

# OXFAM IN PAKISTAN

Oxfam has been working in Pakistan since 1973. We support local partners and work with government authorities to improve the livelihoods of those living in poverty, and provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by disasters and conflict.



## THE SITUATION

With more than 180 million inhabitants, Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world\* (UN, 2009), and ranks 141st out of 182 countries on the UN Development Programme’s 2009 Human Development Index. 70% of the population lives in rural areas, with 24-40% under the poverty line. Pakistan continues to struggle with high rates of unemployment, inflation and insecurity. Adding to the instability is the ongoing conflict within the country.

## IN NUMBERS\*\*

**1,800,000**  
total people helped

## HOW OXFAM IS HELPING

We focus on ensuring poor women have access to land and economic opportunity; ending violence against women; ensuring all girls have the right to a quality education; increasing resilience to disasters and climate change; and improving access to effective humanitarian assistance during emergencies.



Photo: Timothy Allen

Left: Reshma collects water from Shahbaz camp where her family fled to escape the devastating floods that hit Pakistan in 2010. Oxfam’s response reached over 2.4 million people.

\* UN, 2009

\*\*Direct beneficiary figures for the period 2010-11

## LAND RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES (LEO)

The overall aim of this programme is to help millions of rural men and women lift themselves out of a life of poverty and inequality by increasing their access to and control over productive land and assets from the state. This includes ensuring enhanced and equitable economic opportunity and increased access and power in markets.

The LEO programme has a two-fold approach: focusing on advocacy and campaigning and community-based programming. The national campaigning and advocacy work on land rights is aimed at securing land rights to enable rural women and men, (especially small land holders and tenants) living in poverty to gain and retain access to land for their own production and financial security.

The community-based programme focuses on economic opportunities for the rural poor in rural enterprise and agricultural development. It aims to enable smallholder farmers, the largest proportion of labour engaged in the agricultural sector, to strengthen their power in the markets and will empower them to demand services and investment from government and private sector.

## GIRLS' EDUCATION

Female literacy is the key driver of change for women's rights. Studies have shown that there is an explicit link between the lack of economic opportunities and illiteracy with poverty and violence against women.

Pakistan has made a commitment to achieve gender equality and empowerment through equal access to all levels of education by 2015, as expressed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, political will, policy reforms and sustained financing are required to meet these targets.

Oxfam is working to ensure equitable access to quality education for girls, particularly for those living in rural poverty where incidences of violence are also high.

We work at the community level through local partners to advocate for the value and relevance of education for girls to strengthen their communities' capacities.

On a national scale, we focus on improving dialogue between the government and civil society to promote the girl's education agenda.

In 2011 we organised an international conference in collaboration with the Pakistan Coalition of Education to tie in with a Global Week of Action focusing on girls and women's education. This culminated in the formation of a national level campaign entitled 'It's my right, make it right' aiming to bring about improved funding and support for girls' education. Working in collaboration with civil society and other partners, the campaign aims to bridge the gap between commitment and implementation at a national level.



Photo: Caroline Gluck

Children take part in an event organised by Oxfam to mark Global Handwashing Day.

## ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

We work to help create a society where women are secure and safe from all forms of violence by addressing the direct forms of violence and aiming for a change in discriminatory attitudes and beliefs.

Studies show that 80% of women in Pakistan are victims of domestic violence and one in every three women are subjected to some form of violence. Oxfam's work focuses on national level advocacy, which includes amendments and repeals of discriminatory laws and policies denying women their fundamental rights.

Our work aims to strengthen and build multi-stakeholder alliances at the district, provincial and national level to focus on effective implementation of legislation and to support women who are at risk or are survivors of violence.

## ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Oxfam's economic justice campaign (Dharti in Pakistan, known globally as 'GROW') is the most ambitious campaign in Oxfam's history. Launched in June 2011, the campaign focuses on food justice in a resource constrained world affected by climate change and constrained by scarcity of land and water. The campaign targets the needs of smallholder farmers and aims to work through multi-stakeholder alliances and networks. It focuses on two key aspects of food

justice; the right investment and conditions of small producers and fair prices for consumers, especially poor women, so that poor women and men claim power in the way world manages land, water and climate change, and they can grow or buy enough food to eat - now and in the future. The campaign aims to engage with policy makers and members of parliament to help ensure poor women and men's voices are heard.

## DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Pakistan is prone to natural and human-induced hazards. The high frequency of natural disasters, increased vulnerability and high risk experienced by the country in the past decades, particularly due to floods, earthquakes and droughts further perpetuates existing inequality and poverty.

Through our work in disaster-prone areas of the country, and advocacy with different stakeholders, we try to ensure that climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction become national and local priorities.

We strive to address chronic and acute vulnerabilities to disasters and increase

the resilience of poor men and women to natural disasters and climate change. Oxfam continues to support national, district and community level disaster risk reduction processes through our projects in highly disaster-prone areas of Pakistan.

## HUMANITARIAN PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Pakistan has faced a high frequency of natural disasters in the past decades, experiencing floods, earthquakes, and droughts. Disaster related losses are hardest felt by the most disadvantaged communities with many disasters pushing people further into extreme forms of poverty. Oxfam is committed to strengthening in-country humanitarian capacity to respond to disasters and supporting people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after emergencies.

Oxfam's two focus areas during emergencies are water and sanitation and hygiene and food security and livelihoods.

We aim to leverage our existing relationships with national and international organisations to strengthen and facilitate effective, well-co-ordinated and accountable humanitarian assistance.

**Left: A young girl washes her hands in Sabzi Mandi camp where Oxfam provided clean water and sanitation services in the aftermath of devastating flooding in 2010.**



Photo: Jane Beesley