

OXFAM CLOSEUP

SUMMER 2026

REVOLUTIONIZING RICE FARMING

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OXFAM

The future is equal



OXFAM LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBER

PAT HACKBARTH

// When we were kids, my brother and I would playact disasters in our backyard. We were carried away by floods and landslides, our crops were killed by drought, our horses ran away and left us stranded in the desert with nothing. Later, I learned that this was other people's reality. It wasn't difficult to imagine myself in those situations, except now there was a tremendous urgency, and an understanding that real disasters meant that truly desperate people needed real help.

The discovery that there were highly skilled people bringing lifesaving help to those who so badly needed it was thrilling. Why would I not want to support them? Especially when they knew from long experience exactly what aid would be most useful in a given situation and could get it there quickly with the help of trusted local partners. Especially when they have such a stellar record of using their funds efficiently and effectively.

Oxfam was just the organization I wanted to support and continue to do so into the future by leaving them a gift in my will. //

LEAVE A LEGACY: A GIFT IN YOUR WILL FOR AN EQUAL FUTURE

The Legacy Circle recognizes and honors those who have provided for Oxfam through their estate and financial plans. To learn more about how a gift in your will can change lives:

- Contact Tim Rogers at (800) 776-9326, x2723, or at legacy@oxfamamerica.org.
- Download our free publication *My Gift to the World: My Legacy. My Life.* at the link at right.



GET STARTED:
oxf.am/closeup-legacy

**AUGUST
IS NATIONAL
MAKE-A-WILL
MONTH**

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we were finalizing this issue, Elon Musk was declared the world's first trillionaire. This amount of wealth is almost impossible to comprehend, especially in a moment when so many people around the world are suffering from the impacts of the 2025 aid cuts that Musk helped spearhead, and which we detailed in our last issue of *Closeup*.

Frustrating as this new milestone is, we still believe that extreme inequality is not an inevitability.

On page 10, we share more about how we continue to advocate for responsible levels of humanitarian assistance and support the needs of people facing crisis, including our response to the Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

You will also read about the Paso Canoas Humanitarian Network, a collective of volunteers, organizations, and religious groups that helps migrants at the Costa Rica–Panama border. It's a great example of how local communities are the best responders when an emergency arises.

These emergencies and the story of the Humanitarian Network illustrate why it is so critical that Oxfam continue to lead the movement for more robust, equitable, locally led aid systems that are accountable to the communities they serve.

Creating the infrastructure to enable this vision of the future of aid will take time, but we know from experience that real, systemic change is possible.

Our feature story on rice farming in Vietnam demonstrates how a commitment to supporting innovation can be the seed for long-term, transformative change. Starting in 2005, Oxfam began collaborating on a pilot with rice farmers to increase production using fewer seeds and less water and fertilizer. What started small now has national impact—by 2015 nearly 2 million farmers were using the System of Rice Intensification. Today, the method is part of the national strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As we renew our commitments to the work ahead, it's also important to make sure we refill our own cups. At Oxfam, one of our favorite ways to recharge is with a good book. On page 12, we bring you a staff-curated list of summer reading recommendations. Personally, I have a docket of five books I am hoping to get to this summer.

Thank you for your solidarity as we work to respond to immediate needs and to transform systems for long-term change.



Abby Maxman
President & CEO, Oxfam America

OXFAM CLOSEUP

OXFAM AMERICA'S MEMBER MAGAZINE
SUMMER 2026 VOLUME 26, ISSUE 1

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SUMMER 2026

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UPDATE: SPRING MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

Thank you! With your support, we surpassed the goal of our Spring Matching Gift Challenge. Made possible by a generous group of Oxfam supporters, this challenge inspired donors to come together to help fight inequality and end poverty and injustice. We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and commitment to our mission.

COVER PHOTO: Duong Thi Thanh, 61, was one of the first farmers in her village to try using the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in 2014, and she is still using the same methods today. Thanh credits SRI with helping her increase her family's income and improve their standard of living. "Our income has increased by two to three times compared from before," she says. *Vu Quang Hieu/2AM Communications for Oxfam*

IN THE NEWS

LOOK. WATCH. LISTEN. JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

THE CRISIS CONTINUES

In November, an Oxfam America delegation including President and CEO Abby Maxman visited staff, partners, and allies of Oxfam's team in the West Bank. There, they witnessed the impacts of Israel's occupation on the ground, and experienced Oxfam's programmatic work. Upon returning, Maxman reported on the ongoing humanitarian emergency despite the ceasefire in an interview with *Forbes*.

► **READ MORE ABOUT OUR HUMANITARIAN WORK ON PAGE 10.**



BUILDING POWER

In April, Oxfam helped to sponsor and hosted a panel at Power Rising, a four-day summit for Black women to turn collective wisdom into an actionable agenda for economic and political power. The panel, which centered Black women's experiences as an early signal of economic strain and an intentional policy-made crisis was moderated by Jennifer Epps-Addison of Synergy Power Consulting and featured Georgia State Representative Park Cannon, Courtney Sanders of The New School, and Oxfam's own Daphne St. Surin. During the panel, our guests received Equal-tea boxes, which included sustainable tea drops, small-batch honey, and mugs made by BIPOC vendors, and Oxfam was even able to share one of those boxes with former Vice President Kamala Harris, who spoke at the conference's closing event.

ABOVE: Speakers and attendees pose for a group photo after Oxfam's panel at Power Rising. *Angelina Li/Oxfam*

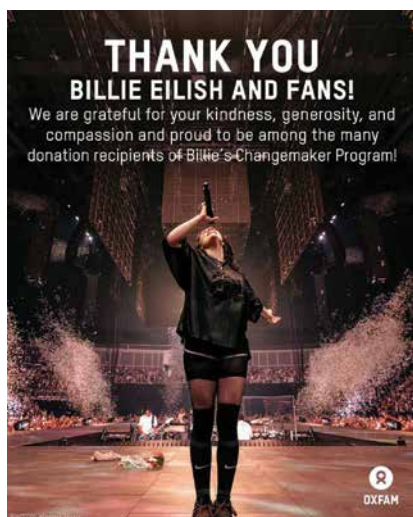
OXFAM HITS THE STREETS

Oxfam staff and supporters participated in major rallies demanding economic justice, taxing the ultra-wealthy, and lifesaving humanitarian aid.



PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT: On Tax Day, Action Network members and Oxfam staff joined a rally for tax fairness in Washington, D.C.; Oxfam volunteers called for taxing the super-rich at No Kings Day events in March; Oxfam supporters at a USAID rally in February. *Photos: Oxfam*





TEAMING UP WITH THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

In fall 2025 Oxfam partnered with musical artists Lorde, Billie Eilish, and Renée Rapp (and social impact partner REVERB) on their arena tours to encourage petition signatures calling for action on climate justice and wealth inequality. The band Garbage also co-authored a petition pressing for a ceasefire in Gaza with us. Garbage promoted the petition, along with Oxfam's response work in Gaza, throughout the band's acclaimed tour.

SPEAKING UP FOR THE SILENCED

In collaboration with Best International Feature Film Oscar-nominee *The Voice of Hind Rajab*, dozens of artists, human rights leaders, and humanitarian organizations, Oxfam joined an open letter to world leaders calling for the restoration of Gaza's hospitals and healthcare systems. Oxfam also amplified the letter on social media alongside Hind Rajab's mother Wesam Hamada, Susan Sarandon, and the Artists4Ceasefire collective of activists and artists.

ADVOCATING FOR ACTION ON HUMANITARIAN AID

Around the one-year mark of the Trump administration's dismantling of USAID, Oxfam took to the streets of Washington, D.C., with a mobile billboard broadcasting the deadly impacts of humanitarian cuts on human lives. We called on Congress and the administration to take accountability for these cruel actions and reinstate aid. Images of the billboard were captured by the Associated Press and were featured in the AP's roundup of best-of photos as well as in a *Washington Post* column.



ABOVE: Our digital billboard makes a stop in front of the Capitol building. *AP Content Services for Oxfam America*

RECENT REPORT RELEASES



In November, Oxfam released its first-ever report on domestic inequality, *UNEQUAL: The Rise of a New American Oligarchy and the Change We Need*, that broke down how our economic and political systems were designed to benefit the ultra-rich and laid out a blueprint to create a more equal society. Data from this report was featured in a *Time* article interviewing Oxfam America Senior Director of Economic Justice Nabil Ahmed. An op-ed by Oxfam America's Senior Policy Lead for Economic Justice Rebecca Riddell pulling from the report was published in *Newsweek*, and the report also received coverage in *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *The Guardian US*, and *Democracy Now!*

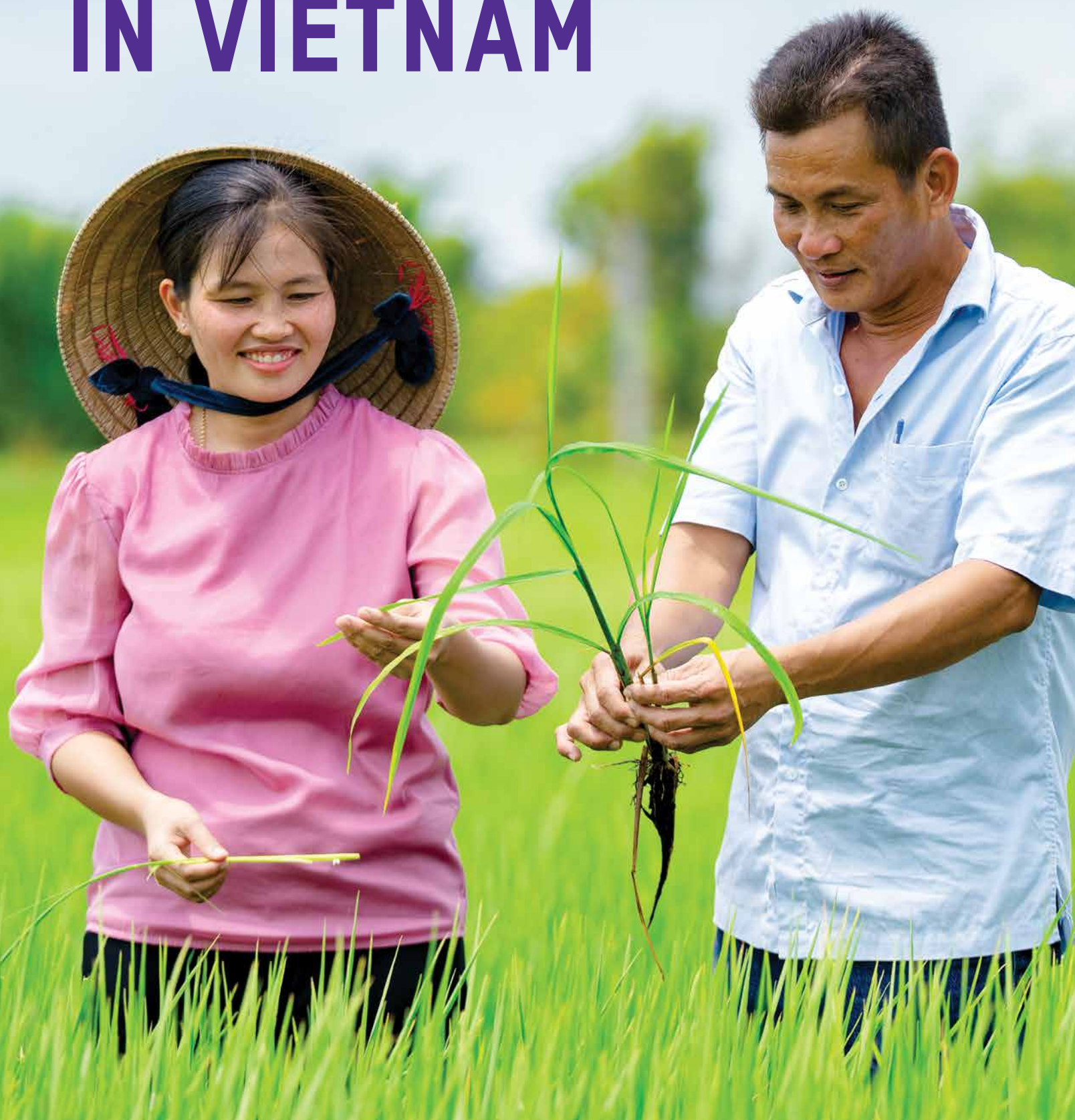


In January, Oxfam's annual inequality report, *Resisting the Rule of the Rich: Protecting Freedom from Billionaire Power*, was published. The report examined how billionaires are driving political inequality and demands action before it's too late. Key points from the report were featured in major outlets, including CNN, the Associated Press, *Washington Post*, Reuters, CNBC, *Fortune*, CBS MoneyWatch, and *Fast Company*.



On May Day, Oxfam and the International Trade Union Confederation put out a media brief titled "Working for the Rich: The Growing Divide Between Workers and Fat Cats" that revealed that, adjusted for inflation, global worker pay fell 12% while real CEO pay surged 54% between 2019 and 2025. This shocking statistic made it into CNBC, *Fast Company*, and *The Guardian* reporting.

LEADING THE RICE REVOLUTION IN VIETNAM



OXFAM'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT INNOVATION IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE RICE FARMING IN VIETNAM HAS HELPED FARMERS PROSPER. CHRIS HUFSTADER EXPLAINS OXFAM'S LEGACY IN RICE FARMING AND THE NEXT STEPS TO A LOW-CARBON RICE-GROWING FUTURE.

Duong Thi Thanh stands in a small plot of land covered in short, bright green rice plants. It's right next to a road where students stream by on bicycles. She knows this field well: In 2012 Thanh and a small group of farmers here in Uc Ky, a village in northern Vietnam of about 100 mostly rice-farming families, experimented with a new way of growing rice called the System of Rice Intensification at this very place.

Fourteen years later, Thanh and most of the other farmers in Uc Ky are still growing rice with this method. "Our income has increased by two to three times compared from before," she says. For her family, this means they had funds to build a new house for their son and buy new motorbikes for family members.

A REVOLUTION IN RICE

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is a way of growing rice that involves planting fewer seeds, using less fertilizer and water, and transplanting smaller seedlings spaced farther apart instead of in clumps.

Experts from Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (formerly known as the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and a local university trained Thanh and a few neighbors in SRI, and despite their skepticism, it worked well. Thanh says they realized

that with SRI they saved money on seed (planting as much as 60% less) and fertilizer, used less water, and expended less labor and time transplanting fewer, smaller seedlings.

Spacing out the seedlings meant less competition for light and nutrients, so the individual plants became larger and more productive than normal. "The rice yield improved, with bigger and more uniform grains," Thanh says.

The agriculture agencies, with help from Oxfam, had been teaching farmers across northern Vietnam the System of Rice Intensification for a few years before Thanh and her cohort got involved. Oxfam supported this innovation in rice production because it can help small-scale farmers to produce more, and these farmers can adapt the system to become more resilient to a changing climate while producing fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

For Oxfam, the lessons learned from SRI later shaped support for innovative, climate-smart agriculture and improvements in the livelihoods of men and women rice farmers across the country.

Ngo Tien Dung, who was the deputy director of the Plant Protection Department of Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, was the person most responsible for introducing the Sys-

tem of Rice Intensification to Vietnam. He learned about it at a conference in Indonesia in 2002, came back to Vietnam, and recruited technical staff in his department to organize farmers into "farmer field schools" to test SRI. "The technical officers led the tests and taught the farmers to collect the data and analyze the results," says Dung. In 2003 and 2004, he says the farmer field schools grew more rice when compared with other conventional rice fields, despite using less seed, water, fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides.

By 2005 Dung and his technical team at the agriculture ministry began collaborating with Oxfam America and our Vietnamese Program Coordinator Le Minh. This group developed a strategy to raise the profile of SRI at the ministry, so Dung could tap into more funds for training to ensure more farmers could benefit from using SRI practices.

The group's first move was to establish farmer field schools near Hanoi and to reach out to the media. After a national TV station featured SRI in a regular program about farming, the agriculture ministry began supporting more research and farmer training. By October 2007 the ministry had officially designated SRI as an "advanced technique," unlocking more official support for the training of farmers and the promotion of SRI.

LEFT: Vo Nhu Y (left) and Vo Thanh Truc are organic rice farmers and members of a local organic rice farmer cooperative in their home village, Vinh Loi, in Soc Trang district. Since joining the cooperative and switching to organic growing practices, they report improvements to their health and a better income, thanks to earning premium prices for their rice. *Vu Quang Hieu/2AM Communications for Oxfam*



"During that period, the role of Oxfam America was extremely important," Dung points out. "[Oxfam] worked together with us to create a strong voice to persuade Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to recognize that SRI was highly effective."

By 2011 a million farmers in Vietnam were using SRI. By 2015, the number was up to 1.8 million farmers in 23 provinces farming with SRI practices on 436,377 hectares (about 1.07 million acres). Oxfam's analysis in 2016 indicated that the farmers trained in SRI by the government with support from Oxfam had contributed \$286 million to Vietnam's farming economy and were earning \$260 more per hectare.

Oxfam estimated that every dollar it had invested in SRI programming resulted in \$30 to the farming economy.

RICE AND CLIMATE CONCERNS

Today there are between 15 million and 16 million farmers growing rice on 3.8 million hectares of land (about 9.3 million acres) in Vietnam. According to a 2018 estimate by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, rice farming produced about 43.8 million tons of CO₂, roughly half of all such emissions coming from agriculture in Vietnam.

One of the reasons the government promoted the System of Rice Intensification is that it produces about 20% less

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than conventional rice production. Some of these reductions in GHG come from using less water.

Most rice farmers are accustomed to growing "wet rice, with paddies inundated," says Oxfam's Senior Program Manager Luong Dinh Lan. "SRI teaches people to minimize that [flooding] by draining fields at least twice per growing season," Lan says. Flooding fields cuts down on weeds but allows organic matter in the flooded soil to decompose and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Alternating between wet and dry periods, and reducing certain types of fertilizer, can reduce GHG emissions—now a priority in Vietnam. Recently, the government announced that it would devote 1 million hectares (2.45 million acres) of rice-growing land to producing "low-carbon rice" as part of its commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

BENEFITS OF THE SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION

SRI helps farmers reduce input costs and greenhouse gas emissions and increase their rice production and profits.

REDUCING INPUTS

INPUT	SAVINGS (%)
Seed	as much as 60%
Water	60%
Fertilizer.....	28%
Pesticides and herbicides	as much as 62%

INCREASING BENEFITS

Profit	+ 15% to 25%
Yield	+ 13% to 29%
Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions	- 20%

MOVING TO LOW-CARBON RICE

While SRI was initially promoted to northern Vietnam's smallholder farmers, Oxfam later expanded its focus to help farmers in southern areas to better access markets, strengthen farmer organizations, and promote stronger standards for sustainable rice production as well as organic rice farming in the Mekong Delta. The region includes about half of Vietnam's rice-growing land, and is affected by saltwater intrusion and other forms of environmental degradation created by climate change.



“ [Oxfam] worked together with us to create a strong voice to persuade Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to recognize that SRI was highly effective. ”

–NGO TIEN DUNG, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PLANT PROTECTION DEPARTMENT IN VIETNAM’S AGRICULTURE MINISTRY

Oxfam’s efforts in the Mekong region built upon many SRI principles: reducing unnecessary flooding of fields and producing more rice with fewer resources, while improving farmers’ resilience and livelihoods.

Oxfam encouraged better recognition of the role of women in rice farming as well as ways to improve their income and participation in decision-making at home and in their communities.

Oxfam has also funded the development and testing of an app—called Rice Hero—that estimates greenhouse gas emissions. The next phase of Oxfam’s work to support low-carbon rice production will require a second version of Rice Hero, which will verify emissions and provide digital agriculture extension services for low-carbon rice production, weather forecasts, and market prices. This app will help farmers prove they are growing low-carbon rice to access premium prices and possibly carbon credits.

Nguyen Van Ut, who founded an organic rice cooperative with training assistance from Oxfam in Soc Trang in southern Vietnam, says he and other farmers in his group are excited to participate in the one-million-hectare goal—and they are

already growing low-carbon rice. “When they ask us to implement alternating wetting and drying techniques to our fields, we already knew about that,” he says. “We’re ahead of the government in growing low-carbon rice.”

It will be no easy task to reduce GHG emissions on a million hectares of rice-growing land, but all of Oxfam’s initiatives to help rice farmers in the past two decades have helped position those farmers to contribute to the objective. Ngo Tien Dung sees the legacy of the System of Rice Intensification making it all possible. “The application of System of Rice Intensification techniques will play an important role in meeting that goal,” he says.

**A CLOSER
LOOK**

Meet farmer trainer Dang Thi Hong, and learn how SRI changed her community: oxf.am/closeup-rice



PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT, PAGES 6 AND 7:

Nguyen Van Ut is the director of the Vinh Loi organic rice farmer cooperative. He and several other rice farmers started the cooperative in 2021 because they were concerned about the health of farmers and the environment being negatively affected by chemical pesticides and herbicides. *Vu Quang Hieu/2AM Communications for Oxfam*

Hoang Thi Thuy (left), deputy director of the Plant Protection Department in Thai Nguyen province, checks rice plants with Duong Thi Thanh, who was partly responsible for recruiting farmers to learn the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in her village, Uc Ky. They are standing in the plot of land used as a demonstration field where farmers first tried SRI in 2012. Thanh says most of the farmers in her village are still using SRI methods and earning more from growing rice. *Vu Quang Hieu/2AM Communications for Oxfam*

Ngo Tien Dung is the former deputy director of the Plant Protection Department in Vietnam’s agriculture ministry. After learning about the System of Rice Intensification at a conference, he recruited ministry staff and farmers to test the idea in Vietnam. This led to more than 1.8 million farmers taking up SRI in Vietnam, some of the first efforts to promote climate-smart rice growing in the country. *Hung Pham/2AM Communications for Oxfam*

A rice plant in southern Vietnam’s Mekong Delta region is nearly ready to harvest. Rice farming contributes to nearly half of Vietnam’s greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, so climate-smart growing practices including organic methods and the System of Rice Intensification will help the country meet its goal to devote 1 million hectares of land to low-carbon rice production. *Vu Quang Hieu/2AM Communications for Oxfam*

A SAFE SPACE FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN COSTA RICA CAME TOGETHER TO CREATE A SUPPORT NETWORK FOR MIGRANTS WHEN INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES LET THEM DOWN, WRITES DIVYA AMLADI WITH REPORTING BY MARIA EUGENIA LUARCA AND SEBASTIÁN RIVERA.

For migrants heading to the U.S. from Latin American and Caribbean countries, Paso Canoas, in the Corriedos province of Costa Rica, is a key point along their route. In 2023, more than 226,000 migratory movements were registered at this border area between Costa Rica and Panama, according to Panamanian government data.

In July 2025, Oxfam visited partners in this region. At the time, a new trend had emerged. Data collected from the Regional Observatory on Forced Migration (ORMF)—an Oxfam-backed tool established to monitor human mobility in the Latin American corridor—showed that in early 2025, people were choosing to stop in Costa Rica or turn back.

What was behind this change? The threat of deportation in the U.S., limited humanitarian aid, and a lack of safe options to continue north led to both a reversed flow of migration and an influx of migrants settling in Costa Rica, where education and healthcare opportunities offer the promise of a better life.

“The idea was to go up to the U.S.,” said Yocelyn Gomez, a mother of two from Venezuela, who has been on the move with her family for five years. “But the

situation didn't go as we thought, and even economically we couldn't keep moving forward.”

Jorge Quintero, from Colombia, spent seven years trying to reach the U.S. He got as far as Mexico, but eventually decided to return home. Quintero's time on the move was rough: In Guatemala, he was severely injured in a work accident and was not able to access medication. He arrived in Costa Rica frustrated and wary.

The options to return home carried risks. Costa Rica's government set up a Temporary Care Center for Migrants (CATEM) in Corriedos, where people could board buses to cross the border into Panama. Once someone entered CATEM, they could not move freely in and out of the facility. Those who were not admitted to CATEM were often in a more precarious situation—dependent on exploitative human traffickers to lead them back to their countries.

A PLACE FOR RELIEF AND REST

At the height of this emergency, Servicio Jesuita Migrante, Oxfam's local partner organization, stepped up to respond. Servicio Jesuita Migrante is part of the Paso Canoas Humanitarian Network, a

collective of volunteers, organizations, and religious groups that came together to fill in institutional gaps. Casa Arrupe, a shelter managed by the network, serves as a refuge where tired travelers can access food, Internet, clothing, hygiene kits, and other services. A community kitchen run by Catholic nuns offers meals daily.

“Casa Arrupe is a space of relief and rest for migrants on this border of Costa Rica and Panama,” said volunteer Roy Arias. “This is the first space where they come.”

Casa Arrupe equips people with some of the everyday essentials that don't exist in most places they've traveled, such as the Darién Gap, a 60-mile crossing through the dense, tropical forest between Colombia and Panama. There, people are exposed to extreme weather conditions and dangerous wildlife, and they run the risks of extortion, human trafficking, and sexual violence from criminal groups.

“For people who have had many days traveling, and the journey has been so difficult ... it is very important to have the possibility of a bathroom as an aspect of dignity,” said Arias.

Something as simple as a washer and dryer can offer the promise of a return to normal. Casa Arrupe has a warehouse where people can select used clothes to change into and use laundry facilities.

“Whether they come from the Darién and go north or come from Mexico or the United States and go south, [people] spend days—sometimes up to a week or more—with the same clothes on, without being able to wash, without being able to change,” said Arias.

There’s also a recreational area where children can draw and play, and parents can relax—and perhaps even rest while someone watches their children.

A PATHWAY FORWARD

Karianny Anabel Mendoza Oviedo made the treacherous journey across the Darién Gap when she was pregnant. Toward the end of her trip, her group was robbed and left with nothing but their documents. Arriving in Costa Rica, scared for her baby’s future, she credits the humanitarian network with welcoming her family and helping them become more secure. She was able to access medical care during her pregnancy, and the community even threw her a baby shower.

Mendoza enrolled her older child in school and won a scholarship to the National Learning Institute to study English.

The volunteers in the humanitarian network offer a range of support services, from helping migrants understand their legal rights to providing emotional support. Their essential work helps people navigate life in a new country.

Quintero is receiving help from the Humanitarian Network to start a refugee claim. He reported feeling more welcome in Costa Rica than in other places on his journey.

Gomez was able to access financial aid to cover her family’s basic needs, including resources for school supplies for her children. At the end of Oxfam’s visit, she had begun teaching in a religious organization.



HOW IS OXFAM RESPONDING TO THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS?

Oxfam America advocates for policies that protect people living in the world’s most vulnerable circumstances. Recently, we have been urging the U.S. government to maintain Temporary Protected Status of people seeking safety in the United States, and we have supported legal challenges to prevent them from being sent back to countries where they will be at risk of violence or persecution, including Honduras, South Sudan, Yemen, Nepal, and Ethiopia.

A CLOSER LOOK



Learn more about the global refugee crisis: oxf.am/closeup-refugee

TOP: Yocelyn Gomez doing homework with her daughter in Paso Canoas, Costa Rica. Before arriving in Paso Canoas, Gomez and her family were on the move for five years. *Sebastián Rivera/Oxfam*

BOTTOM: Josssette Chavarria and Roy Arias help migrants acclimate, and they collect data for the Regional Observatory on Forced Migration through Servicio Jesuita Migrante, Oxfam’s local partner in Paso Canoas. *Sebastián Rivera/Oxfam*

Editor’s note: Since our visit to Paso Canoas in July of last year, much has changed. Migration flows are at a near standstill. Between January and March 2026, the number of people crossing the Darién Gap had fallen to 92 people, compared with more than 300,000 in 2024, according to data from Panama’s National Migration Service.

HOW WE'RE RESPONDING TO URGENT HUMANITARIAN CRISES

CHRIS HUFSTADER REPORTS ON OXFAM'S WORK WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, MANY OF WHICH ARE STRUGGLING WITH INCREASED COSTS, FEWER RESOURCES, AND AN UPSURGE IN DEMAND FOR AID FOLLOWING CATASTROPHIC FUNDING CUTS IN 2025.

Roger Kalimira, Oxfam's water, sanitation, and hygiene lead officer in the Democratic Republic of Congo, exits a coordination meeting in Ituri province, where the Ebola virus is spreading rapidly. He shares Oxfam's plans with his colleagues: "We will build eight latrine blocks at the general hospital." Oxfam will also improve access to water and install handwashing stations at health facilities. He ticks off a list of wells that will be repaired or installed with solar-powered pumps, and which will have pipes to serve nearby households, noting that clean water and proper hygiene measures are two of the most crucial means to reduce the spread of Ebola.

Oxfam is urgently raising funds to respond to the Ebola epidemic in the DRC, where we have been assisting people affected by the ongoing conflict in the eastern provinces for years. These emergencies are converging following recent cuts in foreign aid by the United States and other governments, while new and persistent conflicts and climate-related shocks are driving humanitarian crises in Africa and the Middle East and numerous other places in the first half of 2026.

Oxfam is responding to humanitarian needs in more than 20 countries and advocating for governments to resolve conflicts and provide responsible levels of humanitarian assistance that sup-

port local humanitarian organizations. We are also encouraging our supporters to speak out on these matters. Since early 2025, 106,000 Oxfam supporters in the United States have called members of Congress, signed petitions, and spoken out in favor of peace and responsible humanitarian assistance programs. By mid-June, pressure from civil society organizations and constituents encouraged Congress to devote \$50 billion in foreign aid and a bipartisan majority in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to vote in favor of the Saving Lives and Taxpayer Dollars Act. If passed, this bill will approve enhanced congressional oversight of foreign assistance commodities to prevent waste.



ABOVE: A water tank provided by Oxfam replaces one destroyed by an Israeli airstrike in Tyre, Lebanon. *Jean Hatem/Oxfam*



RIGHT: A staff member from the nongovernmental organization Mukti Cox's Bazar conducts a cooking demonstration at a camp for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, part of an Oxfam-supported program to improve nutrition among Rohingya refugees. *Aimee Han/Oxfam*



Nurses use a handwashing station installed by Oxfam outside a health clinic in Rwampara, in eastern DRC. Oxfam is providing handwashing stations, building latrines and bathing facilities, and delivering clean water at health facilities in eastern DRC as part of our efforts to reduce the transmission of Ebola disease. Azaria Muhongya/Oxfam

MIDDLE EAST

In the Middle East, Oxfam continues its work with 20 organizations based in Gaza helping people displaced by fighting with clean water, latrines, and repairs to municipal water systems, and with access to food and hygiene items. Since the conflict began in October 2023, Oxfam has reached 1.48 million people in Gaza and the West Bank, despite efforts by the government of Israel to deny access to these areas to Oxfam and 37 other international humanitarian organizations.

LEBANON

In response to conflict in Lebanon, Oxfam has assisted 51,000 people seeking safety in collective shelters, providing water and hygiene items, bedding, food, and information and referrals to services for survivors of violence.

SYRIA

In Syria, Oxfam is helping people returning from Lebanon and other countries, and we are assisting those affected by recent fighting in Aleppo. Oxfam is providing small cash grants to help people with their businesses, and we are repairing municipal water and sanitation systems. When heavy rains in May caused the Euphrates River to flood and damage 50 water pumping stations and displace

more than 400 households in Deir ez-Zor, Oxfam helped repair infrastructure and helped distribute hygiene kits and cash to displaced families and farmers. The Syria flood response plan is to assist 300,000 people.

MOZAMBIQUE

In the wake of cyclones and flooding rains in Mozambique in early 2026, Oxfam is supporting around 600 households with emergency food assistance, including rice, maize flour, beans, sugar, salt, and cooking oil. Immediately following the storm, we distributed clean water and hygiene kits to displaced families to help reduce the risk of disease.

SOUTH SUDAN AND CHAD

Oxfam and partners in South Sudan are assisting Sudanese refugees fleeing conflict with clean water and sanitation, and promoting good hygiene to reduce the ongoing risk of cholera. Oxfam has provided support to 250,000 refugees as of May 2026. In eastern Chad, Oxfam is also providing cash and clean water, and we are building latrines in camps hosting refugees fleeing conflict in Sudan. To improve security, we are distributing solar-powered lamps to women and girls in the refugee camps.

MYANMAR, BANGLADESH, AND UKRAINE

Oxfam is continuing to assist people affected by the 2025 earthquake in Myanmar, Rohingya refugees seeking safety in Bangladesh, and seven key organizations leading humanitarian programs in Ukraine.

VENEZUELA

In late June two major earthquakes (both greater than magnitude 7) hit Venezuela, a country already coping with 7.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. As local organizations assess the damage, Oxfam is mobilizing its humanitarian mechanisms to support a locally led, people-centered response to the emergency, standing with communities in Venezuela as they face profound loss, fear, and uncertainty.

**A CLOSER
LOOK**



Find out how you can take action
to demand lifesaving aid:
oxf.am/closeup-aid

COOL READS HOT SUMMER



OXFAM STAFF SHARE WHAT THEY'RE READING NOW

If there's one thing that unites Oxfam staff outside of a passion for our work, it's reading. Whether your summer plans include lounging beachside or relaxing on your porch, we hope you're able to enjoy the simple pleasure of a good book.

PAGES FOR YOU

BY SYLVIA BROWNRIGG

This novel by Oxfam Leadership Council member Sylvia Brownrigg is about the intense love affair between college freshman Flannery Jansen and older graduate student Anne Arden. I love the book because it explores themes of desire, and for the author's poetic writing and attention to detail of this relationship.

*Recommended by: Thomas Kurmann,
Vice President of Resource Development*

IN HIS OWN WORDS

"USAID wasn't demolished because it wasn't working. It was demolished by a group of uninformed and unqualified sycophants who were trying to soothe the ego of a billionaire. But the fact that they did tear it down does create this opportunity to think about how we can do things differently."

That's an excerpt from Oxfam's recent Q&A with Nicholas Enrich, a former employee at USAID, about his new book, *Into the Wood Chipper: A Whistleblower's Account of How the Trump Administration Shredded USAID*, and what it was like to witness the agency's dismantling.



READ MORE:
oxf.am/closeup-book

HEART THE LOVER

BY LILY KING

This book is well written and a good mix of joy and sorrow. It's also a bit of a young-to-middle-age story that includes friendship, romance, what-ifs, and hope.

*Recommended by: Gina Cummings,
Vice President of Policy and Practice*

THE GOD OF THE WOODS

BY LIZ MOORE

A literary thriller set at a summer camp in the Adirondacks in the 1970s that's well written, a nice break from our current reality, and a total page-turner. I was genuinely surprised by the ending, too!

*Recommended by: Elena Veatch, Senior Digital
Advocacy & Marketing Specialist*

THE WILL TO CHANGE MEN, MASCULINITY, AND LOVE

BY BELL HOOKS

I love this book because it gives guidance on how to unpack trauma, recognize your own emotional worth, and build healthy relationships. For people, and especially men, who are taught to isolate and suppress their feelings, this book dismantles those teachings and helps us to understand emotional realities.

*Recommended by: SherShah Atif,
Editorial and Content Manager*

THE CORRESPONDENT

BY VIRGINIA EVANS

I loved following the female protagonist, who is not so likeable at first but wins you over by the end, after reflecting on her interesting, challenging life and relationships. I read it in one day and was sad it was over so quickly!

*Recommended by: Lauren Hartnett,
Humanitarian Media Manager*

THE FUTURE

BY NAOMI ALDERMAN

I love this book because it feels very on-the-nose, in the way *Black Mirror* is as a TV show. It feels "right now," with just a few details that are still sci-fi but a core that's horrifically accurate and current: tech billionaires destroying the world for their greed, with their exit plan and extravagant bunkers for when human society collapses, and a few people who set out against them.

Recommended by: Jeff Deutsch, Creative Director

I CHEERFULLY REFUSE

BY LEIF ENGER

A near-future dystopian novel set in the stark and wild beauty of the Great Lakes. I love the author's simple but eloquent writing style, which carries the reader along on an unusual hero's journey to find meaning in a world that seems mostly full of despair.

*Recommended by: Callie McDermott,
Senior Resource Development Officer and
Executive Office Communications*

MY NAME IS EMILIA DEL VALLE

BY ISABEL ALLENDE

This late-19th-century historical fiction follows the protagonist from birth to ascent as a war correspondent and weaves together contexts of Spain, Chile, and the U.S. over the course of her life. It's an engaging read spanning time, political movements, and geographies.

Recommended by: Abby Maxman, President & CEO



BECOME A CHANGEMAKER AND BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

Members of the Female Pastors Network pose on their cassava farm. The group received cassava cuttings and training to maximize profit as part of a project to diversify and boost crop production. *Nana Kofi Acquah/Oxfam*

You are energized to create lasting change, and you want to join a community of people who understand change doesn't happen overnight. Together, it's how we move from charity to change, and from moments of giving to a movement for justice.

Become a recurring donor today and be an Oxfam ChangeMaker. Your like-minded community welcomes you!

Visit oxf.am/closeup-changemakers
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GIVE THROUGH A DONOR- ADVISED FUND AND HELP ENSURE A MORE EQUAL FUTURE



GIVING THROUGH YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND (DAF)

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Make a one-time gift



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You can also broaden your humanitarian legacy by naming Oxfam as a beneficiary of your donor-advised fund in your DAF succession plan. Our tax ID is **23-7069110**.



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WHAT IS A DONOR-ADVISED FUND?

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a charitable savings account that gives you the flexibility to recommend how much and how often money is granted to Oxfam. Your DAF will help Oxfam continue to deliver lifesaving support in more than 75 countries facing crises and to advocate for long-term solutions to inequality, poverty, and injustice.

PHOTO: KISHOR SHARMA/OXFAM