I became . . . a supporter of Oxfam. . . Thanks for your efforts!

Eddy Collins
NORMAN, OK

Your choice of Hillary Clinton to grace the cover of your publication compels me to stop supporting Oxfam. The involvement of Mrs. Clinton in so many crooked deals, her total lack of integrity, character, and lack of compassion, tells me the kind of people your organization respects. Do not send me any more literature.

Joe R. Stepp
AQUONE, NC

Many donors to Oxfam and readers of its newsletter were as happy to see Hillary and Chelsea Clinton on the cover as some readers were distressed. Calling her a "divisive character" does not make her one. . . I hope that readers and Oxfam supporters can keep their personal views from affecting the ongoing good work that Oxfam does all over the world. . . For my money, Oxfam does more for more people than most organizations.

Lois Pulliam
BEDFORD, MA

Congratulations on your new newsletter. I thought you would be interested in feedback from an

ancient fundraiser who wishes you well. "Everyone" with money is beginning to age and has declining eyesight; increase the font size. Stop printing color on color; this reduces legibility enormously and people start skipping. More highlights, summaries, sidebars; people tend to skim lightly.

Robert Houston
CHICAGO, IL

Editor's note: This comment and others like it have been well-received, and we hope the current issue is more readable. Many thanks for the feedback!

Having read some criticism of your new magazine, I am moved to disagree. Reading the first issue inspired me to send several letters about issues discussed, and I welcome . . . more information on the challenges Oxfam faces around the world. Thank you for helping to keep me an involved global citizen.

Peggy Cain
PHILADELPHIA, PA

I agree with the letter (regarding waste of resources in printing the magazine), feeling that the funds for *Oxfam Exchange* are not well spent.

Margaret Spier
STUYVESANT FALLS, NEW YORK

I suggest that (the reader) who complains about the waste of resources in sending donors the Oxfam magazine, give her copy to a co-worker, relative, neighbor, or the person standing in line at the supermarket. Spread the word about Oxfam, and the magazine will more than cover its expense. Being a development officer for a non-profit, I know the importance of communication.

Kathy Bates

El Salvador Earthquake

The devastating earthquakes that struck El Salvador in January and February, 2001, left nearly 2,000 people dead and more than 150,000 homeless. Rural communities were hardest hit – traditional adobe houses collapsed under the terrific force of the quake, and farmlands were devastated from the resulting mudslides.

El Salvador has more recently been crippled with a long and severe drought that has left more than 600,000 people dangerously short of food. Many people are still in temporary housing and have not been able to reestablish their income-earning capacity or plant necessary crops.

OXFAM IN EL SALVADOR

Initially, Oxfam brought in water, emergency shelter, and necessary survival supplies to earthquake victims. Together the Oxfams committed more than \$6 million to the crisis, and introduced an innovative plan to enable families to rebuild homes that can withstand most earthquakes. Oxfam has funded the construction of more than 2,700 progressive houses in El Salvador, allowing thousands of families to resume their lives and build a more secure future.

Afghanistan in Transition – Challenges of the Coming Months

Oxfam works with 12 partner organizations inside Afghanistan that manage a range of programs in 13 provinces, from food distribution and irrigation to de-mining and education. When the war in Afghanistan exacerbated a pre-existing food crisis, Oxfam began immediately to work with the UN World Food Program, using our established partner network to distribute food and supplies. In 2001, this network enabled us to deliver supplies and resources efficiently to over 25 percent of the total vulnerable population, helping more than 1,560,000 people.

In 2002, generous contributions from our supporters have enabled Oxfam to accelerate the work of these partner groups. They continue to bring food and relief supplies to isolated communities experiencing severe food shortages.

The security situation in Afghanistan remains uncertain. Considerable assistance from the international community will be required for some time to ensure a stable environment for the Afghan people. On-going instability and fighting complicate our work, and we join with many humanitarian groups in calling for international support for long-term rehabilitation efforts.





The POWER of CHOICE

by Jennifer R. Wilder

“I am going to make a choice about the way I eat.”

That’s hardly a radical idea, but in their recent book, *Hope’s Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet*, Anna and Frances Moore Lappé reintroduce us to the significance of choosing what we eat.

Frances Lappé first wrote about the importance of food 30 years ago in her bestselling *Diet for a Small Planet*. Today, she and her daughter, Anna, revisit the same issues, reporting on the declining status of diet and agriculture around the world. Despite the urgency of the problems, the Lappés offer hope that each of us can make small – but significant – choices that lead to control over our diets, the environment, and finally, the quality of our lives.

POWERLESSNESS AS ABSENCE OF CHOICE

Why, ask the Lappés, are we as a species creating a world that we abhor and cannot recognize? We are killing off the environment, allowing 32,000 children to die daily of hunger-related illness, and burning a hole in the ozone that is a doorway for cancer. We don’t own this world and feel powerless to change it.

The Lappés argue that the state of food production and consumption is basic to the problem. America’s high-fat, high-sugar diet is a killer. Weight-related illnesses absorb one in nine of our health care dollars, and our eating habits are connected to four out of ten cancers. Public schools serve fast foods and sell exclusive rights to soda companies, despite the crisis of obesity in children.

Agricultural production, controlled by a few corporations, is destroying our environment, with chemicals polluting waterways and soils depleted by single crop harvests. Worldwide demand for meat diverts almost half of all grains to feed livestock that return a fraction of those nutrients when eaten. Meanwhile, biodiversity is at great risk. Is this efficiency?

Many Americans are oblivious to the destructive nature of our agricultural methods. Wedded to the idea that mass production equals efficiency, we remain unaware of the real costs of food: massive agricultural subsidies, environmental damage, and health problems.

THE JOURNEY

Hope's Edge takes mother and daughter on a journey to 5 continents, encountering courageous and creative people who find alternative ways to organize themselves and their resources, make humane choices, and empower the poor.

Of course, it's not that simple. *Hope's Edge* is really about people taking risks. From Berkeley, California, to Brazil, India, Kenya, and France, the Lappés find communities controlling the source and quality of their food and taking bold steps to nurture their threatened natural resources. The remarkable, joyful message of this journey is that, despite the precarious status of society, teetering on "Hope's Edge," inspiring individuals and communities are taking charge and choosing change.

"Hunger is not caused by scarcity of food but by scarcity of democracy," says Frances Lappé. Control over agriculture and food is highly political. In Belo Horizonte, Brazil, malnutrition drove Adriana Aranha and other city leaders to drastic steps: "Food security – having enough food to feed yourself and your family – is a human right, a right by virtue of being a citizen," she explained. The city set up low-priced fresh produce markets and community and school gardens, while providing enriched flour for baking. The city's health and spirit have been transformed.

“ [P]overty is being invisible, it is being excluded from community. It is internal exile. ” — Muhammad Yunus

Women in some of the world's poorest communities, in Bangladesh and India, inspired the Lappés with their newfound sense of power and identity gained through action. Women of the Grameen Bank, founded in Bangladesh by Muhammad Yunus, are building their own businesses with small loans.

In India's Punjab region, farmers of The Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology are regaining control over their traditional crops, moving away from costly dependence on fertilizers and chemical pesticides. They are now moving to block international corporations from patenting seeds for crops that the farmers have grown for thousands of years.

In Nairobi, Kenya, tens of thousands of women in the Green Belt movement have planted 20 million trees to stop the deforestation of their land. They are regaining food security by relearning how to grow traditional crops that are adapted to the soil and climate. Green Belt members have been able "to unlearn helplessness" and to see themselves as citizens with rights to their environment.

The Lappés complete their journey in France where European groups support sustainable agriculture and reject

genetically modified foods with greater impact than in the U.S. Americans are only beginning to recognize how much control over our diets we have ceded to agricultural corporations.

Each of these chapters is an entry point to hope, where readers gain inspiration by example. By choosing what we eat, the Lappés point out, we can choose where our food comes from, which leads to who controls what is produced and whether the environment is damaged. Ultimately, like those in the many communities they visit, we can create a world that we do recognize, own, and treasure as humane, promising, and worthy of our grandchildren.

Unwilling to limit a book on food to the intellectual realm, the Lappés have laden *Hope's Edge* with a rich and tempting selection of healthy, international recipes. The reader is moved to place their book on the cookbook shelf after digesting the food for thought.

Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet is published by Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam, a member of Penguin Putnam, Inc, New York, 2002.

MAKE TRADE FAIR

by Jennifer R. Wilder

Trade is one of the most powerful forces linking people's lives around the world. It has generated enormous wealth and offers great potential for poverty reduction, but only if the wealth can be directed to that purpose.

But, many of the rules of international trade actually work against poor people. On April 11, Oxfam launched a worldwide campaign, **Make Trade Fair**, to unite thousands of voices of concerned citizens, bringing pressure to bear on governments, multinational

Notice the common problem: double standards that protect the powerful and take advantage of the poor.

corporations, powerful international organizations, and consumers to change the inequalities in world trade rules. The right changes could lift millions out of poverty. Some of the more unfair imbalances are reflected in the following facts:

- ▶ Wealthy countries maintain high tariffs and trade barriers against products from developing nations, yet through World Bank and International Monetary Fund rules, the poorer nations are required to drop those kinds of protections of their markets. This means:
- The poorest nations are prohibited from protecting farmers and food security needs, while wealthy countries spend \$1 billion a day subsidizing agriculture, the vast majority

of which goes to large corporations, not small farmers.

- For every \$1 given to poor countries in aid, they lose \$2 to wealthy countries because of unfair trade barriers against their exports. Greater access to markets for poor nations must be combined with policies that distribute the benefits of trade to the poorest members of the population.

Oxfam's message is clear – we are advocates for the poorest people. Change the rules of trade that deepen poverty. Develop rules that allow everyone – most especially the poor – to profit from trade and do not allow one group to take unfair advantage of another.

The issues are complex, but they all target problems that Oxfam and our partners identify in our daily work at the grassroots level. For example:

- ▶ Many Mexican farmers can no longer afford to raise corn because rules of trade force them to compete

with U.S. corporations that flood their markets with underpriced corn. Meanwhile, U.S. small farmers who raise corn cannot obtain a fair price either.

- ▶ Thousands of HIV/AIDS victims in Africa are unable to afford lifesaving medicines, because trade rules protect corporate drug patents that keep generic products out of poor countries
- ▶ Coffee prices have fallen 70 percent since 1997, yet coffee drinkers are not paying less. Poor coffee growers from Kenya to Nicaragua are suffering terribly. Many have left their farms to look for work in cities, their children are out of school, and many families are hungry. Most of the profits are going to a handful of large international coffee companies.
- ▶ People of the Windward Islands in the Caribbean Ocean can no longer make a living from bananas, because trade agreements with Europe force them to open their markets to foreign competition.



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MILLIONS OUT OF POVERTY.
ONLY ONE THING IS MISSING-

YOU.

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0870 010 1047*

► Around the world, intolerable labor conditions result from a trade model that values profits over people. In Columbia, women pick carnations for some of the world's biggest flower producers. In California they pick strawberries; in Florida they pick tomatoes. All share the same demands that they resume picking soon after pesticide spraying. Everywhere these women endure resulting health problems, from skin irritations to nausea and miscarriages.

► European countries have set a 10.9 percent tariff on shrimp imported from Vietnam, but the International Monetary Fund prohibits Vietnam from establishing any protections to their own domestic markets.

How can Oxfam change the world's trade rules?

We are not alone in this effort. Many like-minded organizations are collaborating with us. We will jointly achieve

our goals by activating millions of concerned people around the world, getting them to take action and be heard. We know our combined voices can force some very significant changes.

Why does Oxfam think it can make a difference? We already have:

► Last year, Oxfam and other NGOs managed to organize enough public outrage to stop powerful drug companies from enforcing strong patent rules. The companies had tried to sue the South African government when it decided to buy generic drugs for AIDS victims.

► Oxfam America is credited as one of the foremost voices to convince the Congress and the Clinton and Bush Administrations that debt relief would be a wise and humane step toward reducing poverty in seriously indebted countries. We know already that this money is making big inroads toward improving health and education in several countries.

► An Oxfam-funded report convinced government officials in Peru that they should review more closely the environmental and cultural impact of foreign-owned mines on indigenous communities.

The list goes on – and it will get a lot longer with the help of our supporters on the trade campaign.

We invite you to join us – go to www.maketradefair.com and sign up. You can even send an email to President Bush, urging him to support fair trade rules. Send your friends, relations, and colleagues to the site. Start educating yourself and others about the ways in which our government, powerful international institutions, and multinational corporations need to change their ways of working.

Add your voice and be counted.

WATER AND SANITATION

– The First Line of Defense

by Izaskun Gaviria

Every year, 3.4 million people, mostly children, die from water-related diseases like diarrhea, malaria, and trachoma. Approximately 80 percent of these diseases and over one-third of related deaths are caused by contaminated water.

In emergencies, with people crowded together in refugee camps, injuries, malnourishment, and stress make them vulnerable to disease. The first thing they need is water, but in unsanitary conditions, water can become a source of infection that spreads quickly.



The Oxfam Bucket was developed for use by people living in refugee camps. It contains crucial ingredients such as soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, candles, matches, cloth, and sanitary napkins.

For more than 20 years, Oxfam has represented the first line of defense in humanitarian disasters. Oxfam Great Britain has perfected a system that gets a team of engineers and educators on the scene immediately, providing clean water, digging latrines, and teaching people how to maintain sanitation in the difficult conditions of a refugee camp. Oxfam warehouses equipment to meet the needs of disasters around the world in a matter of hours.

According to Paul Sherlock, Oxfam Great Britain's senior technical adviser, "All the research shows us that we have to do sanitation and we have to support it with hygiene promotion. We now do not do water without sanitation and hygiene..."

OXFAM'S TOOLS

Oxfam's ten emergency engineering teams work with universities and companies, coordinating a unique inter-agency water and sanitation engineering network. The group has developed clear and easily executed sanitation guidelines and a hygiene training book that enable people on the scene to implement proven techniques rapidly.

WATER

Oxfam Great Britain has designed a collapsible water tank that will hold 70,000 liters – enough to provide daily water for 4,666 people. These "bladders" can be flown in and set up in a matter of hours, while truckloads of water are being driven to the scene.

In many emergencies, cultural realities have to be dealt with, such as customs related to toilet facilities for men and women. Oxfam has developed a number of flexible ways to adapt rapidly and sensitively to such problems.

HEALTH PROMOTION

Oxfam Great Britain discovered long ago that health promotion and education have to be part of saving lives in refugee camps. Disease spreads quickly and education is crucial to break the chain. Oxfam trains Health Promoters, themselves refugees, to teach others about hygiene practice. Each family is given an Oxfam bucket, scrubbing brush, and soap. A measuring jug is furnished for making oral-rehydration solution, which is part of a lifesaving treatment for those suffering from dehydration brought on by diarrhea.

Oxfam Great Britain's record of success with their emergency water and sanitation system has placed the team in high demand. Although managed by staff in Britain, funding for emergencies flows in from Oxfam supporters around the world. Oxfam America works closely with other Oxfams, supporting partners working in regions where emergencies demand both immediate relief and long-term rehabilitation work.

DROUGHT RELIEF IN SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA

by Kevin T. Pepper

South of the East African Rift Valley, the low, hot plains of Ethiopia play host to a hardened people who have accepted drought periods and subsequent famines as the natural cycle of their lives.

An unusually severe drought withered the Ethiopian lowlands from 1997 to 2000, leaving more than 60,000 people in imminent danger of starvation. Oxfam America's local partners, already established in southern Ethiopia, helped hundreds of communities to survive by developing sustainable water supply and food security systems.

In February, Oxfam America partner Action for Development (AFD) helped restore and protect a spring-fed water source in southern Ethiopia that was eroding and becoming unusable. A member of the community explained that his ancestor had discovered the spring 500 years ago. For centuries, traveling from as far as neighboring Kenya, herdsmen have depended on the water hole for their livelihoods.

With assistance from local community members, AFD designed a system in which each of the seven communities that depend on the watering hole have access to a watering trough that is fortified against erosion. Restored to its original condition, the spring serves over 6,000 cattle a day, and is being replicated in surrounding communities.

In 2000, Action for Development purchased 120 camels to aid in the transportation of water to several drought-prone regions of southern Ethiopia. Women and children, who face the brunt of drought and water shortages, were walking more than ten hours a day to haul drinking water back to their families. There were incidents of women giving birth under the shade of small trees while fetching water from distant ponds.

Today, one camel can haul more than enough water for a family. The men have assumed the task of handling the camels, freeing the women to provide care for their families and return to a variety of income-earning activities.

Adde Lokko Aaro, a mother of six children, lost more than four hundred goats and cattle in the drought and was on the verge of financial collapse. With three camels at the disposal of

her village, Adde's responsibilities have been drastically altered:

"[The camels] bring water enough for a number of households at a time," Adde Lokko said. "They [women] don't have to carry water on their

There were incidents of women giving birth under the shade of small trees while fetching water from distant ponds.

backs, our men have started getting involved in the work of fetching water, which is normally the responsibility of women... We are pleased to witness that our camels have shared our burden."

TURNING THE CORNER ON CONFLICT

Oxfam America's partners are coupling water relief and food security initiatives with aggressive peace building efforts in southern Ethiopia, supporting local organizations that use traditional methods to build and maintain peace. Competition for scarce resources has created conflict along traditional ethnic lines, hamstringing any efforts by the Borena people to build a secure future.

For the first time in ten years, ethnic Somalis and Borenas are making dramatic gains toward peace and reconciliation. The overwhelming majority of their disputes involve the ownership of natural resources, most critically rights to a scarce supply of water, reinforcing the dire need for Oxfam America's relief efforts.



ABERA TOLA

Left: Oxfam introduced camels to areas where livestock had died from the drought. Camels are more adapted to the dry climate and have been able to provide transport as well as do ploughing and other heavy work.

A PAINFUL RECONCILIATION AND STRUGGLE FOR DEVELOPMENT

In the Highlands of Peru, Indigenous Women Speak Out After Decades of Violence

by Kevin T. Pepper

Several years ago, in the highlands of Peru, a group of indigenous women were walking a well-traveled mountain path on their way to the nearest town, Yauli. After decades of suffering hardships at the hands of government and rebel forces, the women had decided to speak with local government officials, seeking recognition and compensation for their losses.

They were turned back by government soldiers, positioned in the hills flanking the trail, pointing their guns at the women and sending an unmistakable message.

Their voices would not be heard.

In the 1980s, a bloody and protracted civil conflict erupted in Peru's major cities and rural highlands. The Shining Path guerilla group, pushing radical social change through armed action, entered into violent conflict with the Peruvian authorities. In response, the government launched a counter-insurgency campaign to root out the rebels and their sympathizers.

In a political climate that led to the deaths of over 30,000 people, indigenous communities were left vulnerable to abuses from both sides. Their men were recruited by the scores to fight for either the government or the rebels, while their families were left to fend for themselves. Those men who escaped persecution were left deeply scarred, traumatized by the scope of violence and tragedy.

The conflict left communities like the highland villages of Huancavelica severely impoverished, without political influence to voice an appeal for governmental recognition of their losses, or compensation for the hardships they had suffered.

In 2001, Oxfam America initiated a new partnership with the Project Counseling Service (PCS), a group of women in Peru's central highlands. PCS supports the FEMUCAY federation, over 4,000 peasant women, many of whom are widows, who have banded together under a common vision to overcome "La Violencia," and provide for their families and communities in the wake of debilitating violence.

This partnership seeks to assist PCS and the women of FEMUCAY in providing for the most basic needs of the Yauli communities – food security, low-tech irrigation, and education. Irrigation systems have enabled women to plant potatoes in fertile soil, water their sheep and collect wool to raise their household income. PCS is also encouraging the women to know and exercise their rights, reaffirm their social and cultural identity, and participate in training workshops and exchanges that will train them for the obstacles they may face.

Perhaps most significantly, the leaders of FEMUCAY are effectively engaging in the political arena, at the local and



THEA GELSPAN/OXFAM AMERICA

The leaders of FEMUCAY gather regularly to learn how to manage their organization, and fight for political participation.

national level. These women have achieved such a high level of influence that the mayor of Yauli seeks their support before announcing important political decisions. FEMUCAY is also participating in the recently launched Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a formal investigation into the rights and abuses of indigenous communities by the Peruvian government and guerilla forces during the civil war.

FEMUCAY is emerging as a group of influence and stature in highland Peru, allowing indigenous women to gain a public voice in a culture that has traditionally barred them from participation. In a country where the domestic, social, and political realm is dominated by wealthy men in urban areas, a rural women's movement of such magnitude and vision is more than a step forward – it is revolutionary.

Landmark Fair Trade Victory at Villanova

After a hard fought student campaign petitioning and educating the public, Villanova Dining Services recently agreed to make Fair Trade Certified coffee the only coffee available in all student dining halls.

The movement to push Fair Trade Certified coffee at Villanova was started over a year ago by a small group of students that included Oxfam America CHANGE leaders. The victory is not restricted to the campus, but has had a marked impact on the business practices of the third largest coffee company in the world. Sara Lee introduced a line of Fair Trade Certified coffee as a result of student demand at Villanova and UCLA.

Villanova students have presented their community with the opportunity to engage in a worthwhile global cause, while contributing to the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of small farmers in over 21 countries throughout Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

For more information about Fair Trade Coffee, visit our website at www.oxfamamerica.org/news/art700.html.

CHANGE Leaders Prominent at Campus Outreach Conference

Oxfam America and its student leadership CHANGE Initiative were prominent at the 2002 Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL) National Conference at Moorehouse College in Atlanta last March. Thirty CHANGE Leaders participated in the conference, delivering workshops on campaigns and issues in which they are active on their campuses. Several CHANGE Leaders delivered many speeches, including the keynote student address at the opening ceremony by Najat Elsayed of the University of Houston. CHANGE Leaders and Oxfam staff presented 18 workshops and participated in several other panel discussions and helped local area students stage a Hunger Banquet at the Greater Atlanta Food Bank.

For more information about the CHANGE program, go to our website at www.oxfamamerica.org/art1532.html.

National Boycott of Taco Bell

Oxfam Partner, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Raises Taco Bell Boycott to National Level

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers conducted a national tour in an effort to win support for better wages for Florida's tomato pickers. The Taco Bell Truth Tour, a caravan of migrant workers, activists, and college students, traveled across the U.S. raising awareness about sweatshop conditions in the nation's tomato fields and the role of Taco Bell in continuing these conditions.

Taco Bell and its parent company, Tricon Global Restaurants, Inc., have enormous market power and are the primary destination for the majority of the tomatoes picked in Florida. The Coalition asks Taco Bell to demand fair wages and working standards for those who pick the tomatoes.

For more information regarding the Taco Bell boycott, check out the CIW web site at www.ciw-online.org/tz_site-revision/home/home.html, or contact The Coalition of Immokalee Workers at 941-821-5481 or 941-285-2368.



Jonathan Gaines, a student at Moorehouse College and a participant in the Oxfam CHANGE Initiative, spoke at the Oxfam hunger banquet held at the Greater Atlanta Food Bank.

TRAGEDY ON THE SE SAN RIVER

River Communities in Cambodia Demand An Investigation

by Kevin T. Pepper

In March of 2000, five people drowned in sudden floods of water that poured down the Se San River into northern Cambodia, washing away people, crops, homes, and livestock. The torrents were unleashed without warning by the Yali Falls dam, a \$1 billion hydroelectric scheme and the second largest dam in Vietnam.

In response, and as part of our commitment to sustainable development in the Mekong River Basin, Oxfam initiated the Se San Protection Network to help local partners in Cambodia document the impact of the Yali Falls dam on downstream communities. The investigation will lend authority to Oxfam's efforts to get the Vietnamese government to compensate villagers whose lives have been devastated, and it will force decision makers to consider the rights of these communities as they move forward with similar hydropower projects.

but no efforts were made to examine possible impacts on communities in Cambodia – leaving over 10,000 people vulnerable to downstream changes in water quality and flow.

In addition to the deaths attributed to the water fluctuations, a report conducted by the local Fisheries

Department in collaboration with Oxfam America partner Non-Timber

Forest Products raised concern about “a succession of very serious occurrences”: a significant sediment increase in the Se San River, with potential health-related problems; a dramatic decline in the river's fish population; and crops, boats, fishing nets, and other equipment being swept away by irregular floods.

The Yali Falls dam was built in 1993, the first of several dams scheduled for construction on the Se San River. Classified as a storage-type hydroelectric dam, Yali Falls stores water during the high-flow rainy season to augment water available during the low-flow dry season. When operated properly, these dams serve as large renewable resource bases, clean energy sources, and low-cost electricity generators. Dam operators release water from the reservoir when they are assured that the reservoir will be refilled, ideally in pre-planned increments with negligible impacts on downstream communities.

The Yali Falls incidents suggest erratic water release patterns from the dam. These flash floods have claimed human lives, destroyed livestock for thousands, forced entire communities to resettle to higher ground, and have possibly affected in more subtle ways the river and those that depend on it.

[F]lash floods have claimed human lives, destroyed livestock for thousands, forced entire communities to resettle to higher ground...

According to Global Village Engineers, a team of volunteer environmental engineers recruited by Oxfam America to investigate the Yali Falls incidents, erratic changes in the dam's “flow regime” can break loose soil from the riverbed and release contaminants into the river. People living along the river reported a rapid decline in health after the introduction of the dam, both for themselves and their livestock, ranging from stomach aches and respiratory problems to a dramatic increase in deaths from potentially related diseases.

Oxfam is funding several projects to ensure that the threats to Cambodians affected by these incidents are recognized and addressed. Without the research that our partners are conducting, these communities would not have the evidence they need to demand compensation for their losses and ensure protection from future threats to their communities.



OXFAM AMERICA/CAMBODIA

An assessment of the environmental impact on the Vietnamese side of the border took place prior to the construction of the Yali Falls dam,

envision a world in which
all people shall one day
know freedom

OXFAM AMERICA

2001 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



Oxfam
America

Dear Friends of Oxfam America:

We write to you at an extraordinary time in history, when escalating conflicts that seem ready to reel out of control hold the world in thrall. Not surprisingly, many people –from donors to statesmen – turn to Oxfam America for counsel and insight. People recognize the connection between our struggle against poverty, hunger, and injustice and the anger voiced against U.S. power and policy, and they look to Oxfam for guidance about how to make the world a more balanced, equitable, and safe place.

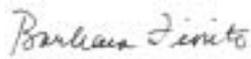
At Oxfam, we start with the moral imperative that all people have the right to lead lives of dignity, equal opportunity, and fair treatment. We offer pragmatic solutions to inequities, based on correcting wrongs that deny people's basic rights. We recommend policy changes leading to stable and secure patterns of global governance, where no one is denied a fair share of prosperity.

As we embark on an ambitious agenda for 2002, we count on you, our supporters, to be there – not only with your checkbooks, but also with your voices. We invite you to participate in our policy change efforts by signing up on our website (www.oxfamamerica.org) and joining our action alerts and campaign appeals. We look forward to hearing from you frequently. Together we have much to accomplish and we thank you deeply for making our work possible.

Sincerely,



Raymond C. Offenheiser
President



Barbara D. Fiorito
Chair



CATHERINE URSILLO

Oxfam America 2001

For more than 30 years, Oxfam America has sought lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice around the world. We maintain that human rights cannot be compromised, and political, social, and economic policies must be governed by humanitarian values.

OXFAM 2001 – UNDERSTANDING UNIVERSAL RIGHTS

In developing countries around the world, Oxfam supports people trying to meet basic needs for safety, food, housing, and a way to make a living. For people in wealthy nations, these rights are taken for granted. The poor can take nothing for granted.

At Oxfam, we see a commitment to basic rights as essential to relieving poverty. These rights include:

- Access to resources to make a living;
- Participation in government;
- Access to basic education;
- Freedom from discrimination and exploitation;
- Protection from conflict and relief assistance after a natural disaster.

GRASSROOTS PROGRESS

Permanent progress comes to people who create solutions for themselves and can carry them into the future. Oxfam believes in helping communities to help themselves. By supporting local leaders and organizations that are helping poor people, we add value and strength that grows and stays in the community. We emphasize the importance of women's rights and elevating their roles in communities. Educated women in leadership roles become crucial advocates for education, health care, and expanded equity within communities.

Some of the tools we use include:

- Access to loans – Through our Community Development Program, Oxfam has provided credit to thousands of people who have been able to use it to start small businesses. With initial loans of as little as \$25, Vietnamese women are breeding pigs or raising shrimp and saving enough to buy new homes and educate their children.
- Access to natural resources – Most of the world's poorest people have no title to land, water resources, and fishing or farming rights. Oxfam works to ensure people's rights to resources, and we provide training in their sustainable management. Families depending on dwindling fish supplies in Cambodia are learning how to build efficient organic fish farms, eliminate pollutants, and market their fish to expand their incomes as well as their diets.
- Advocacy for political participation – Millions of the world's poorest are locked out of the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Oxfam supports local groups that strive to assert the political rights of poor people. In Zimbabwe, for example, our partners have been instrumental in organizing thousands of women who have mobilized to take part in elections and call for changes in the law and constitution to protect their rights. They are having a profound effect.

CHRIS HUFSTADER/OXFAM AMERICA



EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

The Oxfam promise of long-term rehabilitation in the wake of a disaster means that our funding and partner support remains in communities to help rebuild homes, schools, and means of re-establishing ways of making a living. Our focus is on strengthening communities so that they will be better able to sustain any future natural catastrophes.

In 2001, massive earthquakes in El Salvador, India, and Peru challenged Oxfam workers around the globe. The year ended with the threat of famine in Afghanistan, which was barely averted. Our supporters were extraordinarily generous in their contributions to this work, which continues today and will go on into the future.

POLICY CHANGE AND EDUCATION

True progress in fighting world poverty requires major changes in economic, political, and social policies. In 2001, Oxfam contributed significantly to the campaign to change World Trade Organization rules that place patents between the poorest nations and access to life-saving drugs. We participated throughout the year in the widespread campaign to block Fast Track legislation that would allow the president to negotiate trade agreements without Congressional oversight.

The other half of changing public policy is harnessing public opinion and mobilizing support for change. Our Fast for a World Harvest program teaches about world hunger and invites people to learn about how it can be reduced. Oxfam's CHANGE Initiative, now in its third year, is establishing a strong Oxfam presence on college campuses across the U.S., training students to become leaders in efforts to bring about social change.



In 2001, Oxfam America revenues exceeded \$29.2 million, up from \$27.3 million in 2000. We give special thanks to our many generous supporters for their commitment to Oxfam's programs to reduce global poverty and injustice.

Financial Statements Fiscal Year 2001

(11/1/00 to 10/31/01)

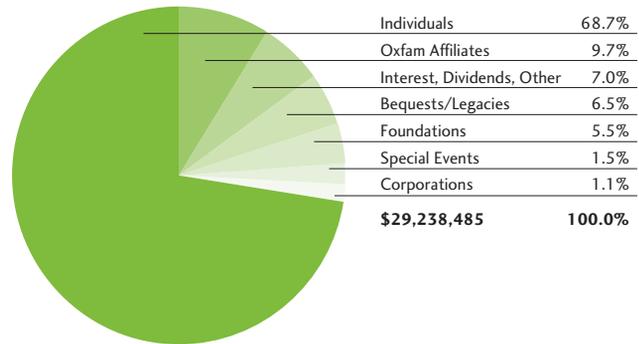
Growing revenues allowed program expenditures to increase substantially. A total of \$19.6 million was spent on global poverty reduction programs. \$16.4 million of that total went to our fieldwork around the world, of which \$5 million lent vital support to humanitarian emergencies, especially the two earthquakes in El Salvador and the February earthquake in Gujarat, India. We spent \$3.2 million on public education and policy change programs that influenced decision makers to improve policies that keep people poor.

This year we benefited from increased revenues from bequests and legacies, as well as significant gifts restricted for programs that extend into future years. As a result, we have been able to strengthen our longer term financial and program stability by adding over \$3.9 million to our reserve fund for future programs. These funds ensure continuity of programming during years of revenue shortfall, and allow us to respond quickly during emergencies and to take advantage of unique program opportunities.

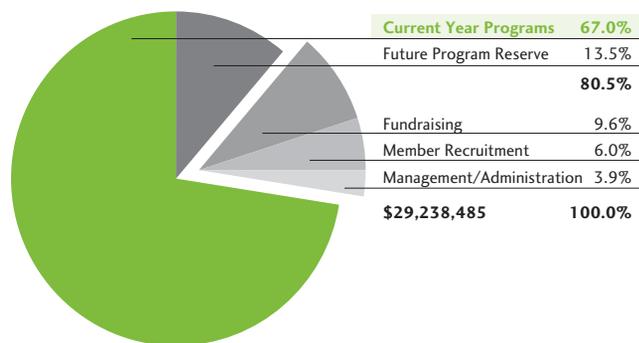
Oxfam America does not accept U.S. government funds, which allows us absolute independence in our program decisions. However, it makes it more difficult to maintain low fundraising costs, because private funds are generally far more expensive to raise. We are proud that we spent only 15.6 percent of revenues in combined fundraising and member recruitment efforts. Only 3.9 percent of funds raised were spent on administration, while 80.6 percent were allocated to current and future programs.

We will continue to execute all programs in the most cost-effective manner to achieve the greatest possible impact.

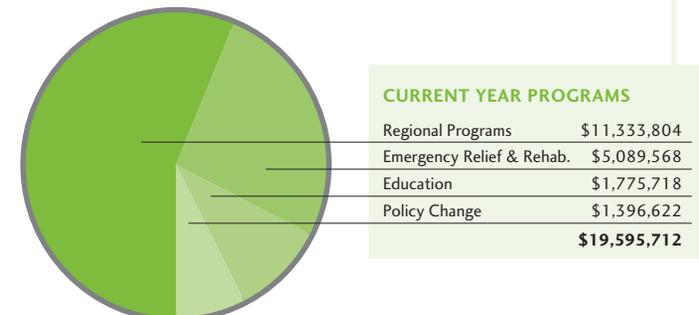
SOURCES OF FUNDS



USES OF FUNDS



CURRENT YEAR PROGRAMS



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

November 1, 2000 - October 31, 2001

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2001	Total 2000
REVENUE, GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT					
Contributions	\$ 17,795,262	\$ 9,406,483	–	\$ 27,201,745	\$ 25,919,475
Rental Income	126,723	–	–	126,723	224,224
Investment Income	832,611	276,229	–	1,108,840	1,065,997
Realized Gains on Investments	–	51,368	–	51,368	115,558
Unrealized Gains on Investments	392,160	219,704	–	611,864	(52,508)
Other	137,945	–	–	137,945	50,050
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	9,742,873	(9,742,873)	–	–	–
Total Revenue	\$ 29,027,574	\$ 210,911		\$ 29,238,485	\$ 27,322,796
EXPENSES:					
PROGRAMS:					
Regional and Emergency Programs	16,423,372	–	–	16,423,372	14,483,720
Education	1,775,718	–	–	1,775,718	1,450,910
Policy Change	1,396,622	–	–	1,396,622	1,147,320
Total Program Expenses	19,595,712			19,595,712	17,081,950
SUPPORTING SERVICES:					
Management / Administration	959,404	–	–	959,404	966,784
Fundraising / Member Recruitment	4,560,912	–	–	4,560,912	3,878,322
Total Supporting Services	5,520,316			5,520,316	4,845,106
TENANT SERVICES:					
	166,514	–	–	166,514	134,124
Total Expenses	25,282,542			25,282,542	22,061,180
Change in Net Assets	3,745,032	210,911	–	3,955,943	5,261,616
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	10,821,866	11,372,579	1,567,607	23,762,052	18,500,436
Net Assets, End of Year	14,566,898	11,583,490	1,567,607	27,717,995	23,762,052

GIVING APPRECIATED SECURITIES

If you are planning a gift to Oxfam America, consider giving appreciated assets instead of cash. By giving the stocks outright to Oxfam, you will get an income tax deduction for their current value, and you will pay no capital gains taxes if you have owned them for more than 12 months. You can save in taxes while giving Oxfam a significant contribution.

Note: The Oxfam America brokerage account numbers have changed for 2002.

To find out more about donating securities, please contact Arlene Holtzman at 800-77-OXFAM (800-776-9326) or email: aholtzman@oxfamamerica.org.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of October 31, 2001

	Total 2001	Total 2000
ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	9,356,581	13,869,051
Investments	14,876,241	6,477,547
Accounts receivable	90,094	69,538
Pledges receivable	3,150,202	3,573,506
Fixed Assets - net	3,288,737	3,265,712
Other Assets	813,854	706,600
Total assets	31,575,709	27,961,954
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	306,952	458,506
Grants payable	1,964,655	2,237,139
Accrued wages	450,326	381,656
Other Liabilities	1,135,781	1,122,601
Total liabilities	3,857,714	4,199,902
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	14,566,898	10,821,866
Temporarily restricted	11,583,490	11,372,579
Permanently restricted	1,567,607	1,567,607
Total Net Assets:	27,717,995	23,762,052
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	31,575,709	27,961,954

Oxfam America Launches New Website

Oxfam America has recently launched a new and dynamic website that promises to make the diversity and breadth of our development, advocacy, and educational work come alive for a far larger audience. The new site is highly searchable, offering visitors options from filtering their visits according to specific topics, to key word or advanced topic searches. We hope these new features will be an added benefit for our website visitors.

Visit our new site at www.oxfamamerica.org. And let us know what you think!



Help fight hunger and poverty without ever writing another check!

Help make a difference in the fight against poverty through the Oxfam Pledge Partner program, with a convenient monthly donation made on your credit card.

With your automatic monthly donation, you will help provide the steady stream of support Oxfam needs to maintain our long-term commitment to poor communities.

To join us, please use the envelope provided in this issue of the *Exchange*. In it, you will find a brief form to fill out, authorizing Oxfam to start each of your monthly credit card gifts. Once you've joined, you'll see why so many of Oxfam America's supporters have chosen this convenient and efficient way to help continue our vital life-changing work.

Oxfam Pledge Partner Program
800-77-OXFAM
pledge@oxfamamerica.org



Oxfam
America

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