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Your gifts are fighting cholera in Mozambique

Earlier this year, two massive cyclones hammered Mozambique. The second – Cyclone Kenneth – was the strongest cyclone to ever hit the country.

More than 370,000 people were affected – entire villages wiped out. In one district, eight out of every ten houses were damaged or destroyed by the strong winds and flash floods.

The people of these areas were devastated.

But, because of you, Oxfam was able to act immediately.

In less than two weeks, we reached 100,000 people. Water and sanitation were our top priorities. We knew it was a race against time to mount a defense against the imminent threat of cholera.

Here is how you helped:

- »» With your donations, we scaled up water and sanitation in cholera hotspots to prevent and contain waterborne disease;
- »» We used your gifts to truck water to households without clean and safe water;
- »» We built toilets and handwashing facilities like tap stands;



Photo Credit: Photo Credit: Micas Mondlane / Oxfam Novib

Your gifts save lives.



You helped provide clean water.

- »» You helped us distribute water purification tablets and more than 10,000 buckets to transport and keep water safe;
- »» And we trained more than 230 'activistas' – community mobilisers whose job is to travel the area teaching people about sanitation and cholera.

Cholera is a vicious disease. The vast majority of people who carry the cholera bacteria do not show any initial symptoms. Public health is essential to prevent them spreading the disease.

Of course, when people know the signs and seek treatment, their chance of survival is infinitely higher.

Such swift action is only possible because of the gifts made by donors like you. You provide the funds that have helped Oxfam become the world's leading expert in water and sanitation. With every gift you give, you give the people of Mozambique a fighting chance to survive.



Photo Credit: Artur Francisco / OxfamNZ

Leitamat and her husband Malekula.

Up close and personal with climate change

For Leitamat and her husband, Malekula, climate change isn't a distant concern – it's something that they witness every day. Its effects can be seen just outside their door in their own garden.

"The weather is changing. Now when there is rain, the ground is very wet but because the sun is strong, the soil stays very dry and hard. You plant the crops, they always die.

The water is drying up at the source during the dry season, so when you turn on the tap it doesn't come out. If the sun stays for a longer period of time, there's no more water. It all dries up."

But Leitamat and Malekula are in a stronger position than most people to survive the changing climate because donors like you have been helping them prepare for it. Through Oxfam's partnership with the Farm Support Association (FSA) you have helped this couple and many others learn how to farm in the most challenging of environments.

FSA gave Leitamat seeds to plant, tools to use, and local materials for building a chicken coop.

The family eats everything in their garden – and have put their four children through school with the money they've earned taking their vegetables to market. Now Leitamat is devoting herself to passing the knowledge along...

"Sometimes when the mamas who have not joined FSA come and work in my vegetable gardens and see what I have done, they go back to their houses and then they do the same."

"I help the elderly women who live around here who find it hard to keep their own garden. I harvest tomatoes, cabbage and some eggs and then I bring it to the elderly women who live here, because I see that I have more and I can share with them."

Leitamat in her garden.



Photo Credit: Artur Francisco / OxfamNZ



Photo Credit: Atul Loke / Oxfam



Photo Credit: Atul Loke / Oxfam

Ending abuse... for good

Sonali was married at just 17 years old. For five years, she suffered terrible abuse from her husband and his family.

Finally, at age 23, she found a support centre that would help her. That support centre was run by an Oxfam partner, and funded by donors like you who have so generously supported our work to end violence against women and girls through the Creating Spaces program.

Our partner agency connected Sonali with a social worker, who helped her leave her abusive husband, and gain custody of her two sons. The fear of losing their children is just one of the very real threats that keep so many women in abusive relationships in India and around the world – here in Canada too.

In India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia and the

Philippines, you have been helping protect women and girls from violence, and advocate against child marriage.

You have helped us directly support women and girls who have experienced violence. And you are also helping create change at the highest levels. Your donations have allowed us to partner with religious and community leaders, lawmakers, men and boys to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, and the impact of child marriage.

And you are helping us call for stronger laws – laws that will be enacted.

We have seen some tremendous change. In Indonesia and the Philippines we have seen government leaders and lawmakers speak out strongly against child marriage. In Nepal,

we have helped reach 29,000 people through door to door campaigns, and in India our social media campaign reached 1.3 million people.

There is much work still to do. But the wave of change has begun. As Sonali says,

“Be strong and believe in yourself. After going to the support center, I learned about the different types of violence against women, and learned that it is not acceptable. Now, I tell other women who face violence where to get help.”

Innovation at Oxfam - Blockchain and Smartphones for survival in Vanuatu

With years of emergency relief under our belts, we know that one of the very best ways to help people survive the aftermath of a disaster is to provide them with cash aid as swiftly and easily as possible.

This helps disaster victims purchase items they need without having to travel far afield – and also helps rebuild the local economy and support local merchants.

But dealing in cash obviously has its drawbacks, so with your help, Oxfam is piloting an innovative program called Oxfam Unblocked, in Vanuatu which uses blockchain technology and smartphones to act as cash. Vanuatu is currently ranked as the world's most at-risk country to natural hazards and disasters. Climate change threatens food security and sea level rise and the increased intensity of extreme weather events have led to changes in agricultural productivity and water availability.

We asked Loid Albert, a volunteer, to tell us how it works:

“When a customer comes in, they bring their card from Oxfam. Whatever it is that they need to buy, I take the money from their card using my smartphone.

I sell lots of things in my shop, especially the everyday needs and food. Rice, nappies, toilet paper, canned foods, noodles.

I would say that (Oxfam Unblocked) makes life easier for the customers that are coming through. It makes it easier than the customers going in to Port Vila to get their things - they just come to the local shop here, no need for a bus fare.

When Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu, it made a big change for us, with damage and the way that people lived. Even the local crops in our gardens, you pull it up it was bad. It took three months to get back on track and to get on our feet.”

“It’s a great honour to be part of this project. If a disaster does hit again, then we are going to have a big impact on the lives of the locals.”

Loid Albert in her store.



Photo Credit: Keith Parsons/OxfamAUS

Loid accepting payment via Oxfam card.



Photo Credit: Keith Parsons/OxfamAUS

Your gifts change women's lives worldwide

Guatemala has the largest economy in Central America, but continues to see an increase in poverty despite a steady growth in national wealth. The divide between rich and poor makes Guatemala one of the most unequal countries in the world, and one of the most vulnerable groups in the country are Indigenous women.

Over the next five years, Oxfam's exciting "Camino Verde" program will work with Indigenous women and youth to build innovative and environmentally sustainable businesses. Together, we will help them access local markets to sell their goods and services.



Photo Credit: Coco McCabe / Oxfam America - Guatemala

Where We Work

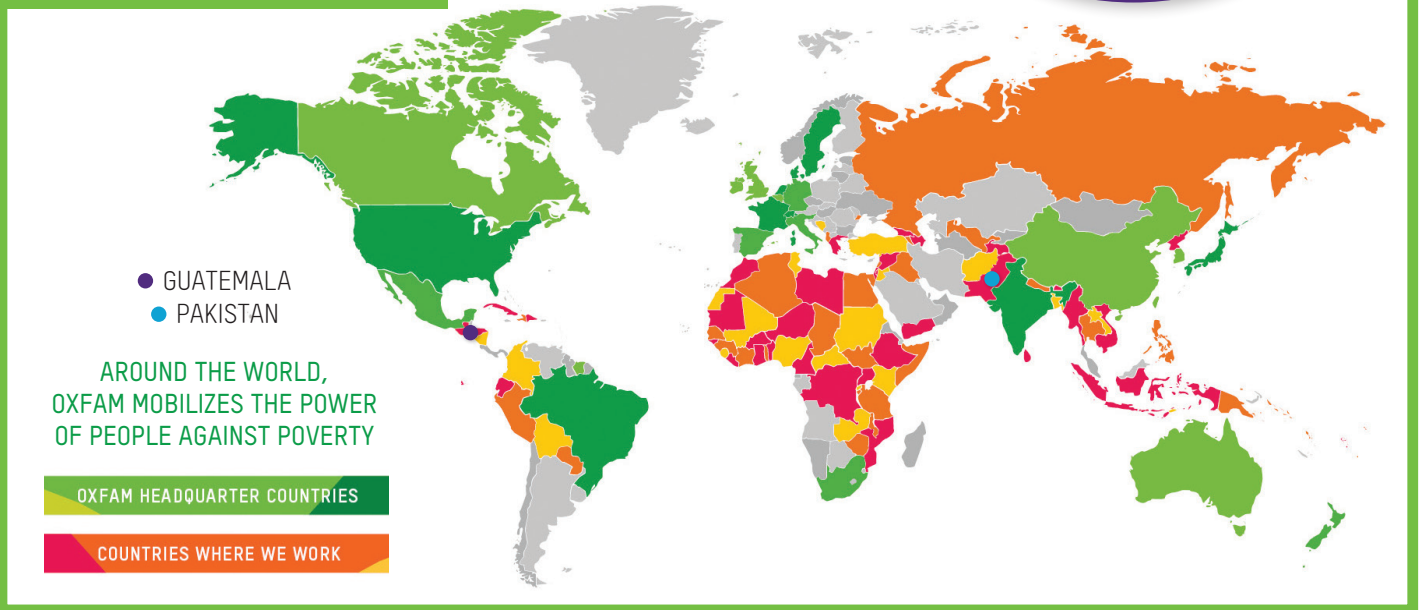


Photo Credit: Insiya Syed / Oxfam - Pakistan

Gender inequality is worse in Pakistan than nearly every other country in the world. Nine out of ten women report that they do not go out alone for fear of violence.

Yet evidence shows that strong women's rights organizations can create fundamental change in moving to a more equal society.

Over the next five years, Oxfam Canada will be working closely with a collection of women's organizations in Pakistan to help them become more effective in their fight for gender justice. We will provide training and support, core funding, and grants for women's programming. And we will help build networks so that women's organizations can work together to advocate for gender equality.

ROWENA'S CORNER

Glen's Story

Glen Brown was a long-time supporter of Oxfam Canada. And now, through a visionary gift in his Will, Glen's compassion will help thousands of people around the world.

Glen's legacy gift to Oxfam reflects his dedication to making positive change in the world. It's also in part a tribute to his own mother, Eileen Brown.

In his lifetime Glen was an energetic champion of social justice. One of Canada's leading HIV/AIDS advocates, his most significant contribution was winning the establishment of the Trillium Drug Program – a program that covers the cost of medications for all Ontarians facing serious illnesses.



Glen Brown, Oxfam supporter.

Glen was also deeply committed to women's empowerment and equality. He was a strong ally and advocate and without a doubt, he had a far reaching impact on improving the lives of women.

Now Glen's vision of a more equal world will continue, through his bequest to Oxfam.

Oxfam Unwrapped

If you believe in girl power (and women-power!) as much as we do, how about considering Oxfam Unwrapped for your holiday shopping this year? Oxfam Unwrapped gifts are positively, without doubt, hands down the best gifts in the world, ever.

It's simple. And it's mighty effective. Just visit unwrapped.oxfam.ca and pick your gift. Then pick a card, personalize, and we'll send it off to the person you are shopping for. Together, the two of you will be transforming the lives of people living in poverty.

