




Oxfam

SPRING/SUMMER 2005

Exchange

AID WORKING

After the Tsunami

- 
- A photograph showing two men working on a wall. One man, wearing a light blue shirt and blue pants, is using a hammer to work on a piece of wood or metal. The other man, wearing a light blue shirt and blue pants, is looking on. They are outdoors, and the wall they are working on is made of light-colored material.
- VIEW FROM THE FIELD
 - TIMELINE OF OXFAM'S RESPONSE
 - BUDGET AND STRATEGY UPDATE
 - AMERICANS TAKE ACTION



OXFAM EXCHANGE
Volume 5, Number 2
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Write to us!

The editors of *Oxfam Exchange* welcome readers' comments and ideas. Please include your name and address and mail your letters to:

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Or send an email to us at editor@oxfamamerica.org or fax to 617-728-2596.

We will print as many letters as possible, but we reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

Oxfam America employees are represented by Service Employees International Union, Local 2020 (Boston) and Local 500 (Washington, DC).

COVER PHOTO: JIM HOLMES/OXFAM

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At the G8 meeting in July, the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit in September, and the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in December, world leaders will gather to discuss ways to eradicate extreme poverty.

At these meetings, ONE—an alliance of aid agencies and campaigning groups, including Oxfam—will be pushing to:

- Increase US aid for health, education, clean water, and other basic needs;
- Cancel the poorest countries' debts and fight corruption; and
- Reform unfair trade rules.

Join millions around the world by signing the ONE declaration at www.oxfamamerica.org/onecampaign. Commit yourself—ONE person, ONE voice, ONE vote—to make poverty history.

Oxfam America respects the privacy of its supporters. We have developed a rigorous privacy policy to reflect this respect. Periodically, Oxfam makes the names of its supporters available to other organizations working for social change. If you would like us to exclude your name from that process, we would be more than happy to honor your wishes. Please write to Oxfam America, List Preference Service, 26 West Street, Boston, MA 02111-1206 and be sure to include your name and address. You may also email donorinfo@oxfamamerica.org or call 800/77-OXFAM and ask for the List Preference Service Desk.

You may read our complete Privacy Policy online at oxfamamerica.org, or we can mail one to you at your request.

Dear friends:

The tsunami that struck the coast of Asia on December 26th was a huge human tragedy. More than 200,000 people lost their lives in a few hours. Half a million more were injured. Up to five million people in a dozen countries were left in need of basic services. Material destruction runs in the billions of dollars.

Yet amid the devastation came hope. An amazing outpouring of support, especially from individuals like you, allowed aid groups to do a remarkable job in saving as many lives as possible.

For this, I want to thank you.

Long-time supporters of Oxfam positioned us to respond within hours of the disaster. And 115,000 new supporters came forward—enabling us to help meet the scope of the demand in Asia for food, water, clothing, shelter, and long-term initiatives to help rebuild lives.

Today, Oxfam is assisting more than 600,000 people. Our primary response has been through our partners and their affiliated networks. These local non-governmental organizations have deep connections with the villages. They have the ability to identify those most affected by the tsunami and the organizational means to provide both material and financial assistance.

To complement our in-country work, through Congressional testimony and other venues, we are pushing for the effective use of aid, including better coordination of aid agencies and full participation of tsunami victims in planning the rebuilding of their communities.

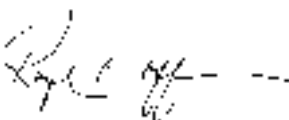
In Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia, and, to a lesser extent, in the Maldives, Somalia, Burma, and Thailand, Oxfam is working to ensure that the large volume of available aid enables these countries not only to recover, but to put their people on a path toward sustainable long-term development. It would be unthinkable to return survivors to the poverty they lived in before the waves came, leaving them just as vulnerable as they were on that terrible day.

This is where Oxfam can best make its mark: in addressing the root causes of poverty. For it is not mere coincidence that most of those who died or have been left homeless and destitute were already among the world's poorest. Living in flimsy homes and isolation, poor people are the least prepared to withstand natural disasters. And once disaster strikes, they have the fewest resources with which to recover.

A just world without poverty: this is Oxfam's vision. It's what we work for in Ethiopia, where water and irrigation projects are boosting crop growth and easing the exhausting work of collecting water. It's what we seek in Mozambique, where women are participating in savings programs to earn income that will help them improve the lives of their families. It's what we promote in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru, where indigenous communities are gaining a say in the mining operations that threaten their lives and lands.

With this magazine, we offer you a glimpse of the important work Oxfam is doing to respond to the tsunami—work that symbolizes what we do every day around the world.

Sincerely,



Raymond C. Offenheiser
President



Raymond C. Offenheiser,
President of Oxfam America



DENNY MORRIS/OXFAM AMERICA



JONATHAN RAINFORD/OXFAM



JEFF DEUTSCH/OXFAM AMERICA

Oxfam America's work spans on-the-ground programs that strengthen communities, emergency expertise that saves lives in disasters, and strategic campaigns that influence decision makers on behalf of poor people.

OXFAM 101

The name Oxfam doesn't exactly give it away. Take a five-minute crash course on what Oxfam is all about.

What exactly is an “Oxfam?”

It's not an acronym or some clever play on words. Quite simply, it is the original postal abbreviation for the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. While the origin of the name is somewhat ordinary, Oxfam's mission—to end global poverty, hunger, and social injustice—is not.

When was Oxfam established?

Oxfam was started in 1942 in England during World War II to provide relief to war victims in Europe. A group of Quaker intellectuals, social activists, and Oxford academics formed the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (now Oxfam) in response to the plight of refugees in Greece. The name was formally adopted in 1965.

While Oxfam began helping those in Europe, the agency's mission was broadened in 1949 to help relieve suffering from wars or other causes in any part of the world.

As the world changed, so did Oxfam.

In the 1960s Oxfam began focusing on regional work, managing a network of field directors and supporting self-help schemes where communities were tasked to improve their own water supplies, farming practices, and health provisions.

How did Oxfam America come to be?

In 1970, the US entered the fray. Oxfam America was formed in response to the humanitarian crisis created by the fight for independence in Bangladesh. Oxfam Great Britain provided the original loan for this group of volunteers.

Throughout the years, Oxfam America's growth has been linked to major disasters: Cambodia's “Killing Fields” in 1979, the 1983 Ethiopia famine, the 1991 Bangladesh floods, and the 1994 Rwandan genocide. In the late 1990s, our revenues climbed with the destruction of Hurricane Mitch in Central America and the war in Kosovo.

Still, our emphasis has always been on long-term sustainable development—funding and training local partners worldwide. Simultaneously, Oxfam America educates the US public about issues of poverty and hunger.

Today Oxfam America is a \$35 million organization—more than double the size it was 10 years ago—with offices in Boston; Washington, DC; Lima, Peru; San Salvador, El Salvador; Dakar, Senegal; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Pretoria, South Africa; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia. We employ 177 people, work in 30 countries, and support 244 partners.

What does Oxfam do?

Oxfam tackles poverty from several different angles:

→ **Save lives.** Oxfam provides immediate assistance to in the event of a disaster. Once urgent danger passes, we continue to help people restore their livelihoods and prepare for future crises.

→ **Build communities.** Oxfam works with local, community-based organizations, providing funds and empowering poor people to play a central role in the development of their families, communities, and regions. Always, we work with people, partners, and allies as equals.

→ **Campaign for change.** Through education, policy, and advocacy, Oxfam fosters a broad understanding of the root causes of poverty. Even as we help poor people advocate for themselves, we engage the public to influence decision makers on behalf of those living in poverty.

What makes Oxfam different?

Anyone who knows Oxfam well will tell you Oxfam is a keen innovator and fiercely independent. Here are three features that set us apart:

→ **Focus on rights.** Oxfam sees poverty as the result of people being excluded from resources to which they have a right—such as education, land, and water. We were one of the first organizations to empower people to claim what is rightfully theirs and to advocate for governments to fulfill their responsibilities.

→ **Working locally and globally.** Oxfam pioneered the idea of combining funding for local organizations with global campaigning. This combination ensures that our campaigns are grounded in reality. Working alongside individuals, communities, organizations, corporations, and governments has allowed us to amplify the voices of poor people and help change national and international laws and policies that reinforce this poverty.

→ **Independence.** To preserve our independence, Oxfam America does not accept funds from the US government or other sources that may limit the autonomy of our program decisions or our ability to comment on international, government, or corporate policies.

Oxfam International

Poverty and injustice are global problems—and need global solutions. Oxfam International was formed in 1996 to unite independent Oxfams to achieve greater impact through our collective efforts. Today, the Oxfam International family—a confederation of 12 Oxfams—enjoys tremendous breath, including a staff of more than 4,000 people and a reach that encompasses more than 100 countries.

Affiliate members include:

Oxfam America	Oxfam Hong Kong
Oxfam Belgium	Intermón Oxfam (Spain)
Oxfam Canada	Oxfam Ireland
Oxfam Community Aid Abroad (Australia)	Oxfam New Zealand
Oxfam Germany	Novib (Oxfam Netherlands)
Oxfam Great Britain	Oxfam Québec

Oxfam International also maintains close ties with Oxfam Japan, Oxfam Trust in India, and potential Oxfam affiliates Agir Ici in France and Vamos in Mexico.

The Different Faces of Oxfam

Because of our confederation approach, the Oxfam you see in the US may be different from the Oxfam you see in Europe or Canada or Hong Kong.



In the US, Oxfam is the Hunger Banquet you attended at your place of worship or college where you got a taste of hunger and were inspired to do something about it.



In Australia, Oxfam is the popular TrailWalker event, where you collect sponsorships for the chance to complete a 100km trail within 48 hours—all done in the name of Oxfam.



In Great Britain, Oxfam is to charity what Kleenex is to tissues. You donate your old clothes to one of more than 830 Oxfam shops that sell used clothing and handcrafts to raise funds for Oxfam's work.



JIM HOLMES/OXFAM

FACING DISASTER: HOW WE RESPONDED

By Coco McCabe

It was in the town of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, that the nightmare began for Oxfam worker Philip Manuel. He was in church the morning after Christmas when panicked cries began to reverberate through the sanctuary.

“The sea is coming!” Suddenly, water was everywhere.

On Dec. 26, an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.3 sent a wall of water crashing onto the shores of 12 countries spanning Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Africa. It took the lives of more than 200,000 people and left

more than 1.6 million others displaced. In some villages, women bore the brunt of the disaster, facing death rates three times that of men. Elsewhere, such as in the village of Dutchbar, Sri Lanka, the tsunami wiped out an estimated 90 percent of the population.

Manuel ran to a hillside and watched the ocean recede, only for it to come back again, sweeping away boats and plowing into houses and churches.

“Bodies were hanging from trees,” he said. “I have lost 10 members of my family.”

PHONE CALLS BRING THE HORROR HOME

In Scotland, where Oxfam worker Malcolm Fleming was visiting his parents, the phone rang with the awful news. Within hours, Fleming was on a plane headed for Sri Lanka. Once there, he made a visit to Kinniya, a town south of Trincomalee.

“On any normal occasion, Kinniya would be a beautiful place to visit,” Fleming said. “To reach it, you have to take a small ferry across a beautiful lagoon, lush with vegetation.” But on this day, muddy water and a swath of

THE FIRST WEEK: Oxfam Is There

DEC 26

→ 7:58 a.m. The world’s second largest earthquake ever recorded strikes 155 miles southeast of Banda Aceh, Sumatra. It registers 9.3 on the Richter scale.

→ A tsunami triggered by the earthquake crashes onto the shores of 12 countries. The waves kill more than 200,000 people and leave up to five million without basic services.

→ Within hours of the wave striking, Oxfam workers in Sri Lanka rush to help victims of the tsunami by shuttling injured people to doctors.

→ That afternoon, Oxfam sends sixty 1,000-liter water tanks to Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. The agency also prepares 25,000 food packs to help feed families.

DEC 27

→ The Lion Brewery in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, suspends production of beer and shifts to bottling drinking water, which Oxfam distributes to communities in need.

destruction greeted him instead. A few days before, the townspeople had buried 800 of their own. Homes, churches, businesses, and even the hospital lay in ruins.

“As we rounded a corner and saw Kinniya hospital, it took my breath away,” said Fleming. “It had obviously been a substantial building but was totally wrecked. Walls were wrenched apart by the force of the water, and beds and other debris were everywhere. Of the 100 patients in the building on the morning of Dec. 26, only four had survived. It was hard to take in.”

HELP COMES FAST

But Oxfam worker A.R. Mohamed Saifullah refused to let shock immobilize him. Like other Sri Lankan colleagues employed by Oxfam, he quickly set to work helping his community. It was this willingness, and the deep understanding Oxfam’s local partners have of their region, that allowed the agency to respond immediately and creatively to the crisis.

Saifullah, whose own house was awash in water, organized 100 volunteers to help collect bodies with Kinniya Vision, a long-time Oxfam partner. Kinniya Vision also transported sick and injured residents to local doctors.

“We have been able to take advantage of a network of local offices which we operate in the north and east of Sri Lanka,” said Fleming a few days after the disaster. “Now these offices, and a new office just opened today in the

southern district of Hambantota, are operational bases for distributing plastic sheeting for shelter, buckets for drinking water, sleeping mats, blankets, and the small necessities of life swept away in the floods, like matches, candles, and soap.”

WATER AND LATRINES FOR 10,000: AN OXFAM TRADEMARK

“The first two days were horrible.”

That was the blunt assessment of Father Stanley who was in charge of relief operations at St. Mary’s High School in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, India. About 10,000 people had fled to the school for safety—and stayed—after the wave hit. The few water tanks and toilets, once sufficient for students, couldn’t keep up with the new needs.

“I was worried about diseases cropping up because everyone was turning a blind eye to simple cleanliness and sanitation,” said Stanley. “Then Oxfam volunteers met with me, and we spoke at length about what was immediately required. Within two or three days, they had built water tanks and toilets.”

Oxfam erected ten 5,000-liter water tanks and arranged to have the municipality fill them every three hours. The agency’s teams also cleaned the school’s water tanks, dug 20 latrines—10 for men and 10 for women—and built washing platforms to prevent water from stagnating in the cooking areas. The improvements brought immediate relief.

The speed with which Oxfam got its water and sanitation programs up and running in places such as Sri Lanka,



Oxfam water supply technicians were on the scene in Aceh, Indonesia, soon after the tsunami struck. The agency has provided water to more than 140,000 people in hard-hit areas of the country.

DEC 28

→Oxfam meets with other agencies in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, to begin planning a coordinated response.

DEC 29

→A cargo plane carrying 27 tons of Oxfam equipment worth \$193,000 leaves the UK. The load includes materials to build latrines and emergency water systems. The supplies are destined for Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

DEC 31

→At Oxfam America’s Boston headquarters, our phones ring once every three seconds, and our website collects more than \$2,365 a minute.

JAN 1

→Villagers in Krueng Raya, Indonesia, pick through the rubble to find tools and materials to build themselves temporary homes. They ask Oxfam to help provide clean water.

JAN 3

→Oxfam announces plan to expand assistance to 60,000 people in four regions. Aid will include construction of latrines, cash-for-work programs to clear debris and restore water systems, construction and repair of wells and temporary shelters, and provision of food and clothes.

FACING DISASTER: HOW WE RESPONDED

India, Indonesia, and the Maldives was clearly part of the success humanitarian agencies had in preventing a second killer wave—disease—from ripping through the region. In the Indonesian province of Aceh, Oxfam has distributed more than 2.5 million gallons of clean water.

DRENCHING RAIN AND TREMORS ADD TO CHALLENGES

But difficulties thwarted aid workers at every turn, and long workdays stretched deep into the night for some.

As if the wave hadn't dumped enough water on Sri Lanka, heavy rains in the days following the disaster hampered aid efforts. Water settled three feet deep near Kiran, forcing people not affected by the tsunami to leave their homes and seek assistance in the spontaneous camps that had sprouted in schools and places of worship.

In Indonesia, aftershocks continued to rattle the nerves of everyone, disrupting sleep, prompting earthquake drills, and forcing an occasional rapid evacuation.

"Last night, when we were back at the house there were several tremors. This is making people here very anxious," said Oxfam worker Mona Lazo, who arrived in Banda Aceh on the northern tip of Sumatra on New Year's Day. "Our Indonesian staff insists on sleeping downstairs on the floor, they are so nervous."



A poor catch was the fate of this fisherman in Cuddalore, India, after the tsunami left boats smashed and nets hopelessly tangled. Oxfam has been helping fishermen get back to work through programs that repair or replace their equipment.

SENSITIVITY BECOMES A SALVE

For some, the trauma was completely debilitating.

"It's a mental-health nightmare," said Oxfam worker Nathaniel Raymond on his return from a month-long assignment to Sri Lanka. "I met many people who had infants literally wrenched from their hands." In the days and weeks following the tsunami, suicides became more common, he added. "People say, 'I want to die.' They ask for poison."

Sometimes, providing relief meant more than offering just the basics to sustain a body. Souls and psyches needed attention, too. Oxfam made a point of listening carefully to people. On

Sumatra, people expressed a longing for supplies to meet their spiritual needs, asking for both praying shrouds for women and prayer mats.

Oxfam also worked to include communities in the decision-making process as rehabilitation got under way. In Batticoloa, Sri Lanka, for instance, Oxfam asked community members for comments and encouraged them to suggest modifications to the temporary shelters the agency planned to build. In Indonesia, Oxfam prepared questionnaires for communities. These helped the agency understand what kinds of programs each community needed most. Resulting action plans ensured that each project was community-led.

JANUARY: Clean Water Saves Lives

WATER			EXTRA EFFORTS	NO DISEASES
→ Oxfam is asked to take a lead role in providing water in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, and its surrounding district.	→ Oxfam delivers 55 tons of bottled water to the Maldives.	→ With its partners, Oxfam distributes 17,000 hygiene kits and provides safe water and latrines for more than 20,000 people in camps in India.	→ Oxfam uses helicopters to deliver aid to 15,000 people along Sumatra's west coast.	→ By the end of the month, Oxfam is helping 130,000 people in India, 100,000 in Sri Lanka, and 75,000 in Indonesia. There have been no outbreaks of waterborne diseases reported in the areas in which Oxfam is working.
→ Oxfam installs a water treatment plant in the town of Meulaboh, Indonesia.	→ Three desalination plants, tracked down by an Oxfam volunteer and shipped from the US, arrive in the Maldives.		→ In the Cuddalore district of India, Oxfam begins to repair fiberglass fishing boats. Also in Cuddalore, Oxfam distributes sugar cane so families can celebrate an important local festival known as Pongal.	

WOMEN'S CONCERNS SHAPE AID DELIVERY

Of particular concern to Oxfam are issues regarding women.

"It's during this kind of emergency response that we understand the impact of all these years of gender sensitization among our staff," said Manori Perera Gunatilleke, Oxfam's gender coordinator in Sri Lanka. "Their ability to consider the needs of both sexes during the rapid response has been really great."

Latrines are a good example. When teams build them for displaced people, they take into account the privacy and accessibility needs of various groups, such as Muslim women and pregnant women. In Meulaboh, Indonesia, Oxfam's gender advisor trained team members on how to involve women in decision-making when most village leaders are men.

For more on Oxfam's work regarding women, see our report "Gender and the Tsunami" at oxfamamerica.org/exchange_spring05.

WORK HEALS SPIRITS AND BUILDS COMMUNITIES

Work is one of the best healers. Within weeks of the tsunami, Oxfam launched numerous cash-for-work programs which not only provided a source of income for people whose livelihoods were swept out to sea, but

gave them an important stake in the restoration of their communities.

Oxfam is also helping people restore their livelihoods. Across the region, the agency is focusing on a number of industries including lace-making, fishing, and carpentry.

In Indonesia, Oxfam has helped more than 14,000 people through cash-for-work programs. In Sri Lanka, more than 60,000 people have benefited from a combination of cash-for-work

Known as *coir*, the fiber is the basis for numerous products, some of which local people make themselves. The tsunami damaged some of the pools where the coconut husks soften in water, and it destroyed some of the simple coir machines.

"Coir is one of Sri Lanka's largest industries," said Oxfam's Nathaniel Raymond. "You are not going to be able to have these families be self-sufficient if you don't have coir operations up and running."

Oxfam has helped nearly 75,000 people get back to work clearing debris, repairing latrines, and other critical jobs. Such programs provide a source of income for those whose livelihoods were swept out to sea and give people an important stake in the restoration of their communities.

and livelihoods projects. They have included shoveling the mud from streets, cleaning and chlorinating wells, repairing latrines, and clearing land for houses.

When the tsunami swept into the Matara district, on the southern tip of Sri Lanka, it caused extensive damage to a cottage industry that helps support many women in the area: the extraction of fiber from coconut husks.

In a cash-for-work program, Oxfam has paid more than 700 people to help clean out and restore the soaking pools. The agency also plans to provide cash grants to several coir mills to replace equipment lost in the tsunami. The mills will ensure a steady supply of coir so women can resume making coir yarn, doormats, and brooms.

continued >>

FEBRUARY: Survivors Find Ways to Move On

FUNDRAISING	EMERGENCY AID	RESTORATION	BACK TO WORK
→ Oxfam stops raising new funds for tsunami survivors. In just over a month, Oxfam America has raised more than \$30 million; Oxfam International is on its way to raising \$250 million.	→ Oxfam provides water to 10,000 people in 40 returnee communities in the district of Aceh Besar, Indonesia. → In India, Oxfam finishes distributing emergency relief goods and begins the next phase of its response: helping people restore their communities and livelihoods.	→ Oxfam continues to provide food and other emergency goods to more than 13,500 displaced people in 22 camps in Sri Lanka. → Oxfam America President Raymond C. Offenheiser testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee calling for effective and appropriate aid delivery.	→ Oxfam undertakes construction of 1,000 transitional shelters in Sri Lanka, incorporating community input into designs and providing cash for people to build their own homes. → Oxfam starts a radio show in Indonesia hosted by a local journalist. The show broadcasts public health advice.
			→ Oxfam launches cash-for-work programs across the region. Teams of citizens begin clearing mud and debris from damaged properties. → Oxfam sponsors a seafood festival in Cuddalore, India, to promote the fishing industry and encourage people to eat fish again.



"The bottom line is that, while people went through a traumatic experience, they'll be positioned for a more secure future," said Michael Delaney, Oxfam America's Director of Humanitarian Assistance. "That's the goal."

PARTNERS PAVE THE WAY TO THE FUTURE

For Oxfam, the most effective way to offer aid is through collaboration with local partners such as PREPARE in India.

"Partner organizations have worked in this area for many years. They have the respect of the communities and the knowledge and experience to implement programs quickly and effectively," said Kenny Rae, an Oxfam program officer. Improving the fishing industry in India and preparing for the next natural disaster are among the goals for Oxfam and its partners as rehabilitation progresses. For example, establishing natural barriers such as mangrove forests along the coast could blunt the fury of the storms that plague the region.

While local organizations may have a clear idea of what's needed to help rebuild coastal communities, challenges lie ahead. In India, one of them is access to land.

"Securing land for housing is proving to be increasingly difficult," said Rae. "The challenge now is to find land close enough to the shore that will allow people to continue with their livelihoods. Once suitable land is acquired, non-governmental organizations, including Oxfam, will be involved in providing permanent housing."

In the meantime, resolve is the engine that drives each day forward.

"What really impressed me was the dignity of the people in Pudupalayam and the other coastal villages that I visited," said Rae. "Despite the tragedy

Preparing for the next disaster is one of Oxfam's goals. For example, establishing natural barriers could blunt the fury of storms that plague the region.

and upheaval in their lives, they are looking to the future not as victims, but as participants in the rehabilitation programs that Oxfam and its partners will be undertaking."

Read more about Oxfam's tsunami response at oxfamamerica.org/tsunami.



MARCH: Daily Life Takes on a Rhythm

INFO SHARING	FOCUS ON WOMEN	ODD JOBS		NIAS EARTHQUAKE
<p>→ In Indonesia, Oxfam buys newspapers and distributes them through community leaders to improve access to information.</p> <p>→ In Lampaya, Indonesia, Oxfam opens a shop dubbed “The Posko,” or “Center,” to serve as an information hub, warehouse, and store for construction materials.</p>	<p>→ Oxfam helps local women’s groups prepare and fund events in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, for International Women’s Day.</p> <p>→ Oxfam holds gender training and awareness sessions in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. Women’s committees meet to discuss issues such as child abuse and early marriage.</p>	<p>→ In Indonesia, an Oxfam partner begins to remove bodies from shallow graves where wild pigs have been digging them up.</p> <p>→ Oxfam launches pilot projects to collect rainwater and recover materials salvaged from damaged houses.</p>	<p>→ Oxfam rents a ferry to help people get to market in Lamno, Indonesia, where the tsunami destroyed a bridge.</p> <p>→ In Sri Lanka, Oxfam engineers establish a water treatment plant on the Verugal River that will provide drinking water to an estimated 3,000 people.</p>	<p>→ On March 28, an earthquake measuring 8.7 on the Richter scale struck near the Indonesian island of Nias. By April 1, Oxfam had restored water to 10,000 people in the town of Gunungsitoli.</p>

Oxfam's Five-Year Plan to Relieve, Rebuild, Prepare

By the start of April, Oxfam had reached more than 600,000 people with emergency assistance, helping avert a second wave of death by disease. Today, emergency relief efforts have given way to the massive effort of rebuilding, and plans are in place to create more secure lives for tsunami survivors.

THE OXFAM INTERNATIONAL TSUNAMI FUND

For maximum efficiency, Oxfam International responds to emergencies as one agency. However, the tsunami has prompted us to take integration to a new level: All 12 Oxfams are now pooling resources into a single trust fund and moving money and staff to where they are most needed. The fund, which will total \$250 million, will support a closely coordinated rehabilitation and development program over the next five years.

Projected Spending Ratio

Oxfam spends at least 90 percent of emergency donations to support those affected. In the case of the tsunami, we expect to exceed that goal.

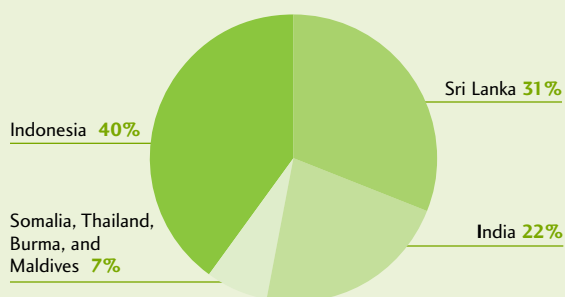
How the Money Will Be Used

In the first three months following the tsunami, Oxfam spent \$26,617,000 on relief efforts. Fifty-six percent of these expenditures went to public health initiatives, including the provision of clean water, latrines, bathing cubicles, and hygiene supplies. Other funds went to food, shelter, and the beginning phases of rebuilding.

Oxfam International has already mapped out where and how money will be spent as we move forward, recognizing adjustments may be needed along the way.

Anticipated Allocation of Funds by Country

Here is where Oxfam expects to spend the money:



Anticipated Activities

Here are some of the projects Oxfam will pursue:

Short-Term Projects to Restore, Rebuild	Long-Term Projects to Develop, Prepare
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide tools and equipment to farmers, fishers, and trades peopleSupport businesses traditionally run by women, such as coir- and lace-makingDesalinate farmlandImprove public health conditions in camps for displaced people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve market access for small producersEstablish natural barriers, such as mangroves, to protect coastal areasTrain communities in disaster preparednessImprove housing to ensure people are living in dignified conditions

OXFAM'S PRIORITY: RECONSTRUCTION PLUS

True to our mission, Oxfam's goal is to help people rebuild in ways that allow them to move beyond poverty. Oxfam calls this "reconstruction plus"—a recreation of lives and livelihoods on strong new foundations. As we work toward this, we will be mindful of other key priorities:

- **Keeping community participation central to our program.** Rehabilitation programs must be designed with input from the people they are intended to benefit. We will engage people in rebuilding their communities and advocate with government agencies to give people a real say in decisions that affect them.
- **Rehabilitating poor inland communities as well as those along the shore.** The tsunami struck some of the poorest areas in the world. We will assist poor communities that were not directly affected by the disaster, so they too can make progress.
- **Reaching out to underserved populations.** Oxfam will seek out those who may be overlooked by other sources of aid because of political or cultural isolation.
- **Focusing on the needs of women.** Inequities women experience in their daily lives are often amplified in emergencies. We will advocate for women's rights to a fair share of aid and a voice in decision making.
- **Promoting best practices,** including standards established by the Sphere Project, the Red Cross, and the Humanitarian Accountability Project.

A WAVE OF COMPASSION

First, a wave took the lives of 200,000 people. Then, a wave of generosity saved the lives of hundreds of thousands more.

By Carla Curtsinger

In addition to the thousands who gave from their pocketbooks to support Oxfam, more than 600 groups and individuals found their own ways to act on the devastation in Asia. Through coin drives, concerts, contests, and other events, people rallied together to find meaning in the incomprehensible and to find community with their neighbors on the other side of the world.

Tsunami Scrapbooking: A Memory-Making Effort

More than 20 years ago, as high school students in Weston, MA, Monica Claman and her twin brothers, Dan and Tim, created a scrapbook about the plight of the Cambodian boat people. Canvassing their neighborhood, they raised money to support Oxfam's programs.

Fast forward to today. Monica is now married with children of her own. After the tsunami, she and her husband, Michael Higgins, talked about the disaster with their daughters, Sarah, 11, and Rebecca, 9.

"We wanted to explain it to them from a kid's perspective—as a natural disaster with no 'bad guys,'" said Higgins. "They immediately wanted to do something to help."

As they brainstormed ideas, Monica thought back to that scrapbook. Her daughters liked the idea and created it themselves, building a storyboard of the tsunami events as they unfolded and adding information about Oxfam at the end of the book.

During the next three to four weeks, the girls walked the scrapbook around their neighborhood in Lexington, MA, asking friends and neighbors to give what they could. They also took it to show-and-tell in their individual classrooms at Estabrook Elementary School. During a holiday trip to New York State, the scrapbook came, too.

"The girls knew they were doing something really positive to help," said Higgins.

Their efforts brought in more than \$2500, which they presented to Oxfam in person at the Boston headquarters.

Seven Hours for Sri Lanka

Gary Haber spent six years in southern Asia in the late 60's and early 70's. While in Sri Lanka, he stayed in a small village along the southern coast that probably doesn't exist today.

"I wanted to go there as soon as I heard about the tsunami, but I didn't have any disaster assistance expertise," said Haber. "So I thought, 'What can I do?' My wife, Annette, suggested I do what I do best: put on a concert to raise money for the survivors."

Haber lives in a renovated 150-year old barn in West Liberty, Ohio, where he and his wife have been hosting "Freedom Farm Acoustics Concerts" four to five times each year. He contacted a number of musicians about holding a benefit concert, and the response was overwhelming.



When Sarah and Rebecca Higgins walked their scrapbook around Lexington, MA, to collect money for Oxfam, their goal each day was to get three yes's. "But when two little girls come to your door, often in rain and snow and bad weather, people just want to give," said their mother, Monica.

The Tsunami Survivors Relief Concert soon outgrew Haber's barn. The seven-hour concert, a mix of bluegrass, folk, Irish, and jazz, was held February 5th at the Holland Theatre, a historical landmark movie theatre undergoing restoration in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

More than 400 people attended the event, which raised over \$4,000 for Oxfam's relief effort. "Oxfam is my group," said Haber. "I knew their work from my days in Sri Lanka. Not too many people who attended the concert knew about Oxfam, but they do now!"

For more on these stories and others, visit oxfamamerica.org/exchange_spring05.



Jazz group Kent Burnside and Friends were the opening act for Gary Haber's Tsunami Survivors Relief Concert. Seven bands rallied seven hours to raise \$4,000 for Oxfam.

What do opera and dodge ball have in common?

Supporters have used events like these to raise more than \$500,000 for tsunami victims.



**ANGELIC VOICES LIFT
RESCUE EFFORTS**

In less than three weeks, the San Francisco Boys Chorus, made up of boys 4-to 13 years of age, organized a concert and reception to benefit Oxfam and UNICEF. Internationally renowned opera singer Frederica von Stada joined the chorus for a concert that raised \$13,000 in 90 minutes.



**THE CHECK
IS IN THE MAIL**

The checks were clipped to the refrigerator door awaiting a trip to the mall as the deadly waves swept over southern Asia. When Sarah, Jessica, and Becca Felicelli from Plattsburgh, NY, decided to send their Christmas checks from Grandma and Grandpa Wyand to Oxfam, proud parents Frank and Melissa matched their contributions on the spot.



**UCLA HOSTS DODGE BALL-A-THON
"TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS"**

The recent movie *Dodge Ball* may have brought the sport back into the national spotlight, but for UCLA's Students for Tsunami Relief, dodge ball was the focal point for their fundraising efforts. The formidable Old School Crushers were one of 34 teams that dodged balls to raise \$5,000 for tsunami survivors.

EMERGENCIES IN AFRICA



A woman draws water from a well in Um Dukhun, West Darfur. For thousands who sought refuge there, stagnant, green-brown water from shallow wells was the only water source until Oxfam and other groups improved the supply.

Water Shortages Add to Hardships for Displaced People of Darfur

More than two years after conflict first erupted in the western Sudan region of Darfur, people continue to face violence and suffering. The ongoing crisis has forced more than two million people from their homes, sending hundreds of thousands into squalid camps and overcrowded towns. There, many face a particular kind of misery: severely limited clean water.

Water shortages are all too familiar to the people of Darfur. Across the region and into Chad, a lingering dry season and dropping water tables have meant that clean water has become increasingly scarce. Oxfam is now helping to provide water, sanitation services, and public health education to more than 700,000 people.

In some locations, women wait in long lines—up to six hours—to draw their daily water allotment. In other places, there is simply not enough water to supply each person with the minimum emergency standard of just under four gallons per day. At Amnabak, a camp in Chad where 16,430 Sudanese now live, every drop must be trucked in since the camp has no supply of its own.

While Oxfam engineers have managed to find some new water sources, there is no end in sight to the hardship of living with little water—until people feel safe enough to go home. But with violence still a daily fact of life in Darfur, it is unclear when that return will be.



By making sure animals stay healthy, Oxfam is helping herders in the Afar region of Ethiopia preserve the main source of their food and income as they try to weather the effects of a drought.

Millions Face Hunger in Ethiopia

Though some rain has returned to parts of Ethiopia, the long-term impact of drought continues to sap regions of the country. Close to four million people need emergency food assistance. Five million others, who face chronic food shortages, need aid in the form of cash or food in exchange for laboring on public works projects.

But the appeal for help, issued by the government, the United Nations, and a variety of humanitarian partners, remains significantly under funded.

Oxfam, with its partners, is responding to the emergency with three major projects that aim to save lives, protect livelihoods, and improve the availability of water while minimizing the risk from future droughts.

In Gambella, for instance, Oxfam's seed and farm tool distribution program will benefit 47,550 people. In drought-afflicted Afar, an animal health program designed to halt the spread of disease among 410,000 heads of livestock, will help secure the livelihoods of 20,610 people. A second project in that region involves trucking water into three villages where 11,200 herders have been suffering from health and sanitation problems because of a severe water shortage.

RECENT VICTORIES



A farmer retrieves his cows that wandered near an area polluted by toxic mine waste. Under the agreement between his community and the Tintaya Copper Mine, farmers like him will get new areas to graze their livestock.

Peruvian Communities Win Respect, New Lands from Mining Company

It took more than two years and a lot of compromise, but the result is historic: a contract between five highland communities in Cusco, Peru, and a major mining corporation that will provide new farmland and a \$300,000 development fund to families displaced by the Tintaya Copper Mine.

In December 2004, Australian corporation BHP Billiton, the owner of the mine, signed an agreement that will directly benefit 3,200 indigenous people with new farm land, new roads, new homes with water and latrines, seeds for pastures, and assistance for herders. An additional 64,400 people stand to gain indirectly from improved environmental conditions and other benefits.

More importantly, BHP Billiton committed to seek the consent of nearby communities before undertaking any additional mining operations in the area.

“We expect that this agreement will establish a precedent in Peru and elsewhere, so that companies will recognize that the conditions needed for profitable mining can best be achieved by working with local communities and respecting their rights,” said Oxfam America South America Regional Director Martin Scurrah. “This opens up a new era and a way of doing business in the mining industry.”

Oxfam America funded the training for communities that participated in the negotiations and collaborated with Oxfam Australia to facilitate the dialogue between community representatives and the mine.



CIW staff Romeo Ramirez, Laura Germino, Greg Asbed, and Mathieu Beaucicot are among those who stood up to Taco Bell and got a commitment for increased wages and a tough code of conduct for Florida tomato suppliers.

CIW Ends Boycott, Gets Taco Bell to Meet All Demands

On March 8, 2005, Oxfam partner the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) announced it was ending its three-year boycott of Taco Bell. The fast food company, which had long denied responsibility for the terrible conditions for workers on farms that supply Taco Bell with tomatoes, ultimately met all of CIW’s demands, including:

- **Increased wages.** Taco Bell will only purchase tomatoes from growers that pay workers a penny more per pound. If a farmworker currently receives 42 cents for a 32-pound bucket, another penny per pound will nearly double his income;
- **Higher labor standards.** Taco Bell and CIW have worked together to identify eligible growers from which Taco Bell will purchase its produce, giving preference to growers that maintain labor practices that exceed current agricultural labor standards; and
- **Commitment to advocacy.** Taco Bell parent company Yum! Brands, Inc. will take the lead in lobbying the state of Florida for critical labor reform.

“We are laying the groundwork for real change, both in the concrete conditions of farmworkers’ everyday lives and in the market itself, where this agreement is establishing new standards of social responsibility,” said Lucas Benítez, Co-Director of CIW.

CIW has targeted Taco Bell as a major buyer of Florida tomatoes since 1999. Oxfam began supporting CIW at that time.

What kind of legacy will you leave?



A just world without poverty. That's the Oxfam legacy.

Make it yours today by naming Oxfam as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401 (k), or other qualified retirement plan.

When you leave your retirement benefit to Oxfam, 100 percent of any remaining benefit goes to Oxfam tax-free.

For more information or if you've already designated Oxfam as your retirement plan beneficiary, please contact Oxfam's Cyndy Viveiros at **1-800-776-9326 ext. 494** or **cviveiros@oxfamamerica.org**.



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