



Oxfam 100

Each member counts

You and 99 others can lay the foundation on which people can build a better future.

Oxfam 100 is a critical three-year opportunity for 100 of our most loyal donors to help expand three key programs that benefit hundreds of thousands of people working to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities.

We're turning to you at a time of great urgency. Global food prices are spiraling upward, severely straining household budgets. Insufficient agricultural investment in developing countries and changing weather patterns have left countless farmers struggling to earn a living. And natural disasters worldwide now average between 400 and 500 a year.

"These investments will help people increase their agricultural productivity and expertise; save and invest in the future; and plan ways to keep themselves and their neighbors safe when disaster strikes," says Raymond C. Offenheiser, president of Oxfam America. "These are all strategic steps essential for ensuring the well-being of the people we support."



Within Oxfam 100, each member counts. Your individual commitment of \$5,000 or more for each of three years is essential to the success of the entire initiative. As a member of Oxfam 100, you will strengthen and expand the following programs:

Supporting small farmers NEEDED: \$500,000

At the start of 2011, 925 million people on our planet were hungry. That's one in seven people, most of whom live in rural areas and work as farmers. Looming resource constraints—on water and fertile land—make it more difficult for food producers to feed their families. And a new era of erratic weather is confounding farmers' efforts to plant at the right time, threatening their harvests. For countless farmers, including those in sub-Saharan Africa where an estimated 96 percent of the cropland is fed by rain alone, the consequences can be devastating.

Women face the greatest inequities: In many developing countries, they are responsible for the majority of food production, yet their access to land, credit, and markets is often restricted. Despite their central role in farming, women are often excluded from agricultural support.

An opportunity for lasting change

The confluence of challenges that small farmers face demands that we be vigilant in our efforts to support them.

With your help we can invest in:

- innovations in simple technology, such as weeders for rice farmers
- irrigation networks, such as a gravity-fed system in the Peruvian highlands
- expanded market opportunities, like those we are developing with organic cotton growers in Mali

Saving for Change NEEDED: \$500,000

Our Saving for Change program has helped more than 500,000 people—most of them women—gain access to credit through a simple system: a circle of neighbors who save and lend together. The program is based on the idea that no one is too poor to save, and that community-based lending creates natural accountability.

In groups of about 20 people, villagers pool their own money and make loans to each other. Borrowers pay interest, which in turn builds the group's fund—all without relying on a bank, credit union, or microfinance institution. The approach has given participants unprecedented financial opportunities: members often use their loans to start or expand small businesses, purchase seeds, buy medical supplies, or pay children's school fees.

Now is the moment

For women there is an added benefit. These groups nurture a newfound confidence and, when coupled with community solidarity, create a mix that makes a powerful catalyst for social change. And now, the program is poised to boost women's productivity even further by piloting business and leadership training in some of the groups. A second initiative aims to increase food security by teaching women new farming techniques and empowering them to share that knowledge.

With your help we can invest in:

- expanding Saving for Change into new countries
- business and leadership training to help women run microeconomic projects
- agricultural training for women to improve food security in their communities

Saving lives NEEDED: \$500,000

Each year, on average, natural disasters affect approximately 250 million people. In 2010, Oxfam responded to a string of calamities—among them a devastating earthquake in Haiti, unprecedented flooding in Pakistan, and mudslides in Guatemala. By 2015, the number of people affected by climate-related disasters could increase by more than 50 percent to an average of more than 375 million a year.

Our challenge is not only to help save lives, but to work with vulnerable communities on building their resilience and preparing for future events that are out of their control. Linking emergency response with longer-term development is key: cash-for-work programs that provide people with much-needed income while engaging them to work on environmental improvement projects is one example of Oxfam's approach.

Rapid humanitarian response

Together with our local partners, we are well positioned to meet the new challenges, but readiness and response require a great deal of resources.

And for all this, we need you.

With your help we can invest in:

- our capacity to respond quickly to cataclysmic events
- water and hygiene programs for displaced people and public health training to limit the spread of disease
- cash-for-work, grant, and loan programs to help people restore their income in the wake of disasters
- organizing and training disaster preparedness teams to minimize risk for the most vulnerable communities



226 Causeway Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02114-2206
(800) 77-OXFAM
oxfamamerica.org

Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. Together with local partners in more than 90 countries, Oxfam saves lives, fights for social justice, and helps people overcome poverty.

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