

Voices for CHANGE



>>> DONOR NEWSLETTER >>> WINTER 2015 >>> OXFAM.CA >>>

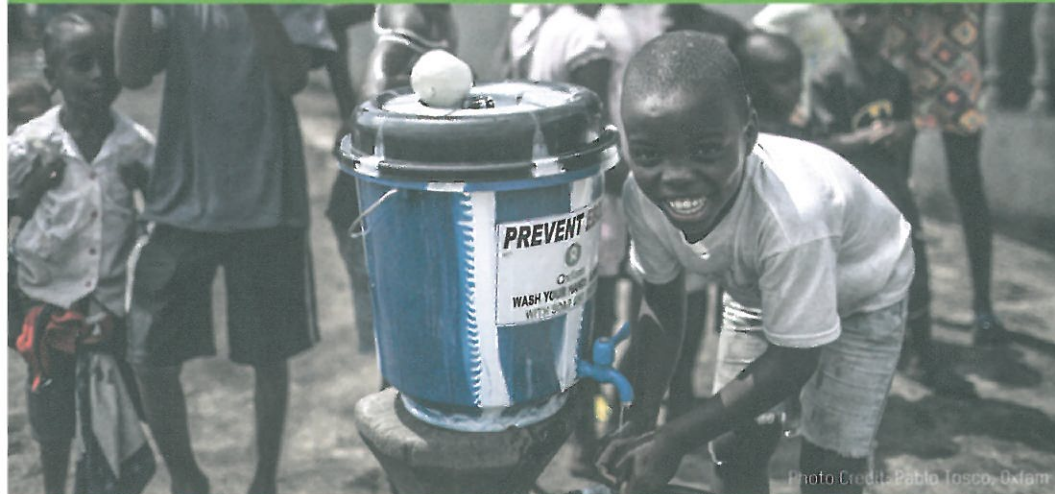


Photo Credit: Pablo Tosco, Oxfam

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Thank you!

In my new role as Executive Director of Oxfam Canada, I've already seen the impact of your support.

I think of the young people we work with in Zimbabwe living with HIV/AIDS, who are working together to reduce risk, change stereotypes and improve health and nutrition for themselves and their families. Tested by

their fate, these young women and men are demonstrating their resilience and calling for change. They are raising their voices for their rights.

Warmest regards,

Julie Delahanty

Thank you for your continued support of Oxfam Canada's work.

Field report from Melanie Gallant, Oxfam Canada

With your support, Oxfam is on the ground in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Our teams are doing house to house awareness on the disease, distributing hygiene kits and providing equipment to support existing health facilities.

While the crisis remains a global concern, I've seen the tremendous impact that Oxfam is having since arriving in Sierra Leone. One example is through distribution of hygiene kits.

The kits are used to protect water

from contamination – a big problem in slum areas – and contain much needed soap, water purifying tablets, and chlorine to disinfect.

Hajja, a pregnant woman in quarantine, told me about the importance of Oxfam's hygiene kits for her and her family. She says, "I know if we use soap to wash our hands and this chlorine that they give to us to disinfect, it protects us a lot. And if we continue, maybe some of us will get out of quarantine safely."

EBOLA: WHAT WE'RE DOING

- 1 Providing hygiene kits and handwashing facilities for people at risk
- 2 Providing water for treatment and isolation centres
- 3 Providing protective equipment for health workers
- 4 Using radio broadcasts to spread vital health messages

Although there has been progress in stopping the spread, Oxfam is calling for greater coordination of the response from governments and the international community to do more.

Julia's Story

In Tanzania, laws have passed in recent years that recognize women's rights. But because of established gender roles, women are left with no property, no decision-making authority or income, and little knowledge of their basic human rights.

Julia's husband abused and beat her for many years. She thought it was normal. When Julia went to the village elders, they counselled her to go back to her husband, because leaving would bring shame on her family.

One night after her husband beat her severely again, Julia left and did not return. She was found bleeding on the side of the road.

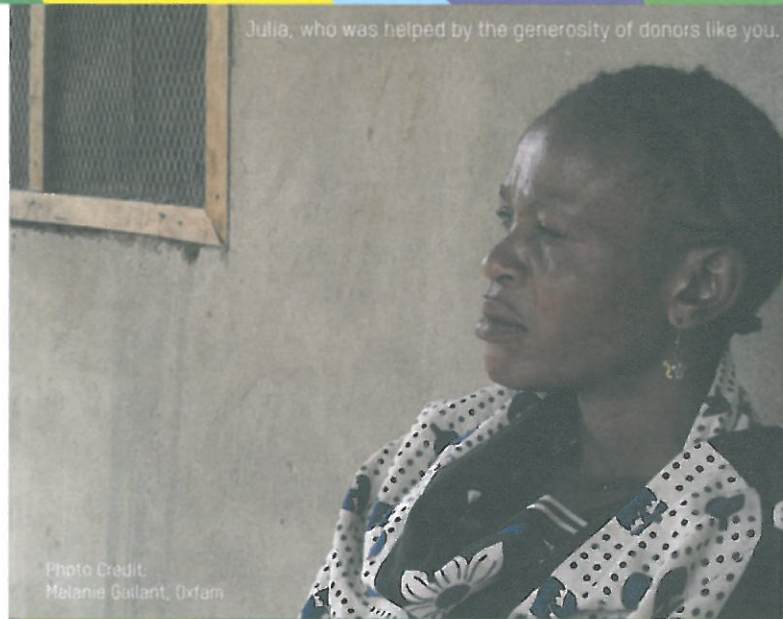
Compassionate neighbours cared for Julia, and took her to Oxfam partner, the Morogoro Paralegal Centre, for help. MPLC's paralegals are preparing her case.

Says Julia,

"I hope that I have a place to stay in my house, with my children, and that I can live in peace away from my husband... I know now that I deserve that. That I have rights, because I am a human being, too."

Julia – and thousands of women like her – didn't know that she had the right to live without violence. Thanks to you, Oxfam and our partners are able to help women like Julia and work to change attitudes in their communities.

Julia, who was helped by the generosity of donors like you.



Squash Stew Recipe from FENACCOOP

Ingredients

- 2-3 banana squash (or any variety of winter squash)
- ½ large onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 green or red sweet pepper, chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup cream (optional)
- ½ cup butter (optional)
- Splash of lemon juice
- Salt, to taste

Instructions

Preheat oven to 400°F. Peel and cube squash. Then place in a baking pan with 20 mm. of water and bake for 15 minutes to an hour, depending on amount of squash, until softened. Liquefy onion, garlic, pepper and tomatoes in a food processor. Bring the liquid and squash to boil in a large pot, stirring occasionally. Add salt, a splash of lemon juice and if you want a creamier taste 1 cup of cream or ½ cup of butter. Simmer for 10 minutes and it's ready to serve!

Kofi Annan endorses Oxfam report on inequality

“The widening gap between rich and poor is at a tipping point. It can either take deeper root, jeopardising our efforts to reduce poverty, or we can make concrete changes now to reverse it.”

“This valuable report by Oxfam is a call to action for a common good. We must answer that call.”

(Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Nobel Laureate)

For the vast majority of people on our planet, economic inequality in their country is worse now than it was 30 years ago.

Right now, 85 people own as much wealth as the poorest half of humanity.

Globally, we’ve entered an era of what’s termed extreme inequality. Its impact, of course, is worst for the poorest among us, but it affects us all.

Extreme inequality stifles economic growth. It keeps some families poor for generations. It exacerbates gender inequality. And it fuels crime and violent conflict.

But there’s hope. People all over the world are waking up to the reality of extreme inequality, and demanding a world that is fairer.

POOR COUNTRIES LOSE \$100 BILLION EACH YEAR DUE TO CORPORATE TAX ABUSE. THAT’S ENOUGH TO GET EVERY CHILD INTO SCHOOL FOUR TIMES OVER.

Photo Credit: Simon Rawles



With the publication of our new report, *Even it Up: Time to End Extreme Inequality*, Oxfam reveals the causes of the inequality crisis, and the specific solutions that can be done to overcome it.

Imagine this: if India alone stopped inequality from rising any more than it has, 90 million more men and women could be lifted out of poverty by 2019.

Oxfam is calling for compassionate people everywhere to join the campaign for a fairer world. We’re calling on individuals, corporations and governments to Even It Up.

To find out more, or to read the report, please visit www.oxfam.ca/our-work/publications/even-it



FENACOOOP

FENACOOOP, a program supported by Oxfam, is a national federation of cooperatives in Nicaragua that works to defend members’ rights to property and credit, to promote the cooperative model and to explore ways to make it more profitable. The federation provides training, credit and legal services to cooperatives, as well as lobbying on issues such as micro finance, rural development and trade.



Photo Credit: Rajendra Shaw

Jane's Legacy

Oxfam's work is tremendously enhanced by the generosity of supporters who remember Oxfam in their Will. It's a fantastic way to leave a lasting legacy.

One supporter, Jane Henson, has done just that. Says Jane,

"The reason I support Oxfam is because they do long-term development in partnership with local, community organizations. They respect human rights, women's rights and the local culture and environment. I particularly value their emphasis on women's issues, community development and that they help people help themselves."

In addition to her bequest, Jane continues to make monthly donations. Thank you, Jane, for your generosity!

If you're interested in leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Mira Claxon at 416-648-6390.

Does my \$5 matter?

If you were to ask Oxfam donor Jodie Sandford whether \$5 really makes a difference to the life of a family living in poverty, she would answer you with a resounding "yes."

Jodie, a monthly supporter of Oxfam Great Britain, had the opportunity to visit Oxfam projects in Zimbabwe. She met Esther Mananzva, her husband and their one-month-old twins. An Oxfam irrigation project has changed their lives.

"I've seen for myself now just how much of a difference £3 (CDN \$5) can make. For someone like Esther and her family, that's the difference between the (newborn) twins getting proper milk, or getting flour mixed with water from the pond."

If you aren't already a *SharePlan* donor, please consider joining today. See the enclosed reply form or go online to www.oxfam.ca/donate/monthly-giving.

Will Federal Party Leaders act on women's rights in 2015?

Every day in Canada 8,000 women and children seek protection from a shelter to escape violence and abuse. We rank 19th on the global Gender Gap Index – below Rwanda, the Philippines and Nicaragua.

Oxfam has joined with 160 Canadian organizations like the YWCA to call for a national televised debate by all party leaders on women's issues before the 2015 federal election. Canada could be a leader in women's rights – if our party leaders are up for the debate.

Learn more at www.oxfam.ca/news/up-for-debate.

