

Pictures of Oxfam

50 YEARS FOR A FAIRER WORLD

Elizabeth Stamp

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Food and Famine

Famine in enemy-occupied Greece during the second World War inspired a group of Oxford citizens to set up the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. They, with other groups nationwide, campaigned for grain ships to be sent in through the Allied naval blockade. Over the 50 years of Oxfam's existence since then, famine, food shortages and malnutrition have remained priority issues.



▲ Food shortage soon turned into famine. Thousands died in Athens and other Greek cities. In the mountain villages where many buildings had been destroyed, families slept in the open, scavenging what they could. This homeless family lived near the Bulgarian border, existing on potatoes.



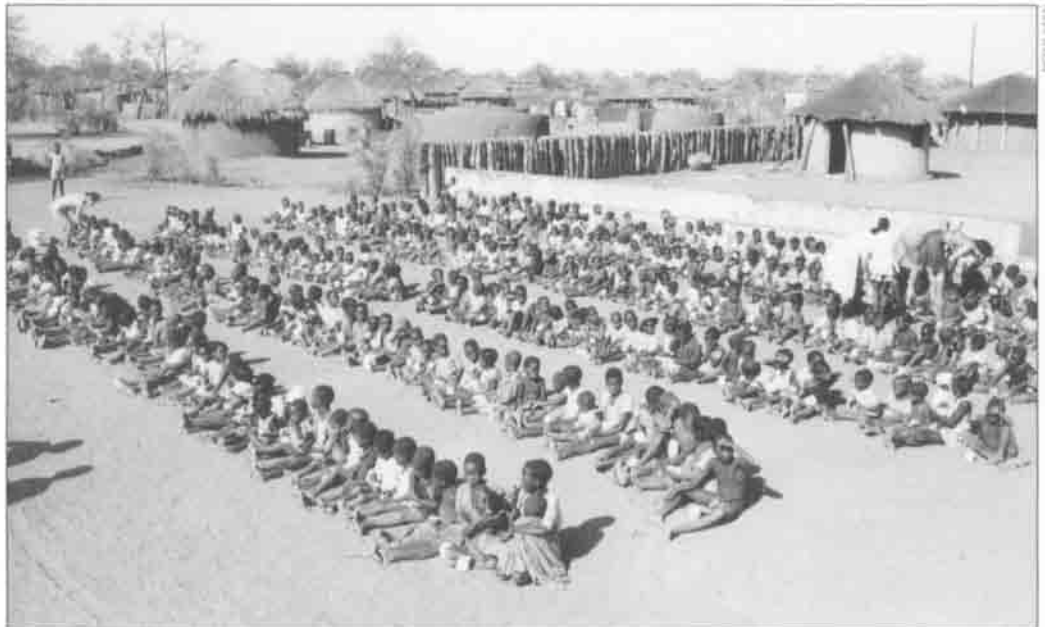
◀ Malnutrition was widespread among African children in South Africa's cities in the 1950s. Oxfam assisted many feeding schemes for over 15 years. The Pietermaritzburg and District Malnutrition Relief Organisation (PADMRO) provided milk for primary school children with Oxfam help.



This child helped Oxfam's Hunger £Million appeal in 1963, appearing in ads and on posters.



▲ 1960-61. The Congo famine hit the tabloid headlines and donations poured in to the Oxford Committee. Some funds were channelled to the United Nations Operation in the Congo for relief feeding.



▲ Children wait for relief food – Botswana drought, 1965.



▲ Drought affected north-east Brazil for five years in the early 1980s. Oxfam undertook a nutrition survey in several locations to seek out areas of greatest need.



▲ David Frost helps with feeding in Bihar. He wrote Oxfam's 1967 Christmas Appeal letter from India.



◀ A feeding kit ready to fly out to a disaster situation from Oxfam's Emergency Unit at Bicester.



◀ Taking relief food home to their village. Drought and civil war hit agricultural production in Eritrea in the mid-1980s. Oxfam financed trucking fleets to take food to the worst-affected areas.



◀ A Berlin family returns to a war-damaged city. Oxfam funds and clothing helped some of the neediest.

Born out of the needs of war, Oxfam has continued to help the victims of armed conflict. Some have lost their homes and some their families. Some are starving, some wounded or sick, and some are imprisoned. Conflict has produced more misery and created more need than any other cause in Oxfam's 50 years.

Conflict



Boys orphaned in the Korean War were cared for in Salvation Army centres. Oxfam funded part of this programme for 12 years. ▶



▲ Leslie Kirkley, Oxfam's Director, visiting the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Umuahia, in Biafra during the Nigerian civil war.

THE TESTIMONY OF SIXTY

on the crisis in Bengal

It is a time when the world has been so long and so far from its own shores that it has become a place of strangers. It is a time when the world has been so long and so far from its own shores that it has become a place of strangers. It is a time when the world has been so long and so far from its own shores that it has become a place of strangers.

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◀ Sixty people – statesmen, journalists, photographers, relief workers, and others – gave their words and pictures to call for massive international support for the millions of Bengali people – refugees and displaced – affected by the Bangladesh war of independence.



▲ Unloading the first shipment of Western aid to Cambodia at Kompong Som in 1979, watched by Oxfam's Deputy Director, Guy Stringer, and tug captain, David Falkner. This first barge, the size of a football field, and those that followed, brought food, seeds, fertiliser, tools, equipment and vehicles financed by the Oxfam-led consortium of agencies.

One of the thousands of families camped in Korem in Northern Ethiopia, scene of Michael Buerk and Mohammed Amin's television film, who left their homes in search of food and water in the drought of 1984-5. Oxfam set up emergency water supplies in Ethiopian feeding centres and refugee camps in Sudan, and provided plastic sheeting, food, medicines and relief teams. ▶



Migrant labour and the separate development of apartheid have produced split families and a culture of violence and deprivation in South Africa. Oxfam helps families and communities struggling against the odds. ▶



▲ Chico Mendes, leader of the rubber tappers in Brazil, here visiting Oxfam House, was assassinated in 1990. He led the struggle for saving the rainforests for the people who live in them, promoting the idea of extractive reserves. Oxfam has funded education programmes and the development of networking among the rubber tappers and Indian peoples.

TM 11/87

MICHAEL BUEBK
CHARLES GABRIEL JONES

ANDREW GIBSON



◀ Refugees from Poland, Russia, Yugoslavia and elsewhere were housed at Camp Enns in this gaunt, damp old barracks: 400 of them, some sick, some from concentration camps, many bitter or apathetic, and all homeless. Frankie Hamilton, a Dutch social worker, starting in 1955, organised repairing the buildings, and helped some families emigrate to Sweden and Holland and others to settle in Austria. Oxfam provided small welfare grants and clothing and from 1957 supported Frankie herself, later working more widely with sick and vulnerable children.



▲ Algerian refugees fled civil war in 1956. Thousands camped in neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco for several years. Oxfam helped with feeding and clothing.



▲ World Refugee Year 1959-60 aimed to clear the European refugee camps and resettle the remaining World War II refugees. Britain raised £8 million to which Oxfam contributed £1½ million. Gordon McMillan, one of Oxfam's first regional organisers, raising funds with a barrel organ outside Wantage railway station.



▲ Vocational training courses for Palestinian refugees were organised by UNRWA. During the 1960s Oxfam financed scholarships for hundreds of students.



▲ Ten million refugees crossed into India during the Bangladesh war of independence in 1971. Oxfam recruited medical and relief teams of refugees and Indians to work in the camps.



▲ Civil conflict in El Salvador drove many people to flee to neighbouring Honduras in the early 1980s. Oxfam funds helped set up schools in Mesagrande camp.



▲ Mozambiquan refugees in Mangochi settlement in Malawi. More than one million people have sought refuge from the fighting in Mozambique. The women make clothes with Oxfam-supplied cloth.

Refugees

Fear of persecution and war drive people to leave their homes and seek safety in neighbouring countries. Oxfam has helped refugees with immediate relief and with later rehabilitation, for more than forty years.



▲ Kurdish refugees camped in Turkey, winter 1990-91. Oxfam provided relief and water supplies.





◀ A little boy with TB being treated by Columban Sisters at St Joseph's Clinic, Samchuk. Oxfam helped this and other clinics for more than 15 years after the Korean War.



▲ Reconstructive surgery for leprosy patients is undertaken at the Holdsworth Memorial Hospital in Mysore City. For some years Oxfam paid the salary of an Indian physiotherapist.



▲ The Protestant mission hospitals in India joined in a major new family-planning programme in the 1960s. Oxfam provided funds for staffing and travel. Here Dr Ratna Solomon of the Christian Medical College at Ludhiana gives advice to a mother.



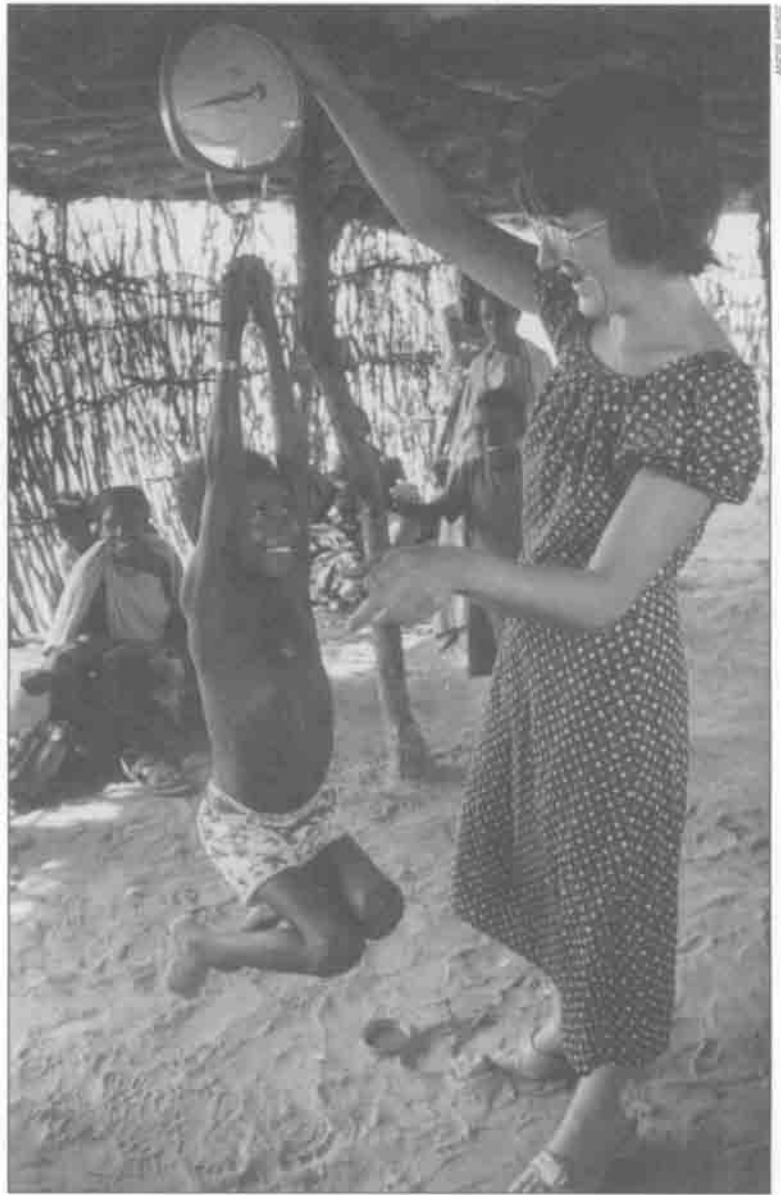
▲ Local health promoters in the slums of Lima, Peru, monitor the children's health and recommend 'best nutritious buys' to mothers each week to help battle against inflation. Oxfam supported this programme from the mid-1970s.

Health

Health care funds from Oxfam were first channelled via mission hospitals and clinics with doctors and nurses, and often only in towns. Gradually the focus changed to establishing preventive schemes and training local health workers, especially in rural areas.



▲ Oxfam's Sanitation Unit was developed with help from the Universities of Surrey and Loughborough, with testing at the Cholera Hospital in Dhaka. It provides quickly-assembled facilities for large numbers and was used in the 1970s in refugee and squatter camps in Bangladesh.



▲ Pat Diskett from Oxfam's Health Unit, which was established in 1980, tests the scales in a refugee camp in Somalia.

◀ Measuring arm circumference is a simple way of checking growth and watching for signs of malnutrition. Here Sudanese health workers are carrying out regular checks during the 1980s time of drought and food shortage.



◀ Puppets and models are being widely used to get over the message of AIDS prevention. Ze Cabra Macho is a clay figure used in a film for migrant construction workers in Brazil, made by the Interdisciplinary AIDS Association. Oxfam supports their information and educational work.





The Progressive Farmers' Scheme in Basutoland was part of Oxfam's first development programme in the High Commission Territories in Southern Africa. £25 was enough to set up a farmer with new tools. ▶



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, BASUTOLAND

◀ Oxfam provided funds to build small cheese factories in the northern Greek villages of Livaderon and Vlasti under the supervision of Frankie Hamilton. Villagers then had control of manufacture and marketing.

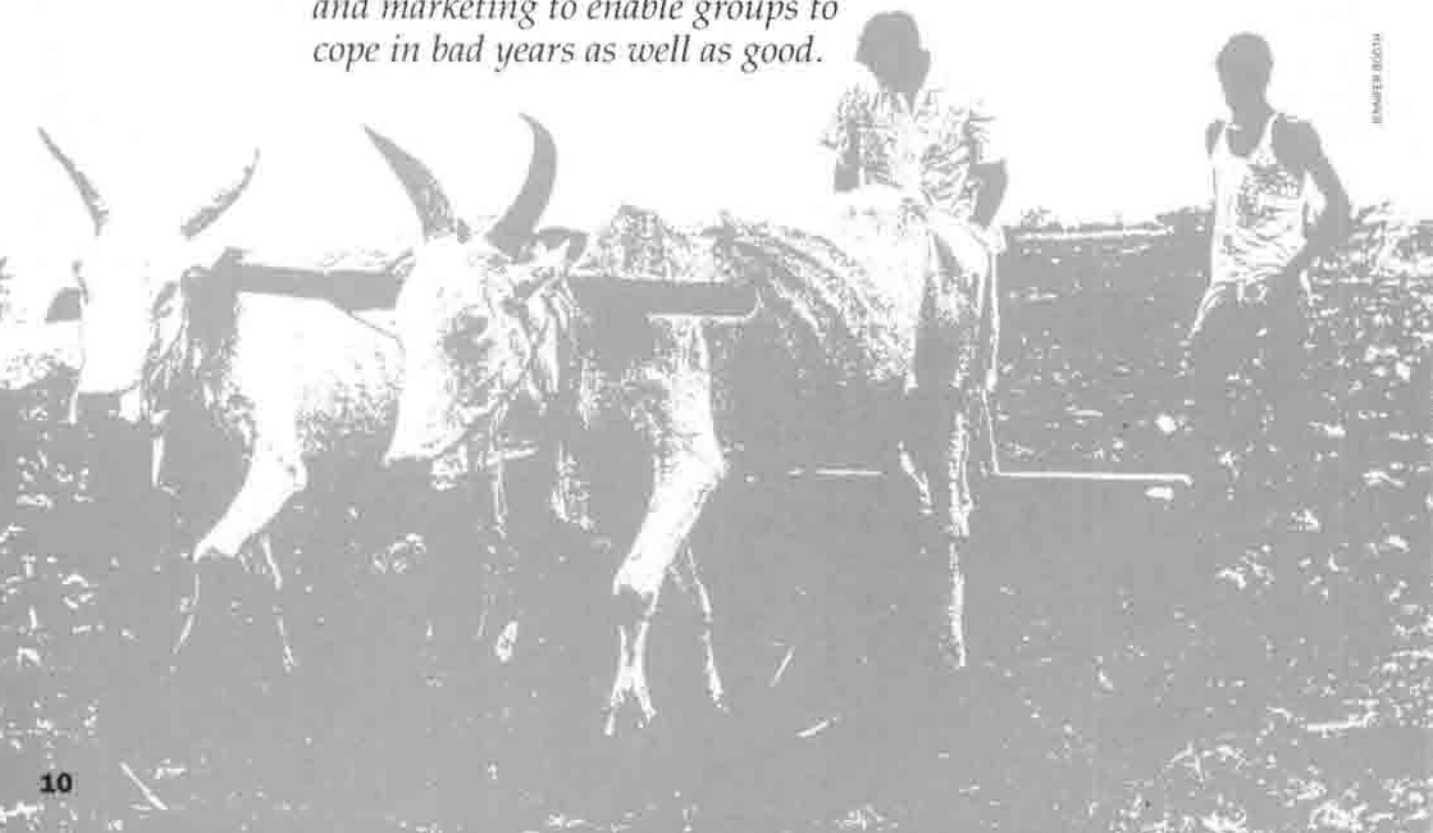


BERNARD LEWIS/PH

◀ Ten years after the Korean War there was still widespread poverty and food shortages. With help from Oxfam and Catholic groups, Susie Younger developed a farm where poor young men and women from the cities could learn farming.

Agriculture

Helping small communities grow more food became a major Oxfam focus in the 1960s with the launch of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. More recently, funds have been given for storage, credit and marketing to enable groups to cope in bad years as well as good.



JENNIFER BUCHAN



▲ Small fishermen in Muttom near the tip of southern India struggle for a living against competition from trawlers and foreign factory ships. Oxfam has helped with marketing, fish processing and organisers' salaries since the mid-1970s.

▲ A Freedom from Hunger-sponsored research project to encourage the development of traditional mountain crops took Oxfam to Bolivia. Tubers similar to the potato and high-protein grains like quinoa grow on the high Altiplano.



▲ Rows of stones along the contours capture precious rainfall to grow crops. Oxfam set up this conservation programme in Burkina Faso and has been supporting its multiplication for 13 years.



▲ Grading, packing and marketing are all important for Caribbean small holders who make a living sending their bananas to Britain. Oxfam and Oxfam America have helped local organisations in Dominica with training and materials.



▲ Refugee children in post-war Germany warm in their knitted cardigans from Oxfam.



◀ A Korean orphan boy brought in off the streets to the Save the Children Fund's Beggar Boys' Home gets a coat from a bale of Oxfam clothing.



▲ Clothing being sorted and packed for Hungarian refugees in 1956 at the Bourne Street depot in London's Pimlico.



▲ Oxfam's Wastesaver Unit in Huddersfield set up in 1974 sorts unsaleable clothing for recycling as industrial wipers and raw material for felting and insulation.



▲ Millions of squares have been knitted by young and old to make into blankets to send overseas.

The Clothing Story

Clothing has been the mainstay of Oxfam's work throughout most of its history. For the first 20 years, clothing was collected and sent overseas to refugees, the needy and destitute. Not until 1959 did cash aid overtake the value of clothing despatched. For the last 20 years donated clothing has been the top sales item in Oxfam shops, themselves the single largest source of Oxfam income. Now the wheel has turned full circle, and Oxfam partners overseas are knitting and sewing garments for us to buy in Oxfam shops or through Oxfam's mail-order catalogue.



▲ Knitted tops have been sent to refugees and to victims of disasters in many countries. Here a nomad child from Chad forced by drought into the Um Balla camp in Darfur, Southern Sudan, shows off her warm woolly.



▲ An Oxfam fashion show. Good quality donated clothes are selected for special sales – to boost income and publicise the shops.

Rosalia knitting a sweater for Oxfam from a new range of patterns, developed by designer Vanessa Keegan with a grant from Oxfam's Bridge Development Fund. Rosalia is a member of the Cochaquinray knitwear group, one of several along the Peru/Bolivia border served by the Minka marketing organisation. ►





◀ Appealing for refugees in the 1950s, when 'can-rattling' played a major part in fundraising.

Fundraising 1942-1967

Ordinary people and the famous, young and old, have raised money for Oxfam over the years – to help the many overseas programmes, and to support education and campaigning work here at home.



▲ Stella Humphries of Bredbury, near Stockport, collects her weekly shilling donation from a neighbour, one of the 125,000 subscribers to the Pledged Gifts scheme. Stella Humphries was chosen to visit Sierra Leone in 1962 to see how some of the funds were being spent.



▲ Dorothy Hyman, Olympic sprinter, takes Oxfam's Hunger £Million appeal to miners at Woolley Pit near Barnsley before Christmas 1963.



◀ Trafalgar Square, 29 November 1964. Bamber Gascoigne, with James Cameron and others, launch Oxfam's Christmas appeal and Family Box.



Harry Secombe and his family with their box. ▶



One of the sponsored walks organised to celebrate Oxfam's 25th birthday in October 1967. Leslie Kirkley, Oxfam's first Director, walking from Reading to Oxford. ▼

▲ Lester Pearson, Canada's Prime Minister, with Oxfam Canada's Director, Henry Fletcher, lead off the first 'Miles for Millions' sponsored walk in Ottawa, 8 April 1967.



▲ The cartoonist Vicky left many of his cartoons to Oxfam in his will. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, one of Vicky's favourite subjects, opens the exhibition at the William Ware Gallery, 2 May, 1967.



The original Broad Street shop which is still flourishing today. ▶



Shops and Trading

Oxfam's first shop was opened in Broad Street, Oxford, in 1948 to sell articles donated by the public. The first Christmas cards and imported handicrafts were introduced ten years later. In 1965 the Oxfam Trading Company was established, with its Bridge programme to expand the importing of handicrafts direct from producer groups overseas, paying fair prices and giving producer dividends.

Many Oxfam volunteer groups opened temporary shops during the late 1960s, and their initiative developed into the Oxfam shop 'empire' of over 800 shops we know today. They produce around one-third of Oxfam's income.

Boxes from Hong Kong – the first imported handicraft sold by Oxfam in the late 1950s. ▶



▲ One of Oxfam's prize-winning tea towels on sale at a Christmas fair organised by four Twickenham churches in 1969.



◀ MPs ran an evening shift at the Westminster shop in the summer of 1973 to help raise funds for the Indian drought. Cyril Smith, Joe Ashton, and Toby Jessel were part of the group.



▲ The BBC children's programme *Blue Peter* launched a nationwide 'bring and buy' sale in November 1979 to raise urgently-needed funds for Cambodia. All Oxfam Shops participated, with helpers working all hours to cope with the volume of gifts. With other small sales, well over £3 million was raised by Christmas. Ten years later a second *Blue Peter* appeal raised funds for Cambodian development programmes.

Oxfam's address book and the larger diary are produced by the Papworth group at Papworth Everard near Cambridge, where people with disabilities live and work. This is part of Oxfam's Good Neighbours programme to provide sales outlets for some disadvantaged groups in this country. ▼



◀ Three families who live within three miles of each other in Pangasinan province, Luzon, in the Philippines, helped by neighbours and friends make two styles of magazine racks. Oxfam sells the products of the Docusin, the Sabados and the Nisperos families through its mail-order brochure and in some Oxfam shops. They are transported, packaged and exported, along with many other items, by the Community Crafts Association of the Philippines, one of Oxfam's largest suppliers for 15 years.



▲ John Mortimer autographing his 'Rumpole' book at Oxfam's new bookshop in St Giles, Oxford, in 1987.

Fundraising 1968-1992



▲ Christmas 1968. Piccadilly Circus, London. Lord Soper, preacher and soap-box orator, encourages some Oxfam fasters.



Actress Rita Tushingham launches Oxfam's 'Tap tax' – part of the India drought appeal in 1973. ►



▲ Clement Freud presents the prize for the junior section of the Oxfam/Young Observer Christmas card competition to Bridget Stevens from Lanfrynach, December 1975.



▲ The 'Crack-a-Joke Book' was the 1000th Puffin, with jokes from children all over the country, and profits to Oxfam. Kay Webb, the Puffin founder, with Oxfam's Richard Stanley at the launch in 1978. Sales of over 1 million copies have netted Oxfam over £200,000. A new edition with some new jokes has been published in 1992 to mark Oxfam's 50th anniversary.



◀ John Swan, Premier of Bermuda, hands over a cheque to Gaby Taylor, Field Director for the Caribbean. The Island's 55,000 people raised £110,000 for the people of Ethiopia in 1985.



▲ Oxfam's Stamp and Coin Unit provides stamps for sale in Oxfam shops. Valuable donated items are sent to auction.



▲ The Princess of Wales visited Oxfam House on 6 February 1990. Here she is being shown the computer register.



◀ Lenny Henry and Griff Rhys Jones back from their project visits overseas wear red noses to publicise Comic Relief. With the earlier Live Aid and Band Aid, these massive fundraising events provided extra funds for Oxfam and other overseas charities for work in African countries affected by drought and armed conflict.



◀ 'Ali and Gaza'.
One of a series of primary level education materials produced by Oxfam in the mid-sixties in collaboration with UNESCO.

Oxfam's Education Department was set up and started working in schools in 1959. Soon, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign opened up wider opportunities for development education and Oxfam staff became involved with curriculum development and the production of education materials.



▲ 1972. Charities came together to campaign against the possible imposition of VAT. Volunteers outside the House of Commons.

Education and Campaigning

The Public Affairs Unit was established in the mid-1970s to undertake research on subjects linking the rich and poor worlds. And in the early 1980s a Campaigns Department with area staff recruited to work around the country gave further support to the study and discussion of world issues such as aid, debt and trade.



▲ Oxfam's Rational Health Campaign links the need for sensible and economical drug policies overseas with campaigning here for safer exports, better and more appropriate labelling, and fair advertising.



▲ Politicians and media stars join in a human billboard to launch Oxfam's 'Hungry for Change' campaign.



▲ Pupils from Edward Wilson primary school, West London, work out patterns in 'Alaro', an Oxfam pack about Nigerian textiles.

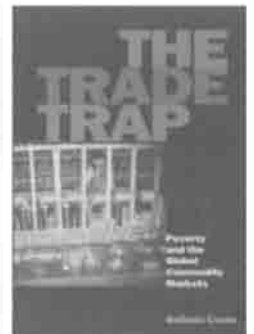


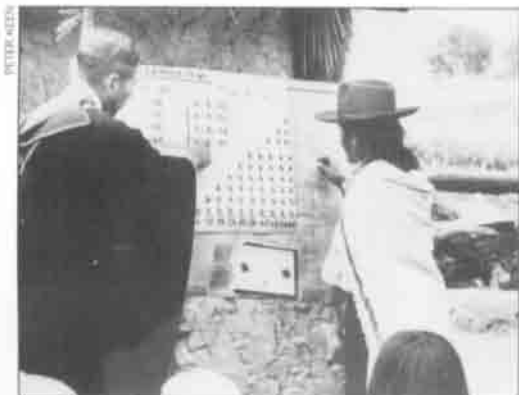
▲ The newsletter 'Issue' kept campaigners and supporters up to date with news, activities and new areas of concern and action.



◀ A Belfast pupil studies the Peters Projection map.

The Trade Trap: Poverty and the Global Commodity Markets, by Belinda Coote. Published by Oxfam in 1992. ▼





▲ Learning by radio is efficient where people live in scattered settlements. Oxfam has helped many radio schools programmes in Latin America since the early 1960s. Here, one of the first, in Ecuador, taught the three Rs as well as nutrition, health and agriculture.



▲ Mobile creches set up on building sites for the children of women building workers in Delhi first opened in 1970, with branches established in Bombay and Pune later. Oxfam has assisted with salaries, training and running costs for 20 years.

▲ This simply-converted school-on-wheels launched in 1966 by the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia took adult education to villages and townships, concentrating on nutrition and health. Oxfam provided funds for petrol and running costs.



▲ A national adult literacy campaign was one of Nicaragua's Sandinista Government's first programmes. Those who could read went out to villages to teach those who couldn't. Oxfam funding provided materials and travel costs. One of the youngest teachers guides an evening class.



◀ Dom Helder Camara, Bishop of Recife, Brazil, has long championed the poorest in society. From the mid-1970s, Oxfam helped fund his 'Bank of Providence' established to help poor people with medicines, school fees, a job register, housing and other emergency needs.



◀ A mother encourages her disabled son to learn to talk – part of a wider UNRWA programme, established in 1983 to work with disabled Palestinian people in refugee camps in Jordan.

Social Development

'Helping people to help themselves' has long been an Oxfam principle. Learning skills and working together are important steps for people seeking to break out of their poverty. Oxfam assistance is often small-scale – money for bus fares, books, tools, running costs and salaries.



DAVID MURPHY

▲ So many educated young men were killed during the Pol Pot years, the Cambodian economy is desperately short of skilled people. Oxfam has helped rehabilitate the Ministry of Industry's vocational training centre, providing equipment, salaries and scholarships.



◀ The needs of the landless in Bangladesh are now a major rural problem. Oxfam is supporting several groups with educational and legal aid programmes to help them get land or organise income-generation schemes.



▲ Greek women of Livaderon queue for water at their new standpipe.



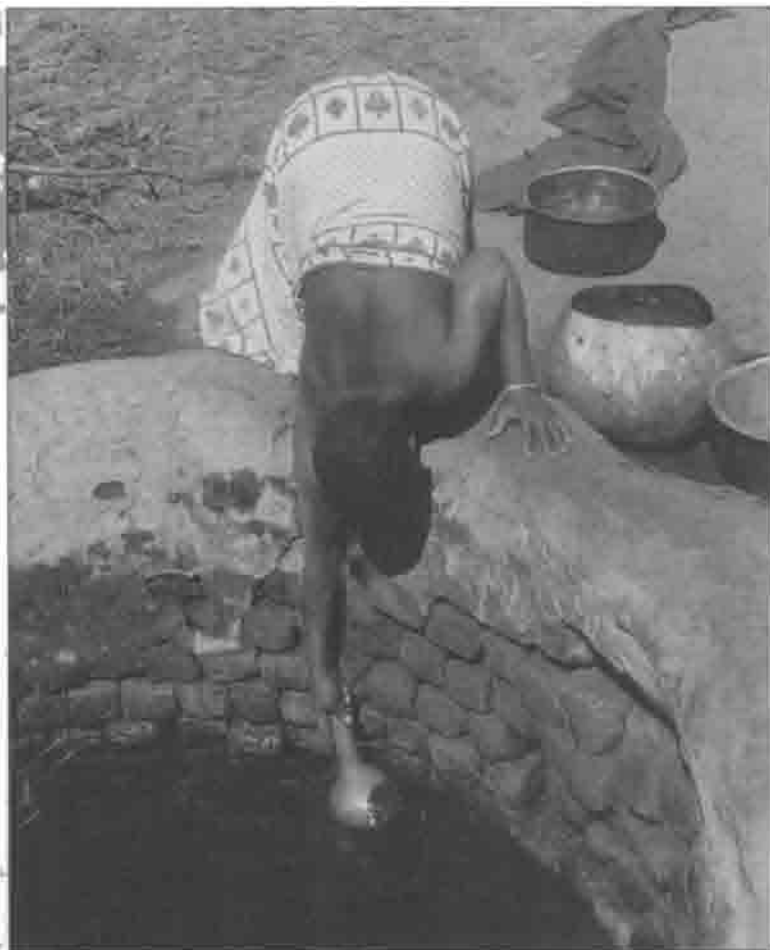
▲ Constructing an earth dam for watering cattle at Toretet, Kericho District – one of the 1960s Oxfam-supported projects in Kenya.



▲ Drilling for water in India in the 1960s. Oxfam financed several Halco Tiger rigs and British volunteers to supervise them and train local operators.

Water

Water is essential for life. Some of Oxfam's first long-term grants provided piping for village water supplies in Northern Greece, starting in 1949. In recent years Oxfam has spent more on water provision than any other type of aid, with Oxfam's Technical Unit providing water supply systems for emergencies.



▲ Through the Community Development Trust Fund, Oxfam helped hundreds of Tanzanian villages to dig and line new wells – from 1967 onwards.

In parts of Java Oxfam funded piping so that villages could bring water down from neighbouring mountains, easing the daily climb for water of the women and children. ►



◀ An Arab farmer waters his tree seedlings. Oxfam has helped with irrigation in Lebanon and other areas of the Middle East where water is an issue of human rights.



▲ and ▼ Oxfam's water packs – piping, pumps and tanking – can be flown out to provide emergency water supplies at short notice. The first packs were used in Mocoron refugee camp in Honduras in 1981, where Miskito Indian refugees from Nicaragua were taking shelter.



▲ Refugees from Iraq on the Jordan borders awaiting transport to their home countries.



◀ When a severe earthquake hit the Greek Ionian islands in 1953, Oxfam's new director Leslie Kirkley flew in to offer help. Grants were made for general relief work and for temporary shelter on Zakynthos.

He visited the ruins of Agadir, Morocco, in 1960, and Oxfam sent clothing, and funds for tents and drugs for the earthquake victims. ▼



Earthquakes



◀ Oxfam provided £25,000 for the rebuilding of Dousadj, one of 150 villages destroyed in the Iran earthquake of 1962. European Working Group volunteers and Teheran University students worked together with the villagers.



▲ After the 1976 Guatemala earthquake, villagers in the San Martin area learned how to rebuild safer houses with cross-bracing and wiring. Oxfam purchased roofing and building material and financed the building education programme. Cover of the instruction manual.



MEDIA INFORMATION SERVICES

◀ East African floods 1962.

The Rimac River valley, near Peru's capital Lima, regularly floods, destroying housing and crops. Here, members of an Oxfam-supported community group shore up a river bank in the dry season. ▼



PHOTO BELLA

and Floods

It is the poorest people who are worst hit by these sudden disasters. Oxfam helps with immediate relief and with preventive schemes of construction work in vulnerable areas.

Every few years typhoons damage part of the sea defences on Vietnam's east coast. Here, women rebuild the Nghe Tinh sea-dyke by hand after the 1987 typhoon. Oxfam helped a number of communities with cement and steel. ▼



BAGHEL, OXFAM

▲ The annual monsoon floods in Bangladesh bring renewed fertility to farm lands. But in recent years, excessive flood waters have destroyed villages and livelihoods. Oxfam mounted a massive feeding programme in 1988, taking cooked chapatis out from Dhaka to marooned villagers.



BAGHEL, OXFAM



▲ Among Oxfam's first development grants in Southern Africa in the early 1960s was support for the Basutoland Homemakers' Association. Local groups played an important part in life in the remote mountain villages where the men were away as migrant workers in South Africa.



▲ At the Kangu Catholic Mission in the Congo, older students paid their way by learning to design and produce visual aids. Oxfam funds set up Dr Courtejoie's enterprise in the late 1960s to produce a range of education materials on preventive health, eventually used in 40 different countries.



◀ Girls studying childcare at the Kwan Tong Vocational Training Centre for Chinese refugees in Hong Kong. Oxfam supported this centre and other programmes run by the Lutheran World Federation from the mid-1950s.

Women

Women do two-thirds of the world's work, but receive only one-tenth of the world's income, and invariably enjoy less education than the men.

Oxfam has encouraged the development and recognition of women – in the early days, through traditional projects. More recently initiatives have been taken to seek out and give special support to women – with the establishment of a Gender and Development Unit (GADU), and the appointment of women project officers.



▲ With support from Oxfam, Saptagram began working with poor women in a handful of villages in Bangladesh 16 years ago. Now it has 50,000 women members in 700 villages who run income-generation projects, and adult education, legal aid, family planning, health, and water programmes – enterprises beyond their imagination when they started.



◀ Market traders, rag pickers and domestic servants are just some of the occupations of the women who have joined the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad, the textile city of Gujarat in western India. Famous for running their own bank they also organise a range of services for their members. Oxfam has assisted over the years and now buys some of their handicrafts through Oxfam Trading.



▲ Special courses were set up for women co-op members at the Iwacu Centre in Rwanda in 1985 at Oxfam's suggestion. Women practise much of the farming but usually lack the business skills for marketing. Here they are learning simple book-keeping.



▲ When world tin prices collapsed in the 1980s, Bolivian tin miners' families were left destitute. Oxfam helped with small projects to construct greenhouses where women are growing vegetables for family consumption and for sale.



◀ Sister Chiedza, Oxfam's Project Officer for Masvingo and Midlands provinces in Zimbabwe, discusses their handicrafts with a women's group, one of a range of small income-generating schemes.

Environment

It is the poorest people who live in the most unsafe and polluted areas. They depend more directly on their immediate environment for the bare necessities, drinking untreated water and using scarce firewood. And many are forced to take on dangerous jobs. Oxfam helps small groups with positive action to safeguard and improve the resources on which they depend.



▲ The Indian population of Guatemala has been forced on to steeper slopes as the cash crop plantations have taken over the best land. Villagers from the San Martin area, here terracing a hillside, in an agricultural development programme led by World Neighbors and part-funded by Oxfam, in the early 1970s.



The rubbish collectors of Cairo – the Zebbaleen – have long practised recycling to make a living. Oxfam has helped them to extend and improve their market outlets, and supported a health programme to combat their insanitary living conditions. ►



▲ The cycle rickshaw drivers of the Indian city of Nagpur staged a massive demonstration and strike in October 1982 to preserve their jobs and their 'clean' vehicles. Oxfam funded a small delegation to the state capital to argue their case against the introduction of motorised rickshaws. They won the day.



▲ Justinian Ngemela, forestry extension officer of the Arusha Diocesan Development Office, at the demonstration tree nursery at Oikokola. Oxfam assisted with funds for short training courses for local people.

Pollution and destruction of fish breeding grounds in coral reefs and mangrove swamps threaten the livelihoods and food sources of many who live along the extensive island coastlines of Philippines. Oxfam is helping a number of organisations of fisherfolk to sustain their way of life. ►



▲ In 1982 Oxfam published *A Growing Problem: Pesticides and the Third World Poor*, a report that highlighted the dangers facing agricultural workers in many countries. Since then, Oxfam has supported various groups which are publicising the dangers – such as Habitat, in the Dominican Republic.

Cultivation of a single variety of pine is leaving soils acid and unusable in the areas around Concepción in Southern Chile. Here, too, fish processing pollutes air and water, and the traditional mining industry has become dangerous through lack of investment. Oxfam, together with Oxfam Canada and Christian Aid, has supported the training and education of workers and community leaders for several years, in a programme working for fairer distribution of resources within a safer environment. ▼



▲ Oxfam's 1992 publication *No Time to Waste: Poverty and the Global Environment* adds a Southern voice to the debate, describing the problems from their perspective and highlighting solutions devised in the South.

Some important dates

- 1942** 5 October. Oxford Committee for Famine Relief formed to try and help starving people in enemy-occupied Greece.
- 1945** Decision to help refugees and displaced people in post-war Europe, with clothing, supplies, and money.
- 1948** First shop and office established in Oxford.
- 1949** New aim defined: 'The relief of suffering arising out of war or any other cause in any part of the world'.
First help to Palestinian refugees after creation of State of Israel.
- 1951** Famine in Bihar. First grant to India.
Director appointed.
- 1952** Assistance to Korean War victims begins.
- 1953** Assistance to Chinese refugees in Hong Kong begins.
- 1954** First grant to an African project.
- 1956-7** Hungarian uprising. Total overseas aid of £348,000 with half going to Hungary and the rest of Europe.
- 1959-60** World Refugee Year. Oxfam raises £756,000 for refugee campaign.
First fundraising regional organisers recruited.
Schools Department set up.
- 1960** Freedom from Hunger Campaign launched by FAO in Rome.
Oxfam moves into long-term development.
- 1960-61** Congo famine.
Aid programme tops £1 million.
- 1962** First overseas field director appointed, to work in southern Africa.
- 1963** Oxfam Belgique founded.
Canadian Committee – later Oxfam Canada – set up.
In UK, there are 250 local groups.
- 1965** Oxfam's trading company registered, to import and sell overseas handicrafts.
Decision to help family-planning projects.
- 1966** Famine in Bihar. Oxfam sends dried milk and British volunteers to help with feeding programme.
- 1967-69** Nigerian civil war. Oxfam helps both sides.
First field director sent to Latin America: Brazil.
- 1970** 200 temporary Oxfam shops run by voluntary groups help boost funds.
Oxfam America founded.
- 1971** Community Aid Abroad (Australia) joins Oxfam 'family'.
Bengal refugee crisis in India. Oxfam recruits 250 young doctors and health personnel in India to help.
- 1974** Wastesaver recycling unit in Huddersfield opened.
- 1975-76** Income tops £5 million.
600 permanent shops raise more than £1 million.
16 field directors support 800 projects worldwide.
- 1970s (end of)** Three overseas advisory units set up: Health, Technical, and Emergencies.
- 1979** Campaigns Unit established.
Joint agencies consortium formed to support Cambodia programme.
- 1979-80** Income doubles to £23.8 million.
- 1984-85** Famine and war in Ethiopia and Sudan. £21.7 million channelled in assistance. Income £51 million.
- 1986** Gender and Development Unit (GADU) set up, to encourage women's development.
- 1989-90** Income £62 million, including over £20 million from over 800 Oxfam shops and Oxfam Trading. Oxfam spends £12 million on emergencies and £24 million on development, supporting more than 2,300 projects in 70 countries.

