

# Voices for CHANGE



**OXFAM**  
Canada

>>> DONOR NEWSLETTER >>> WINTER 2017 >>> OXFAM.CA >>>

**IN THIS ISSUE** >>> The age of women...Page 2 >>> Ending violence against women and girls...Page 2  
>>> Kitabe thanks you for your persistent support...Page 3 >>> Building a human economy...Page 3  
>>> Books that will change...Page 4 >>> DID YOU KNOW?...Page 4 >>> Julie Top 100...Page 4

## Message from Julie

At Oxfam we've witnessed so many inspiring results from our programs and partnerships across the globe. I'm thrilled to share some of the good news with you, because you are so vital to building lasting solutions to poverty and injustice.

As you read, each article will illustrate just how important it is to continue empowering women and giving them control over their lives to win the fight against poverty. Your support is a ray of hope in our world! Thank you for helping Oxfam reach millions of people across 97 countries!

Julie Delahanty

*Thank you for your continued support of Oxfam Canada's work.*



Photo Credit: Anne Toralles Leite

## Long-term solutions to a life-changing disaster

The devastation of Nepal's massive 2015 earthquake and its aftershocks still haunt the country today. The stats were grim – 9,000 dead and 850,000 homes destroyed or damaged.

In typical fashion, Oxfam supporters responded with tremendous generosity to help provide lifesaving emergency relief. Since then, unemployment and landlessness have left more people than ever before struggling with poverty. Thanks to your support, Oxfam has moved onto long-term recovery needs for

those who are trying to rebuild their lives, like Bimala Balami.

In her community the irrigation channel for farms was destroyed by a landslide, leaving no way for farmers to water their crops. With your help, Oxfam is offering cash for work programs, and was able to hire groups of women – the main labour force – to build irrigation channels for hillside fields where they grow rice, wheat, mustard, peas, cucumber and other vegetables.

This type of long-term assistance

is paving the way for sustainable livelihoods in communities hit hard by the after effects of the earthquake. For people like Bimala, it's a brighter future for her whole family!

Bimala Balami



Photo Credit: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam



Photo Credit: Dustin Barter/Oxfam

Daw Ma Khine Oo, center, epitomises effective women’s leadership.

## The age of women

At Oxfam, we know that empowering women to become leaders in their communities and advocates for others is a sure-fire way to help people free themselves from poverty. In Myanmar, Oxfam works with partner groups to help women like Daw Ma Khine Oo.

This 47-year-old wife and mother became involved with Oxfam in 2010 through our local partner, Better Life Organisation. Daw was able to take part in leadership workshops and has benefited from attending Women’s Farmers’ Forums to become a strong voice for land rights in her community.

## Special update: Ending violence against women and girls

Thanks to our generous donors and with the financial support of the Government of Canada, Oxfam Canada has launched a new project, Creating Spaces, aimed at ending violence against women and girls in South and East Asia.

We’ve recently finished an exciting baseline study in all six countries, drawing on feminist research principles and incorporating ethical and safety guidelines for research on violence against women and girls. The baseline included over 1,600

household surveys, 200 focus groups and in-depth interviews with community leaders, and over 60 personal stories collected from women and girls who have experienced violence. We were able to use mobile technology for the first time to collect data on violence – the household survey component was conducted using smartphones and tablets that allowed us to track the information being collected in real-time.

Currently, Oxfam teams are holding inception workshops in

Daw explains that women used to be voiceless at village administration meetings, leaving her feeling tremendously frustrated. Now, thanks to training in gender rights and equality, Daw has been able to tackle issues ranging from helping her villagers fight a telecommunications company land-grab, to building a bridge and asking government to provide electricity.

Day to day she’s encouraging those around her, helping women and men see the value in equal pay for women.

Daw is a firm believer in allowing families to lift themselves out of poverty by empowering women, and she shares her training and the knowledge she’s gained as an advocate with countless people who come to her for help. Daw, who is starting a teak tree selling business, is eager for more training to help her and others fight a possible relocation of their community. Her husband, who declared this “the age of women,” supports her work as an influencer and inspiration to her community.



Photo Credit: Tom Pietrasik/Oxfam

each country with key stakeholders that include project partners, key government ministries, and other civil society and women’s rights organizations to share the findings from the baseline study and kick off the project.

We’ll keep you updated on the project’s progress.

# Kitabe thanks you for your persistent support!

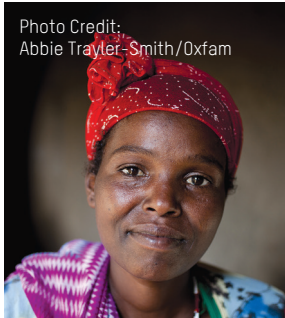


Photo Credit: Abbie Trayler-Smith/Oxfam

Kitabe Terfe

Thinking about her old life, 25-year-old Kitabe Terfe in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia says she was living in darkness. With just a grade one education and an early arranged marriage, Kitabe was not in a position to take hold of her own future without some help.

Kitabe, her husband and her four children used to live hand to mouth. Anything they earned from farming was only enough to buy food, with no money for savings or other necessities. Their status in the community was low and her husband controlled their finances, leaving Kitabe with too little for her family.

That's all changed with her participation in some of Oxfam's horticultural and equality programs. Thanks to Oxfam donors, Kitabe was able to join a cooperative and take out small loans for an onion seed-farming scheme. After harvesting and selling 350kg of onion seed, Kitabe paid back her loan and has since purchased a home, a cow, an ox and more land.

Kitabe and her husband now share household and work responsibilities. Kitabe has a bankbook and can carefully budget for a better future.

Thanks to you and Oxfam, Kitabe now feels fearless. She knows how to access loans when needed, hires on labourers, enjoys a higher status and new respect from her husband. She sees hope ahead and a life free from poverty. Kitabe is sharing her new skills with her children, so they too can become self-sufficient and empowered as they grow up.



Photo Credit: Abbie Trayler-Smith/



Photo Credit: Oxfam

Oxfam Canada staff and volunteers at Women's March in Ottawa.

## Building a human economy

Advocating for women's rights is fundamental to ending rising inequality. We all witnessed this when hundreds of thousands marched for equality in January.

Oxfam recently launched the report "Shortchanged: Make Work Paid, Equal and Valued for Women." Our message was clear – the government can help reduce inequality by building a budget that works for women. Oxfam supporters took to the streets to get petition signatures and testify at the government's pre-budget consultations. And we spoke to media, government officials, and in communities across Canada to share the stories of women from around the world who have been *shortchanged* by our current economic model.

Over the next two years our goal is to build widespread consensus amongst decision-makers and everyday people that the gap between rich elites and the rest is unacceptable, and that gender inequality is both a cause and consequence of economic inequality.

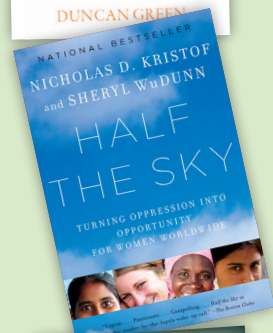
Work can be paid, equal and valued for women whether it is in Brampton or Bangladesh. A moral, inclusive, cooperative and sustainable future is both needed AND possible. Find out how you can get involved at [shortchanged.ca](http://shortchanged.ca).

# Books that will change your perspective about poverty

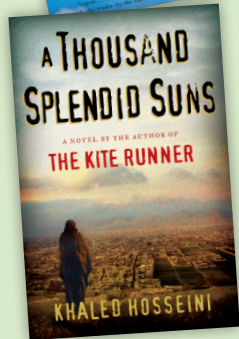
Are you interested in reading more about lasting solutions to hunger, poverty and social injustice around the world? If so, you might enjoy one of these books that come highly recommended by Oxfam staff members.



How Change Happens  
By *Duncan Green*



Half the Sky  
By *Nicholas D. Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn*



A Thousand Splendid Suns  
By *Khaled Hosseini*

## ROWENA'S CORNER

### DID YOU KNOW?

When I have conversations with people about their ongoing commitment to Oxfam and the amazing work the organization does, we talk about the many ways people can make a legacy gift through their Wills. RRIFs are one thing I also encourage people to think about. Unless RRIFs are designated to your spouse or to a charity, up to 50 per cent of their value will be taxed and collected by the government. Many choose to have their money go to a charity close to their heart, like Oxfam Canada, not the government! After the age of 71 you can also choose to give the minimum prescribed amount of your RRIF to charity, a wonderful way to start giving now. A little food for thought...



Photo Credit: MN Photography

Rowena Griffiths

*Rowena Griffiths*

Rowena Griffiths, CSA, Planned Giving

If you're interested in learning more about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Rowena at 613-237-5236 ext 2209 or [Rowena.Griffiths@oxfam.org](mailto:Rowena.Griffiths@oxfam.org).

## JULIE TOP 100:

In exciting news last fall, Oxfam's own Executive Director, Julie Delahanty, was named one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network.

Julie was recognized as a strong role model and change agent for women's leadership in Canada, as well as advancing gender equality globally through Oxfam. Julie is honoured by the award and continues to empower women to tackle power imbalances and work toward a more just world – one where women can live up to their potential.