

OXFAMexpress

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE, fighting poverty



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無窮世界

World

Without

Poverty

OXFAM

Hong Kong

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

IN THIS ISSUE

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE, FIGHTING POVERTY

p.1

- Message from the Director General
- p. 2
- Smile at the world

A self-reliant single mother

p. 3 - 8

See the world

Fighting climate change, fighting poverty

- How does climate change affect poverty?
- How does climate change increase hunger?
- How does climate change displace people?
- How does climate change increase gender injustice and inequity?
- Tackling climate change with people in poverty

p. 9-12

2022/23 Annual Summary

p.13

- We are Oxfamers
 - \cdot Donor trip to Gansu memories and reflections

Acknowledgements

Dear Oxfam Friend,

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Nowadays, barely a day goes by without news of some extreme weather somewhere in the world. The first half of 2023 was abnormally warm in Hong Kong and we experienced the hottest August on record (source: the Hong Kong Observatory). Our research reports have found that extreme weather exacerbated by climate change has had a major impact on the city's street cleaners and low-income families living in subdivided flats.

In September, our city was hit by a super typhoon and an unprecedented rainstorm that brought the city to a standstill within hours. Although we immediately worked with our partner SOCO to respond to the needs of subdivided flat residents in the wake of the extreme weather we saw, it is clear that climate change affects the poorest first and worst.

At Oxfam, we believe that if we are to eliminate poverty, we must address the impacts of climate change on people living in poverty. We are working with partners and communities around the globe to fight for climate justice. In July this year, I visited Wangjinzhuang, a village in Hebei, where Oxfam is supporting a rural development project there. I was inspired by how villagers there preserved traditional quality seeds to cope with the unprecedented threat of climate change. I was also impressed by their resilience, solidarity and how empowered they feel to diversify their crops to minimise the impacts of climate change on their livelihoods.

Meanwhile, the Conference of Parties (COP), which is the biggest annual conference on the climate crisis held by the United Nations, will be held from 30 November to 12 December 2023. Oxfam and its partners are gearing up to advocate and lobby the negotiators at the climate talks to come up with a fair deal to help countries and communities adapt to the changing climate.

To raise awareness about climate change and adaptation, we launched a series of events and campaigns in Hong Kong that engaged the general public and media which included the "Know Heaven. Know Earth. Oxfam Hong Kong Climate Change Photography Exhibition" which was held in Tseung Kwan 0 between 11 and 17 October 2023. Through it, we brought smallholder farmers' and street cleaners' stories of dealing with climate change to the general public.

Climate change is threatening humankind and pushing people into poverty. Together, and with your participation, we can stop the climate crisis from getting worse.

With warm regards,

KalinaTy

Kalina Tsang





A SELF-RELIANT SINGLE MOTHER

My name is Razia. I now live in a camp in Cox's Bazar*. After my husband tragically died in December 2020, I had struggled to support my children alone. Luckily, I took part in Oxfam's income generation programme and received training on producing cloth sanitary napkins for an income. I invest the income in goats and poultry. I also run a small farm. I am able to buy fish and vegetables and medicine, as well as pay school tuition for my children. I am proud to be able to help promote health and hygiene in the communities and reduce waste from disposable masks and sanitary napkins.

*Remark: Cox's Bazar is the world's single largest and most densely populated cluster of refugee camps where nearly a million Rohingya refugees take shelter there. Oxfam has been working with partners and refugee volunteers to provide safe water and sanitation facilities to refugees there, and promote women and girl's leadership and develop livelihoods.

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE FIGHTING POVERTY

At Oxfam, we know that climate change, poverty, and inequality are linked. It is also a key driver of migration and food insecurity. Here, people living in poverty around the world tell their stories of how climate change affects their lives.

and marginalised communities the worst?

YEARS-LONG DROUGHTS



MONSOONS AND CYCLONES

What are the extreme weather events that affect poor

ERRATIC RAINS AND FLOODING



RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES

HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT POVERTY?



Climate change looms over all countries but the world's poorest countries and communities are hit worst by it. Three out of four people living in poverty rely on agriculture and natural resources to survive. For these people, the effects of climate change — limited water and food sources — could plunge them further into poverty as environmental conditions worsen.

ETHIOPIA: Pastoralist communities in the Somali region have been suffering several years of erratic rains and droughts, and millions of people have lost their animals and livelihoods. Crops have been decimated and communities that still have access to water and pastures are in a dire situation since those resources are not enough to cover their basic needs.





THE SOLOMON ISLANDS: Shirley Ahuia, 11, gets ready to go to school in her dug-out canoe. Children there are unable to use coastal footpaths that are now underwater due to the sea level rise. For Pacific Islander peoples, the climate crisis is a very real, present and deepening reality. Rising seas and higher storm surges are already swallowing land and homes and contaminating scarce water supplies.

HONG KONG: King Je is nearly 70 years old, but she still works as a cleaner to earn a meagre income. Recently, she felt sick working in the scorching heat. The intense heat inside her subdivided flat also affects her everyday life and physical health. Once, she even suffered from severe vomiting and had to be sent to the hospital for treatment.

Watch short video to learn more:







CHINA: The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is one of the areas in China that is most affected by climate change. A sudden snowstorm can strip herders of their livestock and push them into poverty overnight. Badin Kanzhuo, a herder, said: 'As the pasture becomes dry through spring and early summer and the grass grows badly, the yaks don't grow well and don't produce much milk. We don't have much income now.'

HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASE HUNGER?

Extreme weather is a driver of world hunger. The impact of shifting weather patterns, droughts, flooding, and storms hit poor and marginalised communities first and worst, causing unpredictable growing seasons, crop failures, and sharp increases in food prices.

SOMALIA: More than 20 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and South Sudan have been affected by an ongoing drought (Source: the UN). Here in a hospital in Somalia little Magda is fighting for her life. She is extremely malnourished. Magda's mother is a single parent, she is struggling to feed her family.

DID YOU KNOW?

Food price spikes are a matter of life and death to many people in developing countries, who spend as much as 75 per cent of their income on food. Watch short video to learn more about the hunger crisis in East Africa:



HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE DISPLACE PEOPLE?

Climate change contributes to fragility and the risk of conflict and disaster. Climate-fueled disasters were the number one driver of internal displacement over the last decade — forcing an estimated 32 million people to flee their homes in 2022 alone. The climate crisis is putting many more people at risk of displacement in the near future. Without action at the global level to address climate change, we will see smallholder farmers and the most vulnerable communities in many other parts of the world being forced to leave their land.

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DID YOU KNOW?

People are seven times more likely to be displaced by cyclones, floods or drought than by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and three times more likely than by conflict.

HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASE GENDER INJUSTICE AND INEQUITY?

Long standing gender, racial and economic inequalities mean that historically marginalised communities are the hardest hit and most impacted by the climate crisis.

Climate change has worsened global inequality. The richest one per cent of people in the world are responsible for more than twice as much carbon pollution as the 50 per cent people who make up the poorest half of humanity.

Across societies, the impacts of climate change affect women and men differently. Women and girls must walk farther to collect water and fuel, and are often the last to eat. When women and children are forced to leave home and find shelter in displacement camps, they face unsafe living conditions, making them more vulnerable to violence and exploitation.

GUATEMALA: Mariana López lives in the community of Naranjo with her children. When the persistent drought ruined the family's harvests, Mariana's husband was forced to migrate to another country for job opportunities. Women like Mariana are often amongst the last to leave when more extreme or erratic weather makes it harder for families to put food on the table. They stay at home looking after their children and often face more difficulties and struggles.



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH PEOPLE IN POVERTY

Oxfam is working with partner organisations across the globe to provide lifesaving support to families on the frontlines of disaster. At the community level, we support people affected by the climate crisis to participate in adaptation, risk and development planning. We ensure that women are included in local decision-making spaces around disaster management.

In East Africa where poor communities suffer from severe hunger and water crises, Oxfam is working with communities to develop sustainable livelihoods so that people facing hunger are equipped with everything they need to become resilient and self-reliant in the long term. We also provide emergency food or cash for affected communities to buy food and other essential items, as well as clean water and sanitation to protect communities' health.

Together with our partners in Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Bangladesh, Oxfam is working with poor communities in these countries vulnerable to disasters to adapt to the climate crisis. We are doing this by installing tube wells to enable irrigation, supporting marginalised women to grow drought and flood-resistant crops to secure food production, and setting up self-help groups to develop small business and raise livestock for an income. We also work with communities to set up community disaster management committees, and develop and implement disaster preparedness and response plans.

In Hong Kong, extreme weather conditions make life more difficult for subdivided flat residents. We urge the government to develop policies to support those living in subdivided flats/poor living conditions to adapt to climate change, and speed up the construction of public housing to help subdivided flat residents cope with increasingly frequent extreme weather events. We also work with a self-storage company to allow subdivided flat residents to temporarily place their items in storage units, thereby increasing the amount of space in their flats and improving their living conditions.

Oxfam's climate adaptation projects in mainland China are closely linked with rural development, humanitarian relief and rehabilitation. Liugou Village in Shaanxi province was once hit by extreme rainfall and severe floods, which destroyed villagers' houses and livelihoods overnight. To help villagers reduce their vulnerability and develop sustainable livelihoods, Oxfam is working with them to develop an organic tea planting business, set up a disaster preparedness committee, and implement disaster risk reduction measures. Villagers actively take part in preparedness and emergency response drills to prepare for disasters caused by extreme weather events. Villagers also work together to clean up debris and silt in the streams and other disaster prevention facilities to ensure smooth drainage during the rainy season to reduce the risk of flooding.



SHAANXI, CHINA: Jiang Jianwu is a tea farmer in Liugou Village. Ever since Oxfam installed solar insecticidal lamps with him and other tea farmers, they have seen a great reduction in the need for pesticides. Villagers in Liugou believe that mutual support within the community and green development will bring about a prosperous life.



BAITADI DISTRICT, NEPAL: Villagers at this hilly district are more at risk of landslides triggered by extreme rainfalls. In 2023, Oxfam Hong Kong supported a pilot project there to help raise community resilience against and get prepared for landslides. Through collecting data like temperature and rainfall patterns and mapping areas in two municipalities which are prone to landslides, we built a landslide early warning system which is accessible with villagers' mobile phones. The early warning system sends out notifications when risk of having landslides is high.



THE PHILIPPINES: Super Typhoon Doksuri landed Fuga island and Dalupiri island of the province of Cagayan, the Philippines on 26 July 2023. It affected more than 4.6 million people. Oxfam and our local partner PDRRN responded immediately by distributing hygiene kits, shelter kits and food kits to affected families. We target to reach 90,000 people.

FUTURE



At the international level, Oxfam is working with partners to advocate for climate justice.

We call on governments to take bold actions to urgently reduce emissions and massively scale up their climate finance with genuine accountability mechanisms to help people on the frontlines of the climate crisis to cope with the threats they face and help communities prone to disasters recover and rebuild.

The 2023 UN Climate Change Conference will convene from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai. We will ensure the voices of those most impacted by the climate crisis – and above all, women – are heard. Every day, together with volunteers and local partners, we will support communities to stand up and speak out for their right to a fairer, liveable future.



WORKED IN



WORKED WITH

SUPPORTED







FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE

BY EXTERNAL CHANGE GOALS

	_		
		EXPENDITURE	HK\$'000
		Sustainable Livelihoods in Just Economies	77,080
		Gender Justice	17,591
		Climate Justice	20,039
		Humanitarian Relief	31,331
		TOTAL	146,041

These financial highlights are base<mark>d on Oxfam Hong Kong's financial accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.</mark> The full audited financial statements by KPM<mark>G are available on our website, www.oxfam.org.hk. All figures are in Hong Kong dollars.</mark>

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF



REACHING SURVIVORS THROUGH STRONG PARTNER NETWORK IN POST-EARTHQUAKE TURKIYE

A devastating earthquake hit large parts of southern Turkiye and northern Syria on 6 February 2023. We quickly responded in both countries with food, clean water and hygiene items.

In Turkiye, having a solid network of partners made up of women's groups before the earthquake enabled us to quickly mount a response and set up community kitchens staffed by women affected by the earthquake. Through these kitchens, the women have been cooking and distributing 750 hot meals a day.



UNLEASHING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP IN AN EMERGENCY

Since June 2022, many places in southern China have been hit by torrential rains, which have caused severe floods. Lingchuan County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, was the worst affected last summer. In response, Oxfam and its partner Guizhou Blue Sky Rescue Team immediately rushed emergency relief to the area. We also obtained HK\$1,688,000 from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Disaster Relief Fund to distribute rice to more than 22,800 survivors.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN JUST ECONOMIES



EMPOWERING ETHNIC MINORITY INFLUENCERS

To empower more ethnic minority youths to expand their career horizons and enhance their social mobility, Oxfam Hong Kong partnered with Social S to provide 40 ethnic minority youths with sports influencer training and internship opportunities. More than half of the participants became sports ambassadors and performers at local large-scale events, which gave them valuable work experience.



BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS TO BOOST INCOMES AND KEEP CARDBOARD OUT OF LANDFILL

In 2022, Macau produced 109,644 metric tons of paper/cardboard waste, with only 22.5 per cent being recycled – in part thanks to cardboard collectors. These collectors are often elderly individuals supporting loved ones affected by illness or job loss. Seeing this, we launched the 'Project for Paper Recycling and Supporting the Paper Recycling Workers' in September 2022 to bring recycling companies, businesses and cardboard collectors together to boost recycling rates, reduce landfill waste, and increase cardboard collectors' incomes. By building a network of cardboard collectors and learning about their work, for instance, we hope to create safer 'recycling routes' with recycling companies.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY



COLLABORATION CRUCIAL TO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH CLEANERS

Our 'Sanitation Workers' Working Conditions at Refuse Collection Points (RCPs) in Extreme Heat' report in 2022 revealed that the average temperature inside refuse stations is higher than it is outside, and more than 65 per cent of workers often feel unwell working in these stations because of the stifling heat. To address this, we urged the government to revise its 'Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work in a Hot Environment' guidelines and have successfully worked with other organisations to lobby the government to establish a heat index. We also worked with businesses and donors to distribute portable fans to more than 4,000 cleaners.



SMALL SEEDS, BIG WISDOM: COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is posing enormous challenges to local agriculture and villagers in Wangjinzhuang, Hebei. To address this, Oxfam and its partner Farmers' Seed Network, has supported the establishment of the Wangjinzhuang Farmers' Seed Bank, which stores more than 170 locally adapted varieties. We have also developed a set of planting and management methods with villagers so they adapt to climate change, and shared these sustainable agricultural practices at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15).

GENDER JUSTICE



27 MINDFUL MOMS EMPOWERED TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

For families from poorer backgrounds, access to mental health services is limited given how unaffordable they are. With our partner Childhood Is Limited though, we've empowered 27 moms with mindfulness techniques through activities like mindful stretching and handcrafting. With these skills, they not only learn to address their own anxiety, but also lead workshops to help kids with their mental health while earning an income. It's also helping parents and children to improve their relationships.



EMPOWERING HUNDREDS OF WOMEN IN NEPAL TO FIGHT GENDER INEQUITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

With their husbands working abroad but unable to earn enough, women in Baitadi district, Nepal, are left to grow crops to support their families. With climate change though, this is becoming increasingly challenging. The resulting lack of income, however, means a lack of agency and adds to the vulnerability many women there already experience.

To address this, we're working with our partner RUDES to run the Women Empowerment Center, where women learn how to combat climate change and gender inequity through skills training, leadership and business workshops and such.

>> DONOR TRIP TO GANSU - MEMORIES AND REFLECTIONS

From 30 July to 5 August 2023, 12 monthly donors travelled to Gansu Province in mainland China to visit some of Oxfam's projects that support left-behind and migrant children. One of the donors — Lau Wan Suen, Ally — shared her thoughts about her experience.

For a 17-year-old, I've always considered myself to be bold and adventurous. I first discovered my passion to serve at [the age of] 6 on an 0xfam rice selling campaign. That warm feeling you get from 'doing a good deed' has resonated with me. Since then, I've tried my very best to accomplish different 'good deeds' to feel that warm fuzzy feeling again.

The donor trip to Gansu was no exception, I signed up expecting it to be a 'good deed' booster but I was wrong. From the very first moment when we stepped on that luscious mountain with air as crisp as the autumn leaves, I was blown away. In this remote rural area where the simple luxury of 'unlimited' electricity or the internet was non-existent, I found a hidden treasure. One that was lost within the glistening towers and bustling everyday life of Hong Kong. Gratitude. Rid of all the urban opulence, the villagers greeted us with wide open arms, and showed us their everyday lives. Instead of fussing about their living situation, they were all very content and grateful for the help that Oxfam has been providing them. Even though their living conditions weren't devastating, they're still in need of support to reconstruct their lifestyle and way of thinking. Their opposing views on gender and hierarchical system can still be rebuilt. I've also learnt to understand the broader concepts of what their potential hardships are.



Ally (centre) visits left-behind children in Gansu with Oxfam.

>>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

H K SHIN YAT TONG MORAL ASSOCIATION R0TARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTHWEST S L WANG S Y C KOO CHARTARDE. FOUNDATION UNIVERSITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP (HONG KONG CENTRE) LIMITED ZHILAN FOUNDATION 澳門普濟评院政會堂悠春值理會

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

Hong.Kong BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL HONG KONG ENGLSH EXCEL SCHOOL OF ENGLISH HARNEY WESTWOOD & RIEGELS IPC Information Systems (Hong Kong) Limited ITECH (ASIA) COMPANY LIMITED

LUOXO MELALEUCA OF ASIA Macau

Banco Comercial de Macau PizzaExpress Macau

Schools that organised beneficiary events to support Oxfam's work

Christian & Missionary Alliance Sun Kei Primary School Hong Kong Management Association David Li Kwok Po College King Ling College

Companies/organisations with an Oxfam donation box

<u>Macau</u>

Banco Comercial de Macau Pride Up International Trading and Investment Co., Ltd. Royal Supermarket Company Limited

Oxfam partners recruitment campaign - exhibition area sponsorship (April to October 2023)

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