

Voices for CHANGE



>>> DONOR NEWSLETTER >>> WINTER 2016 >>> OXFAM.CA >>>



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Message from Julie

Recently I was in Tanzania visiting some projects that you help make possible as a supporter. The women in the village were so excited to meet someone from Oxfam Canada. They were incredibly grateful to our generous donors for providing them with tools to start their own businesses.

It was inspiring to see firsthand how your support has

helped give these women more economic independence and a greater role in decision-making in what had always been a very male dominated culture. Your support brings profound hope and change all over the world.

Thank you for all that you do,

Julie Delahanty

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

Poverty, hunger and disease set to worsen in 2016 with El Niño

In Ethiopia's Siti region, Buho Asowe Eye has watched drought turn pasture land to dust, killing off the majority of her herd of 210 goats, sheep and camels. Without water and without animals or milk to sell, her family is desperate.

“The water [when wells are dug] is retreating deeper and deeper. Without water we are no more. If we can sustain our lives, it is because Oxfam gave us water. My greatest fear is if the trucks stop bringing

water. What will happen to us?”

This year's El Niño could become the most powerful on record, causing soaring temperatures and prolonging the current drought. The outlook for millions of vulnerable people like Buho Asowe Eye is devastating hunger, disease and homelessness. In Ethiopia alone, it's estimated that 10.2 million people will urgently need \$1.4 billion in aid in 2016.

Oxfam is on the ground responding to the crisis, planning to reach

Photo Credit: Oxfam



Buho Asowe Eye, Hariso IDP Center, Siti region, Ethiopia

777,000 Ethiopians with lifesaving access to clean water. We're also providing sanitation, emergency food, cattle vaccinations and livelihood support. However, Oxfam urgently needs help to scale up the response and push for greater food security that will save lives.

A message from Zimbabwe: help us wipe out cries of hunger, not crops

Zimbabwe's Ipaishe Masvingise is a force to be reckoned with. And last year at the UN Climate Conference in Paris she brought a powerful message to world leaders: we need action on climate change, now.

You may remember us telling you about Ipaishe. As a farmer, she has witnessed the worsening effect of climate change – particularly the dramatically changing weather patterns and unpredictable rainfalls.

“Farming is the only livelihood we have. We sell surplus food to pay for school and hospital fees.”

An irrigation project has dramatically changed the life of Ipaishe and other farmers in her home of Gutu. They now have a reliable water source when they need it, and are much better able to cope with changing weather.



Ipaishe at the UN Climate Conference, Paris 2015

Ipaishe is a testament to what small-scale farmers can do with just a modest sum of investment money. Her message to world leaders is to support people like her on the frontlines of the battle against climate change.

“I feel like I have a huge opportunity – and responsibility – to raise my voice for me, for my country and for Africa. It is a great honour.”

United Against Violence

Through our work in countries around the world, we know there can be deeply-rooted beliefs in the appropriate “roles” of men and women. Called “gender norms,” these beliefs cause girls to be treated differently than boys – with less access to education and work opportunities, for example.

These beliefs can also be the root cause of violence, where they dictate that a woman's life is

worth less than a man's. Or that girls must do what boys and men tell them to.

That is why Oxfam is excited to launch a new 5-year program, “Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence against Women and Girls,” in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada. In Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines, we will take action on violence against women and girls, and work to redefine the way people in communities think about gender.

With your support, we will make sure that the victims of violence



Photo Credit: Oxfam

Women in Nepal, one of the countries that will be part of the new program.

and their families find the help and safe space they need. We'll support women's economic empowerment – because women who can financially support themselves and their children are less trapped in a violent marriage. And we will encourage men, women and children to rethink gender, and to become champions of change.

Canadian Compassion at Work in Nepal

Last April, Oxfam donors like you acted swiftly in response to the devastating earthquakes in Nepal. Your generosity has reached more than 445,000 people in need!

With your support, in the weeks following the earthquake, we distributed emergency shelter kits and safe water. We built latrines. And made sure farmers could access rice seeds to replenish supplies that were destroyed.

And then we began the work of long-term recovery. If there is one ray of hope in this terrible situation, it is the opportunity to help Nepalese people reconstruct their homes, businesses and communities in a safer and more sustainable way.

Oxfam donors can now help us rebuild houses, and train women and men how to build themselves. You'll support work-creation programs to help people get back on their feet, and train them in new livelihoods. And you'll help create permanent safe water supplies and sanitation facilities for homes and schools.

We owe our donors a great deal of thanks for the overwhelming generosity you displayed last April – and encourage you to stick with us while we help the dedicated people of Nepal recover and thrive.

Over 35,000 people in Nepal have benefitted from Oxfam's chlorinated water distribution.

Photo Credit: Oxfam



Photo Credit: Oxfam

Fadia Asaf (left), Zula Ikha Ahmed (centre), Raca Asaf (right) and her son in the AL Janub co-op choosing goods with Oxfam vouchers.

Winter in the Camps

This winter, many Canadians have generously opened their doors and their hearts to Syrian families arriving in our country.

But as we approach the five year anniversary of the Syrian crisis, hundreds of thousands more have been left behind to struggle through another long, harsh winter in the Middle East.

Oxfam donors like you have generously supported our efforts to help these people, fleeing violence and starvation in their homeland.

In Jordanian refugee camps, your donations are helping us dig drainage tunnels to combat flooding. Oxfam teams go door to door, training families on what they can do to keep safe and dry. Outside the camp, we distribute heaters, gas cylinders and warm blankets.

In Lebanon, you've helped 450 families purchase fuel, tools, children's clothing and stoves.

For now, most refugees are unable to find work. For now, they are forced to rely on humanitarian aid. Oxfam won't forget these people. And we know our donors won't either.

