

# OXFAM EXPRESS

ISSUE  
**66**  
NOV  
2021



RETHINK  
POVERTY

POVERTY HAS SOMETHING TO SAY. **?**  
**CAN YOU HEAR IT?**



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樂施會  
**OXFAM**  
Hong Kong

無窮世界  
World  
Without  
Poverty

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Acknowledgements

We are selling our limited-edition Oxfam Rice Care Package, which features roasted rice tea made by women from low-income backgrounds, organic brown rice cakes and our tote bag.



**ORDER  
YOURS  
TODAY!**



Dear Oxfam friends,

Poverty is complex and looks different depending on the context. It isn't just about hunger, nor is it merely the lack of money.

Poverty can mean being unable to afford nutritious food for your children to eat despite working very hard.

It could also mean that your quality of life continues to deteriorate although the number of COVID-19 cases has stabilised and the economy has continued to recover.

In developing countries around the world, poverty could also mean being disproportionately affected by climate change both in terms of the extreme weather you experience and your livelihood.

Poverty often also means poor health. Those living in it often have to walk long distances to get to the nearest clinic only to find that a doctor or medicine is not available.

Over the past 45 years, Oxfam has been partnering with people to fight against poverty. In September this year, we launched the Rethink Poverty campaign in Hong Kong to show the many faces of poverty. Through it, we also distributed rice to street cleaners and low-income families to ease their burdens, and launched a virtual iteration of the Oxfam Rice Event.

Globally, we provide skills training, and support the development of sustainable livelihoods in communities experiencing poverty. We also tackle the root causes of poverty through advocacy and global citizenship education.

Looking ahead, the pandemic is threatening to undo decades of progress as it continues to impact the poorest the most. We must continue to urge governments to support poor communities by, for instance, ensuring vaccines are available to all across the globe. It is only when people experiencing poverty can live healthy lives that they can thrive and get on the path of self-reliance.

With warm regards,

*Kalina Tsang*

Kalina Tsang  
Director General



# GRANNY MIU'S SMILE

Name: Mu Xianggu

Age: 77 years old

Country: Yulong Naxi Autonomous  
County, Yunnan Province,  
China



Photo: Wang Wenyan/Oxfam

“

I have three acres of land where I grow maize, wheat, beans and pumpkins. A few years ago, Oxfam started working in our village. They helped us gain access to quality seeds by establishing seed banks and preserving seeds that have been passed down from generation to generation. We now grow enough food for our family and have seen our livelihoods improve.

I am happy that our traditional wisdom has been preserved; villagers' sense of identity and confidence in

the ethnic culture of the Naxi people have also increased.

I am not rich, but I am healthy, my children are very good to me, the harvest is good, and my life is stable, so I am happy!

As for the future, I hope that my children and I will be in good health and that the future will get better and better.

# IMPACTS OF EXTREME HEAT ON STREET CLEANERS

In very hot weather, street cleaners face additional risks at work.

We listened to several street cleaners' stories of what it is like working in high temperatures.



Photo: Patrick Cho/Oxfam

“

It is very hot today, I learned from the news that the temperature has soared to 36 degrees! My work clothes are neither sweatproof nor breathable, so I'm usually drenched in sweat. It has gotten hotter and hotter these past few years. I know some workmates have experienced heatstroke at work. Some say to me, 'You will get used to the heat.' Well, with this unbearable weather, it is hard to get used to it.

- Mr Chan

“

I work six days a week, eight hours a day. I clean up trash in parks and streets. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, my company has not provided us with enough training or guidance on how to deal with used masks and dirty stuff that's discarded on the streets. They have only asked us to use more bleach to wash the streets. Using bleach all the time though makes my eyes very uncomfortable. It makes it hard to breathe wearing a mask to work in this hot weather.

- Fong

“

I feel dizzy working in this hot weather. Sometimes, I try to sit down and rest a bit, but I get complaints. And normally, if we want something to drink, we can get boiled water at the refuse depot. But it is far away. I bring two bottles of hot water to work every day because cold water is too easy to drink. By bringing hot water, I won't want to drink as much.

- Di

We at Oxfam have been working with partner organisations to help street cleaners claim their rights. We launched the Rethink Poverty campaign in September and put together an audio story series with StoryTeller to show the many faces of poverty. We also published the 'Impacts of extreme heat on street cleaners' report, urging the government to:

- ① Incorporate the guidelines for work in hot weather into relevant legal provisions and tenders
- ② Include heat-related sicknesses into the scope of statutory work injury protection, and include paid sick leave protection to outsourced street cleaners
- ③ Establish a 'heat index' and other objective indicators, such as criteria for working outdoors, to better protect street cleaners



Read the report  
(Chinese only)



Listen to the audio stories  
(English transcripts available)



# ■ SUBDIVIDED FLATS

A low-income family living in a subdivided flat shares their struggles.

Yin, her husband and their 11-year-old son live in a subdivided flat barely 100 square feet. Half of the family's income is spent on rent and utility fees alone. Aside from the bedroom and washroom, there's only a narrow corridor that acts as a makeshift living room, which fits a small table; the rest of the family's sundries are usually placed under the table.

There are around 210,000 people living in subdivided flats. These cramped flats not only make life inconvenient, but also put pressure on children psychologically.

Aside from helping Yin and other families that experience poverty improve their living space, Oxfam is also helping them expand their social circles. We are supporting children like Yin's son to enrol in English classes, which have not only helped them improve their English, but also get to know other children.



## POVERTY IN HONG KONG

- According to the Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report for 2019, after policy intervention, 15.8 per cent of Hong Kong's population – over 1 million people – live in poverty.
- Hong Kong's Gini coefficient stands at 0.539 (zero indicates total equality) – its highest in 45 years.
- There are about 154,000 working poor households, accounting for more than 45 per cent of the overall population living in poverty.



Oxfam addresses poverty in Hong Kong through policy research, advocacy, campaigns and public education. We urge the government to build a human economy that works for all, including people living in poverty.

# ■ WITHOUT A HOME

For people living in poverty, climate change could mean homelessness. Read on to see what 'climate refugees' say.



## CLIMATE CHANGE IS INTENSIFYING

- 50 MILLION** | people worldwide were hit by climate-related disasters (e.g. floods, droughts and storms) and the COVID-19 pandemic last year, which worsened food insecurity and inequality.
- 20 MILLION** | people a year were internally displaced by climate change in the past 10 years.
- 50 YEARS** | According to a report released by the United Nations World Meteorological Organization in September this year, the number of climate-related disasters has increased five times in 50 years, of which more than 91 per cent occurred in developing countries.
- 1.5°C** | Over the next 20 years, the global temperature rise is expected to reach or exceed 1.5°C of warming. The sea level is also likely to rise 30 to 60 cm by the end of this century, and many coastal cities will be flooded.



Photo: Ula Majewski/Oxfam

“

We don't want to leave here. This is our home and our land. If we leave Kiribati, where would we go?

Maria Tekaie, 65, stands on the beach by a fallen palm tree, close by to where her family used to live in Abaiang Island, Kiribati. Parts of her village now lie underneath the ocean in the background.

Climate change is a major crisis for the islanders of Kiribati. Rising sea levels have left valuable farmland inundated; it has also polluted freshwater resources. Left unchecked, climate change will force many to lose their homes and livelihoods, and become climate refugees.

## DID YOU KNOW ?

Kiribati has the world's largest marine protected area with a population of less than 120,000. As the global sea level rises, it is estimated that within 25 years, most of this small island nation will be submerged.



Photo: Poon Wai Nang/Oxfam

Pastoralists digging for water in the Somali region.

Climate change affects all regions of the world, but poor countries are most vulnerable to it.

The Somali region located in the eastern part of Ethiopia, for instance, is remote, barren, poverty-stricken and disaster-prone. Irregular weather patterns there have made rainy season more erratic and unpredictable in recent years. Prolonged droughts have also caused immeasurable suffering for poor and vulnerable communities there.

Kawa, 35, a pastoralist said, ‘Livestock is our main source of livelihood. In recent years, we have been greatly affected by droughts. Women in this area basically have no chance to earn a living, and life is difficult. The whole village has to move constantly from place to place searching for water and pasture.’



Photo: Sunsun Leung/Oxfam

In Tanzania, Oxfam supports farmers to grow sisal – a sustainable and drought-resistant plant for an income. We also support smallholder farmers to set up self-help groups and provide them with training to market their crops.

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE, FIGHTING POVERTY

- Oxfam campaigns for climate action and works with partner organisations to bring the voices of communities affected by climate change into international negotiations and discussions.
- We work with local communities to build resilience in the face of the climate crisis.

# ■ POVERTY AND HEALTH

Poverty increases the chances of poor health.  
Poor health, in turn, increases the chances of poverty.

“

I lost my twin babies through delays and poor treatment after I gave birth at a local government clinic.



Photo: Atul Loke, Panos/Oxfam

Pratima, 32, lives in a slum in Patna in Bihar state, India. Her husband works as a driver earning around HK\$850 a month. The family lives in a marginalised community.

Without enough midwives and nurses, or the equipment needed for safe deliveries, women are left highly vulnerable during pregnancy and childbirth. Pratima was not able to get the maternal health services she needed during childbirth at a government clinic. As a result, her babies died a few days after they were born.

Pratima said, 'Every day there was a dead child in the clinic. It was like there was no child going out alive from there.'

In India, Oxfam is helping poor people in Bihar, Odisha and Chattisgarh states access free quality healthcare. We work with local partners to monitor conditions in public hospitals and urge state governments to increase investment in the public healthcare system. We also work with local people to make sure they are aware of their right to free essential medicines.

There are not enough health centres to serve everyone in Bihar, eastern India. They are often under-staffed and ill-equipped.



Photo: Atul Loke, Panos/Oxfam



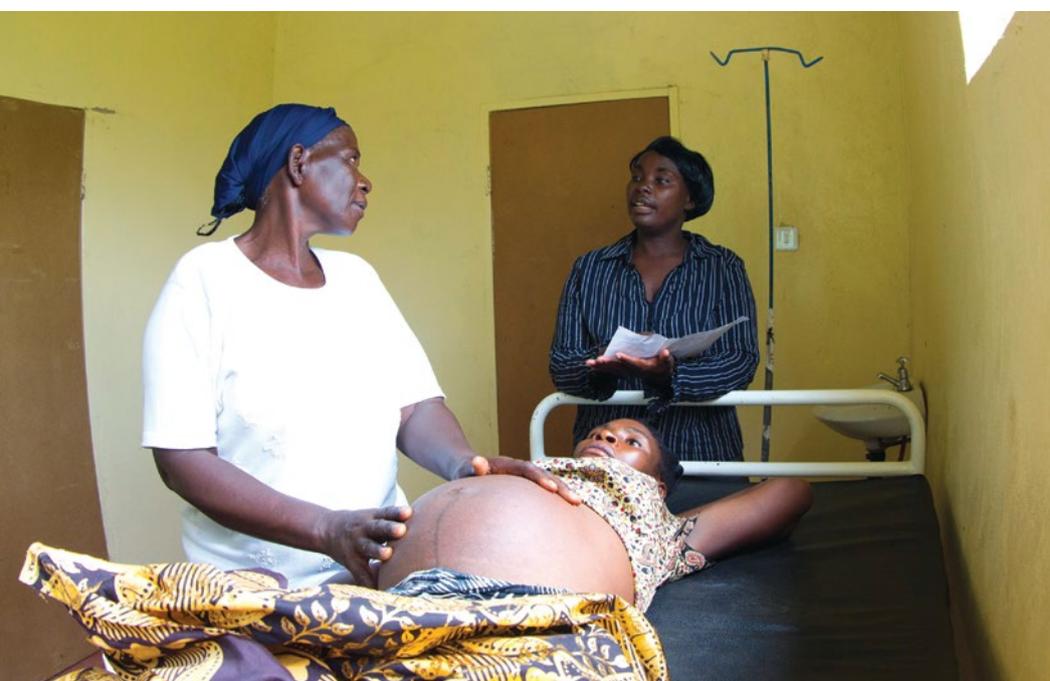
Photo: Christina Chan/Oxfam

Lucy, 32, lives in a village in Zambia. The area is malaria-prone. All her children have contracted malaria. She said, 'Malaria causes muscle pain, fever and serious headache. It is heartbreaking to see my children suffer. We can go to the government clinic to get malaria pills for free. But the pills are often out of stock as demand is high. Some villagers walk 40 to 50 km from their home only to find that there is no pill available for them. The clinic also lacks equipment or skilled health workers.'

Malaria accounts for more than 400,000 deaths each year, of

which more than two-thirds are children. Sub-Saharan Africa is most affected. COVID-19 has exposed the harmful impacts of insufficient healthcare services by governments in countries across Africa.

Oxfam has been working in Africa since the 1980s. Over the years, we have fought disease like Ebola and malaria with communities in African countries. This experience has also helped communities fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We also provide clean water and sanitation facilities in poor communities and promote hygiene and sanitation.



Oxfam trained volunteer community health workers in Zambia. They visit households regularly to provide treatment for malaria and minor injuries. They also help villagers get tested for HIV and do check-ups for pregnant women.

# ANNUAL SUMMARY

2020/2021

# OXFAM

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

OVER THE PAST YEAR, OXFAM HONG KONG



Worked in

**23**

**COUNTRIES AND  
REGIONS**



Worked with

**223**

**PARTNER  
ORGANISATIONS**



Supported

**356**

**PROJECTS**



Reached over

**2,900,000**

**PEOPLE** in poor  
communities



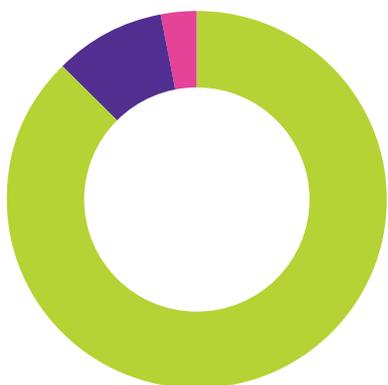
**SPENT**

**HK\$171,928,000**

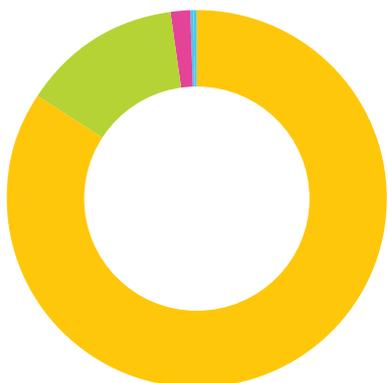
to fight poverty through our  
programmes

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



INCOME	HK\$'000
Public fundraising	198,185
Institutional fundraising	21,146
Others*	6,891
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>226,222</b>



EXPENDITURE	HK\$'000
Programmes	171,928
Fundraising and marketing	27,931
Management and administration	8,689
Others	960
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>209,508</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>16,714</b>

\*Includes HK\$5.5 million funding support from the Employment Support Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund

## FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets and Liabilities	HK\$'000	Reserves	HK\$'000
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>55,447</b>	Restricted funds	17,391
Property, plant and equipment	54,057	Operation reserve	102,942
Financial investments	1,118	<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>120,333</b>
Prepayment	272		
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>91,139</b>		
Inventories	1,396		
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables	3,698		
Cash and cash equivalents	86,045		
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>26,253</b>		
Accounts and other payable	13,250		
Grants payable	9,561		
Deferred revenue	3,442		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>120,333</b>		

## HUMANITARIAN RELIEF COVID-19



Photo: Suhaib Jarrar / Oxfam

Through our COVID-19 response, we responded to people's immediate needs, promoted sustainable livelihoods among the poorest through our programmes, and advocated for pro-poor policies to protect the hardest hit. For instance, we:

- reached close to 9.7 million people globally through our expertise in water, sanitation and hygiene
- distributed nutritious meal kits to families and children who lived in subdivided flats in Hong Kong
- offered migrant parents on the Mainland with free babysitting services while they returned to work since schools and community centres were still closed in the early stages of the pandemic
- called on the Hong Kong government to offer those who live in poverty an unemployment allowance
- called on all governments to back a People's Vaccine – a free vaccine that's distributed fairly to every individual in every country

## GENDER JUSTICE



Photo: Saba



Photo: Li Yue / Oxfam

### BREAKING BARRIERS WITH MULTIMEDIA



Due to the language barrier, many minority ethnic people's only choice is to work in low-paying jobs. The labour participation rate among South Asian women has also remained relatively low because of this and limited access to learning opportunities. Further, few courses are offered in a language they understand that also cater to cultural preferences, such as all-female classes.

To make classes more accessible, we worked with our partners to offer participants graphic design, video production, photography and other courses. Through them, participants gained skills to work in the creative industry – an industry that's growing and where the language barrier is less of an issue.

### PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



A survey of 2,508 university students across six provinces in mainland China revealed that 24.8 per cent of girls had been sexually abused before the age of 16. While prejudiced beliefs, like misogyny, continue to fuel the injustices girls face, groups that experience poverty or other barriers have it worse because of their lack of resources and know-how to fight gender-based violence.

To stop this, we've been working with Anhui Sun Umbrella Children's Charity Relief Center to raise awareness about and prevent gender-based violence among children through picture books, movie screenings and other activities.

# CLIMATE EMERGENCY

## SAVING FOOD TO SAVE THE PLANET



Every year, Macau contributes to climate change through the roughly 504,000 metric tons of solid waste that's incinerated, over a third of which is food.

Seeing this, we launched the 'Feed More, Waste Less' Food Assistance Programme to redistribute food that is safe and still edible to low-income families while reducing waste. Over the past year, we've rescued over 86,700 kg of food and drink.



Photo: Sandra Pun



Photo: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam

## MANGROVES: A TOOL TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE



Over the years, the effects of climate change have made Maslog, an impoverished community in Eastern Samar, the Philippines, poorer. Fishing used to be much easier, but in recent years, many fishing families have gone out of business.

Mangroves, however, have been making a difference. Not only do they provide a place for fish and crabs to spawn, but they also give humans protection during cyclones. Since 2015, the Maslog Coconut Farmers and Fishermen Association has planted more than 20,000 mangrove seedlings, aided in recent years by Oxfam and local partner PRRM.

# SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN JUST ECONOMIES

## PROTECTING LIVELIHOODS WITH SAFER REMITTANCES



For many rural families in Nepal, the income from family members working in other countries have long been their lifeline. Bringing their earnings home, though, used to be fraught with risks.

That's why we've worked with the community to start cooperatives that are technologically equipped and financially trained so migrant workers can remit money home safely. The cooperatives also allow families to save or invest this money in their agricultural production, which the community is gladly doing.



Photo: Asbury Methodist Social Service

## IMPROVING SUBDIVIDED FLATS THROUGH STORAGE



Over 200,000 people live in subdivided units in Hong Kong. The cramped living spaces often force children that live in these flats to do most things on the family bed without a proper table, which negatively impacts them physically and mentally.

With the help of Store Friendly though, we've been supporting our partner Asbury Methodist Social Service to improve the living conditions of families that live in subdivided flats. Through this project, families move non-essential belongings to storage units so children have space for a desk for schoolwork and to move about. The project also involves minor renovations, such as adding storage space, and replacing/buying furniture.

# THE STRUGGLES OF LEPROSY SURVIVORS

by Meizi (Oxfam partner)

'We never dared mention the name "Shan Shiping" before. If people knew that we were from the village, they wouldn't sell us anything. If you told people that you lived in Shan Shiping on a bus, they would probably all want to get off the bus right away.

'Even our families avoid us. Your life is ruined if you have the disease,' said Siyu, a villager who has recovered from leprosy. She told me her story when I accompanied her to see a doctor at a hospital.

Shan Shiping is a rehab village in Eryuan County, Yunnan, for leprosy patients. It was established in the 1950s. Discrimination, stigma and prejudice against leprosy appears to be as old as the disease. We had tried to take the villagers to Dali for a day trip, but no matter how much we were willing to pay for a hotel room, we got rejected by all hotels. They said, 'If someone finds out that we have leprosy patients as hotel guests, our business will go bust.'

Another villager, Grandpa Zhou, had returned to his hometown after he was cured of leprosy. Despite facing discrimination, he took care of his mother until she died. After that, he came to Shan Shiping village alone.

Grandpa Zhou lives with Grandpa Yu, who is blind. He takes care of Grandpa Yu's three meals every day. He would take him to the yard in a wheelchair to enjoy some sunshine, and he would go down to the river to catch fish and share them with other elderly people who are disabled by the disease. Grandpa Zhou would also accompany social workers to visit other villages to help other disabled people.

Oxfam has been supporting people who have recovered from leprosy and their children in the remote areas of Yunnan, such as Shan Shiping. Since last year, we have been reaching villagers there through our project to improve lives. This year, we extended our work to support other people who are living in poverty in the county. For example, we established the first support centre in Eryuan County for people living with a disability who have never had leprosy.



Grandpa Zhou actively helps other villagers who have recovered from leprosy in the village.



Meizi (second from the right) organised a series of online workshops for villagers in Shan Shiping to learn how they can prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (in alphabetical order)

Cleaning Workers' Union  
Fung Siu Wah (Wah Gor)  
People Service Centre

### Oxfam Trailwalker 2021

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PROTEK

#### Official Green Management Partner:

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VAUDE

#### Official Water:

Watsons Water

### Companies/organisations that organised beneficiary events to support Oxfam's work

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(Sucursal)

Escola Santa Maria Mazzarello

Macao Institute for Tourism Studies

Macao Insurance Company

Our Lady of Fatima Girls' School

Payboy

PizzaExpress Macau

Tin In Beauty

Wynn Care

### Companies/organisations with an Oxfam donation box

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BCM bank

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Pride Up International Trading and

Investment Co., Ltd.

Royal Supermarket Company Limited

Sei Kee Cafe

Tai Lei Loi Pork Chop Bun

Thai Master Traditional Chicken Rice

The Joy of Living Cafe

### Oxfam partners recruitment campaign - exhibition area sponsorship (April to October 2021)

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#### Sino Group:

Regentville Shopping Mall

The Waterside

#### Macau

Administração Condomínio Fa Seng Hong Tou

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The Municipal Affairs Bureau

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Macau

#### Official Timekeeper:

Seiko

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CTM

#### Fitness Partners:

24/7 Fitness

Life Project

#### Supporting Partners:

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Luen Fung Food Supermarket

Lululemon

Macau Artistes Association

Macau Pageant Alliance

Moov Coffee

Royal Supermarket

Vitasoy International Holdings

Limited (Macau Branch)

V. Run

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#### Thoth Production

ZA Magazine

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CHI FAT SEAFOOD CO LTD.

CHUN WING BUILDING MATERIALS COMPANY LTD.

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