



**Oxfam**  
Canada



2003 ANNUAL REPORT



Gathering the harvest from seeds supplied by Oxfam Canada in Zimbabwe.

## Our Vision

Oxfam Canada believes that people together can create a fair world, free of poverty and injustice.

A fair world respects the basic rights of all human beings to:

- earn a decent living to support themselves and their families
- enjoy basic education and health care
- get help in life-threatening disasters
- speak out for their rights
- be treated as equal.

## Our Mission

Oxfam Canada builds lasting solutions to global poverty and injustice.

We work with allies in Canada and around the world to change the policies and practices that perpetuate human suffering. We support organizations in poor communities overseas in their struggle to secure basic rights. Oxfam's advocacy and campaigns for just policies are rooted in the knowledge and experience gained in that struggle.

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For an electronic copy of this report, more information about Oxfam Canada's work or to find out how you can get involved, visit us online at [www.oxfam.ca](http://www.oxfam.ca).

## Oxfam International

Oxfam Canada is a member of Oxfam International, a federation of twelve autonomous, non-governmental organizations around the world dedicated to eradicating poverty and injustice. We are pledged to uphold Oxfam International's constitution and Code of Conduct.

## Other affiliations

Oxfam Canada is a member of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and we adhere to their Codes of Conduct governing ethics, fundraising and financial practices. Oxfam Canada is also a signatory to the Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response.

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Young girl gathers the daily baking in Afghanistan.



# Chair and Executive Director's Report

The year 2003 marked Oxfam's 40th Anniversary in Canada. In 1963, tackling global 'underdevelopment' was a new concept consisting of a transfer of skills and money to the less privileged of the world. Canadians walked 'Miles for Millions' to show their solidarity. They pressed for the establishment of an official Canadian 'aid' programme and a commitment from the government of the day to .7% of Gross National Product (GNP) for international development – a goal Canada still hasn't reached.

Despite world-wide gains in health, education and wealth-creation over the past forty years, the need for ending poverty and injustice persists. What has changed is our increased appreciation of how human, slow and fragile an undertaking development is. Ending poverty requires informed and ethical engagement by individuals, communities, organizations, governments and businesses.

The fight against poverty is set back when greed, fear and mistrust drive individual and collective action. It is moved forward in leaps and bounds when we create occasions of hope, leadership, collaboration and opportunity. This is the vision that keeps Oxfam Canada going strong at 40.

This Annual Report provides an overview of our work and illustrates our vision with a few examples from the more than \$10 million Oxfam Canada invested in programmes in 2003.

Unfortunately, little of Oxfam's work or that of our partners over the past year escaped the shadow of the war in Iraq. Together, the members of Oxfam International stood firmly against the war, arguing that the costs in human life and instability in the region could not be justified. The wholesale shift in global attention to Iraq and away from Afghanistan and other major conflicts threatened to undermine the precarious progress that had been made in millions of people's lives.

In drought-stricken Southern Africa, Oxfam Canada delivered over \$1 million in seeds and food through partners in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Efforts to deliver food effectively, where it was most needed, required courage and ingenuity. In many places, food was being used as a political weapon by Zimbabwe's government. Our partners and colleagues suffered verbal and physical abuse for delivering food impartially to all hungry people. One partner organization was forced to close.

Dick Evans and Rieky Stuart.



Bey Crandell

# Chair and Executive Director's Report

Oxfam has brought the plight of ordinary Zimbabweans to Canadian and global attention, and offered solidarity and tangible support.

In the Horn of Africa, Oxfam Canada has supported important projects and research in the development of community radio. In Ethiopia, low-cost, local broadcasts could be used to share information on everything from crop prices to how women can organize to combat violence. In Somalia, Oxfam's partners used community radio to organize a ban on tree-cutting for the export of charcoal that was devastating nomadic communities. Community radio creates an opportunity for people to communicate across boundaries – to solve problems and build trust that is essential to social and political change.

In Nicaragua, Oxfam Canada's support for the Humboldt Centre has helped communities prepare for emergencies – like Hurricane Mitch – by designating safe shelters and coordinating among local groups, and local and national governments. There are plans to expand this cutting edge work to other parts of Central America.

Along with four other NGOs, Oxfam Canada was invited to comment on draft legislation to facilitate the export of affordable, life-saving drugs. Oxfam supported southern allies and governments in efforts to end the United States and European Union practice of dumping agricultural goods that undercuts farmers' livelihoods in poor countries.

The stories you are about to read in this Annual Report offer only a sampling of the scope of Oxfam Canada's work around the world. There are many more untold stories of day-to-day struggles, of small but significant successes, of defiant, resilient and resourceful people and communities.

A green dot (•) indicates large programmes that provided funding to a number of partner organizations. For these programmes, the project name and not the partner name(s) is noted. The figures listed are programme expenditures exclusive of project management, support and monitoring expenditures.

Over four million people – three quarters of them from southern countries – have signed on in support of our Make Trade Fair campaign.

Throughout the year, Oxfam Canada's members and volunteers organized at the local level to urge their cities and universities to implement 'No Sweat' purchasing policies so that garment workers amongst others receive a fair wage for their labour and are able to work in humane conditions. They've had significant success; ten universities, two school boards and eight cities have already adopted policies and or resolutions in favour of 'No Sweat' purchasing. We expect many more successes in the coming year.

These initiatives – short-term emergency response, long-term grassroots community-building, action at the local level in Canada, advocacy to change unfair global policies – are ambitious even for a large confederation like Oxfam International, let alone an NGO like Oxfam Canada. Yet to gain ground in the struggle against poverty and injustice requires work at all these levels – and requires the insights gained from each of them to inform and reinforce the others. That's the biggest difference between the way we worked in the 1960s and the way we work today.

In 2003, our Board mandated an increased capacity to involve Canadians, particularly in our policy work. Oxfam's membership will vote to renew the Board in 2004. The new Board will assume office at our National Assembly of members in Ottawa in June.

Your support has made this work possible. Thank you!



Dick Evans, Chair



Rieky Stuart, Executive Director

Everybody needs to make a living, to have enough money to feed his or her family and to cover other basic needs. Oxfam works with community and producer groups to help people develop sustainable livelihoods. We also campaign to reform international trade so that poor producers and workers get a fair deal.

## Ethiopian women gain self-reliance and confidence

2002–2003 marked the final phase of the Ruba Lomine Integrated Rural Development Programme in Ethiopia's northern Tigray province. A large programme administered by Oxfam Canada and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Ruba Lomine was designed to tackle many of the underlying causes of systemic poverty in the region.

Tigray has long suffered the effects of drought and environmental degradation. Its people have endured life on the front lines of conflict for years, most recently in the border war with neighbouring Eritrea.

Gitef Kiros is helping to put her children through school with the proceeds of her small livestock operation and her vegetable garden.

One of the pilot projects associated with the programme involved women who are the heads of their households, often as sole providers. When asked what changes the project had brought to their lives, the women listed benefits such as:

- training in growing vegetables, trading and reforestation
  - improvements in family health
  - increased employment opportunities
  - clean water supplies, and
  - increased production from their small land-holdings.
- The women said the lessons they had learned were not just technical but they had also gained self-reliance and confidence to build up their skills and improve their lives. This is a significant change in a region where women rarely hold prominent positions in their communities.

Gitef Kiros has four children she supports on her own. Her husband was killed in the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict and though she received a small, one-time compensation payment from the government for her loss, she now has to rely on her own resources to support her family. With the help of the women-headed households project she built a chicken coop and a goat house to raise livestock. She has started growing vegetables, and doesn't have to travel to find work. With the proceeds from her vegetable garden during the wet season she was able to buy school clothes and writing materials for her children. She feels that within a year, she will be able to sustain her family from her small livestock development and vegetable business.



Reg Noble

## Organizing to protect women workers

*“Oxfam provided the networking opportunities we needed. Companies knew there were Codes of Conduct in existence but workers didn’t. Workers must be empowered themselves. We need to build coalitions. It’s hard to monitor what’s going on because brand name clothing companies are in and out of the factories so quickly. It’s all contract work. There need to be real labour laws and standards.”*

–Sandra Ramos, Maria Elena Cuadra Movement of Working and Unemployed Women (MEC), Nicaragua

Sandra Ramos, of long-time Oxfam partner MEC in Nicaragua, and Rosa Escobar of Guatemala’s Association of Women in Solidarity (AMES) were just two of the participants who took part in a workshop in Ottawa in November. The purpose of the workshop was to help Oxfam Canada develop strategies for a major initiative to help women working in precarious employment around the world.

In Guatemala, 2003 was a year of violence, especially against women. This meant that speaking out about labour violations became even more difficult. Undaunted, Oxfam’s partner AMES continued to train women to act as advocates in the free trade zones, advising on labour problems and distributing materials about worker’s rights. The advocates referred 80 women to AMES for legal assistance; 80% of their cases were resolved satisfactorily with the Ministry of Labour.

In the past 20 years, trade liberalization has created employment for millions of women who now occupy between 60–90% of jobs in the labour-intensive stages of the clothing and food global supply chains. However, the nature of the work (repetitive, boring, physically harmful) and the way worker’s rights have been stripped away has caused what’s been described as “a race to the bottom.”

Garment workers in Bangladesh work an average of 80 hours of overtime per month, but no one receives a pay slip so they are only paid between 60-80% of their due earnings. In South Africa, one and a half million



Women work long hours sewing sportswear for little pay in the factories of the free trade zones in Nicaragua.

workers have been turned into “independent” contractors – cutting labour costs by 30% and removing their legal protections.

As Deena Bosch of South Africa’s Women on Farms Project (another Oxfam partner who participated in the November workshop) points out, “people need to get organized. We need to learn from what other people are doing. In the Western Cape, the workers used to live on the farms. Now, full-time workers are kept to a minimum and most people are hired as ‘sub-contractors.’ They have been forced into informal squatter communities. The farm owners use labour brokers, so they don’t even have a relationship with their workers anymore.”

Oxfam Canada continues to seek opportunities to bring organizers together to develop strategies to preserve and enhance women workers’ rights in the face of unfair trade and labour practices around the world.

## Poverty in your Coffee Cup

George Sakwa is a coffee farmer with a small farm on the slopes of Mount Elgon in Uganda. In 2001, George and his wife Topista sold 1.5 acres of their land because the returns from selling coffee could no longer meet their children's secondary school fees.

The collapse of the global coffee market is a graphic example of the rigged rules and double standards that dominate current trade practices. Over the past four years, the price of coffee has fallen almost 50 percent, and now hovers near a 30-year low. This has resulted in a widespread humanitarian crisis for 25 million coffee-growing families in over 50 developing countries.

At the same time, the world's four largest coffee retailers, Kraft, Nestlé, Procter and Gamble and Sara Lee have enjoyed record profits.

In April, campaigners across Canada joined in global actions to highlight the coffee crisis. Coinciding with coffee giant Kraft's Annual General Meeting, the campaign received wide media coverage around the world.

In May, thousands of Canadians joined Oxfam Canada's e-campaign to Canada's then Minister of Agriculture, Lyle Vanclief, in an effort to have Canada rejoin the International Coffee Organization in order to be part of a solution to the crisis.

With Oxfam's guidance, students at Memorial University, Simon Fraser, the University of British Columbia, the University of Saskatchewan, McMaster, University of Toronto, York, Western, Queens and Ryerson worked to have fair trade policies adopted on their campuses to ensure that fairly traded coffee is available.



George Sakwa holds arabica coffee cherries harvested from his family's small-holding on the slopes of Mount Elgon in Uganda.

Geoff Sayer



## Americas – Regional

Partner Advocacy	\$2,082
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## Andean Region

Integrated Change Initiative – Andean Region	\$7,546
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## Angola

ADRA	\$30,000
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## Canada

Grant to Build Oxfam's Policy Capacity	\$79,249
Make Trade Fair Campaign	\$33,450
Food Security	\$38,936
Roundtable on Food and Trade	\$2,500

## Central America and Mexico

Via Campesina	\$30,711
Joint Oxfam Programme	\$31,529
Red Maquila	\$55,188

## Chile

Women and Work Programme	\$36,500
Workshop for Cultural Action (TAC)	\$24,000
Education and Technology Center	\$14,000
Hexagrama	\$17,900
Labour Wedge Research	\$12,750

## Cuba

NGO Strengthening Programme II •	\$10,074
Agricultura Urbana Moron	\$43,958
Paisaje Comestible IV	\$24,005
DECAP – Vegetable Oil Project	\$27,202
International Events	\$32,651
Capacitacion Ciego Avila	\$40,342
Martin Luther King Centre	\$43,578
Intermon Project	\$18,133
ACPA Recuperation Avicola	\$46,408
Reconstruction Cienfuego	\$33,465

## Eastern Caribbean

Women and Work – Caribbean	\$5,000
Windward Islands National Farmers Association (WINFA)	\$38,000

## El Salvador

ORMUSA – Salvadoran Women for Peace	\$26,274
Campesina Women's Association	\$45,667
Mesa Permanente Rurales	\$28,849

## Ethiopia

Hundee - Cereal Banks Project	\$28,912
Pastoralist Concern Association Ethiopia	\$91,176
Women's Association of Tigray	\$11,556
Labour Poor Women Headed Household Pilot Project	\$354
Kembatta Women's Organisation	\$4,552
Sike-Civic Education & Sheep Rearing	\$15,544

## Relief Society of Tigray

Ruba Lomine Integrated Rural Development Programme	\$284,177
Degua Tembien Rural Development Programme	\$51,707
Benishangul – Gumuz Food Security Programme	\$40,996
Programme Development	\$1,650

## Guatemala

Coordination of Cooperatives and NGOs	\$25,593
Association of Women in Solidarity	\$25,641
Comision Negociadora de Tierra	\$12,013

## Guyana

Guyana Rice Producers Association	\$15,000
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## Mozambique

Association of Livestock and Agricultural Technicians (ATAP)	\$12,068
UCAM – Union of Agricultural Cooperatives of Marracuene	\$790
UNAC Veterinary Assistance	\$304,070
UNAC Rehabilitation of the Zambezie Valley	\$16,899
UNAC Strategic Planning	\$30,043
ATAP Sweet Potato and Cassava Project	\$248,386

## Namibia

Ben Hur Training Center	\$70,198
Center for Research – Information – Action in Africa	\$47,997
Namibia National Farmer Union	\$17,680
Lihepurura Kavango Trust	\$19,941
Komeho Namibia	\$16,794
Omaheke Integrated Development Programme	\$112,072
Omaheke Livelihoods Programme	\$223,234

# Fair and Sustainable

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## Nicaragua

Rural Women's Committee	\$30,000
Working and Unemployed Women's Movement	\$30,000
Federation of Women Farmers and Ranchers	\$50,649
National Federation of Cooperatives	\$30,766
Glebe Day Care (Nicaraguan Day Care support)	\$3,775

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## Peru

Institute for Occupational Health and Safety	\$50,000
Flora Tristan Women's Centre	\$27,350
Gender and Economy Group	\$15,000
Contribution Oxfam International Programme	\$4,048

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## South Africa

Eastern Cape Agricultural Research Project	\$22,000
Women on Farms Programme	\$22,000

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**Total** **\$2,893,580**

## Promoting drought-resistant crops

In many parts of Africa, climate change has made life even more difficult for small-scale, subsistence farmers. However, with the promotion of drought-resistant varieties of seeds native to the region, people are beginning to see improvements in their crop production and the nutrition levels of their families.

In Mozambique, Oxfam has worked with the National Farmers Union to make drought-resistant varieties of sweet potato and cassava available. Nine thousand people are benefiting from the distribution and promotion of these seeds which provide food-crops rich in essential vitamins and minerals like Vitamin A.



Chris Martin (*left*) and Jonny Buckland of the rock group Coldplay pose for photographers before presenting Oxfam's *Big Noise* petition to the head of the World Trade Organization during WTO meetings in Cancun Mexico. More than 4 million people have joined the *Big Noise* to help Make Trade Fair. Oxfam's advocacy and policy work at Cancun helped developing countries stand up to the unfair trade practices of the United States and the European Union.

All people have the right to services like health and education. We support people in their efforts to obtain these basic services as well as advocating for the availability of medicines and campaigning for worldwide access to basic education.

## Oxfam faces the AIDS pandemic

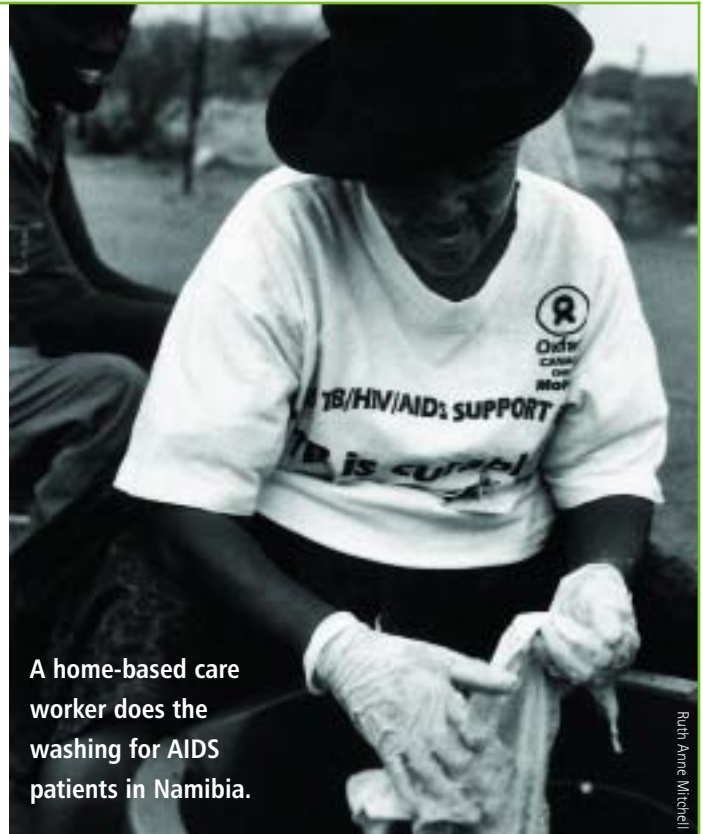
Zimbabwe has over a million AIDS orphans – but there has been no noticeable increase in the number of street kids. This startling fact underlines how Africa is coping with AIDS. Within their means, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins and remote kinfolk protect and support family and friends hit by AIDS. But Africa's traditional support systems are being stretched to the breaking point.

The impact of AIDS is 'like a stake through the heart of African culture', says Jim MacKinnon, Oxfam Canada's Southern Africa Programme Coordinator. More teachers, nurses and other skilled workers must be trained, because up to 25% of every class will be dead before they graduate. Fewer hands are able to till the soil or engage in petty commerce – and economic hardship increases. All the while people are dying for lack of the affordable medicines we take for granted in Canada.

All of Oxfam's programming in Africa has been transformed to take into account the impact of AIDS. AIDS affects our work in situations of famine, our collaboration with farmers' associations, our community education and mobilization efforts. And it profoundly affects our work to support the democratic voice of those affected, since open discussion of sexuality is uncommon.

## Home-based care offers support in Namibia

In south-central Namibia, Oxfam Canada supports the work of the Omaheke Health Education Programme (OHEP). Omaheke is an arid region dotted by small,



A home-based care worker does the washing for AIDS patients in Namibia.

Ruth Anne Mitchell

informal settlements. Fifteen to twenty percent of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS. Many other diseases related to poor nutrition and basic hygiene are also prevalent in a place where there is no water.

OHEP provides HIV/AIDS education and also operates a successful programme to lower the local incidence of tuberculosis. AIDS sufferers in the area most often die of dehydration and starvation because they are unable to care for themselves. OHEP distributes water by van and trains villagers to become home-based care workers. These workers provide palliative care services or help nurse people back to better health so they can return to active life. In the process they are helping to break down the stigma of the disease in their communities.

*"In one small village I was ushered into the hut of a man dying of AIDS. It was cold outside and dust was blowing through the doorway. He was lying on a mat on the dirt floor, too weak to sit up but he was insistent on shaking my hand. The homecare workers from OHEP are his only support. They come every day to feed, wash him and change the dressings on his sores. They wash his clothing and bring him water to drink."*

–Ruth Anne Mitchell, Oxfam Canada

# Basic and Necessary

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Horn of Africa – Regional  
HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy Research \$2,742

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Namibia  
Omaheke Health and Nutrition Programme \$372,447  
Namibia Housing Action Group \$3,384

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Southern Africa – Regional  
Capacity Building \$2,502

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South Africa  
Masimanyane Women’s Support \$16,000  
HIV/AIDS Orphans \$3,000  
PSV Cirque du Soleil \$250

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**Total \$400,325**

## Generic medicines offer hope for poor countries

For many years, Oxfam has campaigned internationally for changes to international rules governing patents on life-saving medicines. Finally, in August, the World Trade Organization reached an agreement designed to limit the harm to public health caused by these rules. In the fall, the Canadian government became the first government to act on the WTO agreement, drafting legislation that will allow for the export of cheaper, generic drugs to developing countries.

Oxfam Canada, along with four other NGOs was invited to comment on the draft legislation. We urged the framers of the law not to restrict coverage to certain diseases or to emergency situations since medicines are urgently needed for multiple ailments and disease must be curtailed before it becomes a crisis.

Clearly, many Canadians shared our concerns. Thousands of people joined our e-action to Canada’s Industry Minister, often sending their own passionate and articulately argued messages as to why the legislation should be improved and then passed into law as quickly as possible. It really is a matter of life or death.

Oxfam Canada’s Michelle Beveridge (left) and Audra Krueger join Stephen Lewis, United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, at an Oxfam-sponsored event in Saskatoon.



Oxfam



## World's Biggest Lesson draws attention to the need to get girls into school

In April, more than a million people in over 100 countries learned about the importance of educating girls and women in languages ranging from Amharic to Danish and Bangla to KiSwahili setting the Guinness World Record for the world's largest simultaneous lesson. The lesson was organized by the Global Campaign for Education, made up of over 400 groups from across the world including Oxfam Canada and the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

The lesson took place as the world's finance and development ministers gathered in Washington for World Bank meetings. On the agenda was the goal of ending gender disparity in education by 2005 and getting all children an education by 2015.

Girls look forward to the opportunity to go to school in Afghanistan.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan endorsed the record breaking lesson noting that, "the fact that millions are still deprived of (education) – most of them girls – should fill us all with shame. Currently 110 million children are out of school and two thirds of them are girls. Studies have repeatedly shown that educating girls is the key to better family health, economic growth and lower rates of child mortality and malnutrition.

An Oxfam International report card on education released in December, ranked Canada the best of the G8 nations when it came to supporting education priorities around the world but all governments, rich and poor, need to do better.

All people have the right to live free from fear of displacement or harm due to wars, crime and other violence. Oxfam Canada provides aid to communities affected by war or natural disasters, supports communities to prevent human rights abuses and advocates on issues that impact people's right to live safely.

We also support longer-term work to help people prepare for natural disaster and mitigate the effects when it occurs.

## Oxfam's response to the war in Iraq

Along with other members of Oxfam International, Oxfam Canada was outspoken in our opposition to the war in Iraq. We were concerned about the welfare of Iraqi people, global governance and regional stability. Oxfam members and volunteers across the country took part in demonstrations against the war and applauded the Canadian government's decision to stay out of military action and respect multilateral processes. After the war started, our message was that international humanitarian law must be upheld and that the war's impact on civilians must be minimized.

Oxfam volunteers join the crowd in Toronto to protest the looming war in Iraq.

When the Iraqi regime fell and the 'official' fighting ended, we were part of a joint-Oxfam emergency response to provide aid to the Iraqi people and to help repair and restore vital infrastructure and social services.

An Oxfam International team of engineers and health staff worked closely with local Iraqi authorities to establish clean water and sanitation systems and to address public health issues. In the southern Iraqi city of Nassiriyah, the Oxfam team restored primary health care facilities and made urgent repairs to water and sewage systems. Regrettably, in late August, Oxfam was forced to pull our international staff out of the country due to the deteriorating security situation, the very concern that made us oppose the war in the first place. Iraqi staff continue to implement our emergency efforts as the security situation allows. Unfortunately, it is the Iraqi people who continue to suffer.





Workers prepare Oxfam Canada seed packs for distribution in Zimbabwe.

## People in Afghanistan begin to build new lives

More than two decades of conflict in Afghanistan have severely damaged the country's political, social and economic landscape. Oxfam Canada is supporting an integrated development programme in the country run by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC). Through micro-finance, education, health and capacity building, the programme is bringing hope to people in Afghanistan who have long been deprived of meaningful opportunities to improve their lives.

The micro-finance programme is divided up into village organizations of 25 to 35 women from the same neighbourhoods. The women work together to choose the best enterprises to invest in to make a better living.

The education component of the programme has increased the enrollment of girls and is promoting women teachers in the primary education sector. As of September, the programme was operating in 83 schools with 2,753 students.

The health initiative includes basic preventive health and nutrition programmes, antenatal and post-natal care, family planning services, immunization for children and women, tuberculosis control, water and sanitation education, and basic curative care. The programme runs three fixed and 98 mobile clinics throughout the country.

It's important that local people build up their capacity

to manage programmes effectively. BRAC's Afghanistan Training Centre has provided training to 102 micro-finance workers, 211 educators and 332 health workers.

## Providing emergency seeds in Zimbabwe

The people of Zimbabwe continue to suffer from the triple threat of recurring drought, the AIDS pandemic and a hostile and divisive political environment.

Chronic food shortages are now a constant fact of life in what was once considered the bread-basket of Southern Africa. The problem is made worse by disruptive and uneven land redistribution and shortages of seeds.

Oxfam Canada's Emergency Seeds Programme was designed to help people avert hunger and gain food security by making seeds available to poor farmers in the most drought-prone areas of the country. Farmers received maize, small grains, and various vegetable seeds. The mix of seed was decided through careful consideration of the varying ecologies of different regions, crop maturing patterns, the diverse needs of the farmers, the most appropriate seeds for unpredictable weather conditions and the specific nutritional considerations of people infected by HIV/AIDS.

More than 70,000 farmers have benefited from the programme of which 61% were women.

<b>Afghanistan</b>	
BRAC Afghanistan Programme	\$300,000
<b>Angola</b>	
Emergency Water and Sanitation Programme	\$18,016
<b>Canada</b>	
Public Education on IRAQ	\$959
<b>Cuba</b>	
Emergency Hurricane Response	\$136,733
<b>Ethiopia</b>	
Gudina Tumsa Foundation Emergency Restocking	\$278,930
<b>Iraq</b>	
Humanitarian Mission	\$1,000
Water and Sanitation Programme	\$76,559
<b>Mozambique</b>	
UNAC Empowerment and Mitigation	\$69,990
<b>Namibia</b>	
Emergency Seeds Programme	\$105,350
<b>Nicaragua</b>	
Humboldt Centre	\$169,850
Housing Reconstruction (MEC)	\$149,546
<b>Sudan</b>	
Southern Sudan Water and Sanitation Programme	\$333,638
<b>Tajikistan</b>	
Tajikistan Food Security Programme	\$146,342
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	
Farm Community Trust	\$237,155
Emergency Seeds Programme •	\$980,581
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,004,649</b>

## Innovations in disaster preparedness

The Humboldt Centre in Nicaragua is an Oxfam partner that works in 20 municipalities helping people create disaster preparedness plans. The Centre also works at the national level helping to improve the country's disaster response coordination system. In Posoltega, a vulnerable municipality that was devastated by Hurricane Mitch, a community mapping programme has helped people identify evacuation routes and safe areas for refugees should another disaster strike.

All of the communities now have radios and early warning systems. As one local proudly stated, "*Preparedness is the key to our community's development.*" Supporting disaster preparedness programmes like this in vulnerable communities around the world is one of Oxfam Canada's key goals over the next five years.

Oxfam water engineers repair the water system in Nassiriyah, Iraq.



Alex Renton





People in Ethiopia are gaining access to the information they need to improve their lives.

Elizabeth Ballard

All people have the right to have a say in major decisions affecting their lives. We support people to work together to have their voices heard.

## Information's power to transform people's lives

Information and knowledge are crucial for poor people to manage their environment, improve their agricultural production, learn better health practices and protect themselves and their families. When people have knowledge they also gain a voice.

Illubabor is one of the most inaccessible regions of Ethiopia located in the south-western part of the country. Families there expressed a need for better information on such important issues as how to sell their produce, how to set up small businesses, and what measures to take against common diseases.

With the support of Oxfam Canada, 12 rural communities in Illubabor now have community information resource centres. Through books, audio tapes, and video tapes, local people now have access to information to help them improve their lives. We are looking to expand this resource into other communities.

### Americas – Regional

Partner advocacy	\$28,029
Andean Presence	\$20,000
Programme Development	\$13,647
Programme Support	\$12,238

### Canada

Advocacy Policy Work	\$2,500
Africa Canada Forum	\$2,600
Canadian Advocacy and Action	\$5,580
Youth Mines Action Ambassador Programme	\$4,000

### Chile

Center for Regional Studies (SER)	\$50,000
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### Cuba

Group for the Integrated Development of the Capital	\$10,022
Graciela Bustillos	\$15,107
NGO Strengthening II •	\$18,525
Educadores Populares NGO	\$19,917
Talleres de Transformacion	\$14,938
Capacity Building NGO II •	\$19,319
Talleres de Transformacion III	\$36,305
Cieri – La Bruja Project	\$17,819
Martin Luther King Centre	\$38,276
Oxfam International SOUTH/SOUTH FUND	\$15,440
Oxfam International Development and Research Fund	\$6,954

# Hear and Be Heard

## Djibouti

ADEC – Youth Association	\$8,512
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## Eastern Caribbean

Caribbean Policy Development Centre	\$39,500
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## Ethiopia

Hundee – Cereal Banks Project	\$28,912
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Pastoralist Forum	\$4,689
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Asset-Based Community Development	\$36,284
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Sike Organization Capacity Building	\$9,818
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Capacity Building Programme	\$48,503
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Illubabor Community Library	\$34,009
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Association of Community Organizations of Dire Dawa	\$13,464
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Society for the Advancement of Human Rights	\$25,446
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Guraghe People's Self-Help Association	\$14,020
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Voluntary Sector Project	\$2,551
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Film Festival	\$1,718
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Ethiopian Association for Voluntary Services	\$57,106
--	----------

Community Radio Programme	\$10,277
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Manual for Community Resources	\$267
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Organizational Development Programme	\$87,158
--------------------------------------	----------

Knowledge for Community Transformation Project	\$5,939
---	---------

Intersector Partnership Fund	\$84,261
------------------------------	----------

Assessment of Interaction between Government/Civil Society	\$6,903
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## Guatemala

Women's Sector	\$3,297
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## Mozambique

Joint Oxfams Programme	\$40,032
------------------------	----------

Forum Mulher	\$21,886
--------------	----------

Women and Law in South Africa	\$6,882
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Magariro	\$2,700
----------	---------

## Namibia

!NARA Training Centre	\$39,000
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Corridor Craft Group	\$10,172
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## Somalia

Hargeisa Volunteer Youth Committee	\$10,070
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Radio Galcayo	\$21,359
---------------	----------

Somali Women Concern	\$8,950
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## Sudan

South Sudan Law Society	\$9,256
-------------------------	---------

Yambio Women Association	\$9,589
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## South Africa

Anti-Privatization Forum	\$9,500
--------------------------	---------

## Zimbabwe

Amani Trust	\$79,183
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Matabeleland Aids Council	\$30,000
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SAFAIDS	\$37,424
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Capacity Building	\$4,049
-------------------	---------

FOSNET	\$4,627
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,218,529</b>
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## The Right to have Rights

With Oxfam's support, the Chilean Centre for Regional Studies (SER) has carried out an extensive awareness campaign on the 'right to have rights.' Political power in Chile was extremely centralized for a long time hindering communities' capacities to grapple with problems of poverty at the local level. Although some decentralization has taken place the process has bogged down.

SER's campaign extended into 28 different counties in Southern Chile. It motivated people to reach out across barriers that traditionally separated them (like age, geography and gender) to work together to solve common problems. The campaign is beginning to build an effective, regional citizen's body with sufficient legitimacy to face authorities and advocate for change.



Norah Motavu leads an Oxfam Canada sponsored workshop on advocacy in Sudan in December 2003.



## Creating change through research and policy development

Oxfam has provided funding to the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) since it was founded in 1992 by a consortium of local organizations. The CPDC is the region's leading voice on regional development issues. It proposes alternative development policies, advocates on regional integration issues, trains national NGOs, and promotes alternative financing for its members and the establishment of an NGO data bank. CPDC's membership numbers more than 150 organizations across the region representing tens of thousands of people in the Caribbean.

In 2003, the CPDC undertook research on the World Trade Organization, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the Cotonou Agreement and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy. In public policy fora, CPDC argued in favour of measures that would benefit vulnerable people such as special and differential trade arrangements for small island states, better

Giant heads of the G8 leaders have a breakfast of dumped US corn and subsidized European milk to demonstrate how international trade practices hurt developing countries like the small island nations in the Caribbean. (Cancun, Mexico)

market access for local produce and the free movement of labour in the region. In recognition of the relevance and quality of their analysis, CPDC representatives were invited to sit on advisory committees at the Association of Caribbean States, the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development, and the World Bank.

CPDC also wrote draft legislation to govern the operations of NGOs in the region that will shape and elevate civil society's participation in national development. Four countries have already indicated their desire to enact the legislation while two others have expressed interest. St. Lucia's President instructed his Attorney General to have the legislation in place by year's end.

# Equal, Free and Fair

All people have the right to live free from discrimination. Oxfam works to support people's rights to equity and to cultural identity. In particular, our work with women to improve their lives has long been at the core of our programmes.



Women are struggling to overcome unequal relations of power in South Africa.

## Making media work for women

Agenda is a feminist media group in South Africa that is committed to giving women a forum, a voice and skills to transform unequal relations between women and men in the country. Among their programmes is a weekly, 15 minute, news show for community radio. To date, 27 South African radio stations broadcast the show which is produced in English, Zulu, Sotho and Xhosa. Distribution has now been expanded to Zimbabwe and Namibia and a weekly news service is being provided to other African countries.

## Television Soap Opera promotes equity

Several of Oxfam's partner organizations in Central America are working on issues of violence against women and children. One of our partners, Puntos de Encuentro in Nicaragua, uses a mass media approach to promote equitable relationships between men and women, children, young people and adults.

Puntos' quarterly publication, *La Boletina* is distributed through 500 different organizations, and reaches nearly 120,000 readers. Issues covered this past year ranged from the US - Central American Free Trade Agreement to the Equal Opportunity Law, from sexual and reproductive rights to the effect of government agricultural policy on rural women and their property rights.

Perhaps their most wide-reaching and popular programme, however, is their television soap opera. The show covers the serious issues Puntos wishes to address in a dramatic way. In its timeslot, the show is watched by approximately 70% of the general television audience.

## Women take on more decision-making

In Cuba, rural women have traditionally had little access to decision-making processes in farmers' organizations. As part of an initiative to strengthen women's leadership within the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP) and its member cooperatives, rural women have received leadership training. Women's power in decision-making within the agricultural cooperatives is now gradually increasing.

Women take on more decision-making roles in Cuba's agricultural sector.



Dick Evans

### Americas – Regional

Women's Initiatives	\$27,714
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### Central America and Mexico

Women and Rights Programme	\$13,690
----------------------------	----------

### Cuba

Association of Small Farmers (ANAP)	\$43,331
Video Rural Women	\$34,966
Graciela Realce Mujer Serrana	\$30,926
Video La Quasima Otros	\$3,098

### Eastern Caribbean

Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action	\$30,000
Working Women for Social Progress	\$20,000

### Guatemala

Tierra Viva	\$28,519
Red de la No Violencia	\$13,964
KAQLA	\$15,452

### Guyana

Amerindian Peoples Association	\$20,000
--------------------------------	----------

### Mozambique

Forum Mulher	\$21,886
Women and Law in South Africa	\$6,882
Magariro	\$2,700

### Namibia

Sister Namibia	\$58,500
----------------	----------

### Nicaragua

Between the Volcanoes Foundation (FEV)	\$20,513
Puntos de Encuentro	\$29,952
Network of Women against Violence	\$55,401

### Peru

Ayacucho Coordinating Body for Work with Women	\$15,000
Institute for Local Development	\$20,000

### South Africa

Red and White Ribbon Campaign – NISAA	\$55,000
Rape Crisis Centre	\$30,000
Built Environment Support Group (BESG)	\$31,000
Agenda	\$27,000
IDASA – Women's Budget Initiative	\$30,000
Gender Advocacy Programme	\$30,000
Justice and Women (JAW)	\$30,000
Domestic Violence Assistance Programme	\$20,000
Khanya College	\$20,000
Partner Support and Monitoring	\$23,226
Oxfam Workshop	\$2,947

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$811,667</b>
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# Thanks to Our Supporters

Oxfam Canada would like to acknowledge the generous financial support we received for our programmes during fiscal year 2002 – 2003 from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as well as members of the Oxfam International family.

We would also like to thank the many individuals, organizations, foundations and businesses whose continuing commitment and support make our work possible.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the time and effort put in by our members and volunteers across the country. Without their tireless work, Oxfam Canada could not function.

*Thank you.*

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Oxfam volunteers and staff prepare to drop off coffee-action cards to Kraft Canada.

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– continued on page 22

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Fresh vegetable gardens improve nutrition in Cuba.

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64 donors wished to remain anonymous.

# Financial Statements

Oxfam Canada is incorporated under the laws of Canada.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	September 30	
	2003	2002
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 2,168,968	\$ 3,134,401
Short-term investments	1,750,000	1,750,000
Accounts receivable	903,284	1,040,012
Prepaid expenses	62,961	122,311
	4,885,213	6,046,724
<b>LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS</b>	213,500	213,500
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	470,828	478,329
	\$ 5,569,541	\$ 6,738,553
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 427,559	\$ 587,748
Deferred revenue	3,161,361	4,119,553
	3,588,920	4,707,301
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in capital assets	470,828	478,329
Endowments	86,082	84,638
Internally restricted	1,044,890	1,000,000
Unrestricted	378,821	468,285
	1,980,621	2,031,252
	\$ 5,569,541	\$ 6,738,553

(see NOTE 1)

## STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

	Year Ended September 30	
	2003	2002
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Donations	\$ 5,255,087	\$ 5,145,357
Bequests	194,890	470,446
Grants and contributions		
Canadian International Development Agency	4,998,888	6,012,869
Non-government organizations	1,082,652	948,510
Other Oxfams	2,342,355	2,438,356
Other governments	122,264	317,821
Interest	69,990	59,006
Miscellaneous	267,470	243,558
	14,333,596	15,635,923
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Operating		
Overseas projects	9,219,482	10,653,910
Overseas project management	1,417,881	1,276,669
Domestic projects	77,926	99,848
Education and public affairs	968,172	695,945
Unrealized foreign exchange loss	220,785	17,019
	11,904,246	12,743,391
Program support		
Administration	843,984	783,451
Fund raising	1,637,441	1,832,955
	2,481,425	2,616,406
	14,385,671	15,359,797
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$ (52,075)	\$ 276,126

(see NOTE 2)

NOTE 1) **Comparative figures:** Certain 2002 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for 2003.

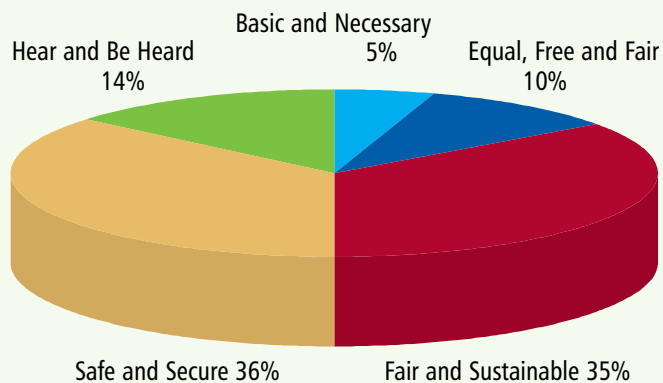
NOTE 2) **Oxfam Canada's statement on "Unrealized Loss":** Due to the accounting requirement to recognize the change in value of all funds held in foreign currencies (mostly US dollars), and arising from the dramatic decrease in the value of the US dollar in relation to the Canadian dollar, an unrealized exchange loss is included here. Oxfam receives a significant proportion of its funding in US dollars and transfers these funds to partners overseas in the same currency. Thus, there is no loss of funds available to support partners, but a non-cash expense must be shown in our statements.

The "unrealized loss" relates to the change in value in Canadian dollars of the funds held at the end of the year in relation to their value (in Canadian dollars) when they were received. It is unrealized because the value will continue to change according to the exchange rate until the funds are spent by sending them to partners.

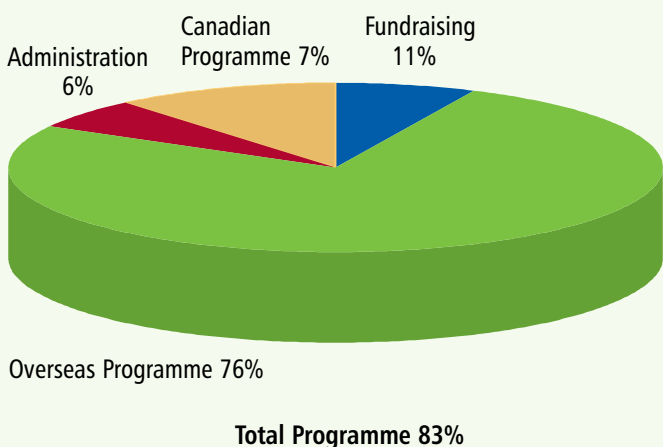
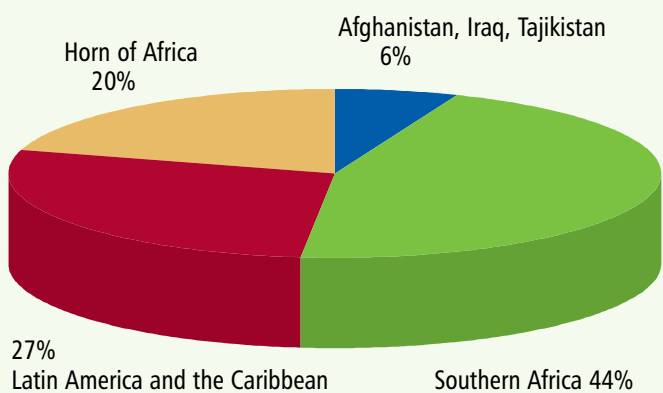
For a full copy of Oxfam's audited financial statements call our Finance Department at (613) 237-5236.

La version française de ce rapport annuel (texte seulement) est disponible sur notre site web: [www.oxfam.ca](http://www.oxfam.ca).

## Oxfam Canada spending by programme aim



## Oxfam Canada programme spending by overseas region



Inspecting greenhouse gardens in Cuba.

## Here's how your donations worked at Oxfam Canada in 2003

**Overseas Programme:** Project support and funds for implementing, managing and monitoring work overseas.

**Canadian Programme:** Education, advocacy, outreach and linking issues at home and abroad.

**Fundraising:** Raising money, finding new donors, producing literature, receipting and responding to inquiries.

**Administration:** General office costs, financial services, governance and other essential functions.



**Oxfam**  
**Canada**  
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Toronto, Saskatoon, Vancouver  
OVERSEAS OFFICES: Managua, Nicaragua;  
Havana, Cuba; Maputo, Mozambique;  
Windhoek, Namibia; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

For more information, please see Oxfam  
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