Learn more about Oxfam’s work to right the wrong of poverty and your crucial role in helping people living in poverty to change their lives.

**THE FACTS: WHAT’S WRONG**

- About 795 million people suffer from chronic hunger.
- A child dies from malnutrition or a preventable disease every 10 seconds. That’s 8,500 children a day.
- Worldwide, 2.4 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation.
- Although preventable and treatable, diarrheal diseases (generally caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation) are the second leading cause of death in children under five, killing more children each year than AIDS, malaria, and measles combined.
- In the past two decades, the number of natural disasters has quadrupled. Poor communities are hardest hit; the world’s poorest people are often forced to live in marginal areas and have few resources to withstand disasters.
- Women in most countries earn on average only 60 to 75 percent of men’s wages.
- Twice as many girls as boys cannot attend school. Yet, an educated girl is likely to marry later and have fewer children, and a child born to a mother who can read is 50 percent more likely to survive. Attending an extra year of primary school can increase a girl’s eventual wages by 10 to 20 percent.
- Globally, up to 60 percent of women experience some form of physical or sexual abuse during their lives.

**HOW DO WE FIGHT THE INJUSTICE OF POVERTY?**

Oxfam’s approach unlocks the power of people against poverty. When we help people exercise their human rights and gain the knowledge, skills, and information they need, they can become powerful agents of change.

Oxfam’s approach is about tackling the conditions that cause poverty in the first place, rather than distributing material goods. We start by asking questions and challenging assumptions. What are the root causes of poverty? What can we do to change the power dynamics that keep people poor?

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

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

OXFAM AMERICA WORKS NOT ONLY THROUGH OFFICES ON FIVE CONTINENTS, BUT ALSO AS PART OF THE OXFAM CONFEDERATION: 17 SISTER ORGANIZATIONS WORKING COLLABORATIVELY IN MORE THAN 90 COUNTRIES.

BURKINA FASO
NEW MINING LAW DOUBLES MONEY FOR DEVELOPMENT

As part of the #Juste1pourcent campaign coalition, Oxfam wanted to influence members of Burkina Faso’s Parliament to change the nation’s mining law. So we supported the creation of print, radio, and TV commercials as well as a social media campaign.

In early 2015, members of Parliament visited mining communities and saw for themselves the poverty that persists in the very region where the mining industry extracted $390 million in profits in 2013. This coalition-led tour spurred Parliament into action. Members voted to change the country’s mining law to raise taxes on mining companies and increase the share of revenues allocated for development in mining communities from 0.5 percent to 1 percent—a change that could bring more resources for health clinics, roads, and schools.

GUATEMALA
EDUCATING BANKERS TO ENSURE WOMEN’S INCLUSION

Guatemala’s Banco G&T Continental has become the first bank in the country to join Oxfam in an effort to boost business opportunities for women. Through Oxfam’s Women in Small Enterprise initiative, or WISE, G&T Continental is now offering women entrepreneurs enough credit to help them take their businesses to the next level.

It’s been part of a slow awakening at the bank, culminating earlier this year in training for 28 bank staffers designed to get them to take a hard look at the barriers women face in accessing credit and what the bank could do to make it easier. Education, for bankers and businesswomen alike, is key to WISE’s goal of leveling the playing field for women.

“We want to support them and create a cohort of really strong women entrepreneurs,” says Mara Bolis, a senior adviser for Oxfam. “Economic empowerment for women is important in order for them to have a voice politically and for them to be free from violence.”
GUINEA-BISSAU
FIGHTING EBOLA DOOR-TO-DOOR
When disaster threatens a community, local people are often best-placed to prevent it. That truth has informed Oxfam’s Ebola prevention efforts in Guinea-Bissau as the deadly virus swept through neighboring Guinea.

“In emergencies like these, we look at local and national organizations to lead the way” says Michael Delaney, Oxfam America’s humanitarian response director at the time of the outbreak. “Our job is to ... make sure they have the tools they need.”

In Guinea-Bissau, Oxfam has supported government Ebola coordination efforts and helped fund medical monitoring teams. In recent years, Oxfam has worked with a local organization preventing and responding to cholera outbreaks. We provided training for organizations gearing up for the Ebola fight. As the disease marched across West Africa, we trained local people, like nurse Maria Cardoso (pictured at left), to go door-to-door in rural villages sharing the basic rules of Ebola prevention. Though Guinea-Bissau is still vulnerable to the disease, Oxfam’s support of local efforts seems to have paid off: As of this writing, Guinea-Bissau remains Ebola-free.

SENEGAL
INCREASING RURAL RESILIENCE
Binta Ndao (pictured above) used to struggle to grow enough millet, groundnuts, and rice to feed her family. In 2013, Oxfam launched a program in rural Senegal to help farmers like Ndao minimize the risk of poor harvests. She says that the improvements that she and her neighbors in Kalbiron, Senegal, have built have helped her triple her rice harvest. Oxfam, the World Food Programme, and Swiss Re are now running what has come to be known as the “R4 Initiative” in Ethiopia and Senegal, and are expanding into Malawi and Zambia.

At the end of the last growing season, inadequate rain triggered insurance payments for 24,143 growers in Ethiopia and 1,989 farmers in Senegal. Ndao reports, “We now have enough food to eat.”

PHILIPPINES
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY
In the Philippines, one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries, thousands of farmers are now participating in an Oxfam program designed to help them diversify their crops and withstand periods of drought.

In central Mindanao, Oxfam is funding a local organization to teach farmers the rice-growing method called SRI (System of Rice Intensification). Participants attend Climate Resiliency Field Schools, where they test SRI, learn to produce organic fertilizer, and grow drought-resistant varieties of vegetables. The field school and demonstration plot approach is a model Oxfam has used successfully in Cambodia, Haiti, and Vietnam, where there are now more than a million rice farmers using SRI techniques.
What we believe

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

The way we see it, poverty is solvable—a problem rooted in injustice. Eliminate injustice and you can eliminate poverty. We’re not saying it will be quick or easy, but it can be done. We won’t patch a problem and then disappear. We won’t stand by silently and watch others suffer.

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

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

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

Top things you need to know about Oxfam

We believe that fighting poverty is about fighting injustice.

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

The projects we fund are community driven.

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

We recognize that poverty puts people in harm’s way.

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

We help people learn about their rights and how to defend them.

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

Oxfam tackles problems at many levels; we recognize that laws, policies, and institutions have an enormous impact on poverty.

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

We work to earn your trust.

Oxfam America is rated highly by leading independent evaluators, including Charity Navigator, the nation’s largest charity evaluator. Oxfam has the Better Business Bureau’s highest rating for charitable organizations, meeting all 20 of its “Standards for Charity Accountability.” Oxfam is also a “Top Rated Charity” and recipient of an “A-” rating from CharityWatch. These rankings place Oxfam among an elite group of charitable organizations nationally.

What can you do to help?

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

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

Above: Romas Deun, a volunteer radio reporter, produces programs in his native language Tumfun as part of a radio series funded by Oxfam to promote better understanding of land rights and environmental protection among indigenous people in rural Cambodia. Savann Oeurm / Oxfam America

Front: Neem Mibimba is president of a women’s forum in Congo working to ensure women’s safety. With support from Oxfam and local organizations, people in North and South Kivu provinces are creating protection forums—community groups that stand up for women’s safety. When farming in isolated areas, Mibimba explains, “I used to have to flee five times a week because women can be raped or beaten.” Thanks to the efforts of her group, the situation is improving: “Now I can farm in peace.” Eleanor Farmer / Oxfam