

Voices for CHANGE



OXFAM
Canada

>>> DONOR NEWSLETTER >>> SPRING 2023 >>> OXFAM.CA >>>

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Oxfam supporters care about **WHAT SHE MAKES**

*Irin, sewing clothes for western brands
and making just \$120 a month*

Take a look down at the shirt you're wearing. Most of us don't know the history behind our clothes. And in many cases, that history is dark.

When Irin first moved to Dhaka City, she was only 13 years old. She'd never been outside her village.

She had heard that she could get a job in the textile industry and earn enough to support herself and send money home to her parents.

But seven years later and she's in a worse situation than she was when she arrived.

"It is a very low paying job. It was not possible to save a penny for my family.

Now I have to take my daughter and move to a slum. The new rented house is terrible. There is one toilet for twenty families. There is water scarcity.

I used to sew the side of the t-shirts. In one hour, I made 80 pieces. But the target given by the supervisor was 1,200 pieces a day.

I am always suffering from disease. I hardly ever use the toilet in the factory. Textile workers cannot get enough nutritious food – we live on rice and lentils."

Irin made clothes for western brands, selling to buyers from Canada, America, Germany and many other countries.

Her last salary was 9,400 Taka – about \$120 Canadian – every month. Barely enough to live on.

Oxfam Canada is committed to promoting and upholding women's rights and gender equality and, we are particularly concerned that Canada meets global obligations under the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Your support is helping us prevent human rights abuses and worker exploitation right throughout the supply chain – demanding fair pay for the women who make the clothes we wear.

YOUR COMPASSION IN ACTION

People often ask how Oxfam's cash-transfer programs work.

In Kenya, you can see one of our Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer programs in action, and see how your gifts have been keeping families fed.

As you know, the arid and semi-arid counties in Kenya are prone to recurrent disasters like drought, flood and disease outbreaks. Rains have failed here for four years in a row. Communities are extremely vulnerable, and people are facing acute hunger.

Having lost most of the livestock they relied on, the people who live here are literally on the edge of destitution and death.

Oxfam in Kenya, along with our international and local partners, have funded a multi-purpose cash transfer program, distributing cash to the most vulnerable families impacted by drought, along with seniors and orphans in the community. So far, we've reached over 4,000 families since May 2022.

Here are the words of the people you've reached with this cash support...

"The cash transfer has really helped. I'm able to buy food for my kids."

Barey Ibrahim Korone outside of her home.



Photo Credit: Billy Owiti/Oxfam

Barey Ibrahim Korone at her local shop in Tula Tula, Wajir.



Photo Credit: Billy Owiti/Oxfam

"They are able to have food before going to school, unlike back then. I'm appealing for the cash transfer to continue." -Barey Ibrahim Korone, Tula Tula Village

"After I got disabled, life has been hard, especially with funds to access healthcare. When we have the cash, shopkeepers trust us with credit. They are lending us tea, milk and sugar. We even have a little for the kids' schooling." -Adan Hussein Mahmud, Genyure village

"With the cash, I'm able to pay for school fees, and buy medicine for my husband who has been ill for 4 years now and was our family's provider."

-Kamila Abdi Yusuf, Tula Tula Village

Thank you for your support of this vital program in Kenya and world-wide.

Photo Credit: Don Donelson/Shutterstock



Photo Credit: Loliwe Phiri/Oxfam



SURVIVAL OF THE RICHEST

It's the latest iteration of the old saying – “*Nero fiddled while Rome burned.*”

Right now, we are seeing the biggest increase in global inequality and poverty since World War 2. Entire countries face bankruptcy.

And one in ten people on this planet are going hungry.

Yet, since 2020, billionaires have seen extraordinary increases in their wealth. Their fortunes have increased by **\$2.7 billion a day**.

Two thirds of all new wealth have been captured by this richest 1%. And yet, the poorest people in many countries are paying higher tax rates than billionaires.

Think of this: Elon Musk, one of the world's richest men, paid a “true tax rate” of about 3% between 2014 and 2018. But Aber Christine, a flour vendor in Uganda who makes just \$80 a month, pays a tax rate of 40%.

It's not fair. It's not equitable. It's not just. And it can't continue.

It wasn't always this way. Taxes on the wealthiest used to be much higher. Over the last forty years, governments in many parts of the world have slashed the income tax on the rich – while increasing taxes on goods and services, which disproportionately hurt the poorest people.

This January, at World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Oxfam spoke up for a world in crisis.

With funding by our supporters worldwide, Oxfam conducted extensive research that reveals how inequality has exploded in country after country. And in country after country, media outlets have picked up the story – casting a global spotlight on this stark injustice.

The report also shows how a tax of just 5% on the world's multi-millionaires could change everything.

That tax could raise \$1.7 trillion, enough to lift 2 billion people out of poverty.

View or download Oxfam's report today at oxfam.ca/davos. And help us call for an end to a global financial system where only the richest can survive.

MAJDAH RISES

*Majdah, cooking
in a community
kitchen*

When a mortar hit her Syrian neighbourhood eight years ago, Majdah lost her leg.

Soon after that, she lost her husband. When he left her soon after the accident, Majdah thought that her life was over. She went back to her parents' house – as she describes herself – “broken and defeated.”

She didn't believe her family when they told her she would rise again.

But she did.

At first, Majdah couldn't find a job to support herself because of her disability. She and her parents had only her father's meagre retirement salary to live on.

“There were times when we couldn't find a single piece of bread in our house to eat.”

The day came when Majdah knew she had to do something – for her family's sake as well as

her own. She found a local charity who offered her a prosthetic limb. And then she started to think about what work she could do to make a sustainable income.

“I started thinking – what am I good at?”
And cooking became the answer to all her questions.

Majdah found a women-led initiative where a group of women established a kitchen to make food and sell it to private companies. On joining, she discovered a whole new family and created a new circle of trust.

Majdah's tone completely changes when she talks about her job. As well as security and happiness, she has found self-fulfillment. And as her colleagues say about her... *“She's a real fighter.”*

Your gifts help us fund Oxfam's cash-for-work programs. It provides much-needed opportunities for refugees like Majdah to earn an income.



Photo Credit: Dagmawi Tadesse/Oxfam

*Critical supplies
bound for Tigray and
Afar- December 2022*

DELIVERING CRITICAL SUPPLIES IN CONFLICT-TORN ETHIOPIA

We asked, and you were there. Like Oxfam Canada supporters always are.

In these photos you will see Oxfam teams last December, loading trucks carrying water, sanitation and hygiene supplies bound for Tigray and Afar.

The shipment included soap, water basins, jerry cans, sanitary products, and other critical supplies. Oxfam teams are distributing these to internally displaced people, and those impacted by the ongoing conflict here.

Those shipments were funded by donors like you.

Destay Sisay and her daughters and mother fled their rural village in Northern Ethiopia in July 2021. They've been living in an Internally Displaced Persons camp in Debark since early 2022 – where they share a small tent with 3 other families.

It's hard for Canadians to wrap our heads around what conditions in these camps are like. But know that

you are making a difference by getting food aid and hygiene equipment into these camps as swiftly and regularly as we can.

With November's Cessation of Hostilities act, routes for humanitarian aid have opened up. But the need here is overwhelming. And the response of wealthy countries has been pale in comparison to the scale of the humanitarian crisis.

Families like Destay's are benefitting from the work of Oxfam and our local partners. These partners know exactly what kind of support is needed, and where and when it will be most effective.

Working in partnership, with respect and solidarity – that's the way Oxfam has always worked. Listening to the people we are supporting. Respecting that they know best, and that their voices are vital in how we deliver aid and support.

And that's why each donation you give has so much impact. It funds the right type of aid, at the right time, and gets straight to the people who need it most.

WHY MONTHLY GIVING MATTERS



If you're already an Oxfam Canada SharePlan monthly donor, you know this is the best way to keep vital projects going, to reach more people and to fight poverty at its roots. We are extremely grateful to our community of SharePlan monthly donors.

It is incredible to know you will be there when we need you most.

If you haven't already, please consider donating monthly to help us fund what is sure to be another difficult year for many.

Reach out to **Arushana Sunderaeson** for any questions or to discuss the many benefits in joining us as a monthly donor, at **1-800-466-9326 ext. 2212** or email arushana.sunderaeson@oxfam.org.

THE IMPACT OF SHARING

Everything Oxfam does is based on the concept of collective action.

We work collectively with in-country partners, with women's rights organizations and small-scale cooperatives, with national NGO's and governments, with Oxfam's 19 affiliates. And, of course, with our valued and dedicated supporters.

One collective action that we're deeply proud of is the Impact Fund, where donors come together to have the greatest impact.

Donors, current and former board members, and staff all contribute to the Impact Fund, bringing important financial resources to our advocacy

campaigns, long-term development projects, and humanitarian relief work.

One way our supporters do this is by offering to match donations in some of our fundraising campaigns, like last year's Giving Tuesday, raising \$120,000 alone.

Through the Impact Fund and the generosity of donors like you, we have raised vital funds to act on the current hunger crisis in the Horn and East and Central Africa, while keeping up the pressure in our advocacy and feminist agenda.

As ever, Oxfam is only as strong as the dedication of our supporters. And we couldn't be more grateful.

