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SPRING 2003

ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION AND THE MAYAN DEFENSE

CLEARING LANDMINES IN AFGHANISTAN

COMMUNITY RADIO BREATHES LIFE INTO DEMOCRACY IN SENEGAL

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Oxfam America

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COVER PHOTO: KEVIN PEPPER/OXFAM AMERICA

right now

Iraq—A Historic Shift in Humanitarian Relief Work

For more than a century, the international community has united under a moral understanding that innocent men, women, and children caught up in crises have a right to protection, aid, and rehabilitation.

A decision to place humanitarian relief work in Iraq in the hands of the US government, shunning a pivotal role for the United Nations, represents a revolutionary change in well-established international protocols. The international community has built a viable and strong institution in the UN, capable of implementing and overseeing massive humanitarian relief efforts efficiently. We all draw strength from this institution that embodies the highest values of collaboration and peace-building.

Among the many strong rationales for UN control and supervision of international relief work are:

- **The paramount importance of legitimacy**—Unilateral control of humanitarian aid by the US could be interpreted as self-serving. A multilateral effort acknowledges the values and goals of the Arab world, as well as those of other nations and, most importantly, the Iraqi people.
- **Sharing the economic burden makes sense to American taxpayers**—Under UN leadership, humanitarian relief costs are shared by the broader international community. Americans still do not know how much it will cost to independently pay for Iraq's recovery.
- **The value of expertise**—The military provides necessary security and humanitarian aid in the heat of combat. But the UN and NGOs have decades of experience delivering humanitarian aid, and they understand the importance of cultural context as they carry out their work. The US military is not trained in this area. In Afghanistan, they dropped meals out of airplanes that were confused with land mines by people on the ground.
- **With expertise comes cost-effectiveness**—Years of experience have enabled Oxfam and other NGOs to develop lean and efficient systems that adapt readily to differing conditions. In Afghanistan, the ready-to-eat meals dropped by government planes cost $7.50/kilo. The UN delivered food for 20 cents a kilo, and the food was more culturally appropriate for Afghan people.
- **Impartiality is a cardinal principle of effective humanitarian assistance**—Occupying forces face popular resentment and anger. When the military change from combatants to aid workers, they put relief workers at risk. Relief organizations depend on their reputation for impartiality, and they deliberately remain removed from governments and alignments so they can continue to carry out their work safely.

Oxfam is greatly concerned by the possibility that the military supervision of humanitarian aid in Iraq is overthrowing a century of established practice and agreements reached through the UN, the Geneva Conventions, and International Humanitarian Law. Unless this shift is resisted, it could seriously undermine humanitarian work for decades to come.

letters

Your program seems to be drifting more and more into the politics of the countries whose people you are trying to help. My personal preference is to support those programs that appear to be confining their efforts to improving their recipients' lives through economic aid, such as micro-loan and micro-enterprise education support…Your challenge, and admittedly it's a big one, is to find a way to divorce economics from politics. If you can't divorce the two completely, then politics should be limited to education, and let the people decide for themselves what to make of it.

Richard G. Wallenhorst
LYNCHBURG, VA

Oxfam and other similar organizations have done worlds of good for some people...But the reason Oxfam and others will fail and are failing is that since WWII, entirely new forces are at work. Weapons of mass destruction, environmental damage which eventually can and will make food impossible to produce, overpopulation… There are so many problems, that a person or organization or government can concentrate on one or two and be absolutely right—yet the destruction of the world goes on.

John H. Palm
FORT STOCKTON, TX

I just wanted to let everybody at Oxfam know what an amazing and vital organization I think you are part of. My friends and I recently threw a party in which all of the proceeds were donated to Oxfam America. It was an opportunity for people to have fun and learn more about your programs. We raised $127, which will be given through your website. Thank you for all your hard work and the contributions you are making to the global community.

Chris Cambra
KITTERY POINT, ME

You correctly observe that hunger is caused not by a shortage of food, but by a misdistribution of the purchasing power to buy food. The underlying cause of the problem is that food and the other necessities of life are distributed almost entirely through a market economy, where people can get only what they can afford to buy.

The problem of hunger would be solved if Article 25 of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights [which asserts every person's right "to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family" were effectively implemented, and the necessities of life—food, clothing, housing, medical care—were distributed as universal human rights rather than as market commodities.

Marvin Miller
NEWTON, MA

WRITE TO US!

We welcome readers' comments and ideas. Please include your name and address and mail to:

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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.*

Bad Weather and Food Crisis Challenge Africa

Irregular rains, the HIV/AIDS crisis, bad economic policies, and food supply deficits have created an unprecedented food crisis in several areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

In southern Africa, it is the end of the growing season, and rainfall patterns are erratic. Zimbabwe and southern Zambia are undergoing severe drought, while previously dry areas of Mozambique are flooding after typhoons and heavy rains. Although some regions forecast improved grain production this year, others—including Lesotho, Malawi, and Swaziland—are not as optimistic. An estimated seven million people in Zimbabwe will need food assistance this year. Zambia may need to assist as many as three million. Altogether, as many as 13 million people throughout the region may need food aid, according to World Food Program estimates.

To the north, in Ethiopia, the crash in coffee bean prices has drastically reduced income in rural areas. Spotty rainfall patterns allow some areas to produce food, while others face crop failures. In the central Rift Valley, many communities have lost 100 percent of their crops. Farmers are selling their livestock, tools, and other assets for food money; others are abandoning their farms and moving away in search of wage jobs. This makes it very difficult for farmers to recover their ability to grow their own food when the rains come back. The World Food Program estimates that as many as 14 million people in Ethiopia could require food aid this year.

OXFAM'S RESPONSE

Oxfam America is taking several actions to address these emergencies:

- **Supporting farmers**—Oxfam is funding innovative local organizations that are helping farmers improve agricultural production in an arid climate. With the right kind of seeds, irrigation systems, and alternative sources of income, farmers can survive the current food crisis without selling all their livestock and tools.
- **Providing food relief**—Oxfam is helping organizations provide food relief for communities in dire circumstances, prioritizing assistance for child- and female-headed households affected by HIV/AIDS. This is the first major food crisis where we are witnessing how the HIV/AIDS epidemic can deeply worsen an already critical set of problems. AIDS deaths are robbing communities of their most productive members, orphaning children, and forcing grandparents and others to provide for extended families.
- **Influencing humanitarian assistance**—Oxfam is actively encouraging governments and the United Nations to provide humanitarian assistance—including food, farming tools, irrigation equipment, and seeds—to save as many lives as possible. Working with a coalition of humanitarian organizations, Oxfam's Washington, DC staff urged the US government to commit an extra $600 million for emergency food assistance for this year. We are preparing to lead a Congressional delegation to Ethiopia in May.

CYNTHIA PHOEL/OXFAM AMERICA

MICHAEL ROZYNE: THIS IS RED TOMATO

by Cynthia Phoel

Michael Rozyne is the founder and Managing Director of Oxfam partner, Red Tomato. Oxfam supports Red Tomato's efforts to preserve a viable livelihood for small farmers. For more on our work with Red Tomato, visit www.oxfamamerica.org/redtomato.

When's the last time you bit into a juicy, ripe, red tomato, a real summer tomato, the kind that drips down to your elbow but tastes so great, who cares? Unless you grow your own, it's probably been a while.

When's the last time a small-farm family called it quits and had to sell their land for development? Probably yesterday or the day before.

There's no coincidence here. The loss of truly fresh fruits and vegetables, grown for their taste, and the loss of farmland and small-scale farmers are two faces of the same coin.

This is Red Tomato's pitch: if we lose that family farm, we lose that juicy tomato. As small farmers are every day throwing in the trowel, the stakes are devastatingly clear.

Reversing this trend is another story—the story of Massachusetts-based Red Tomato, a non-profit committed to the philosophy of fair trade. In five short years, this spry organization has secured produce slots in Whole Foods Market, Stop & Shop, and other major northeast food markets, helping small farmers market and distribute their produce.

Red Tomato founder, Michael Rozyne, has been in the fair trade business for 20 years—first with Northeast Cooperatives, a natural food distributor, and then as co-founder of Equal Exchange, a pioneering fair trade coffee cooperative. This is a guy who's dedicated to confronting the problems small farmers face in today's economy.

red tomato
Fresh produce. Fresh thinking.

IT'S ABOUT THE GROWER AND THE PRODUCT

Keeping disadvantaged farmers in the supply chain is fundamental to Rozyne's mission. For partners, Rozyne handpicks small growers, minority growers, and growers without access to capital. He also chooses "growers who are taking responsibility for what they put into the soil, water, and air."

Nevertheless, Rozyne's interest is as much about tomatoes as it is about the growers. "Some of the most innovative growers capable of some of the highest quality products are going to be the small family farmers who run their own shindig," Rozyne says. "In the case of a vegetable grower who may raise 30 to 100 varieties, every single crop is like a small university…that knowledge base is what it takes to do a good job growing food."

Rozyne offers other reasons to want small farmers around—to preserve open land in our communities and for their contributions to cultural identity. "The products that are from New England…maple syrup and cranberries and apples and seafood are part of what it means to be in this place." Food safety is another consideration. "I think actually it will be a couple of food scares in the next 20 years that will do as much as anything to increase public awareness."

IT ALL DEPENDS UPON AWARENESS

"We're really trying to get people to say that, for about two to three months, the best apples on the planet are coming from [local orchards]. Not from New Zealand. Not from Washington. Not from California. And if we can get them to you, we've also got some new varieties and a huge range of tastes."

"If we can get them to you" is a large part of the struggle. Rozyne emphasizes it's no small feat "to keep the peach on the tree as long as possible, off at the right moment, into cold storage, through distribution, and to the market so that it survives transportation and still brings out the flavors of an amazing tree-ripened peach." Heightened food industry standards for turnaround time, service level, and quality consistency intensify this feat.

The fact is, large agribusinesses are better equipped to meet logistical demands of nationwide supermarket chains that value consistency over taste. Yet too often, what we get is a dry, tasteless tomato.

Rozyne is creating systems and networks to help farmers access mainstream markets. Not only does he help farmers understand market demands, but he also forges critical relationships. In 1999, Rozyne joined forces with another Oxfam partner, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, to market watermelons in northeast grocery stores—garnering critical market access for southern minority farmers and enabling Red Tomato to market watermelons before local varieties were ready. The partnership was a winner for both organizations, opening up a promising future market for the southern farmers and giving Red Tomato a strong new product line out of season.

Still, the challenges facing farmers are so great that Rozyne believes consumers must get involved. "I think it's going to take consumer awareness, sensitivity, and desire…consumers who say, 'I want that product.' Or, 'I want this open space in my community.'"

To this end, Rozyne brands Red Tomato produce with farmers' names and the image of a brilliant red tomato, recognizing that the fate of the small farmer hangs on one key factor: "The product has to be better than the rest."

KEVIN PEPPER/OXFAM AMERICA

ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION

AND THE MAYAN DEFENSE

by Kevin Pepper

To any eye, Chuguexa, Guatemala, is the most humble of villages. Terraced dirt paths hem fields of maize and snake up steep valley walls to small, squalid, concrete structures that house extended families of twenty or more. Mayan children play in dirt-caked clothes, flanked by stray dogs scavenging for food. Disease and malnutrition are rampant, but as one villager points out, the nearest doctor is a long distance away and too expensive to use.

Despite this destitution, there is no mistaking a burgeoning sense of communal optimism. The mayor of Chuguexa recently solicited the aid of a Mayan legal organization, Defensoria Maya (DEMA), to resolve a community dispute that was preventing the clearing of a much-needed road through the village. Thanks to DEMA, the community now has its first road and the means to transport maize to market. More importantly, villagers have gained something the country's incipient democracy does not guarantee the indigenous people of Guatemala: representation and a road out of poverty.

Above: Mayan girls in Chuguexa, Guatemala

Facing: Children gather in Chuguexa, Guatemala, on the village's only road. Without the legal assistance of DEMA, the road could not have been cleared.

DEMA has emerged as a powerful human rights advocate for the indigenous people of Guatemala. Headquartered in Guatemala City, with satellite offices in 10 regions, DEMA's teams of legal experts are tearing down the political, legal, and social barriers that prevent Mayans from claiming their constitutional rights.

A LEGACY OF DISCRIMINATION

Five centuries after the Spanish conquest of Central America, the population of Guatemala is divided into the overwhelmingly poor, indigenous population (predominantly Mayan) and the more prosperous ladino (non-Indian) population. As in many post-colonial territories, cultural distinctions are not differences to be celebrated, but barriers that discriminate and divide.

Widespread ethnic discrimination prevents the Mayan people from having their most basic needs met. Representing an estimated 70 percent of the total population in the country, indigenous peoples have limited access to vital public services such as electricity, drinking water, and sewerage, and suffer from high rates of chronic malnutrition and preventable respiratory and infectious diseases.

Certain aspects of Mayan culture make them vulnerable to discrimination. Most Mayans live in isolated communities, rarely in contact with the outside world. Communication among Mayan communities is hindered by linguistic barriers: twenty-three different dialects can be found in Mayan culture, some as distinct from each other as Spanish from Arabic. Their lives are governed by an ancient spiritual dictate to live in harmony with their neighbors, making them a peaceful and—by extension—a vulnerable people.

In recent years, a handful of organizations have committed to defending the rights of indigenous and other impoverished, voiceless, and underrepresented segments of Guatemalan society. DEMA has emerged as the strongest of these groups.

MAKING THE CASE

In 2002, DEMA assisted in more than 12,000 legal proceedings, about a quarter of them brought forward by women. DEMA has presented 18 accusations of human rights violations to the UN. Two of the most notable were convictions of people involved in massacres during the civil war. Both defendants were sentenced to 50 years in prison.

DEMA understands that the single greatest obstacle indigenous people confront is an official legal system which does not uphold their equal rights as national citizens. DEMA integrates traditional aspects of the Mayan legal system (Derecho Maya) with the official legal system in Guatemala (Derecho Positivo). The Mayan legal code has developed over thousands of years, and is unique in its emphasis on non-confrontational dispute resolution. Defendants and prosecutors are encouraged to resolve their disputes through reconciliation and open dialogue before they seek punitive litigation.

CASE IN POINT

In addition to ethnic discrimination, DEMA also addresses legal cases within Mayan communities, such as domestic violence, gender discrimination, and child custody disputes.

Manuela, married with three daughters, was abandoned by her husband, who sold off their property and possessions despite her legal entitlements. Manuela filed a lawsuit against her husband, but without sufficient funds and legal know-how, she could not navigate through the Guatemalan justice system. She appealed to DEMA, and within ten days she had full custody of her daughters, her former house, and enough money to support her family.

When conflicts cannot be resolved within the community, DEMA represents them in the official court of law to ensure that they receive a fair and impartial trial. Case by case, DEMA is strengthening the Mayan legal system, bringing it in line with the state justice system and international law.

KEVIN PEPPER/OXFAM AMERICA

OXYGEN FOR YOUTH: COMMUNITY RADIO BREATHES LIFE INTO DEMOCRACY IN SENEGAL

by Jennifer Wilder

Even in the poorest districts of Dakar, Senegal, kids on the corner hold transistor radios to their ears. Women selling dried fish on the street invest a portion of their meager earnings to access a world beyond their view.

JENNIFER WILDER/OXFAM AMERICA

The studio at Oxy-Jeunes is small, but their impact is enormous.

Radio is about the only way a largely illiterate poor population can know what's going on. Radio Oxy-Jeunes (ROJ)—literally "Oxygen for Youth"—offers a bold and empowering message to the youth and disadvantaged poor of Dakar, giving them both knowledge and a place to participate in public discussion.

Three short years ago, a new ROJ was condemned as a "subversive group of youngsters." They have an aggressive and challenging edge. Today they receive wide acclaim as an arm of progress that allows young people, women, and others to learn and speak about issues of social and political concern. ROJ's struggle mirrors that of their constituents—people trying to find a voice in Senegal's new democracy and to participate knowledgeably in decision-making.

SOCIAL CHANGE OVER THE AIRWAVES

Despite a celebrated democratic election in 2000, public debate in Senegal remains largely dominated by the political and intellectual elite, excluding 95 percent of the citizenry. By broadcasting in seven local languages as well as French, Radio Oxy-Jeunes is breathing emotional and political oxygen into the lives of young people suffering from widespread unemployment, HIV/AIDS, crime, and political impotence. Programs are deliberately provocative, as well as informative. The rights of girls and women—generally taboo topics—attract enormous attention. Interviews and call-in shows on marriage, divorce, inheritance laws, and relationships between the sexes give women newfound opportunities to voice their concerns. ROJ's bold departure from traditional prohibitions simply enhances its popularity with the young.

Programming covers the gamut of interviews with sports stars, popular music, and general news. Informative interviews with victims of HIV/AIDS take on a subject surrounded by great ignorance and prejudice.

PROGRAMMING PLUS

Oxfam currently funds an ROJ initiative called "The Citizen's Voice" designed to enable people to participate in public debate and promote awareness of issues important to the community. After ROJ staff gather information and opinions within the community, programs are broadcast from large public forums where people can directly address representatives and challenge authorities. Barriers of language and inaccessibility are stripped away, so that people get their first taste of democratic participation. The reach of radio is great enough that their contributions have an impact.

A particularly popular program called "Blah, Blah" provokes reflection and awareness through satire and outrageous humor. Embarrassed legislators have heard their snores broadcast on air. Poor legislative attendance is tracked and broadcast. Ignorant representatives are exposed for their lack of knowledge and inadequate preparation.

The communities listening to Radio Oxy-Jeunes are poor, but they were vital participants in the popular movement that brought about democratic change in 2000. Sadly, little has changed to improve their lives, so ROJ offers a meaningful tool to continue and expand their experience of democratic participation. Through ROJ their impact is undeniable, bringing about a perceptible shift in power as the poorest of Dakar gain and maintain a meaningful political voice.

CLEARING LANDMINES IN AFGHANISTAN: A HUMANITARIAN IMPERATIVE

by Kenny Rae

Landmines claim the lives of 150 to 300 people in Afghanistan each month. Very often, victims are children—boys, especially, who tend livestock and are attracted to the strange objects they find in the fields. Adequate medical care is usually beyond reach, and young life after young life is lost to conflicts over but not forgotten.

More than 23 years of war have left Afghanistan riddled with landmines. Despite concerted de-mining efforts, an estimated 10 million mines still need to be cleared. With intense reconstruction happening throughout Afghanistan—requiring de-mining as a critical first step—mine removal organizations are overwhelmed by the tremendous need.

AREA RALLIES LOCAL EFFORTS

Oxfam partner, the Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA), offers an innovative solution to this urgent problem. AREA employs and trains community members to remove the mines in the land surrounding their villages. Led by professional de-miners, teams of farmers, ex-combatants, and other community members are de-mining their own fields—with great success.

The United Nations Mine Action Center for Afghanistan maintains AREA's operational and technical skills are among the best in Afghanistan. Mine casualties have been reduced. No worker has been killed, and on-site doctors treat injuries immediately. Because they are recruited locally and their families will one day be walking these fields, AREA workers use extreme care to see that every mine is uncovered.

It's a matter of pride for farmers to restore their own fields and to participate in widespread efforts to rehabilitate Afghanistan. AREA workers are making unusable land available for grazing and agriculture. After the land is cleared, AREA provides farmers with training, seeds, fertilizer, and irrigation system repair.

AREA's program offers additional benefits. It's cost-effective, because transportation, accommodation, and subsistence costs are minimized. Moreover, Oxfam funding helps AREA compensate its workers, generating much-needed income.

A PAINSTAKING PROCESS

Detecting and removing the millions of remaining mines promises to be a painstaking process—slowed by the "false alarms" caused by thousands of metal fragments from already-exploded mines. This is a process that cannot be rushed.

In the meantime, landmine awareness is being taught in schools and highlighted in posters and other materials. Still, too many times, that piece of metal glinting in the sun will prove irresistible. With AREA's help, one day the temptation will be gone.

KENNY RAE/OXFAM AMERICA

AREA de-miners at a mined field outside of Jalalabad, located only 500 feet from a primary school.

Oxfam Board Member Mary Racelis Selected for UN Panel

In February, Oxfam America Board of Directors member, Mary Racelis, was appointed to the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations. The panel will explore the interaction between the UN and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and develop suggestions for how NGOs, business groups, and other organizations can participate more fully in UN activities.

Racelis is the Director of the Institute for Philippine Culture in Manila, Philippines. Previously, she served as Regional Director for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) East and South Africa region. Her teaching and research has focused on Filipino culture, urbanization, poverty, sociology, and development. Racelis has been an active member of the Oxfam America's Board for three years.

JENNIFER WILDER/OXFAM AMERICA

Critical First Steps for Oxfam's Global Coffee Campaign

Oxfam's campaign to alleviate the poverty of more than 25 million coffee farming families has seen progress on several fronts:

- In the fall of 2002, Oxfam learned that the Nestlé Corporation, one of the largest coffee companies in the world, had brought a $6 million lawsuit against Ethiopia. Even though 11 million Ethiopians face severe food shortages, Nestlé wanted immediate restitution for a corporation they own that had been nationalized in the 1970s.

  Oxfam exposed the situation to the press and gathered 34,000 supporters to join an email campaign, calling on Nestlé to withdraw the suit. Nestlé eventually accepted a $1.5 million settlement, which it pledged to spend on food relief.

- In February, the US Senate—responding to pressure from Oxfam and other organizations—approved $500,000 in funding to promote stabilization of the world coffee market. The resolution appropriated additional funds to finance crop diversification for impoverished Vietnamese coffee farmers. This is the first major outcome from the November 2002 resolutions, in which Congress called on the US government to "adopt a global strategy to respond to the current coffee crisis."

"This House resolution is a critical first step on the road to comprehensive legislation that could effectively stop this worldwide calamity."
—Raymond C. Offenheiser, President, Oxfam America

To learn more about Oxfam's What's That In Your Coffee? *campaign, visit us at* ***www.oxfamamerica.org/coffee.***

Indigenous Communities and Isolated Peoples at Risk from Gas Pipeline in the Peruvian Amazon

The Lower Urubamba and Camisea region of southeastern Peru is a place of magnificent biodiversity and rainforest beauty. It is the home of several indigenous peoples, as well as the location of valuable underground deposits of natural gas. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), funded partly by US taxpayers, is considering a loan for a pipeline project that will pass through titled Machiguenga indigenous communities, as well as a state reserve that was established to protect vulnerable semi-nomadic groups living in voluntary isolation.

Construction of the pipeline and subsequent migration to the area are expected to cause environmental destruction and social disruption. Communities in the project area have seen their fresh water sources polluted. Past contact between voluntarily isolated peoples and outsiders decimated the Nahua, a formerly itinerant group living within the Reserve who had no resistance to diseases carried by loggers entering the zone through roads opened by gas exploration activity.

Oxfam America, the Machiguenga Council of the Urubamba River (COMARU), and other local allies are urging the IDB to set strong conditions on the loan to guarantee respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and to protect the natural resources on which they depend. Oxfam expects the IDB to vote on financing for this project in May 2003.

To voice your concerns and help urge the IDB to respect the rights of the Machiguenga people, join Oxfam America's eCommunity and take action. Go to **www.oxfamamerica.org** to sign up and read more.

Diamonds Cleaning Up Their Act

On April 10 and 11, the Senate and the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the "Clean Diamond Trade Act"(H.R. 1584), marking a significant step toward ensuring that American consumers do not unwittingly underwrite conflict and human rights abuses in Africa today.

Oxfam has been working with a coalition of other organizations to convince Congress that they should implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). The KPCS will ensure that all rough diamonds entering the US have been legally mined and traded. US consumers purchase 65 percent of all diamonds on the market. Vast numbers of stones are moved into an illegal trading system by warring factions in a number of African countries. Their profits support rebel movements, pay for arms, and enable atrocities. There are reports that illicitly traded diamonds have also financed al-Qaeda. From Oxfam's point of view, progress in fighting poverty and injustice depends on peace in the world's poorest countries. Curbing the illegal trade in diamonds and other natural resources will choke off financing for conflict and help ensure that revenue from legitimate trade is directed toward development.

While significant work remains, the passage of H.R. 1584 represents a real victory for Oxfam policy advocates in Washington, DC, who have spent countless hours educating, persuading, and working with Members of Congress on this issue.

PESTICIDES IN CAMBODIA: A GROWING PROBLEM

by Cynthia Phoel

They cost small rice farmers more than $5 million a year. They cause illness, poisoning—even death. They contaminate soil and water and create bio-hazards galore.

And they're more popular than ever.

TATH SOK/CEDAC

Mrs. Eam Samin, from the Ta Koem Village of the Sarong Tong District, demonstrates the healthy growth of her SRI rice.

Since 1999, Oxfam has supported the work of Dr. Yang Saing Koma and the Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC) to assess the pesticide problem in Cambodia. CEDAC's efforts to survey pesticide use and educate farmers have raised awareness about this acute issue—locally and around the globe.

The work has only begun: pesticide prevalence continues to rise. But CEDAC is starting to understand that the best way to reduce pesticide use is to moderate the need.

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER

Today, Cambodia is the scene of rapid development. With population growth and economic expansion come new challenges. Farmers are pressed to increase agricultural production to meet growing food demands.

Pesticides help farmers meet these demands—dangerous pesticides, used in potent combinations and harmful doses. CEDAC research reveals that out of 420 brands available in Cambodia, 134 are deemed hazardous by the World Health Organization. Many farmers use pesticides not only to control pests, but also to stimulate vegetative growth.

It doesn't help that imported bottles are labeled in Thai and Vietnamese, with no Khmer language warning or instruction. It doesn't help that local regulations are so weak that the most dangerous pesticides flood Cambodian markets. It doesn't help that under the hot sun, overalls, boots, and gloves are intolerable. Better go barefoot and face the consequences—if you know what they are.

THE (RICE) SEEDS OF CHANGE

CEDAC is attacking the pesticide problem on many fronts. Through classes with farmers, dissemination of materials in Khmer, and media announcements, it is raising consumer awareness.

But CEDAC is doing even more. In 1999, CEDAC began developing a new style of family farm: the multipurpose rice field. The key innovation is the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), a farming method originally developed in Madagascar, which involves transplanting seeds one by one and maintaining minimal water levels. SRI requires fewer seed and pesticide inputs and uses less land, enabling farmers to diversify and raise other organic products.

The results have been dramatic, increasing yields by as much as 150 percent. These high yields curb the tendency to resort to pesticides to improve production. For pest management, CEDAC promotes botanical pest repellants and the use of ducks and frogs.

Working with key farmers in communities, CEDAC hopes to reach 10,000 farmers in 2003. It takes a leap of faith for a rice farmer to abandon age-old practices for new technologies. But CEDAC is revolutionizing rice farming—and furthering efforts to reduce pesticide use in Cambodia.

OXFAM AMERICA

Annual Report Summary 2002

Oxfam
America

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF OXFAM AMERICA:

For more than three decades, Oxfam America has had the courage and tenacity to strive for a better, more just and humane world—a world that recognizes the dignity of every individual, celebrates and shares differences, and promotes every separate man and woman's opportunity to make the most of their lives.

Today, this vision is gravely threatened by global insecurity. Oxfam's call for respect and humanitarian priorities is more urgent than ever.

Oxfam will be heard, again and again, speaking out on behalf of the citizens of countries in conflict. At the same time, we will not let the world ignore the food crisis in Africa. We will continue—and expand—our efforts to help communities become stronger, more democratic, and in charge of their own futures.

Although 2002 was far from easy, we are blessed with your continued support. It is truly difficult to tell you how grateful we are. Your belief in our mission gives us enormous hope and energy for the work ahead.

We give thanks to you all. Let us work together to turn 2003 into a year of peace and progress throughout the world.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Offenheiser
President

Barbara Fiorito
Chair

OXFAM AMERICA IN 2002

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, Oxfam America has demonstrated that poverty is not inevitable and can be overcome. Eradicating poverty, hunger, and injustice involves coherent effort on many fronts, from grassroots work in poor communities to bringing informed influence to bear on global policies. At all levels, Oxfam gets results.

GRASSROOTS WORK TRANSFORMS COMMUNITIES

Oxfam supports local organizations that understand the specific needs of their communities. With our donors' money, resources, and training, people create their own solutions to overcome their poverty and isolation.

To find one's own solution is to take ownership of the problem.

THE POWER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Fundamental to our community work, Oxfam introduces people to their rights: the right to a decent living, to protection of their natural resources, to a voice in government decisions that affect them, to education, to equal protection under the law, and to physical security. In addition, women have rights to legal and social equality, to economic opportunity, and to protection from violence.

Human rights—both as doctrine set forth in international law and as basic concepts of fairness and respect for human dignity—are the power behind our success. In every program, we maintain that impoverished people have a claim on opportunity and a fair share.

This rights-based approach motivates people to find new ways to overcome circumstances that have kept them marginalized for generations.

PUTTING RIGHTS INTO ACTION

Really poor people spend their lives just trying to get by. Food, water, and shelter are never guaranteed. Oxfam believes all people have a right to security in making a basic living. If people depend on fishing, they must have the right to fish. If they depend on farming, they must have a right to the land, water to irrigate, and seeds to plant. This focus on basic livelihoods has characterized Oxfam's work since our founding.

- **Priming the Pump: Small Loans for Big Gains**—Poor people live outside the economy. They are considered bad credit risks, so credit is available only from moneylenders charging 100-200 percent interest. Such debt is a life sentence. From Senegal to Vietnam to El Salvador, our partners provide small loans to the poorest segments of the population so that they can begin projects to earn and save money.
- **Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation**—Humanitarian disasters take their greatest toll on poor people. Oxfam has provided emergency aid and rehabilitation for decades. Our emergency water and sanitation systems prevent communicable diseases—the greatest killers in the first weeks after a disaster. Unlike many aid groups, Oxfam is often already present in communities hit by crises, and through local partners, we can reach people quickly and reliably. Oxfam stays on long after the original crisis has passed. We help people to rebuild their homes and livelihoods and to prepare for possible future crises.

CHANGING POLICY—LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

There are some rights people cannot assert for themselves. When blocked from opportunity, people may need outside help to change laws, customs, and systems.

On local, national, and international levels, the 12 members of Oxfam International influence global decision makers on behalf of poor communities.

The coffee price crash is exacerbating conditions of poverty in Ethiopia. Many families cannot afford school expenses for children.

LIAM BRODY/OXFAM AMERICA

KATE LAZARUS/OXFAM AMERICA

A farmer attends a monthly microcredit meeting with her son in Eastern Upper Nango Village, Lashi, China.

In April, 2002, Oxfam launched a global public campaign, *Make Trade Fair,* to address the widespread injustices of international trade. Trade stimulates the creation of wealth around the world. Yet, the rules created by the World Trade Organization, International Monetary Fund, and influential governments often protect the interests of the wealthy—to the detriment of the poor.

In the last year, Oxfam has become a leading voice in the international dialogue about trade rules and their impact. Our trade report, *Rigged Rules and Double Standards,* is widely quoted and informing the debate. Our public campaign, *What's That in Your Coffee?,* has brought international attention to the worldwide drop in coffee bean prices that has driven 25 million coffee farmers into poverty.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Few Americans understand the complexities of world trade rules, the damage large dams cause to communities, or the significance of debt reduction for poor countries. Oxfam seeks to make these and other issues better known to the US public. With US influence around the world so great, Americans need to see themselves as global citizens with concern for all, if we are to defeat world poverty and social injustice.

Financial Statements: Fiscal Year 2002

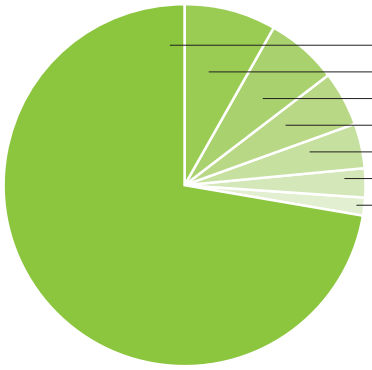
NOVEMBER 1, 2001-OCTOBER 31, 2002

In 2002, Oxfam America revenues exceeded $26 million, a testimony to the tremendous generosity and commitment of our many supporters. Support for our ongoing development programs sustained a modest increase, despite the challenging economic environment in the aftermath of September 11th. We are especially encouraged by the incredible outpouring of support for the people of Afghanistan, who faced severe food shortages and are still recovering and rebuilding after the bombings.

Thanks to an extraordinary bequest, our longer term financial and program stability has been strengthened with $1,864,817 million added to our reserve fund for future programs. These funds ensure the continuation of vital anti-poverty programs during years of revenue shortfall and allow us to respond quickly during emergencies and to take advantage of unique program opportunities.

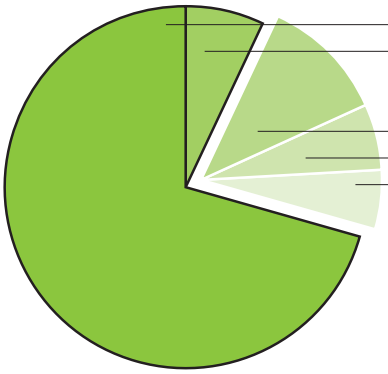
Oxfam America does not accept US government funds, which ensures independence in our program decisions. However, this makes it more difficult to maintain low fundraising costs, because private funds are more expensive to raise. We are proud that more than three quarters (78 percent) of our funds went directly to current and future programs; the balance supported fundraising and member recruitment efforts (17 percent) and administration (5 percent).

We will continue to execute all programs in the most cost-effective manner to achieve the greatest possible impact in our quest for lasting solutions to poverty around the world.



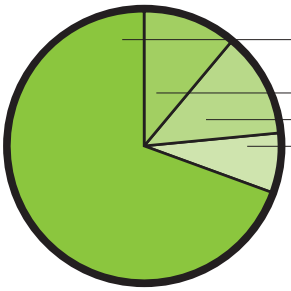
SOURCES OF FUNDS

Individuals	72.3%
Foundations	8.2%
Oxfams	6.4%
Bequests/Legacies	4.9%
Interest, dividends, other	4.0%
Corporations	2.6%
Special events	1.6%
$26,539,475	**100.0%**



USES OF FUNDS

Current year programs	**70.6%**
Future program reserve	7.0%
	77.6%
Fundraising	11.2%
Member recruitment	5.9%
Management/General	5.3%
$26,539,475	**100.0%**



Current Year Programs

Regional Programs	$13,021,111
Emergency Relief & Rehabilitation	2,073,249
Public Education	2,315,687
Policy & Advocacy	1,337,037
	$18,747,084

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
NOVEMBER 1, 2001-OCTOBER 31, 2002

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL 2002	TOTAL 2001
REVENUE, GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT					
Contributions	$18,715,906	$6,763,756		$25,479,662	$27,201,745
Rental income	180,528	—	—	180,528	126,723
Investment income	617,719	206,382	—	824,101	1,108,840
Realized gains on investments	6,014	8,444	—	14,458	51,368
Unrealized gains on investments	(59,592)	8,938	—	(50,654)	611,864
Other	91,380	—	—	91,380	137,945
Net assets released from restrictions	8,231,824	(8,231,824)	—	—	—
Total Revenue	**$27,783,779**	**($1,244,304)**	**—**	**$26,539,475**	**$29,238,485**
EXPENSES					
PROGRAM SERVICES:					
Regional Programs and Emergency Relief & Rehabilitation	15,094,360	—	—	15,094,360	16,423,372
Public Education	2,315,687	—	—	2,315,687	1,775,718
Policy & Advocacy	1,337,037	—	—	1,337,037	1,396,622
Total Program Services	**18,747,084**	—	—	**18,747,084**	**19,595,712**
SUPPORTING SERVICES:					
Management/General	1,236,209	—	—	1,236,209	959,404
Fundraising/Member recruitment	4,532,672	—	—	4,532,672	4,560,912
Total Supporting Services	**5,768,881**	—	—	**5,768,881**	**5,520,316**
TENANT SERVICES	**158,693**	—	—	**158,693**	**166,514**
Total Expenses	**$24,674,658**	**—**	**—**	**$24,674,658**	**$25,282,542**
Change in Net Assets	3,109,121	(1,244,304)	—	1,864,817	3,955,943
Net Assets Beginning of Year	14,566,898	11,583,490	1,567,607	27,717,995	23,762,052
Net Assets End of Year	**$17,676,019**	**$10,339,186**	**$1,567,607**	**$29,582,812**	**$27,717,995**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2002

	TOTAL 2002	TOTAL 2001
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$11,283,904	$9,356,581
Investments	15,374,089	14,876,241
Accounts receivable	113,371	90,094
Pledges receivable	2,061,459	3,150,202
Fixed assets - net	3,697,368	3,288,737
Other assets	1,034,821	813,854
Total Assets	**$33,565,012**	**$31,575,709**
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	626,768	306,952
Grants payable	1,673,417	1,964,655
Accrued wages	346,797	450,326
Other liabilities	1,335,218	1,135,781
Total Liabilities	**3,982,200**	**3,857,714**
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	17,676,019	14,566,898
Temporarily restricted	10,339,186	11,583,490
Permanently restricted	1,567,607	1,567,607
Total Net Assets	**29,582,812**	**27,717,995**
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	**$33,565,012**	**$31,575,709**

TAKE ACTION: WWW.OXFAMAMERICA.ORG

In addition to the important funding Oxfam contributors provide, many lend their support by taking action and speaking out on critical issues. Through recent Oxfam email campaigns:

- 34,000 people urged Nestlé to drop its $6 million suit against a starving Ethiopia—prompting Nestlé to reduce its claim and pledge the money to food aid.
- 6,000 people supported the people of Tambogrande, Peru, in their effort to stop a proposed mining project.
- 5,000 people appealed to Proctor and Gamble—makers of Millstone and Folgers—to include Fair Trade coffee in their products.

In pressing situations, every voice counts!

TO JOIN OXFAM'S ECOMMUNITY:

1. Log onto **www.oxfamamerica.org**
2. Locate "Join Oxfam's eCommunity" and submit your email address.
3. Complete a simple form.

Once you sign up, you will begin receiving monthly e-newsletters and timely action alerts inviting you to take action on critical global issues.

Oxfam America

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