



Oxfam
America



Oxfam America in the Horn of Africa

Drought. Conflict. Low crop prices. These are among the realities that poor people across the Horn of Africa face on a daily basis. But with new tools for channeling water, building peace, and influencing markets, people are beginning to wrest control over their lives.

Ethiopia is a country of contrasts—from the cool, wet highlands of the coffee farmers to the scorched pastures of the lowland herders. The challenges here and throughout the Horn remain enormous. Conflict plagues Sudan to the west and Somalia to the east. And widespread poverty traps people in lives of hardship. Since 2000, Oxfam America has been helping local communities survive conflict and marshal their natural resources in ways that strengthen families, villages, and whole regions.

Our work in Ethiopia and Sudan includes the following:

- Improving access to water
- Fostering new and traditional approaches to peace building
- Empowering coffee farmers to compete in global markets
- Providing emergency assistance during man-made and natural disasters

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER

Despite Ethiopia's 12 river basins and vast underground reserves of water, nearly 80 percent of its people do not have adequate access to water. Many of the country's farmers rely on rain alone to water their crops.

Through grants to local organizations, Oxfam is working with rural people to build on indigenous knowledge and to expand ponds, improve wells, and develop irrigation systems. Such improvements are helping to ensure that families have a safe supply of water nearby not only for their household needs, but for their crops as well.

In Ethiopia, it is not uncommon for women and children to spend hours each day walking long distances to collect water and lug it home. And frequent droughts make the burden heavier. Through the Oromo Self-Reliance Association (OSRA), Oxfam has underwritten the cost of wells, pumps,

“Clean water is just part of the equation. Women now have more time to spend with their families. Children can spend more time in school. The whole community benefits from these water improvement projects.”

Abera Tola, Oxfam America's regional director for the Horn of Africa

What is Oxfam?

Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. Together with individuals and local groups around the world, Oxfam saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fights for social justice. To join our efforts or learn more, go to www.oxfamamerica.org.

We are a member of Oxfam International—a confederation of 13 Oxfam affiliates—working in more than 120 countries with roughly 3,000 local organizations. With many of the causes of poverty global in nature, the members of Oxfam International believe that we can achieve greater impact through our collective efforts.



SECURITY FOR WOMEN

To help make life safer for women in Darfur's camps for displaced people, Oxfam and one of its local partners, the Sudanese Agency for Environment and Development Services, launched a program to distribute fuel-efficient stoves. The stoves reduce the need for firewood, the collection of which often falls to women. Venturing beyond the security of the camps to hunt for wood puts women at risk of harassment, sexual assault, and death. A total of 4,200 households received the stoves, which have reduced substantially women's exposure to danger. Plans are underway to increase—almost double—the size of the program.

and bathing sheds in a cluster of communities southwest of Addis Ababa. Women now spend minutes—instead of hours—fetching water for their families. And since one of the new sources is an aquifer 200 feet deep instead of a murky surface supply, the water is cool and clean.

North, in the Tigray region, the farmers of Adi-Ha who once struggled to feed their families are now able to grow enough fruits and vegetables to sell the surplus at market, in some cases quintupling their household income. A river diversion project, undertaken jointly by Oxfam and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), is the source of that success. Water is funneled by a series of concrete canals from a nearby river into the fields of Adi-Ha. Local farmers have learned how to use the water efficiently and how to plant a variety of crops, which helps them maximize the use of their land. With their new earnings, families can provide plenty of food for their children and send them to school.

EMPOWERING COFFEE FARMERS

About 15 million Ethiopians work in their country's coffee industry. But fluctuations in the sale price of coffee beans and unfair market conditions have left farmers struggling to survive despite their constant labor. Oxfam and its partners are educating consumers, inspiring activists, and encouraging corporations to address the challenges facing coffee growers across the country.

At the heart of the campaign are the cooperative unions—Sidama, Yirgacheffe, and Oromia—which represent tens of thousands of coffee farmers. Their mission is to help the growers get a better price for their beans by tapping the specialty, organic, and fair trade markets, which can sometimes offer prices three times as high as those of the local dealers and exporters. For villagers, higher prices can mean profound changes for their communities. For instance, in Negele Gurbitu, which is part of the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union, parents pooled some of their profits from their fair trade sales to improve the two-classroom school that 550 of their children attend. The villagers added four new classrooms and a teacher's room, dramatically reducing the overcrowding.



The link between education, activism, and corporate engagement continues to have far-reaching effects. Through our public awareness campaign, we helped bring attention to a dispute that Ethiopian coffee farmers had with Starbucks, the international coffee giant, over the country's effort to trademark its fine coffee brands. This effort helped pave the way for an agreement in 2007 on distribution, marketing, and licensing that brings Ethiopia and Starbucks together in a partnership to help the country's farmers.

PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

During crises, whether they are man-made or natural, Oxfam America jumps into action, working with local organizations to meet emergency needs. And we stay to help communities build strong foundations on which to recover. A central component of our humanitarian assistance is to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases by providing clean water and decent sanitation. We have also developed an early warning surveillance system to help track public health trends and alert us to droughts that could become killers.

In the Darfur region of western Sudan, where conflict has forced 2.5 million people from their homes, Oxfam has continued to help hundreds of thousands of them by drilling wells, laying water lines, building storage tanks, and setting up water taps. We have dug thousands of latrines and offer ongoing public health education to encourage good hygiene in crowded camps where the risk of disease outbreaks is always high.

When floods hit the Ethiopian city of Dire Dawa in 2006, Oxfam America was one of the first agencies to respond. In partnership with the city administration, we provided emergency and rehabilitation assistance to 9,000 people, including funds to help repair schools that were used as emergency shelters. We also purchased school supplies and uniforms for 1,360 children in 15 schools to ensure that the flooding did not rob them of their right to an education.

PARTNERS IN PEACE

Together with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, Oxfam organized a peace conference to resolve a violent conflict that had erupted between the Guji, the Gabra, and the Borena in 2006. The conference brought together the government and local traditional leaders to share peace-building concepts and reach agreement on ways to settle future disputes.



Sources of funding

Oxfam America raises more than 90 percent of program funds from individuals and institutions, such as foundations.

To maintain our independence, Oxfam America does not accept funds from the US government or from corporations working in industries that are the subject of our advocacy and campaign programs.

For more detailed financial information, visit our Web site:

English: www.oxfamamerica.org

Français: www.oxfamamerica.org/fr



Working together to end poverty and injustice

“When there is no peace, you cannot look after your cattle. You can't plow your farms. You can't care for your children. We cannot live without peace.”

Tato Boru, leader of a women's peace council in southern Ethiopia

BUILDING PEACE

Struggles for political power and access to land and water spark conflicts across the Horn of Africa. And the availability of small arms has made those conflicts increasingly deadly. Oxfam America works with local partners to develop conflict resolution strategies that employ traditional systems with new twists, such as women-run peace councils, and modern approaches, such as training sessions on human rights. Innovation is often at the heart of the efforts.

In southern Ethiopia, conflicts among different ethnic groups had begun to affect attendance at a primary school in the town of Moyale on the border with Kenya. Enrollment had plummeted. A divided

administrative system, with different clan groups aligned with each of the three divisions, had left the school severely short of funds. And a whole generation of students risked losing out on the education that is so vital to their future.

Through a series of grants from Oxfam, the school launched a campaign to expand its facilities and embrace families of all ethnic groups in the effort. Together, they carried out 25 percent of the first phase of the construction themselves, and found a new bond in the communal ownership of the buildings. Now, enrollment has skyrocketed: 3,000 students are working toward a brighter future at the Moyale Primary School, and their parents participate in school-run workshops on peace building.

Cover: Working fast, four girls can fill a five-gallon jug in one-and-a-half minutes at a pump that Oxfam helped install in the town of Kebkabiya in North Darfur, Sudan. *Eva-Lotta Jansson/Oxfam America*

Page 2: Hawa Abdullha searches for wood for her family's cooking fires in Darfur, Sudan. *Eva-Lotta Jansson/Oxfam America*

Page 3 top: At a coffee ceremony in Addis Ababa, coffee farmer Gemede Robe asked Starbucks to sign a licensing agreement with Ethiopia. *Andrew Heavens/Oxfam America*

Page 3 bottom: Two hundred people attended a peace committee meeting in Darmee, Ethiopia. *Girma Legesse/Oxfam America*

Above left: A worker prepares a tank to spray against malaria-carrying mosquitoes at Kalma camp in South Darfur, Sudan. *Eva-Lotta Jansson/Oxfam America*

Above right: Tato Boru is a leader in peace-building work in the villages around Moyale on the Ethiopian border with Kenya. *Brett Elloff/Oxfam America*



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