About Oxfam

Oxfam is an international confederation of 14 organizations working together in 98 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. We work directly with communities, and we seek to influence those in power to ensure that poor people can improve their lives and livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them.

Our central commitment

We are outraged by the poverty and injustice in the world. We must challenge unjust policies and practices and we must respect people’s rights. Together we can achieve a fair 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.

Each Oxfam affiliate has its own plan and these are aligned to an overarching Oxfam Strategic Plan which you can find on our website.

All Oxfam’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;
• the right to an identity.

Our change goals

Within this framework we will work together on narrower “change goals” – the specific things we are trying to achieve until 2012.

The change goals are:
• economic justice;
• essential services;
• rights in crisis;
• gender justice.

Our humanitarian aid, long-term development programs, campaigning, advocacy and Fair Trade activities will contribute toward these change goals and make a positive difference to people’s lives. Our work and achievements are explained in this report, with key activities in each of the change goal areas over the reporting period April 2009 – March 2010.

For more information on Oxfam’s development programs please see Oxfam affiliate annual reports through Oxfam’s website www.oxfam.org

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Honorary Adviser:
Amartya Sen

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*as of November 2010

Front cover image: Jaques Fitzner prepares the soil for planting in Belladere, as farmers head to their fields. This region in the north-east of Haiti has severe problems with deforestation which makes the impact of floods and hurricanes on the island greater. Oxfam has been working in Haiti for over 30 years and responded to the devastating earthquake in January 2010.

Our year

Against the backdrop of the global economic crisis, the food crisis and climate-related humanitarian crises, the past year has seen Oxfam working hard with partners and allies to address the impact of global shocks on poor people around the world. Increasingly, we are trying to increase the resilience of people living in poverty and put them at the center of our efforts.

The Copenhagen Summit in December 2009 was a high point in our Climate Change Campaign, with a high profile final climate hearing. This was a powerful reminder that in developing countries, people are experiencing and adapting to climate change right now. The next phase of the campaign brings together the ongoing challenge of climate change with the need to invest more in small-scale agriculture in developing countries. As we are already seeing, food and climate are intimately linked.

The global economic crisis, along with rising food prices and climate change continue to hit the most vulnerable hardest. Research commissioned last year showed that the 56 low income countries have taken US$ 65 billion cuts to their budgets over the last two years, which means less basic services for people in those countries. Despite negative public attitudes towards aid in some countries, we have continued to push rich countries to meet their commitments on aid while also campaigning for innovative sources of new finance such as the Financial Transaction Tax at the G20 and G8 meetings, something that would have been hard to imagine before the global economic crisis.

Meanwhile our humanitarian capacity has been stretched to the limit by the scale and complexity of humanitarian emergencies. Oxfam received an overwhelming response following the devastating January 2010 earthquake in Haiti which left the city of Port-au-Prince in ruins. We have been working round the clock to provide clean water, sanitation, emergency shelter and seeds, and also running cash-for-work programs.

Internally, we have begun to implement our Single Management Structure (or SMS) program, reducing and rationalizing the number of Oxfams working in countries where there are several affiliates. Our belief is that in working to a shared country strategy, with one brand, one voice, and shared services, we can have more impact and greater efficiency than working separately as individual affiliates.

The Oxfam confederation has continued to grow, with Oxfam Italy joining as an observer and entering the planning stage to become a full affiliate. A highlight for us this year was the Oxfam International Board meeting in Mexico, hosted by our newest affiliate, Oxfam Mexico. The Oxfam Board met with Felipe Calderon, President of Mexico, and four members of his cabinet.

We were able to put forward Oxfam’s concerns and proposals on key issues— including climate change and Mexico’s important role in the G20.

Finally, Oxfam continues to be at the forefront of issues of accountability at a time when many people question the effectiveness of aid. We do so both as a participant in the public debate, but also through efforts to improve our own accountability and that of the sector, notably chairing the International NGO (Non Governmental Organization) Accountability Charter. Oxfam must be accountable to a wide range of stakeholders: donors; supporters; partners and allies; and most importantly the people and communities we seek to support and work with against poverty and injustice.

Keith Johnston Jeremy Hobbs
Chair Executive Director
Oxfam International Oxfam International

Climate hearings – from local to global

Climate hearings are events that give people who are suffering the impact of climate change the chance to make their voices heard locally, nationally and globally. These hearings, whether in local village meetings or in large-scale, international debates, are a chance to bring the issues around climate change directly to decision makers who have an opportunity to do something about it.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mary Robinson led the world’s first international climate hearing in December 2009. This hearing represented an international verdict on the human cost of climate change, delivered to world leaders, on behalf of over 1.6 million people from 35 countries who had raised their voices at other Oxfam-supported climate hearings in 2009.

Witnesses of climate change were drawn from around the world, for example:

- **Constance Okollet** – a farmer from a Ugandan village where the community faced death and hunger after an unprecedented drought was followed by flash flooding in 2007.
- **Shorbanu Khatun** – a survivor from Cyclone Aila in Bangladesh – who’s now living in a coastal community of around 45,000 internally displaced people.
- **Satkhira Cayetano Huanca** – a farmer from Peru, whose village is suffering water shortages and hunger due to glacial melt and climate change.
- **Sharon Hanshaw** – a survivor of Hurricane Katrina – who lost her home and business of 21 years.

“I want justice in my life, for my children’s lives and livelihoods. I have heard in a village gathering (climate/poverty hearing), that these changes in the climate are man-made. This means we can change it. Please do justice for me.”

Shorbanu Khatun, mother of four from Satkhira district in Bangladesh, lost both her husband and her home to the impacts of climate change.
Increasing our impact

Since the formation of the Oxfam confederation in 1995, Oxfam affiliates have been gradually evolving the way we work in 98 countries. We want to make an even greater impact with the 596.3 million Euros (US$ 841.6 million) we spend together each year in helping people living in poverty to fight injustice. Our new way of working is called the single management structure (SMS) which means that one Oxfam affiliate is in charge of a single strategy for each country that has been developed by a number of Oxfams and which is delivered (in the majority of countries where we work) through a small consortium of affiliates. Each country-specific strategy will define our combined long-term development program with partners, our campaigns agenda, and our emergency response. This change will make Oxfam more integrated and transparent, as all the programs run by our 14 Oxfam affiliates are gradually pulled together under a single country strategy – which our stakeholders will all be able to see and understand. Through experience we know that we will become more effective and efficient as a result of working together rather than separately.

A child plays at the Woza Moya Center, Ufafa Valley, South Africa. The center is managed by partners of Oxfam’s HIV and AIDS program, run jointly by Oxfam affiliates in South Africa. The center’s mission is to provide quality care and support for people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, particularly children.

The impact of joint programs and other regional programs has inspired affiliates to move to a single management structure so that we can make an even bigger difference to the lives of poor and marginalized people with the funding we receive.

Spotlight on NGOs

Oxfam supports the increasing calls for greater accountability by NGOs to donors, governments, partners and beneficiaries. The INGO (International NGO) Accountability Charter is a self-regulatory response by 11 of the largest global INGOs covering environment, gender, human rights, consumers and development. It is compatible with and complementary to existing national codes of conduct. Oxfam is a founding signatory and has reported on our activities since the Charter’s creation in 2006. It represents an ongoing process to set up common standards of conduct for INGOs, and to create mechanisms to report, monitor and evaluate compliance with those standards. The reporting framework has provided Oxfam with a useful tool for identifying areas where policies and processes can be improved.

The Charter website provides details of the Charter itself, the signatories and how to join the Charter. See: www.ingoaccountabilitycharter.org
Walking with a donkey cart loaded with cattle feed from Simiri to Niamey, Niger, a journey of two nights. Men sell each cart-load of feed for the equivalent of half a bag of maize, enough to feed their families for less than a week. On their return they forage for more and make another trip until it runs out.

**Economic Justice**

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

Alongside unprecedented economic and climate-related disasters, the world is experiencing a crisis of access to food, which is increasing the number of those living in hunger. Our planet produces enough food for everyone, but today one in six people are denied their right to adequate nutrition. Women, who produce the majority of the world’s food, face the greatest challenges. Unfair trade, the neglect of agriculture and climate change are destroying the livelihoods of those depending on agriculture and leaving them vulnerable to hunger and famine.

Although two out of every three poor people survive from agriculture, and 95 per cent of farmers are in developing countries, support for the agriculture sector overall has fallen in the past twenty years.

Oxfam has been campaigning to highlight this investment trend, and to raise awareness of the role of small-scale food producers in food security. We believe that the solution is to put power in the hands of the women and men who farm this land so that they can grow and buy enough food to eat. That means changing the unfair rules that govern how the world’s land and water are used, and the way climate change is being tackled. It also means recognizing the critical role women play in producing and preparing food, and investing in their capacity to claim their rights to develop equitable, sustainable and resilient solutions. Then we can start to end the scandal of hunger in a world of plenty.

Sustained lobbying and advocacy work helped to launch a reform of the Committee on World Food Security to become the central platform for governance and accountability on food security issues. This engagement earned Oxfam a seat on the Interim Advisory Group – which uniquely positions us to press for effective reform. At the World Food Summit, we successfully established ourselves as a key voice in the food sector, improving relations with civil-society and setting the tone for media coverage. We forged new relationships with womens’ civil society and producers’ organizations, working with others to raise the volume of women’s voices in key forums to deliver gender-specific interventions at international, regional and national levels. Oxfam has laid the foundations to benefit future work on food security and agriculture, and ultimately, people living in poverty.

Economic Justice

Fair Trade

In 2009 and 2010 we continued to campaign to pressure decision makers and governments for new and fairer trade rules. Oxfam believes the regulations controlling trade heavily favor the rich nations that set the rules. With partners, Oxfam successfully lobbied the governments of developing countries not to sign Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) – new trade rules which would open up African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to competition from technologically advanced European industries and heavily subsidized European farmers. With partners, Oxfam has continued to contact MPs throughout the East African community countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, and called for the countries to refuse proposals by the European Commission on issues of particular concern to Oxfam. Through regional workshops and collaboration, we have succeeded in playing a meaningful role in the region – the Stop EPAs Campaign is still succeeding in doing just that – stopping EPAs – and Oxfam continues to play an important role in the fight for fair trade.
Climate change – we’re in it together

Oxfam is committed to ending poverty, yet the results of climate change are increasingly affecting our efforts and hitting the poorest people hardest. Climate change has enormous economic repercussions for developing countries, through its impact on agriculture and livelihoods, and through increased natural disasters. Economic justice will not be achieved without addressing climate change.

Poor people have the right to a livelihood and food security but this right is being continually undermined by climate change. For those who make a living from the land and who are dependent on predictable weather patterns, the damage to land and crops – whether by increased flooding, droughts, or rising sea levels – can mean no food, no earnings, and no way to secure a better future. We are already seeing the devastating impact this is having, and we are supporting communities and organizations around the world that are developing tools and techniques to adapt to climate change, and we are campaigning for governments to respond to climate change.

In 2009 and 2010 we built up public pressure on state leaders around the world to agree an ambitious climate deal at the Copenhagen Summit. Across the media, we delivered a compelling narrative on the human cost of global warming, the urgency for action, and the cost of inaction. Oxfam provided key leadership and support with the TckTckTck Campaign partners to deliver a massive popular campaign.

We helped to raise the voices of climate change witnesses, through climate hearings, telling how climate change is destroying their lives. In spite of this public pressure, world leaders failed to produce a legally binding curb for greenhouse gases at Copenhagen. Though there was agreement to keep global warming below 2°C, a general lack of political will for strong action and disagreements between countries over cuts means that there is still a massive effort needed to pressure governments into addressing climate change.

Oxfam will continue to influence rich countries to provide funding that can help poor countries combat the impact of climate change, and we will demand governments reach an agreement over climate reforms. Oxfam is well-positioned, through media profile and technical policy strength, to influence this climate finance debate.

Right to Survive report

In six years’ time, the number of people affected by climate-related crises is projected to rise by 54 per cent to 375 million people, threatening to overwhelm the humanitarian aid system. In 2010 we released our report ‘The Right to Survive’ explaining how the world needs to re-engineer the way it responds to, prepares for and prevents disasters. A significant part of our work is responding to natural disasters that can be linked to climate change. The report argues that the world must be better prepared to cope with helping more vulnerable people facing worsening disasters.
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 education and affordable health care.

Essential Services

Anna Marko from Iselamagazi, Tanzania, reading a Kiswahili story book at the Sheilagh May Teachers’ Resource Center. Anna went as far as Standard 7 as a child, and comes to the center to keep up her reading skills.
Every three seconds a child dies from a preventable disease. Around the world, 72 million children don’t go to school, and more than half of these children are girls. Oxfam believes that this is unacceptable.

**Health care**

Despite real progress that has been made globally in child health and tackling HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the lack of access to medicines remains one of the key problems for health services in the developing world. In Malawi, access to antiretroviral treatment for HIV and AIDS and other basic drugs is a real concern, especially for the rural population where poor people often have to travel long distances to access free medicines, which might not even be available when they get there. The Medicines For All Campaign, led by the joint Oxfam program in Malawi and partners, raised universal access to essential medicines as a major issue prior to the May 2009 general elections in the country. The campaign worked with communities across Malawi to demand their rights to essential services, and to hold politicians to account. By the day of the election, the Malawian President, along with 65 aspiring MPs, and two Big Brother Africa contestants had signed the Medicines For All pledge. Oxfam’s partner is now following up on the 65 MPs to track their performance on health issues in parliament, and to influence them further.

In January 2010, the Fair Play for Africa Campaign was launched to coincide with the FIFA World Cup 2010. The Pan-African Campaign that aims to make a strong push for universal access to quality health services for African citizens – especially women, children and people living with HIV and AIDS. The campaign is supported by active and empowered citizens from more than 200 organizations based in more than ten countries across the continent.

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W8
One Message, One Voice

In 2009, Oxfam brought together the W8, a group of eight inspirational women who campaign on health and education in their own countries: India; Georgia; Mali; Nicaragua; Bangladesh; Thailand; Malawi; and the Philippines. The W8 group works with Oxfam calling for health and education for all.

In 2009, two members of the group, Miranda Akhvlediani from Georgia and Rokeya Kabir from Bangladesh, attended the Civil G8 Forum in Rome, joining more than 200 representatives from global civil society associations to help build a dialogue between the G8 and international civil society. Elba Rivera Urbina from Nicaragua toured Spain, and six W8 members met the German Development Minister, to put pressure on the governments to support developing countries through the global economic crisis and to stick to the aid commitments they have made.

The W8 has one message and one voice and is calling for universal access to free health care and education – the most effective way to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and break the cycle of poverty.

The Financial Transaction Tax

The global economic crisis has left the world trillions of dollars poorer, and has pushed 50 million more people worldwide into extreme poverty. Oxfam believes it’s not fair for poor people to pay the price of mistakes made by the banks. At the beginning of 2010, Oxfam started to campaign for the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT). This tiny tax on bankers could generate billions of dollars to help with problems at home and overseas – from climate change to poverty. As such the tax could make a major difference to essential services in the developing world. The tax and the campaign has different names in different countries: the ‘Robin Hood’ tax in the UK, Canada and elsewhere; ‘steuergegenarmut’ or ‘tax against poverty’ in Germany; and ‘zero zero cinque’ in Italy. All around the world, people of all backgrounds from economists to congressmen, and finance ministers to celebrities have come out in support of the tax. Oxfam and partners have been staging stunts around the globe to highlight to world leaders and the international media the support this tax has, and its possibilities. In the UK, Bill Nighy and Richard Curtis made a film with an uncomfortable banker admitting that the tax might be ‘rather a good idea’. Heike Makatsch and Jan Josef Liefers feature in a similar film from Germany. Oxfam will continue work on the FTT throughout 2010 and 2011.
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 and how they are affected, in a manner consistent with their human rights.

Elsie Delva with five-month-old Ali and six-year-old Daphnee. Both girls lost their mothers in the January 12th earthquake in Haiti. Elsie was injured in the earthquake and was stuck under the rubble for 28 hours. “I lost everything, I had nothing at all.”
In 2009-2010 we responded to emergencies resulting from natural disasters around the globe, including the Chinese earthquake, Cyclone Alia, the Indonesian earthquake, Typhoon Ketsana in south-east Asia, the Samoa tsunami, and the Haiti earthquake. Oxfam continued to respond to the ongoing conflicts in Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Chad, Afghanistan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Earthquake in Haiti

On January 12, 2010, Haiti was hit by a major earthquake which killed over 200,000 people, injured over 300,000 and left more than a million others homeless. Much of the capital, Port-au-Prince, was destroyed causing approximately US$ 7.8 billion in damage and losses. The earthquake hit a country whose resources were already severely strained: Haiti is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere and over 70 per cent of Haitians live on less than US$ 2 a day. This compounded the impact of the earthquake’s devastation. The destruction and logistical challenges caused by this earthquake were among the worst Oxfam has ever encountered.

Oxfam raised and was allocated by governments and other sources US$ 98 million for our humanitarian response in Haiti. This included an amazing response from supporters who donated over US$ 50.261 million for emergency work in Haiti.

We responded by providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene training, temporary shelter, and seeds, and we organized cash for work and cash grants programs. Oxfam’s largest areas of work reflected our expertise as providers of emergency water and sanitation. We also focused on helping people restore their means of earning a livelihood, and provided shelter and household items. Part of this work has also involved ensuring that people have a say in decisions about how their homes and neighborhoods will be rebuilt. In the first three months after the earthquake, emergency shelter was distributed as fast as, or faster than, any other disaster despite the huge logistical challenges.

As of March 31, 2010, we had helped more than 300,000 Haitians. Oxfam has also played a key role in coordinating its program with other international agencies.

“The post-earthquake program in Haiti is one of the largest we’ve ever had. It’s on the scale of our south-east Asia tsunami response, which was the biggest emergency program for a natural disaster Oxfam had ever run at the time. I’ve worked as an aid worker now for over 15 years in places like Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Haiti right now is one of the most challenging places I’ve ever worked in.”

Roland Van Hauwermeiren, Oxfam Country Director, Haiti

Haiti: ‘A Once in a Century Chance for Change’

In March 2010 Oxfam produced a report highlighting both the opportunity and difficulties in reconstructing Haiti post-earthquake. At this vital stage, well-managed reconstruction is crucial to benefit the poorest communities. It must meet three vital conditions:

- Haiti’s government and other Haitian institutions must lead the reconstruction;
- as they do so, they must be genuinely accountable to all Haitians, including civil society;
- every Haitian must be given the information they need to make informed decisions on their future.

Oxfam is advocating that long-term reconstruction must:

- support Haitian farmers and small businesses;
- ensure poor communities benefit from cash grants to speed economic recovery;
- support civil society and the Haitian government;
- ensure new buildings are better than their predecessors, for example by constructing earthquake-proof buildings, and those which use alternative fuel sources to wood – to reduce deforestation.

The money we have raised is making a real difference to people’s lives in Haiti and will continue to make a real difference. It will however take a lot of international support and time to rebuild the capacity of the Haitian government and civil society to lead the country’s rehabilitation. Crucial to all of this, is canceling Haiti’s debt.
Asia Pacific disasters

Indonesia
In late September, 2009, an earthquake hit the Indonesian island of Sumatra killing over 1,100 people. Oxfam set up an initial team of 20 experts to respond in the area placing an immediate priority on delivering clean water and shelter. We particularly focused our efforts on remote areas which had not yet received assistance. An Oxfam team of water experts traveled to the area to set up a water treatment plant providing 40,000 Liters of clean water a day as well as emergency shelter, urgent supplies, tents, hygiene kits and clothes.

Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines
Typhoon Ketsana struck Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines in late September 2009, affecting over one million families and causing widespread damage to houses, water supplies, livelihoods and infrastructure. Oxfam affiliates quickly responded, providing essential support including clean water, food relief, and emergency shelter. Oxfam’s humanitarian work still continues, long after the initial emergency response, through providing emergency items including food and essential household items such as water buckets, blankets, bed nets and hygiene kits. We are also improving sanitation, public health and access to safe water, and in the longer term we plan to introduce cash for work grants.

In addition, Oxfam is strengthening disaster preparedness and disaster management capacity in countries such as Laos and Vietnam, to ensure that lessons learnt through disaster response are not lost.

Samoa
On September 29, 2009, a tsunami hit the southern coasts of Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga, causing widespread destruction. More than 5000 people were directly affected, with social and economic impacts affecting many thousands more. Over 3000 people were made homeless.

Oxfam responded immediately, distributing emergency supplies, and working with local government to supply water, shelter and sanitation. Oxfam New Zealand, working with its local partner Women In Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI), introduced cash for work schemes, and distributed organic vegetable and fruit seedlings to help people rebuild their gardens and their livelihoods. Oxfam also helped to improve public health and to provide trauma support to affected families. Key learning from this response has been actively included in organizational development and future response planning for Samoa and Tonga.

“When the floods come, I take everything – rice, clothes, cooking pans – up to the platform. There’s no space there – we can’t lie down, only sit. We stay up there for five days during the floods, and we have no electricity.” Ba Hoang Kha, 72 and his family, Vietnam.
Rights in Crisis continued

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The crisis in the DRC is often known as the ‘forgotten conflict’, yet it is a war that has killed over 5.4 million people since 1998. The Congolese army military operations launched against rebel forces (the FDLR) since early 2009 have been presented by the international community as a final road to peace for Eastern Congo. Oxfam believes that it is important that the FDLR is disarmed, but that the price currently being paid by the civilian population is unacceptable. In 2009, Oxfam America conducted research into the impact of the conflict on civilians in DRC, through interviews with local people in conflict areas. The research concluded that between 2004 and 2008 the population had suffered lootings, killings, rape and extortion from both sides of the conflict. Yet the repeated reaction has been that this is ‘the price to pay for peace’. In response, Oxfam Great Britain has increased its emergency program to deal with the deteriorating situation, providing vital assistance to 800,000 vulnerable people. In addition, Oxfam is responding to the new displacement by expanding existing activities to provide clean water and sanitation and basic hygiene necessities.

Thousands of supporters have joined our Stop the Killing in the Congo Campaign. Oxfam will continue to campaign to ensure that the people of the DRC get the support they need to return home and rebuild their lives.

Afghanistan

The ongoing conflict and insecurity continues to have a significant impact on the people of Afghanistan. Civilian casualties are growing, basic infrastructure continues to be destroyed, and government institutions are too fragile to deliver basic health and education services. Oxfam continues to work with local partners in 20 of the 34 provinces in Afghanistan, despite the shrinking space for humanitarian operations – with incidents of threats and intimidation on the rise.

Oxfam believes Afghanistan faces major humanitarian challenges. These are made worse by the difficulties of getting aid to those who need it, and a lack of effective funding. Oxfam has been campaigning to ensure that the Afghan people can improve their lives and livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them. We worked with allies and members of Afghan civil society around the International Conference on Afghanistan in January 2010 to ensure that ordinary Afghans had a voice at this important forum. Our work focuses on improving humanitarian assistance, advocating for greater protection of civilians and of vulnerable groups, pushing for stronger efforts to build peace at all levels, and monitoring aid effectiveness.

In 2009, renowned fashion photographer Rankin captured the lives of families fleeing violence in war-torn DRC, in an Oxfam exhibition ‘From Congo with Love’, which was displayed on the South Bank in London. The images focus on the love and solidarity found in the midst of one of the world’s worst conflict zones. There are also photos taken by Congolese villagers with Rankin’s guidance, providing an extraordinary insight into their everyday lives.

Karo Redi, 14, pictured above with baby Happiness, fled her village in 2007 because of attacks by the military. She is now in one of the camps where Oxfam supplies water and works with communities as they replant crops and rebuild their lives.

"As a mother it is really important to have clean water in the camp. We use it for cooking, washing ourselves, and cleaning our pots. If I hadn’t managed to reach this camp we would have died.”
Karo Redi
Sudan

2009 and early 2010 witnessed a stark deterioration in the ability of the international community to respond to humanitarian needs in northern Sudan. The action taken by the government of Sudan on March 4, 2009, to revoke the license of many international and national NGOs, exacerbated an already critical humanitarian situation. More than five years after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, achievement of durable solutions remains difficult. This is due to chronic insecurity and widespread displacement in both southern Sudan and Darfur, and limited access to services, livelihoods and infrastructure.

Nearly five million people have been forced to flee their homes and are now internally displaced in Darfur, the Greater Khartoum area, South Kordofan and the ten states of southern Sudan, with unknown numbers of internally displaced people in the other northern and eastern states.

Reaching those affected by conflict in northern Sudan has been a challenge since the onset of the Darfur crisis. However, in 2010 alarmingly high levels of violence targeting humanitarian workers and peacekeepers have created further obstacles to reaching those in need. Oxfam believes this is unacceptable and has been pushing for increased protection for aid workers.

Oxfam has also been campaigning for the joint UN and Africa Union Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), to prioritize and implement its responsibility to protect civilians.

Armed violence – whether personal, criminal, political or in conflict – kills 740,000 women, men and children every single year. Hundreds of thousands more are injured, often surviving with lifelong physical and psychosocial disability. It represents a fundamental obstacle to overcoming poverty. After years of effort by Oxfam and many others, formal negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty began in late 2009. In an alliance of like-minded organizations – the Control Arms alliance – we are working for a strong treaty that includes development criteria.

Oxfam has also supported Shooting Poverty, a competition of short documentary films – all of which highlight the impact of armed violence and the arms trade on development. In addition, we are collaborating on a review process for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to ensure that armed violence is recognized as a major obstacle to achieving MDGs.

For further information, see the website: www.controlarms.org

Arms Trade Treaty

Illustration from the Control Arms website. At the United Nations, on October 30, 2009, after years of discussions, the vast majority of governments 153 in total agreed a timetable to establish an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to control international transfers of conventional arms.

Moving Forward

In the next few years Oxfam is planning to focus its activities and investments in humanitarian work into key areas. Oxfam will have ‘humanitarian core competencies’ which we will concentrate on, in both Water Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) promotion and Vulnerable Livelihoods (VL), with the highest priority placed on WASH. Complementing the focus of other international NGOs, we want to become the leading worldwide organization working on WASH. To achieve this, we will scale up our skills and expertise through a period of focused investment.

We believe in empowering people and, as much as possible, supporting the work of local partner organizations. This also applies to WASH and VL where we are primarily strengthening partner skills. In addition we aim to have in-house expertise in order to fulfil our leadership roles in the countries we work in and on a global scale.
Women join forces at a rally in Biona Ranja village to talk about their rights, swap stories, and share skills. Uttar Pradesh, India.

Our goal: Many more women will gain power over their lives and live free from violence.
Achieving women’s empowerment is fundamental to every aspect of Oxfam’s work. It is not just an issue of justice: the evidence is clear that when women are educated, and able to participate equally in economic and political life, whole communities and nations reap the benefits. By improving opportunities for women and tackling gender discrimination, we can make the biggest possible impact on poverty.

The right to gender equality underpins all of Oxfam’s work, because we know that gender inequality and poverty are strongly linked. Around 70 per cent of the 1.3 billion people who live in extreme poverty are women and girls. Women are also more likely to suffer hunger, because of the discrimination they face.

An awareness of the gendered nature of poverty is integrated throughout Oxfam’s development and humanitarian programs, and we aim to impact positively on gender justice and women’s rights. We campaign to make legal reforms to laws that disadvantage women. Oxfam also supports projects that strengthen women’s critical leadership in institutions, improve their decision-making skills, and improve change processes. We also support initiatives that change attitudes, ideas, beliefs, and gender relations so that women can live free from violence.

Economic justice for women

One of the main barriers to economic justice for women is the lack of access to the resources and services that enable them to make a living. In Afghanistan, the problem is acute, with financial services often inaccessible to women, especially in rural areas. In response, Oxfam Canada and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation have started self-help groups for women in ten villages in northern Afghanistan. The groups of around 20 women receive US$ 300 in revolving funds to help them start small enterprises. This goes to three or four women who are selected by the group for their business ideas. Once a woman has started her business, and successfully paid back her loan, the money is reallocated to one of the other group members to start their own small business.

Oxfam also provides training and ongoing support to help the women manage their new businesses. Alam was one of the first three women selected to start her own business. She recently finished repaying her loan, and the group is now selecting more women for loans.

“We support each other’s businesses,” said a group member. “Whenever I need to buy something, I go to one of the other women who have benefited from the program.”

Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence is the single biggest cause of injury and death to women worldwide, and while publicly condemned in many countries, it is still widely condoned. It is the result of widespread attitudes and beliefs that women are of less value than men. Oxfam is committed to reducing gender violence by addressing these root causes, as well as advocating with others for legal reforms to secure women’s rights.

Leadership in Nicaragua

An innovative Intermón Oxfam project in Nicaragua aims to increase women’s control over economic resources, while also helping women to recognize and change gendered power relations. Both men and women receive gender sensitivity training. The women are organized at the household level by establishing garden plots, but they must also form decision-making groups in order to receive remuneration. The training aims to build self-esteem, as well as skills in advocacy and leadership. The program encourages the engagement of women’s groups in their community, building collective capacity for change, and empowering Nicaraguan women to claim their rights.
Empowering women to act

In 2009, we helped women strengthen their voices in their communities, enabling them to become leaders and spokespeople. Oxfam Great Britain’s initiative, Raising Her Voice, was developed to promote the rights and capacity of poor women to engage effectively in governance at all levels, by increasing women’s influence and making institutions more accountable to women.

Raising Her Voice has met with success in many countries – where the circumstances vary enormously but the discrimination and obstacles which women face are very similar. In the words of Lusine Avetyan, head of her village council in Armenia: “A lot of things have changed thanks to this project. Before, women did not approach the local authorities with their problems and requests. Now they are actively involved in the social and political life of the community. At the last community council elections, two of the six elected candidates were women. This is evidence of a change in people’s attitudes towards women’s participation in public decision-making and the role of women leaders.”

In the coming year, Oxfam will be strengthening the quality of our development programs by prioritizing work on power relations and transformative change at all levels. We will be helping women to secure resources, supporting women’s leadership, and testing strategies that foster change in culture, attitudes, beliefs and behavior.

Honduras

Dolores Benitez, 31, administrator of COMUCAP (the Co-ordination of Farming Women in La Paz), which was started by women who had survived domestic violence. “We set up a radio station called ‘siempre vidas’ (always alive) to tell women about their rights. We wanted to let women know what we were trying to do and get them to join us. The show had a huge impact. Small groups started to form to talk about their experiences at home. COMUCAP started with very small projects to get women involved in agricultural processes. We concentrated on organic production techniques. We also educated women about their rights. Women had not dared to take control of their lives or their finances. Women worked together to learn how to grow coffee, aloe vera and vegetables. They learnt how to take care of the soil and how to manage farms. In 2000 Oxfam gave us funds for our first program to produce and trade organic coffee. The training continues today. We continue to train women in agricultural production, the defense of women’s rights and self esteem.”
Program expenditure\(^1\) by Oxfam strategic aims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Aim</th>
<th>Euro €</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>% Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>Euro €175.1m</td>
<td>US$247.5m</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic social services</td>
<td>Euro €84.2m</td>
<td>US$119.0m</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life and security</td>
<td>Euro €204.9m</td>
<td>US$289.7m</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right to be heard</td>
<td>Euro €81.8m</td>
<td>US$115.6m</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identity</td>
<td>Euro €86.9m</td>
<td>US$122.9m</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total program expenditure\(^1\): Euro €632.9 million (US$894.7 million)

1 Figures represent consolidated affiliate program expenditure for the reporting period April 2008 to March 2009. Program expenditure is defined as “sum of Program Implementation costs and Program Management costs” and includes costs of development or emergency response work; advocacy and campaigns as well as the costs of directly managing these programs. During 2009-10 a number of Oxfam affiliates aligned their financial reporting periods to the Oxfam confederation reporting period April - March. Accordingly, the overall figures for the confederation include figures for some affiliates that cover more or less than 12 months activity. Also, the confederation has changed its primary reporting currency from US Dollars to Euros.

2 The category “Global Level Allocation” includes Program Implementation and Program Management costs that relate to several regions or are global in their nature.

3 The category “Other” includes regional level allocations for: Africa; Horn, East & Central Africa; Latin America & the Caribbean; as well as program spend in Western Europe and North America.

For information on the finances of Oxfam affiliates around the world and of the Oxfam International Secretariat, please visit the websites listed on page 22.
Program expenditure\(^1\) by Oxfam strategic aims

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strategic Aim</th>
<th>Euro €</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>% Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>Euro €178.3m</td>
<td>US$ 251.6m</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic social services</td>
<td>Euro € 74.3m</td>
<td>US$ 104.9m</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and security</td>
<td>Euro €190.6m</td>
<td>US$ 269.0m</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Right to be heard</td>
<td>Euro € 82.6m</td>
<td>US$ 116.6m</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity</td>
<td>Euro € 70.5m</td>
<td>US$ 99.4m</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total program expenditure\(^1\): Euro € 596.3 million (US$ 841.6 million)

1 Figures represent consolidated affiliate program expenditure for the reporting period April 2009 to March 2010. Program Expenditure is defined as “sum of Program Implementation costs and Program Management costs” and includes costs of development or emergency response work; advocacy and campaigns as well as the costs of directly managing these programs during 2009-10. A number of Oxfam affiliates aligned their financial reporting periods to the Oxfam confederation reporting period April - March. Accordingly, the overall figures for the confederation include figures for some affiliates that cover more or less than 12 months activity. Also, the confederation has changed its primary reporting currency from US Dollars to Euros.

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Contact us

Oxfam is an international confederation of 14 organizations working together in 98 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice: Oxfam America; Oxfam Australia; Oxfam-in-Belgium; Oxfam Canada; Oxfam France; Oxfam Germany; Oxfam Great Britain; Oxfam Hong Kong; Intermón Oxfam (Spain); Oxfam Ireland; Oxfam Mexico; Oxfam New Zealand; Oxfam Novib (Netherlands); and Oxfam Québec. Please call or write to any of the agencies for further information, or visit www.oxfam.org

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