

OXFAM CLOSEUP

SPRING 2020



RESPONDING TO COVID-19



IN THIS ISSUE:

- > COVID-19: YOUR SUPPORT IS MAKING A KEY DIFFERENCE
- > ADAPTING TO A CHANGING CLIMATE
- > A JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE IN CENTRAL AMERICA



OXFAM



HEY OXFAM COMMUNITY, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

We're so thankful for your support. That's why, in this difficult time, we want to make sure you're taking time for yourself.

Coping with this crisis starts with taking care of yourself.
Here are some tips for staying safe and well:



STAY CONNECTED

Reach out to loved ones, friends, and neighbors.



STRUCTURE HELPS

Make a schedule or follow a daily routine if you can.



TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY

Stretch, meditate, join a workout livestream—whatever speaks to you.



PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

Even if you're mostly keeping to yourself, it's important to properly wash your hands.



GET FRESH AIR WHEN YOU CAN

A change of scenery can be a great boost (just make sure you protect yourself).



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Help out the restaurants, shops, and gyms you care about by purchasing gift cards or donating to worker funds.



PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

It's okay to seek out help from your community, or from health care professionals when you need it.



FIND SOMETHING FUN TO FILL YOUR DOWN TIME

Try a new recipe, dive into a project you've put off, or reread a favorite book—whatever makes you happy.

WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

IN THIS ISSUE:

A LETTER FROM OXFAM AMERICA CEO ABBY MAXMAN

This emergency underscores that we're all in this together. We've never been more grateful to have you by our side.

COVID-19: AVOIDING DISEASE, SLOWING THE SPREAD

We know from decades of experience that basic sanitation, clean water, and good hygiene save lives.

JOIN US ONLINE:

VIRTUAL EVENTS

Oxfam has been collaborating virtually—with partners, experts, and activists—to explore the effects of the pandemic and to organize for a just and equitable response and recovery. We invite you to register for upcoming live discussions, and view recordings of previous events here: oxf.am/closeup-virtualevents

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Oxfam is facing the twin challenges of ramping up our pandemic response efforts and keeping other lifesaving efforts on track.

If you are in a position to help, please consider supporting our highest-priority projects, which include our efforts to help some of the world's poorest communities confront COVID-19. Thanks to generous supporters who have established a \$500,000 matching fund, every dollar will be doubled in its impact.

Please visit the link below to make a lifesaving gift—and consider expanding that support through your employer's matching gift program. Thank you!

oxf.am/closeup-covid

OXFAM CLOSEUP

OXFAM AMERICA'S MEMBER MAGAZINE

SPRING 2020 VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1

IN THE NEWS

Pressing for peace in Yemen; new film partnerships draw attention to critical issues; Davos and unpaid labor; a demonstration at Whole Foods headquarters.



SURVIVING A CHANGING CLIMATE

Persistent drought. Failed harvests. Grinding poverty. What Oxfam is doing to help vulnerable people adapt to and overcome climate change.



A JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

How Oxfam's Sisters on the Planet® ambassadors are elevating the voices of people from the region to change US policy and deepen understanding of the migrant experience.



DIGNITY FOR ALL IS ON THE 2020 BALLOT

Since launching our 2020 effort last fall, we're working with supporters new and old to demand Dignity for All this election year.



Oxfam CloseUp
SPRING 2020

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The small graphics you see with each story represent the three major approaches we take in our work:



**SAVING LIVES
DURING DISASTERS**



**CHALLENGING
THE POWERFUL**



**BUILDING LASTING
SOLUTIONS**

COVER IMAGE: Oxfam teams are working in more than 50 countries to address the impact of COVID-19, including Iraq, Yemen, Bangladesh, Guatemala, and Kenya. Cover photos: Wael Algadi/Oxfam; Duke Ivn Amin/JAGO NARI; ASEDEEs; Sylvain Cherkaoui; Tavonga Chikwaya/Oxfam in Zimbabwe; JAGO NARI; Zoe Mau/Oxfam Hong Kong; Jaric Mwambela/Mukuru Youth Initiative; Rami Polis/Oxfam Iraq

We welcome your feedback. Please direct letters to editor@oxfamamerica.org.



DEAR FRIENDS,

As I write this near the end of March, the coronavirus outbreak is rapidly escalating in our country and around the world. I know you are deeply concerned about protecting your health and that of your loved ones, and that we all worry about the toll COVID-19

will exact on people across our planet. We haven't yet begun to see the full implications to our global economy, our health system, and our society. But we do know its impact on vulnerable people will be most severe.

With your support, Oxfam has mobilized quickly to meet this challenge. Because water, sanitation, and hygiene have been areas of Oxfam's core work for decades (see right), our teams are on the ground in more than 50 countries, working to slow the spread of COVID-19 by increasing the delivery of soap, sanitation services, and clean water to people in higher-risk environments, and educating communities on the importance of proper hand washing and other practices to stay healthy. As with other emergencies, we are working alongside our partners and supporting them and their work wherever possible.

Caring for the most vulnerable: While people of all genders, ages, races, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds can get sick, women and other vulnerable communities will suffer most. Women—and particularly women of color—are disproportionately represented in low-paying, insecure jobs that offer few protections, such as sick leave. Women and marginalized groups also tend to make up the bulk of the service industry, which is affected by an abysmally low federal minimum wage and a reliance on tips, meaning that the effects of this pandemic will land directly in their pockets.

Low-wage workers are suffering severely, and here at home we are advocating for a government response that protects them and others who don't have the support our country should be offering. They deserve paid sick leave, emergency funding for food supplies, free testing for the virus, and moratoriums on evictions, foreclosures, and utility shutoffs. We cannot address this crisis for some and not others. It simply won't work. We are more at risk as a nation and global community when we leave people behind.

In the US, we are paying particular attention to the needs of undocumented workers and working women, especially those who may be excluded from federal labor protections and especially challenged to stay healthy. We are supporting people in the places we know best, and in the most distressed parts of the country, including North Carolina, Mississippi, and New Orleans.

Sustaining our vital work: While we are working to address the impact of this crisis, our ongoing work continues. As you'll read in this issue, your support is making a difference in critical ways, such as helping communities cope with the impact of climate change, and by influencing US lawmakers on legislation before Congress. We also update you on activities of our Dignity for All initiative, which we launched last year.

We had looked forward to welcoming many of you at our second Oxfam Connect conference this June, but like so many events, we have postponed it to ensure everyone's health and safety. Rest assured we will gather as soon as possible—and what a celebration that will be!

I promise you we will continue to be relentless and determined in our efforts to respond to this emergency and keep on track essential long-term projects that are changing people's lives every day. This emergency underscores that we're all in this together. We've never been more grateful to have you by our side.

In solidarity,

Abby Maxman
President & CEO, Oxfam America

Oxfam helps provide communities with access to clean water, which is essential for breaking the chain of transmission of COVID-19. Adrian Hartrick/Oxfam

COVID-19: AVOIDING DISEASE, SLOWING THE SPREAD

We know from decades of experience that clean water, proper disposal of waste, and good hygiene practices save lives. But a shockingly large proportion of the world lacks these on a regular basis. And when a disaster strikes or a disease breaks out—like the current pandemic—the results are deadly. That's why Oxfam helps communities advocate for better services and responds to emergencies with a special focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene.



CLEAN WATER

Clean water is a basic human right, but roughly 72,000 children under age five die every year from illnesses linked to water and sanitation access problems, according to UNICEF. In emergencies, safe water is even more crucial, which is why Oxfam helps refugees and displaced people repair water systems and wells, delivers water by truck, and installs water tanks. After providing clean water to thousands of people displaced by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique in 2019, for example, Oxfam was still finding isolated villages with people trapped by floodwaters a month later. Our partners distributed LifeSaver cubes that purify water with a small hand pump as a temporary solution.



SANITATION

Proper waste management is crucial in all communities to protect the health of people and the environment, yet two billion people still don't have toilets or latrines, according to the UN World Health Organization. Oxfam is working with local organizations and governments to seek affordable, sustainable sanitation, and helps people displaced by emergencies with temporary solutions like emergency latrines and sewage management. In Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh, for example, Oxfam built a sewage treatment system that handles the waste of 150,000 Rohingya people who live in refugee camps there.



HYGIENE

Helping people keep clean by ensuring communities have soap to practice good hygiene fights poverty: It helps poor households avoid preventable diseases and medical expenses. UNICEF estimates that 40 percent of the world's population (3 billion people) do not have a hand-washing facility with water and soap at home. In addition to promoting good hygiene in schools and communities, Oxfam will distribute hygiene kits to people affected by disasters, which can include a clean bucket (with a cover) to store water, as well as soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, diapers, and laundry soap. In late 2019 and early 2020, Oxfam planned to distribute roughly 5,700 hygiene kits to families in five areas of Iraq to help people displaced by fighting to avoid disease.

Read more about our water, sanitation, and hygiene work at oxf.am/closeup-wash.

IN THE NEWS

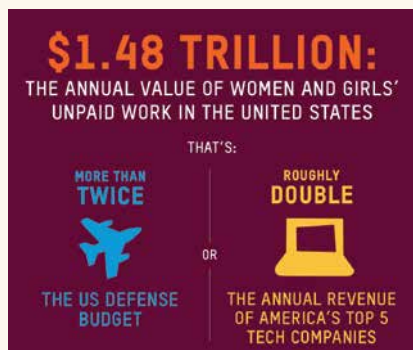
LOOK. WATCH. JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

PRESSING FOR PEACE IN YEMEN

Oxfam helped 2.5 million people in Yemen between April and December 2019 with water and sanitation, cash, and repairs of water systems designed to prevent cholera. In the US, Oxfam is mobilizing supporters to press the government to ban the sale of weapons for the war. In 2018 and 2019, supporters sent 26,348 emails and made 1,183 phone calls to members of Congress.

"Oxfam supporters and partners have been nothing short of amazing," says Scott Paul, Oxfam's humanitarian policy lead. "While we haven't been able to cut off the supply of weapons, the parties to the conflict have felt the pressure to move toward peace."

Read more at oxfam.org/closeup-yemenpeace.



EXTREME INEQUALITY

Oxfam continued to sound the alarm about increasing income inequality around the world, this time just before January's annual gathering of economic and political elites in Davos, Switzerland. We examined unpaid care work, noting that US women spend two hours a day more than men cooking, cleaning, and caring for children and the elderly. That's more than 95 extra eight-hour workdays per year! The estimated value of this unpaid care work is \$1.48 trillion annually—double the combined annual revenue of America's top five technology companies. Our findings were covered extensively, including in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Today* show.



BEHIND THE BARCODES

In February, Oxfam visited Whole Foods headquarters in Austin, Texas, to continue urging the company to end the human rights violations in its supply chain. Thanks to Whole Foods' customers and more than 200,000 Oxfam supporters, we're seeing important signs of action. The previous month, Whole Foods adopted a new supplier code of conduct and signed a joint advocacy letter with Oxfam and our allies to push the US Labor Department to act on the problem of forced labor in the global fishing industry. Parent company Amazon also released some public commitments, including the company's first human rights principles.

Find out more: oxfam.org/closeup-wholefoods

AND ... 'ACTION!'

Film is a valuable tool in our mobilization efforts, and we were thrilled to partner with several documentary filmmakers this past year to draw attention to critical issues such as climate change, migration, and inequality.

The films included *Ghost Fleet*, *Midnight Traveler*, *Knock Down the House*, and *Anthropocene*. Our partnerships allowed us to coordinate social impact campaigns; host special screenings on Capitol Hill, on US university campuses, and with some of our private sector contacts; and speak on film panels. In exchange, we were able to mobilize new supporters to align with Oxfam and join our work.

PHOTO, TOP: Samiha Ali fills a container at a water point built by Oxfam. She and her family fled their home in Yemen and now are living in a camp for displaced people elsewhere in the country. Pablo Tosco/Oxfam Intermón

PHOTO, ABOVE CENTER: Oxfam America staff protested outside the Whole Foods headquarters in Austin, Texas, in February with partners from the Farm Labor Organizing Committee and the Teamsters union. Oliver Gottfried/Oxfam America



SURVIVING A CHANGING CLIMATE

CHRIS HUFSTADER REPORTS ON WHAT OXFAM IS DOING TO HELP
VULNERABLE PEOPLE ADAPT TO AND OVERCOME CLIMATE CHANGE.

Persistent drought, failed harvests, and grinding poverty in the Guatemala village of Quebrada Seca hit Joana Hernández Ramírez and her family hard last summer. Her daughter, Zuleimi, became severely malnourished. “She was really skinny, and losing all her hair,” Hernández says. “I told my husband I thought we were going to lose our pretty little girl.”

Zuleimi spent two weeks at the hospital, and after she gained weight Hernández brought her back to their house made of plantain leaves and wood, where they get water from among the rocks in a nearby gully.

Hernández and her husband are having a difficult time growing beans and corn here in what is known as the “Dry Corridor” of Guatemala. “It doesn’t rain that much,” Hernández says of last year’s growing season. “It might rain two or three times.”

Oxfam is trying to help farmers like Hernández by providing cash to buy food and equipment to help them adapt to the dry conditions. Lucas Aldana, a farmer in the nearby area of Chiquimula, worked with a local Oxfam-funded partner to get vegetable and fruit plants—like avocado—to diversify his corn and bean field, along with cash he used to buy hoses to irrigate his plants.

Aldana wants to show his children that in a changing climate they’ll need to work hard to grow their own food. “They’ll have to learn, because we’re not just going to sit and wait. We have to take action too.”

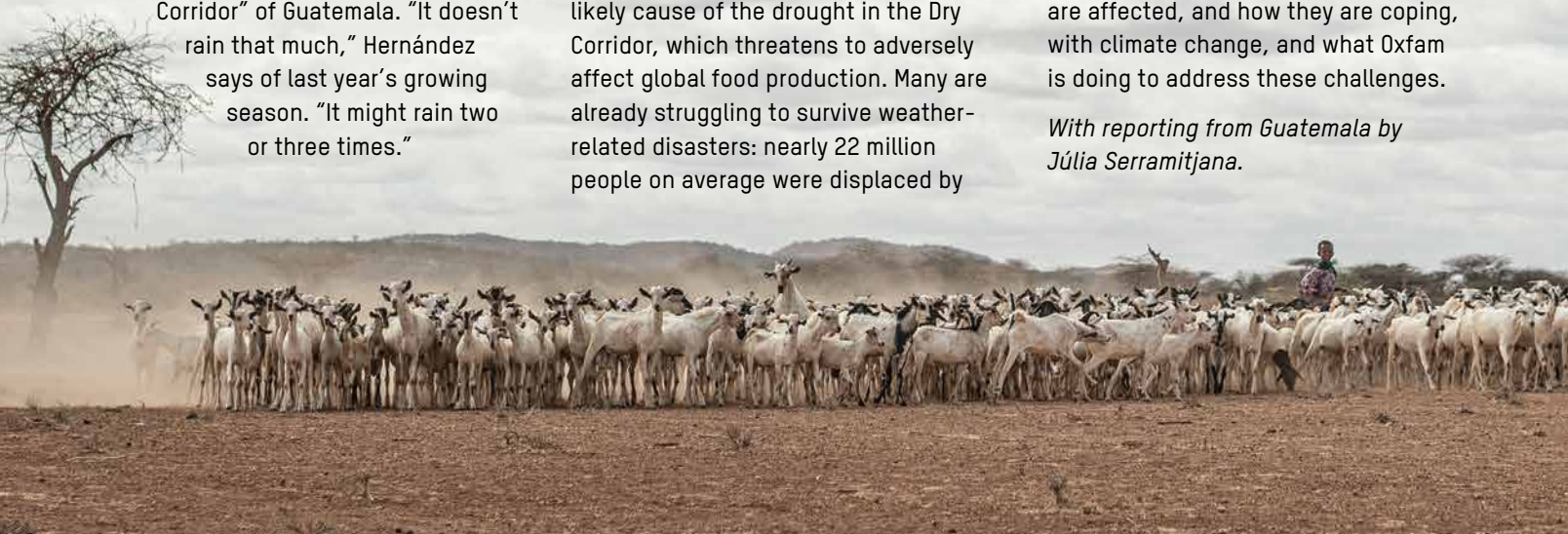
Farmers all over the world are struggling to adapt to a changing climate, the likely cause of the drought in the Dry Corridor, which threatens to adversely affect global food production. Many are already struggling to survive weather-related disasters: nearly 22 million people on average were displaced by

sudden-onset climate disasters each year between 2008 and 2016. The prospects for more displacement could be even worse. If the climate becomes hotter by two degrees Celsius, the resulting rise in sea level could submerge areas now home to 280 million people.

It is particularly unjust that the people most likely to be affected by climate change in the most severe ways are also the poorest and bear the least responsibility for the greenhouse gas emissions blamed for the changing climate. So Oxfam is also pushing wealthier countries to reduce emissions and provide funds to help poor countries reduce their vulnerability.

The following photos show how people are affected, and how they are coping, with climate change, and what Oxfam is doing to address these challenges.

*With reporting from Guatemala by
Júlia Serramitjana.*

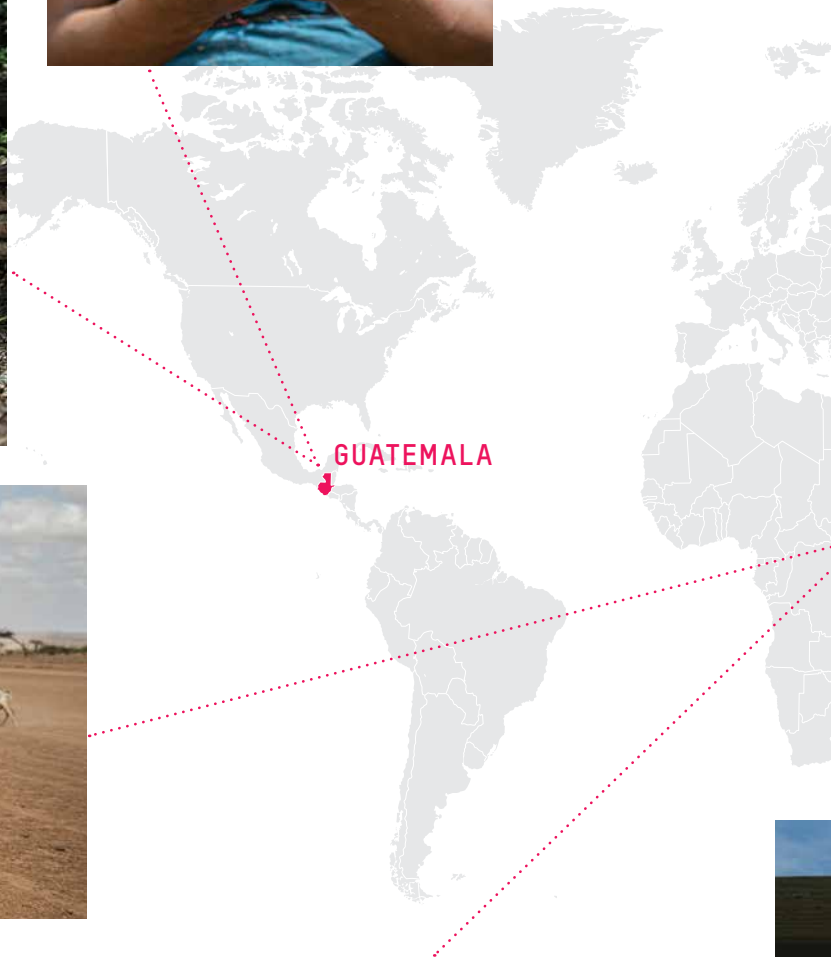


GUATEMALA

RIGHT: Poor rains in the Dry Corridor in Guatemala affected the maize crop for Clenda Marisol Ramírez Pérez. Indigenous people in this area have few other resources to help them if their corn and bean crops fail.

BELOW: Lucas Aldana is struggling to grow enough food for his family in the dry conditions in Guatemala's Dry Corridor. Oxfam gave him some cash, which he used to buy hoses to help him irrigate his corn and bean crop.

PHOTOS: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam Intermón



ETHIOPIA

ABOVE: Infrequent rain in the Somali region of Ethiopia has dried out the pastures on which many pastoralist families rely for their livestock. Many have had to travel farther and farther to find grassland for their camels, cattle, and goats.

RIGHT: Camels drink from a well near the Jarar River in the Somali region. The owner of this herd says he used to have 300 camels, sheep, and goats, but now has just 25 camels. Frequent droughts in this region make it difficult for pastoralist families to rebuild their herds between dry years.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Four years of erratic rains and drought are threatening pastoralist communities in the Somali region of Ethiopia. Millions of people have been forced to depend on humanitarian aid for their survival.

PHOTOS: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam Intermón





PHILIPPINES

LEFT: Cherry Ann Boleche leads a savings group that operates a seaweed plantation—a source of income that can withstand powerful storms. With cyclones intensifying, Oxfam and partners are helping communities adapt.

FAR LEFT: An Oxfam partner is helping a fishing association restore a mangrove forest that was damaged by a powerful cyclone. Mangroves sequester carbon, protect coastal areas from storm damage, and provide nurseries for fish.

PHOTOS: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam America



VANUATU

BELOW: “Now during storms and high tides, the sea is flooding our homes,” says Phelina Cyrus. Here, Cyrus and Oxfam’s Eddie Maliliu plant a strong-rooted grass to help slow beach erosion.

PHOTO: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam America



SOLOMON ISLANDS

ABOVE: Leaders of a savings group and their cash box. Major floods are becoming a fact of life, so Oxfam partners are helping women reduce their risks by saving for emergencies.

PHOTO: Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam America

A CLOSER LOOK Q

In addition to helping Oxfam with financial support, you can also press policymakers, political candidates, and companies to act. Learn more at: oxf.am/closeup-dignityforall



A JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

HOW OXFAM'S *SISTERS ON THE PLANET* AMBASSADORS ARE ELEVATING THE VOICES OF PEOPLE FROM THE REGION TO CHANGE US POLICY AND DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MIGRANT EXPERIENCE, BY ASH KOSIEWICZ.

On International Women's Day in 2019, Rebeca Alfaro—a Salvadoran woman who came to the US with her two young daughters—walked up to a microphone at a Washington, DC, hotel to share her story.

In the audience were 40 Oxfam *Sisters on the Planet* ambassadors on the cusp of talking to their members of Congress about why families like Alfaro's were fleeing Central America in search of safety in the US.

In halting, tearful words, Alfaro told the women about the gangs who killed her husband and mother more than a decade earlier for speaking out against violence.

"I came here from El Salvador, fleeing the gangs because they were threatening my life," she said. "They killed my mother and my husband. That's why I decided to come to this country."

Alfaro's story crystallized why the ambassadors' advocacy that day on Capitol Hill mattered. And for a particular group of *Sisters*, her words inspired a longer journey—one that would take them to El Salvador and Honduras. Their mission: work with Oxfam to amplify the voices of the women and gender-diverse people trapped in a decades-long cycle of violence and poverty—only made worse by the latest, shameful chapter of American history.

"This isn't an anthropological tour of a white savior coming through to sweep down and tell the world about what they saw," said Kiah Morris, a *Sisters on the Planet* ambassador and former Vermont state legislator, just days before she boarded a plane to San Salvador, El Salvador. "This is about us hand-in-hand with our sisters across the globe saying that we don't find this life acceptable."

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

The urgency for this journey began building well before Alfaro's powerful words.

Six months after the US Department of Justice announced its "zero-tolerance" policy that would separate thousands of children from their adult family members at the US-Mexico border, a migrant caravan of mostly women and children departed from San Pedro Sula, Honduras, in October 2018.

Many were fleeing violence, poverty, and instability—risking their lives as they made their way north. But instead of welcoming them, the Trump administration deployed more than 5,000 active military troops to the border.

The situation soon worsened. Within a month's time, administration officials proposed that migrants only be allowed



to seek asylum at official ports of entry. By January 2019, the Remain in Mexico policy was forcing asylum seekers back into dangerous border areas of Mexico as they waited for their asylum requests to be heard in the US. By March, the administration had directed the State Department to cut all foreign aid to Central America.

The *Sisters* knew they wanted something to change. They decided it was time to go to El Salvador and Honduras to learn more about why people were fleeing and what Oxfam was doing about it.

"YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US"

In October 2019, six *Sisters* spent over five days with Oxfam partners and allies in El Salvador and Honduras. They saw up close how Oxfam is bringing together activists, government leaders, and nonprofit groups to tackle the underlying causes of forced migration from Central America.

At a discussion with women parliamentarians in San Salvador, *Sisters* talked with legislators from El Salvador's three major political parties about their work with Oxfam to unify around a common agenda for women's rights.

By pushing for resources to invest in programs that address gender-based violence and improve education through a nationally recognized committee on women and gender equality—one of the few of its kind in Latin America—the work challenges a patriarchal system of male dominance and helps women build their communication skills, reach consensus across political divides, and enact national laws that prohibit gender discrimination and violence against women.

"If we give women real opportunities for employment, they would be the last ones to migrate," said America Romualdo, coordinator of the Prudencia Ayala feminist collective.

OXFAM'S SISTERS ON THE PLANET®

The *Sisters on the Planet* ambassadors are a diverse group of American women who are leaders in everything from business to politics, to the arts. They are united by a common goal: to use their influence to fight global poverty, hunger, and injustice, with a particular focus on empowering women and girls worldwide.

ABOVE: *Sisters on the Planet* ambassadors meet outside the home of Austra Berta Flores (in pink), in La Esperanza, Intibucá, Honduras. From left to right, the ambassadors are Dorothy McAuliffe, Kiah Morris, Alejandra Schrader, Annie Betancourt, Danielle Adams, and Mary Jo Kilroy.

PHOTO: Dany Barrientos/Oxfam America

THIS PAGE, TOP: Marta Sanchez, from Las Gardenias Women's Association, speaks to the *Sisters* at the Shaira Ali Center in Getsemani community, Ahuachapán, El Salvador. The center is a project supported by Oxfam and its partners to prevent gender-based violence, to empower women and girls regarding their rights, and to improve their living conditions.

THIS PAGE, BOTTOM: Kiah Morris, a former Vermont state representative, views burned objects and bullet holes in a Bible at Centro Monseñor Romero at UCA University in El Salvador. These and other objects are remains of the massacre of six Jesuits and two women during the civil war in 1989.

PHOTOS: Oscar Leiva Marinero/Oxfam America

Sisters also visited the Shaira Ali Center for the Holistic Care of Children for Equality in El Salvador. Since 2012, Oxfam has supported community-led efforts to create safe spaces for girls, boys, and adolescents from 12 to 17 years of age. Now working across 29 different communities, leaders like Marta Sanchez have trained more than 400 women from the local government on violence prevention and taught women how to recognize if they are survivors of domestic violence.

The center's new goal is to train 100 women in entrepreneurship, human rights, and the rights of women and girls with the hopes that each participant will train 10 more women.

"The work that is being done at the center with the help of Oxfam is remark-

able," said *Sisters on the Planet* ambassador and former Florida state legislator Annie Betancourt. "It's restoring the dignity of women. This is community organizing at its best."

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, *Sisters* paid a visit to the Oxfam-supported Quality of Life domestic violence shelter where they met three survivors of domestic violence: Leticia, Heydi, and Esmeralda. Each shared her story about finding safety at one of the few shelters that exist after enduring years of psychological and physical abuse.

At a time when 95 percent of the cases of domestic violence in Honduras go unresolved, the shelter was a lifeline where these women and their children were able to find emotional and legal help. With Oxfam's assistance, the shelter has trained 85 case workers on crisis support, the legal rights of women, and how to file cases against perpetrators of violence to support more women in need.

"We will fight for you and your children and your sisters and your neighbors," said Danielle Adams, a *Sisters on the Planet* ambassador and Soil and Water Conservation District Board supervisor in Durham, N.C. "I don't know what the answers are, but I know I won't ever stop fighting for you. You're my sisters too and I love you. And I'm so sorry that this happened to you. But we will take this back with us. You will always be with us."

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

Just two months after their return, the *Sisters* began to get to work. They made plans to go to Capitol Hill and build support for legislation in Congress designed to address the root causes of forced migration from Central America and end the humanitarian crisis at the US southern border.

Known as the Northern Triangle and Border Stabilization Act—authored by US Representative Zoe Lofgren of California—the bill would combat corruption, strengthen the rule of law, tackle extreme poverty, and fund civil society organizations that counter sexual, gender-





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AND YOUR SISTERS AND YOUR NEIGHBORS. ...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ANSWERS ARE, BUT I
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DANIELLE ADAMS, A *SISTERS ON THE PLANET* AMBASSADOR

based, and gang violence in communities across Central America. It stood alone as the most ambitious and comprehensive legislative solution to fix the problem.

On a busy day last December, *Sisters*, Oxfam staff, and public figure Luke Baines met with 20 different Congressional leaders including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to share the stories of the people they had met. Carrying photos of Marta, Leticia, Heydi, and Esmeralda, as well as Austra Bertha Flores, the mother of slain Honduran human rights activist Berta Cáceres, they asked their representatives to co-sponsor the bill to build support for changing US policy toward Central America and to champion human rights.

"[It is important to fight] because things just seem to move so slowly in Washington and Congress, especially anything progressive," said Mary Jo Kilroy, a *Sisters on the Planet* ambassador and former congresswoman from Ohio. "It almost seems to take a session of almost getting there until you can bring it back up the next time."

Thanks in no small part to the ambassadors' work with Oxfam, there are now 60 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives for the Northern Triangle and Border Stabilization Act. The larger Democratic caucus is now discussing its plans to move the bill, and Oxfam will continue to work with *Sisters* and Congressional leaders to build support on Capitol Hill for bold policy change.

"I've learned in my life that the best way to deal with things is through action," said Alejandra Schrader, a *Sisters on the Planet* ambassador, chef, and sustainability advocate. "What I've learned and heard is just serving as fuel to put into action what in my heart feels right—to help the cause and to continue to push the agenda with Oxfam."

A CLOSER LOOK

Read more about the powerful work of *Sisters on the Planet* here: oxf.am/closeup-sisters

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Sisters ambassador Annie Betancourt listens to Rina Araujo, a senator from El Salvador's FMLN party, at a meeting between the *Sisters* and representatives of the Parliamentarians Women and Gender Office in Antigua Cuscatlán, El Salvador. *Oscar Leiva Marinero/Oxfam America*

Danielle Adams with a survivor of gender-based violence in Asociación Calidad de Vida (Quality of Life) shelter in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. *Dany Barrientos/Oxfam America*

Sisters on the Planet ambassadors Alejandra Schrader and Dorothy McAuliffe, Oxfam staff, and actor and Oxfam supporter Luke Baines meet with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in December 2019. *Becky Davis/Oxfam America*

DIGNITY FOR ALL IS ON THE 2020 BALLOT



NOW IS THE TIME TO DEMAND THAT ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES RISE TO THE MOMENT AND ENSURE THAT THE US LIVES UP TO ITS IDEALS.

Since launching our 2020 effort, we have been working with supporters new and old to demand Dignity for All this November. Oxfam America joined more than 20 organizations to launch a series of one-on-one interviews with presidential candidates focused on the international issues that have gone underdiscussed on the campaign trail. Broadcast on social media, “US in the World”—a first-of-its-kind series—has reached almost one million Americans.

All the major party presidential candidates were invited to participate, and Democratic presidential candidates Andrew Yang, Tom Steyer, and Julian Castro were the first three to share their views with supporters like you.

Here’s what else we’ve been up to and how you can help us fight for Dignity for All in the upcoming months.

2020 CANDIDATES: END THE MUSLIM BAN

This January marked three years since the Trump administration issued its Muslim Ban executive order. The ban

blocks people from majority-Muslim countries from traveling to the US, prevents people from pursuing education, and separates families and loved ones.

The Trump administration recently expanded the ban to include Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tanzania. In response, we called on our supporters to demand that all 2020 presidential candidates publicly commit to ending the Muslim Ban by January 27, 2021.

DEAR FUTURE PRESIDENT

In February, we launched our Dear Future President series. Privileging the voices of women of color and other intersectional identities, these letters focus on what the next president must know about the lived experiences of people whose lives are at stake in the next election—at home and abroad.

“As a woman of color, I support those who demand the systemic eradication of white supremacy culture and the defense of civil and human rights,” writes Kiah Morris, an Oxfam *Sisters on the*

Planet ambassador. “I seek out politicians who speak the unflinching truths about what must change—because the world cannot placate sensitivities about the blood that is on our hands.”

TRIPLE YOUR VOTE

We all know people who don’t always make it to the polls on election day. And for a lot of infrequent voters, a simple reminder from a friend is all they need. Hearing from a friend or family member can dramatically increase the likelihood that they vote, not to mention increase the likelihood that the people they live with vote!

VOT3

Pledge to remind three friends to vote, and we’ll text you a quick reminder around election day. Go to oxf.am/closeup-votetriple to sign up.



MAKE YOUR LEGACY A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY

Felicia Ayaawin and her son collect water from a solar-powered water pump in Kpatua, Ghana, that is helping families become more resilient during dry seasons. *Nana Kofi Acquah/Oxfam*

You've helped us make a huge difference in people's lives—in the US and all over the world. But we can't stop now—not while many millions of people are still living in poverty, and inequality continues to grow.

By naming Oxfam as a beneficiary, you can help change that, once and for all. Wills might seem like the easiest way to transfer assets after your lifetime, but they don't cover everything. In fact, retirement plans, individual retirement accounts (IRAs), life insurance, and donor-advised funds use separate beneficiary forms to determine who receives these assets. Not only is it an easy way to give, but it's also flexible—you're not locked into the choice you make today.

**ORDER YOUR FREE
LEGACY GIFT AND WILL
PLANNING GUIDE TODAY!**

 (800) 776-9326

 legacy@oxfamamerica.org

 oxf.am/closeup-legacy

TAKE THE NEXT STEP:

1. Contact (800) 776-9326, ext. 2498, or legacy@oxfamamerica.org for additional information on beneficiary designations and how they can help support Oxfam America.
2. Talk to your financial or legal adviser to learn which assets will or will not trigger taxable income when paid to a beneficiary.
3. If you name Oxfam America in your plans, please use our legal name and federal tax ID.

Legal Name:
Oxfam America Inc.
Federal Tax ID
Number:
#23-7069110

Address:
226 Causeway Street
5th Floor
Boston, MA 02114



OXFAM AMERICA
226 CAUSEWAY STREET, 5TH FLOOR
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BE OUR PARTNER:

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to intensify, communities around the world are struggling to cope. Now, more than ever, your monthly gift can help us respond to the needs of those who need assistance the most without cutting our ongoing support to people working to overcome poverty.

For as little as \$15 a month, you can join our community of Oxfam Partners and help create lasting change. Use the enclosed envelope or make your gift at oxf.am/closeup-partners.

PHOTO: Naaser Mohamed Fakihi and his granddaughter fill jerrycans at a desalination plant in the Khor Omeira region of Yemen. Oxfam built the plant so families in the community—many of them displaced by conflict—can access clean water. *Pablo Tosco/Oxfam Intermón*

