FOOD FOR ALL

You may think hunger is about too many people and too little food. That is not the case. Hunger is about power. Its roots lie in inequalities in access to resources and opportunities. And women face the greatest inequalities of all. Oxfam’s GROW campaign is bringing people together to create solutions—for food, fairness, and the future of our planet.

FIVE WAYS TO FEED THE PLANET

We’ve reached a turning point. Here’s what Oxfam’s GROW campaign aims to do, starting now, to grow food and justice without wrecking the planet:

• Increase the productivity, self-reliance, and economic opportunity of small-scale farmers, especially women, who depend on agriculture for income and food.
• Increase farmers’ access to resources like water and land, and make sure they don’t have to unfairly compete with big companies for ownership of these resources.
• Increase farmers’ preparedness in the face of more-frequent and more-extreme droughts, floods, and storms.
• Modernize our food aid programs so they are more effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible, improving the global response to natural disasters and food crises.
• Hold governments and businesses accountable for the impacts of their policies and practices on global food security.

About 80 percent of the world’s hungry people live in rural areas, where most of them work as farmers, herders, fishers, or laborers.

All of us, in this generation and the next, deserve enough to eat. To meet the needs of humankind and take pressure off the planet, we need to grow more fairly and sustainably and choose cooperation over division. Together, we can fight hunger by urging governments and companies to make smarter investments in agriculture and climate preparedness—investments that protect farmers living in poor and marginalized communities worldwide.
When you eat a meal, thank the farmer who harvested it and think about their livelihood. ... Food is something that connects all of us as a community, wherever we live.

—Ellen Walsh-Rosmann, farmer and Oxfam supporter, Iowa

THE FACTS

HUNGER POSES AN URGENT THREAT, NOW AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

• According to the UN World Food Programme, the number of global food emergencies has increased from an average of 15 per year during the 1980s to more than 30 per year since 2000.

• As of December 2013, 842 million people worldwide suffer from chronic hunger: more than the population of the European Union, Canada, and the US combined.

• Malnutrition is a leading cause of child mortality, accounting for one-third of all deaths of children under age 5. Climate change could increase child malnutrition 20 percent by 2050.

THE PEOPLE WHO GROW FOOD—MANY OF THEM WOMEN—ARE AT RISK.

• Women are responsible for the majority of food production in many developing countries, despite having restricted access to markets, land, and credit. If women had equal access to resources, their efforts could reduce world hunger, lower child malnutrition, and raise the incomes of rural people.

• Climate change is leading to longer, hotter dry periods, shorter growing seasons, and unpredictable rainfall. Slow-onset changes such as these make it harder for farmers to decide when best to sow, cultivate, and harvest their crops.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

• After Oxfam supporters sent more than 10,000 letters to lawmakers in 2011, US Congress ended tax subsidies that encourage using corn for fuel instead of food. These wasteful subsidies had been in place for more than 30 years, and contributed to volatile and rising food prices in the US and around the world.

• In 2011, when Congress threatened to cut the less than 1 percent of the US budget dedicated to poverty- and hunger-fighting assistance, Oxfam supporters, allies, and volunteers rallied to successfully defend that budget. Their letters, calls, and visits to Congress helped protect key programs like Feed the Future, the US government’s global hunger and food security initiative.

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WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Join Oxfam’s GROW campaign and help build a better food system: one that sustainably feeds a growing population (estimated to reach nine billion by 2050) and empowers poor people to earn a living, feed their families, and thrive.

Sign up now at oxfamamerica.org/grow

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