



Copenhagen summit: fine words, shame about the action

OXFAM threatened a walk-out at the opening of the UN World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen in March. "It is unacceptable that in the midst of global prosperity, 1.3 billion people now live in debilitating poverty. Governments should be doing something about poverty, not just talking about it," said Patricia Feeney, Oxfam Policy Adviser.

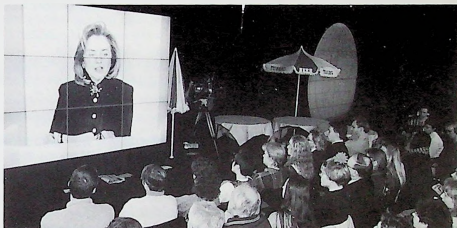
The Social Summit had aimed "to do for poverty what Rio did for the environment" and put economic and social rights on the world agenda.

In the event the summit came up with few actual commitments to improving the lives of the world's poor. But governments did admit that better ways must be found to target what aid there is.

As part of this, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to take more account of social needs when drawing up structural adjustment programmes for the Third World.

Oxfam believes that governments must put people at the centre of development. To meet the needs of the poor, greater economic efficiency must be balanced with a greater sense of social justice.

As part of its new Campaign, Oxfam will be pressing for real action to match the fine words and sentiments of governments and international bodies on aid and development.



Social Summit, Copenhagen. NGO Forum watching a giant Hillary Clinton on multiple TV screens. NGO's weren't allowed into the official press conference.

June launch for new Oxfam campaign

OXFAM is set to launch its major new campaign on 20 June, we can reveal to Campaigners.

The special graphic and slogan for the Campaign are being kept under strict embargo, but details of some of the Campaign's major themes and targets have been released.

"The key message is very simple," says Simon Collings of the Oxfam Campaign steering group. "What we are saying is poverty is wrong, and that everyone has the responsibility to eradicate it.

"Everybody has basic rights, such as the right to enough food, water, a livelihood, and an education. These basic rights have been recognised by

governments around the world. We will be campaigning to ensure they are respected and upheld."

The new Campaign will be about supporting poor people in their efforts to secure these rights and bring an end to their poverty. It will also demand that the body of rights developed and agreed through the UN over the last 50 years should be upheld by all governments for their people.

"Over the next five years," says Simon, "we want to make poverty as morally offensive as other human rights atrocities are today."

For more on the new Oxfam Campaign, turn to page two.

The new Oxfam Campaign

The Oxfam Campaign, to be launched in June, marks a new start for campaigning work in the UK and Ireland.

Behind the Campaign lies a very simple message: that poverty is wrong, and everyone has a moral duty to eradicate it.

The Campaign proposes that it is the denial of people's basic rights which is the prime cause of poverty, and that these rights are essential if poor people are to work their way out of poverty.

The Campaign, which is set to run for five years, goes right to the heart of all Oxfam's work, and will involve people all over the world.

Advocacy and campaigning work in the South will be linked closely with similar work in the North, so in a very real way Oxfam will be able to gauge opinions and influence actions from village councils to the United Nations.

Campaigners, naturally, will be central to the movement in the UK and Ireland, taking the message on to the streets and engaging the public. They will be key to achieving the Campaign's three long-term aims:

- to gain international support for the idea that people's basic rights must be respected if poverty is to be eradicated;
- to secure specific changes in policies and practices of national governments and international bodies;
- to increase levels of concern and action among the public.

Obviously, these aims can only be achieved through a lot of hard work. But more specifically it will mean:

- securing commitment from leaders and decision makers to the broad vision of the Campaign;
- lobbying and campaigning on achievable policy objectives;
- generating greater public awareness of the issues, in order to add weight of numbers to the Campaign.

The focus on basic rights is closely tied to the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, and the UN Declaration and Charter on Human Rights. Half a century on, these human rights have been violated on a massive scale – as we have seen in Rwanda. Across the developing world, Oxfam works with people who are among the 25 per cent of people who exist on the margins of survival, too poor to get decent food, work, shelter, or healthcare, let alone education. At the same time, a vision of a world without poverty is more attainable than ever. What is missing is the moral purpose and political will to act.

The Campaign will put world poverty back on to the moral and political agenda and reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, as stated in the UN's charter.

The Campaign will put world poverty back on to the moral and political agenda

Over the next five years, the Campaign will have various key activities which build on the sort of campaigning work already in motion.

As well as issue-focused campaigns on Trade and Reconstruction after Conflict, there will be national, regional, and local Basic Rights Hearings, in which the need for basic rights will be addressed by MPs, campaigners, Oxfam staff, and partners from overseas – and after which a special poverty report will be presented to Parliament.

From the start, campaigners will be especially active in the Charter for Basic Rights, a global petition which will call on governments and the people of the world to secure basic rights for all.

The September issue of *Campaigner* will include details of how you can help.

Basic Rights

The Oxfam Basic Rights Charter states that all people have the right to:

- **enough to eat**
- **clean water**
- **a livelihood**
- **a home**
- **an education**
- **healthcare**
- **a safe environment**
- **freedom from violence**
- **equality of opportunity**
- **a say in their future**

Action:

Contact your local Campaigns office for further information on and materials for the launch of the new Campaign in your area.

Landmines in Manchester

April 1. The word went round that there would be landmines in the middle of Manchester. A macabre Fool's Day stunt, surely? It wasn't. Lou McGrath from the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) carried out a mock mine-clearance operation to make sure the Manchester conference on landmines went off with a bang, as it were. Besides bringing Manchester an idea of what it is like to live with the threat of landmines, the conference gave voice to the growing call for a ban on the production, sale, possession, and use of these weapons.

Labour MEP Tony Cunningham said that a report being presented to the European Parliament supports such a comprehensive ban. Adoption of this report as the basis of future European Parliament policy would represent a major advance for the anti-mine campaign.

The Catholic aid agency CAFOD has joined other agencies in calling for the ban, and has produced a board game for schools to heighten awareness among younger people.

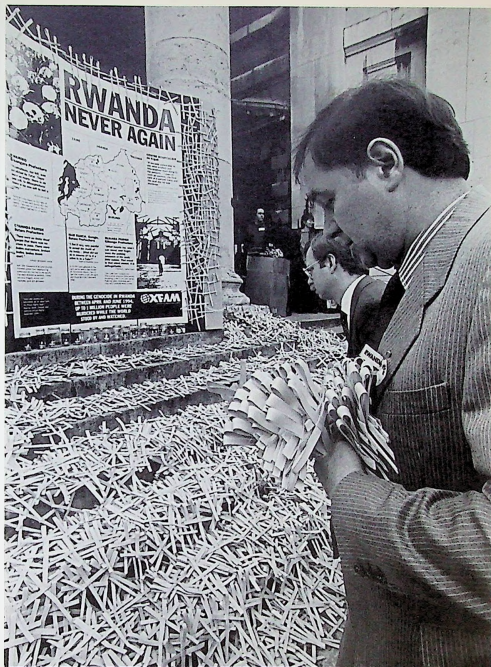
And as part of the continuing campaign to press for action on landmines at the highest levels, a petition is now circulating, calling on the UK government to ban the use, production, stockpiling, and sale, transfer or export of *all* anti-personnel mines. It also calls for an increase in funding to assist countries with mine clearance, and to rehabilitate the victims of mines.

The petition will be presented to the House early next year, so please get as many people to sign it as you can. Copies can be obtained from your local Campaigns office.

As John Sargent of the Manchester office says: "The lethal impact of these weapons on civilians continues to be an issue that mobilises public support and attention. This is a campaign we can win."

Action:

Organise a public meeting on landmines.



JENNY MATTHEWS/OXFAM

RWANDA REMEMBERED

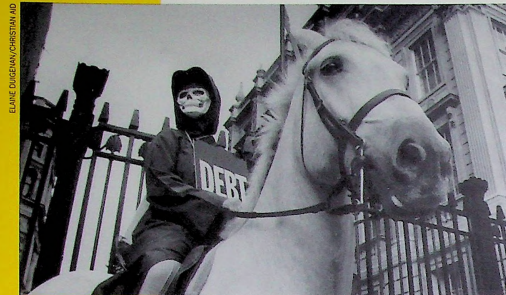
ON 6 APRIL 1994, the plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi came down at Kigali airport, killing all on board. It was the spark for genocide.

One year to the day in London, the steps of the church of St Martin in the Fields were covered with 10,000 palm-leaf crosses in an act of remembrance for all the victims of Rwanda's violence.

It was the largest inter-agency vigil for years, and attracted a lot of media

coverage. Oxfam's Anne Macintosh, Rwanda Country Representative at the time of the outbreak of genocide, and Overseas Director Stewart Wallis (photo above) were both interviewed by television news.

The day was also commemorated around the UK and Ireland by Oxfam Campaigners calling for reform of the UN to ensure that the world never witnesses genocide again.



A terrible burden ...Uganda still struggles under \$2.6 bn foreign debt

The money-go-round

WHEN HER HUSBAND DIED, Florence joined a project for women with disabilities, and borrowed money to start a small shop. It was the only way she could support her family: there is no social security for people to fall back on in Uganda. The shop was her future.

Florence's business flourished and, in due course, she was able to send her children to school for the first time. Then Uganda raised its taxation level to help pay the national debt. Florence could not afford to pay the taxes, and so her business folded. Her children no longer go to school. Even worse, she still owes the money that she borrowed to set up the business in the first place. Florence now has a personal debt to add to her problems. If she knew the truth about the state of her country's debt, she might feel angry, as well as distressed. Look at the facts.

Uganda struggles under a growing foreign debt of \$2.6 billion, which amounts to a staggering 92 per cent of its Gross National Product (GNP). And yet Uganda is a model debtor: it is up-to-date on its repayments, and has cut its social services to meet the requirements of its creditors.

The good news is that Uganda is one of the first countries to gain a two-thirds reduction of eligible bilateral debt to major creditors, agreed by the Paris Club, the forum in which creditor nations meet debtor countries. This follows months of campaigning by Oxfam and its Campaigning Network.

But bilateral debt owed to governments

is only part of the story. The bad news is that a massive 60-70 per cent of Uganda's total debt is owed to international financial institutions (IFIs), such as the World Bank and the IMF. Under their rules, countries are not allowed to cancel or reschedule their multilateral debt.

IFIs must acknowledge the scale of the multilateral debt burden, and the effect of debt repayments on the health and education of Uganda's people.

As part of a lobbying initiative, Oxfam in Ireland is now pressing the Irish government to request constitutional changes to the IFIs, enabling the IFIs to write off multilateral debt. For this to happen, the World Bank in Uganda will have to recognise that economic growth does not by itself address the needs of the poor, and that a fairer distribution of resources should be on the agenda.

Following pressure from Oxfam UK/1 and other agencies, the British government has launched its own initiative on multilateral debt. Oxfam campaigners have been urging governments to put pressure on the IMF to sell gold stocks to write off Uganda's debt. To this end, the UK government put its own proposal on the agenda of the April meeting of the World Bank/IMF, and will put a similar motion to the June meeting of the seven richest economies (the G7) in Halifax, Canada.

Through its newly-opened advocacy office in Washington DC, Oxfam will be monitoring developments at the meeting, and keeping up the pressure on behalf of people like Florence.

Spotlight on Uganda

Campaigner readers will be no strangers to the issue of Uganda's debt. Members of the Network have written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke MP, urging for the debt to be written off – with great success. Here, we report on what's been happening, and what Oxfam will be doing next.



Uganda's economic performance since 1986 has been held as a model of good practice by its creditors. The economy has grown at a rate of around five per cent a year since 1986. Inflation plunged from over 60 per cent in 1991-2 to less than five per cent in 1993.

Yet, according to a 1993 World Bank report, more than half of Uganda's population lives in poverty. In 1992, the country spent approximately five times more on debt-servicing than on the health of its citizens.

Only 20 per cent of the population have access to clean water. Infant mortality rates are 118 per thousand live births, which is about 70 per cent above the average for low-income countries. Preventable diseases are responsible for 53 per cent of the deaths reported in 20 hospitals.

Uganda: facts and figures

Population: 18,442,000

Size: 235,880 sq km

Major export product: coffee

Staple bananas, cassava, foods: rice

Life expectancy: 52

Literacy: 35% female, 62% male

Source: World Bank: *Growing Out of Poverty*, 1993, Third World Institute: *Third World Guide*



SALLY WELLS/OWA



AIDS robs children of parents – and childhoods

AIDS-orphans are often taken in by grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins – but in Matete district, Masaka, AIDS has taken a whole generation of adults, with one consequence being an increase in child-headed households. Fulgensio Semiyu (above) is 13 and has to look after his brothers Kanakulya David (12) and Leonard Senono (7). Although their parents died of AIDS, none of the children yet shows any signs of HIV infection.

Children in such situations sometimes plunge deeper and deeper into poverty, but this child-headed family is, perhaps, more fortunate. Although they possess only a blanket and a hoe between them,

Fulgensio is resourceful and enterprising. He knows how to grow food like maize, bananas, onions, passion fruit, and beans. "I sometimes try to sell bananas, but because I am a child I can only get a low price," he says. Fulgensio has had to give up education, unable to cope with the double pressure of going to school and being responsible for the household.

He tries hard, but even Fulgensio's skills do not extend to growing coffee, a good cash-earning crop for many, which can buy salt, paraffin and sugar for a family. But, ever the entrepreneur, he brews beer instead.

Selling beans to go to school

RICHARD MACERIA (right in photo) is not where he should be – in school – but kicking his heels at home, where he lives with his grandmother, Mary Nakkazi. She's 83. In a country where women's life-expectancy is usually 50, Mary could expect her days as a carer to be over – but her son and daughter-in-law have both died of AIDS, and now she has two new dependants: Richard and his sister Sylvia.

Life is tough, money is short, and Richard, who came top of his class last

year, finds it especially hard that he does not have the 18,000 Ugandan shillings he needs to return to school. The Ugandan government does not have enough money to fund schools and teachers' salaries, and so the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) has to charge fees in order to pay the teacher's wages. Richard's hopes rest in some beans he plans to harvest and sell in September. If the crop succeeds, it will raise the money to pay his school fees.

Getting poverty on to the agenda

EACH YEAR, the annual conferences of the political parties are splashed across our TV screens. Statements from leaders and sound-bites from the conference floor head up the news. Oxfam has had a regular presence at the conferences, with stands publicising our work, and speakers at fringe meetings. Now, as part of the new Campaign, we want to move up a gear by ensuring that development gets a hearing on the conference floor.

Local party members debate issues of concern at all the conferences in England, Scotland, and Wales. This autumn, as part of a broad strategy to build links with local parties, Oxfam will encourage supporters active in local

parties to promote a resolution about development.

The resolution uses the 50th anniversary of the UN to call for a renewal of its vision of a world free from deprivation, oppression, and war.

It urges governments and international institutions to promote policies which will eliminate global poverty. It presses for real government commitment to the UN target of 0.7 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) spent on overseas development, and a reduction in trade-tied aid. The resolution urges action to reduce the debt burden owed by the poorest countries, and an assessment of the impact of structural adjustment policies.

Action:

If you are already a member of any of the political parties at local level try to persuade it to debate and adopt the model resolution at its annual conference. Contact your local Campaigns office for help.



Oxfam Week 1994

AN AMAZING 25,136 people took to the streets for Oxfam Week in October last year and collected just under one million pounds for Oxfam's work overseas.

Thank you to all the Campaigners who took part and helped make the event a success.

This year, Oxfam Week will run between 30 September and 8 October, and, as usual, we will need local co-ordinators and house-to-house collectors. So please, look out for details of how you can help, which will be appearing on walls and windows near you soon.

Glastonbury 1995

THIS JUNE sees the year's biggest and best pop jamboree, the annual Glastonbury Festival. Oxfam is once again providing the three-day feast of fun with voluntary stewards, and will receive £60,000 for doing so.

But it's not all mud and music. This year Oxfam's presence will be highly visible on the campaigning side too. The weekend will provide an important

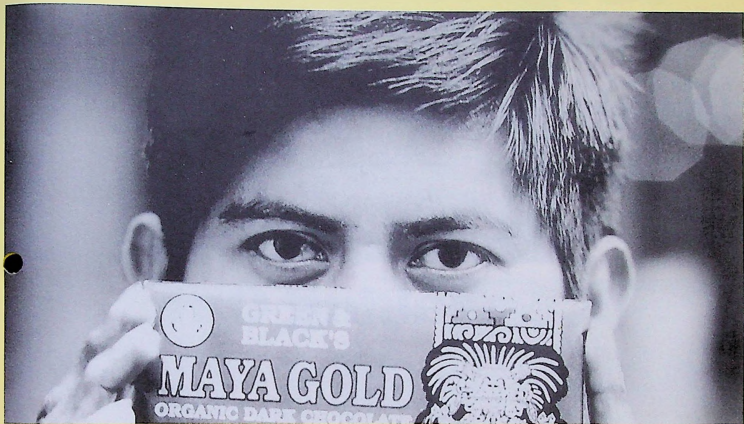
opportunity to launch the posters and materials that will be used for the new Campaign.

One aim is to get hundreds of signatures for the Global Charter for Basic Rights, which calls on the governments and people of the world to secure basic rights for all.

If you'd like to be a steward at Glastonbury, please call Oxfam on 0117 923 7883 for details

This spring sees another breakthrough for Fair Trade: its own dedicated page in Campaigner. Bob Crampton talks to Justino Peck, Chair of the Toledo Cocoa Growers' Association, and one of the farmers behind Maya Gold chocolate

Sweet success



PHOTOGRAPH BY THE INDEPENDENT

THE MAN in the jeans and jumper comes in and sits quietly. He takes milk in his tea, but no sugar. He is, as the old joke goes, sweet enough. He is Justino Peck. And that hand you've just shaken grows the cocoa that makes Maya Gold chocolate.

Justino, 31, lives in a village in Belize which has yet to be reached by the electricity mains. Now he's in the UK on a whirlwind tour of press calls, campaigns meetings, and supermarket sweeps: what does he make of it all? "Life here," he says sipping his tea carefully, "is so fast. I can't wait to get back to my fields."

It is from those fields that Maya Gold chocolate is born. Launched in March last year, the chocolate was the first commercial product to be awarded the Fairtrade Mark: a people-friendly stamp of approval from the independent Fairtrade Foundation, which guarantees that the cocoa producers receive a fair deal from the buyers, London-based chocolate lovers, Green & Black's.

The chocolate, 70 per cent cocoa solids, was an instant hit. It can now be found

in most main supermarkets, and is selling around 35,000 bars a month. A mini-bar retailing at 39p has now also been launched.

For Justino and his fellow workers, such success has been a long time coming.

"It was in the '80s and early '90s that cocoa became a cash crop for us," says Justino. "Before, we Mayan people used it only in celebrations, but then an American company called Hershey came and introduced a hybrid cocoa plant which could improve cocoa yields. All was well for a time. The price per pound of beans held up and we made a comfortable living, but as soon as the price dropped, Hershey left. The price for cocoa was so low, it wasn't even worth harvesting."

One thing the big company proved, however, was that, given the right price, there was a living to be made from cocoa. Undaunted by the hardship brought on by the price crash, the growers set up a co-operative to transport and market their cocoa. A brave step in difficult times.

Then, out of the blue, they were approached by Green & Black's, who were looking for a Fair Trade chocolate to launch. A favourable deal was struck, in which the company offered the co-operative a rate well above the market price, and a three-year guarantee to buy all Justino and his co-workers could produce.

So what has Maya Gold meant to Justino? "For me it has meant better financial support for my family. I can now send my daughter to school.

"It is very important to see the work going on here in the UK," he comments, looking at the Fair Trade Works posters on the wall. "For me, to see different groups and people promoting and campaigning for Fair Trade sales is incredible: people are doing a great job."

Action:

Keep buying Fair Trade products!

Sophia Tickell, of Oxfam's Policy Department, sees advocacy as a good example of how the new Oxfam Campaign can go from village council to the UN



Speaking Out

“ADVOCATORY is not about elites talking to elites,” says Sophia Tickell, adamantly. “True, on one level it might be about well-informed people swaying decision makers, but for Oxfam it is also campaigning on a local level, using the media, and tackling issues through public education.”

Advocacy, defined in the dictionary as pleading for the cause of another, is the new development buzz word. OK, so it *has* been around for years, but, talking to Sophia, you feel it is a concept about to come of age.

“Advocacy is important for the new Campaign, because it’s a way of looking beyond local development issues towards the wider, macro, issues that affect people’s lives. Like health, trade, and education.”

The ten basic rights which underpin the new Campaign will be the marker for all future advocacy work, but who will decide what should be done? Who, exactly, *does* advocacy?

“A lot of governments in the South are fed up with being told what to do by the North. What Oxfam is trying to do is to work with people’s initiatives on the ground. There’s been an enormous amount of advocacy work going on in the South, with varied success,” says

Sophia, “and now, as an international organisation, we’re going to learn from that and move forward. We – Oxfam, the eight International Oxfams, and our counter-parts in the South – are going to get much more systematic about it all.”

So is the future a global campaigning network?

“Advocacy works best in an alliance: when a broad coalition of groups can come together with all their different angles on an issue, but move forward and follow a consensus on what needs to be done.”

In Brazil, Sophia explains, Oxfam is supporting many national organisations in the biggest campaigning mass movement that the country has seen in decades, “The Campaign against Hunger, Misery, and for Life”. But advocacy isn’t just working on a national or international level. It works locally, too.

“In Peru, a shanty town group run by local women organised a soup kitchen to feed all the local children. This work has been extended, beyond just fulfilling the basic need, to involving the women in discussions with the local church on food aid, and looking at how food is produced locally. Now, if they can change *those* policies ... !

“You see, advocacy is about helping

poor people to call to account those who implement policies. It’s that basic right of having a say in your future that we’re driving at.

“What Oxfam and the new Campaign can try to do is help build a critical mass of people who want to alter things ... in their community or their country.”

Or – it flashes across Sophia’s face but she doesn’t say it – maybe even the world.

Action Stations:

A round-up of actions we are asking you to take in this issue.

- Contact your local office for information on the new Campaign
- Organise a public meeting on landmines
- Promote the resolution on development
- Keep buying Fair Trade products!

THE BIG IDEA

All governments have an obligation to protect not only the political and cultural, rights of their citizens, but also their rights to things like clean water, shelter, education and health care, (i.e. social and economic rights). These obligations, which can be traced to the UN Charter, are codified in over ninety international human rights instruments. Yet as we approach the end of the 20th century, the shocking reality is that individual governments and the international community as a whole continue to tolerate, and, indeed, to perpetrate, comprehensive and systematic social and economic rights violations.

Were these violations repeated in relation to civil and political rights, they would result in expressions of horror and appeals to the UN system. But the fact that one-fifth of the world's population is afflicted by poverty, hunger and disease; that conflict deprives millions of people of their homes, livelihoods and their lives; and that women suffer deep-rooted forms of discrimination in all societies, barely registers on the Richter scale of international human rights concerns. Instead of provoking outrage, denials of the most basic social and economic rights affecting hundreds of millions of people are tolerated as unfortunate facts of life for which governments are not responsible - and for which they are not answerable to the UN system.

Such an approach to human rights is inhumane and morally indefensible. It is also incompatible with the legally binding obligations accepted by governments under the UN's human rights framework. That framework makes no distinction between social and economic rights on the one side, and civil and political rights on the other. As the final declaration of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights put it: "All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated." The declaration went on to reject in categorical terms the notion that governments have no obligations to protect the social and economic rights of their citizens. Calling on the international community to remove obstacles to the realisation of all human rights, it added: "Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of governments."

The 'big idea' of the Campaign is this: to persuade an increasing number of decision makers and members of the public to view material poverty with the same moral revulsion as they do torture and other human rights violations, and to channel the energy arising from this way of seeing to help people in the South claim their rights and end their poverty.

This is not to say that we see a legal framework of rights constituting an anti-poverty strategy, rather that rights can be used as one means of empowering communities of poor people through giving them a recognised claim.

Poverty is not inevitable. Time and again our experience has shown that human rather than natural forces are at the heart of the problem and that most poverty is the result of social injustice. People create poverty and suffering, and people can put an end to it. It is not ideas on a way forward that are lacking, but political will.

1. In what year, and in response to what crisis, did Oxfam start? <Ring.>

1940, in response to German bombing raids on London.

1942, to assist starving Greeks caught between opposing armies in Greece.

1948, to help refugees from the first Arab-Israeli War.

1950, in response to the Korean War.

1953, to help victims of flooding in the East of England.

1956, to support refugees from the Hungarian Uprising against the Russians.

1957, to provide for refugees from the Algerian War of Independence.

<Tick others which Oxfam may also have responded to.>

Notes:

Born in 1942 in response to a crisis in Greece.

→ to Greek civilians caught betw. Allied & Axis forces → FAMINE.

What do you know - or think you know - about Oxfam?

2. In what year and for what purpose was the first Oxfam grant made in India? <Ring.>

- 1943, to help people caught up in the Bengal famine <f? >.
- 1951, to assist in the relief efforts of the Bihar floods <£10,000>.
- 1968, to fund the OXFAM GRAMDAN ACTION PROGRAMME in 4 backward blocks in Bihar <£125,000>.
- 1971, to provide relief for refugees from the Bangladesh War of Independence <c £2m>.
- 1976, for relief and rehabilitation in the Andra Pradesh cyclone <£500,000>.

<Tick others which Oxfam may have responded to.>

Notes:

-
3. In 1971-72 Oxfam's total income - globally - was £4 million (compared to £98 million in 1994/95) of which - because of the Bangladesh War of Independence - roughly how much was spent in the Indian Sub-continent? <Ring.>

5%

10%

20%

~~25%~~

50%

Notes:

- Oxfam spent 2 out of 4 million
- ~~to~~ ferry across a river named Oxfam.

4. In what year and where did Oxfam open its first field office in India? <Ring.>

Delhi in 1968/69

Bangalore in 1963/64

Ahmedabad in 1977/78

Nagpur in 1974/75

Ranchi in 1970/71

Calcutta in 1980/81

Bhubaneswar in 1983/84

<Tick the ones which have correct dates beside them.>

Notes:

2nd overseas office in the world.

→ by Jim Howard
recently retired from Oxfam.

1st → S. Africa.

5. What is the name of the scheme by which Oxfam Trading imports craft goods from producers in countries of the South into UK? <Ring.>

11/11/11
11/11/11
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11/11/11

Good Neighbours
Equal Exchange
Twin Trading
Traidcraft
Bridge
Tearfund
Fairtrade Foundation

<Tick other Alternative Trading Organisations (ATOs) in the list which promote "fair trading" in Britain.>

Notes:

Good neighbours. ↓
Oxfam buys from "disabled" workshops.

6. How does Oxfam Trading sell most of its products?
<Ring.>

- Through Oxfam Shops.
- Through its mail order catalogue.
- Through other "fair trading" Alternative Trading companies.
- Through commercial outlets.

<Tick others in the list which provide OT sales outlets.>

Notes:

-
7. Oxfam runs a textile recycling plant in Huddersfield, called Wastesaver. Last year (1994/95) Wastesaver made a turnover of £2.8 million, which makes it the biggest textile recycling operation in UKI. Where do you think most of its textiles come from? <Ring.>



From textiles/clothes which people give to it directly.

From textiles/clothes which Oxfam shops can't sell.

From textiles/clothes which commercial shops can't sell.

From local authority refuse collections.

From clothing factories "seconds".

From Oxfam staff and volunteers' "cast-offs".

TICK OTHERS IN THE LIST WHICH MIGHT ALSO BE SOURCES FOR WASTESAVER.

Notes:

Oxfam is the biggest textile recycler in Britain

8. In the period 1986 - 91 what proportion of Oxfam funds went into its Overseas Programme and its Education and Campaigning Programme (in UKI)? <Ring.>

70%

~~75%~~

79%

80%

83%

Notes: Shd. not slip below 80.

-
9. The Trustees, who are ultimately legally responsible for Oxfam, ask of the organisation that it should spend no more than how much on administration, fundraising etc.? <Ring.>

40%

30%

25%

20%

~~10%~~

Notes:

= Public will not tolerate anything >20%.

Public \leftarrow like to help.
slightly distinct

|| 0% Accountability
important.

10. In 1991 Oxfam was reprimanded by the Charity Commissioners - the charity watchdog in UK - for exceeding the "limitations" placed upon it by its trusts and the restrictions of charity law. Which of the following was Oxfam specifically criticised for? <Tick>.

- ✓ Holding a popular "referendum" to persuade the UK Government to change its policy with respect to Cambodia.
- ✓ Joining the Southern Africa Co-alition of 90 concerned organisations to press Commonwealth Governments to take action to end apartheid.
- ✓ Urging the British Government through its Frontline Africa Campaign to "maintain, rather than relax, pressure on the South African Government" (ie through sanctions).

Notes:

financial propriety.
Fulfilling its objectives.
- deemed to have overstepped due to
Rtist [political / public] opinions.

11. Which of the following do you think it would be "uncharitable" for Oxfam to make grants to? <Tick.>

- Core expenditure of an Indian trades union of highly exploited leather workers.
- A newspaper produced by a human rights group working on bonded labour.
- A women's pressure group campaigning for equal pay for equal work.
- ✓ The purchase of property for a project partner, the income from which would provide core finances for the group.
- ✓ A training programme for Indian journalists with an interest in development issues.

• Notes:

- ① ? Political - What about wages? ne
- ② Exact content? What other news.
- ③ Questionable - is the problem across the whole range - professionals to quarry workers!
- ④ Questionable.
- ⑤ Probably not, but, maybe.

12. There are independent "Oxfams" belonging to the Oxfam "family" [though not necessarily known by the name "Oxfam"] in the following places: <Tick>

✓ Australia
✓ Canada
✓ India
✓ New Zealand
✓ Quebec
✓ UK and Ireland
Germany

✓ Belgium
✓ Hong Kong
Italy
Norway
✓ Netherlands
✓ USA
Greece

Notes:

Ox - Australia → Community Aid Abroad
Nomb → recently joined.

Oxfams INTERNATIONALLY

collaborating for a better world

The young Oxfam is growing pains with independent, progressive and efficient development and social assistance programmes in 1975. Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland was founded in 1942 and since then the International family has grown to include



The name Oxfam has been a key to the success of Community Aid Abroad's sister Teaman Council, writes Oxfam New Zealand Executive Director Phil TWYFORD. The role in the worldwide work is being played by a number of people in 1975. Oxfam New Zealand is the only Oxfam office in the world of Oxfam United Kingdom. The role of the Oxfam office in the world of Oxfam United Kingdom is being played by a number of people in 1975.

• Oxfam United Kingdom is headed by a general secretary, who is responsible for the overall management of the organization. The general secretary is supported by a number of regional secretaries, who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the organization in their respective regions.

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agencies. Community Aid Abroad joined Oxfam International in the early 1960s. Over the last few years, the realization that Oxfams working together can be so much more effective has led to increased collaboration. In

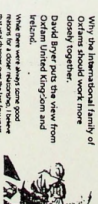
Advancing relief work, Oxfams are collaborating and making us working together in spite of the difficulties in this special feature. David Byer, Executive Director of the Oxfam International, explains the rationale for our

organization and Phil Twyford from the new Oxfam New Zealand outlines how the Oxfam International is planning. Noel Fitzmaurice - a special interview with the head of Oxfam International's new advisory office

Country	Executive Director
Australia	John G. Smith
Canada	John G. Smith
Denmark	John G. Smith
France	John G. Smith
Germany	John G. Smith
India	John G. Smith
Italy	John G. Smith
Japan	John G. Smith
Netherlands	John G. Smith
New Zealand	Phil Twyford
Norway	John G. Smith
Sweden	John G. Smith
Switzerland	John G. Smith
USA	John G. Smith
UK & Ireland	David Byer

18 *Coastline All Around - Summer 1975, Ed. 4, 1*

18 *Horizons*



Why the International family of Oxfams should work more closely together.

David Byer puts the view from Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland. He says that the Oxfams should work more closely together to share resources and to coordinate their efforts more effectively. He also mentions the importance of having a common purpose and vision across all Oxfam offices.

Since the early 1960s, Oxfam has had to respond to an international number of different tasks, such as famine relief, development work, and social assistance. This has led to a growing number of Oxfams in different countries. The Oxfams have worked together to share resources and to coordinate their efforts more effectively. This has led to a more efficient and effective Oxfam International.

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A brief history of Oxfam

Today, Oxfam is a household name. It is one of the largest overseas development agencies in the UK and Ireland, has more high-street shops than any other charity, and is respected around the world for its experience in working with poor people. But Oxfam had small beginnings, starting with a few ordinary people who wanted to help others dying from lack of food many miles away.

How Oxfam began

In 1942, during the Second World War, Greece was occupied by the Nazis. The Allies had imposed a blockade, and neither food nor medical supplies could get through, even to civilians. Men, women, and children were dying in the streets. The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief was one of several groups set up around the UK, aiming to highlight the problems created by the blockade, and to ask for relief to be sent to those in most urgent need. In early 1943, the Committee registered as a charity, and ran its first 'Greek Week' appeal, which raised £12,700. After the war, the Committee kept raising funds for war refugees, and opened the UK's very first permanent charity shop in Broad Street, Oxford – a shop which still exists today.

Broader aims

Even when the need for post-war relief aid in Europe had declined, and many of the Relief Committees had closed down, the members of the Oxford Committee wanted to keep on helping where they could, and extended their aims to include 'the relief of suffering arising as a result of wars or other causes in any part of the world'.

After the creation of Israel in 1948, the Committee sent winter clothes and supplies to refugees in the Middle East; at the end of the Korean war in 1953, it raised £60,000 to help those left homeless, hungry, or orphaned by the fighting; and in the 1960s, it supported work with victims of both famine and civil war in the Congo, Biafra, and India.



1958 An Algerian refugee being fitted with a dress sent by Oxfam.



JIM CRANNEY/OXFAM

1969 Local people working on a self-help scheme to build a water conservation tank in Bihar, India.

Growing concern

The 1960s saw great changes for Oxfam (the committee had by then come to be known by its abbreviated telegraph address). Concern for the world's poor grew tremendously among the general public. The charity's income also grew, trebling over the course of the decade.

Oxfam's work was changing too. During the Bihar famine of 1966-7, it became directly involved in a long-term emergency for the first time,

sending a team of young volunteers to help a feeding programme rather than simply making a grant. At the same time, Oxfam was starting to do non-emergency work, supporting self-help schemes through which communities could improve water, farming and health. In Bechuanaland (later Botswana) Oxfam helped farmers to look after their land and cattle in the face of drought, while in Tanzania it supported a local agency helping villagers to build and maintain reliable water

supplies.

Over the decade Oxfam became more and more directly involved in the schemes it supported, employing overseas staff and volunteers, as well as making grants for emergency and development work. By 1971, there were eleven Oxfam Field Directors, assisting 800 community projects around the world.

A different view

As Oxfam's experience overseas changed, the charity started to present a different picture of poor people in the Third World (or South). Education and information materials explained the root causes of poverty and suffering, the connections between North and South, and the role of people in the North in creating and, potentially, solving large-scale problems. Poor people were not the problem, but part of the solution. Oxfam took a lead role in the Freedom from Hunger campaign, launched by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, which aimed to combat food shortages



OXFAM

1974 Reggie Norton, one of Oxfam's first Field Directors, talking to survivors of the Guatemalan earthquake.

Organisation of Oxfam

Oxfam is a charity whose Trustees are legally responsible for all of the organisation's activities under the Charities Act, in the first instance to the Charity Commissioners and, through them, to Parliament and the Chancery Division of the High Court.

Oxfam is also incorporated as a registered limited company whose Trustees must comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 1948.

Oxfam's structure

The Council

Oxfam's Trustees form the Council, which is the governing body of the Association of Oxfam. Council meets approximately eight times a year. Trustees, who are all unpaid volunteers, are responsible in law for everything Oxfam does. These responsibilities include:

- To ensure that Oxfam abides by its charitable aims and constitution and operates within the law.
- To be ultimately accountable for the overall management of Oxfam.
- To ensure that income and assets are applied for Oxfam's beneficiaries and that its finances are properly and effectively managed and monitored.
- To set policy and objectives, and to ensure the monitoring of their implementation and evaluation of the results.
- To preserve Oxfam's good name and reputation.

There are between 15 and 25 members of Council at any one time. Trustees serve on Council for three years with the possibility of a second consecutive three-year term of office, extendable up to nine years in the case of Honorary Officers.

Oxfam's Association

The Association can have up to 55 members. It is made up of all the current Trustees, plus at least as many other members, of whom approximately half will be ex-Trustees. The Association has the duty to hold an Annual General Meeting at which it receives the annual reports of the Chair and of the Honorary Treasurer, approves the audited accounts,

appoints the auditors for the following year, and appoints any new Trustees. The Association has powers to remove Trustees, according to certain established criteria, and would manage the organisation in the event of a major failure or default on the part of Council.

The Assembly

The Assembly is a body of Oxfam people which exists to facilitate informed debate and exchange of views between the various interests and voices within Oxfam.

At the annual meetings of the Assembly, debates take place on issues of strategic or corporate importance; meetings are structured to allow a wide range of views to be heard.

The Assembly actively encourages a growing involvement in Oxfam debates by volunteers, staff, partners, advisers, and Friends of Oxfam. It has about 250 members, including all Association members and therefore all Trustees. Being a non-constitutional body, the Assembly has no decision-making powers, but it is intended that it should have a powerful influence on decision-makers by enabling them to hear a wide range of views on policy issues.

Staff and volunteers

There are approximately 27,000 Oxfam volunteers, working in about 836 shops, and in regional offices throughout the UK and Ireland.

About one thousand staff are employed by Oxfam in the UK and Ireland (including UK staff on contracts overseas). Of this number, about 600 staff are based at Oxfam House in Summertown, Oxford. There

are approximately 910 locally-recruited staff working overseas.

The **Director of Oxfam** is responsible to Trustees for the management of Oxfam. Reporting to him are the four Deputy Directors, who are each responsible for one of the four Divisions: **Marketing; Overseas; Trading; Management Services.**

Marketing Division:

Fundraising; Communications; Campaigns/public advocacy; and Education work.

This Division includes staff in the **Oxfam Regions** of the United Kingdom and Ireland: Scotland; The North; Midlands; South-west; South-east; Wales; Ireland.

Overseas Division:

Implementation of Oxfam's Overseas Programme, including liaison between Field Offices and Oxfam House by **Regional Managers and Regional Administrators;** Emergencies Department; Programme Services Department (overseas personnel/development, overseas finance, information systems etc); Policy Department.

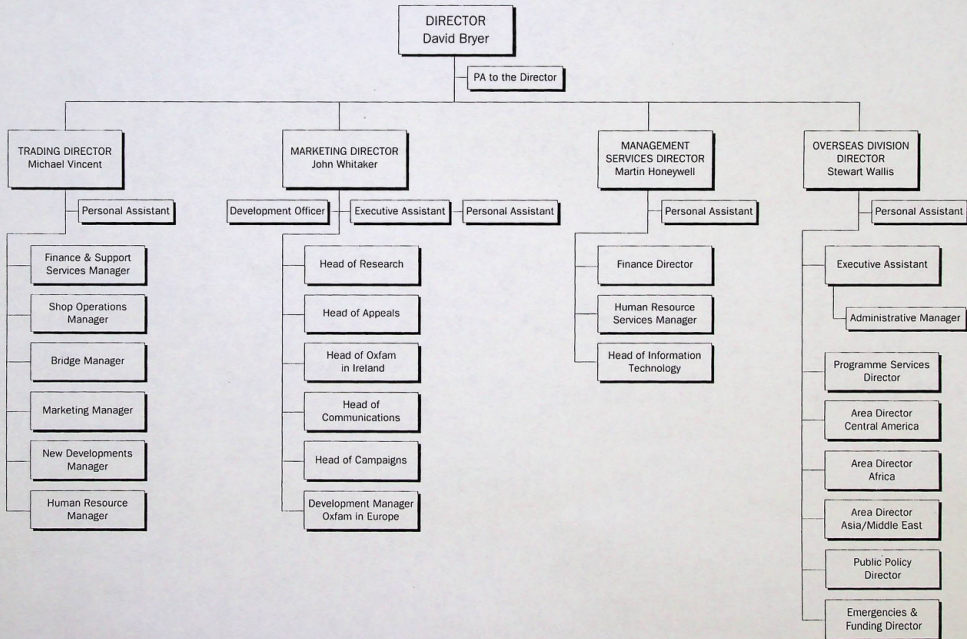
Trading Division:

Shops; Oxfam Trading (including the Bridge Programme); Wastesaver.

Management Services Division:

Finance; Administration; Central Human Resource Services; Computing; Printing; Design.

Each Division has its own Human Resource team whom you should contact regarding personnel matters. The Central Human Resource Services Team deals with organisation-wide HR matters, such as insurance, pensions, and HR policy.



not by giving food aid but by enabling people to grow enough to feed themselves. Hundreds of local Freedom from Hunger groups raised £7 million to support over 400 development projects in the South.

New ideas

As Oxfam continued to expand its work through the 1970s, many new ideas and theories were put forward about development and poverty. EF Schumacher told us that "small is beautiful", while Oxfam's work in Latin America was influenced by thinkers such as the Brazilian educationalist Paulo Freire. Those working in development realised that, to make projects effective, poor people had to be involved not just in carrying them out, but also in planning and monitoring them – from start to finish. When the Bangladesh War of Independence sent millions of refugees pouring into India in 1971, Oxfam responded by employing local people rather than outsiders. Similarly Oxfam's relief work in the Sahel in the

involved in. The same principles of community involvement and control are still behind Oxfam's work today.

Speaking out

In the 1970s it also became clear that many of the problems associated with poverty were too great for small voluntary agencies to solve alone, and that government action was needed. Oxfam decided that – within the bounds set by charity law – it had to campaign on behalf of the people it worked with overseas, and talk to decision-makers in the UK and Ireland who could have an impact on world poverty.

Retail success

As recession started to build in the 1970s, Oxfam had to make sure, more than ever, that it was as business-like and efficient as possible. In spite of the economic climate,



Since the 1970s, Oxfam supporters have talked directly to decision makers in the UK and Ireland, speaking out for poor people.

around 200 tonnes of used clothing every week, and is one of the largest recycling plants in Europe.

Meanwhile Oxfam Trading (OT) was expanding its operation. Through the Bridge scheme, which was started in the mid-1970s, OT marketed handicrafts from the South, giving customers a taste of something new, and giving small producers fair prices and valuable support, through training, advice and funding. OT also started a mail order catalogue, which helped annual sales rise to over £1 million by the early 1980s.



Oxfam's chain of charity shops, which relies of the support of thousands of volunteers, has grown to be a major sources of income.

late 1970s looked at the traditional ways in which communities survived – such as building small dams to catch rainwater, or selling their extra grain to help them last through the fallow season – and helped them to improve and refine techniques, making sure that the people kept control of the schemes they were

Oxfam's network of shops was able to grow, and became one of the charity's main sources of income. Oxfam's Wastesaver Centre, established in Huddersfield in 1975, backed up the shops by offering pioneering facilities for recycling everything from old clothes to bottle tops. Today Wastesaver receives



The Wastesaver plant at Huddersfield is a crucial link in the recycling chain.

Headline news

In 1979, Oxfam hit the headlines for its work in Cambodia, where Pol Pot's brutal regime had laid waste the country, and left over a million people dead. Oxfam led a group of agencies which mounted the largest voluntary relief effort ever, getting supplies of rice, seeds, tools, water pumps and fertilisers to cities and rural areas alike.

In the early 1980s, Oxfam again took part in a joint agency venture - the Disasters Emergency Committee - responding to reports of suffering in the Horn of Africa by raising £2 million for relief work in Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. But locust attacks on crops, rain failure, and war led to famine, which struck in 1984. The world was slow to respond, but Michael Buerk's dramatic television reports finally revealed the scale of the crisis. In just one year, Oxfam's income more than doubled to £51 million, and it was able to give £21.7 million for emergency relief in the Horn of Africa.

Michael Buerk was one of thousands of Oxfam supporters who joined a mass lobby of parliament, as part of Oxfam's new Hungry for Change campaign in 1985. Hungry for Change ran



1979 Julie Christie helped Oxfam's campaign to bring the plight of the people of Cambodia into the public eye.

till the end of the 1980s, bringing together many thousands of people to call for a better deal for the world's poor. Today, such campaigning work is continued through Oxfam's Campaigning Network, which links people who want to be part of a global challenge to poverty.

Oxfam today

Since 1942, Oxfam has come a long way, thanks to the generosity and support of ordinary people in the UK and Ireland. Oxfam is now one of the best known charities in the world, with sister organisations in the United

States, Canada, Quebec, Australia, Belgium and Hong Kong. Oxfam in the UK and Ireland has an income of around £80 million, which funds development and relief work in over 70 countries in the South, and is run by both paid professional staff and a wide network of volunteers. For the most part, Oxfam funds and supports small projects overseas run by local people, whose knowledge and contacts ensure that money and effort are used as efficiently as possible. Oxfam's programme today, in both the North and the South, aims to help poor people claim their basic rights to employment, shelter, food, health, and education; to recognise women's special needs and capabilities; to help people win a say in decisions which affect their lives; and to support their efforts to live in ways that won't destroy the environment.

Information from Oxfam leaflets, on a range of topics are available free of charge from: Oxfam Supporter Services, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ
Tel: (0865) 312603

Recent titles include:

- AIDS
- Refugees and displaced people
- Eastern Europe
- Fair Trade: the Bridge programme
- A brief history of Oxfam



TODAY Deaf children at the Suf Community Centre for the disabled, Jordan. Around the world, Oxfam is helping millions of poor people to help themselves.

OXFAM
Working for a Fairer World

Oxfam in India



About India

INDIA, THE SEVENTH LARGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, stretches from the snowy Himalayas in the north to the tropical beaches of Kanyakumari in the south; from the hot, dry, plains of Gujarat and the Thar Desert in the west to the hills and tea estates in the north-east. The people of India are culturally as diverse as the geography, and speak over 1,500 different mother tongues; Hindi and Bengali, two of 18 official languages, are the fifth and sixth most widely spoken languages in the world.

Modern India is a federation of 25 states and union territories, demarcated largely by language. Because of its size and great diversity, some people have said that India should be looked on as a continent rather than a country.

India's history can be traced back for more than 5,000 years. Empires of great complexity existed here earlier than anything comparable in Europe. Some hymns and poems are still recited in Hindu worship today as they were 3,000 years ago. It is a history resplendent with empires and dynasties which have left behind them some of the greatest buildings and art in the world. The British Raj was no more than a short episode in the country's long history, but one which – through the infrastructure of railways, postal service, and telegraph system – united the once-independent states and princedoms, and fostered the beginnings of a national consciousness.

India has achieved much since it became independent in 1947. The first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, instigated a policy of investing in industry which has resulted in one of the largest and most skilled work-forces in the world. The middle classes of cities like Bombay and Delhi have professional ambitions and material aspirations similar to their

counterparts the world over.

In agriculture, too, there has been remarkable progress. Self-sufficiency in wheat and rice, partly through the introduction of Green Revolution techniques and seed varieties, was achieved by the 1970s, and buffer stocks enabled India to make large donations of grain to African countries during the famines of 1985/86, and to avert widespread famine during its own drought of 1989.

While over half the population has benefited from these achievements, the rest of the population remains largely untouched by economic progress. There are wide differences in incomes between the different castes, classes, and states – varying from an average of Rs 4,000 (£89) a year in the Punjab, to as little as Rs1,000/1,500 (£22/33) in Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Bihar, and some of the smaller north-eastern states. These differences are often an indication of the amount of modern industry or Green Revolution farming there is in the state.

In spite of economic progress, India is still among the 22 poorest countries in the world, with the largest number of rural poor within a single country, and an estimated 350 million people living in absolute poverty.

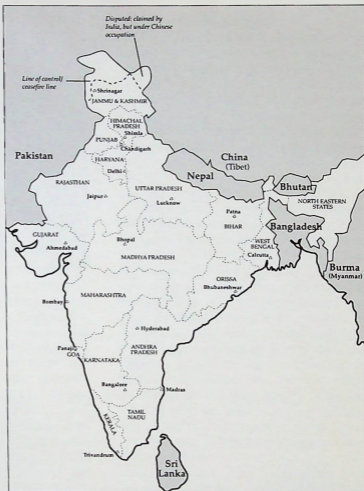
Oxfam in India

Oxfam (UK and Ireland) made its first grant in India in 1951. A serious famine threatened lives in the state of Bihar, and Oxfam responded with emergency food and clothing. In the 1970s and 1980s, several field offices were opened, and work expanded to include technical training and welfare programmes, building small schools and health centres, and constructing wells and irrigation schemes.

Over the years, and particularly since the late 1970s, the programme has

changed. Now the emphasis is on helping poor communities to organise: enabling people to gain more control over their lives and benefit from resources that are rightfully theirs. This work includes advice, training, and forming networks of like-minded groups, as well as funding to support their work.

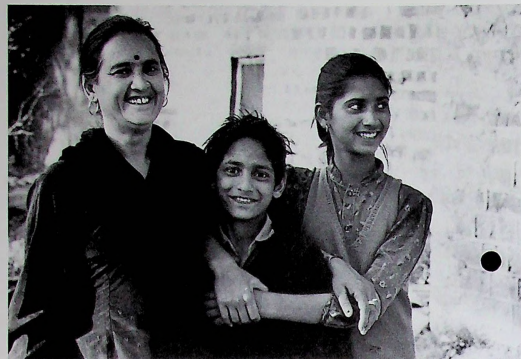
Today, Oxfam has seven Regional Offices in India, managed and co-ordinated from Delhi, working in partnership with more than 350 non-governmental organisations. Oxfam's programme of funding and support focuses on five priorities: women's



needs, particularly on the areas of domestic violence, health, and employment; programmes of work to preserve forests and to support forest peoples; strategies to help poor communities to cope with drought; employment – including campaigns on wages and conditions, child labour and bonded labour; helping Indian organisations to monitor the impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes (prescribed by the International Monetary Fund) on poor communities, and bringing their findings to the attention of national and international policy makers.

Oxfam-supported projects in India

Oxfam supports a huge variety of initiatives. In a country the size of India, and with levels of poverty so great, it is vital to ensure that a little money goes a long way. Here are four examples showing the range of work that Oxfam funds. All are community-based, and all involve relatively small amounts of money, but all are succeeding in changing people's lives for the better.



Shakuntala with her children

Taking action

LIFE IN THE HILLS of Himachal Pradesh appears to have changed little over the centuries. Small villages perch on hillsides, surrounded by terraces of wheat, rice, maize, and fruit trees. But looks can be deceptive. "Giving women the space to organise themselves is one of the most important things we do." These are the words of Subash, the Director of the Society for Social Uplift Through Rural Action (SUTRA).

Working through a network of women's groups, SUTRA runs training camps for women to teach them about their legal rights: how to file a complaint at the police station, what happens during the process of bringing a charge and going to court; and about the political system: how things work at local, state, and national levels – and how to take part.

As more and more women go on the courses, changes are happening.

Shakuntala, leader of a women's group, who has been involved with SUTRA for many years, says: "We never used to go out of the house – we used to send the children out to find out what was happening. Now we go to the bank, to the police station even. We can go and talk to the authorities." The women are changing men's attitudes and behaviour too: "The women involved have come to claim to everyone that they will not be victims of atrocities (for example, domestic violence and rape); and that, if they are, then they will not suffer in silence."

Oxfam has been involved with SUTRA's work for nearly 20 years – supporting the organisation as its work has evolved from supplying services like health-care to giving communities the confidence and skills they need in order to talk to the authorities about their needs, and demand the services to which they are entitled.

As safe as houses

THE SLUMS OF AHMEDABAD, in western India, are home to well over half its 2.5 million people. Most depend for a living on small-scale manufacturing businesses which grew up as Ahmedabad's once-huge textile industry declined. They form a divided workforce, with little experience of organising together for better conditions.

Living conditions in some slums are appalling. Housing is dilapidated and overcrowded; water supplies are insufficient, erratic, and of poor quality; there is little in the way of sanitation or drainage; few people benefit from adequate health-care, or education; there are high levels of unemployment. Many lead precarious lives, at the mercy of rich "slum-lords", who extort illegal rents for homes on government-owned land. At home and at work, poverty and exploitation dominate their lives. Few people have the power to effect changes.

The only way for them to fight the slum-lords, and remove the constant threat of eviction, is through recognised tenancy or ownership agreements for the land on which their homes stand.

SAMVAD is a local agency working with families in six slums. They are mounting pressure on the local authorities to draw up such agreements, and to provide basic services like water, sanitation, and electricity. Gradually, in some areas, battles are being won, through the hard



JOE HORN/UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

work of local committees with support from SAMVAD: some tenancy agreements have been drawn up; several areas now have clean water and drainage; families are filing claims for compensation following communal disturbances, and following flooding.

A major success has been won in Kagdiwad slum. Following a petition in the High Courts, the Municipal Corporation now recognises the housing rights of 150 families, following the demolition of their homes as part of a city "beautification" project. The corporation has allocated housing sites to the families, and water, drainage, toilets, and roads and electricity are being provided.

Oxfam supports the communities' efforts by paying the salaries of the SAMVAD staff, and the costs of organising and running training courses.

Going green

THE GREEN REVOLUTION of the 1960s brought radical changes for farmers wealthy enough to invest in high-yielding high-input crops, but by-passed India's poorer farmers. Now small miracles are happening all over the country that build on traditional methods and people's hard work – and not a chemical or artificial fertiliser in sight.

Andhra Pradesh lies on part of the Deccan Plateau of central India. The land is hard and rocky, with poor soils; the forests that were once here have gone; even major rivers dry up between one monsoon and the next. But despite the unpromising conditions, families in the far south-west of the state are managing to



Preparing a deep bed

grow vegetables to feed their families. They are doing it through Bio-Intensive Gardening (BIG). Oxfam funds help to pay for training courses, and for teaching materials such as slide-sets and gardening books.

Fruit and vegetables are intensively cultivated in long, narrow, deep beds, using organic methods. The beds are dug as deeply as possible, adding massive amounts of compost and manure, using mattocks for the top soil and crow-bars to break up the sub-soil, so that at least the top two feet are loose and crumbly. The beds are narrow, so that all the work of planting, weeding, and watering can be done from either side, and not by walking on, and compacting, the soil. It is very labour-intensive, but because the beds are deep and rich in nutrients, vegetables can be planted very closely.

People are so pleased with the yields that deep beds are appearing not just in kitchen gardens, but on roadside verges as well. Some gardeners are experimenting with natural methods of insect control, planting garlic, and mint, and marigolds; others are making a solution from pounded neem leaves to use as a spray to kill various pests. Nothing is wasted. Most kitchen and garden waste ends up in the compost, and water from washing and cooking is used for watering the plants.

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATION, HYDRABAD

Health matters

THE SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION, ACTION AND RESEARCH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH (SEARCH) works in Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra, a poor and predominantly tribal area of the state. The programme was started in 1985 by two young doctors, Rani and Abhay Bang, who wanted to put their training to good use in an area where it was most needed. To start with, they spent some time talking to people in the area and learning about their health needs. During this process they realised that there was more to health-care than curing illness: social beliefs and taboos, and economic status were major factors in ill-health. Oxfam has supported SEARCH since 1986 – with funds to help them provide medical care and health education, and training for village health workers, so that even people living in the most inaccessible areas have health-care.

The local people have a wealth of knowledge about herbs and plants that have medical applications; to build on this, SEARCH has a "Wisdom Bank", which houses a collection of plants so that data can be collected and research done on their effectiveness.

During training camps for women, they discovered the problems caused by alcoholism in poor communities: money going into the pockets of the liquor sellers, and not spent on food and other essentials – and also increased domestic violence. In response to pressure from the women, the SEARCH team is helping to develop an anti-liquor campaign – by lobbying to close liquor shops; through education; through making young people aware of the problems caused by alcohol, and encouraging them to develop other social activities and recreations like sports.



Dr Rani Bang examining one of her patients


LORIANE COLLETT/OXFAM

Facts and figures

size	3,287,590 sq km, of which 54% is agricultural, 20% forests
population	880,100,000 [UK = 58,000,000]
life expectancy	59.7 years [UK= 75.8]
gross national product per capita	\$330 UK = \$16,550]
adult literacy rate	49.8%, male: 64%, female: 35% [UK 99%]
health	infant mortality (under 1 yr) 89:1,000 live births [UK= 7:1,000] 1 doctor: 2,440 people [UK 1 : 710]
main exports	in order of importance: textile goods, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, leather, chemicals, tea, fish, jute, coffee, cashews, spices
exchange rate	£1: Rs45

(all figures for 1992)

SOURCES: World Development Report 1994, Economist Intelligence Unit Country Profile 1993



OXFAM WORKS with poor people and their organisations in over 80 countries. Oxfam believes that all people have basic rights: to earn a living and to have food, shelter, health care, and education. Oxfam provides relief in emergencies, and gives long-term support to people struggling to build a better life for themselves and their families.

This leaflet is one of a range of free information materials available from:
Oxfam Supporter Services Unit,
274 Banbury Road.
Oxford OX2 7DZ.
phone 0865 312603

Annual Review

1993-94



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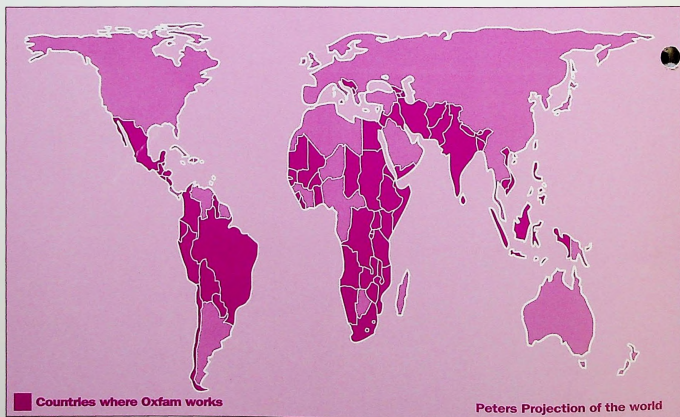
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Woman from Adequala village, in newly independent Eritrea, one of 500 villagers working on a community scheme to halt soil erosion by building *bunds* for soil and water conservation.

Credit: Jenny Mattheus/Oxfam.



Chair's report – Mary Cherry

TO change to meet the needs of the times, and yet to retain our core values undiminished: that is the constant challenge for Oxfam. So it was good to hear our Chair Emeritus, Michael Rowntree, who knew Oxfam's founders, say recently that he was sure they would still recognise in Oxfam today the organisation which they founded.

During 1993-94 we completed most of the internal changes to which I referred a year ago, and these have led to new ways of working for staff, volunteers, and trustees. At the same time, Oxfam achieved a substantial growth in income, against the general trend in the charity sector. But improved ways of working and new organisational structures are neither the only, nor the most significant, ways in which Oxfam has been changing.

Other changes have been taking place that enrich the organisation and increase its capability. I am thinking particularly of Oxfam's people. Nowadays, staff around the world are of many different cultures, and hence bring a richness and breadth of understanding to the organisation. They question and challenge us all to ensure that Oxfam lives its values.

I was exhilarated by this at a meeting in Delhi of staff from across Asia. Even more challenging was the "Women Linking for Change" conference in Bangkok. This was the culmination of a two-year study of the situation of poor women and the impact on their lives of projects which we fund. It brought together remarkable women (mostly Oxfam staff) from all over the world, many of whom work close to great poverty and suffering.

Multiculturalism and gender considerations are prominent features of our new Strategic Intent and Plan. The intent also commits us to taking a lead in bringing the members of the international family of Oxfams into a closer working relationship, which will increase the effectiveness of the work of us all. Important steps in this direction were taken at a meeting I attended of Chairs and Directors of the eight Oxfams, hosted by Oxfam Hong Kong.

In Delhi, Bangkok, and Hong Kong I found great commitment and enthusiasm – those same qualities that typify volunteers and staff in the UK and Ireland. Our shops here have increased their profitability during the year, and hence their vital contribution to Oxfam's programme. So too has Wastesaver, our unique and highly successful operation which sorts fabrics for recycling.

In many of our shops nowadays it is good to see young people sharing the load with the experienced, older volunteers. They bring talent and vigour, and spread enthusiasm for Oxfam's work. The commitment which these young shop helpers and campaigners – and, indeed, all our supporters, volunteers, and staff – have demonstrated so fully in the past year gives me great confidence in Oxfam's continuing ability to reduce human suffering.

Director's report – David Bryer

IWENT back to Lebanon last year to see how Oxfam was playing its part in rebuilding peace there after more than 15 years of war. It was a visit full of emotion, for Lebanon was where I spent much of my first four years with Oxfam back in the 1970s, in the very early days of that conflict. Despite war and kidnappings (including, for a mercifully short time, of two of our own colleagues) Oxfam stuck it out through all those years, working alongside the brave people and organisations who provided a spark of hope in grim times.

Last year I found it good to see a people rebuilding, not just their homes and livelihoods, but also their relationships with their neighbours. I find I need to remember that tenacity, and what it revealed of people's capacity to work for a more hopeful future, when I consider world events of 1993-94.

Sudan, Angola, Haiti, Bosnia, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and, most tragically of all, Rwanda – the list of countries where we have had greatly to increase our emergency response is far too long. It is an unwanted endorsement of Oxfam's widely expressed concerns in 1991 that the 1990s would be a decade of disaster, unless there were major changes both nationally and internationally.

Some of those changes have begun. The most exciting and irreversible have been those in South Africa, and Oxfam was proud to be invited to President Mandela's inauguration, celebrating at last, after working there for nearly 40 years, with some of the most committed and inspiring of all our partners.

We are also seeing a new statement of commitment by some governments – and indeed by the World Bank – to combating poverty and reducing the debt burden of the poorest countries. There is, too, a movement within the UN and its agencies to review their effectiveness – not least in tragic conflicts like those in Somalia or Rwanda.

The sadness is that we do not yet see this commitment leading to sufficient real change on the ground. Oxfam in the last year has tried to speed up these changes and make them more effective. This was the purpose of our major campaign, "Africa: Make or Break", and also of other more specific campaigns – to persuade governments to ban those most horrific of weapons, anti-personnel mines; for increased European and UK aid; and for relief of Uganda's debt.

The recognition that so many of the causes of continuing poverty and suffering lie outside the communities, or even the countries, where people live has also led us to strengthen our voice by increasing our links with other agencies – notably the other members of the Oxfam family and, in Europe, with the 21 like-minded agencies in Eurostep.

But, in the end, what makes Oxfam's work so worthwhile is the contribution of the people who struggle for a fairer and more peaceful world – whether with time and money in the UK, Ireland and our two shops in Germany (to give us a record income of £86.8 million this year) or in the great range of ways described in this review, in the 80 countries where we work.

In a sombre world, it is people like Fani in Bamako running her women's group, Amirul Islam planting his tree nursery in Bangladesh, or Ashok Tangde working in the aftermath of the Maharashtra earthquake who make us realise that the struggle is indeed winning.



Oxfam in a Changing World

OXFAM has always done its best to be alert and adaptable to an ever-changing world. But the rapid changes of the last few years have tested that alertness and adaptability almost to their limits. 1993-94 was another year in which change posed huge challenges for Oxfam and for the people we work with.

In former Yugoslavia, Albania, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan Oxfam spent nearly £5 million on work with communities still reeling from the collapse of the old Soviet Union and the political and economic system it had maintained for so long. As fighting continued in many areas, much of this



Women at one of two Oxfam "shops" in Tuzla, Bosnia, collecting winter clothing donated in the UK and Ireland during Oxfam's Cold Front Appeal.

spending was on basic emergency help to displaced and traumatised people – warm clothing and shoes in former Yugoslavia, water tanks, diesel pumps and tents in Azerbaijan, for example.

Other grants were for rehabilitation, though not necessarily of physical infrastructures: it has been equally important to help provide counselling for traumatised women and children who have experienced the horrors of ethnic cleansing, or support to the many local organisations who are working to bring about reconciliation and rebuild a functioning civic society.

Positive changes can bring almost as many challenges as negative ones. Malawi moved steadily this year towards democracy, but years of fear and repression have left most people there not just poverty-stricken but mistrustful of each other and of their own judgement and abilities. Government training and advice services for farmers have achieved little in the past, because even conscientious government workers knew only one way of working – pushing their own solutions from outside.

An Oxfam rural development training programme in Mulanje province, run in conjunction with the government, has introduced new ideas and working practices which build up people's confidence, and are helping poor communities and civil servants to work more effectively together.

Changes in trading patterns have continued to have profound effects on many of the people Oxfam works with. The new North American Free Trade Agreement, for example, sparked an uprising in southern Mexico which grabbed the headlines in early 1994. For peasant farmers, the Agreement meant the loss of an important market for their crops. More than a million people are expected to lose their livelihoods under the new agreement, which puts peasant maize-farmers in competition with the huge mechanised farms of the USA. Oxfam provided emergency aid to people displaced by the conflict, and supported groups campaigning for a free trade agreement which would take into account the needs of peasant farmers.

Poor people, particularly women, have borne the brunt of cutbacks in vital health and education services resulting from the introduction of structural adjustment programmes imposed at the insistence of the World Bank. In Oxfam's experience, these market-based reforms have increased

APRIL 1994 marked the formal end of South Africa's apartheid system, as black voters queued at the polls for the first time, to vote alongside their white compatriots. Whatever the problems facing the new democracy, 1993-4 was a year of new hope and new possibilities.

Oxfam has worked with poor black communities there for over 35 years, one of the few UK and Ireland agencies to



Demonstrating during the apartheid years.

do so. Our funding to squatter communities facing forcible eviction from designated "white" areas, to farmworkers working in conditions of virtual slavery, to advice offices and legal aid programmes has enabled thousands of people to withstand the poverty and injustice of the apartheid years.

The elections themselves created new needs. Several of the organisations we have supported ran special "voter education" programmes, to give black people – many of them illiterate – the information they needed to play a full part in the elections.

income disparities because of their failure to address unequal power relations and poor people's lack of access to markets.

In response, Oxfam embarked on a collaborative research programme with Southern partners to document the problems and identify solutions. A constructive dialogue on policy has been established with senior staff in the World Bank, and an Oxfam policy adviser participated in a World Bank assessment mission in Zimbabwe. As a result, Bank staff were exposed to the problems facing poor communities, and policies on health user fees and agricultural marketing which disadvantage the poor are now under review.

Possibly the change which has most directly affected poor families in the past decade has been the accelerating movement of people towards the cities, as life becomes less viable on the land. The loss of old community support systems can leave people isolated, and vulnerable to exploitation. Family structures often collapse: millions of children now struggle alone for survival on the streets of the world's cities, with little or no family support of any kind. Oxfam has supported the National Movement of Streetchildren, again in Brazil, in a programme which helps these vulnerable young people to campaign for their rights, and for the chance of a decent life.

Jonas Mathew/Oxfam



Recife street children find food and shelter.

Oxfam also supported organisations working to make sure that the elections were "free and fair": grants covered the costs of a UN election observer in Sekhukhune land, and paid for outside observers to travel to conflict-ridden rural areas.

The new government has inherited the legacy of apartheid: widespread poverty, and a black population condemned for years to sub-standard education, appalling housing, and massive unemployment. Oxfam's work is moving into a new phase, as the organisations we support are able at last to concentrate on genuine, long-term development.



Matthew Simmers/Oxfam

One in six black South Africans still lives in a shack.

In February we opened an office in Johannesburg, and are now, for the first time in 12 years, able to work from within South Africa.

Stuart Vagg/Oxfam



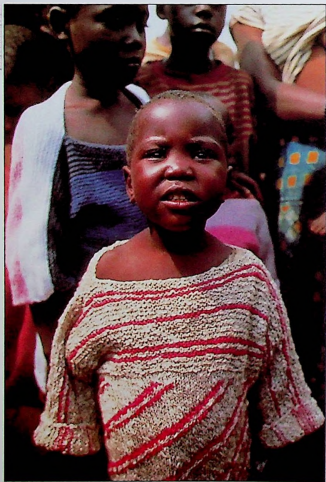
Joan Simmers, of the Oxfam-funded Border Rural Committee, running a voter education session for farm workers in Stellenbosch.

Surviving Disasters

THE huge changes which have swept the world in the last few years led again this year to suffering for millions of people. 1993-94 saw the greatest part of Oxfam's funds once more spent on emergency work, nearly 60 per cent of it in Africa.

The end of the Cold War has left a vacuum in many of the countries once caught up in the super-powers' conflict. At the same time, free-market doctrines, applied inflexibly, have cut back welfare programmes, leaving many people in desperate poverty, disillusioned with their governments – and fatally responsive to ethnic or tribal hate-mongering. Most of Oxfam's emergency spending has gone to cope with the effects of human conflict, rather than of natural disaster.

This year violence exploded in central Africa. Conflict in Zaire's Kivu and Shaba provinces left many thousands of people dead and over a million displaced. Oxfam spent over £4 million this year in Zaire, on clothes, blankets, tools, seeds, medicines, and soap.



Burundian refugee child in Maza camp, Rwanda, wearing a top knitted by an Oxfam supporter.

Zaire's problems, however, turned out to be part of a wider pattern unfolding in the region. Even as Zaireans were fleeing in terror from one part of their country to another, 65,000 Burundian refugees were seeking sanctuary in Zaire, where Oxfam provided them with plastic sheeting, blankets, and soap.

Their flight was part of a much larger exodus from Burundi: Over 600,000 people fled in October 1993, after the assassination of Burundi's first democratically elected president, which led to widespread bloodshed. Making for whichever border was nearest, refugees also spilt out into neighbouring Tanzania and Rwanda.

In both Tanzania and Rwanda we aimed to provide a total health "package" for refugees, providing clean-water systems, sanitation, and health training. Oxfam water engineers in Tanzania helped to set up water systems – some temporary, but some more permanent, designed to provide long-term

When I first visited Sirsal the day after the earthquake," says Ashok Tangle, "and saw the destroyed village – a huge heap of rubble and debris – I felt complete helplessness. There was nothing I could do."

At 3.56 am on 30 September 1993, for 47 seconds, an earthquake rocked the Indian state of Maharashtra. It wasn't a particularly severe one, measuring a moderate 6.4 on the Richter scale, and its strike was limited to a relatively small area, just 40 km across. But for the thousands of people living in the area, the damage was done. Their world had fallen in. Thousands of homes were turned into tombs in just under a minute.

It's thought that up to 25,000 people were killed, and probably more than 140,000 people injured or left homeless.

Two Oxfam staff were in the disaster area within six hours. Having worked in the area for years, Oxfam was able to help where and when it mattered most. Through our network of partner agencies we were able to provide emergency shelters and water equipment, and help distribute food to the most vulnerable survivors.

Within a day, local organisations, many of whom Oxfam has supported over the years, had formed a relief committee, which was able to mobilise hundreds of volunteers. Through the torrential rain of the next three weeks they struggled to help survivors erect temporary shelters, dig the injured from the rubble, and comfort the bereaved.

The strength of the organisations which Oxfam has helped to nurture was immediately apparent. "I went to the site some 500 yards away, where the survivors had congregated," continues Ashok. "A new settlement was

supplies for local people as well.

In April 1994, however, Rwanda itself erupted into violence when a plane crash killed the new Burundian president and the Rwandan president. By the end of the period covered by this report, it was already clear that tens of thousands of people had been murdered. Oxfam had allocated nearly £0.5 million to send two plane loads of emergency supplies to refugees in north Zaire, made further large emergency grants in Tanzania and Burundi, and started calling for international action to halt what we could only describe as genocide.

Most of Oxfam's work elsewhere in Africa has also been with people affected by conflict: helping displaced people in south Sudan to remain self-sufficient and supporting their host communities; providing emergency water supplies in Angola; and enabling people in Somalia to start farming their land again, despite the continuing conflict around them.



Above: Removing her belongings and reusable building materials from the ruins of Limbala Dru.



Left: Women cleaning up her pots and pans, just excavated from her ruined house in Limbala Dru.

already coming up. Volunteers from my organisation, the Rural Development Centre, were busy collecting poles, tin sheets, string, which

they salvaged from the damaged houses. They were so engrossed putting up the poles, tying them together, hammering the tin sheets on the roofs, that they didn't notice me. My sense of helplessness left me."

When the immediate emergency was over, Oxfam was able to help local communities improve their drainage and sanitation and restore water supplies damaged by the quake. We provided clothes, blankets, seeds, and tools to help people re-establish their livelihoods. As rebuilding began in the villages affected, we also played an expert in low-cost housing to work with homeless villagers, designing safer houses.



Women at Sarabaha camp, Afghanistan, gather to discuss camp health issues.

Conflict has also been the main cause of our emergency and rehabilitation work outside Africa, whether in Afghanistan, Iraq, eastern Europe, Haiti or Chile, with Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, or Burmese refugees in Bangladesh. In all these situations our concern has been to look at the total health needs of the people who need our help: providing – or working with other agencies to provide – clean water, sanitation, food, and health education.

Though few "natural" disasters were as savage as the human violence the world witnessed this year, we provided seeds and water-storage systems for people affected by drought in north-east Brazil, and food for people in areas of northern Kenya facing their third year of drought.

We continued to provide help to the people still unable to return to their homes three years after the Mount Pinatubo eruption in the Philippines. Effective disaster-prevention is always our priority, and we helped poor people in Bangladesh to make their views heard on the Bangladesh government's Flood Action Plan.



Oxfam water installation at Bwako camp, Tanzania.

Making a Living

In many countries around the world, economic recession, structural adjustment programmes, natural disasters, conflicts, breakdown of traditional life-styles, and lack of access to land all contribute to the rapid growth of cities, as poor rural people abandon their homes in the hope of making a better life in the city. Things rarely live up to their expectations. Poor housing and unemployment are the reality for the majority. They make up the "informal sector" – labouring in work that is unreliable and poorly paid. Their survival depends on their resourcefulness. Oxfam works in urban areas to help poor families and communities to meet their basic needs, by supporting community organisations which are working to improve living conditions and incomes.



Fanni, leader of one of the women's groups in Mali. "It is always the women who have had to work."

In Mali this year, Oxfam supported a credit fund which is helping women in Bamako, the capital city, to set up small businesses. Fanni, the leader of one group, explains: "We are poor; there are not many women whose husbands have regular jobs. There are about 80 women involved in all; the amount each one borrows depends on the type of trade she carries out. In my group, Solange buys clothes and sells them in the market. Ramatou and I sell material; another woman buys Shea nuts, curdled milk, aubergines, and chickens in Banan, where they are cheaper, and sells them here; and Fatima sells wood". Fanni and her group have decided what to sell, and where; the credit programme is directed by the women's own concerns and abilities, and demonstrates to their communities that women can be major forces in the fight against poverty.

In rural areas Oxfam supported programmes helping people to improve their livelihoods; where land was scarce or unsuitable for farming, Oxfam helped to find new opportunities for families to make an income without relying on agriculture, to help stem the rush to the cities.

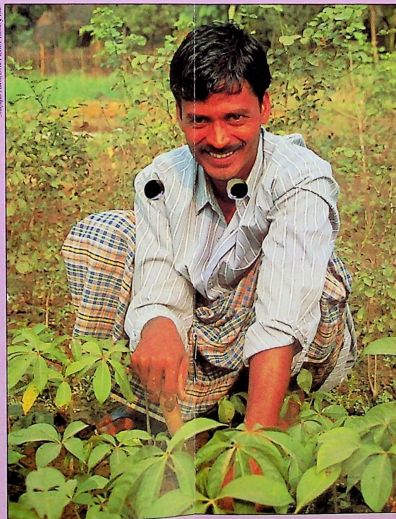
In Albania, the new Oxfam team spent the year assessing conditions, talking to people, and planning a development programme for communities in the north-west of the country. People living here in the mountains have to cope with harsh conditions. The commune of Shllak is made up of 17 villages – most reached only on foot. There is little cultivable land, and farms produce barely enough for subsistence. Water is a problem in most of the villages; women can spend up to four hours a day collecting water, carrying it home along narrow mountain trails. Although electricity is cheap and easily available, there are few power-lines to the villages, so almost all cooking and heating is done on wood-burning stoves.

In Bangladesh to be without land is to be poor, with all that poverty means: hard work, hunger, ill-health, insecurity, exploitation, worry, and fear. More than 60 per cent of Bangladeshis have no land. And land is what you need to give you security, and – if you have enough of it – power.

But there is an alternative: the rich may have land, but the poor have one another. Community Development Association in Dinajpur helps people to get organised. It is a turning point when people join a group and realise that they are not alone, and that everyone has a right to expect more, and to plan and work for a better life.

What they do next varies from group to group, but it's always with CDA's support and guidance. CDA helps to improve health by immunisation, safe water supplies, improved sanitation, and training. It helps people to earn more, by making loans for agriculture or a small business. It helps local people to protect the environment by providing training in organic gardening and by planting trees.

Fundamental to all these activities, and to the confidence-building that



Sigal Amirul, Pakistan, Nursery Ltd.

Oxfam's new team started to help the communities make life easier and more productive – not so much income-generating as income-saving – and time-saving; installing electricity lines; supplying materials to construct water-driven grinding mills for maize; rehabilitating schools which can also be used as community centres for disability counselling and family-planning advice. Teaching better farming techniques will be important too, so that farmers can grow enough to produce a surplus for sale.

Bridge is Oxfam's fair-trade programme. In 1993-94, the sale of crafts and foods enabled tens of thousands of producers to earn a better living. In the course of the year £3.1 million was paid to 293 producer groups in 38 countries, representing a significant transfer of resources to the poor.

Ji Maya, a wool-winder working with Kumbeshwar in Nepal, is typical of the people whom Bridge supports: "I have to work hard to earn my living. Even when my husband has

underlies all this work, is helping people to understand their problems and find possible solutions.

Not so long ago Amirul Islam was unemployed, eking out a living as a day-labourer. Last year he sold tree saplings worth almost 20,000 taka (£344) – more money than he had ever before seen in one year. He had been

chosen by the Community Development Association to take part in a training course and establish a village tree nursery. Now he raises more than 80 varieties of trees. "Training has provided me with the essential knowledge of how to look after plants and trees; which to plant in what season." Now there is so much demand that Amirul has leased more land, so that he can extend the nursery. "With education and training, we would not be idle; we would persevere to improve our lives, as then we would have the means to do so."

"The Samiti gave me a new lease of life, as I was able to rid myself of the stigma of being unemployed."



Transport in the mountains of Albania is difficult, with few roads – everything must be carried by foot, as few people own pack-animals.

work, he does not always give me money. Before I came here, I used to work as a labourer, carrying cement and sand. This work is easier than labouring, and I can do it sitting down in the shade. I am paid three rupees (about four pence) for each kilo of wool that I wind. I am happy to do the work – I only stop if I am ill."

As well as supporting people directly through trade, Bridge helps to increase their opportunities to earn a living. In 1993-94, 64 grants were made by Bridge staff to pay for such things as a shop-on-a-bicycle in India to sell hand-painted t-shirts, and training for teenage girls in Thailand to work in textiles – an alternative to prostitution.

Oxfam continued to support people's own efforts to make a living in a number of ways: through vocational training and upgrading skills; supporting farmers by helping them to conserve soil and water, improve crop yields, or find new markets for their produce; credit schemes to help people start small businesses; or support to groups fighting for fair wages or for access to resources that are rightfully theirs.

Supporting Rights

WE all have rights: the right to a reasonable standard of living, the right to an education, legal rights, the right to maintain our culture and traditions, and the right to take part in the social, economic, and political life of our community and country. All too often those rights are taken away – sometimes by violence, and sometimes by more subtle methods. Sometimes those rights are denied from birth – by being born a girl, by having a disability, by belonging to a certain caste or class. Often, being poor is enough.

One group denied those rights and opportunities makes up almost ten per cent of the world's population. "People see a wheelchair as a 'pram,'" is how Rangarari Mupindi, a polio survivor, explains attitudes to disabled people. Rangarari is the Director of the National Council of Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe (NCDFZ). Originally a small club for disabled people to get together and discuss their problems, they now have a much broader agenda. "We began to look at our civil rights. Why were we poor? Why were we not educated? We target the government and try to get them to address our problems." They make sure that disabled people are enabled to contribute to the life of their communities, and, just as important, they are forcing the rest of us to re-think our attitudes and change our behaviour.

Working through a network of women's groups in the hills of Himachal Pradesh, The Society for Uplift Through Social Action (SUTRA) runs courses for women on their legal rights – how to file a complaint at the police station, what happens during the process of bringing a charge and going to court. They also run courses on the political system – how things work at local, state, and national levels, and how to take part. Over the years, as more and more women go on the courses, the changes are becoming easy to see. Shakuntala, who has been involved with SUTRA for many years, says: "We never used to go out of the house. Now we go to the bank, to the police station even. We can go and talk to the authorities."

All of SUTRA's training workshops begin with song and dance.



There are deeper differences too: "The women involved have made it plain to everyone that they will not be victims of atrocities (like domestic violence and rape); and that if they are, then they will not suffer in silence."

Because women are under-represented as union leaders and lack influence, women workers' demands have little impact. *Mujer y Trabajo* (Women and Work), an organisation based in Santiago, Chile, is making changes. Women have always faced problems at work. They are paid less than men for the same work, they get no help with child-care, and safety standards in small workshops and factories are poor. MyT are convinced that these problems must be tackled now: there is a shortage of skilled labour in Chile, so women are being encouraged to work. They are working with women union leaders tackling practical issues at work and at home. One union now buys food in bulk for sale to its members, which makes a big difference to prices, and encourages people to join the union, as they see that it can be of practical help.

In the Philippines, the right to ancestral land is a major issue for the Ayta, an indigenous group in Central Luzon. The communities have been divided, and displaced from their

ancestral lands by land-grabbing for farms and military bases, and their claims to the land have been ignored. The Central Luzon Ayta Association (CLAA) was formed after the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano, to voice the needs and aspirations of all the Ayta communities. Pinatubo is located right in the middle of the Aytas' ancestral lands. Its eruption was a disaster, "... but there's another disaster happening too. We're being used, by organisations who are trying to claim the Aytas as their own. They are trying to divide us up, saying, 'you 50 people will be with us, the next 50 will be with that organisation,' and so on. This makes more divisions in the Ayta communities and weakens our organisation. It would be better if they consulted with us about our wishes." says Rick, CLAA's General Secretary. The CLAA aims to unify the Ayta claims to their ancestral lands, and assert their rights.

In 1993-4 Oxfam worked with many groups and communities around the world, helping them to establish and defend their economic and social rights; to exercise their legal and political rights; to claim control over resources; to stay on land farmed by their families for generations; to be a part of their community.

"ONE kind of violence is quiet violence; which doesn't mark anyone with bruises; where the worker always goes hungry and is constantly humiliated. Then there's physical violence, death threats, violent evictions."

These are the words of Arimatea Dantos, a young lawyer working in the small town of Esperantina,

Piaui, Brazil. He and his fellow lawyers see plenty of both kinds of violence.

The town is poor; the area largely agricultural. People here face many problems, but their lives are made more difficult by the increasing concentration of land in the hands of the wealthy; by poor agricultural conditions, not helped by recurring droughts; by lack of industrial development; and by political corruption – all undermining people's opportunities for a decent life.

Corruption in local authorities means that people are paying out their hard-earned money for services they do not receive – for example, for roads to be paved, which remain just beaten earth. But with the help of Arimatea, local communities are taking on the authorities. "We're doing a lot of work looking over the local authority's accounts; a kind of public audit of funds used for education, health, drainage; we need to



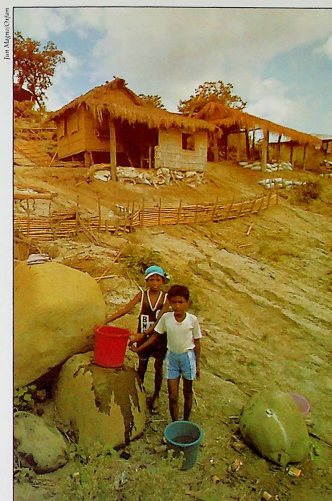
In communities throughout Brazil, people are joining together to fight for services (such as electricity, water, health care), fair wages, and better working conditions.

demand the right to see them fully," says Arimatea. On behalf of the community groups, he and his colleagues gather the

evidence, prepare the documentation, and, if necessary, go to court.

Who owns the land is important, too. With enough land, you can make a fortune. Without enough, or worse still without any, it is almost impossible to make even a meagre living. Small landholders and agricultural workers are at the mercy of the rich and powerful: "The land owners really abuse the workers. On some of the farms it's like slavery. The workers have to respect the bosses to the point of humiliation." Arimatea, like many other lawyers throughout Brazil, is helping workers to fight for better conditions and wages; and helping small landholders to register their land and fight evictions.

"We want to interpret the law in a way that helps people live in a dignified way, to help stop poverty and suffering. A law that's more human."



Children from Lantua village, Philippines, helping with the household chores in their new settlement.



Ayta women taking tree seedlings home to plant after the volcanic eruption devastated their homelands, as a first step towards establishing their right to the land.

Making the Link

1993 brought new opportunities for peace, democracy and recovery in Africa, as well as continuing threats of disaster. Wars ended, dictatorships gave way to democracy, the formal end of apartheid was in sight.

Oxfam's "Africa: Make or Break" campaign, launched in April 1993, called on the UK and the international community to make moves that would support the positive changes happening in Africa. The Oxfam *Make or Break Report* made the links between events in Africa and decisions taken in the world's richest countries.

By the autumn we were able to take 30,000 letters and statements to the Prime Minister – including 8,000 signatures collected at the Glastonbury Festival – supporting our campaign for an increase in UK foreign aid, and debt relief for Africa's poorest countries.

The degree of public support we were able to demonstrate helped us to get African debt on to the agenda of the G7 summit in Tokyo, when finance ministers from the world's seven richest countries met in July, and it led to a decision by the European Commission to set up a major recovery fund for Africa.

Besides the major campaign focus on Africa, other issues were taken up this year. We also campaigned for land rights to be restored to Brazilian Indians and protested against a massacre of Yanomami Indians in the summer. We successfully pressed the UK government to help the UN open Bosnia's Tuzla airport, and urged the UN to improve its emergency response strategies.

Oxfam local volunteer campaigners and fundraisers worked in many different ways to support this work: stalls at local events, visiting and writing to their MPs, coffee mornings for their friends, taking part in Oxfam Week and the Oxfam Fast. Supported by Campaigns Department staff in our regional offices, they provided the groundswell of public opinion which ensured that the voices of our overseas partners were heard in this country.

And they were also largely responsible for the two of the year's major fair trade success stories, Cafédirect, the fairly traded coffee promoted by Oxfam and three other organisations, is now outselling many other ground coffees. And the first goods bearing the Fairtrade Mark – a guarantee that a fair price has been paid to producers – went on sale in most major supermarkets in 1994.

We were particularly keen to convey our message to young people, and regional campaigns staff worked on several exciting new local initiatives, like the seven "Africa, Make or Break" sixth-form day conferences we ran in south east England, which focused on trade, aid and debt, and highlighted the relevance of these issues to young people in the United Kingdom. Round Southampton a series of drama workshops run by education staff linked schools with Oxfam-funded projects in India.

Education workers from our Glasgow office reached a wider audience – aged from 10 to 60 – when they worked with the residents of Drumchapel, one of the city's peripheral council-housing schemes, and Clyde Unity Theatre.



Fair Trade stall at the Oxfam Fun Run in Battersea Park.

"**T**KNEW about our poverty and suffering," said Solofina Daka, an elderly grandmother. "And we have made enormous efforts to overcome it, but this workshop has opened my eyes fully. The problems we face are not just due to the causes in our own villages and among us, but the ones coming from beyond the borders of Zambia."

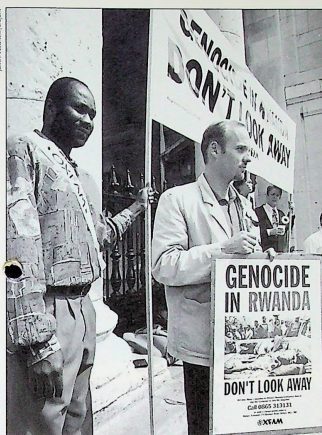
Solofina was speaking at an "Africa: Make or Break" meeting of Oxfam partner organisations in Zambia's Eastern Province. Like others at the meeting, she was voicing her anger and frustration at the effect on her life of decisions taken far away by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

And, like others there, Solofina resolved that she would be silent and unheard no longer, that she would write to the world's finance ministers, telling them what the policies of the IMF meant to her in her daily life.

The letter-writing campaign which began at that meeting was taken up in the months that followed by 15,000 other Zambians, as well as by many people in other African countries. Oxfam supported the campaign by providing basic materials such as pens and stationery pads, and by helping groups to organise meetings at which people could discuss what they wanted to say.

"I don't think I will ever be employed," wrote Jones Katongo Bwalya. "When structural adjustment was introduced, we were told it will improve our life, there will be more jobs. All I see is more workers losing jobs. Our lives are becoming nothing short of slavery."

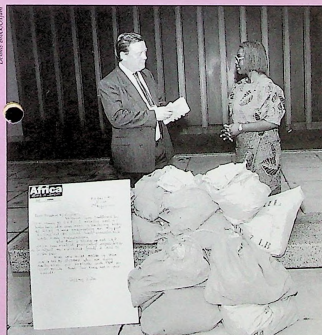
The visit of Lucy Muyoyeta, Oxfam's Zambia Representative, to present the letters from Africa to the September meeting of the IMF was more than a protest about the Fund's structural adjustment policies: for the first time,



Using drama and improvisation, people there looked for answers to questions such as: why do we all fall for racist stereotypes? how do they affect our understanding of the causes of Third World poverty?

As in previous years, we strove to make clear the links between decisions taken in the rich world – by politicians, company directors and ordinary consumers and voters – and the poverty and suffering of the people we work with overseas. Our campaigning, lobbying, and advocacy work at all levels aimed to make people in the UK and Ireland fully aware of the wider consequences of their own actions – as a first step to persuading them to join us and our partners in campaigning for a fairer world.

Drawing attention to events in Rwanda.



Lucy Muyoyeta at the World Bank.

poor people in Africa were directly addressing the institutions which control their countries' economies; for the first time, Oxfam was campaigning, not just for them, but with them.

Mrs Mary Phiri writing to the World Bank.



Enoch Samundiro writes his letter.

Raising the Money

EVERY year, Oxfam's income is swelled by thousands of donations from individuals: people like you. This is more even than the income we earn from our shops. Money arrives in a variety of ways: cash, banker's orders, covenants, and legacies. Like many other charities we are constantly looking for new ways of reaching new donors. This year we ran successful trials using advertisements on TV and radio – both very cost-effective ways of reaching new people. In addition we have continued to tell people about Oxfam's work directly through, for example, mailings and press

advertising, and indirectly through news broadcasts.

The appeal for victims of the Indian earthquake raised more than £1.4 million, enabling the Oxfam team in India to meet immediate relief needs, and to plan a programme of longer-term rehabilitation and rebuilding. Another major success was the Christmas mailing about refugees, which raised £500,000.

Oxfam is supported by many companies and Trusts as well as individuals. It is impossible to thank everyone for their valuable support, but special thanks must go to the States of Jersey and the States of Guernsey Overseas Aid Committees, the Baring Foundation, the members of Entwicklungshilfe Klub, of Austria, the newly established Emerging Markets Charity for Children, the Cooperative Retail Society, and Northern Foods, for their continued support.

Oxfam also received £1.4 million from Charity Projects – the organisation behind Comic Relief – one of our most generous donors. This was used to support work with refugees and displaced people in countries like Sudan and Uganda, through, for example, supplying clean water, and sets of household items like cooking-pots and water-cans; development initiatives such as health work in Kenya; and support for a disabled people's organisation in Malawi. We can all look forward to another Comic Relief "Red Nose Day" in March 1995.

In Oxfam's network of regional offices work went on as usual. Nationally the highlights of the year were the Oxfam Week house-to-house collection, the annual Fast, and the Cold Front Appeal. Local events varied from supplying 700 volunteers to work as marshals at the Glastonbury Festival – earning Oxfam £50,000 from the organisers – to the London-to-Canterbury bike ride, and selling Party Packs for office Christmas Parties.



Zainab Larnry – one of the people seen in Oxfam's new television advert.

People always put off making their will because they think it's difficult – but it's so easy," says Joy O'Farrell. Joy made her will some years ago. Since then she has updated it when the need has arisen, but, however she has altered it, she is still leaving a legacy to Oxfam.

Last year, income from legacies to Oxfam totalled over £3 million – a substantial contribution to our income, which meant that we could help more people to help themselves.

Joy first made a will when she and her husband went abroad to live. She thinks it is one of those things we all mean to do, but keep putting off: "We all need a bit of a push to do it. All sorts of things give us a push: when you move or buy a house; when you have a baby; or when someone dies."

She included a legacy to Oxfam because she has always been interested in people. "We've lived and travelled abroad a lot, and wherever I've been I have tried to meet local people and make friends. I like to help where I can.

Although I'm a born optimist, I'm aware of all the sadness, and I've found over the years that when I'm feeling low, helping people makes me feel better." One of the ways Joy has helped thousands of people is by supporting Oxfam; she spent several years as a member of her local Oxfam group – and as her local shop-leader and group chairperson. She wants to go on helping people after her death – and leaving Oxfam a legacy means that she can do just that.

So how do you make a will? "Just ring any solicitor. You can get your bank or your solicitor to be the executors –



Bridget Caudle (front) who took over the reins of the Hexham Oxfam shop from Hazel Naudy (rear).

then you don't have to ask friends or relatives to do you a favour. Anyone can witness it. And you can add names just as easily.

You don't even have to specify a sum, you can just put in a percentage. I loved doing it – I felt so good – and it didn't hurt at all!"

Why Oxfam? "I thought, if I am going to leave money in my will, I want it to go where it's most needed. There are so many things we take for granted – from clean water to plenty of food. Oxfam helps people in need, and I am happy, knowing that good things will come from my death."



"Make your will now!" says Joy O'Farrell.

and wearing is one of the easiest, and most environment-friendly activities around. This year the shops increased their range of FairTrade Foods from around the world, so that it now includes coffee, cocoa, tea, peanut butter, jam, nuts, sugar, chocolate, and spices – all bought from organisations which pay guaranteed, stable prices, and in which the producers are able to control or influence prices and marketing.

So how was 1993-94 in the shops? "Generally, a good year." That's how Bridget Caudle, shop leader of the Oxfam shop in Hexham, sums up 1993-94, as well she might, since the shop has beaten its income target – again. "We are very well supported locally. We get a lot of donated goods, and usually of good quality – and that always helps." The shop has taken part in all the national events and appeals: the Cold Front appeal for warm clothes for Eastern Europe, northern Iraq, and Afghanistan; the FairTrade Food promotion; the Dress Well for Less Autumn and Spring fashion promotions; the India Earthquake appeal; and, as we write, the Rwanda appeal.

But the highlight of the Hexham shop's year is the fortnight of the linen sale. Held at the beginning of March every year, it takes months of hard work to organise. A team of eagle-eyed volunteers sort out the choicest items from all those donated table-cloths and tray-cloths, pillow-cases and sheets and quilts – Victorian and modern. Everything is washed, starched, and ironed. When opening day arrives, everything is ready; the shop is full; and there is a queue at the door. So well known is the linen sale that it draws a huge crowd, including dealers. This year they raised over £5,000 on sales of linen, and more than £2,000 from bric-a-brac in the two weeks of the sale.

The shop does well on sales of Oxfam Trading goods too, as the area is popular with tourists, visiting the Roman Wall and Hexham Abbey, with money to spend! The secret of their success? Bridget thinks: "It's just where we are – in a good position and well supported by the town; with nice things to sell and a nice shop to sell them out of."

From the Finance Director's Desk

Oxfam's income and expenditure for 1993-94

Record Year

1993-94 set two new records. The first was a huge increase in the need to respond to emergencies. A stark reminder of one of Oxfam's reasons for existence, and motivation for staff, volunteers and supporters who, every year, try to respond to the need for more money and resources in the face of increasing hardship. The second record was a new record total income.

Oxfam's income for 1993-94 was nearly £87 million, an increase of 10 per cent over 1992-93. This continues Oxfam's steady growth of previous years in the face of the difficult economic climate, made possible only by the energy and determination of our volunteers and supporters.

Changes to the accounts

The management structure of Oxfam has, over the last two years, undergone radical changes in order to support our financial growth. The accounts have similarly been revised to reflect the new structure, and to follow new proposals from the Charity Commission on the presentation of financial information to the public. I will not elaborate on the accounting technicalities here, but I urge anyone who is interested to write to me for a copy of the statutory audited accounts, which give a full explanation of those changes.

Hugh Belshaw FCA MBA
Finance Director

Where the money comes from

1993-94 was a particularly disaster-ridden year, making life even more difficult for the people with whom we work. Appeals for funding for emergency relief programmes were a major contributor to our increased income. The British Government's Overseas Development Administration (ODA) and the European Union (EU) provided generous support for our development and emergencies work. In particular, restricted (earmarked) income from the UK Government, the EU, and from UN agencies increased from £9.6 million in 1992-93, to £18 million in 1993-94.

In summary, Oxfam's income for the year came from the following sources (in £m and % of total):

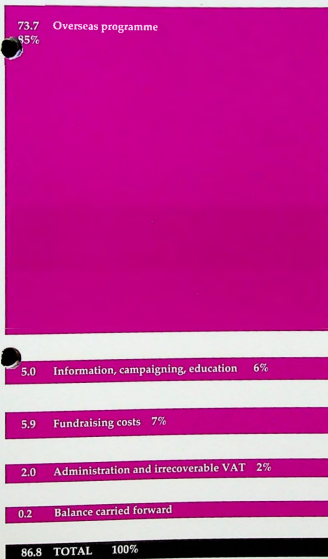
32.6 38%	Donations from individuals in the UK and Ireland (including covenants and legacies)
16.4 19%	Net income from Oxfam shops and the Trading subsidiary
12.3 14%	UK Government
6.4 7%	European Union
7.1 8%	UN and other agencies
10.9 13%	Gifts in kind (food aid, blankets, shoes, and clothes)
1.1	Miscellaneous income (deposit interest etc) 1%
86.8	TOTAL 100%

Where the money goes

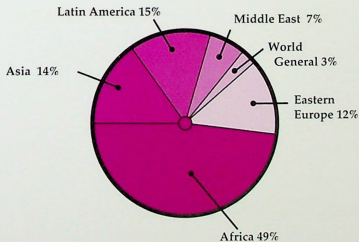
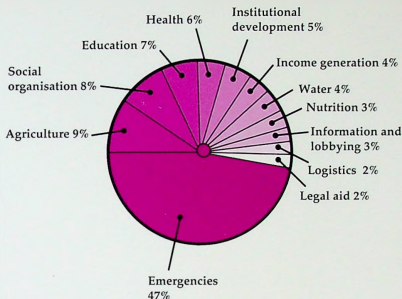
Oxfam aims to spend each year what it raises in that year, and to keep only a very low level of reserves to protect forward commitments to the development programme.

Part of the revision of Oxfam's structure has been to treat the shops operation and trading activities as a distinct part of the organisation, bearing their own operating and management costs. This means that fundraising expenditure now relates directly to the cost of raising donations and grants from other agencies.

In summary, Oxfam's expenditure for the year was as follows (in £m):



Pattern of Aid 1993 - 1994



Oxfam believes that the poverty of women and men, communities, and whole nations in the Third World is not inevitable, can be tackled, and must be ended.

Oxfam believes in people – in their strength in the face of suffering, and their determination to make a fairer world. Oxfam supports their efforts to change things for the better.

Many of the people and funding bodies who supported Oxfam this year are acknowledged elsewhere in this report, but it would be impossible to mention all the individuals, groups and organisations in the United Kingdom, in Ireland, and overseas who contributed to Oxfam's work during 1993–94. We are grateful to everyone who enabled us to achieve so much.

Oxfam was saddened this year by the deaths of the following people, who had devoted time, energy, and imagination to the fight against poverty, and who are remembered with respect and affection by those who worked with them:

Horace Bacon, who died at the age of 101, having raised over £100,000 for Oxfam since his retirement, mostly through the Pledged Giving scheme.

Stella Chirwa, one of the two Community Trainers with the rural development programme in Mulanje, Malawi, mentioned on page 4 of this Review.

Since the outbreak of conflict in Rwanda, our thoughts have been very much with our staff in central Africa. At the time of going to press, eight staff from our Rwanda programme have not been accounted for, and many have lost relatives and friends.

From the Finance Director's Desk

Oxfam's income and expenditure for 1993-94

Record Year

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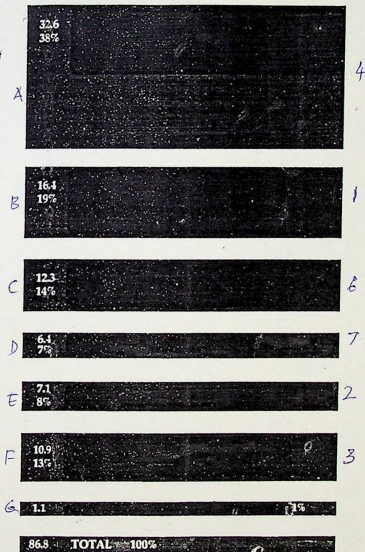
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* Insert the following in what you think are the correct boxes:

- A DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN UK/1 (including covenants).
- 2 EUROPEAN UNION / COMMUNITY
- 3 GIFTS IN KIND (FOOD AID, BLANKETS SHOES, CLOTHES).
- B NET INCOME FROM OXFAM SHOPS AND TRADING.
- 5 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME (DEPOSIT INTEREST).
- 6 UK GOVERNMENT. 7 UN + OTHER AGENCIES.

Where the money goes

Oxfam aims to spend each year what it raises in that year, and to keep only a very low level of reserves to protect forward commitments to the development programme.

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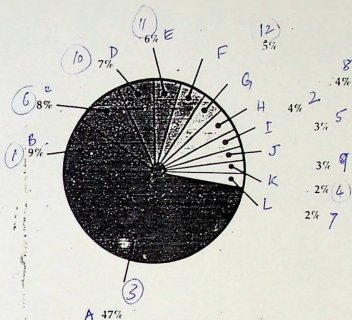
In summary, Oxfam's expenditure for the year was as follows (in £m):



* INSERT THE FOLLOWING BESIDE % ABOVE
% ABOVE IN WHAT YOU THINK ARE
THE CORRECT BOXES.

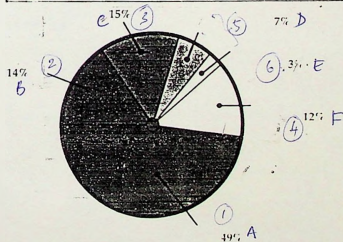
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 ♦ ADMINISTRATION | 4 ♦ INFORMATION CAMPAIGNING, LOBBYING |
| 2 ♦ BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD | 5 ♦ OVERSEAS PROG. |
| 3 ♦ FUNDRAISING COSTS | |

Pattern of Aid 1993 - 1994



* INSERT THE FOLLOWING BESIDE % ABOVE

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 ♦ AGRICULTURE | 6 ♦ INCOME GENERATION |
| 2 ♦ EDUCATION | 7 ♦ INSTITUTIONAL DEVT. |
| 3 ♦ EMERGENCIES | 8 ♦ LEGAL AID |
| 4 ♦ HEALTH | 9 ♦ LOGISTICS |
| 5 ♦ INFORMATION + LOBBYING | 10 ♦ NUTRITION |
| | 11 ♦ SOCIAL WORK |
| | 12 ♦ WATER |



* INSERT THE FOLLOWING BESIDE % ABOVE

- | |
|--------------------|
| 1 ♦ AFRICA |
| 2 ♦ ASIA |
| 3 ♦ EASTERN EUROPE |
| 4 ♦ LATIN AMERICA |
| 5 ♦ MIDDLE EAST |
| 6 ♦ WORLD GENERAL |

WHAT IS 'OXFAM PROJECT PARTNERS'?

Oxfam Project Partners (OPP) is a fundraising scheme that offers supporters detailed feedback on Oxfam's development work in return for regular donations.

Why does Oxfam need OPP?

OPP was developed as Oxfam's answer to other charities' very successful child sponsorship schemes. It offers detailed information on how supporters' money is spent, without the ethically undesirable aspects of child sponsorship. It has proved to be one of our most successful ways of recruiting new 'committed givers' - people who make regular donations direct from their bank account.

Who joins OPP?

OPP is aimed at people who are generally happy to support organisations working in the South but want to know exactly how their money is spent. They are a little more sceptical about our work than most supporters, and therefore want a degree of accountability, feedback and control.

Market research tells us that a typical OPP supporter is aged 25 - 54; more likely to be female than male; works as a professional (e.g. doctor, teacher); owns their own house; is married with a family; reads quality newspapers (e.g. The Guardian); is educated; moderately well off and travels relatively frequently.

What do they give?

In order to join OPP a supporter must give a minimum of £5 per month (although this is under review) through a standing order or covenant*. The average is actually well above this at £9.25 per month.

What happens to their money?

80% of it is offset against a range of projects (including one that they've chosen to follow - see below). 10% is offset against costs of the field offices in the projects' countries. The final 10% covers fundraising and administration costs in the UK.

What does Oxfam offer in return?

We give OPPers a degree of choice through offering them the chance of following 1 'feature' project chosen from a list of 3. They are sent a briefing on their chosen project when they join and receive feedback in the form of updates on its progress over the next 3 years.

In addition we give control by promising that 80% of their money will be offset against projects overseas (though not necessarily their chosen project). The remaining 20% is split equally between fundraising and admin costs in the UK and a contribution towards the costs of the field offices who support the OPP feature projects. At the end of each financial year OPPers are sent a full set of OPP accounts, making Oxfam accountable for how their money has been spent.

What is OPP worth to Oxfam?

At the moment over 5500 OPPers contribute about £750,000p.a to Oxfam, and it costs about £37,000p.a. to run - that's actually a lot less than our maximum allowed: last year we spent only 6% on administration and fundraising in the UK.

* A standing order is simply a means of instructing your bank to make regular payments of a fixed amount to a specified recipient. They're usually made monthly but could be weekly, annually or at any regular interval. A covenant is similar but has an additional and valuable extra benefit - it enables Oxfam to reclaim some of the income tax a supporter has paid. This adds 33% to the value of their gifts without costing supporters anything more.

salopp\genexp\11.07.94

PS O.P.P currently supports one project in India,
G.N.K in Bihar.

Oxfam Trustees

1994/95

THE TRUSTEES OF OXFAM have ultimate responsibility in law for the charity, its assets and activities. They form the Council of Trustees which is the governing body of the Association (or limited liability company) of Oxfam. They are appointed because of their commitment and qualities and their knowledge and experience relevant to the responsibilities of trusteeship and the range of Oxfam's work. This pamphlet introduces the trustees who will serve during the year 1994/5. It also lists names of members of the Association (former trustees, current trustees, and others from among whom it is expected some future trustees will be nominated).



Mary Cherry

Chair

Trustee 1980-87, and from 1988. Previously, Vice Chair of Council, Chair of Executive Committee and of Asia Committee, served on other committees. Mary is a semi-retired freelance agricultural writer, broadcaster and photographer whose work has taken her to most countries where Oxfam supports projects.



Lesley Ridyard

Honorary Secretary

Trustee since 1990. Ex member of Wastesaver Board. Lesley is an Oxfam Shop Leader and Campaigner in Bolton, and has been a shop volunteer for over 20 years.



Amir Bhatia

Trustee since 1993, having previously been on Council 1986-92. Ex Chair of Oxfam Trading Board, served on other committees. Amir is Chairman and Managing Director of Forbes Campbell (International) Ltd. and Chairman of the Forbes Trust.



Paddy Coulter

Trustee since 1993. Paddy worked as Oxfam's Communications Co-ordinator from 1982-87. He is currently Director of the International Broadcasting Trust.



John Isherwood

Returns as a trustee in 1994, having served several terms on Council since 1968. Ex Chair of Staff & Volunteers and Executive Committees. Presently Vice Chair of Water Aid, and a trustee of other charities. John is a consultant solicitor and has had long links with VSO.



Nick Maurice

Returns in 1994, having been a trustee from 1984-92, and an Association member since 1993. Ex Chair of Asia Committee. Nick is a practising GP, and has a special interest in links between communities in the North/South. Honorary Director of Marlborough Brandt Group, Chair of DrugLink, Swindon.



Joel Joffe

Vice Chair and Chair Designate

Trustee 1980-88, 1989-93, and from 1994. Ex Chair of the Executive Committee. Joel is a campaigner for consumer rights, and trustee of several other charities. He was a human rights lawyer in South Africa, Deputy Chairman of Allied Dunbar Assurance and Chairman of the Swindon Health Authority.



Dino Adriano

Trustee since 1990. Ex Chair of Oxfam Trading Board, served on other committees. Dino is a Director of J. Sainsbury PLC and Chairman and Managing Director of Homebase Ltd.



Terry Brenig-Jones

Trustee since 1992. Ex Vice Chair of Staff and Volunteers Committee, currently an Oxfam House volunteer. Terry is a management consultant who previously worked with Digital Equipment Company Ltd. as UK Human Resources Development and Training Manager.



Eleri Elliott

Trustee since 1993. Ex member of Development Education Committee. Eleri is Assistant Principle of Bangor Normal College, North Wales, and has earlier experience elsewhere including teaching in Brazil.



Wanjiru Kihoro

Starts as a trustee in 1994. Director of ABANTU for Development, a development ngo concerned with training, information and mobilising resources for African organisations. Wanjiru is an economist and a consultant on structural adjustment.



Ram Ramamurthy

Trustee since 1993. Ex member of Asia Committee. Previously Asia Secretary for Quaker Peace and Service, now a consultant to them on Asian affairs.



Chaloka Beyani

Trustee since 1993. Chaloka is a Research Fellow in International law, Wolfson College, Oxford and the Refugee Studies Programme at Queen Elizabeth House. He has expertise in advocacy, human rights law and refugees.



Bruce Coles

Trustee since 1993, having previously been on Council 1985-92. Ex Chair of PACE Committee, served on other committees. Bruce is a barrister and QC.



Chris Hudson

Trustee since 1992. Chris is Personal Assistant to the General Secretary, Communications Workers Union, Republic of Ireland, and Chairperson of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions Third World Committee.



James Mackie

Trustee since 1989, ex Vice-Chair of Asia Committee, served on other committees. Jamie is Executive Secretary, NGO/EC Liaison Committee, Brussels.



Liz South

Starts as trustee in 1994, having been an Association member since 1993. Liz worked for Oxfam as Campaigns Assistant in Scotland, and was for a while OJTUS representative to Council. She is now Executive Secretary of Common Weal, and campaigns on a wide number of peace and justice issues.



David Kingsmill

Honorary Treasurer

Trustee since 1993. Ex member of Budgets and Finance Committee. David is an accountant, and previously worked as Finance Director for Chase Manhattan (UK) and as Managing Director of Credit Agricole.



Jeremy Swift

Trustee since 1993, having previously been on Council 1987-89. Ex Vice-Chair of Africa Committee. Jeremy is a Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University, specialising in pastoralism, famine and food security.



Rosemary Thorp

Trustee since 1989. Ex Chair of Latin America Committee, served on other committees. Rosemary is a Lecturer and Fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford (Economics of Latin America).



Catriona de Voil

Trustee 1985-91, and from 1992. Ex member of Oxfam Trading Board. Volunteer teacher, running conferences and courses for Oxfam in schools in Scotland.



Ian Williams

Trustee 1982-91, and from 1992. Ex Vice Chair of Oxfam and Honorary Secretary, served on other committees. Ian is Medical Director, Walton Centre for Neurology, Liverpool and a consultant neurologist.

Members of the Association of Oxfam as at 21 September 1994

The trustees of Oxfam and other members:-

AKWE AMOSU	STEPHEN EDELL	JONATHON PORRITT	CHARLES VAN DER VAEREN
ROSEMARY BLOXAM	JUDY EL BUSHRA	MICHAEL ROWNTREE	MEGAN VAUGHAN
GILL BOCOCK	CAROL FISHER	SUE SANDLER	CHARLES WALMSLEY
MORRIS BRODIE	MICHAEL HOLMAN	MILDRED SHERRARD	PHIL WARD
LESLEY CLARK	PENNY JENDEN	PRANLAL SHETH	GEOFF WOOD
GILLIAN CLARKE	ELUNED NICKSON	EUROPE SINGH	SAM WOODHOUSE
SONIA DRAKE	CARRIE OSBORNE	CHRIS UNDERHILL	



OXFAM PROJECT PARTNERS MEET

BANGALORE

THE PROGRAMME : DAY 1

- 9.00 - 9.15 : Introduction to the day.
- 9.15 - 10.00 : What do you know about Oxfam?
- 10.00 - 10.30 : Coffee break.
- 10.30 - 11.15 : A brief history of Oxfam.
- 11.15 - 11.45 : Where the money comes from and goes to ?
- 11.45 - 12.30 : The shop operation.
- 12.30 - 1.30 : Lunch
- 1.30 - 2.15 : A choice of four workshops: WSSD, Afghanistan, Beijing & Ethiopia
- 2.15 - 3.00 : The Overseas Division: Where it fits. How it works. Where it works. What is its vision?
- 3.00 - 3.15 : Short break.
- 3.15 - 4.00 : How does "donor marketing" work?
- 4.00 - 4.30 : Tea break.
- 4.30 - 4.45 : Taking care of your supporter.
- 4.45 - 5.30 : The "Big Campaign".
- 5.30 - 5.45 : Short break.
- 5.45 - 6.30 : Video: "After Charity".
- 6.30 - 7.30 : Break.
- 7.30 - 8.15 : Dinner.

P. T. O

THE PROGRAMME: DAY 2

- 9.00 - 10.00 : Working in the UK/1.
10.00 - 10.30 : Coffee break.
10.30 - 11.30 : Overseas Division Strategic Plan.
11.30 - 12.30 : Choosing images for Oxfam.
12.30 - 1.30 : Lunch.
1.30 onwards : Partners Meets continuing.
-

OXFAM PROJECT PARTNERS MEET

14TH TO 16TH JUNE 1995

BANGALORE

THE PROGRAMME : 15TH JUNE 1995 (contd.)

1.00 - 2.00	60 mins	LUNCH	
2.00 - 2.30	30 mins	Introduction to Poverty analysis	GERRY
2.30 - 4.00	90 mins	Small group discussion on (a) Poverty analysis & priority groups by 5 regional groups (TN 2. KAR 2. KER 1) (b) External environment & NGO environment by 3 mixed groups	
4.00 - 4.30	30 mins	TEA	
4.30 - 6.30	120 mins	Plenary	SHIRDI
7.30 - 8.15	45 mins	SUPPER	
8.30		Cultural evening - ANBU (S. TRUST), VARGHEESE	

16TH JUNE 1995

8.30 - 8.45	15 mins	Introduction to Oxfam's future	GERRY
8.45 - 9.15	30 mins	Small group discussion on Oxfam's future	
9.15 - 10.15	60 mins	Plenary	JACINTHA
10.15 - 10.30	15 mins	TEA	
10.30 - 12.30	120 mins	Special presentations by Partners	VIMAL
12.30 - 1.30	60 mins	LUNCH	
1.30 - 2.30	60 mins	Expectations.....	
2.30 - 3.30	30 mins	Accounts & procedures	JOSEPH
	30 mins	Information sharing, Question & answer	GERRY
3.30 - 3.45	15 mins	Follow up strategies, evaluation & vote of thanks	BELLA
4.00		TEA	

15 Jun '95

Program atm

- 9 - 10 - Working in UK/E
- 10 - 10:30 - Coffee
- 10:30 - 11:30 - Oxfam's strategic plan
- 11:30 - 12:30 - What are appropriate images for Oxfam?
- 12:30 - 1:30 - Lunch
- 1:30 onwards - Partners meeting continues
(program overleaf).

The Indian Earthquake

47 seconds that shook the world

AT 3.56am ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1993 for 47 seconds, an earthquake rocked the Indian state of Maharashtra. It wasn't a particularly severe one, measuring a moderate 6.4 on the Richter scale; and its strike was limited to a relatively small area, just 40km across; but for the hundreds and thousands of people living in the area, the damage was done. Their world had fallen in.

IT SOON BECAME CLEAR this was a disaster of enormous proportions. The quake struck at the worst possible time: at night when people were asleep. Thousands of homes were turned into tombs in just under a minute, with the poorly built, inadequate housing having no chance of standing up to the shock.

No one will ever know for sure how many people were killed.

Whole villages were destroyed, and their populations all but wiped out. Killari, the village closest to the epicentre, was home to 22,000 people. Nearly 18,000 of them were killed that night.

It's thought up to 30,000 people were killed in total by the earthquake in Maharashtra. The numbers of injured and homeless can still only be guessed at, though estimates now say anywhere between 150,000 and 300,000 people could be affected.

Picking up the pieces

With large-scale loss and damage of this kind, it will clearly be many years before these broken communities can put their lives and livelihoods back together again. But a start has already been made.

All badly affected villages have now been allocated new, but temporary, sites. The Indian army, helped by survivors and volunteers, built timber-framed, iron-clad living quarters for the homeless. Washing areas and latrines are being built to prevent any spread of water-borne diseases during the rainy season.

Although there were some food distribution problems immediately after the quake, there was never really any shortage of food in the area. The concern now is to ensure that people will have food in the months ahead. The rains have meant that good crops of millet, rice, sunflowers and sugar cane are waiting to be harvested, but with

many food stores destroyed, there is a need to find enough storage space.

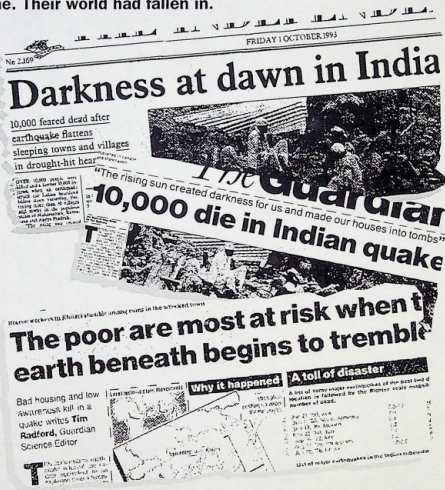
Oxfam's immediate response

Within six hours of the earthquake, Oxfam had two colleagues in the disaster area. They were on their way to a meeting with other groups Oxfam works with in a district close to the centre of the earthquake. When it became clear what had happened, they went straight to the worst affected villages and immediately began to help organise relief work.

Having worked in the area with local

people for years, Oxfam was able to help where and when it mattered most. Through our network of partner agencies we were able to provide emergency shelters and water equipment, and help distribute food to the most vulnerable survivors.

Within a day, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), many of which Oxfam supports, had formed the Earthquake Relief Committee of Voluntary Agencies. This group managed to mobilise hundreds of volunteers quickly and effectively. Given the confusing and dangerous circumstances, this truly was a remarkable piece of co-operation.





Devastation in Killari, where 18,000 people lost their lives.

OXFAM

Volunteers

In the immediate aftermath of the quake, it was mainly local people who gave up their time to help those in need. They rescued injured survivors from the rubble and pulled out the bodies of the dead. They helped with cremations and burials, helped find personal possessions for survivors, and built temporary shelters. They provided first aid, food, water, blankets, clothes, mattresses and, crucially, helped comfort the bereaved. Without them, the relief programme would not have been possible.

Deepak

One such volunteer was Deepak. This, translated from the original Marathi, is an extract from his diary:

"Visited Killari village. Felt the fury of nature. Bodies everywhere. Heaps of mud, stone, wood and tin roofs. Possibility of finding many dead and injured under the heaps. This experience brought forth the other truth about life. Rather than leading a self-centred life, live life as best you can. Hope in man even after dreams are shattered is what man's struggle is all about. Realised the true nature of man. Two persons removing bodies of dead relatives - wanting help from all around. Helped them. Fear, disgust, repulsion - all set aside. Decided to help them as far as I could."
 From the diary of Deepak Dudhale, 30 September 1993, the day the earthquake struck.

What Oxfam is doing today

Now that the immediate emergency is over, the rebuilding has already begun. Oxfam is still there, helping the survivors look to the future. We are continuing to help the local communities improve their drainage and sanitation, and restore water supplies damaged by the quake.

Through local NGOs in the area, Oxfam is also providing funds for distributing food, clothes, blankets, and seeds and tools, so people can get down to the important business of rebuilding lives and livelihoods.

Some, though, will need more help than others. Widows and orphans are now among the most vulnerable and will need a great deal of help to regain their confidence and reshape their futures. Oxfam's longer-term plans in the area will focus on them.



Building safer housing

Soon after the extent of the damage became clear, the Maharashtra State Government promised a massive reconstruction programme to build some 30,000 new houses within six months, with money from the World Bank.

Now, however, it seems that a more measured approach is being considered: one that will take into account people's needs and wishes. With this in mind, Oxfam has hired a low-cost housing expert with years of experience in India. He is already working with the local people and together they are looking at designs and materials for building safer houses, more appropriate to the needs of the people.

Thank you

The response to Oxfam's emergency appeal for the victims of the earthquake was fantastic and exceeded all expectations. Press advertisements and a special emergency mailing, together with large, spontaneous gifts, raised over £1,125,000.

On behalf of all the survivors, as well as our partners and colleagues, in Maharashtra, thank you. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

"THE BIG IDEA" : OXFAM 'S NEW CAMPAIGN

1. **WHAT IS IT?** [See one page handout: THE BIG IDEA]

2. **WHY?**

- The Strategic Plan commits Oxfam to improving the impact of our PROGRAMME through INCREASING OUR INFLUENCING, CAMPAIGNING AND PUBLIC EDUCATION WORK.
- Key to this is the different PARTS OF OXFAM WORKING TOGETHER (as never before) TO INCREASE THE IMPACT OF OUR ADVOCACY AND STRENGTHENING SOUTHERN INPUT.

3. **WHEN?**

- Launch : 20 JUNE, 1985, to run for 5 YEARS.

4. **WHAT ARE ITS AIMS?**

To alleviate poverty by:

- GAINING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE'S BASIC RIGHTS TO BE RESPECTED.
- SECURING SPECIFIC POLICY CHANGES BY GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES.
- INCREASING LEVELS OF CONCERN, SUPPORT AND ACTION IN UK/I PUBLIC.

5. HOW?

A. THE CHALLENGE:

- Oxfam has a considerable reputation for securing significant policy changes on specific issues with HMG, EC, UN, WB, but not on the broad issue of poverty.

- Oxfam has supported organisations in the South on advocacy and campaigning but has not incorporated or integrated such work with the advocacy in the North.

- Oxfam has not succeeded in raising and sustaining levels of concern and understanding in the UK/I public over global poverty.

B. THE STRATEGY:

There are three INTERLINKED ELEMENTS:

- SECURING COMMITMENT TO OUR BIG IDEA FROM DECISION MAKERS.

- DEVELOPING AN ADVOCACY PROGRAMME TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC POLICY CHANGES INVOLVING INFLUENCING, LOBBYING AND CAMPAIGNING.

- RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, CONCERN AND SUPPORT IN UK/I AND INTERNATIONALLY ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN THEMES AND, TO INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN CAMPAIGNING TO SUPPORT OUR LOBBYING PROGRAMME.

THE STRATEGY DETAILS:

1. SECURING COMMITMENT FROM DECISION MAKERS TO OUR VISION BY:

- Laying out our agenda through a core document: THE OXFAM POVERTY REPORT (just published).
- Developing an "Ambassador" programme, using the influential Oxfam-friendly people.
- Relationship building with key politicians, business leaders and the media in UK/I "starter countries", and with key figures in EC, UN, WB, IMF.
- Producing a "Poverty White Paper" in early 1986 following a series of poverty hearings.
- Developing our analysis e.g. on conflict, alternative economic approaches, and presenting these as they are published.
- Possibly establishing an INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION based on national, regional and international partner forums.

THE STRATEGY DETAILS:

2. INFLUENCING, LOBBYING AND CAMPAIGNING BY

- Targeting decision makers, directly and through "ambassadors", co-ordinated North & South, involving field staff and partners.
- Generating editorial media coverage aimed at decision makers in North & South, in parallel with lobbying activities around key dates/events.
- Generating letter writing in UK/I from the public, donors and supporters to decision makers.
- Encouraging meetings between our supporters and MPs, Ministers, and representatives of foreign governments in UK/I.
- Focussing on specific issues at different stages throughout the campaign; in the first year on implementing and resourcing action plans of WSSD and Beijing, on securing support for UN Reform, possibly to include a single Humanitarian Department for emergency response and a UN Peace Keeping Force; on trade issues (around 3 or 4 commodities); on post-conflict consolidation and - in "starter" countries - on issues currently being worked out.
- Later developing short illustrative issue specific campaigns.
- Networking and building alliances with other international NGOs in particular in UK/I and N. America, through our new international Washington Advocacy office.

THE STRATEGY DETAILS:

3. RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS AND RECRUITING SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE
GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND COMMITMENT BY:

- Focussing on people most likely to respond ["the target audience"]
- Involving people in action which is easy to understand and do, e.g. letter writing, buying fairly traded goods. [See below]
- Engaging support for the CHARTER ON BASIC RIGHTS, which will be locally promoted by campaigners in UK/I, using our shops, the media, street events, public meetings, to influence decision makers nationally and globally.
- Subsequently engaging support for the CHARTER in other countries, North & South.
- Promoting FAIR TRADE, through increasing numbers of validated items available in Oxfam shops and more widely, and through the media and advertising, to create both critical demand and adequate supply.

- Engaging the mass media, TV and newspapers, using as necessary celebrities to convey the messages and popularise the issues.
- Publishing, in conjunction with commercial publishers a range of titles to communicate in a simple way some of the principle campaign themes.
- Advertising, on TV, in cinemas.
- Promoting the campaign through development education work in schools and youth clubs.
- In time extending public education to other countries from UK/I in Europe and in countries with other Oxfams, and some where we have programmes.

Bridge Information

Oxfam Trading and the Subject of Child Labour

The Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee is one of Oxfam Trading's main suppliers in Bangladesh. When they recently took over a factory making garments for export, they discovered that a third of the work force was girls under the age of 12. Many of them turned out to be supporting their families as well as themselves, and the new manager was faced with a dreadful dilemma. 'I cannot sack them and I cannot keep them honourably', he said.

Instead, he set up a system to ensure a fairer deal: increased wages, free food and basic education in the evenings. Next will come training in machine skills.

It is sadly the case that in many developing countries poverty obliges children to become involved in the labour market at a young age. To turn away from this problem in order to salve our Western consciences can mean condemning such children to even worse poverty.

We should remember that child labour was common in Europe less than a century ago (and still is in parts of Southern Europe), and it is only because of our increased prosperity that we can afford not to tolerate it today.

In Oxfam Trading's experience a positive approach is by far the best in the longer term, and the understanding of customers can make a real difference if it is directed towards support for fair trade.

Oxfam Trading's Bridge programme is about bringing maximum benefit to producers in developing countries and making sure exploitation does not take place. The investigation and monitoring of suppliers we carry out means we know what conditions producers are working in, how much they earn and of course whether children are involved.

Oxfam Trading abides by the laws of the countries in which it operates regarding the employment of children. We do not work with groups which provide formal employment to young children, although some situations such as the one in Bangladesh cited above show the need to look at each case on its merits. Many of our suppliers' families do nevertheless involve children in light work outside school hours because their contribution is vital to the family's survival. We do not believe it would be in their best interests to refuse to buy because of this.

Parents in developing countries are usually only too aware that education is an investment in their children's future. They will send them to school if they can possibly afford it. Through its Bridge programme Oxfam Trading helps them afford it.

The following is an extract from the World Labour Report 1992 published by the International Labour Office, Geneva:

"But the exploitation of child labour remains a disturbing aspect of the international labour scene. Hundreds of millions of child labourers around the world work or support themselves and their families, often sacrificing their education, their health - and their childhood. Even though few countries have yet developed comprehensive plans to deal with child labour there are many steps that can be taken, including: improving and enforcing legislation; promoting school enrolment; raising public awareness of the dangers of child labour; and supporting actions of communities and organisations who are helping child workers."

A SUMMARY OF KEY PARTS IN THE
OVERSEAS DIVISION VISION STATEMENT: 1995-1999

The Statement describes the vision of the Programme by 2000 and the process to make it happen.

By 2000 the Programme will have enabled us to

- * Develop our strengths and those qualities which differentiate us from other agencies namely:
 - local knowledge & experience gained from working with local people;
 - commitment to skill and capacity building of poor women & men and their organisations;
 - our "integrated" or "one programme" approach, using a range of methods e.g. research, project funding, advocacy, emergency response, networking;
 - the scale of our international activities.
- * Our primary emphasis will be on capacity building, from the local to the national, in sustainable ways directly beneficial to poor people.
- * We will work closely with counterparts (i.e., partners) and poor people in drawing programme and workplans; qualitative and quantitative indicators of impact; and monitoring and evaluating programmes.
- * All counterparts will be active participants in these processes.

Develop a New Form of Partnership with Counterparts

We will involve counterparts more closely in the strategic and operational planning of our programmes. We will reach a clear agreement with them about our respective roles in bringing about significant changes in the lives of poor women and men. Particular attention will be paid to the needs and interests of the former. We will develop two-way contracts which will require both sides to listen to the views of poor men and women about their needs, and to ensure that those needs are being met. All Oxfam UK/I counterparts will be aware of and understand our organisational mandate, priorities, and sources of income.

- * Positive action will be taken to ensure that women play a full part.
- * We will learn the lessons from and across our programmes to make our work more effective, and policy decisions more soundly based, and will allocate appropriate resources to do so.
- * We will continue to develop two concepts as a way of understanding, focussing and communicating our programme experience

- basic rights: i.e., to the power and means for poor people to participate fully in society and share its resources.

- sustainable livelihoods: i.e., ways of earning a living which do not damage other people or the environment.

Fair Trade: the Bridge programme

In its work overseas, Oxfam is constantly reminded of how the odds are stacked against poor people: everywhere they turn, there are barriers which stop them breaking out of poverty. Oxfam is working to remove the barriers, by supporting local initiatives for earning a living, and by addressing the problems relating to international trade.

The economies of almost all the countries where Oxfam works in the South (or the "Third World") – Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia – are dependent on primary commodities such as sugar, coffee, and tin. If the prices of such commodities on the world market are low, then it's not surprising that the countries that depend on their sales (and the families that produce the commodities in the first place) are poor. It comes as a welcome relief to us when the weekly supermarket bill goes down, but it's almost always at the expense of poor people.

The people working in these industries are generally powerless. They have no control over the world market that affects their lives. Oxfam is campaigning and lobbying in the UK and Ireland to secure changes in the rules of international trade, which are so often unfair for small-scale producers and workers in the South. Most notably in recent years, Oxfam has campaigned to help protect the interests of the Caribbean Windward Island producers in the renegotiation of the European Union's banana-trading rules.



LARRY EDWARDS/OXFAM

The banana growers of the Windward Islands depend on their former British colonisers to provide a protected market for their produce. Their favoured status was threatened by Britain's entry into the Single European Market, but as a result of intensive lobbying it has, for the time being, been secured.

ELUCHE TH ANSANG/OXFAM



Fair trade has meant that this woman from the Mien tribe in Thailand can use her traditional embroidery skills to earn a living

Fair Trade

Fair Trade is about giving people, especially the people who make or grow a product, the power to make the most of their efforts: the woman who spends all day sewing up shirts, or the family which carefully tends a few coffee plants. To most of us as we go around the shops, the producers are out of sight and out of mind, at the far end of a long chain of middlemen and international trading companies. Each link in that chain adds on a profit. To keep prices reasonable for you, the consumer, it is usually the original producer that loses out.

Bridge

For 30 years, Oxfam Activities Ltd (Oxfam's trading company), has had a special programme of support for just such producers. Today it is known as the "Bridge" programme. Bridge makes sure that the producers receive the best deal possible in terms of wages and conditions. It is a unique combination of trade and development.

Bridge works with producers in the South: providing an export outlet for their crafts and foods, and helping to improve

their access to the local market. To make sure its trade is fair for producers,

Bridge:

- buys directly from the producers or through specialist agencies which make sure the producers get the full benefit of their hard work;
- helps producers to assess all their costs and reach an acceptable price for their product;

- pays an advance on the value of their goods so the producers can buy raw materials and pay wages without getting into debt;
- gives grants so that groups can develop and expand, and distributes an annual bonus;
- provides a programme of support, for instance, giving advice and information on design and business management.

What does this mean in practical terms?

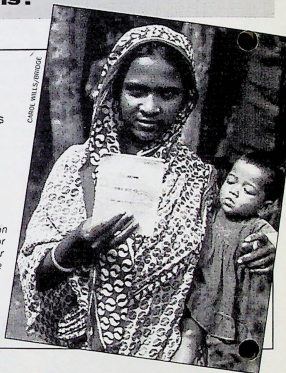
For **Fazeela**, it means a chance to lead a fuller life. She lives in Chonkanda, a village in Bangladesh, and like most people in her community, she has no land of her own on which to grow crops. Her family has struggled to support itself by doing casual agricultural work for local landowners, but it wasn't until Fazeela joined a group of craft-women that they had a regular income they could rely on.

Fazeela's group meets regularly to make embroidered pictures known as "nakshi kantha". Their work is supported by Aarong, a local organisation working with small, inexperienced groups like Fazeela's. Aarong sells craft items

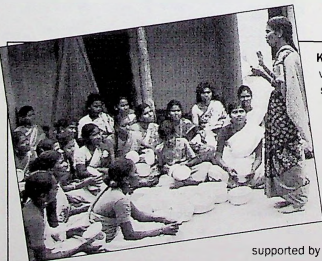
through Bridge.

Being part of a group has given Fazeela confidence. So has having money of her own to spend. What's more, she is saving a little each month, which she will use to buy some livestock, or make improvements to her house.

Fazeela belongs to a craft group in Bangladesh which finds a market for embroidery through Bridge. Regular work has meant that for the first time in her life, she has savings of her own, and a savings book to prove it!



COURTESY: WILEY-INTERSCIENCE



A group leader from Kavitha's co-operative teaching a new group of women to weave palmleaf baskets in Tamil Nadu, South India.

Kavitha lives in a small village in South India. Her schooling was cut short when she had to find work as a labourer in order to support her younger sisters. Eventually, she enrolled on a course run by the Community

Development Society (another organisation supported by Bridge), learned how to make baskets out of palmleaf, and joined a crafts co-operative organised into village groups. Her husband helped with the basketwork, and

together they managed to support their family. Then, her husband became so ill that he could no longer work. The entire burden of supporting the family fell to Kavitha.

Her co-operative helped out by giving her greater responsibilities within the village group. Now she earns more, and in return, trains new workers and acts as a group leader, helping to develop solidarity among the women so that together they can tackle social and development issues.

Kavitha has become a leading light in the community, doing much to show the potential of poor women.

Buying

First and perhaps most obviously, Oxfam Activities' Bridge programme supports producers in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean by buying their products. Regular orders from supportive organisations such as Oxfam Activities mean that producer groups can plan for the future, and may be able to employ more people. But other assistance is just as important.

Support for producers

Specialist Bridge staff are based in a number of countries so they are on hand to offer advice and practical support to producers. In addition, they organise training sessions and help to develop local marketing initiatives such as craft fairs and shops. Each year, the profit made by selling Bridge products is shared with producers: as grants to improve their businesses, and as annual dividends.

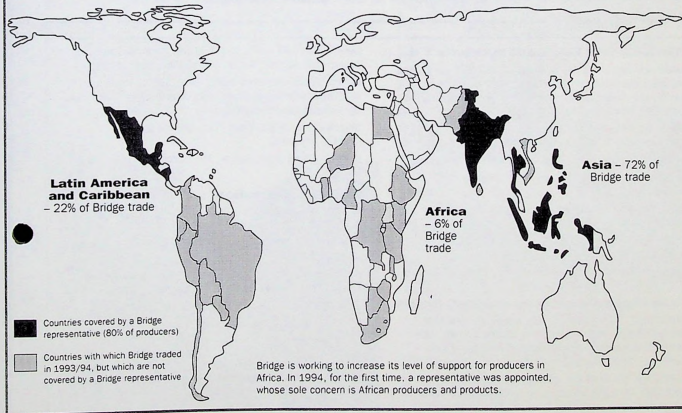
Kavitha's co-operative took part in a craft fair in India which was organised by Bridge staff: producers sold their crafts and learned how to improve their sales. And their dividend has been spent on prizes for design competitions, a workshop on women's development, and uniforms, books and school fees for their children.



Mohammad Islam, Bridge Representative for Bangladesh and Nepal, discussing the needs of a textile worker in Kathmandu.

Keeping up with market trends is essential. Sales of Bridge products weathered the recession of the early 1990s thanks, in part, to some imaginative marketing ideas. When teamed up with a selection of fairly-traded nuts, and sold as a Christmas gift, a basket made by Kavitha's co-operative was one of the most successful products in the Oxfam catalogue.

Where Bridge works – The total value of imports from Bridge producers, 1993-1994, was £2,669,692



Sourcing Bridge products

To ensure that support from Bridge reaches the people who need it most, producers are chosen with great care. A Bridge representative assesses each group of producers against a set of criteria which have been developed as a result of many years of experience. Among other things, producers must show that they are developing an organisation which:

- is fair for all workers;
- pays fair wages within the local context;
- promotes equal relations between men and women;
- provides good working conditions;
- uses natural resources in a sustainable way.



Fair Trade food

Many small-scale farmers in the Third World survive by growing crops for themselves, and selling their surplus. Their small harvests leave no cushion if their crops fail, local traders reduce the prices, or world commodity prices fall. As a result, many get into debt

Adrian Miranda has a lease from the Peruvian government to gather Brazil nuts from 500 hectares of rainforest by the Paniamanu river in the Madre de Dios region. He works with two other men, opening the coconut-sized outer shells with a machete. The nuts are then carried out of the forest in 70 kilo sacks and sold through Candela, a local marketing agency which pays the gatherers an advance and gives them a secure income.

and some have to abandon their land. They may drift to overcrowded cities in search of work, or even join the lucrative drugs trade by turning to coca leaf or opium poppy production.

In recent years, Bridge has increased its support to small-scale farmers by buying from farmers who have joined together in co-operatives and associations. Together, they have more control over the processing and distribution of their produce, and so get a better return for their labours. Bridge also pays the growers a stable price which reflects the real costs of production. It's a market they can depend on.

Through the Bridge programme, Oxfam Activities is able to help handcraft and food producers in some of the remotest parts of the world. Women, disabled people, refugees, indigenous communities, landless farm workers, and people living on the edge of cities, can at last get the most from their efforts to earn a living. At the same time, Bridge is helping to raise the profile of Fair Trade as an issue which should concern us all.

Where to find Fair Trade products

Oxfam Activities Ltd is one of a number of Alternative Trading Organisations (ATOs) in the UK and Ireland, which give consumers the chance to buy a range of products which do not exploit the producers. These are the main ATOs.

EQUAL EXCHANGE TRADING Ltd, 29 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9BX 031 667 0905

ONE VILLAGE, Charlbury, Oxford, OX7 3SQ 0993 812866

OXFAM ACTIVITIES Ltd, Murdock Road, Bicester, OX6 7RF 0869 245011

SHARED EARTH, 17 Goodramgate, York, YO1 2LW 0904 636400

TRAIDCRAFT PLC, Kingsway, Gateshead, NE11 0NE 091 491 1591

TWIN TRADING Ltd, 5/11 Worship Street, London, EC2A 2BH 071 628 6878

The following organisations are also involved with Fair Trade:

CAFEDIRECT, 29 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9BX 031 667 0905 – a fair trade coffee brought into the mainstream supermarkets by a consortium of ATOs – Equal Exchange, Oxfam Trading, Traidcraft and Twin Trading.

FAIR TRADE FOUNDATION, 105 Euston Street, London, NW1 2ED 071 383 0425 – a monitoring body set up by Oxfam and other aid agencies, which offers commercial companies the opportunity to sell products which originate in the South with the Fair Trade Mark seal of approval.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ALTERNATIVE TRADE (IFAT), & EUROPEAN FAIR TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA) – organisations which build links between ATOs and producers to form a concerted movement for Fair Trade.

Further Reading

Coote, Belinda, *The Trade Trap: Poverty and the Global Commodity Markets*, Oxfam, 1992.

Dalton, David, *A Buyer's Market: Global Trade, Southern Poverty, and Northern Action*, Oxfam, 2nd Edition, 1994.

Herald, Jacqueline, *World Crafts*, Letts, 1992. (An overview of contemporary crafts and their production in non-Western countries, drawing on the experience of the Bridge programme.)

Madden, Peter, *A Raw Deal: Trade and the World's Poor*, Christian Aid, 1992.

Wells, Phil, and Jetter, Mandy, *The Global Consumer*, Victor Gollancz, 1991.

Further information

The following organisations are also able to provide information about crafts and cultures.

Museum of Mankind, 6 Burlington Gardens, London, W1X 2EX Tel: 071 734 6255

Horniman Museum, Education Centre, 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ Tel: 081 699 1872

Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PP Tel: 0865 270927

'Information from Oxfam' leaflets, on a range of topics, are available free of charge from – Oxfam Supporter Services, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ. Tel: (0865) 312603.

Recent titles include:

- A brief history of Oxfam
- Working for Oxfam
- Recycling – contains information about Wastesaver
- AIDS
- Street children
- Oxfam in Cambodia
- Refugees and displaced people
- Eastern Europe

ABOUT OXFAM SHOPS

1. NUMBERS:

- * For many people in UK/I Oxfam = shops.
- * There are 850 of them: still the largest number of any charity.
- * In terms of number of shops Oxfam is one of the largest retailers in UK.

2. COMPETITION:

- * Oxfam's was the first charity shop, set up in Broad Street, Oxford in 1948.
- * But many other charities have followed, and there is now huge competition between us, for customers, donated goods, and volunteers.
- * There is also competition from commercial secondhand shops, and discount stores selling cheap new clothes.
- * Oxfam shops are now often criticised for overpricing.

3. CONTRIBUTION TO OXFAM'S INCOME:

- * Oxfam shops contribute a declining proportion of Oxfam's total income, still growing in absolute terms, but not so fast as other fundraising. 10 years ago it was about 1/3, now it is less than 1/5 (£16.4 m in 1993/94).

- * But lowering prices won't change that: increasing professionalism will. [However, that creates potential tension within the "volunteer ethos" of the organisation.]

4. VOLUNTEERS:

- * 27,000 volunteers staff Oxfam shops, but increasing numbers now have paid managers.
- * Most volunteers are middle aged to elderly, middle class, white women (hence the stereo-type: "Oxfam shop volunteer".)
- * Many volunteers don't have much detailed knowledge about what Oxfam does - but they know it does "good work for poor people overseas" and they trust it.
- * But greatest opposition to Oxfam working in UK/I came from shop volunteers: the majority opposed it.

5. WHO GIVES AND WHO BUYS:

- * Most people who shop in Oxfam shops are not doing so in order primarily to support Oxfam: they are looking for "a bargain" or "value for money".
- * Many people who give donated goods to Oxfam are not doing so in order to support Oxfam. They simply want to re-cycle their cast-offs, or just get rid of them.

- * This explains why a very large quantity of donated goods are not fit for sale and go either to Wastesaver (in the case of clothes) or to the municipal rubbish tip.
- * Oxfam is now using "clothing banks" and "book banks" to increase its volume of donated goods.

6. TYPES OF OXFAM SHOPS:

- * Most Oxfam shops sell a mixture of Bridge goods (crafts and food), cards and stationery (commercially produced in UK/I), donated clothes, books and bric-à-brac (vases, crockery, saucepans).
- * This mixture causes merchandising problems. What is an Oxfam shop - a new or secondhand shop?
- * There is a small but growing number of specialist Oxfam shops, selling exclusively Bridge goods; furniture; books; cheap clothing.

7. BRIDGE GOODS:

- * Bridge goods have had a difficult year (1984/95). The plan is now to reduce the range, but not the volume.
- * But within the range, Fair Trade food items will expand because sales have been 64% up on the previous year - a great success story.

- * Current fair trade food items include: teas, coffees, cocoa, honeys, jams & pickles, herbs & spices, chocolates, nuts, biscuits, dried fruits.
- * Most food items now carry the new Fair Trade Mark and many are validated by the Soil Association, too, for being organically produced..
- * India still supplies the largest proportion of Bridge goods: 24% in 1993/94. Thailand is next with 15%. But India's share is shrinking, as other countries come "on stream".

Oxfam shops

Question: What's blue and yellow on the outside, and almost green on the inside?
Some clues: every town has one, most people have bought something there at some time, and it helps to raise millions for charity every year.

Answer: The Oxfam shop.

Walk down most High Streets, and you'll see some familiar names: the same mix of chain-stores, department stores, chemists, and other shops seems to exist wherever you go. And usually there, among them stands an Oxfam shop. Blue and yellow. And always busy.

Oxfam shops are a phenomenon. Staffed almost entirely by volunteers, they raised over £17 million for Oxfam last year (1993/4). That's over 25 per cent of the charity's total income. And almost all from clothes, books, records and bric-a-brac that people have given knowing that others may want to buy them, and that somewhere, someone less well off than themselves will benefit.

The money that you spend in our shops goes towards Oxfam projects in developing countries, supporting poor communities throughout the world in their efforts to improve their standard of living. Oxfam has thousands of long-term development programmes in over 80 countries, and works in areas such as health, education, agriculture, and income generation. And, of course, helps to provide emergency relief work in times of crisis: Rwanda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eastern Europe... It was, in fact, a crisis which saw the first Oxfam shop come into being, nearly fifty years ago. In 1947, the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, as Oxfam was then known, moved into its first permanent base since its founding in 1942: an office and reception centre in Oxford's Broad Street. Here, clothing, blankets, and shoes were collected, sorted, and sent to refugees in Germany and Austria as part of a national Appeal for Europe. Soon, the first "Gift Shop" was in full swing, selling things which were



Oxfam's first shop in Broad Street, Oxford, opened in 1948 and is still in use today.

of no direct use overseas: bric-a-brac, jewellery, and books that were donated along with clothing in response to Appeal adverts in the press, and leaflet mailings. The money raised from the sale of such items went to the Appeal.

It was such a simple idea, it's little wonder that the "Gift Shops" were soon to be found in many towns and cities, including one on London's Oxford Street. By 1971, the number of Oxfam shops had risen to 310, and they were now selling clothes to raise funds as well. Today there are 850 shops in the UK and Ireland – very few chain-stores have more – including a number of specialist furniture shops, bookshops, and outlets devoted to Oxfam's Fair Trade goods.

The High Street has seen significant changes over these years, and that has meant our shops have had to change too, to keep Oxfam ahead of the competition (like all good ideas, "the charity shop" soon caught on, and was copied).

What happened was that Oxfam shops became more professional, while holding firm to their charitable purpose. Paid and volunteer staff were trained. Retailing ideas and developments being used by commercial businesses were adapted and introduced. The shops adopted a common sign, or logo, and shop

The modern Oxfam shop.



fittings were standardised.

The result has been a steady increase in profits for the shops – profits which all go directly towards Oxfam's work. In turn, profits have increased because, simply, more people are shopping at Oxfam.

People buy from Oxfam shops for different reasons. Levels of poverty in the UK and Ireland mean that people can't afford to buy new clothes and other items.

Increasingly, though, buying and wearing second-hand clothing has become acceptable, and even fashionable, among the better off. This is partly because Oxfam shops have worked hard to maintain high standards in what is offered for sale. For others there's the chance of a rare and exciting "find", like a Lewis Carroll first edition, or an original copy of the Beatles' White Album. For some, bargain buying with charitable results is enough in itself. This has enabled Oxfam to sell more Christmas cards each year than any other charity.

But the shops make money only because most of the goods they sell are donated. And because most of the people involved in sorting, displaying, and selling them are volunteers.

If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteer in an Oxfam shop, please call in to any shop and ask to see the Shop Manager or Shop Leader. Or call the number below for more details.

Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road,
Oxford, OX2 7DZ
Tel: 0865 312603

'Information from Oxfam' leaflets on a range of topics are available free of charge from:

Oxfam Supporter Services
274 Banbury Road
Oxford OX2 7DZ
Tel: 0865 312603

Recent titles include:

- * **A brief history of Oxfam**
- * **Working for Oxfam**
- * **Recycling**
- * **AIDS**
- * **Street Children**
- * **Oxfam in Cambodia**
- * **Eastern Europe**



Fair Trade

Over the years, Oxfam shops have almost single-handedly brought fair trade products to the High Street.

Fair trade means trading directly with producers in the Third World and paying them a guaranteed price for goods and services which is a fair reflection of their labour, thereby protecting them from middlemen and the uncertainty of the market. In return, consumers can buy some beautiful hand-crafted goods – like rugs from Bolivia, India, and Afghanistan, pots from Nicaragua, baskets from Bangladesh, stunning masks from Kenya, ceramics from Thailand, and a whole lot more besides.

Also, these days, there's an increasing range of delicious fair trade foods. Nuts, jams, coffees and teas, chocolates and spices, and exotic tastes galore can be found on the shelves of Oxfam shops the length and breadth of the country. Each one helping small-scale producers make a better living for themselves and their communities.

Volunteers

Oxfam shops would not exist but for a vast and dedicated army of volunteers. At the last count there were 26,000 of them.

Our shop volunteers come from all walks of life. Most are women, many are retired, but these days you'll find more and more keen and interested younger volunteers in Oxfam shops, especially in city-centres. The problem of long-term unemployment in the UK and Ireland has prompted people to volunteer for some worthwhile work. Others – like pensioners – just want to do something useful with the time on their hands.

In some cases volunteering can lead to full-time employment – many Oxfam staff started as volunteers. Some volunteers work regularly half a day a week, others work every day. But no matter what hours they work, one thing is certain: without them and their dedication, Oxfam's overseas programme would be considerably smaller than it is.

Recycling by re-use

Almost everything that comes through the doors of an Oxfam shop – everything that is generously donated by the public – gets recycled. Coins, records, clothes, bric-a-brac... it makes no difference.

Most things which are donated are sold at value-for-money prices to others who have a use for them: in this way resources are passed on and re-used, which causes less harm to the environment. What can't be re-sold is usually recycled. Worn out clothes are sent to Wastesaver, Oxfam's textile recycling plant in Huddersfield, one of the largest in Europe. Here, old clothes, are sorted, graded, and packed into bales, for sale to the filling and flock trade, where they are reprocessed into "new" fibres for use in industry (for example in mattress-stuffing or wipers).


Working for a Fairer World

PLEASE READ AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY

The Oxfam ethos and approach

The Oxfam view

1. Oxfam believes in the essential dignity of people and their capacity to overcome the problems and pressures which can crush or exploit them. These may be rooted in climate and geography, in war and conflict or in the complex areas of economics, politics and social conditions.
2. We believe that, if shared equitably, there are sufficient material resources in the world to meet basic human needs on a sustained basis for all people.
3. Oxfam is a partnership of people who share these beliefs - men and women who, regardless of race, religion or politics, work together for the basic human rights of food, shelter and reasonable conditions of life.

Development

4. We are committed, therefore, to a process of development by peaceful means which aims to help people, especially the poor and under-privileged, regardless of the politics or style of the regime under which they live.
5. This development will often be pursued through local organisations and small groups whom we are privileged to call our partners. Whether working through partners or direct, we hope to achieve constructive change which allows people less precarious or more fulfilling lives, upholds their dignity, encourages their self-determination and acknowledges their cultural styles and priorities.

6. Such development should also take full account of environmental factors. Development should be sustainable in the sense that it involves preservation or improvement of the environment; it should not improve life now at the expense of future generations.
7. Oxfam's contribution is modest within the constraints of our limited resources. But we have learned that we can serve as a small scale social catalyst; helping and encouraging people to realise their full potential; helping small groups to become self-reliant and to combat the oppressive factors in their environment.

Witness

8. We have learned that one of the ways in which we can help people in need is by reporting to our supporters and the wider public the position of those in need as we have found it, the causes of their poverty and the problems and obstacles we have encountered in our work on their behalf.
9. Always in the context of this specific experience we recognise our responsibility, to influence, where appropriate, the organisations both national and international that are involved in the wider aspects of relationships between rich and poor countries.

Oxfam itself

10. If we are to be effective and authentic, Oxfam trustees, staff and volunteers and supporters generally must function as an integrated movement.
11. Fundraising, trading activities, the stewardship of our resources and our personnel policies (including those relating to salaries and equal opportunities) should reflect the same values we work towards in our development programme. Simplicity, frugality and avoidance of waste will be elements in our corporate life style.

12. In a changing world our own organisation and our policies must keep pace with new insights as they emerge. We must be sensitive to the need to change ourselves.

Interdependence

13. All the people, whether they be rich or poor, strong or weak, privileged or deprived, are interdependent, and should, we believe, share in the common task of seeking to achieve the full potential of all humanity.

The opportunity

14. Oxfam provides people with the opportunity of playing a small part in a much larger struggle to eliminate poverty and to help humanity develop in a spirit of love, cooperation and solidarity.

from

Oxfam - An Interpretation

28 January 1989

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CELL
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THE TWO WINGS OF THE RAMAKRISHNA MATH AND RAMAKRISHNA MISSION

THE TWIN CONCEPT:

To the common people, even amongst our friends and devotees, often the distinction between the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission is not very clear. Mostly one is accepted as a synonym of the other. But in their actual field of work these two wings are not so overlapping. There are some definite distinctions in their functioning as well as in other details of administration and control, including their legal character and personalities. It is also a fact that with the passage of time and experience this distinction is gradually emerging more pronounced—necessitating certain demands of time and the nature of constitutional growth within the organisation.

How wonderful it is to think that Swami Vivekananda the illustrious founder of both the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission visualized this distinction between these two characters of the organizations and their functioning in such a distinguished manner. In embodying these two characters at the very genesis of the organization he had certainly fulfilled a great prophetic mission which time itself will reveal in future. He had brought together as it were the entire dilemma and the conflict of the Indian mind, its culture, philosophy and tradition; in one perspective and sought a synthesis and solution so to say. Surely he knew well that there was a deep polemic between contemplation and action in the minds of Hindu theologians and a sort of obsession also in this regard reflected in the common people too. Rightly this dichotomy between Karma and Jnana is perennial. And as one of those creative artist of the destiny Vivekananda could not ignore this distinction in the very element of life and society; specially in the historical context of a Modern India and its further development. Obviously he visualized a unity which is ultimately the only reality beyond all split ups and this he wanted to achieve universally, and beyond all periods of history; not as a mere conception of a philosopher groping in the abstract and academic world. And Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission are the creation of this vision more crystallized and very significant as well.

Swami Yatishwarananda has very succinctly expressed; "The object of Swami Vivekananda's founding the twin institutions of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission was to carry on the mission of his great Master, and this by bringing

into existence of a band of workers who would strive their utmost, for both the emancipation of the self and the well being of the world—'Atmono Mokshartam Jagat Hitaya Cha'. And with this end in view, the Swami tried to express the ancient monastic ideals not only through the old methods of quiet spiritual practice and preaching, but also through what the modern world calls service—but service spiritualized. All persons irrespective of caste or creed, race or nationality, are to be looked upon as vertiable manifestations of the Divine, and served according to their needs—physical, intellectual or spiritual". (Paper read at the 1926 convention of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission).

Ideally therefore, though the motto 'Atmono Mokshartam Jagat Hitaya Cha' as beset by Swami Vivekananda is one and the same, but on a close look, one can easily find out that it has two distinct aspects in the same composite character. Of course there is a grand unity of purpose in it and however antagonistic they look—one is complementing the other, i.e. (1) Atmono Mokshartam (self-realization) and (2) Jagat Hitaya Cha (Well being or service to others). Therefore deep in the motto or ideal itself one gets the seeds of these two wings of the organization; both finally directing itself to the one and the same idea of self-realization. Yet apparently one is distinguishing itself from the other at the same time in its ultimate emphasis or direction. The nature of this distinction is like that of a cause and effect or between ends and means split as it were for a complete realization of the whole and the entirety of Reality. One is the soul, the other is the body or we can say the subject and the object, the individual and the social part or aspect of one and the same universal life. He understood that the ignorance of the common people in India lies in this divisive spirit between one and the other that failed to achieve the desired result in the course of history.

Swami Vivekananda knew pretty well why and where the Indian civilization, directly suffered and therefore he wanted to infuse the idea of work and worship together and declared; "The national ideals of India are renunciation and service. Intensify her in these channels and the rest will take care of itself". So it is this ideal of 'Renunciation' and 'Service' which is nothing but another form of the same motto—'Atmono Mokshartam Jagat Hitaya Cha' that formed the core principle of both the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. As Lord Ronaldsday has expressed it in his 'Heart of Aryavarta'; "Associated with the monastic order (of Sri Ramakrishna) which consists of sannyasins and brahmacharins, is a Mission; these twin organizations standing for renunciation and service respectively, declared by the late Swami Vivekananda to be the two national ideals of India. The Mission undertakes service of all kinds, social, charitable and educational etc. The monasteries are dedicated to the perpetuation through their spiritual culture of the great ideal and revelation which Ramakrishna Paramahansa embodied in his life". Referring to this, Swami Yatishwarananda observed, "A word of explanation is necessary here. The twin ideals of renunciation and service are inseparable like the twin institutions of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission. In the monasteries of the Order of Sri Ramakrishna, greater stress is laid on renunciation and spiritual culture. And in the various branches of the Ramakrishna Mission greater emphasis is laid on what is popularly known as service—True service—as we shall presently see is a form of spiritual culture".

Again Swami Tejasananda has explained it as "Another significant contribution