



Tajikistan is one of the world's most water-rich countries, yet only half the population has access to safe drinking water. The country remains one of the poorest in Central Asia, and the economy has

deteriorated dramatically since the collapse of the Soviet Union – made worse by civil war in the 1990s. Oxfam is helping communities to access water and earn a living.





Overleaf: Children make the round trip on their donkeys to fetch water for their families, often missing out on school. Photo: Andy Hall; ; Above left: Bibifayz Miralieva, a member of Oxfam's 'Bonu' women's producer group. Photo: Andy Hall; Above centre: Adjikov Mamdnazar reading an Oxfam publication about disaster preparedness. Photo: Jane Beesley; Above right: Bunafsha Nasreddinova, 44, is a beneficiary of Oxfam's water project. Photo: Ruby Wright

In Tajikistan, Oxfam focuses on improving access to safe drinking water, supporting farmers to earn a living, building a stronger civil society and helping communities to be better prepared for natural disasters.

Safe water

In Tajikistan, Oxfam has helped 23,000 people to access safe drinking water by installing and repairing water systems, and is also raising awareness about the importance of hygiene. Communities are being encouraged to set up their own committees to maintain the water supply.

"BEFORE WE SPENT ALL OUR TIME COLLECTING WATER BUT NOW MY CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL. I'M ALSO ABLE TO GROW VEGETABLES ON MY SMALL PIECE OF LAND." BUNAFSHA NASREDDINOVA, 44, BENEFICIARY OF OXFAM'S WATER PROJECT.

We are also working with the local government, to ensure that water systems are sustainable and accessible to local people.

Supporting farmers

In rural areas many families rely on farming to earn a living yet struggle to access land and markets to cultivate and sell their produce. Oxfam is helping farmers to gain access to their land and improve their income by providing business training and marketing advice.

"NOW MY SITUATION IS BETTER. WE'VE RECEIVED
BUSINESS TRAINING AND WE KNOW HOW TO INCREASE
OUR INCOME AND MAKE A PROFIT FROM THE LAND."
BIBIFAYZ MIRALIEVA, A MEMBER OF OXFAM'S 'BONU'
WOMEN'S PRODUCER GROUP.

Oxfam is also empowering women, who make up the majority of farmers in Tajikistan, to form producer groups so they can get a better price for their produce. We are providing business support to these women co-operatives, and ensuring their needs are relayed to the government.

Oxfam also works with local and national governments to ensure that agricultural policies and land reforms benefit farmers.

Adapting to climate change

Tajikistan is prone to floods, earthquakes, landslides and avalanches. As a result of climate change, such disasters are on the rise and are pushing already vulnerable people further into poverty.

We have launched awareness-raising campaigns, and educated children at school on how to be better prepared for, and cope with, natural disasters. Oxfam is advocating for greater investment in climate change adaptation policies which benefit smallholder farmers. We are also lobbying the government to ensure the issue of food security and climate change remains on the public agenda.



