

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROJECT

-OXFAM

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INTRODUCTION

Oxfam is a global organization that works to reduce inequality and end poverty and injustice. With nearly 80 years of experience, Oxfam operates in more than 90 countries



and partners with over 4,000 local organizations and international allies. Together, they provide lifesaving support during crises and advocate for lasting change. The organization looks closely at how differences in gender, race, and wealth create barriers for people. By understanding these issues, Oxfam aims to create a fairer future for everyone. They focus on economic justice, gender equality, and climate action.

Oxfam does not just provide emergency aid but they also work to help communities in the long run. Oxfam believes that the insights and experiences of local communities are essential for finding the best solutions to poverty. Education is a key part of Oxfam's efforts. They teach people about their rights and how to defend them. When individuals understand their rights, they can hold their governments accountable, asking for better services and equal opportunities.

In India, Oxfam focuses on empowering marginalized communities, fighting for equal rights, and helping people affected by natural disasters.

The organization has also implemented innovative water solutions such as solar-powered desalination units in regions like Yemen and gravity-fed water systems in Nepal, which have transformed lives by offering reliable, clean water sources.

Oxfam has a significant impact on people's lives. In 2020-21, the organization reached over 25.7 million people, with more than half being women and girls. Through partnerships, education, and a commitment to long-term solutions, Oxfam is making a difference in the world. Their work helps not only to meet immediate needs but also to create a future where everyone has the chance to thrive.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Oxfam's history is a patchwork of movements, communities and passionate individuals who believe in a fairer and more equal world.

Founded in Oxford, England, in 1942 as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, Oxfam emerged in response to the Allied blockade that had caused famine in Axis-occupied Greece.



This committee was formed mostly by a group of concerned citizens, including social activists, academics, and Quakers, who were distressed by the famine in German-occupied Greece.

They took action and raised vital funds to support the famine relief efforts. The organisation also played a vital role by speaking out against the injustice of ordinary people paying the price of decisions made by a select few.

In 1945, famine committees around the UK urged the UK government to let British people send food parcels to Germany and to lift the blockade. The organisation has always challenged the divisive and harmful decisions of the world's most powerful people as an outspoken voice for fairness and justice and for the well-being of the people.

CREATION OF OXFAM INTERNATIONAL



Oxfam International was formed in 1995 by a group of independent non-governmental organizations.

They joined together as a confederation to maximize efficiency and achieve greater impact to reduce global poverty and injustice.

The name "Oxfam" as previously discussed comes from the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, founded in Britain in 1942. The group campaigned for food supplies to be sent through an allied naval blockade to starving women and children in enemy-occupied Greece during the Second World War.

After the war, Oxfam continued its work, sending materials and financial aid to groups aiding poor people throughout Europe. As the situation in Europe improved, Oxfam's attention shifted to the needs of people in developing countries.

Though Oxfam initially focused primarily on emergency food aid, over the years, it evolved from a relief organization to a broader development agency. Following the end of World War II, the committee recognized that hunger and poverty were not limited to wartime crises and that long-term solutions were needed to address systemic poverty and inequality.

In the 1950's and 1960's, Oxfam expanded its operations internationally, opening offices in other countries and expanding its remit to include long-term development projects. Its mission grew to encompass education, advocacy for fair trade, and support for sustainable development projects in impoverished communities worldwide.

AIMS OF OXFAM

1. Alleviating Global Poverty

At its core, Oxfam's mission is to combat poverty in all its forms. Oxfam strives to ensure that people have access to the resources they need to live in dignity and free from hunger and deprivation. This mission is rooted in the belief that poverty is not simply a lack of income but a result of injustice, inequality, and systemic failures that disadvantage the most vulnerable.



Oxfam provides immediate aid to those suffering from extreme poverty, including food assistance, clean water, healthcare, and education. However, their approach extends beyond temporary relief. Oxfam works to build sustainable livelihoods by empowering communities, particularly in developing countries, to become self-sufficient.

The organization promotes inclusive economic growth by supporting small businesses, cooperatives, and local farmers. For instance, Oxfam's work in promoting sustainable agriculture and fair wages ensures that rural communities can lift themselves out of poverty.

2. Gender Justice and Empowerment of Women

A major pillar of Oxfam's mission is gender justice, recognizing that poverty is exacerbated by gender inequality. Women, particularly in marginalized communities, are disproportionately affected by poverty, often facing barriers to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, as well as gender-based violence.

Oxfam works to empower women and girls through various initiatives aimed at increasing their access to resources and opportunities. The organization promotes gender equality in several ways:

- **Economic Empowerment:** Oxfam provides training and resources to help women start businesses, gain access to fair wages, and participate fully in the economy. Programs designed to enhance women's access to financial services, like microcredit, have been crucial in reducing their dependence on patriarchal systems.
- **Education and Advocacy:** Oxfam advocates for girls' education, believing it is a key driver of long-term social change. They partner with local organizations and governments to promote policies that prioritize gender equity in education.
- **Gender-Based Violence:** Oxfam combats gender-based violence by working with communities to challenge cultural norms and practices that perpetuate violence and discrimination. Oxfam also provides support to survivors, including legal services and counseling.



By addressing the specific needs of women and girls, Oxfam aims to break the cycle of poverty and inequality that is passed down through generations.

3. Responding to Humanitarian Crises

Oxfam's work in humanitarian aid is extensive and essential to its mission. The organization provides emergency relief in response to conflicts, natural disasters, and pandemics. Whether it's delivering food, clean water, and sanitation in the wake of a disaster or providing medical care

to refugees fleeing war-torn regions, Oxfam aims to alleviate suffering while also working on long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Oxfam's humanitarian aid efforts are grounded in principles of fairness and human dignity. In addition to providing immediate relief, Oxfam is committed to supporting communities in rebuilding their lives. This includes offering support for the reconstruction of infrastructure, such as schools and health centers, and promoting social cohesion in post-conflict areas.

Furthermore, Oxfam advocates for better global systems to manage crises, such as calling for increased international cooperation in responding to refugee crises and advocating for climate resilience measures to protect vulnerable populations from future disasters. Oxfam's global influence allows it to address not just the symptoms of crises, but also the systemic failures that often lead to prolonged suffering.



4. Promoting Climate Justice

Climate change is a central concern for Oxfam because its effects disproportionately harm poor and marginalized communities, particularly in developing nations. Oxfam's climate justice campaigns focus on addressing the root causes of climate change, advocating for policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and helping vulnerable communities adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Oxfam advocates for climate policies that are equitable and just, recognizing that the burden of climate change often falls on those who are least responsible for it. For example, smallholder farmers in developing countries, who contribute the least to global emissions, are frequently the most affected by changing weather patterns, droughts, and floods.

Oxfam's climate-related work includes:

- **Adaptation Projects:** Oxfam helps communities build resilience to climate impacts by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, conserving water resources, and developing climate-smart infrastructure.
- **Advocacy for Global Climate Action:** Oxfam pressures governments and international organizations to take more significant action in mitigating climate change. This includes advocating for financial support from wealthier nations to help developing countries adapt to and mitigate climate change.
- **5. Achieving Economic Justice**

Oxfam's fight for economic justice addresses the structural causes of poverty and inequality. In today's globalized economy, wealth is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few, while millions of people live in extreme poverty. Oxfam's work challenges this imbalance by advocating for fairer economic policies and systems.

Oxfam's approach to economic justice includes:

- **Fair Trade Initiatives:** Oxfam supports initiatives that ensure producers in developing countries receive a fair price for their goods. Through its advocacy for fair trade practices, Oxfam helps marginalized farmers and artisans access global markets on equitable terms.
- **Tax Justice:** Oxfam campaigns against tax evasion and avoidance by wealthy individuals and corporations. By lobbying for reforms in the global tax system, Oxfam seeks to ensure that governments have the resources to invest in essential public services like healthcare and education.
- **Labor Rights:** Oxfam advocates for the protection of workers' rights, particularly in industries where exploitation is common. This includes campaigning for living wages, safe working conditions, and the right to unionize.

Oxfam's economic justice agenda focuses not only on addressing income inequality but also on ensuring that everyone has access to basic rights and services, including education, healthcare, and social protection.

6. Building Resilient Communities

Oxfam aims to build resilient communities that can withstand and recover from shocks, whether caused by economic crises, conflicts, or natural disasters. The organization works with local communities to develop long-term strategies for resilience, including disaster preparedness, sustainable agriculture, and access to education and healthcare.

Oxfam's resilience-building efforts emphasize:

- **Local Empowerment:** By partnering with local organizations and community leaders, Oxfam ensures that development initiatives are community-driven and culturally appropriate. This local empowerment helps communities take ownership of their development and become less dependent on external aid.
- **Education and Capacity Building:** Oxfam invests in education and skills training, helping individuals and communities develop the knowledge and capabilities needed to address their challenges independently. This includes training in disaster response, sustainable farming, and entrepreneurial skills.

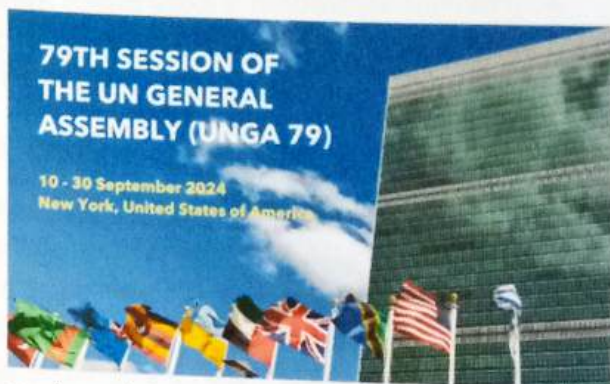
By fostering resilience, Oxfam helps communities break the cycle of poverty and build a more sustainable and secure future.

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF OXFAM

Oxfam made many significant contributions this year some of which are as follows:

UNGA 79

Oxfam leaders, experts, and partners are joining the UN 79th General Assembly, Summit of the Future, and Climate Action week in New York, hosting and attending events focused on UN Security Council Reform, gender, digital rights, inequality, climate action, and



humanitarian issues. They will be urging global leaders to take bold decisions and action as they deliberate on the pressing issues of our time.

Oxfam Young Leaders Fellowship Programme

This transformative initiative aims to equip the selected group of young leaders with tools, skills, knowledge and networks to drive positive change in their communities. Through close mentorship and hands-on practice, this initiative offers an invaluable opportunity for the fellows to strengthen their capacity to make social change happen and sustain.

Oxfam Trailwalker 2024

It aims towards becoming part of a global movement of people working together to achieve a just, sustainable future without poverty. Oxfam is working with the First Peoples of Australia to achieve the change they seek; standing alongside women and girls so they can earn a decent living, learn and lead; ensuring justice for communities impacted by the climate crisis; and supporting communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

Oxfam Rice Event 2024

This event is focused on fighting climate change and empowering smallholder farmers. Due to insufficient capital or lack of training, smallholder farmers are often compelled to use outdated production tools and techniques, and their productivity has remained stagnant for a long period of time. This makes it difficult for them to increase their efficiency and improve their livelihoods. Oxfam empowers smallholder farmers to prepare for disasters and adapt to climate change and to fight poverty, which is exacerbated by climate change.

Global Report on Food Crises 2024

On World Food Day, hunger has reached an all-time high exposing the flaws in global peacebuilding and conflict recovery efforts. Around 281.6 million people in 59 countries are experiencing acute hunger and between 7,000 to as many as 21,000 people are likely dying each day from hunger in countries impacted by conflict, according to a new Oxfam report published on World Food Day. The international community's pledge of "zero hunger" by 2030 remains out of touch. Oxfam says that states and institutions globally, including the UN Security Council, must hold to account those committing "starvation crimes" in accordance with international law. "To break the vicious cycle of food insecurity and conflict, global leaders must tackle head-on the conditions that breed conflict: the colonial legacies, injustices, human rights violations, and inequalities – rather than offering quick band-aid solutions," says Emily Farr, Oxfam's Food and Economic Security Lead.

Open Call for Immediate Ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and Israel

We have witnessed unfathomable death and destruction in the Gaza Strip and Israel. Thousands of people have been killed, injured, displaced, and nearly two hundred remain held hostage, including children and elderly.

Oxfam asks to sign the petition for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip



and Israel to stop the humanitarian catastrophe and further loss of innocent lives put our voices together and calls on all Heads of State, the UN Security Council, and actors on the ground, to prioritize the preservation of human life above all else.

During this ceasefire, they call on all parties to unconditionally:

1. Facilitate the delivery of lifesaving assistance, including food, medical supplies, fuel, and the resumption of electricity and internet to Gaza, in addition to safe passage of humanitarian and medical staff
2. Free all civilian hostages, especially children and elderly
3. Allow humanitarian convoys to reach UN facilities, schools, hospitals, and health facilities in northern Gaza and commit to protecting them along with the civilians and staff inside them at all times
4. Rescind orders by the Government of Israel for civilians to depart northern Gaza
5. Allow patients in critical condition to be medically evacuated for urgent care

Oxfam has also published press releases on a number of topics, including:

- The UK arms sales to Israel
- The famine risk in Gaza
- The G7 communiqué
- The Independent Commission for Aid Impact on UK humanitarian aid to Gaza
- An attack on a community centre operated by Oxfam's partner in Kharkiv
- Global dividend payouts to shareholders

Oxfam, through its beneficial activities, is longing for a better tomorrow by tackling the inequality that keeps poor. It works towards saving, protecting and rebuilding lives when disaster strikes making sure that every person on the planet can enjoy life free from poverty.

CONCLUSION

Thus, Oxfam has established itself as a prominent force in the global effort to combat poverty, inequality, and injustice. Through its humanitarian work, advocacy for economic justice, and commitment to empowering marginalized communities, Oxfam has made significant strides in addressing both immediate needs and the root causes of social inequities.

By working with local communities, advocating for policy change, and responding to global crises, Oxfam continuously



adapts its strategies to meet the evolving challenges of poverty and inequality in today's world. Its work is a powerful example of how a combination of grassroots

Oxfam's overarching vision is to create a just world without poverty, where all individuals have equal opportunities to thrive, regardless of their gender, race, or socioeconomic background. Its mission is rooted in addressing both immediate needs and the long-term, systemic issues that perpetuate poverty, inequality, and injustice.

Whether through direct humanitarian aid, advocacy for fair economic policies, or efforts to empower women and marginalized groups, Oxfam remains committed to creating a world where everyone can achieve their full potential.

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