

CLIMATE CHANGE

ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

crucial for
protecting people and livelihoods.



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樂施會
OXFAM
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無窮世界
World
Without
Poverty

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Oxfam friends,

The world faces the Decade of Division: the climate emergency and runaway inequality.

At Oxfam, we recognise that climate change, poverty, and inequality are interconnected and interdependent. The world's poorest people are disproportionately affected by its consequences. Additionally, climate change is affecting access to drinking water and sanitation, which are essential for health and hygiene. Women, who are the primary caregivers and water managers in households, bear the brunt of water scarcity due to reduced rainfall, droughts and contamination caused by flooding. They are often excluded from decision-making spaces and climate change negotiations.

As the impacts of the climate crisis accelerate, it is increasingly urgent to support people living in poverty and impoverished communities on the frontlines to adapt to it. As climate change worsens, the task of eradicating poverty becomes even more challenging. By enhancing people's adaptive capacity and building their resilience, we can protect lives and promote sustainable livelihoods development.

Last year, on the eve of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), we released a case study titled 'Climate Adaptation in Asia - Local Actions of Eight Urban and Rural Communities.' This study examines the climate challenges faced by eight vulnerable urban and rural communities in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and other Asian countries and regions over the past few years. It also explores how these communities have fought against and adapted to a wide range of climate risks.

Meanwhile, Oxfam Hong Kong and our affiliates work closely with partner organisations and communities worldwide to address the climate crisis. We empower women to take on leadership roles in sustainable livelihoods development and in the planning and implementation of adaptation measures. Additionally, we strive to ensure that vulnerable and marginalised groups can meaningfully participate in decision-making processes related to adaptation. Furthermore, we advocate for climate justice, urging wealthy nations to fulfil their commitments in providing funding for impoverished countries to adapt to climate change.

The challenges posed by climate change and inequality necessitate collective efforts from all over the world. We appreciate your support. Together, we can create a more just and sustainable future for all.

With warm regards,

Kalina Tsang

Kalina Tsang
Director General



SMILE AT THE WORLD

|| BE A WARRIOR, NOT A WORRIER!

I can't
give up because
I have a grandson
to take care of.

Grandma Yang, a 67-year-old woman
from Eryuan County, Yunnan Province.

Life is not easy for any of us, but it is particularly difficult for me.

I had an accident and broke my leg and became disabled when I was little. When I first got married, my husband and I lived in a shabby hut. We worked hard every day, and gradually, our lives improved. Just when we thought the good times were finally coming, then, tragedy struck in 2014. My son died in a car accident, leaving behind his two-year-old son, Yongtao, for me and my husband to take care of. This sudden tragedy completely shattered my life, and for a long time, I couldn't recover from the trauma.

Every day, I wake up before 4 am to work out various tasks. I cut grass, feed the cows, milk them, prepare breakfast, take Yongtao to school, and work in the fields. Yongtao is a good boy, when he returns home from school every day, he always helps with cooking before doing his homework.

My husband was diagnosed with dementia. One day in September last year, he left home alone while I wasn't paying attention. We searched for him all night but couldn't find him. The next morning, he was found lying in a ditch. Although he was taken to the

hospital for rescue, he did not survive. His death was a huge blow to me and Yongtao. For several days after his passing, I locked myself in a room and refused to eat or drink. We had been married for 44 years and never had an argument. We supported each other through life's ups and downs.

Last year, during the Mid-Autumn Festival, Oxfam and its partners organised an event in our village and encouraged me to make mooncakes for elderly people in need. Having lived in this village my entire life and receiving a lot of support from fellow villagers, I wanted to give back.

I manage with the low-income assistance provided by the government. I also raise cows and grow crops for some income. I was worried because my threshing machine was broken. I am grateful to Oxfam for providing me with a rice and a soybean threshing machine. Oxfam also helped me sell 200 kilograms of rice at a price higher than the market value, allowing me to earn 1,120 Yuan.

No matter how difficult life is, I will continue to raise my grandson. Thank you for visiting me, encouraging me, and inviting me to your activities. Now, my heart feels more at ease.

Note: Oxfam works with its local partner HANDA Social Work Service Center to provide the most vulnerable groups in rural communities of Er Yuan County, Yunnan Province with psychosocial and livelihoods development support.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE: CRUCIAL FOR PROTECTING PEOPLE AND LIVELIHOODS.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION?

Climate change adaptation refers to a wide range of actions and strategies that help reduce vulnerability to current and future climate change impacts. It is an ongoing and iterative process that requires collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments, communities, businesses, and individuals. By integrating adaptation measures into policies and practices, societies can become more resilient and better equipped to face the challenges posed by a changing climate.



An Oxfam supported solar powered water pumping system for irrigation.



An Oxfam supported advocate for disaster risk reduction in Bangladesh.



A member of a women's self-help group supported by Oxfam is restoring a mangrove forest.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- New crop varieties and animal breeds
- Efficient irrigation
- Seed banks and conservation
- Drought or flood-resistant crop varieties

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

- Early warning systems
- Emergency response and early recovery
- Disaster preparedness management committee
- Conducting drills and training sessions

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

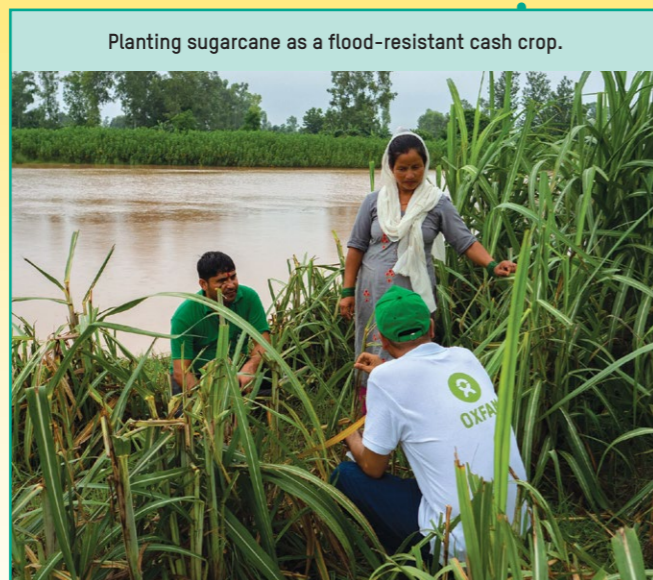
- Mangrove conservation and replanting in coastal areas
- Community based natural resource management
- Sustainable fisheries management

INSTITUTIONAL SOLUTIONS

- Local, national and regional adaptation plans
- Education to foster a sense of collective responsibility for adaptation strategies
- Advocacy and campaign to generate political will and mobilise resources for adaptation

ADAPTATION MEASURES FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

Oxfam's approach brings together experience in the areas of livelihoods, natural resource management, and disaster risk reduction, with robust decision making to manage uncertainty and risk, and to build adaptive capacity from household to national and global levels.



Planting sugarcane as a flood-resistant cash crop.



Oxfam provides training to fishermen on disaster preparedness.



WOMEN AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

First, they had nothing. Now, they have less.

That pretty well sums up the situation for women living on the front lines of the climate crisis. Poverty had long made their lives precarious, but now they face soaring temperatures, disruptions to the growing seasons, and devastating storms and floods, and their lives as women have taken a sharp turn for the worse.

Traditionally the caregivers of the family, women's access to education, incomes, and the enjoyment of basic rights has often been curtailed, and as the climate crisis intensifies, their struggles deepen.

Take Mosammat Kulsum, who lives on a char, a sandbar in the middle of the Jamuna River in Bangladesh. Floodwaters give life to the chars and then—over the course of years or sometimes in a single blow—they take it away.

Each time Kulsum sets down roots on the only land she can afford to live on, it is just a matter of time before the water comes for her. In the course of her lifetime, she has been displaced by floods and erosion more than 20 times, but the pace of change has accelerated dramatically: she was displaced three times in the past year.

Once she had two cows; now, she says, she has nothing. Nothing but a tiny plot of land on an island whose days are numbered. To put food on the table, she works as a farm labourer, but the midday heat is hard to bear. Her temperature and blood pressure rise and, she says, 'the fever doesn't leave me.'



Photo: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam

Mosammat Halima Begum (left) and Mosammat Kulsum live on a sandbar in the Jamuna River of Bangladesh. Both have been displaced by floods and erosion more than 20 times in their lives—mostly in the last ten years.

COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Oxfam supports community-led climate change adaptation projects globally, empowering people to cope with the impacts of climate change and reduce their vulnerability. We place a strong emphasis on community participation and mutual support, respecting local knowledge and experience. Our approach involves building partnerships with community members to collectively address the challenges posed by climate change.

CHINA

THE STORY OF A WOMEN'S HANDICRAFT GROUP

The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau located in China, is severely affected by climate change. Sudden snowstorms can have devastating effects on herders, resulting the loss of their livestock and pushing them into poverty overnight. Local herders said that due to dry pasture in spring and early summer and the grass grows badly, the yaks do not grow well and produce less milk. Consequently, their income is significantly reduced.

Within Jiatang grasslands, one of the largest grasslands in Yushu, Qinghai Province, nomadic communities are experiencing the negative impact of climate change. To address this, **Oxfam collaborates with local partners to support a women's handicraft group. This group utilises yak wool as raw materials to make handmade felt Tibetan foxes to generate additional income that is not affected by weather conditions.** This initiative aims to reduce vulnerability to poverty caused by disasters. The products crafted by the group have been exported to various locations, including Beijing, Hangzhou, and even overseas, including being showcased at COP15, the International Conference on Biological Diversity in Montreal.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Women empowerment
- An alternative income to reduce vulnerability

Photo: Qiubi/Oxfam

PROMOTING GREEN DEVELOPMENT

In recent years, Liugou Village in southern Shaanxi Province has experienced increasingly heavy rainfall, and the severity of floods has reached unprecedented levels. Villagers believe that climate change is the primary reason behind these occurrences.

Every villager in Liugou Village is a climate activist. Oxfam supports the villagers in establishing a disaster preparedness committee and implementing measures for reducing disaster risks. The villagers actively participate in preparedness and emergency response drills to brace themselves for disasters caused by extreme weather events. Additionally, they work together to clean up debris and silt in streams and other disaster prevention facilities, ensuring smooth water drainage during the rainy season and reducing the risk of flooding.

Oxfam also assists the villagers in planting organic tea leaves, utilising bio compost, and installing solar insecticidal lamps to minimise the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides and mitigate their environmental impact.

The villagers in Liugou firmly believe that mutual support within the community and sustainable green development will lead to a prosperous life. **Liu Juan, a villager, expressed her gratitude, saying, "I am very thankful to Oxfam for their support. They have taught me to consider agricultural development issues from the perspective of the entire village."**



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Community solidarity and shared responsibility
- Community-led risk reduction

Photo: Qiubi/Oxfam

NEPAL

GROWING A BRIGHT FUTURE



Tikeshwori, Secretary of the Progressive Seed Producers Farmers Field School in Doti district, Nepal.

Photo: Kishor Sharma / Oxfam

It used to rain on time, and during those times, the crops in the fields thrived. However, the current weather conditions are not favourable. There is insufficient rainfall, leading to droughts. On the other hand, excessive rainfall causes the plants to rot. Subsistence farmers face significant challenges. Since crop production has decreased, we have to buy food to feed our families.

Oxfam has provided us with training on cultivating different crops in separate plots. We have learned techniques such as soil enhancement, creating passages between plots, and practicing line sowing. We have also learned the importance of maintaining proper distances between plants. We have gained valuable knowledge and experience, and there is still much more for us to learn.

To foster agricultural and community development, we have set up the Progressive Seed Producers Farmers Field School and a women's group. We meet regularly to discuss issues that impact agriculture and the community as a whole. We are hopeful that the future holds better prospects for us. We work diligently to build a promising future for our children.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Promoting women and youth participation in community development
- Sowing diversity in improving food and nutrition security

INNOVATION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ADAPTATION

Ram Singh Air lives in the Baitaidi district in Nepal. A decade ago, he tragically lost his wife, three-year-old daughter, and one-year-old son in a devastating landslide.

In recent years, heavy rains have become more frequent and more destructive, posing villagers at greater risk of landslides triggered by extreme rainfalls. Oxfam observed that the district had only a flood early warning system in place. To enhance community resilience and preparedness against landslides, **Oxfam collaborated with local partners to develop a mobile app specifically designed for local use. By collecting data on temperature and rainfall patterns and mapping areas within two municipalities that are prone to landslides, we created a landslide early warning system accessible through villagers' mobile phones.** This system notifies villagers when the risk of landslides is high.

Ram wholeheartedly supports Oxfam's projects due to his own personal experience, and he actively encourages villagers' participation. Oxfam and its partners are currently working to enhance the system further, with the aim of expanding its coverage to additional locations.



Photo: Qiubi/Oxfam

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Disaster management and risk reduction
- Community's collective response



Photo: Qiubi/Oxfam

HONG KONG

TOO HOT TO BEAR

Low-income families in Hong Kong are often disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change, particularly extreme weather events. Residents of subdivided flats in the city face numerous challenges, including health issues due to extreme heat and poor living conditions. For example, Granny Hua, resides in a low-storey unit with only one window that looks out onto a nearby building, just centimeters away. She faces serious concerns regarding rubbish accumulation and rat infestations at home. During the scorching summer months, Granny Hua's husband often experiences discomfort due to the oppressive air within their subdivided room, leading him to seek relief elsewhere during the day.

Oxfam's research found that nearly 20% of subdivided units in Hong Kong lack windows. Moreover, 68% of surveyed subdivided families report that hot weather affects their daily lives, and 43% said that their physical conditions have deteriorated.

Oxfam advocates for the government to take action by providing transitional housing and establishing open shared spaces across the city's eighteen districts as an interim solution. Additionally, we have partnered with a mini-storage company to provide free storage for household items, improving living conditions for sub-divided flat residents.

Meanwhile, extreme weather exacerbated by climate change has

had a major impact on sanitation workers and their working environment. Since 2010, we have conducted researches on the working conditions of outdoor cleaners in extreme heat and successfully lobbied the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to incorporate guidelines for the "Prevention of Heat Stroke at Work in a Hot Environment" in outsourced tendering documents. This ensures that workers receive adequate rest, flexible working arrangements, and appropriate equipment to cope with high temperatures. We have also collaborated with other organisations to successfully lobby the government to establish a heat index, indicating when work should be halted during extreme heat to reduce the risk of heat stroke for workers. Additionally, we have distributed portable neck/waist fans to 4,000 sanitation workers, enhancing their ability to adapt to climate change and reducing the likelihood of heat-related illnesses.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Advocating for policy change
- Supporting grassroots families

MALAWI

HAPPY GARDEN



Photo: Aurélie Marrier d'Unienville/Oxfam

Zelesi, a mother of four, Malawi.

We are farmers. We work hard, we till the land, but the harvest was poor due to droughts and floods. We didn't have enough food; my children suffered from malnutrition. However, joining Oxfam's project proved to be a turning point for us. Through this initiative, we received valuable training on crop diversification and nutrition promotion. We're now growing a variety of vegetables in our gardens. **We have fresh vegetables to eat.** We have also formed a mother's group, where we share our newfound knowledge and provide mutual support to each other.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Food security through providing drought-resistant seeds and emergency cash
- Women empowerment through supporting them to develop small-scale businesses

BANGLADESH

THE POWER OF THE NEW GENERATION

In Bangladesh, a dedicated youth group has taken proactive measures to combat soil erosion by planning palm seedlings. With the support of Oxfam, this group is actively engaged in various disaster management activities. They work towards safeguarding farmland from floodwaters, conducting emergency evacuations, and distributing aid to those in need. The president of the group Mahadi Islam said, 'Community members trust us would take their concerns to the local administration.'

Oxfam supports The Asia Community Disaster Preparedness and Transformation (ACT) programme in Nepal, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines with an aim to reduce disaster risks through community-based activities in areas seriously affected by the climate crisis. By empowering local populations and fostering partnerships with local governments, the programme is assisting over 24,000 individuals across the four countries in assuming responsibility for safeguarding lives and minimising the repercussions of disasters.



Photo: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth led the way
- Bottom-up community participation

|| HUMANITARIAN WORK REPORT

Thank you for your support to Oxfam's humanitarian work over the last year.

Between 1 April 2023 and 29 February 2024, Oxfam Hong Kong allocated HK\$21,313,232 to implement 17 emergency projects in 10 countries and regions around the globe. These included humanitarian responses, recovery efforts and disaster prevention work. Here is a brief report on two emergency projects with public appeals.

TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE ONE YEAR ON

One year has passed since the devastating earthquake hit southern and central Türkiye and northern and western Syria on 6 February 2023. Oxfam has supported over two million people in collective centres and communities across Türkiye and Syria, with water, sanitation, and hygiene services, food and livelihood support, as well as gender and protection services.

Currently, our operations have shifted from providing live-saving aid to a longer-term recovery plan that seeks to improve and restore lives in the communities affected by the disaster. Our efforts include:

- ➔ Rehabilitating facilities and services to support people's sustainable development.
- ➔ Providing cash and materials to women's cooperatives, entrepreneurs, and rural farmers.
- ➔ Establishing dialogue channels with authorities and aid groups to help disaster-affected people especially women participate in reconstruction planning and decision making.



Oxfam builds toilets and sanitation facilities to protect the health and dignity of earthquake affected people especially women.



A mother and her two sons taking shelter in a tent receive food items provided by Oxfam.

Photo: Delizia Flaccavento/Oxfam