Oxfam works with the most vulnerable communities in the dry and remote northern regions, and in the impoverished slums of the capital, Nairobi.

In Kenya, Oxfam works with others to alleviate poverty and inequality. Since starting work in Kenya in 1963, Oxfam has:

- provided long-term development aid and emergency relief
- promoted peace and managed conflicts between communities
- campaigned for better governance and equitable access to services

Our work in Kenya has supported communities in the Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs) and in the urban informal settlements. We also work to support refugees and people affected by crises when the need arises.

We aim to help citizens stand up for their rights, and we work with others from government, civil society, communities, international development actors and the private sector.

In Kenya, the highest poverty levels are in the northern pastoralist districts - in some areas 95% of people fall below the poverty line. These areas are marginalised and suffer from limited government attention, low private sector investment, livestock disease, localised conflict and recurrent droughts. In Turkana and Wajir we:

- develop market-based alternative and complementary livelihoods, supporting fishermen and traders
- provide vital clean water and public health, piloting new solar powered pumps
- advocate for better governance and natural resource policies that benefit communities - eg. oil and water
- distribute emergency aid such as cash, water and food in times of crisis
- support social protection schemes to provide cash to poor families using smart technology and money transfers

*Direct beneficiary figures for the period 2010-11

**WHAT OXFAM IS DOING**

**IN NUMBERS**

In numbers

- 550,000 total people helped

**WORKING WITH DRYLAND COMMUNITIES**

In Kenya, Eyomo Kadenge collects water from an Oxfam water kiosk in Wajir

*Image: JANE BEESLEY*
Like many developing countries, Kenya is undergoing rapid urbanisation. It’s estimated that by 2050 half the Kenyan population will be living in urban areas. This high presents a myriad of challenges. 34% of the 17 million poor Kenyans are urban poor and most of them live in informal urban settlements.

In the capital, Nairobi, we work with partners to run water kiosks, “bio-centres” that turn human waste into usable energy and improve sanitation, and recycling plants for unemployed youth. Our social protection schemes provide cash to help poor families cope with rising costs of food and water and kickstart small businesses. Our advocacy work campaigns for more rights for small-scale traders and better governance and provision of services.

Most of our urban projects are pilots that we lobby the government to adopt on a larger scale.

In the northern parts of Kenya, where cattle-rustling, banditry, and inter-ethnic and cross-border clashes over resources are common, development has been slow. In urban centres, there has been increased violence because of unemployment and a lack of alternative livelihoods among urban poor people.

We focus on enhancing communities’ capacity to resolve conflicts and co-exist peacefully. We also influence national policy through the National Steering Committee on Peace-Building and Conflict Management, under the Office of the President.

All of Oxfam’s work in Kenya is rooted in promoting better governance – at local, regional and national levels – by strengthening poor people’s ability to defend and demand their rights. We work to ensure that our partners and the communities we work with have their voices and concerns heard, and that the Government fulfils its responsibilities to poor Kenyans.

• We support civil society networks to campaign for transparent policies on natural resources such as oil
• We help urban traders have access to justice, protection and legal systems
• We campaign for equitable provision of basic services such as water and sanitation, and access to finance

Left: Pastoralist women escort cattle across to Uganda on a day’s journey for water. Oxfam’s peace-building programme works to resolve cross border clashes over resources.

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Pastoralist communities of northern Kenya claim the seasons are becoming increasingly unpredictable, with rains failing less frequently than before and in heavier bursts, leading to severe droughts and floods. People living in urban areas also battle with high food prices as a result of droughts, and storms that put at risk their already stretched water supplies, infrastructure, health and sources of income.

We’re working closely with others, supporting local civil society to hold the Government accountable for its response to climate change. We’re also generating relevant climate change data to inform advocacy positions locally and internationally. Previous policies have failed to take into account the needs of the poorest and most marginalised communities, a situation which has contributed to the current climate related disasters experienced in Kenya.

Many areas face chronic droughts and rains failed in 2010 and 2011, pushing up food prices, killing cattle and ruining harvests, causing millions of pastoralists and small farmers to lose their livelihoods.

In 2011/12 Oxfam responded as millions of people faced desperate food and water shortages and lost their cattle. Oxfam also responded in Dadaab refugee camp, home to over 450,000 Somali refugees who have fled conflict and famine in their homeland.

In times of conflict, such as the 2007-08 election violence, Oxfam provided vital water and sanitation to those affected.

We work to link development and humanitarian practices with policy, to ensure sustainable development and wider national impact. Our advocacy work is informed by our development and humanitarian programmes and is done at different levels, from local communities to internationally. We aim to raise the voices of the poorest communities to be heard by decision-makers.

We support research and key stakeholders to get involved in formulating and implementing policies and legislation that support poor and marginalised communities. We focus on peace-building and conflict management, disaster management, food security and nutrition, livestock management and marketing, water, and Land Vision 2030, Kenya’s plan to replace slums with modern buildings.