



Cover image: Manchamvwa Village, Zambia – Sophina Hajaya (left) and Mary Jojo with washing and buckets of water

2002/03

As we look back over the year, a few images stand out: reminders of events, places, and people. Not just the big, headline-grabbing news flashes, but individual faces of people in a crowd, or those who have lived through extraordinary times. This review takes such images as its starting point. From them we can build a fuller picture of the whole year, the people throughout the world who support and carry out Oxfam's work, our breakthroughs in campaigning, and the partnerships we have formed to strengthen our ability to overcome poverty and suffering.

For me, the pictures are also a call to identify with, and stand beside poor people. I want to put my handprint on the wall with the women of Lucknow (page 27), and pledge to stop the toleration of violence against women. I share the pride of Thack Thi Be Hoa on her way to school (page 34), and resent the injustice that 65 million girls and 50 million boys don't yet have her opportunity. Many of these images celebrate some of the year's achievements: others register the challenges that we still face.



The Review also shows how we work at different levels for greater impact, within each of Oxfam's objectives. We still have much to learn, but during the last year we've made good progress in linking our work among poor people with our efforts to influence national and international decision-makers. On page 13, Chris Sinckler asks us to put ourselves in the shoes of the small farmer, who is paid so much less for his or her crops than the cost of cultivating them – and whose very livelihood is at risk. Chris asks us all to take action. And, around the world, millions of supporters are already actively supporting our *Make Trade Fair* campaign.

Whether communities suffer because of denied education, unfair trade, or the constant threat of armed conflict, we are deeply convinced that it is through the bringing together of local and global action that we can best fight to change the powerlessness of poor people.

Thank you to all of you who support us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Thorp".

Rosemary Thorp
Chair



Poverty is about power – or rather, the lack of it. Poor people have little economic or political power to control their own lives, or to influence the national and international policies that affect them. Oxfam works in collaboration with communities, organisations, and governments, to support poor people so that they can be heard, and to change systems so that power does not stay in the hands of the rich.

Over the last year, two aspects of our campaigning spring to mind in this respect: increasing understanding and changing the rules of world trade, and improving access to vital medicines.

As the year began, we had just launched our campaign to *Make Trade Fair*. Following a special focus on coffee in the autumn, there was widespread acceptance that a coffee rescue plan was needed to support the 25 million small farmers whose livelihoods have been ruined by a dramatic fall in coffee prices. And, as GlaxoSmithKline announced a programme to make cheap HIV/AIDS drugs available in Africa, we could see the impact of our access to medicines campaign. However, some of the gains that we thought we had made within the World Trade Organisation did not come to fruition, after the US – pressured by its pharmaceuticals industry – blocked an agreement which would allow poor countries to import generic drugs.

During the year, I visited some wonderful projects where people could be seen to be taking more control and increasing their income enough to allow them to change their lives for the better. On a recent visit to Nicaragua, for instance, I was delighted to meet a network of women's groups working on domestic violence, and to talk with women who now feel it is possible to speak openly and to ask for support.

But overall I feel it has been a depressing year in terms of strengthening the influence of ordinary people. I visited Israel and the Palestinian Territories and was deeply saddened to witness the fear of Israeli people in the face of suicide bombers, and equally the devastating effect of collective punishment on the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. And in Afghanistan, the new regime has, as yet, made little impact on the lives of people in the rural areas where we work. Intermittently we have had to shut down our programme work there, especially in the south where security is very poor. And, of course, security continues to be a major problem as we work to provide clean water and sewage systems in Iraq.

Poor people tell us that, above all, they want peace and security – and then opportunities to make their lives better. They want fair national and international systems so that their efforts are not thwarted by the overriding power of rich countries and rich companies. Unfortunately, as we marked our 60th birthday, events proved that these goals are still a long way off, and that Oxfam is needed as much as ever. We were delighted, however, to be awarded the internationally recognised Seoul Peace Prize. The awarding committee emphasised the value of Oxfam's commitment to the principle of long-term development.

So we will continue to speak out about how poverty is caused and maintained, work to shift the balance of power, and, above all, we will continue to work with others and alongside poor people whose resilience and efforts never cease to inspire me.

Barbara Stocking
Director



Jim Howard (1926-2003), Oxfam Field Officer and Senior Technical Adviser from 1962 to 1990, died in March 2003.

“When the news came that Jim Howard had died, to many people in the UK and other parts of the world, it was as if the personification of the Oxfam spirit had suddenly gone from us. For us, Jim was an iconic figure, not least for the humility and generosity in all that he did.

“... this towering figure, blessed with the biggest of hearts and the most passionate of voices, epitomised Oxfam at its very best during the pioneering decades of post-colonial humanitarian aid.

“... the classic formula which Jim perfected: get something inventive and small-scale going, if it works, talk it up to the professionals, and the big organisations and money will take it up on a scale no NGO could dream of.”

– Extracts from *Jim Howard*, a tribute by Maggie Black



“There’s very little that’s new in this world. You don’t invent the wheel, you have to adapt it. That’s what we did. We adapted a technology and improved it for our own needs.”

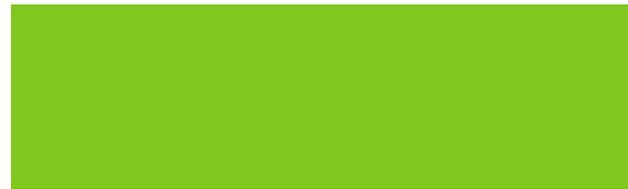
– Jim Howard, describing how his team adapted a grain silo to make a water holding tank. These tanks, supplied in kit form, now store water for people affected by natural and man-made disasters throughout the world

“In all my career, going to places of upheaval, I’ve never seen the course of human suffering turned back by one person as I did with Jim Howard in Cambodia.”

– John Pilger, journalist

Fairly treated

**MAKE
TRADE
FAIR**



In the spring of 2002, Oxfam supporters throughout the world joined together to launch our most ambitious campaign ever – to change the rules governing world trade. Current trade rules are loaded against poor people. Oxfam is calling for people to add their voice to the *Big Noise* – our global petition to make trade fair



The Guardian, 19.09.02

Global campaigning force

18 September 2002. Eye-catching publicity stunts outside the London Stock Exchange and in 21 other cities around the world, brought the plight of 25 million coffee farmers and their families to world attention. Oxfam called for an international coffee rescue plan to ensure that coffee farmers do not lose their livelihoods because of a fall in coffee prices.



Researching the facts and effects of trade, and developing proposals for policy change, are at the heart of Oxfam's *Make Trade Fair* campaign. Labour conditions and rights, including those of the women workers in the Chilean fruit industry, are among the issues which we are scrutinising.



Garment workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh, protest at the unfair trade rules which are threatening their jobs, and add their voices to Oxfam's *Make Trade Fair* campaign. The campaign's supporters come from all corners of the globe and all walks of life, from world leaders to subsistence farmers

Fair Trade moves forward

In recent years, Oxfam has stopped importing its own range of Oxfam-branded Fair Trade products. Instead, we are developing our livelihoods programme in all regions, to enable producers to reach appropriate markets. In the long term, far more people will feel the benefits. In Georgia, for instance, training in market analysis enabled our local staff to help a group of kiwi-fruit growers to sell their fruit over a longer period each year, and their income has doubled.

But what about the Fair Trade producers who have been affected by the change in Oxfam's way of trading? A recent evaluation showed that 54 groups received grants to assist the transition in a variety of ways, including help to find new customers.

In the case of the Flor de Campanilla honey producers in Mexico, we used our experience and influence to create new export opportunities. To do this, we helped to build the business capacity of the producers, encouraged a UK company to become a fair trader, and linked the producers with an organisation that provides cash advances.

Oxfam is still one of the largest Fair Trade retailers in the UK, sourcing its products through organisations such as Traidcraft, Cafédirect, and Day Chocolate. By putting greater emphasis on improving market access other than through Oxfam shops, we are also providing a more sustainable means of support which is tailored to the local needs of thousands of producers.



Supporters from all over the world are still signing up to the *Big Noise* petition





Natural solution

Oxfam's dream is that everyone should be able to make a living which more than meets their needs. Why? Because as long as people are earning only just enough to feed their families and send their children to school, they are at risk from any threat to their livelihoods. A fall in market prices, a change in the weather, or illness in the family may be just enough to tip the balance – plunging a family into poverty from which there's no escape. Oxfam therefore works with farmers to broaden their options, with employees to improve their job security, and with traders to increase their market opportunities.

Farmers in Siuna, in the heart of Nicaragua's precious rainforest, are adopting an environment-friendly method of cultivation. And they're teaching each other – farmer to farmer. Instead of cutting down forest, farming the land until it becomes barren, and then moving on to another patch of virgin forest, the farmers are learning to use the 'velvet' bean (top left). The bean plant's decaying foliage (below left) feeds the soil and acts as a natural pesticide, enabling communities to increase their yields of maize and other crops, and to establish settled farms. This is just one example of the help that Oxfam is offering to farmers in Siuna, to provide families with a secure way of life, and to protect the rainforest, for generations to come.

"Because of the support, training, and guidance, we are now working by ourselves and making the programme move along without needing to have a technician here in the field with us every day."

– Gonzalo Vegas López, 'promoter' in the farmer-to-farmer programme, Siuna

From the heart

"As difficult as it is, I would like people in the UK to put themselves in the shoes of a farmer who ten years ago would have had a budding farm. He would have been able to support his family, educate the children, and provide for their health care and their nutrition, and to live comfortably. Today, that farmer no longer produces crops profitably; his children can't get an education or a proper meal on a daily basis.

I'd like people in the UK to put themselves in that farmer's shoes for just five minutes and see what it would be like. Look at your own circumstances, and then think about why it is necessary to join with groups like Oxfam to put pressure on policy makers. If people in the UK do this, then they'll really be giving a hand up, rather than a hand out. Once these farmers can survive and provide for themselves, then less UK taxpayers' money will go into development aid."

– Chris Sinckler (right), Executive Co-ordinator of the Caribbean Policy Development Centre, Barbados



Safe

In a year when many millions of people in Africa waited in vain for the rains to bring their crops to life, and were not able to grow enough food to eat, the whole continent received in aid just one-fifth of the money that was allocated to the Gulf war



“Like everyone else, we’ve sat in front of the television watching things being broken... what takes only a few seconds to take apart – buildings, communities, lives – will take years to put together again.”
– Alex Renton, Oxfam Media Officer



The *real* cost

Alex Renton didn’t utter his words after an earthquake, or hurricane, or flood... he was speaking before the second Gulf war in Iraq. Oxfam, together with many other agencies and civil society movements, believed that a justifiable case for war had not been made. No matter how careful coalition forces were to avoid civilian targets, we feared that casualties would still occur – and that citizens would suffer if more damage were inflicted on already fragile water and sanitation systems.

As soon as the war ended, Oxfam’s specialist teams began working with UNICEF and local authorities to rebuild power supplies to water and sewage treatment plants, to replace damaged pipes, and to make sure that the restored water remained safe to drink.

“If you hit power stations, you stop water and sewage plants pumping properly. Cholera and typhoid can spread like wildfire.”
– Barbara Stocking, Oxfam Director, *Daily Mirror*, 19 March 2003



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In Ethiopia, Eritrea, and northern Sudan, successive years of drought left an estimated 15 million people trying to survive from day to day without enough food. In southern Africa, another 14 million people across Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe were suffering a similar fate. To save lives, Oxfam distributed emergency supplies of food and water to communities in the worst-affected regions. As the situation slowly started to improve in some areas, we were able to revert to longer-term measures, such as providing irrigation systems and supplying seeds to help farmers to grow a more diverse – or climate-resistant – range of crops.



“Hunger doesn’t choose. Hunger doesn’t see that this is a chief’s daughter.” – Rose Ng’ongola, Malawi



Protecting life

It is estimated that the misuse of conventional arms claims the lives of more than 500,000 civilians, and injures millions more, every year. Oxfam continues to challenge the UK government to honour its election pledge to regulate the activities of unscrupulous British gunrunners. Although the government introduced a new Act in 2002 to tighten the control of arms exports, Oxfam's campaigners still had to call – and are continuing to call – for the government to further strengthen its proposed legislation to curb the activities of British arms-brokers and gunrunners.

In December 2002, the Bishop of Oxford joined a cast of celebrities, including actress Helen Mirren (above), to support our calls to the government to plug major loopholes in the new Act. In December, our campaign received a powerful endorsement from British trade union Amicus, which represents defence-industry employees.

"We're working with Oxfam and Amnesty International because not only are the loopholes bad news for people in countries where unregulated arms end up, but also because they bring the regulated industry into disrepute."
– Derek Simpson, General Secretary, Amicus



Making peace

In Kenya's vast Isiolo district, there has been a long history of conflict between neighbouring peoples. Banditry, disputes over ownership of livestock, and competition for much-needed pastureland and water have all become worse in recent times. "It's because there are more illegal firearms in the district," explains Mohamed Guyo. "Communities retaliated against each other. It threatened to turn into full-scale war."

Mohamed joined a group of elders who called for a stop to all the conflict. While trying to negotiate the return of some stolen livestock, he was shot above the eye. Oxfam heard about the elders' continued efforts to bring peace to the region, and funded a district-wide meeting, where a Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee was formed. Oxfam has continued to support the people of Isiolo, as well as helping to set up similar peace committees in neighbouring districts. These committees have brought together government and community leaders, so that they can make quick decisions and resolve disputes before they grow out of control. People have started to feel that there is less need for them to buy guns for their protection. And they are more prepared to register their ownership of a gun – or even hand over their firearms to the authorities.

"Elders want dialogue, not revenge. We thank Oxfam for its support in this. If it were not for Oxfam, the town would not be here. It would be burning."

– Hussein Ahmed Yussuf, Oxfam Community Peace Worker (above left), pictured with Mohammed Guyo

Heard



Throughout the world, poor people tell Oxfam that they are ignored. All too often their needs are eclipsed by the interests of the powerful few. Oxfam is working to ensure that poor people's voices are heard, that the world takes notice, and that they are truly involved in the decisions that affect their lives



The indigenous Maya people farm the same land as their ancestors in Guatemala's Western Highlands. It's all they have, and it's home. But rich settlers, the army (during 36 years of war and terror), and the government have all seized and laid claim to the land which belongs to the Maya, and on which their lives depend.

As a largely illiterate community which doesn't speak the national language – Spanish – and has long been excluded from the democratic process, the Maya have been in no position to fight for what is theirs by right. Oxfam is supporting two organisations, CONIC and Defensoría Maya, which have a good track record in helping communities to recover their land. They have provided literacy classes and education about indigenous people's rights, and have trained women and men to lobby their local and national governments.



Now that they have learned to speak out, farmers such as Maria Raymundo Brito (right) are optimistic that the land will be returned to them: "We want CONIC to keep supporting us until we have reclaimed our land. We know that it will take time, but we will get the land back one day. If we don't resolve it, our children will."



It's not easy to link up with a community on the move, but Oxfam is determined to help the Turkana herders in Kenya to become actors in, and managers of, their own development. Creating a water supply for the people and their animals provides a way in, as Eris Lothike, Oxfam's co-ordinator in the region and a Turkana himself, explains: "At each water project there will be a management committee. That will be an entry point, and the idea of pastoral associations will flow from it. Just introducing an idea to our people does not work. But when they see something concrete that they can identify with, it has meaning. It is for the Turkana to wake themselves and speak up about the things that affect them."

By helping the Turkana to develop strong community organisations which can develop links with government departments, Oxfam will eventually be able to leave behind a society which can control its own future.



Farmers find their voice...

After many years of helping poor farmers in Albania to make a living from their small, often inaccessible, plots of land, Oxfam has become a leading player in the country's new rural forums. These are held monthly for farmers' associations, community groups, local authorities, and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, to debate issues and to make recommendations on rural policy to the Albanian government. For the first time, people who had no say under Enver Hoxha's communist regime can dare to voice their opinions and be a part of the changing society.



Oxfam is a member of the *Debt on our Doorstep* coalition, which organised a day of action in London and Edinburgh in December 2002. Campaigners from across the UK called for the government to impose a ceiling on interest rates for personal loans. Currently, there is no limit to the amount of interest that companies can charge, and it's often the most vulnerable people who fall deeper into debt, and poverty

"Loan companies always target people who don't have the money."
 – Lorna, single mum, UK



...and confidence

Fatima Ali seizes the chance to speak out to Oxfam staff about the food shortage in Ethiopia. "Food aid is helping our community to survive the immediate crisis," she says, "but we need other practical assistance to be able to farm again." Such opinions are at the heart of Oxfam's programme to involve partner organisations and beneficiaries in the Ethiopian government's development of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Since 1999, all low-income countries have been encouraged to produce PRSPs, as part of the process of obtaining debt relief, and civil society must be involved in the process. In Ethiopia, this signals a significant change in the government's engagement with community organisations, and our funding is helping them to take full advantage of the opportunity to influence national policy.

Equal

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasises that it is every individual's responsibility to promote respect for "the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family". Wherever Oxfam works with the very poorest communities, we encourage equality by working with women as well as with men



A marked change has taken place in Shivsagar village in Rajasthan, north-west India. Just a few years ago, women would have kept out of sight when strangers appeared, they wouldn't do anything without their husbands' permission, and they weren't allowed to participate in village meetings. Now, the results of years of patient work by Oxfam's partner, UMBVS, can be seen. "It took a year to gain the men's trust to allow the women to go to meetings within the village," says Mankanwar, a local NGO worker.

Since then, many women have taken part in literacy training organised by UMBVS: a three-month course in another district. Champa's husband took some persuading: "I had to explain that when I borrowed money we could be taken for a ride by the lender. I really had to plead with my husband, and in the end he agreed. My husband drives a tractor and now, in the evenings, he gets me to write down how much work he's done, so that he can charge the right amount!" Champa's new knowledge has changed her standing within the home and the village. She and other women now have the power to make their own decisions, and they worked alongside men on an Oxfam project providing food for work as a means of relief during the current drought.



"Not so long ago, when I went to the bank, I had to make a thumbprint because I couldn't sign my name."
– Champa, Rajasthan, India



The simple act of pressing hand to paper becomes an empowering moment for these women in Lucknow, northern India, as they join 3,000 others in making a public pledge to stop tolerating violence. The event was organised by the Women's Association for Mobilisation and Action (WAMA), supported by Oxfam

In northern India, a region where women face discrimination and violence in every walk of life, Oxfam partners launched a campaign to change these attitudes. By organising rallies and public debates, lobbying government, and giving women a chance to share their experiences, 10,000 women, men, and young people have already heard the message that women are not second-class citizens, but have every right to participate equally in society, without fear of violence.

Oxfam volunteers had the opportunity to find out more about this programme during the 2003 Oxfam Forums, when Nidhi Labh, Oxfam Programme Officer in Northern India, toured the UK to share her experiences of the project. "In the three years that I have been working in this region, I have seen a lot of differences in attitude and practices. More and more women are now aware that violence within their households is a violation of their human rights – and they are raising their voices against it. Before, they would blame it on their fate... that they were 'born as women'. Today they hold meetings, are more confident about speaking out, and take matters to the authorities. And they proudly speak of their achievements. Being able to come and share some of their stories at the Oxfam Forums has inspired me all the more."



Diversity

“Oxfam believes that it can thrive on having a diverse group of people working for the organisation – whether ‘difference’ be determined by race, gender, nationality, religion, age, or sexual orientation... their very varied experiences of life can contribute greatly to Oxfam’s ways of working, understanding, and thinking.

“During the year, we have increased representation of ethnic minorities in Oxfam GB to 8.2 per cent – but ethnic minorities and people with disabilities are still under-represented at senior management level. This is a key challenge for us.

“As part of our Diversity Action Plan, we have developed new guidelines for recruitment, to encourage advertising of jobs in media that would attract applications from people of diverse identities. We have also produced a guide which promotes accessible ways of communicating to people with disabilities.

“And Oxfam’s UK Poverty Programme has started to identify how to take account of race issues within its work.”

– Bimla Ojelay-Surtees, Oxfam Diversity Co-ordinator

Creating a new recruitment website: concept work began in February. See the finished site at www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs



“National events during the past year – such as the surge of protest against war in the Gulf, or the world’s biggest-ever school lesson (see page 38) – showed that young people are just as indignant about world poverty as their parents are, and just as keen to participate in the fight against global injustice. Yet Oxfam’s records show that those who are aged 25 and under are, currently, very much in a minority among our supporters.

In March 2003 Oxfam created a Youth Strategy team, specifically to ensure that many more young supporters who engage with Oxfam for the first time – perhaps at an annual or one-off event – are kept inspired by Oxfam’s activities, want to stay involved, and continue to support Oxfam regularly for the longer term.”

– Nivi Narang, Oxfam Youth Co-ordinator

A young festival-goer pledges support at Glastonbury

Healthy

Oxfam continues to put global pressure on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to reform the rules on patents for medicines, so that they no longer prevent poor people from receiving the treatments that they need so badly

In Pakistan, lobbying of the government by Oxfam partners resulted in the removal of tax from 20 essential medicines. Oxfam partners in Thailand also got results after they lobbied their government. A Thai court ruled that a major pharmaceutical company did not have the exclusive right to make the anti-retroviral drug DDI, and local state-owned drugs manufacturers started to sell the drug at a much lower price. The Philippines government recognised that Oxfam's international campaigning against patents on medicines – and, more generally, on *Make Trade Fair* – supported its own efforts to make medicines accessible to poor people. And a UK government commission released a report on Intellectual Property Rights, which reflected much of Oxfam's analysis.

Our global campaigning has contributed to international pharmaceutical companies

accepting the concept of selling much-needed medicines to developing countries at near-production cost. From a price of about US\$10,000 (approx. £6,000) per patient per year for anti-retroviral drugs, prices have fallen steadily. A generic version can now cost as little as US\$300 (approx £180). Already, more people can obtain medicines in Africa – and donors, governments, and the United Nations are planning programmes to make the medicines more widely available.

Good news? For some of the 40 million people around the world who live with HIV and AIDS, it's a start, and will certainly reduce their suffering. Oxfam will continue to pressurise governments, pharmaceutical companies, and the WTO. For the world to become a healthier place, it needs a lot more good news – and commitment – from those who are entrusted to make life-changing decisions on behalf of its population.

Agnes (not her real name) holding the range of medicines that her local clinic can give her to fight off infections. The clinic has no anti-retrovirals to treat Agnes, who recently became HIV-positive. "I haven't felt able to tell my family – they will find it hard to take in," she explains. Agnes is supported through counselling by the Copperbelt Health and Education Project (CHEP), a Zambian organisation funded by Oxfam. People who are HIV-positive meet here regularly to share openly their feelings, concerns, and hopes.

"Counsellors at CHEP have really encouraged me, made me realise that I am still alive, and that I still have a life to live. When I get sick, I can sometimes get medicines from the clinic at Chimwemwe. There's nothing I can get for the days when I feel emotionally weak, but speaking to people at CHEP really lifts me."

Communities often depend on growing their own crops to feed their families, and sell any excess so that they can buy other essential items, including medicines. But when their crops are destroyed, either because of too much rain, or too little, there's not enough to eat

Reaching out

By April 2003, Oxfam had raised more than £1.2 million in response to its emergency appeal for southern Africa's food crisis, where more than 14 million people were at risk from a severe shortage of food. Oxfam set up short-term initiatives – food distribution and emergency water supplies – as well as longer-term vegetable-growing programmes to help to reduce the risk of future food shortages.

Suzgo Banda (right) is one of more than 200 Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) who are employed by the Ministry of Health in Malawi. Oxfam purchased bicycles for the HSAs with funds provided by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

"As the nearest hospital might often be more than 40 km away, we travel to village communities to promote the best ways of keeping families in good health during the food crisis. We used to walk for many kilometres every day to reach the communities in our care. Now our bicycles have made our work much easier. We can get to the more distant places that were hard to reach before."

– Suzgo Banda, Health Surveillance Assistant, Malawi



Lifeline

Nutritional assessments carried out by Oxfam among communities in the remote Mosquitía region of Nicaragua revealed high rates of malnutrition and mortality among children. Oxfam helped local partner, Acción Médica Cristiana (AMC), to carry out food distribution and programmes to improve water, sanitation, and health care.

"Oxfam's work with us this year has helped to prevent children from becoming ill – and fewer children have died. We depend on the help of donors such as Oxfam to be able to continue our work in these remote communities."

– Celestina Padillo Hemlock, Co-ordinator, Acción Médica Cristiana, Nicaragua

A boat carrying food aid arrives in Kiwás Tara community, Nicaragua

The power to influence

UK financial institutions launched an investors' framework, in March 2003. Oxfam was a member of the advisory committee. Before agreeing to put money in a pharmaceutical organisation, corporate investors will assess the organisation's social responsibility – increasing the pressure on the pharmaceutical sector.

Skilled

Primary education can help children of poor families to break out of poverty, and to take control of their futures. Yet poverty still prevents 65 million girls and 50 million boys from going to school. We continue to call for world leaders to fulfil their repeated – but overdue – promises to provide all the money needed to put every child into school. And we're lending our support to local education authorities around the world



A child from an ethnic minority is often much less likely to enrol in the local school. In Tra Vinh province, Viet Nam, Oxfam has been working with communities and education authorities to increase the numbers of ethnic-minority children in the region's schools, to improve the quality of the teaching, and to update the curriculum. Before the start of each school year, children from minority groups now attend pre-school classes, so that they can learn Vietnamese before they enrol in school.

"We have funded improvements in schools in remote and rural areas – such as providing more classrooms, toilets, and teachers' accommodation," explains Vu Thi Thanh Hoa, Senior Programme Officer (Education) in Viet Nam. "And teachers from each of the 19 schools in the district of Duyen Hai have received training to improve the quality of their teaching. Again, more girls enrolled in school than during the previous year, and the attendance rate of ethnic-minority children who have enrolled in Duyen Hai is now 96.8 per cent."

"Although I am Khmer, I live with Vietnamese in my community and speak Kinh in lessons at school. I don't find it hard speaking two languages." – Thack Thi Be Hoa (8) Grade 3 student at Long Vinh B primary school, Viet Nam



Getting more girls into school

In the Gao region of northern Mali, West Africa, fewer than ten per cent of school-age girls from the pastoralist communities have ever set foot in a classroom. Many families consider that education is of no benefit to their daughters.

Taklitin Walet Farati (above) is a community educator who is paid by Oxfam to visit remote settlements and persuade families to send their daughters, as well as their sons, to the nearest village school at Tintihigrene (left). And once the girls are in school, Taklitin makes sure that they are safe. Gradually, Taklitin is persuading communities to recognise that children will have a much better future if they complete their education – and if they learn that a woman’s status in society is equal to a man’s. Oxfam is also working with the Malian government, helping it to implement its ten-year educational plan, which should ensure a place in school for every girl.

“I think my role has made a difference to people here... now they understand that you have to be able to read and write, rather than relying on cattle-breeding alone.”
– Taklitin Walet Farati

“For much less than the price of a stealth bomber, you could tackle the education crisis in ten of the world’s poorest countries, and get five million children into school.”
– Phil Twyford, Director of Advocacy, Oxfam International



Record breakers!

On 9 April 2003, an astonishing 1.8 million children from 108 countries smashed the Guinness World Record for the biggest-ever simultaneous lesson. The previous figure was just over 29,000. The lesson was organised by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), of which Oxfam is a founder member. It highlighted the particular importance of educating girls, and called for world leaders to start funding education for every child. Pop stars, politicians, and union leaders came to add their support to the campaign.



“Let this be not only the world’s biggest ever lesson, but a lesson that the world will never forget.”
 – Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

Skills shops

To many supporters, the Oxfam shop in their local High Street may be where they first learn of our latest campaign or appeal. Our shops have also become an invaluable source of learning for many of the people who work there. Explains Manchester shop manager, Hannah Priest: “We have excellent relationships with local training providers, job-placement organisations, and the YMCA. It’s mutually rewarding to help people to master a basic skill, while they learn something about retail which may help them to find future work. At the same time, they quickly become a highly valued member of our diverse team of shop volunteers, and usually go on to receive a National Vocational Qualification.”



The year in pictures



May 2002 UK Musician Damon Albarn releases *Mali Music*, inspired by, and in support of, Oxfam



May 2002 Bono, lead singer of U2, visits Oxfam projects in Ghana with the US Treasury Secretary



July 2002 To raise money for Oxfam, 130 Trailwalker teams walk 100kms across the South Downs in England



November 2002 Oxfam and the Co-op unite to help shoppers donate with 'Easy Giving' vouchers



November 2002 Launch of new multi-lingual Oxfam International website profiling Oxfam's global activities



January 2003 After Oxfam supporters send 40,000 emails to Nestlé, the company drops its claim for US\$6 million from the Ethiopian government



July 2002 More than 6,000 music lovers join Oxfam's *Make Trade Fair* campaign at Glastonbury Music Festival



July 2002 Mike Peters (right), Oxfam volunteer and book expert, awarded an MBE for his work



July 2002 *One World* awards Oxfam and partners 'Best Campaign' for highlighting the discrimination against UK asylum seekers



January 2003 Launch of *Milking It*, a new online learning resource aimed at young people



January 2003 Oxfam opens its first office in Moscow, initially to research poverty in the Russian Federation



February 2003 Japanese pop star, Mayo Shono, raises £7,024 for Oxfam's Southern Africa Food Crisis appeal



26 September 2002 Barbara Stocking accepts the Seoul Peace Prize on behalf of all Oxfam supporters



5 October 2002 Oxfam releases a series of postcards, featuring photos from the archive, to commemorate its 60th year



29 October 2002 *Fair Play* concert in London draws 2,000 *Make Trade Fair* supporters



March 2003 More than £1 million raised on our most successful Red Nose Day ever



April 2003 Oxfam goes green. Oxfam now pays for carbon dioxide-free, totally renewable energy (from large-scale hydro plants) for all of its UK sites



13 April 2003 More than 100 supporters run the London Marathon raising more than £150,000 for Oxfam

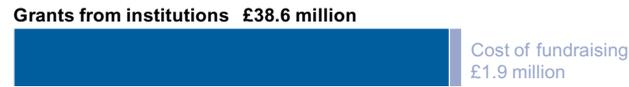
Money

Income | Fundraising: £124.3 million | Shops and Trading: £64.7 million

Public donations
Donations, legacies, gift aid, and similar income.



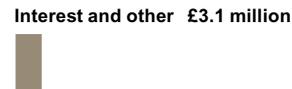
Cost of fundraising
Recruiting new supporters; increasing support from existing supporters; fundraising technology eg internet.



Institutions
UK and non-UK governments, European Union, United Nations, other international and UK agencies.



Food aid
Food donated by the United Nations and European Union.

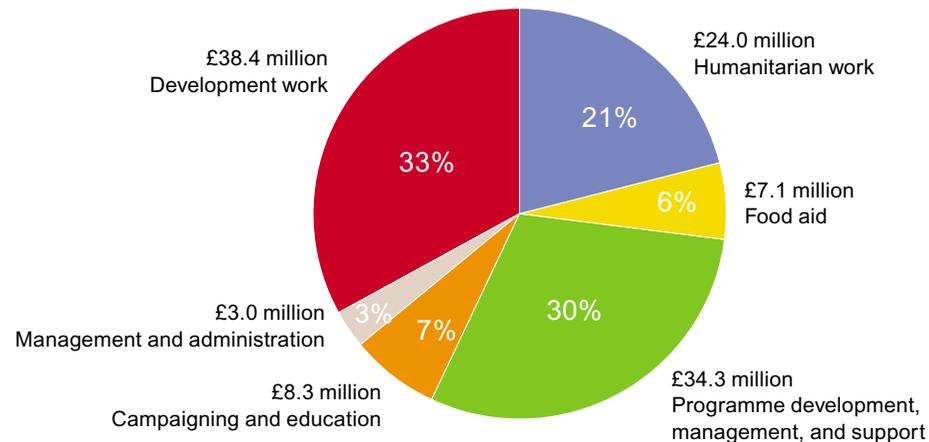


Trading operating cost
Property and staff costs; operations and purchasing.



Charitable expenditure | Total: £115.1 million

Campaigning and education
Research, lobbying and advocacy work; recruiting public support to campaign on policy; promoting development issues through the national school curriculum.



Programme development, management, and support
Core field offices; staff supporting, monitoring, and managing the charitable programme; logistics and emergency warehouse costs.

Where the money goes by region



Asia, Middle East, and Europe 34%

"The situation now, after seven years without rain, is extremely bad. But because of Oxfam, we are getting some work digging rainwater ponds, which brings in cash and food rations."
– Laacha, Rajasthan, India



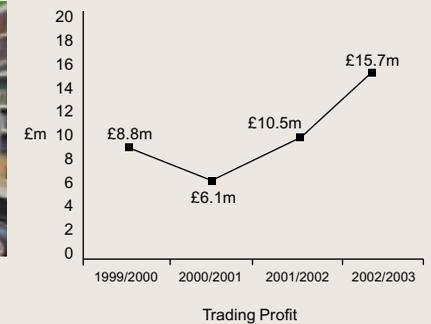
Africa 47%

"We don't want to impose our priorities on a community. Instead, we help them to assess their own needs, and work with those groups that will have the greatest impact on poverty."
– Nafi Chinery, Oxfam Project Officer, Northern Ghana



Latin America and Caribbean 19%

"We teach people about their land rights. Our objective is to raise people's awareness and let them know that if they fight for it, they can get their land back."
– Marta Cobo Ceto, promoter with Oxfam partner CONIC, Guatemala



Shops success

Oxfam shops had another bumper year raising a very useful £15.7 million (profit margin 24%) for our work overcoming poverty and suffering. This was up £5.2 million on the previous year. Once again this stunning growth was achieved by the sterling effort of shop volunteers and staff up and down the UK. Most shop teams increased their sales and their profits and some shop teams achieved spectacular growth – in at least two cases adding more than £100,000 to their shop's profit.

With the simultaneous closure of some poor-performing shops the health of the network is now much stronger.

Books and bric-a-brac sales had another good year of growth. A much simpler and fresher new products range was launched which costs less to support.

Special thanks to



The European Union



Community Fund



The United Nations



Department for International Development

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**Oxfam works with others to
overcome poverty and suffering**

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