



# WHAT I SAW IN SENEGAL

By Abby Maxman

Friend,

When earthquakes strike, war displaces families, and climate emergencies accelerate extreme hunger, the Oxfam community responds with decisive action that helps our teams and local partners save lives.

**Recently, I saw the urgency of this work firsthand in Senegal, where climate change and commercial development are wreaking havoc on local communities.** Amidst abandoned homes, sand bags, and climate-induced coastal erosion, local communities are feeling the devastating impacts of a crisis they did not cause, as families are displaced and driven deeper into hunger and poverty.

In Senegal, I spoke with extraordinary activists who are leading the movement to defend these communities' rights and stop offshore fossil fuel plants that are threatening their way of life. Oxfam is helping to organize civil society groups to support their efforts, but it's a long fight that takes sustained commitment from generous supporters like you—just like our work in more than 80 countries from Senegal to Somalia to Syria.



*Today, please consider renewing your support for Oxfam to continue helping our teams and partners save lives during unprecedented emergencies while building resilient communities for the long-term.*

**Globally, the scale of the hunger crisis is staggering: 783 million people were affected by hunger in 2022.** 117 million people in conflict zones were pushed deeper into crisis or worse levels of food insecurity. As hunger deepens its hold on communities, the effects are devastating. Children begin to measure too thin for their height. People become more susceptible to disease.

Oxfam's response is comprehensive and long-term. We provide food and cash assistance for immediate relief, while helping farmers learn new techniques to grow more food and earn more money. We provide water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies to ensure people can avoid the threat of disease. And we are advocating alongside communities to defend their rights and push for more assistance.

In Bargny, a coastal community I visited in Senegal, one woman activist shared her heartbreaking experience of losing her home to sea-level rise and erosion. She and other displaced families were promised land to resettle, only to have the government grant that land to a foreign company to build a coal-burning power plant instead. Despite the adversity, unshakable activists in the community were fighting for their rights, and Oxfam and our partners were there and will continue to be there to support them.

Thank you,



**Abby Maxman**  
**President Oxfam America**