



Oxfam International

Annual Report 2008-2009

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The central commitment of our Strategic Plan 2007-2012, 'Demanding Justice', which will guide our joint work during the plan period, is:

"We are outraged by the persistent poverty and injustice in the world, which must and can be overcome. Unjust policies and practices, nationally and internationally, must be challenged and people's rights must be respected. If we join forces and act together now we can achieve a just world without poverty.

With partners and allies, we will act in solidarity with people living in poverty, especially women, to achieve their rights and assert their dignity as full citizens.

We will support them to hold governments, corporations and international organizations (including Oxfam) to account for their responsibilities. Drawing on our development programs, we will work to change global and national rules

that perpetuate poverty, insecurity and inequality.

We will support local, national and international organizations and social movements of active citizens to demand justice, particularly gender justice, and to change ideas and beliefs, policies and practices to achieve improvements in people's lives".

All Oxfam International's work is framed by our commitment to five broad rights-based aims: the right to a sustainable livelihood; the right to basic social services; the right to life and security; the right to be heard; and the right to an identity. Within this framework we are working to achieve specific goals during the life of the Strategic Plan. These are grouped in four key areas – economic justice, essential services, rights in crisis and gender justice – which are explained in this report, with key activities in each area over the reporting period – 1 January 2008 to 30 March 2009.

Front cover: Mrs Ina Wira, aged 27, holds the cocoa pods she has just cut from her garden in the village of Satellit, south of Gunung Sitoli, capital of the Indonesian island of Nias. As part of its five year response to the 26 December 2004 tsunami, Oxfam provided business and vocational training to farmers, fishermen and traders on Nias to help them better market their products.

Governance*

Honorary Personnel

Honorary President:
Mary Robinson

Honorary Adviser:
Amartya Sen

Board Officers

Chair:
Keith Johnston

Treasurer:
Janet McKinley

Board

Comprises the Chairs and Directors of each affiliate.

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Chair: Janet McKinley
Director: Raymond Offenheiser

Oxfam Australia

Chair: Michael Henry
Director: Andrew Hewett

Oxfam-in-Belgium

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Oxfam Canada

Chair: Kelly Bruton
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Oxfam Novib (Netherlands)

Chair: Joris Voorhoeve
Director: Farah Karimi

Oxfam Québec

Chair: Monique Létourneau
Director: Pierre Véronneau

*as of October 2009

Our year

2008 was a very dangerous year for the world, with the global economic crash compounding the impact of the recent fuel and food crises and seriously jeopardising commitment to strong action on climate change.

These multiple crises, which will continue to hit developing countries harder and deeper than rich countries, are doubly unfair, as they were either caused by developed countries, or most easily mitigated by them. Oxfam has been deeply engaged in the public debate on these issues and has worked closely with partners and communities in responding to them.

We are doing all we can to ensure that the achievements of debt reduction, increased aid and greater attention to human rights over the last decade are not completely eroded by these huge crises.

While a number of world leaders have pronounced the Washington consensus dead, we need to continue to push for economic reform which is socially and environmentally sustainable, and a global

economic governance model which is fair to developing countries. In 2009 we will look for the reform opportunities presented by the economic crisis and link it back to the key aspects of our work, such as climate change, food security and the provision of decent services to people living in poverty.

This year also saw the consolidation of considerable growth in the Oxfam International Secretariat, following a Review of the Secretariat which identified areas for improvement and increased resources. We have lifted the Secretariat, to enable it to support the increased levels of ambition of the confederation's affiliates, as set out in our Strategic Plan 'Demanding Justice'. In November the Board made a number of major decisions which will stretch us further: the agreement to move to a single management structure in each of the ninety

countries where Oxfam affiliates work, the decision to change our governance arrangement to allow growth of the confederation and agreement to explore strategic and steady growth of membership. It will be an exciting year ahead.



Keith Johnston
Chair, Oxfam International



Jeremy Hobbs
Executive Director, Oxfam International

Biography of Jeremy Hobbs



Jeremy Hobbs has been Executive Director of Oxfam International since October 2001, having served on the Oxfam International Board since its inception in 1996 in his capacity as Executive Director of Oxfam Australia.

He represents Oxfam on key development and security issues at the UN, the WTO, the G8, and other multi-lateral institutions, on trade, aid effectiveness, climate change and humanitarian issues (including arms control). He has represented Oxfam on corporate accountability issues in several sectors: community displacement and land rights, labor rights and climate change, and served for several years on the UN Global Compact Advisory Council.

He has been active in promoting and developing NGO accountability and chairs the Board of the International NGO Accountability Charter. He also serves on the Board of the Berlin Civil Society Center which seeks to support and improve NGO performance.

Biography of Keith Johnston



Keith was the founding chair of Oxfam New Zealand and today chairs the Board of Oxfam International. Keith currently also works as a consultant and leadership coach. Prior to this, he was a senior manager for the Department of Conservation for fifteen years in New Zealand.

In 2008 Keith completed a PhD at the Australian National University, researching leadership and the sustainable management of the environment. As Chair of Oxfam International, two key tasks involve overseeing the implementation of the Oxfam International Strategic Plan 2007 – 2012 'Demanding Justice' and encouraging the Board to grapple with the big questions that need to be addressed before the next period of strategic planning.

Confederation news

Campaigning around the globe

In the last year Oxfam has increased its ability to work with individuals, communities, organizations and governments, by opening offices in three important locations - Brasilia, Rome and Addis Ababa. Since 2002 we have had advocacy offices in New York, Brussels and Geneva, following on from the confederation's first advocacy office in Washington DC, set up in 1995, that was focused on the World Bank and IMF. The advocacy office in New York works to strengthen Oxfam's advocacy on protection of people from disasters and violence; the European Union (EU) advocacy office was established in Brussels to increase Oxfam's influence on European policies and promote change; and the Geneva office was set up to increase Oxfam's influence on World Trade Organization (WTO) policies and practices that are key for trade and development.

In **Brasilia**, we are working with partners and allies on international, national and regional issues, particularly those in which Brazil plays a key part, such as on trade and the Doha Round process and also in international debates on climate change, particularly on biofuels and in

negotiations to strengthen and build regional integration processes in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In **Rome** Oxfam International has established a Campaign Office in Italy in partnership with the Italian NGO Ucodep. This office was set up to provide a base for lobbying and advocacy in the run up to Italy's Presidency of the G8 in 2009. Our goal is to ensure the Italian government adopts policies that will help reduce global poverty – including giving more and better aid to help deliver health, education and clean water for all and justice for people living with the impact of climate change.

In **Addis Ababa** Oxfam International has set up a liaison office on the African Union. Oxfam recognises the African Union as a positive force for realising social, economic, political and cultural rights of Africans. Over many years Oxfam has supported the emergence of strong civil society coalitions in Africa to engage and support the AU, and the purpose of the liaison office is to further that work.

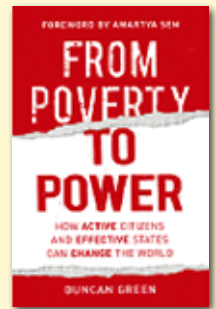


From Poverty to Power

Published in June, From Poverty to Power is the latest of Oxfam's once-a-decade, flagship reports on the state of global poverty. Challenging the view that progress in developing countries is predominantly driven by changes in rich country behavior, it instead seeks to demonstrate that change happens from the bottom-up, driven by effective states that are held to account by active citizens.

The book argues that predominant economic thinking is not equal to new global realities, and that a "New Deal" on power, the economy and global institutions is urgently needed. At the heart of this approach is empowerment – of poor people in communities and of poor countries in global institutions.

In his foreword to the book, our Honorary Advisor Amartya Sen writes: "In telling us what can be achieved by ordinary people through organised action, this book generates hope even as it enhances understanding of what is involved in the removal of poverty".



The book has been translated into several languages with local editions in both South Africa and India.

Increased accountability

Oxfam International believes that citizens have a right to hold governments and institutions accountable, to expect them to respect their rights and do what they say they will do. Likewise, we believe that non-governmental organizations should be accountable to the communities in which they work, to partner organizations, and to those from whom they receive support.

To that end, we publish our Strategic Plan 2007-2012, "Demanding Justice," and our internal governance rules and policies, our compliance with required standards, voluntary codes of conduct and the results of our work through evaluations, on our website.

As part of our commitment to transparency, Oxfam International signed up to the first Global Accountability Charter for the non-profit sector in June 2006. This charter sets out core values and operating principles for international agencies, against which Oxfam gauges and reports publicly on our economic, environmental and social performance. The INGO Accountability Report 2008 is the first report back of performance against this charter.

Global economic crisis

In a relatively few short months, the global economic crisis shattered global financial systems and since then, world and business leaders have been floundering to respond. But however harmful and unsettling this crisis is in rich countries, it does not compare to the life-or-death situation that many people have been exposed to in poorer countries. The signs are worrying as it seems to be that instead of tackling the “big picture” problem, rich countries are retreating into self-preservation mode, which could ultimately be costly for all.

Poor countries need a financial stimulus too. The gap between rich and poor is widening. The genuine progress toward the Millennium Development Goals is in danger of being lost. This increasing poverty and inequality threatens world stability and democracy. The governance of many global institutions must be

reformed and refocused to a genuine development agenda. To make matters worse, we are barely at the dawn of human-induced climate change. The effects of drought, changing weather patterns and increasing disasters are just a glimpse of more to come – threatening to overwhelm the world’s ability to cope.

Through its campaigning work, Oxfam International will continue to put poverty and human impact on leaders’ agenda, without letting them off the hook. We will continue to assess the threat to aid and development and the opportunities for reform of international systems. We are also maintaining a watch over how the global economic crisis is impacting our ability to raise income and to continue to help communities in over 100 countries worldwide.

G8 meeting in Japan

In the lead up to the G8 meeting in Japan Oxfam drew attention to the financial crisis and G8 leaders response which indicates that the G8 has the means to tackle poverty, if it has the will. Oxfam pointed out that global leaders had spent one trillion dollars in six months to rescue their banks and that G8 leaders could relieve the suffering of the 290 million people hit hardest by the food crisis if they could give just two extra cents for every \$1 they have spent bailing out the banking industry. Oxfam called on the G8 to show that same kind of urgency and commitment to tackle poverty.

Over 1 million people submitted a wish for the G8 leaders to keep the promises they made in 2005. Oxfam was in Japan at the G8 Summit to make sure that world leaders did not forget about the aid, climate change and health care promises they’ve made.



Credit/Emily Subden/Oxfam

Thailand: Benjawan Marongthong (seen here on the left) with her son and other factory workers, all face tough choices now that they have been laid off from the textile factory. As a major exporter of textiles, Thailand has been hit hard as global demand for clothing and footwear has dropped. Industry sources warn that the global financial crisis could cause Thailand to lose up to 1 million industrial jobs by mid-2009.



Credit/Dow Punniputt/Oxfam

The impact on women

‘Paying the Price for the Economic Crisis’ is the title of a discussion paper, based on research by Oxfam International that has uncovered a hidden aspect of the global economic crisis – its impact on women. In February 2009, Oxfam spoke with women in global supply chains in ten countries across Asia and Latin America about how the crisis is affecting their lives and their families. Their stories are sobering; they reveal the human, female face of a crisis that is too often discussed in terms of economic statistics rather than real lives.

Oxfam’s research suggests that global markets are pushing the costs of mistakes made in rich countries onto women and children in poor countries. As supply chains are squeezed by falling global demand, women in export manufacturing are often the first to be laid off, with employers leaving pay outstanding, evading legal obligations to give notice and pay compensation, and governments turning a blind eye, with devastating knock-on effects. Last year, women’s wages were putting food on the table and children through school in millions of families. Now, the lives of women who were already vulnerable and exploited have become even more precarious – and with them, the lives of their children. The research provides a snapshot of the gender impact of the crisis in one sector – export manufacturing – but the impact on women is likely to be much wider. Failure to act now, to protect the rights of women living in poverty from the economic crisis, will have a general disastrous impact on global development and a particular impact on those women’s rights, livelihoods, and families.

Economic justice

Our goal: More women and men will realize their right to secure and sustainable livelihoods

Global food crisis

High food prices have brought into sharp focus an existing global food crisis that affects almost one billion people. The ongoing crisis reflects a neglect of agriculture by major donors and institutions over the last 20 years.

Lasting solutions to the problem should include adequate investment in agriculture, fairer trade, the redistribution of resources, and action on climate change. Oxfam has been researching and campaigning to bring these issues to the attention of governments and international bodies. Oxfam is working with rural communities and farmers in Ghana to help them cope with rising prices, as well as in Indonesia, where the cost of rice has risen over 50 per cent, causing a major impact on families due to the rising prices in other basic commodities.

Oxfam believes that help can be provided for farmers to get out of poverty by supporting small scale farmers and developing country measures to protect poor consumers. With the support of donors, investments should be put into smallholder agriculture and social protection. Tackling that crisis was the purpose of an emergency United Nations meeting in Rome June 2008. As politicians, diplomats and officials met to discuss how to best respond to the problem, Oxfam called on them to implement a co-ordinated global action plan to address the immediate needs of 300 million poor people worldwide.

In Madrid January 2009, during a UN meeting dealing with food security for all, Oxfam once again drew on examples from around the world to highlight the continuing food crisis and recommended a package of actions to help the world's poorest people and ensure that local farmers' organizations have a say in decisions on how to improve their situation.



Victoria Asalyinga (centre) and women at the single mothers' processing plant. Oxfam is working with rural communities and farmers like Victoria to help them cope with rising prices. In Bolgatanga, Ghana, Oxfam is supporting a single mothers' centre to help farmers process their rice, and also learn new skills to provide alternative sources of income.

Credit/Alexander Woolcombe/Oxfam



Hasina Begum, 35, mother of four, works in her vegetable garden. Hasina has been forced to move home five times due to river erosion, in the area of Char Atra (island), Shariatpur, Bangladesh.

"Living on a char island is always vulnerable, but it is getting worse. The cyclones are more frequent, and they are stronger than they used to be. We are also getting a lot of fog, out of season. Now the fog is unpredictable and it is destroying the crops."

Credit/Shehab Uddin/DRK/Oxfam GB

Climate change

Oxfam is seeing the effects around the world as unpredictable weather patterns cause droughts, floods, hunger and disease. In Uganda and around the world, the unpredictable weather patterns mean farmers are taking a gamble on when to sow seeds, due to the risk of having them washed away by torrential rains or having them dry up in drought.

In Bangladesh, rising flood levels are washing away crops and homes and the increase in salinisation of the land is making it harder to grow crops and producing unsafe drinking water. With our experience of working with poor communities around the world, and the knowledge that we must act now, we have launched a global campaign. Oxfam believes that climate change is a

global problem, requiring a global solution – a UN deal that is fair to both rich and poor countries. We are calling on world leaders to support this. It is vital that they set the course for a fair and effective deal to be signed in Copenhagen in December 2009. A fair deal will ensure that rich countries shoulder responsibility for global emissions reductions and support developing country adaptation. An effective deal will ensure an emissions reduction goal that minimizes the risk of global warming exceeding two degrees Celsius.

In the last year Oxfam has kept the pressure on international bodies at the UN climate negotiations at Poznan in December 2008 and also at the Japan G8 summit meeting in July to ensure that the needs of the world's poorest people are at the heart of a new global climate change deal.



Credit/Malcolm G. Fleming/Oxfam

Estere, who is in her 40s, is a small farmer in Wruma, a rural area in Phalombe district of southern Malawi.

Towards food security

Only a few years ago Malawi faced its own crisis, with droughts driving the country to the edge of famine, making food distributions from the likes of Oxfam and the World Food Program essential to people's survival. Now, while such food distribution is still available for the most vulnerable, many hundreds of thousands of families, just like Estere's, pictured above, no longer have the need for it as they have food in stock for the months ahead.

This change is a result of an agricultural inputs program implemented by the government of Malawi, with support from donor agencies. One of the main aspects of the program has been a fertilizer subsidy allowing poor farmers, typically farming small plots of 0.4 of a hectare, to buy and use fertilizer, thus greatly improving their harvest. Over two million families have benefitted from the program.

Food not fuel

The world has been going through a food price crisis. The costs of basic foods are at record levels, and pushing poor communities further into poverty. Biofuels are in part to blame due to the fact that an increasing global demand for biofuels is displacing food crops as the land is instead taken up for biofuels production.

In addition, the methods of production and use of some types of biofuels do nothing to reduce climate change and in many cases exacerbate it. About 30 per cent of food price increases is considered to be due to this heightened demand for biofuels. This means that biofuels may already be responsible for dragging 30 million people into poverty and costing poor countries nearly \$100 billion in increased food bills. We have already seen a large number of people, including leading economists and scientists, speak out about the negative impacts of biofuels and some governments are even starting to question their use.

Oxfam is demanding that rich country governments freeze all new biofuels targets and get rid of subsidies that divert food production into fuel. Governments should stop turning to biofuels as a way of tackling climate change, and invest instead in measures to reduce emissions overall including energy-efficient cars and public transport.

In October the European Parliament took action on biofuel sustainability and comprehensive standards to protect the environment and vulnerable people's land and human rights, plus a mid-term review that would allow for the target to be scrapped or reduced if it was found to be harming people's food security. Oxfam will continue to lobby EU member states and other national governments on biofuel policies and the impact they have on the ability of millions of people to feed their families.



Credit/Tom Greenwood/Oxfam GB

Community leader Mr Bartolomeus on his ancestral land, recently cleared by a palm oil company, West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Essential services

Our goal: The Millennium Development Goals for essential services will be achieved, and people living in poverty, especially women and girls, will realize their rights to accessible and affordable health, education, water and sanitation



Credit/Fancy Stitch

Fancy Stitch member Sipiwé Dlamini lives in the Macobeni area of Ingwavuma, South Africa, with her husband and three children. Her artwork "The flowers of hope bloom in my heart" tells of her wish to live long and see her children grow up.

lives — HIV, farming, livestock, cities, families, gardens, work and wildlife. Artist Maryna Hess established Fancy Stitch in 2001 after moving to Ingwavuma with her doctor husband. She wanted to find a way to use her skills to support a community devastated by HIV and poverty. The organization had just 27 members when it started in 2001, a figure that has now swelled to more than 350, including some men. Sadly, 44 members have died from AIDS since the group began, a harsh reality of the epidemic and its impact.

Ingwavuma is considered to be one of the poorest and most isolated areas of South Africa. About 90% of the population is unemployed, around 40% are living with HIV and 50% live on less than \$1.50 a day. The burden of HIV and AIDS, such as the cost of medical treatment, funerals of multiple family members, and caring for children orphaned by AIDS, drains household and community resources, further entrenching poverty in the area.

Burden of HIV and AIDS

The Joint Oxfam HIV and AIDS Program in South Africa (JOHAP) was established in 1998 by a group of Oxfam affiliates. JOHAP currently involves more than 20 program partners, who each deliver various projects in the provinces of Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. JOHAP's work ranges from providing home-based care services, reducing HIV and AIDS related stigma and discrimination, building youth capacity to tackle the epidemic and advocacy work to improve access to other community and government services.

One project, Fancy Stitch supports women living in the Ingwavuma area of KwaZulu-Natal by bringing them together to make exquisite, brightly-colored handicrafts, artworks and textiles. The women create unique works that give an intimate portrayal of their



Credit/Sieve Simon/Oxfam

Every day 3000 people die from HIV/AIDS related illnesses. This can be stopped and the solutions are clear: more health workers, free health and HIV services, affordable anti-retroviral (ARV) medicines. In Mozambique, in just 18 months, Oxfam has financed the training of 266 health workers in Machaze and Mossurize. Nurses have been trained to test for HIV, diagnose HIV and administer ARV treatment. They have also been trained in sexually transmitted disease prevention and counselling. Ilde Irune, pictured here is an Oxfam trained health worker at the Satellite health post and HIV testing centre at Save, Machaze.

International AIDS Conference

An important international conference on HIV took place in Mexico in August. Some 25,000 delegates participated in the five-days gathering including a team of Oxfam campaigners. One of them was none other than singer, songwriter, campaigner on the issue of HIV/AIDS and Oxfam Global Ambassador, Annie Lennox. Annie was a tireless advocate for us doing many things including TV interviews, public speeches, meeting world leaders and posing for a stunt. Accompanying the Oxfam core team was an enthusiastic group of over 20 activists from Oxfam's International Youth Partnership program.

Oxfam focused initially on the importance of delivering on the promise to achieve universal access to treatment for all HIV-infected people by 2010. Overall, insufficient financing for HIV/AIDS remains a major failure of donors and developing

countries while health systems remain vastly underfunded, understaffed and uncoordinated, and access to affordable medicines is under renewed assault by rich countries and the multinational pharmaceutical industry.

Oxfam then launched a report saying that health officials had wasted 15 years and countless lives by willfully ignoring the best available invention to help protect women from HIV-infection and other sexually transmitted disease: the female condom. The report, "Failing Women, Withholding Protection", called 'disgraceful' the fact that female condoms have been so poorly funded and ignored by policy makers that they remain largely unavailable and too expensive for most women to buy.



Credit/Oxfam International

Children dressed up as doctors to call for Health For All, at the launch of Oxfam's global Health & Education For All campaign.

The case for strengthening state provided health services

Millions of people in poor countries get low-quality health care, or are forced to go without it altogether. Fees are too high, hospitals and clinics are too few, and lack of medical staff means people struggle to get treated.

Oxfam's For All campaign is focused on demanding health and education for all, and has identified that the world needs six million more well-trained and well-paid teachers, doctors and nurses for poor countries, as well as improving the health services infrastructure overall. Oxfam recently in its report 'Blind Optimism' challenged the myth that private health care delivery can deliver the massive increase in health services that is required. The private sector can play a role in health care. But this paper shows there is an urgent need to reassess the arguments used in favor of scaling-up private-sector provision

in poor countries. The evidence shows that prioritizing this approach is extremely unlikely to deliver health for poor people.

Governments and rich country donors must strengthen state capacities to regulate and focus on the rapid expansion of free publicly provided health care, a proven way to save millions of lives worldwide. The report has prompted active debate with international institutions such as the World Bank and Oxfam welcomes engagement with our analysis, which is backed up by research and evidence of the poor performance of private sector-led health care initiatives. In China, for example, one third of drugs dispensed by private vendors are counterfeit, while in seven sub-Saharan African countries the WHO found that most anti-malarial drugs in private facilities failed quality tests.

A step forward on better access to medicines

The news that pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline is taking a major step toward helping poor people in developing countries to get better access to medicines is welcome news, although just the beginning.

GSK has said it would cut the price of all its medicine to the world's 52 poorest countries, although this alone won't get the job done. There are other things that companies should be doing such as reducing prices for poor people in middle-income countries too and showing flexibility on intellectual property to stimulate generic competition – especially from low-cost manufacturers such as

those in India – which is necessary for sustainable price reductions in poor countries.

GSK said it would introduce a patent pool where small molecules and processes would be donated to encourage innovation for neglected diseases and would invest 20% of the profits it gets in least-developed countries into health infrastructure in those countries. GSK is right to identify health infrastructure as a big challenge in poor countries and as part of Oxfam's For All campaign we are calling on the need to strengthen the public health care system in poor countries.



Credit/Tom Greenwood/Oxfam

Time and time again, the poorest people find vital drugs are priced out of reach. Oxfam is campaigning to change this, to ensure developing countries get cheaper and better medicines.



Local children participating in the launch of the My Rights campaign event in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in October. The campaign is working to ensure primary education for all children. The banner says "Childhood is for learning not for labor, stop child labor and send your children to school".

Amar Odhikar Campaign (My Rights Campaign) Bangladesh

The commitment and obligation of the state to provide essential services (health, education, water and sanitation) is enshrined in the constitution of Bangladesh, but practically 56 million people (40% of the population) continue to live under the poverty line and the number of extreme poor increased by as much as 3 million between 2000 and 2005 (latest HIE study in 2005).

According to estimations an additional 8.5 per cent of households have fallen below the poverty line recently, due to high inflation. A number of NGO networks and civil society organizations are taking forward a new initiative - "My Rights Campaign" - to strengthen the capacity of civil society in Bangladesh to ensure essential services for all citizens,

especially for the below poverty line people such as char dwellers, ethnic minorities, occupational caste groups, tea garden laborers, and slum dwellers.

To date, this campaign has organized a number of events and discussions with the parliamentary education committee, members of the education caucus and education commission, as well as media activists. As a result issues of education have been accepted by the commission that has committed to incorporate these in the new education policy. However, the campaign needs to continue its efforts with the Ministry of Education to ensure the policy change is turned into practical actions, which may take the next 2-3 years to achieve.



Elba Rivera-Urbina says: "There is a huge need for quality education for teachers, to boost their low salaries and to offer decent working conditions. For many, many years governments have not been taking their share of responsibility and that's why Civil Society Organizations have started to take a lead - to promote political, social and economic changes."

The W8: Eight extraordinary women, one powerful voice

For International Women's Day 2009, eight women from around the world joined together to form the W8 - an alternative to the G8 focusing on lobbying for change and calling on governments to turn promises into deeds. These eight extraordinary women have dedicated their lives to fighting for health and education in their own countries, and lead the fight for Oxfam's Health and Education For All campaign. The Health and Education campaign calls for action from governments and institutions to ensure quality healthcare and education for all people.

W8 member Elba Rivera-Urbina, pictured above, works for the Nicaraguan campaign for education and is living proof of the power of education. At the age of 16 a literacy campaign transformed Elba's life. The skill of literacy gave Elba the choice to become a powerful woman who leads advocacy initiatives through schools.

The W8 are determined to put health and education on the global agenda and to push leaders in the North and South to do more.

Rights in crisis

Our goal: All women and men in humanitarian crises will be assured both the protection and the assistance they require, regardless of who or where they are or how they are affected, in a manner consistent with their human rights.

Tsunami program closure

Oxfam International wound down its response to the Indian Ocean tsunami towards the end of 2008, four years after the disaster. Oxfam and its local partner organizations have assisted communities in seven tsunami-affected countries in the largest emergency program in its history.

In the End of Program Report, Barbara Stocking, the Chair of the Oxfam International Tsunami Fund Board, said:

"What has been achieved is astounding. Hundreds of thousands of people are now living in better conditions than they were in before the tsunami thanks to the generous support we received from the public, the dedication and hard work of our staff and local partners and the efforts of the affected communities themselves to rebuild their lives".

Oxfam received \$294 million in donations to help affected people – more than 90 per cent of it from the public. While it is notoriously difficult to count the number of people who have benefited from a humanitarian response, the recorded figure of 2.5 million cumulative beneficiaries gives an indication of the

scale of Oxfam's response. The activities of Oxfam and its partners included the provision of emergency clean water and sanitation to people displaced by the disaster; improving the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of poor and displaced people, especially women; and the construction of permanent houses to better protect communities against future disasters.

Oxfam hopes that the world's generous and speedy response to the devastation wrought by the tsunami will be regarded as a landmark. There are processes in place to keep improving the coordination between international agencies. Oxfam itself has extracted many lessons from the tsunami response which have already been applied in subsequent disasters.



Udary (aged 20) who works for Pushpa Udani Rawanpathirana, has received a loan from Oxfam partner BRAC to restart her tailoring business in Bangladesh, part of Oxfam's Tsunami response.

Credit: Howard Davies/Oxfam

Learning from our experience and through our research

As Oxfam's tsunami response began to wind down in 2008 Oxfam commissioned a wide reaching evaluation into its work. The evaluation has taken place during the autumn/spring of 2008 & 2009 and has reviewed Oxfam's work across the major response countries of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, and the smaller response countries of Somalia, Thailand, Myanmar and the Maldives.

The evaluation consists of 14 individual studies conducted by independent consultants, into issues of Public Health, Shelter, Livelihoods, Gender, Accountability (downwards and Corporate), Advocacy, Partners and Partnerships, Disaster Risk Reduction, External Communications, Funding and Finance policies, overarching M&E system, Management Issues and the Organizational Architecture and Structure established for the response. Undertaking these studies and formulating findings and recommendations is only part of the process. The information is now being used for discussions within the organization about

how the lessons learnt can be implemented and where improvements can be made. Focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction and Participatory Action Research, Oxfam International's Capstone Report captures key findings from an extensive research program conducted in Sri Lanka and India during the tsunami response.

Where to find out more:

The trio of documents capturing aspects of Oxfam's Tsunami response:

- End of Tsunami Program Report
- Capstone report from OI's Tsunami Research Programs
- Oxfam's summary evaluation report 'In the Wake of the Tsunami' and individual study reports can be found on the Oxfam International website at: <http://www.oxfam.org/en/emergencies/tsunami>.



Mary Robinson trip to DRC



Credit/Caroline Iby
Mary Robinson chats with Mimi Kambere (R), a nurse working for Oxfam a public health worker at Bulengo camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) in North Kivu province.

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Honorary President of Oxfam International, visited the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in March on a fact-finding mission. Since 1998, an estimated 5.4 million people have lost their lives in the DRC, in the deadliest conflict since the Second World War. Renewed violence forced some 250,000 people to flee their homes since August 2008 and reports indicate that another 20,000 men, women and children have been displaced since October 2008. Mary Robinson welcomed the bilateral relationship that is developing between Rwanda and DRC, and the increasing involvement of Congolese and Rwandan

women in the peace process, but called on Europe to do more to support peace efforts and honor their promises of extra peacekeepers and ensure they have the equipment they need to strengthen the protection of civilians. She also called on European leaders to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the DRC and Rwanda. Oxfam will continue its lobby work at a national and international level to ensure that the people of the DRC get the support they need to return home and rebuild their lives.

Gaza

Oxfam continues to call for all parties in the Israeli – Palestinian conflict to commit to a comprehensive and permanent truce and for the international community to tackle the root causes of the conflict.

With the cessation of violence by both Israel and Hamas early in 2009, getting basic humanitarian relief into Gaza and an end to the Israeli blockade remain the priorities so that Gazans can rebuild their lives.

Oxfam has distributed food parcels to nearly 56,000 people so that their basic food needs can be met, also trucked in clean water for up to 50,000 people a day and reached over 2,100 families with hygiene kits. These

include items such as soap, toothpaste, diapers, and washing powder. We are also working with our partners and local communities to rehabilitate damaged parts of Gaza's water and sewage network.

For more than a year, Oxfam has been calling on Israel and other parties to fully re-open all the crossings into and out of Gaza to allow for the passage of humanitarian and commercial goods and for people and that was our message to the Gaza Conference of donors that without pressure on Israel to let essential goods such as school supplies and building materials to enter then just financial contributions would not lead to reconstruction in Gaza.



Credit/Caroline Gluck/Oxfam
Girls carrying rations they received at an Oxfam food distribution in Govere village. Oxfam is working with the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and helping to feed more than 253,000 people in three districts of Midlands province, some of the most food insecure areas in the country.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is facing a humanitarian crisis of massive proportions with 5.1 million people, almost half the population, struggling to eat one meal a day. Hyper-inflation, the impact of HIV and AIDS, and the decline in recent years of commercial farm production, have all led to a widespread lack of food and other essential items across Zimbabwe.

Cholera, a water-borne disease, has surged due to the breakdown of city sewerage systems, poor maintenance of water supply systems including hand pumps, severe drinking water shortages, and the lack of basic hygiene items such as soap.

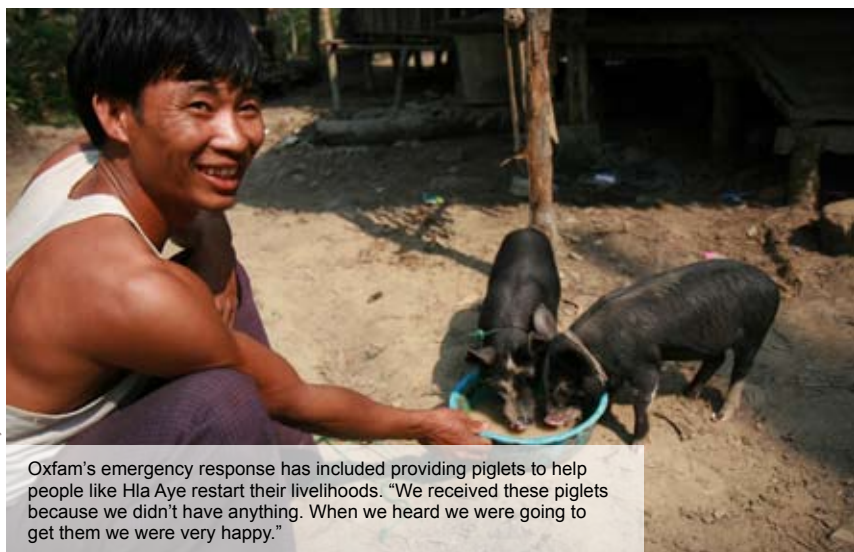
Our humanitarian response in Zimbabwe focuses on food security and

the provision of water and sanitation for the poorest Zimbabweans.

In October (2008) Oxfam started a six-month food assistance program, in collaboration with the World Food Program, which will continue until March 2009, delivering 12,000 metric tons of food aid; including maize meal, vegetable oil and pulses.

We are also carrying out an ambitious public health project in six urban areas in Zimbabwe, which is being funded by USAID and OFDA and will respond to the public health needs of nearly half a million people. The project involves distributing non-food items, hygiene education, contingency stocking and water and sanitation provision.

Asia – 3 natural disasters



Credit/Jane Beasley/Oxfam

Oxfam's emergency response has included providing piglets to help people like Hla Aye restart their livelihoods. "We received these piglets because we didn't have anything. When we heard we were going to get them we were very happy."

Myanmar cyclone

Cyclone Nargis swept through the Ayeyarwady delta and Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, on 2 and 3 May 2008 causing a level of destruction similar to the worst hit areas of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Entire villages were washed away, livelihoods lost and around 2.4 million people severely affected. Around 790,000 houses were damaged or destroyed when the cyclone hit. Entire villages were wiped out overnight, along with people's main means of making a living – boats, nets, crops, tools, and livestock.

Oxfam reached half a million people in our emergency relief and recovery response. This work has included shelter, water and sanitation, and support for restarting livelihoods. We are now working on a longer-term rehabilitation program. Communities are still in need of support to help rebuild livelihoods. There is also a need for disaster risk reduction measures to help prevent and limit the impact of future disasters and it will take years of sustained international support for the worst hit areas to fully recover. The impact of the cyclone on people's lives and livelihoods was enormous and it will take many years to recover.

India floods

Monsoon rains caused the Kosi River to breach its banks on 18 August, resulting in serious floods in six eastern districts of Bihar, India. The scale of the breach has changed the course of the river, with waters flowing into villages that were not previously flood prone. Some reports indicated that over 2.7 million people were displaced and more than one million people sought refuge in over 150 relief camps after floods swept away their homes.

Working with partner organizations, Oxfam distributed food, water purification kits, buckets, tarpaulins and shelter sheets in relief camps in Supaul district. When the floods first hit we used motorboats to rescue stranded men, women and children. Our emergency relief work was wound down during November, as people returned to their villages.



Credit/Oxfam

People evacuating by boat after monsoon rains caused the Kosi River, near the India-Nepal border, to breach its banks on August 18.



Credit/Keith Wong/Oxfam Hong Kong

Devastation in Xiushui town, May 2008.

China earthquake

A devastating earthquake hit south western China on Monday 12 May 2008. It is thought that 69,227 people died, 17,923 people remain missing, 374,640 people were injured, and up to 46.24 million people have been affected by the earthquake.

We have responded to the earthquake through Oxfam Hong Kong, which carried out emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction work, including assisting survivors in remote rural areas; distributing food to children, women and elderly people; and epidemic prevention work. Oxfam's response has now entered the rehabilitation phase, and Oxfam Hong Kong anticipates carrying out a long-term rehabilitation program to provide support in livelihoods restoration and infrastructure recovery.



Oxfam's work is focused on supporting Afghans to improve their skills and capacities, such as the skills on display at this iron smith shop in Faizabad city, Badakhshan province, north east Afghanistan.

Afghanistan – rehabilitation towards development

Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, much progress has been made in Afghanistan but it remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Continuing conflict and insecurity, damaged infrastructure and ethnic differences present huge challenges on the country's path towards development. Only half of all children attend school. This figure is considerably lower for girls, who have traditionally missed out on education: only one in five make it to primary school and one in 20 to secondary school. Afghanistan is also facing a food crisis thanks to the rising cost of wheat.

Given the widespread destruction of government institutions and facilities, Oxfam originally concentrated on providing immediate help, such as food for work projects and on building schools, roads and clinics. Now our work is focused on supporting Afghans, especially civil society organizations, to improve their skills and capacities, and helping Afghan communities to take control of their own development.

Oxfam also runs advocacy programs in Afghanistan which try to influence policies of the Afghan and donor governments to reduce poverty and promote rural development and reconstruction.

Sudan – deteriorating humanitarian situation

Oxfam International's focus in Sudan is meeting humanitarian and development needs. There are five Oxfam affiliates currently working in Sudan, providing vital humanitarian aid such as clean water, for more than 400,000 people affected by the ongoing conflict in Darfur, as well as small grants and support to projects to improve people's livelihoods, education and access to services in the rest of the country.

Oxfam International's British affiliate - Oxfam GB - is appealing the Sudanese government's decision made on March 4 2009 to revoke its registration to work in the north of the country following the issue of an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Thirteen international aid agencies and 3 Sudanese agencies have had their registrations revoked, a decision which will affect hundreds of thousands of lives.

A recent joint assessment in Darfur by the United Nations and the Government of Sudan showed that hundreds of thousands of people now have less access to safe water, healthcare, food and shelter, and that these needs are likely to become acute in the coming months. In many locations where Oxfam GB was working, the impact is already apparent. In Kalma camp in South Darfur, boreholes have stopped pumping water. In the camps of Kass and Shangil Tobai, communities have been rationing water to try to make it available for longer. Thousands of latrines will fill up and need replacing in the coming months, and many health programs aimed at reducing the threat of water-borne diseases such as cholera and malaria in the rainy season have ceased. Given the urgency and scale of the need, replacing these programs will be an enormously difficult challenge.

Other Oxfam affiliates from the US, the Netherlands and Canada are continuing to work on their development and aid programs in northern Sudan. Meanwhile, aid agency programs including those run by Oxfam affiliates are continuing in southern Sudan.



Campaigners delivered a message from Desmond Tutu to all 192 UN Member states during a "rickshaw race" for an Arms Trade Treaty.

Control Arms at the UN

In October, after a month of intense campaigning, 147 states voted overwhelmingly at the UN to move to the next stage in the process of securing an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). This is an increase on the 139 states which voted to start the UN process in October 2006, showing increasing global support for the treaty. Support was particularly strong in Africa, South and Central America and Europe indicating high demand for global arms controls, both from countries severely affected by armed violence and from major arms exporters. Only the US and Zimbabwe voted against, ignoring growing global consensus on an ATT.

The Control Arms campaign, run jointly by International Action Network on Small Arms, Amnesty International and Oxfam International, welcomed the vote but continues to call for more urgency from states to advance the process quickly and ensure a strong Treaty with human rights and development at its heart. Control Arms is calling for an effective global, legally binding ATT to stop weapons being used to fuel conflict, poverty and human rights abuses.

Gender justice

Our goal: Many more women will gain power over their lives and live free from violence

Speaking out on women's rights

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Oxfam staff and partners, including women and men community activists and partners from South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria represented Oxfam International at the 53rd Session of the CSW at the UN headquarters in New York. The CSW is the only explicit intergovernmental women's rights body at UN level that meets annually to call attention to the progress of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).

The BPfA is a voluntary political commitment on women's rights and gender equality, adopted at the Fourth World Conference for Women at Beijing in 1995 that calls for action by national governments and other stakeholders on the wide range of women's economic, political, social and cultural rights. The BPfA is a key political framework on which Oxfam's Gender Justice work is based. The main objectives for Oxfam International was to engage in the political process to advance women's rights based on our concrete experience and work with partners. Key Oxfam policy recommendations that were included in the agreed conclusion were for donor countries working to meet the 0.7% GDP towards ODA target. These were around reducing the unequal burden of care for people living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) through long-term investment, better access to and expansion of high-quality (and free) state healthcare systems that involve men and women equally; more and better trained health workers; the female condom; political follow-up to the HIV and AIDS related Abuja and Maputo declarations; prevention education; and the rights of care givers with regard to fair and equitable remuneration.

We have helped to ensure that the agreed conclusions are now stronger allowing a more accurate reflection of the state of gender justice to be made explicit for future political action by governments.



Credit: Pat Kipping/Oxfam

In Ethiopia, Oxfam is working with the organization HUNDEE to establish women's economic support associations and environmental clubs in villages in the Oromia region. These groups are creating awareness on women's rights, environmental rehabilitation, developing income-earning activities like dairies, and providing support schemes for older people. HUNDEE also provides bursaries to female students and helps women-headed households earn greater income through the provision of heifers.

The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

The Protocol came into force on the 25th of November 2005 - a milestone in the protection and promotion of women's rights in Africa which had been actively promoted by a range of African civil society organizations. Oxfam supported the formation and advocacy work of a coalition called the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) made up of over 30 local, national and regional civil society organizations, including Oxfam, FEMNET, EqualityNow, CREDO for Expression and Associated Rights and Fahamu, among others. The objectives of the campaign are for African states to sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the Protocol: twenty seven countries have now ratified the Protocol, and now implementation is urgent.

The coalition has used a range of face to face and mass media strategies to popularize the Protocol and encourage action by states, including preparing of a petition to be presented to Heads

of States and Governments of the AU urging them to ratify the Protocol; ensuring inclusion of grassroots and rural women's voices in AU Pre-Summit meetings where they urged governments to honor their commitment to increase investment in agriculture to 10% of their budgets, and provide targeted investment agriculture for women farmers; and launch of a first-ever mobile phone short text service/message (SMS) dubbed "text now 4 women's rights". Mobile phone users across the world can now send SMSs from their mobile phones to sign an online petition in support of a campaign urging African governments to ratify the protocol. The campaign has been well received by African governments, the AU Commission including the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (Dr Angela Melo) and it is hoped the campaign will ensure that the Protocol is used in home grown ways for the realization of women's rights.



Credit: Laura Eldon

Change Maker Rubi Lama says 'I feel so empowered now. Becoming a Change Maker has revolutionised my life. I am learning every day to cope with violence against women and to bring change!'

We can campaign – Nepal

Oxfam is committed to ensuring that women have the same opportunities as men. But in many countries, social customs and attitudes help to condone violence and discrimination against women.

These attitudes are based on deep-seated social beliefs that women are fundamentally of less value than men. Only when these perceptions change will violence against women be viewed as shocking and unacceptable. The WE CAN Campaign was launched in 2004, and is now active in six countries across South Asia – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. By creating an alliance of organizations, communities, and individuals, this ambitious project aims to challenge and change attitudes and behaviour through

local campaigning. The ultimate aim is to end violence against women for good.

WE CAN is working with partner organizations in Nepal to bring people together and motivate them to become Change Makers. Through street drama, public events, discussion sessions, and competitions, Change Makers raise awareness among the general public about the need to bring an end to violence against women. Thousands of Change Makers have already been recruited across South Asia, including in Nepal meaning that many more people are now more informed about the issues surrounding violence against women. Many men have admitted to using violence in the past, and have spoken about changing their ways.

Training and jobs to empower rural women

Since 1996, Oxfam International has been working in Cuba to improve food security through organic agriculture projects, and projects aimed at diversifying agricultural production.

In this regard, Oxfam has worked with the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) which brings together 4,200 cooperatives with 330,000 members nationally to improve food security in farming cooperatives and communities severely hit by drought through investments in irrigation, vegetable gardens and animal husbandry.

Women play a key role in the production of fresh vegetables, milk and meat as technicians, specialists and workers, however due to ingrained gendered division of labor and perceptions of what women can do, few become members of cooperatives or leaders. For this reason, Oxfam has worked with ANAP to develop new opportunities for women's employment – including through the construction of greenhouses and establishment of nurseries where women can work.

It is also helping to reduce barriers to women's participation in the cooperatives, and create opportunities for them to develop knowledge and skills that enhance their leadership.

For Carmen Padron (pictured above), president of a credit and services cooperative, ANAP's gender work has been



Credit: Baldrich/Oxfam America

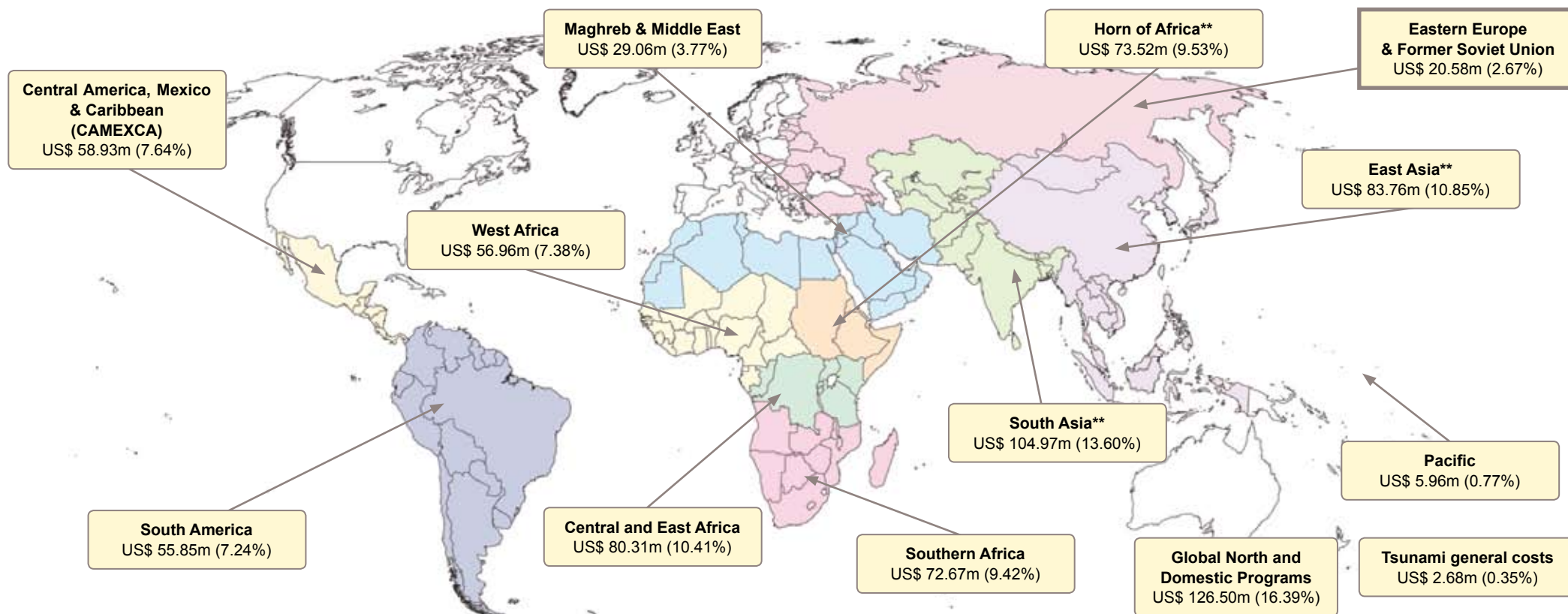
For Carmen Padron ANAP's gender work has been the key to her development. Of the women's workshops she attended, Carmen says: "I learned a lot in the women's workshops. I felt confident, I learned to manage, to communicate, how to talk to my workmates... how to motivate them".

the key to her development. She started out in ANAP in an administrative position in a livestock cooperative and because of the women's leadership project she started to take on other responsibilities.

Her workmates, as well as respecting her as a woman, also saw her as a leader. Later, she went on to manage a 125 member sugar cane cooperative.

Where we work

Program expenditure 2007/08



Program expenditure by Oxfam International strategic aims*

	US\$	% Total
Livelihoods	US\$ 199.77m	25.88%
Basic social services	US\$ 104.63m	13.56%
Life and security**	US\$ 246.50m	31.94%
Right to be heard	US\$ 111.78m	14.48%
Identity	US\$ 75.55m	9.79%
Non aligned	US\$ 33.52m	4.34%

Total program expenditure: US\$ 771.75 million*

* Figures represent consolidated affiliate program expenditure for the reporting period 2007/08. Program Expenditure is defined as "Costs of long- and short-term development and humanitarian response projects". Figures do not include management costs.

** Spending in East and South Asia and the Horn of Africa includes tsunami response programs, which have all been categorized under the life and security aim. Total spend on tsunami programs in this period amounts to US\$ 50.60m

For information on the finances of Oxfam affiliates around the world and of the Oxfam International Secretariat, please visit the websites listed on page 18.

Contact us

Oxfam America

Chair: Janet McKinley
Director: Raymond Offenheiser
226 Causeway Street, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02114-2206, USA
+1 617 482 1211 (Toll-free 1 800 77 OXFAM)
E-mail: info@oxfamamerica.org
www.oxfamamerica.org

Oxfam Australia

Chair: Michael Henry
Director: Andrew Hewett
132 Leicester Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053,
Australia
Tel: +61 3 9289 9444
E-mail: enquire@oxfam.org.au
www.oxfam.org.au

Oxfam-in-Belgium

Chair: Anton Reithinger
Director: Stefaan Declercq
Rue des Quatre Vents 60, 1080 Brussels,
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 501 6700
E-mail: oxfamsol@oxfamsol.be
www.oxfamsol.be

Oxfam Canada

Chair: Kelly Bruton
Director: Robert Fox
39 McArthur Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1L 8L7,
Canada
Tel: +1 613 237 5236
E-mail: info@oxfam.ca
www.oxfam.ca

Oxfam France - Agir Ici

Chair: Françoise Toutain
Director: Luc Lamprière
104 rue Oberkampf, 75011 Paris, France
Tel: +33 1 56 98 24 40.
E-mail: info@oxfamfrance.org
www.oxfamfrance.org

Oxfam Germany

Chair: Matthias von Bismarck-Osten
Director: Paul Bendix
Greifswalder Str. 33a, 10405 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 428 50621
E-mail: info@oxfam.de
www.oxfam.de

Oxfam GB

Chair: John Gaventa
Director: Barbara Stocking
Oxfam House, John Smith Drive, Cowley,
Oxford, OX4 2JY, UK
Tel: +44 1865 473727
E-mail: enquiries@oxfam.org.uk
www.oxfam.org.uk

Oxfam Hong Kong

Chair: Chi Kin Lo
Director: John Sayer
17/F., China United Centre, 28 Marble Road,
North Point, Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2520 2525
E-mail: info@oxfam.org.hk
www.oxfam.org.hk

Intermón Oxfam (Spain)

Chair: Josep Miralles
Director: Ariane Arpa
Roger de Llúria 15, 08010, Barcelona, Spain
Tel: +34 902 330 331
E-mail: info@intermonoxfam.org
www.intermonoxfam.org

Oxfam Ireland

Chair: Tony McMullan
Director: Jim Clarken
Dublin Office, 9 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland
Tel: +353 1672 7662
Belfast Office, 115 North St, Belfast BT1 1ND,
UK
Tel: +44 28 9023 0220
E-mail: info@oxfamireland.org
www.oxfamireland.org

Oxfam Mexico

Chair: Cristina Safa
Director: Carlos Zarco
Alabama 105 Col Nápoles
C.P. 03810 México, Delegación Benito Juárez
D.F.
Tel: +52 55 5687 3002 / 3203
E-mail: comunicacion@oxfamMexico.org
web: www.oxfamMexico.org

Oxfam New Zealand

Chair: Peter Conway
Director: Barry Coates
PO Box 68357, Auckland 1145, New Zealand
Tel: +64 9 355 6500 (Toll-free 0800 400 666)
E-mail: oxfam@oxfam.org.nz
www.oxfam.org.nz

Oxfam Novib (Netherlands)

Chair: Joris Voorhoeve,
Director: Farah Karimi
Mauritskade 9, Postbus 30919, 2500 GX,
The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel: +31 70 342 1621
E-mail: info@oxfamnovib.nl
www.oxfamnovib.nl

Oxfam Québec

Chair: Monique Létourneau
Director: Pierre Véronneau
2330 rue Notre Dame Ouest, bureau 200,
Montreal, Quebec, H3J 2Y2, Canada
Tel: +1 514 937 1614
E-mail: info@oxfam.qc.ca
www.oxfam.qc.ca

Oxfam International Secretariat

Suite 20, 266 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DL,
UK
Tel: +44 1865 339100
Email: information@oxfaminternational.org
www.oxfam.org

Oxfam International advocacy offices

E-mail: advocacy@oxfaminternational.org

Washington: 1100 15th St., NW, Ste. 600,
Washington, DC 20005-1759, USA
Tel: +1 202 496 1170.

Brussels: Rue Philippe le Bon 15, 1000
Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +322 502 1941

Geneva: 15 rue des Savoises, 1205 Geneva,
Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 321 2371.

New York: 355 Lexington Avenue, 3rd Floor,
New York, NY 10017, USA. Tel: +1 212 687
2091.

Brasilia: SCS Quadra 08 Bloco B-50, Sala 401
Edifício Venâncio 2000, Brasília DF 70333-
970, Brazil. Tel: +55 61 3321 4044

Oxfam International Liaison Office

Addis Ababa: TK Building, Bole Airport area,
Suite 304 B, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 11 661 16 01; E-mail: addisababa@oxfaminternational.org

Linked Oxfam organization

The following organization is linked to Oxfam International:

Oxfam International and Ucodep Campaign
Office (Italy) Via Fogliano 10, 00199 Rome, Italy
Tel +39 0645 432939, Fax +39 0645 438046
Email: ucodep-oi@oxfaminternational.org

Oxfam observer members

The following organizations are currently
observer members of Oxfam International,
working towards possible full affiliation:

Oxfam Japan Maruko bldg. 2F, 1-20-6, Higashi-
Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0015, Japan
Tel: +81 3 3834 1556.
E-mail: oxfaminfo@oxfam.jp
www.oxfam.jp

Oxfam India 2nd floor, 1 Community Centre,
New Friends Colony, New Delhi, India 110 065
Tel: +91 (0) 11 4653 8000, fax: +91 (0) 11 4653
8099, email: delhi@oxfamindia.org,
www.oxfamindia.org

Stichting Oxfam International, registered at The Hague, The Netherlands, No 41159611.
Registered Office: PO Box 30919 The Hague, The Netherlands.

Registered at Companies House, Cardiff. Company No FCO19279. Registered Office:
Suite 20, 266 Banbury Road Oxford OX2 7DL. UK VAT No 663 597395