

OXFAM FACT SHEET | GROW CAMPAIGN

Read. Learn. Change the world.

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.

One in seven people goes to bed hungry every night. Not because there isn't enough food, but because of deep imbalances in access to resources like fertile land and water. The power to control these resources sits neither with the billion-plus farmers who produce food, nor with the billions of consumers who eat it.

Instead, companies and governments control the global food system—and they often determine who eats and who doesn't.

Right now, looming resource constraints are making it more difficult for farmers (especially women) to feed their families. Increasingly extreme and erratic weather patterns are worsening the situation, disrupting agriculture and food supplies and exacerbating conflicts worldwide. Food prices, which hit record highs in late 2010, remain volatile, leading to food riots around the globe and driving tens of millions of people into hunger.

Join Oxfam and help make sure everyone has a seat at the table

We've reached a turning point. Here's what we need 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.



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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

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.

Oxfam America

Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. Together with individuals and local groups in more than 90 countries, Oxfam saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fights for social justice. To learn more, go to oxfamamerica.org.



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.
- Just as vulnerable people in poor countries bear the brunt of hunger's burdens, so too do poor communities in the US. More than 44 million Americans struggle with hunger.
- Malnutrition is a leading cause of child mortality, accounting for one-third of all deaths of children under age five. 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.
- About 80 percent of the world's hungry people live in rural areas, where most of them work as small-scale food producers—farmers, herders, fishers, or laborers.

Working together, we can create solutions.

- When plunging coffee prices triggered an economic calamity for tens of millions of small-scale farmers in the 1990s, US consumers used their buying power to help. By calling on restaurants, stores, and campuses around the country to sell Fair Trade Certified coffee, they helped to ensure that growers could earn a fair price and continue to put food on the table.
- In Ethiopia's West Arsi zone, farmers established a series of "grain banks" with the help of Oxfam and a local partner. The banks provide a reserve of grain for times of hunger, but also—if harvests are good—a place to store the surplus so farmers can get a better return by developing new markets. In 2010, the farmers sold nearly 600 tons of corn to the World Food Programme at a competitive price.

GET INVOLVED

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

Above: A vegetable seller lays out her wares for a customer at a village market in Ndiagianiao, Senegal. Sales from local markets like these provide an important source of income for women farmers in the area, most of whom lack the funds to transport their crops to the capital, Dakar. *Rebecca Blackwell / Oxfam America*

Front: Vuong Hoang Kim checks her rice as it nears maturity in northern Vietnam. She is one of more than 900,000 Vietnamese farmers growing rice using the System of Rice Intensification, which requires less water and uses fewer chemical fertilizers and pesticides than conventional growing methods—all while increasing yields and farmers' incomes. *Chau Doan / Oxfam America*

Working together to end poverty and injustice

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