

OXFAM AT A GLANCE

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RIGHTS



Oil, gas, and mining projects generate billions of dollars in the developing world, yet very little of this wealth benefits poor populations. Communities in affected areas often suffer from displacement, water pollution, and a lack of meaningful voice in decision making. Oxfam America is helping empower people around the world to unlock resource revenues for development and to demand greater respect for their rights to participate in decisions about natural resources.

Many countries with oil and minerals are facing a resource curse: money from these resources that should pay for education, health care, and small-scale farming leaves the country or is wasted in corruption or politicized mismanagement.

At a time when development aid is declining, directing resource revenues to fighting poverty is more important than ever. Oxfam America believes that oil, gas, and mining companies; governments; and financial institutions should:

Respect the principle of free, prior, and informed consent. Affected communities decide whether, and under what conditions, an oil, gas, or mining project can go forward. This is a particularly important right for indigenous peoples.

Disclose the payments companies make to governments for each project and the contracts on which the payments

are based. Governments should also disclose budgets and spending of revenue.

Respect the rights of women, and support their participation in community decision making.

ABOUT OXFAM

Oxfam is a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. As one of 17 members of an International confederation, Oxfam America works with people in more than 90 countries to save lives, develop long-term solutions to poverty, and campaign for social change. Oxfam America and Oxfam Australia have worked for more than 15 years with communities affected by oil, gas, and mining projects. To maintain our independence, Oxfam America does not accept funding from the US government or corporations working in oil-, gas-, or mining-related

industries. Oxfam America supporters include bilateral donors, foundations, and the US public.

EXAMPLE OF IMPACT: GHANA—OIL PROFITS FOR AGRICULTURE

After Ghana discovered oil in 2007, Oxfam helped establish a 124-member civil society coalition that persuaded Ghana's Parliament to pass a strong petroleum revenue management bill and to create a watchdog committee to monitor oil revenues. We supported Ghanaian organizations to develop a team of volunteers to monitor environmental impacts and the spending of oil and mining revenues. In 2013, Oxfam supported the Oil for Agriculture campaign: Nine partner organizations mobilized 300 farming and fishing communities from across Ghana to sign a petition calling



WHERE DOES OXFAM WORK ON RESOURCE RIGHTS?



on the minister of finance to devote 15 percent of oil revenues for the next three years to small-scale agriculture (and fishing), and 15 percent for education. More than 22,000 people in all 10 regions of Ghana signed the petition, and another 15,000 showed their support on Facebook and Twitter. The minister agreed to the proposal; now Ghanaians want to amend the law to make larger and permanent allocations for farming and education.

OXFAM'S GLOBAL REACH

With staff based in Washington, DC, Boston, Guatemala, Peru, Senegal, Ghana, and Cambodia, Oxfam America works on oil and mining issues in collaboration with Oxfam affiliates in more than 30 countries. We provide grants to local partners, catalyze technical support, and advocate with governments in the US and developing countries on legal and policy reform. We engage directly with corporations, meeting with CEOs, working with shareholders, and targeting companies in our public campaigns.

Oxfam produces research to drive better laws and policies, and to help overcome political obstacles to reform.

Some recent accomplishments Oxfam has helped achieve:

- Secured passage of Section 1504 of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that requires oil and mining companies to publicly disclose their payments to governments
- Helped civil society groups press the Peruvian government to pass an Indigenous Peoples Consultation Law in 2011
- Published mapping of mining and agriculture areas of Ghana and Peru to help these countries protect their watersheds and indigenous territories
- Published the "Community Consent Index" of oil and mining companies' policies on community consultation and consent, which has become a recognized industry benchmark

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Oxfam America is a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. As one of the 17 members of the international Oxfam confederation, we work with people in more than 90 countries to create lasting solutions. Oxfam saves lives, develops long-term solutions to poverty, and campaigns for social change. To join our efforts or learn more, go to oxfamamerica.org.

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