Hi everyone,

Welcome to the new-look regional newsletter! I hope you like the new design?

We often say in Oxfam that we “put poor women’s rights at the heart of everything we do.” But what does this actually mean? In this issue we meet some remarkable women who are bringing change around the region.

We check in on the latest countries to “Go Live” as part of Oxfam’s Single Management Structure (SMS) process. Half the countries in our region have now Gone Live and we are starting to see real change in the way we work towards common goals as one Oxfam family.

Oxfam prides itself on being at the forefront of innovation in the fight against poverty. I’m delighted to see some of the great programme work being done across the region, and look forward to reading more stories about Oxfam innovation in future.

I would really love to hear your feedback on the newsletter and any comments, suggestions or questions that you have. Please email me at hecainfo@oxfam.org.uk

Thanks and happy reading!

Fran Equiza, Oxfam GB Regional Director

Inside... Amazing women inspire change in Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and DRC... SMS Celebrations... Solar powered innovation... Meet the South Sudan team... Somalia is more than piracy... The elephants are no more... A food secure Ethiopia... World Water Day... Play football for the Union!... and the Oxfam Kenny Awards...
Amazing women inspire change

Countries across the region marked the 101st International Women’s Day, a day of celebrating women’s economic, political and social achievements, and recognising the ongoing struggle for gender equality.

**Rwanda’s first female entrepreneur champion**

By Gatete Thierry: Across Rwanda, women farmers and entrepreneurs are driving the country’s economic growth and poverty reduction. So Oxfam and partners set up a competition to celebrate ordinary women doing extraordinary things in their communities, and get the public to vote for Rwanda’s first ever Female Entrepreneur Champion.

Women in Rwanda carry out most of the agricultural work, but they have limited access to land, credit or support services, and have little control over the income they create. The new competition aimed to prove that women can be successful entrepreneurs – and that governments, banks and companies should invest more in women.

Over 1,500 people attended the competition launch. The “Top 24” women were then selected to take part in a training camp and went on national radio to explain how they built their businesses – from tailoring and jewellery shops, to pineapple farms. Then the public and experts voted for the winners.

The winner in Nyabihu was 22-year-old Odette Nizeyimana – the district’s first female carpenter.

Odette started making tools and furniture when she was only 15. She trained with some of the local craftsmen, and then set up her own business, which has gradually expanded. She now trains other local women and employs three girls in her thriving workshop. The profits from her business have greatly improved her family’s home and put food on their table.

“When I realised that boys were capable of collecting wood and turning it into good furniture and making money, I decided I should learn to do the same,” Odette says. “Now I’m competing with men for marketing our products… but I make the better furniture!”

The winners of the competition got a cash prize of up to $500 and the Top 24 were submitted to receive micro-loans support from one of Oxfam’s local partners.

**Working for a better future in Somalia**

There are many strong, brave and inspiring Somali women who are making a positive difference in this troubled country. Fartun Adan is one such woman.

Fartun was a young mother caring for three daughters and living with her husband, Elman, in Mogadishu. Many men fled the conflict and the city was left with a shortage of skilled labour and a lot of child soldiers. “It was considered normal for a 14 year old to walk round with a gun,” Fartun says.

Elman began to provide the child soldiers with an education and job training, and help their reintegration in the community. Not everyone was pleased with his efforts, though. In 1996 a local warlord gave orders for Elman to be killed. After his death, Fartun was left with nothing so she took her daughters to Canada as refugees.

In 2007, Fartun returned to Mogadishu and picked up her husband’s work, expanding it to become The Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre. Child soldiers remain a big problem: “They believe the only way they can make money is by having a gun, by fighting for other people,” Fartun says. But the graduates from the Elman Centre have managed to change their lives. “We have former child soldiers who are now teachers. Many in the city - the electricians, mechanics - have done our job training.”
Last year Somalia was struck by famine and hundreds of thousands of starving people poured into Mogadishu. Living in crowded camps of makeshift shelters, many people were left vulnerable. Reports of rape against women rose alarmingly high.

Continuing to advocate for those in need, Fartun became a founder of Sisters Somalia, a new agency providing support for victims of gender-based violence. “The rapes were going on, but nobody was talking about it,” she says. Since then the new organization has been providing women with counselling, relocation to safer housing, and aid to start their own businesses.

With so many issues confronting Somalia, Fartun keeps advocating for the rights of the people. Lobbying in partnership with Oxfam, she has spoken before the African Union, the European Union, and the British Prime Minister, to raise awareness of the crisis in her country.

The path to end the conflict in Somalia will not be an easy one, and rebuilding this long suffering country will not be accomplished by men alone. Women like Fartun are there continuing the struggle, bringing aid and helping people have a better future.

Celebrating International Women’s Day in South Sudan

Tanzania’s Female Food Heroes Go Global

Over 2,200 women’s rights activists from around the world attended the Association of Women in Development (AWID) Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, to discuss ideas for “Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women’s Rights and Justice”. Among them were three rural farmers from Tanzania.

Ester, Anna and Mandiwe were the finalists of Oxfam’s Female Food Hero project, a national competition to celebrate the women who produce the food the nation eats.

Attending such an event for the first time – along with Mwanahamisi Salimu, Oxfam’s Economic Justice coordinator in Tanzania – the women met fellow activists and food producers to share experiences and ideas.

7,000 Tanzanian women were nominated for the competition. Ester, the overall winner, has used a special sorghum seed and managed to boost her yield from five to 75 bags a year. She’s now encouraging other farmers to adopt her approach, and spoke at AWID Forum about women’s rights:

“Although women are the main producers, they still don’t have an opportunity to own land. As a Female Food Hero I have a responsibility to speak for the women in Tanzania and raise awareness of the lack of resources and finances that they face. I believe this meeting will provide solutions, and that if we women are organised in a group then it is easier for us to access and fight for our rights.”

Ester has just been named one of the world’s “Top 10 Food Trailblazers” by Reuters news agency. In Istanbul, Mandiwe gave interviews to Turkish newspapers and TV: “Being a competition winner has awarded me a lot of respect from men in my village. They now want me to train their wives, and ask for my advice.”

Surviving the LRA

Last year, Oxfam gave small video cameras and training to communities in northeastern DRC that have been terrorised by the Lord’s Resistance Army, who continue to attack villages and abduct people. We wanted to help local people tell the world their own stories.

Some of these stories are now online, including Aimee, whose daughter was kidnapped by the LRA and help captive for two years, and Animomu, who escaped an attack while pregnant with her daughter.

You can watch the videos they made at [http://oxf.am/otF](http://oxf.am/otF)
SMS Goes Live – Time for celebrations

Oxfam’s Single Management Structure (SMS) process is moving forwards across the region. Tanzania was first to “Go Live” in late-2011, and is now joined by Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Somalia. Huge congratulations to all the staff who have helped countries reach this amazing milestone.

Song and dance with Oxfam in Somalia

We celebrated Go Live with good old-fashioned fun and those who attended enjoyed themselves immensely. Guests included partners, donors and officials from the Kenya and Somalia Embassies. A photo gallery on the walls showed different perspectives of life in Somalia – the hope and human spirit, not just the suffering we often see. Somali musicians played and our staff showed off their Somali dancing.

Senait Gebregziabher, Oxfam’s Country Director in Somalia, gave the opening speech: “We believe that by working together as one Oxfam we will achieve greater impact, save costs and have a stronger voice. In Somalia we have started this journey and we will continue to work together.”

A Go Live factory tour in Rwanda

Rather than the usual conference room, the Rwanda Go Live event was held in a local factory. The Managing Director of Shekina Enterprises gave the 100 guests a tour of the company’s factory to see activities that are supported by Oxfam’s livelihoods programmes. It was an effort to show the staff, government officials, donors, media, partners and beneficiaries, a “real side” of Oxfam’s work on the ground and our development vision for the country.

Oxfam and Shekina are supporting the production and potential export of dried pineapple by small scale farmers. Maggie Carroll, Oxfam Country Director in Rwanda, gave a speech emphasising that the new joint Oxfam strategy will present a new, unified and stronger Oxfam, ready to partner more with the Rwandan government in its development agenda.

Four affiliates join together in Ethiopia

Over 200 staff representing four affiliates operating in Ethiopia (Oxfams GB, America, Canada and Intermon) joined hands to mark the special day. During the celebration an MoU was signed by the four affiliates, marking a key step of the big journey ahead.

Oxfam Country Director Greg Puley said: “The Go Live moment is really a very simple thing. What it means is that we are now one Oxfam team in Ethiopia. Being one team does not mean everybody does the same thing. It means that we all work together for one single goal. We have one plan, one identity and one goal, which is to support Ethiopia to overcome poverty. We are doing this so that we can be stronger and better.”

Videos and music in DRC

DRC is the biggest country in the region so events were held in several different provinces. The national event was held in Bukavu, South Kivu, where guests watched a “One Oxfam” video put together by the
country team, with interviews of staff members explaining their jobs and their hopes and expectations of the SMS process.

A local band performed an SMS song they had written specially for the day, and then the celebrations started properly with food, drinks and dancing. Sylvie Louchez, Oxfam’s Country Director in DRC, said: “In all countries Oxfam operates, we will come together and work as in a confederation. Today marks the start of the process and we have come to compare it to a wedding – meaning that we’re setting up something but no one knows for sure what will come out of it.”

**Drumming and theatre in Burundi**

Around 60 people, including partners and allies, attended a festive evening in Bujumbura. After a traditional welcome by Burundian drummers, there was a presentation on the story of Oxfam in Burundi, with a photo exhibition of Oxfam’s work and testimonies from local partners and staff.

The Oxfam Country Director, Pilar Duat Llorens, spoke of the new dawn of working together as One Oxfam. The evening was closed with traditional dancing and a theatre performance about the importance in the country. In Burundi drinking sorghum beer together from the same container is a symbol of unity, so the whole team shared a drink through straws.

**Meet South Sudan’s emergency team**

In the past few months, 37,000 refugees have fled fighting in the Blue Nile region of Sudan and arrived at Jamam refugee camp in South Sudan. The situation in South Sudan has now been declared an Oxfam “Category 2” emergency. Some of the Jamam team explain more about their work and the challenges in the camp:

*Ben Lopidia: “More refugees are expected to arrive as the fighting goes on. Oxfam is scaling up our response in water, sanitation and public health. This camp has many challenges. People have had to settle on a flood plain, which will be under water when the rains come, and there are many unexploded bombs left from the war. We are working to try and find an alternative site.”*

*Michael Mori, drilling rig operator: “This region is a difficult place to drill boreholes – the soil is very soft. We recently dug a borehole but then because of the soil it collapsed the next day. In July the rains start and then it’s impossible to drill and many roads are inaccessible. The borehole we are trying to repair (below) will provide water to the host community in Jamam and the refugees. It’s been broken since 2004 – we’re trying to make it work again.”*
Toffique Samuel, HR officer: “Jamam is like an island and it depends on other places for supplies. It is very difficult to get food here. We can get some meat locally, but everything else – rice, maize, vegetables – has to brought from towns 4-5 hours drive away. There are no fruits or vegetables in the local markets. There is no phone network so it is hard for staff to stay in touch with their families. Every Sunday we drive 45 minutes to find the one village with phone network, so people can call home. The local people in Jamam are very friendly to work with – sometimes with big emergency programmes there is some hostility, but not here.”

Justin Mozofuri, logistics officer: “Most of the equipment has to be brought from Juba. Usually we bring things by barge – it takes 2 or 3 weeks from Juba to Malakal, and then a few days by truck to Jamam. So it takes at least a month, even without delays – which happen a lot! Trucks are usually available, but fuel is scarce and very expensive at the moment.”

Cecilia Kiden, public health assistant: “When we first came here the place was bush and people were defecating everywhere. People are not used to living in crowded camps, so they don’t know how to adapt. It would be very easy for disease to spread, and we see lots of eye infections and diarrhoea. Today we’ve cleaned about 803 shelters where families are living.”

18-year-old refugee Nagat Kuku Issa has been trained to help Oxfam’s public health campaigns in the camp:

“Our village was bombed and I had to flee with my parents and the rest of our family. I had recently finished school and I was hoping to go to university in Khartoum. But now we are stuck in this camp where there are no schools. I hope that the war will finish so we can go home and I can go to university.

“Life is difficult here. I’m the eldest of six children, and a few weeks ago I was chosen to get training from Oxfam about health work, so I can teach others in the camp. Now I work five days a week. My parents were farmers but here there is no work, so this is the only income my family has now.

“I tell people the causes of diarrhoea and how to prevent it. I tell children to wash their hands, and parents to cover their food. If people don’t have soap, I tell them to use ash instead. And I tell everyone to get water from the Oxfam taps, where it is safe and clean.”

Nexton Ndio, driver: “The most challenging time of year is the rainy season – vehicles get stuck and can’t move and many roads are impassable. Some of the villages we work in can’t be accessed at all during the rains, for 5-6 months a year as the land floods.”
Oxfam innovation – solar powered water pumps

An Oxfam water programme in an arid region of northern Kenya is testing – and sometimes overturning – assumptions about solar power, and finding that for many communities, it beats using diesel. Brian McSorley reports:

During droughts in Turkana, many communities have required significant external support to ensure water points remain functional, to minimise loss of life – of people and animals.

Diesel systems at water points are capable of very high output, but their fuel consumption means very high operational costs too. In droughts they might need to operate for 18 hours a day to keep people and animals alive. But the “Catch-22” is that just when people need water the most, they have less money and are least able to afford the costs.

Many diesel pumps have exceeded their original design life and are poorly maintained, and often fail. If governments or NGOs provide fuel to subsidise the costs of operation and spare parts, it reinforces a sense of dependency and fails to address underlying economic and management issues.

As part of our Drought Management Initiative, Oxfam has installed eight solar pumping systems in seven villages. Five of these replaced diesel, enabling us to make direct comparisons.

The seven communities all report significant benefits – most importantly, improved access to water and reliability of the supply. The tangible evidence is that during the 2011 drought, one of the worst in years, all these villages were self-reliant for water supply and even able to set up small irrigated plots.

The community of Meyan was previously dependent on traditional “scoop holes,” which were unsafe not only because of waterborne diseases but also physically dangerous as sometimes they collapsed – burying and killing people as they collected water. The solar pump has provided this village with a continuous water supply which people have used to start “kitchen gardens” and cook food. The community reports less illness and they value the fact that they can still get a water supply during periods when it is difficult to collect tariffs for fuel.

Two frequent assumptions about the supposed inadequacies of solar power have particularly been challenged:

One is that the output of a solar pump would not be able to meet demand. In fact, the net output from the solar systems is significantly greater than the diesel systems.

The second is that the capital cost of solar is significantly more expensive than diesel. This is not so. Solar pumps tend to replace larger capacity submersible pumps and generators of comparable or greater cost. This is the result of a common tendency to oversize generators and pumps, a “bigger is better” mentality.

And as expected, the solar pump has significantly lower operating costs. In Kaaaleng village the water users say they have saved about 1,000 Euros and paid off debts.

There are some challenges though. The solar systems cannot pump a sufficient quantity of water from deep boreholes. Output also drops significantly in cloudy conditions, and there is none at all at night. However, this is easily overcome by having a small back-up petrol generator (which each village has). Turkana is ideally suited to solar, with ample sunshine and fairly shallow groundwater depth. In other places with higher demand and/or deeper groundwater, solar may not be appropriate.

Nevertheless, our experience in Turkana demonstrates that solar is simpler and more reliable and a big step in the right direction in terms of increasing communities’ self-reliance during dry seasons and drought, and reducing the level of external support.

Do you know of an innovative Oxfam project you think others could learn from?
Send us the details: hecainfo@oxfam.org.uk
“The elephants are no more...”

In the arid northern Kenya regions of Wajir and Turkana, droughts are occurring increasingly frequently. Public “climate hearings” aim to facilitate a common understanding of how the climate is changing, how it affects people, and what people can do to mitigate and adapt to the changes.

The outcome of these hearings is captured in a new booklet - “Hear Our Call: Climate change testimonies from Kenya’s dry regions of Wajir and Turkana” – which includes testimonies such as Omar’s:

“My name is Omar Isaak Hassan and I am 50 years old. During my childhood, there were no settlements here and there was a lot of wildlife – especially lions, hyenas and elephants. There was a lot of tall grass that could cover above your knees. This place was a jungle. In those days one dairy cow could comfortably feed four or five children. Even the camels had a lot of milk. We took milk with every meal.

“Rain was reliable, and sufficient. These days rain is not reliable – we rarely receive it. Now there are several small settlements in this area making pastoralism difficult. The population of people and livestock has increased, exerting pressure on the natural resources and leading to depletion of the pasture. Rearing livestock is no longer viable.

“My plea to the world is for the developed countries to stop manufacturing things that emit the gases that are causing climate change. This industrial waste has polluted the air, land and sea. It is endangering our lives by affecting us with several diseases. Plastic bags are also a major problem here. The plastic waste has killed the few animals that survived the drought. We ask for a stop to the production and use of these killer bags.”

Omar says the world must get serious about prioritising environmental conservation. “World leaders have to be serious about taking care of this earth. It is the only one we have and if we destroy it then we destroy ourselves.”

Together for a food secure Ethiopia

Food security is a major global challenge, and the Ethiopian government has ambitious goals to transform its economy and create a prosperous and food secure nation. In support of this a coalition of NGOs, including Oxfam, is embarking on a new initiative called Together for a food secure Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, the importance of the agricultural sector cannot be overemphasised. 85% of the population depend on it and it contributes about 41% to the GDP, and 90% to the country’s exports. Production is overwhelmingly based on small-scale farming. Livestock production is also vital, with Ethiopia having the largest livestock population in Africa.

Much progress has been made – the agricultural sector is growing at about 10% a year – but a number of challenges remain to feed the country’s 120 million people. The new initiative aims to take a number of steps to improve food security, including:

• Supporting effective utilisation of climate adaptation finance and Disaster Risk Management approaches

• Empowering small-scale women food producers (farmers and pastoralists) to increase production and have equal access to land, financial resources, extension services and leadership roles

• Promoting public, private and smallholder investments in agriculture and pastoralism so that people can feed their families

The initiative was successfully launched in Addis Ababa at events involving NGOs, government officials and local media. More details can be found at http://oxf.am/oET
Somalia – much more than piracy and terrorism

Somalia is too often viewed by the world as a place of piracy and terrorism, rather than a country of ordinary people doing extraordinary things to cope with one of the world’s biggest humanitarian crises. International policies on Somalia often focus more on global security concerns than on the needs, interests and wishes of the Somali people.

As a result, these policies have inadvertently fuelled both the conflict and the humanitarian crisis.

Recently the “London Conference” on Somalia gathered world leaders together to discuss a long list of issues, from security and counter-terrorism to the political process and aid. Unfortunately, the Conference fell into the same old trap – ignoring the voices of the ordinary Somali people. To try and redress this imbalance, Oxfam partners asked ordinary people in Somalia what world and regional leaders should be focusing on:

Abdulkadir, 33: “Governments should focus on creating sources of livelihoods for unemployed youth who are causing havoc in the country. Development projects should be financed to generate employment opportunities for the youth in order to shift them from connecting with violence and criminal groups. If youth are engaged in more constructive schemes, then solutions can be found for our problems.”

Asha, 30: “To solve Somalia’s problems, Somali people must lead the way. After losing our livelihoods as farmers, our biggest challenges are the constant search for food, the shortage of water, poor shelter, lack of medicine and poor economic conditions. We are always discussing how we can solve Somalia’s problems so we can live a prosperous life. The International Community must support us in rebuilding our country, but not push us to comply with their interests.”

Fartun, 20: “Peace is the only solution to the crisis. I don’t want to give up and I trust positive changes will come sooner or later. Somalia is rich in natural resources including oil. Livestock and marine resources are also abundant that can improve livelihoods of the entire community.”

Amino, 28: “All the Somali people are tired of fighting and chaos, so they are hungry for good government structures that pave the way for a brighter future. Scholarships from the international community can help educate young people who will play key roles in the future of the country. The international community can help end the great human rights violations that are particularly touching the hearts of Somali women.”

Farhan, 30: “Governments should focus on convening a reconciliation conference engaging all the different parties – armed opposition groups, clan leaders and women.”

Poor rains threaten famine recovery

The famine that devastated Somalia last year and killed tens of thousands of people has seen some improvements in recent months. But these gains are precarious and the forecasts for the coming months are not good. Insufficient rains are predicted (and also in parts of Ethiopia and Kenya) – totalling only 60-85% of the usual average and poorly distributed. This could be devastating because people are still struggling to cope with and recover from the effects of last year’s drought. Malnutrition still remains unacceptably high, particularly in Southern Somalia.
World Water Day – cholera and conflict

World Water Day is a way of focusing global attention on the importance of water and the need for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. It’s estimated that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two thirds of the world’s population could be living under water stressed conditions, making it especially hard to produce crops.

Fighting cholera in DRC and the problem of too much water

By Tom Skitt: In the DRC we have been facing a serious cholera epidemic, which has spread to nine out of 11 provinces.

Since the beginning of the year, over 1500 people in Tchomia, a small town, have been affected and nearly 40 have died. The disease is a permanent feature of DRC, and a powerful indicator of the risk of exposure to other water related diseases. The epidemic in Tchomia and the surrounding area is one of eight that Oxfam has responded to during the past 12 months.

Cholera epidemics can be prevented very simply by providing clean water. However, the dilapidated water supply infrastructure in many towns was designed for populations much smaller than are now present. In addition, widespread displacement because of violence (particularly in eastern DRC) has caused these towns to become overwhelmed. The amount of investment needed to ensure clean water for all is enormous, and the country is in no position to manage development on this scale. It will continue to need a lot of support.

There is an enormous irony here as the abundance of water resources in DRC contributes to the problem.

DRC has more than half of the freshwater resources for Africa. Nearly 25% of all renewable water resources (those recharged by rainfall) are in DRC. Yet at present less than 0.05% of freshwater is exploited. Many other African countries whose water supplies are “stressed” provide much greater quantities of clean water per person.

Oxfam is making an important contribution to more permanent water supplies, but is also ready to respond to cholera epidemics when needed. In emergencies the focus is on speed – setting up simple water treatment systems and intensive hygiene promotion.

This is normally sufficient to stop the epidemic but doesn’t tackle the underlying causes. Until the water supply in Tchomia is improved, there is a strong risk that cholera will come again.

South Sudan villages face shortages and conflict

By Abdullah Ampilan: Many of South Sudan’s ten states have experienced poor rainfall, severely affecting their livelihoods. The scarcity of water brings not only public health risks but also security problems, especially in pastoralist communities.

It’s a vicious cycle. Many local conflicts are borne out of competition over scarce resources such as water and food – this year alone, thousands of people are displaced because of tribal conflicts and cattle raiding as communities try to access water and food sources. The displacement then makes it even harder for people to feed their families.

In Warrap State, many of the far flung villages have no access to water. Women and girls are risking their lives to collect water from distant sources. Others are waiting for days to get water. Oxfam is trying to reach those communities to provide safe drinking water, as well as supporting livelihood activities such as farming to secure food for families.

Children in Amethaker village – where Oxfam is now providing hand pumps – used to wait for three weeks before they could take a bath because the nearest clean water source was so far away. Some community members have lost their lives while accessing water along the border of Warrap and Unity States, when rebel militias attacked them.

In the month around World Water Day we have drilled new hand pumps in seven villages. “Now I do not need to travel the whole day to collect water,” says Achung Aguok, a mother from the village of Majok Amal. “I am no longer worried about my safety because we have our own pump in the village.”
Play for the Union!

A new campaign aims to use Africa’s most popular sport, and some football legends, to engage citizens with the African Union and hold it accountable. Joshua Mwai reports:

The new “Play for the Union” campaign launches in Gabon

The State of the Union (SOTU) Coalition was formed by ten pan-African organizations from ten countries, including Rwanda and Kenya. It is a unique multi-sectoral monitoring group that aims to hold African governments accountable for the ratification and implementation of African Union decisions, so they have tangible impact on African communities.

A key factor in the coalition’s work is the frustration with the slow speed of integrating AU declarations into national policies, laws and budgets. Currently, important policy debates on the livelihoods of African citizens do not involve broader public participation. Concerted public pressure and united political will are needed at both continental and national levels to make the AU a reality in the lives of ordinary citizens.

At the moment, SOTU is running a campaign called Play for the Union, which intends to use Africa’s most popular game – football – to bring together citizens from across all Africa, to discuss and reflect on the type of continental integration that would make a difference in their lives and what matters to them.

Participants were directed to apply on the SOTU website, and 11 players – citizens from across the continent – will attend a coaching session in Addis Ababa by two legends of the African game: Patrick Mboma of Cameroon and Nwankwo Kanu of Nigeria.

A football match will be played at the African Union Summit in Malawi in July. It is expected that a few AU ambassadors will substitute their suits for football jerseys and join the players in playing this momentous match!

A social media campaign will accompany the match, explaining the importance of the 14 Charters and protocols to the daily lives of Africans, and hopefully this will begin a beneficial conversation between African citizens, the AU and their home governments on how these protocols can be implemented.

For more information please visit our website at www.sotuafrica.org, our Facebook page “Sotuafrica”, and follow us on Twitter @SOTUafrica.

Oxfam “Kenny Awards” – Congratulations!

By Fran Equiza: On my visits to countries in the region I am always amazed and impressed by the incredible range of work that is going on. Every one of our staff deserves credit for all that we have achieved. I’m delighted to say that the Executive Directors from all Oxfam affiliates met recently and decided to honour two staff from our region in their annual global “Kenny Awards” for outstanding achievements in Oxfam.

Magdalen Nandawula is our Programme Manager in the Dadaab refugee camps in northeastern Kenya, the largest in the world. Dadaab became the focus of the world last year because of all the refugees fleeing the famine and conflict in Somalia. Her recognition by the EDs is a testimony to her efforts in managing our huge response there, and a reflection on our entire team’s work in incredibly difficult circumstances.

Irungu Houghton is the director of our Pan Africa Programme. The EDs praised the work of the Pan Africa team in driving the Africans Act 4 Africa campaign – a coalition of African civil society, celebrities, activists and communities, pressuring African governments to respond better to food crises and ensure long term food security for our continent. It’s a great example of linking local, regional and global campaigning – something Oxfam is always trying to do.

We should all feel proud of this great recognition of Magdalen, Irungu and their teams!

We want your ideas!

This newsletter is intended for all staff across the Horn, East and Central Africa regions.

Please send your feedback and ideas for content for the next issue to hecainfo@oxfam.org.uk. Thanks!