

INSPIRING A FUTURE WITHOUT POVERTY

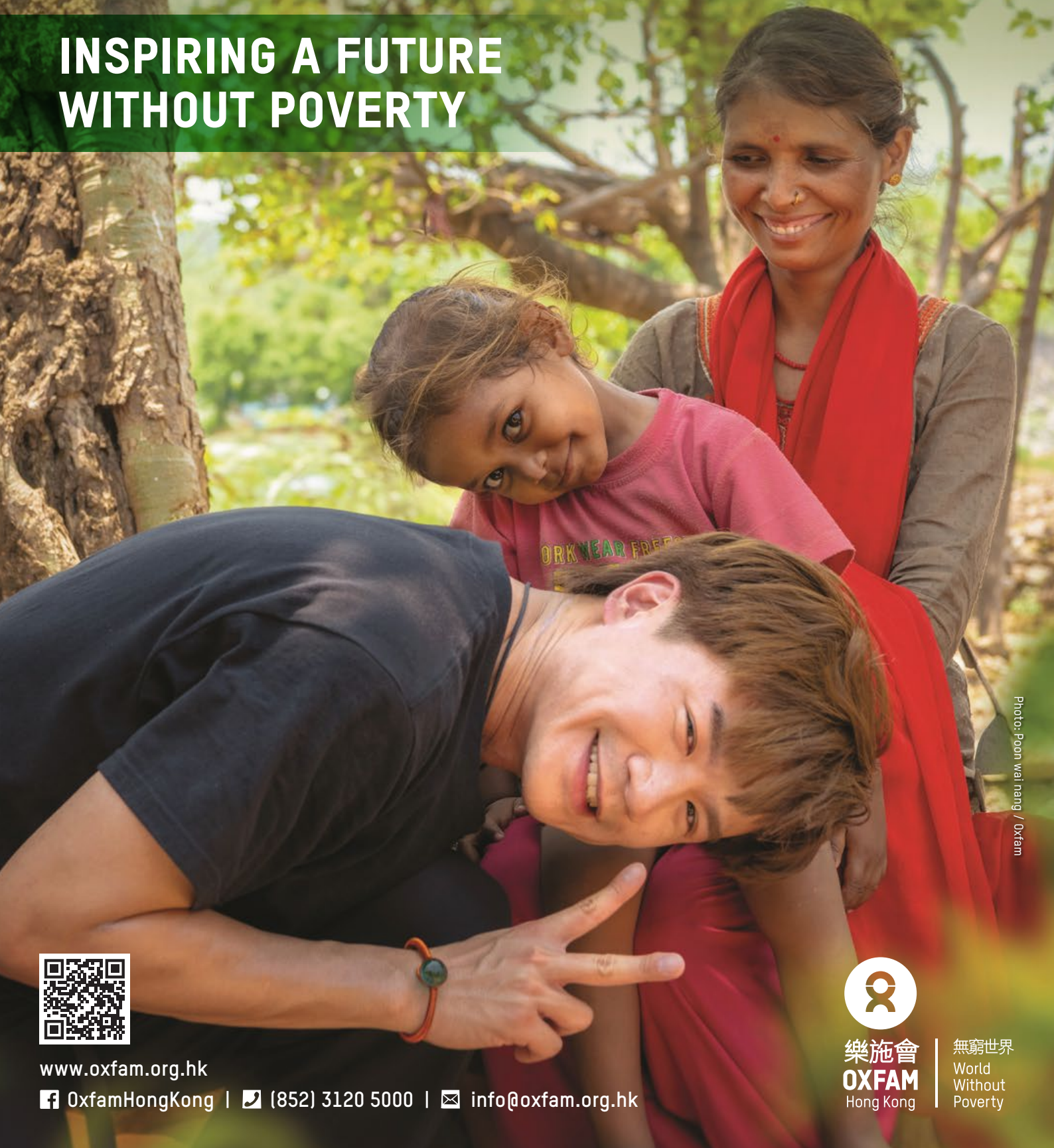


Photo: Poon wai nang / Oxfam



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樂施會
OXFAM
Hong Kong

無窮世界
World
Without
Poverty

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Dear Oxfam Friend,

I have been travelling over the past few months.

In June, I visited OHK's projects in the hilly villages of Nepal with Oxfam ambassador Andy Leung. The trip was fulfilling. We witnessed how floods and other natural disasters threaten local people's lives. Despite everything, they work together for a better future. Their positive outlook and resilience deeply touched us. Their smiles conveyed a message: "With your support, our lives have improved". These smiles keep us going.

My heartfelt thanks to Oxfam ambassador Andy for his support of Oxfam Hong Kong (OHK).

In August, when students enjoyed a long summer break, I returned to school for a short strategic management course at Harvard University. I am honoured to receive a scholarship awarded to leaders of non-profit organisations from the Harvard Business School Association of Hong Kong, and I fully embraced this opportunity to equip myself with knowledge. As the saying goes: "The sea of learning knows no bounds; only through diligence may its shore be reached." I hope to apply what I have learned to lead OHK forward.

After the study trip, I travelled to Türkiye to attend an executive board meeting of Oxfam International and to visit Oxfam's humanitarian work in Gaziantep and Hatay, two of the areas worst affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria on February 6, 2023. Thanks to supporters like you, Oxfam has provided shelter, food, safe drinking water, psychological support, and livelihood assistance to over two million people in Türkiye and Syria.

In Hong Kong, we released the 'Hong Kong Poverty Report 2024: Pathways Out of Adversity – Embracing Change Through Transformation' on 2 October. The report reveals that the wealth gap has surged to 81.2 times, with over 1.39 million people, including 580,000 individuals aged 65 or above, living in poverty. We urge the government to promote active ageing and create more support for elders. For more details, please refer to page 6 of Oxfam Express.

When you receive this issue of Oxfam Express, the 40th Oxfam Trailwalker will be in full swing, with walkers preparing to challenge themselves. Oxfam Trailwalkers work hard for themselves and for those in poverty. Let us cheer for them!

With warm regards,

Kalina Tsang
Kalina Tsang



FIGHTING INVISIBLE BARRIERS

There is a vulnerable group in society. They are all around us, yet they are rarely seen. They are people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs).



Hanhan is very close to his father.

Photos: Qiubi / Oxfam

Sun Zhaohan (Hanhan), 18 years old, was born with cerebral palsy due to brain damage during birth, resulting in language, cognitive, and mobility impairments. Hanhan is very close to his father; they always walk hand in hand wherever they go. "Papa will be there for me forever," Hanhan thinks innocently.

With each passing day, Hanhan's parents are growing older.

Hanhan's father was thinking, 'Son, no one in this world can be there for you forever. You need to learn to take care of yourself.' He encouraged Hanhan to take the underground to school on his own, while he followed and protected him along the way. It took Hanhan two months to memorise the 12-minute journey to school. Mr Sun then encouraged Hanhan to participate in employment training supported by Oxfam, as well as a short-term internship at an international five-star hotel to gain work experience. He tried 100 times before he could handle waste disposal. The son has built confidence, and the father was grateful.

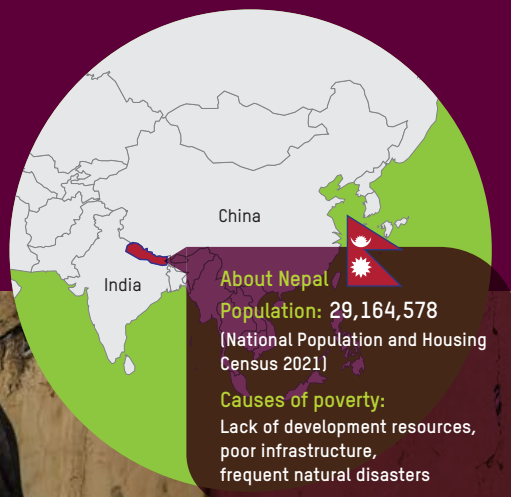
Mr Sun also provides support to families with IDDs by establishing social networks and promoting community inclusion to enhance the lives of people with IDDs.



Liu Jing, an employment counsellor supported by Oxfam, provides on-the-job support to young people with IDDs, including Sun Zhaohan.

Note: OHK supports projects in mainland China that promote employment participation and social integration for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our work includes providing professional support for employment counsellors and building a peer network for the self-advocacy group of youth with IDDs.

Inspiring a future without poverty: Oxfam ambassador Andy Leung's Nepal trip



I am Andy Leung, a member of "C AllStar." In June this year, I visited remote mountainous and riverside villages in Nepal as an Oxfam ambassador to see how Oxfam has helped improve the livelihoods of local communities and reduce their vulnerability through sustainable development, disaster reduction, and preparedness. Here, I would like to share my reflections on the trip.

Photos: Poon wai nang / Oxfam

Meet Man's family

Man lives in a hilly village called Banda in Sudurpashchim Province. His house and fertile farmland were swept away during a devastating flood in 2021, leaving him unable to feed his family of five. During this difficult time, Man's family received emergency food and hygiene kits from Oxfam, as well as two pregnant goats to support his livelihood.

Nepal faces a range of extreme weather-related events, such as floods, droughts, and landslides. Every year during the rainy season, many villagers lose their lives and livelihood to floods and heavy rains. Man realised the importance of villagers working together to reduce vulnerability to disasters. He joined and chaired an Oxfam-supported Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) and encouraged villagers to participate in emergency preparedness drills. Man said, "The community helped me a lot when I was in need. Now it's time for me to give back and help others."

Man's story deepened my understanding of Oxfam's approach to helping people help themselves, empowering villagers to cope with disasters and achieve sustainable development in the long run.



Seedbanks – critical for climate adaptation

When I walked into the farmers' seed bank in a village in Kanchanpur district in far western Nepal, I was impressed by the variety of seeds and the commitment of the villagers to preserve them. A seed bank is a place where high-quality seeds are stored to preserve biodiversity and protect livelihoods. Members of the seed bank management committee told me that it is vital to conserve seeds of different crop varieties so that villagers can use them to cultivate flood-resilient crops.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of smallholder farmers in Nepal, as they rely on it to support their families. Extreme weather events have significantly impacted them, threatening their lives and livelihoods. Oxfam supports villagers in setting up seed banks and farmers' cooperatives, both of which play a crucial role in helping them adapt to climate change.



I met a woman who was once a member of a farmers' cooperative. She received training in farming skills and techniques to adapt to climate change. After her life had improved, she returned to the cooperative to help more villagers enhance their lives by sharing what she had learned. This reflects the solidarity of the villagers.



Meet Anjali, a resilient mother

Anjali told me that on that fateful day, the flood came fiercely, inundating her house, and the floodwater quickly reached waist depth, almost submerging Anjali and her two daughters. Fortunately, neighbours who had received disaster preparedness training from Oxfam arrived in time and used life jackets to rescue Anjali and her daughters. However, her house, farmland, and livestock were all washed away by the flood.

With Oxfam's support, Anjali opened a small grocery store to earn an income. She shared, "I was in danger that day, and the villagers helped me a lot. Now I have the responsibility to help other villagers in need cope with disasters. I hope the community has enough life jackets and supplies for emergencies."



I joined the villagers in an emergency drill and was impressed by their dedication to protecting lives.

TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE MORE LIVES AND SPREAD SMILES OF HOPE.



Clean water brings joy to villagers



Climate change has made maize growing difficult



Quality seeds are critical for climate adaptation



Villagers are resilient in the face of hardship



With OHK Director General Kalina and the villagers

MONTHLY GIVING MATTERS!

The trip to Nepal made me realise that changing the world for the better is about the millions of small but powerful actions we can all take every single day. I sincerely invite you to join hands with Oxfam to empower smallholder farmers in Nepal to cope with climate change and improve their lives as monthly donors.

Monthly giving allows Oxfam to budget and plan for long-term impacts with a predictable and stable income. It is also an important and rewarding way to show your support for people living in poverty!

Read more about Andy's trip to Nepal



Together, we can create a
future without poverty



Handwritten signature in Nepali script.

Hong Kong Poverty Report 2024



Oxfam Hong Kong released its “Hong Kong Poverty Report 2024: Pathways Out of Adversity – Embracing Change Through Transformation” on 2 October, revealing that the poorest decile earned 81.9 times less than the richest decile in the first quarter of 2024—up from 34.3 times in 2019—with over 1.39 million people living in poverty. Meanwhile, more than 580,000 individuals aged 65 or above were living in poverty in the first quarter of 2024, representing a staggering 42.9 percent increase since 2019. Oxfam urges the government to provide more support and create more opportunities for elderly people.

WEALTH GAP IN HONG KONG
SURGES TO

81.9 TIMES !

Nearly 600,000 Elderly people Living in Poverty
Oxfam Urges More Government Support for Active Ageing

Support more impactful social innovation projects by encouraging collaboration among government, businesses, and NGOs.



Improve childcare services to provide economically inactive women with the opportunity to join the workforce.



Achieve targeted poverty alleviation below the poverty line by including “enabling” and “active ageing” targets.



Oxfam urges more government support for active ageing



Create flexible job opportunities to enhance social well-being.

Promote a living wage to enhance social mobility.



Promote active ageing.



For more details:





addresses the urgent needs of the most vulnerable populations in Gaza

The ongoing conflict in Gaza continues to take a devastating toll on civilians. People who survive the relentless airstrikes are living in overcrowded shelters, tents, and in the streets. The threat of famine is real; 96% of the population of the Gaza Strip (2.15 million people) is experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. Vulnerable groups — especially children, women, and the sick — are suffering the most. Despite significant challenges, Oxfam and its partners provided essential food assistance to the 115,000 most vulnerable individuals in Gaza between July and September.

What pregnant women and new mothers in Gaza want you to know

The war in Gaza has profoundly affected everyone, particularly women and newborns. Nearly a quarter of Gaza's population consists of women of reproductive age, who are facing immense challenges. Beyond the constant threats of death, injury, and displacement, they struggle daily for basic needs such as safe water, food, healthcare, and electricity. From January to March 2024, Oxfam conducted a survey with 403 pregnant women and new mothers across the Gaza Strip, assessing 65 shelters. The survey reveals that pregnant women face significant challenges, including limited access to sufficient and high-quality food, clean water, sanitation facilities, and inadequate maternal healthcare services.

One pregnant woman shared her struggles, "The hunger is unbearable. Sometimes, I go without eating for three to four days. Sewage and rubbish are everywhere, and the toilets are dirty and crowded. I often have to wait for hours to use them, which is particularly difficult for pregnant women."

A newly delivered mother said, "After giving birth, I was discharged within 30 minutes. My twins have congenital heart issues. My husband was killed, leaving me psychologically shattered. I fear for my children's future."

Another pregnant woman said, "The place I am staying in is very cold, overcrowded, and unhygienic. I've had a respiratory infection for two weeks, and I still feel very sick. I can't access nutritious food, sanitation, or healthcare services."

Oxfam has provided pregnant women and new mothers in Gaza with:



Clean water and sanitation facilities to protect their health



Nutritious food



Diapers and hygiene kits



Maternity services from midwives, with a focus on emergency care

Oxfam delivers water tanks and installs handwashing stations to help meet the basic needs of displaced families in Gaza to ensure the health of both mothers and children.



ANNUAL
SUMMARY
2023/24

OXFAM



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



WORKED IN



23

COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

WORKED WITH



135

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

SUPPORTED



275

PROJECTS

REACHED OVER



1,900,000

PEOPLE IN POOR COMMUNITIES

SPENT



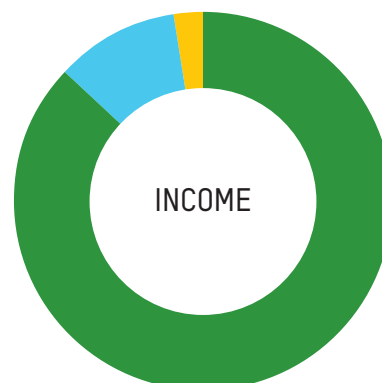
\$157,671,000

TO FIGHT POVERTY THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMES

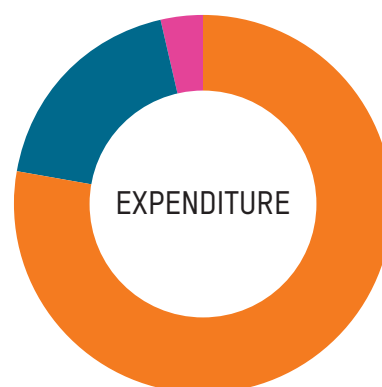
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME	HK\$'000
Public fundraising	172,415
Institutional fundraising	21,046
Others	4,765
TOTAL INCOME	198,226

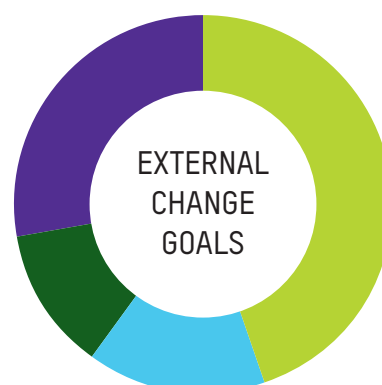


EXPENDITURE	HK\$'000
Programmes	157,671
Fundraising and marketing	37,633
Management and administration	7,006
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	202,310
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(4,084)



PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE BY EXTERNAL CHANGE GOALS

EXPENDITURE	HK\$'000
Sustainable Livelihoods in Just Economies	70,680
Gender Justice	24,021
Climate Justice	19,629
Humanitarian Relief	43,341
TOTAL	157,671



These financial highlights are based on Oxfam Hong Kong's financial accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. The full audited financial statements by KPMG are available on our website, www.oxfam.org.hk. All figures are in Hong Kong dollars.

HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

East Africa Food Crisis

Some areas in Ethiopia have been affected by drought, conflict, and floods, forcing many refugees to return to camps in South Sudan. This has led to serious food shortages and an increase in rape and sexual assault against women and children. Oxfam supported Sudanese refugees with:

- Emergency cash to children whose caretakers had left home to find work and to households headed by single women aimed to prevent the children from being trafficked and the women from selling themselves in exchange for food and necessities.
- Water supply facilities and initiatives promoting better sanitation to reduce infectious diseases.
- Toilets and showers with lighting to lower the risk of sexual assaults on women.



Qinghai earthquake

On 18 December 2023, a 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck Qinghai Province, affecting 419 villages in 46 townships. OHK received a grant of HK\$5,986,000 from the Hong Kong SAR Disaster Relief Fund to provide food and quilts to 7,500 households in 34 towns across three counties. We especially focused on the needs of women. After receiving the relief supplies, the villagers were required to sign a receipt to ensure transparency.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN JUST ECONOMIES

Supporting SEN youths to enter the workforce

In recent years, the number of students with special educational needs (SEN) in Macau has increased. Due to insufficient employment training and difficulties finding jobs, SEN youths may become disoriented and develop emotional and behavioural problems.

OHK worked with a local partner to provide employment support for SEN youths, which included:

- Vocational training to improve interpersonal skills, interview techniques, and problem-solving abilities.
- Emotional and psychological counselling to enhance coping strategies for stress and challenges.
- Internship opportunities and referrals to restaurants, drugstores, and supermarkets to gain work experience.



Hong Kong poverty report

In September 2023, OHK published the "Hong Kong Poverty Report 2023: A Polarised Recovery in the Post-Pandemic Era," revealing that 20% of the population were living in poverty in the first quarter after the pandemic. The wealth gap widened from 34.3 times in 2019 to 57.7 times in early 2023. This shows that only high-income families benefitted from the economic recovery, while low-income families continue to face challenges.

We urged the government to narrow the gap between rich and poor by adjusting the minimum wage annually; promoting community economies; expanding community living projects to all 18 districts; and reviewing the effectiveness of employment programmes for the middle-aged and elderly.



ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon-neutral tea

OHK worked with its local partner to support villagers in Liugou Village, southern Shaanxi Province, in growing low-carbon tea and improving their ecological environment. The project has increased villagers' income, enhanced their awareness of disasters, and strengthened their capacity for sustainable development. Our work included:

- Building water-saving irrigation facilities and enhancing tea garden resilience to natural disasters and extreme weather.
- Establishing a resource recycling centre to promote organic waste reuse.
- Creating a low-carbon tea processing plant and encouraging villagers to design environmentally friendly tea packaging.
- Exploring eco-tourism with low-carbon tea as a selling point to develop additional income sources.



Helping low-income families in Hong Kong to cope with extreme rainstorms

On 7 September 2023, Hong Kong recorded 158.1 millimetres of rain in a single hour, marking the heaviest one-hour rainfall on record. The homes of many low-income families living on lower floors—especially those in vulnerable subdivided flats—and those on rooftops were damaged, posing health and safety risks. OHK provided immediate emergency assistance to 108 affected families, including repairs, replacement of damaged furniture, and other measures to help them return to their normal lives.



GENDER JUSTICE

Education to end the scourge of child marriage

In Malawi, due to persistent poverty and traditional norms, parents often marry off their daughters at a young age in exchange for a dowry, denying them the educational and developmental opportunities that schooling could provide. As a result, an alarming 12% of girls who do enrol in school end up dropping out. In fact, for every 100 girls who start Primary 1, only three will progress to secondary school.

Oxfam worked with our local partners to equip vulnerable children with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to overcome the obstacles they faced. Our work included:

- Providing bursaries to 1,002 children to enhance secondary school enrolment.
- Distributing bicycles to reduce long commute times to school and help lower dropout rates.
- Providing solar lamps to enable girls to study at night.



Empowering ethnic minority youth with skills and employment

Oxfam Hong Kong launched the "Foundation Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education for Non-Chinese Speaking Learners" with support from the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) and the Kerry Group. The certificate enables ethnic minority youth to explore possible careers in early childhood education and provides ethnic minority children with better support at school. The programme also helped young ethnic minority women become teaching assistants and provided employment referrals for any who had passed the written exam and had completed the practicum.



BEYOND TIME: A Legacy of Love and Hope

"When I am no longer in this world, I want my commitment to poverty alleviation to continue. As a mother, it is important to teach my children that while they can care for themselves, they should also support those in need in our society. I deeply believe in Oxfam Hong Kong (OHK)'s vision and mission of empowering individuals to help themselves. By making a monthly donation and leaving a legacy, I hope to contribute to building a better world.

One day, even in my absence, I trust that Oxfam will use my legacy to improve the lives of people in poverty around the world, continuing our shared commitment to fighting poverty." — Apple, Oxfam Legacy Giving Donor



A legacy gift represents one of the most significant and lasting contributions you can make to the world. It allows you to create a meaningful impact that continues to support those in need while easing future burdens on your family and loved ones.

OHK partners with ForeverGift, a legacy giving platform, to promote legacy giving through a free will-making service. With the assistance of solicitors, you can create a will and are encouraged to include OHK as a beneficiary.

Leaving a legacy is a transformative gift that helps build a better future. Please share your love and leave a legacy of hope.

Learn more:



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (in alphabetical order)

Oxfam Ambassador trip to Nepal

CVISION
Lee Tung Avenue
Oxfam Ambassador Andy Leung
Tencent WeStart (Hong Kong)
The Kowloon Motor Bus Co. (1933) Ltd

Oxfam Trailwalker 2024

Principal Sponsor

Futu Securities

Logistics Sponsor

Cathay Pacific Airways Limited
CLP Power Hong Kong Limited

Tech & Telecom Partner

HKT

Official Apparel

AKIV Sportswear

Official Business Partner

DCH Business Innovations Limited

Official Hotel

Hong Kong Gold Coast Hotel
Sino Group

Official Engineering Consultant

Kum Shing Group

Official Energy Food

Nature's Village

Official Green Management Partner

SGS Hong Kong Limited

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Viatriil-S

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Watsons Water

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Venue Sponsor

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Seiko - Thong Sia Watch Co., Ltd.

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TamJai SamGor Mixian

Uni-China Group

Supporting Organisation

Hong Kong Tourism Board

Macau TowerRun 2024

Principal Sponsor

AIA International Limited Macau Branch

Official Sponsor

Occasions Public Relations Macau Limited

Sponsor

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iSport

Hao Qing Sport Development Co. Ltd.

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Official Licence

TowerRunning World Association

ASIAN-OCEANIAN VERTICAL MARATHON ASSOCIATION

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Escola Secundária Ilha Verde da Associação Comercial de Macau

Macau Artistes Association

Macau Pageant Alliance

Meng Kei

PizzaExpress Macau

Royal Supermarket

Vitasoy (Macau) Limited

VRUN Life Runner

Official Mobile Media Partner

MOME

Media Partner

Find Macau

International Vertical Marathon

MM Marketing Communications Consulting Ltd.

Radio Vilaverde, Limitada

Sports Note

Companies/organisations that organised beneficiary events to support Oxfam's work

Macau

AnsonLohonting International Fan Club

France Macau Chamber of Commerce

OCBC Macau

Oxfam partners recruitment campaign

- exhibition area sponsorship (April to Oct 2024)

Hong Kong

Gaw Capital - People's Place - Fortune Shopping Centre

Citywalk

TKO Plaza

YM² Yue Man Square

Macau

Administração Condomínio Fa Seng Hong Tou Wai Ip

COMPANHIA DE EMPREENDIMENTOS MARSUL LDA.

Edifício Broadway Center

Instituto para os Assuntos Municipais

SAN HENG IP ENTERTAINMENT & PLANNING CO. LTD.

Oxfam corporate partners

Hong Kong

COWORKSHOP SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Harneys Asia Limited

PRIME GLORY HOLDINGS LIMITED

Store Friendly Self Storage Group

TCC GLOBAL

Tencent Foundation

The Kowloon Motor Bus Co. (1933) LTD.

The "Star" Ferry

TOPLIGHT INVESTMENT LTD

Wing Wah Food Manufactory Limited

Companies/organisations with an Oxfam donation box

Banco Comercial de Macau

Pride Up International Trading and Investment Co., Ltd.

Royal Supermarket Company Limited