

OXFAM CLOSEUP

FALL 2022



HOW COMMUNITY FISHERIES IN CAMBODIA ARE PUSHING BACK AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

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- > SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES IN ROMANIA
- > WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



OXFAM



// Oxfam can speak for me
to a large audience. //

WANDA SHIRK
OXFAM LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBER

Retired schoolteacher, avid hiker, and former *Survivor* contestant Wanda Shirk states, “I have liked the mission objectives of Oxfam, and I have also found that Oxfam has done its homework—has researched the problems and speaks publicly about systemic inequalities in societies.” She adds that it’s important to educate people about those matters and to develop awareness among people who have advantages. Oxfam “is one of the best organizations for doing that.”

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DEAR FRIENDS,

As we close out the year, I am immensely grateful and inspired by the work we've carried out with your partnership. As you read this issue of *CloseUp*, I hope you take pride in your role in helping to make this work possible.

In this issue, you will see how communities in different regions of Asia are learning to cope with climate change and are implementing solutions that protect their livelihoods and preserve natural resources. On page 4, we'll take you to Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake, where fishing groups are adapting to changing rainfall patterns, lower water levels, and deforestation. And on page 8, you will learn how adopting disaster preparedness, response, and risk-reduction measures have helped women's groups in Nepal, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Indonesia tackle climate change, and have increased participants' self-confidence.

Also in this issue, you will read about how your support helped partners in Romania to start shifting their humanitarian assistance from supporting Ukrainian refugees on the move to supporting refugees who are making Romania their homes for the next year under temporary protected status (TPS). So far, Oxfam has reached more than 600,000 people fleeing war in Ukraine through partnerships with 20 local organizations in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, and Romania.

As this magazine goes to print, those of us in the US are reflecting on the results of the midterm elections and how they will impact the future, both domestically and globally. We are considering how these outcomes impact our core issues—climate justice, economic inequality, food security, and gender justice—and are strategizing our advocacy work for the year ahead accordingly.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in our pursuit of a better future for all.

With gratitude for your commitment,

Abby Maxman
President & CEO, Oxfam America

OXFAM CLOSEUP

OXFAM AMERICA'S MEMBER MAGAZINE
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FALL 2022

EDITOR
Divya Amladi

WRITERS
Chris Hufstader
Elizabeth Stevens

DESIGNER
Emily Eberly

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COVER: Rath Chhay and her daughter gather water hyacinth stalks from the river in front of their home in Prek Toal, Cambodia, near the Tonle Sap Lake. They use the water hyacinth stalks to make woven handbags and other handicrafts, part of an effort to help fishing families to diversify their livelihoods as climate change is making it harder to earn a decent living fishing on the lake. *Banung Ou/Oxfam*

We welcome your feedback. Please direct letters to editor@oxfamamerica.org.

IN THE NEWS

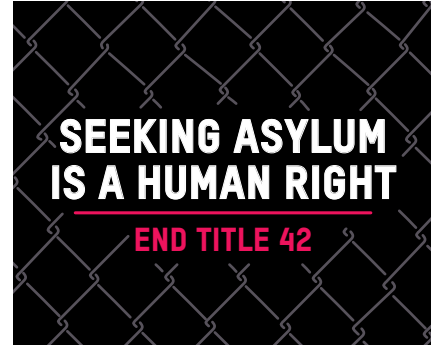
LOOK. WATCH. LISTEN. JOIN THE CONVERSATION.



OXFAM ANALYSIS SHOWS: WHERE YOU LIVE DETERMINES WHETHER YOU ARE PROTECTED AT WORK

Around Labor Day, Oxfam released its annual index of the best states to work as well as our second annual Best and Worst States for Working Women index. Both reports rank all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico, based on compensation, working conditions, and the right to organize. This year, we added a new metric for heat safety for outdoor workers, and we found that only three states—Oregon, California, and Washington—have protections in place. Findings from the report were published in outlets across the country—from Axios to the *Washington Post*, from CNBC to *CBS News*, from the *Salt Lake Tribune* to *Marketplace* on NPR—and were also featured on the Apple TV+ show *The Problem with Jon Stewart*.

► **READ THE REPORT:** oxf.am/closeup-beststates



TITLE 42 STRUCK DOWN

Since 2020, Oxfam and partners the ACLU, the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, the Texas Civil Rights Project, and RAICES have been challenging the racist Trump-era policy expelling migrants at the US border under the guise of public health protection. In November 2022, a federal judge ruled that the policy, Title 42, can no longer be invoked to block asylum-seekers from entering the United States.

► **READ OXFAM'S STATEMENT ON THIS WIN:** oxf.am/closeup-title42

OXFAM PARTNERS MAKE A SPLASH AT ESSENCEFEST

In June, Oxfam and our partner Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable (MSBWR) held four panels at Essencefest, the annual New Orleans-based festival attended by half a million people that celebrates the culture and resilience of the Black community. Oxfam and MSBWR's panels covered topics of Black women's economic security, civil rights and voting rights, midterm elections, and reproductive rights, and were attended by more than 100 people.

► **LEARN ABOUT OXFAM'S PARTNERS IN THE SOUTH:** oxf.am/closeup-essencefest



ABOVE LEFT: The economic security panel (L to R) Sophia Lafontant, Oxfam, Dr. Michelle Owens, Malia Cohen, California Controller-elect, Willie Jones, President and CEO, Reliable Source Corp, and Cassandra Welchlin, co-convenor and lead organizer of the Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable.



ABOVE RIGHT: The civil rights panel discussing the state of democracy in the US. (L to R) Judge Rachel D. Johnson, Melanie Campbell, President and CEO, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation/co-convenor, Black Women's Roundtable, Leslie Herod, Colorado State Representative, LaTosha Brown, co-founder of Black Voters Matter, and Rukia Lumumba, People's Advocacy Institute. Kayland Partee/Oxfam



Oxfam America President and CEO Abby Maxman listens as women in Somaliland share their experiences dealing with drought. Chris Hufstader/Oxfam

FAMINE FEARS IN SOMALILAND DEEPENED BY CLIMATE, CONFLICT, AND WIDENING INEQUALITY

This fall, Oxfam America President and CEO Abby Maxman and Oxfam Great Britain CEO Danny Sriskandarajah visited regions of Sanaag and Togdheer in Somaliland to bear witness to the hunger crisis that has devastated pastoralist communities. Maxman and Sriskandarajah co-authored an article in *The New Humanitarian* on necessary reforms in the humanitarian aid financing system. Upon her return, Maxman was interviewed by a number of outlets, including *Foreign Policy*, Yahoo News, and *Democracy Now!*, and was featured in a lengthy interview on NPR's *Brian Lehrer Show*.

► **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SOMALILAND:** oxf.am/closeup-somaliland

NEW REPORT EXAMINES GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE US ASYLUM PROCESS

Oxfam America and the Tahirih Justice Center released a joint report on gender-based violence in the asylum process in October titled *Surviving Deterrence: How US Asylum Deterrence Policies Normalize Gender-Based Violence*. The report documents how common it is for migrants seeking asylum to experience gender-based violence in Mexico as they wait to access the asylum process in the US, and it exposes just how complicit the United States government is in systemically harming and devaluing the lives of women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ individuals desperately seeking access to the asylum process.

► **READ THE REPORT:**
oxf.am/closeup-report



COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN PUERTO RICO

Actors and activists Mishel Prada and Nathalie Kelley, along with Oxfam staff, visited partner organizations in Puerto Rico to learn about their work in rebuilding and building resilience after Hurricane Maria. In Adjuntas, the group learned how Casa Pueblo has helped transform the town with solar panel projects at homes and businesses. At Centro Paz Para Ti, the group learned about community projects and classes aimed at supporting women who have experienced gender-based violence. Outside San Juan, the group spoke with community leaders and residents protesting New Fortress Energy, a gas terminal next to their neighborhood that is operating without a permit. The Oxfam group also held convening discussions at Coordinadora Paz para las Mujeres with more than a dozen climate justice and gender justice organizations to gain an in-depth understanding of the intersections of our work on climate impacts, climate solutions, fossil fuels, government accountability, and gender.

► **READ AN UPDATE FROM OXFAM'S PUERTO RICO PROGRAM MANAGER:**
oxf.am/closeup-puertorico

ABOVE: Nathalie Kelley (center left) and Mishel Prada (center right) meet with Arturo Massol from Casa Pueblo and Vilma González Castro from Coordinadora Paz para las Mujeres, two of Oxfam's partners in Puerto Rico. Karelia Pallan/Oxfam

CHANGING CLIMATE, CHANGING LIVES

HOW CAN FISHING COMMUNITIES ON CAMBODIA'S TONLE SAP LAKE COPE WITH CHANGING RAINFALL PATTERNS, LOWER WATER LEVELS, AND DEFORESTATION? CHRIS HUFSTADER REPORTS ON OXFAM'S WORK WITH GROUPS IN CAMBODIA TO HELP PEOPLE ADAPT AND SURVIVE.

If you want to see the forest outside Prek Toal in July, it's best to take a boat. The forest is inundated by Cambodia's great lake, Tonle Sap, which expands and floods the forest in the rainy season.

Chea Saren visits frequently in his role leading the community fishery committee, which is tasked with protecting this sensitive area. On this day, he blasts along a channel of water in a narrow wooden boat powered by a long-shaft outboard motor, his broad-brimmed hat pulled down firmly. He stops within a special protected area of the flooded forest, where logging and fishing are banned.

The top halves of the trees are visible above the water, which Saren affirms is lower than normal these days. "In the past it has been six to seven meters [19 or 22 feet] deep," he says, drifting near a stand of trees in the protected area. "Now we are just seeing [the water] come up three or four meters at its highest."

Saren says the lack of water in the lake, attributed to changing rainfall patterns due to climate change, as well as dams

in the major tributaries to the lake (like the Mekong River) is affecting fish migration patterns.

Saren also sees the trees as a crucial resource. "The loss of the flooded forest is the greatest threat. The forest holds carbon, it's a breeding place for fish, and [it] protects us from strong winds."

And when forests are either cut down or not submerged, Saren says fish lose their breeding areas. "This is why species like the giant catfish are disappearing," he says.

A SENSITIVE RESOURCE

Lack of water, deforestation, and pollution from sewage and agricultural runoff are affecting fishing families living in their floating homes along the lake and rivers flowing into Tonle Sap. It's the largest lake in Southeast Asia, and produces 60 percent of Cambodia's freshwater fish.

All the recent changes in the water levels and forest, combined with more and more restrictive regulations on fishing, make it harder and harder for

fishing families to support themselves. One husband and wife encountered out on the lake near the northern shore said 10 years ago they could catch more than 50 kilos (110 pounds) of fish in a 24-hour period. Today, they say they can't manage more than five kilos—hardly enough for the family to eat, never mind paying for fuel for their boat's motor.

Oxfam is working with 15 partners in the western areas of Tonle Sap to support community fishery committees (led by people like Saren) that monitor fishing areas, raise awareness of the environment and the harms of illegal fishing methods, and document violations in reports to local authorities.

The project is also helping schools; is installing water purification centers, eco-friendly toilets, and solar panels in communities; and is helping villages manage solid waste better to reduce the amount of plastic and other garbage in the lake. In the coming years, the project intends to reach more than 200,000 people in the western areas of the Tonle Sap Lake basin.



Chea Saren leads the fishery committee in Prek Toal and is an ardent defender of the flooded forest. "Cambodia has a lot of natural resources," he says. "If we can keep it beautiful, and protect the flooded forest, we will survive." *Banung Ou/Oxfam*



ABOVE LEFT: Sang Kont is the head of the eco-tourism committee in Kampong Phluk, a picturesque town near the tourist center Siem Reap. He says tourism is a viable alternative to fishing and is a way to reduce pressure on the fish population in Tonle Sap Lake. "Climate change has certainly affected the fishing sector. It's made it hard for fishers to catch fish, it has caused the water levels in the lakes and rivers to be lower and lower. And as population has increased near the lake, there is more and more fishing. Fishing families are having difficulties making a living, and earning enough money."

ABOVE CENTER: Rath Chhay says her new business making handicrafts has brought her a measure of financial independence, as she no longer has to only rely on the income her husband can earn. She estimates her handicrafts are bringing in about \$1,000 per year, and she hopes that as she can get access to more and different buyers she can increase that income.

ABOVE RIGHT: A husband-and-wife fishing team cast their net into the waters of Tonle Sap Lake. Many people are reporting that it is increasingly difficult to catch enough fish to support a family, and the effects of climate change are contributing to the lack of fish in the lake.

Photos: Banung Ou/Oxfam

SEEKING ALTERNATIVES TO FISHING

When Rath Chhay needs raw material for her handicraft business, she finds all she needs right in front of her floating home in Prek Toal village: water hyacinth plants flourish in the river flowing into the Tonle Sap Lake. Chhay and her 15-year-old daughter go out in a small boat early in the morning to collect them. Chhay cuts the stalks off at the base near the water, then hands them to her daughter who trims the leaves off the top and stacks the stalks in the bottom of the boat. They then bring the water hyacinth stalks back to their home and spread them out on the metal roof to dry out.

Chhay uses the dried and dyed stalks to weave place mats, handbags, and other goods she sells to tourist shops in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, home of the Angkor Wat temple complex. She says some months she can make \$250, others less, but in an average year she can clear about \$1,000. "I buy rice, drinking water, [and] vegetables, and I pay for electricity," she says. "I even buy fish."

Oxfam is working with the Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT) to help women like Chhay form handicraft producer groups for training and to connect with markets.

Chhay, 42, says she and her husband used to fish to support their family of seven. When fishing became an unpredictable source of income, she switched to producing handicrafts. Her husband now has a job working for the community fishery committee.

Her business brings her some measure of independence and security, Chhay says. "I feel better, and I don't have to only rely on my husband's income. I can count on my income to meet our needs."

WELCOMING TOURISTS

Finding alternatives to fishing not only takes some of the pressure off the fish resources in the lake, it also keeps people from having to migrate in search of work. FACT, Oxfam, and other partners in and around Tonle Sap are forming eco-tourism committees in picturesque towns where visitors can tour the lake and the flooded forest, stay in a floating home, and enjoy fresh local foods while gaining an appreciation of the sensitive environment around the lake.

In Kampong Phluk, about an hour from the tourist center Siem Reap, tourists can visit a 50-foot boat/restaurant at the mouth of a river, have a meal, and go for a boat ride on the lake or board a 14-footer



// More developed countries need to be aware of what is causing climate change and make sure that what they produce does not harm other countries, and [they should] help us develop alternative solutions to respond to climate change. //

OEURN BOTHA, FISHERMAN

paddled by a local guide for a tranquil four-kilometer tour in the flooded forest.

Sang Kont, 48, leads the eco-tourism committee in Kampong Phluk, an area also affected by climate change. "There is very little water in the flooded forest," Kont says. "This has been happening for the last two years."

He and others are putting their faith in their eco-tourism project, but the effort is hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of clients. In late July, he expressed hopes for more rain, raising the level of water in the flooded forest, and for more visitors to take tours. With help from FACT and Oxfam, Kont says the committee plans to build a visitor center with public bathrooms, a fish-breeding facility, and bird observation areas.

He's also counting on people in Kampong Phluk to help conserve and protect the fragile natural resources here. "We're improving the environment," he says, sitting at a table on the floating restaurant overlooking the lake on yet another sunny day during the rainy season. "We're replanting trees in the flooded forest to improve the environment for breeding fish."

A youth group in Kampong Phluk plays a crucial role in conserving the flooded forest. Oeurn Botha, a 34-year-old fisherman, is involved in efforts to raise awareness. He and others in town plan to plant 500 trees.

Botha also wants to see more action from countries responsible for climate change. "Those countries causing climate change have big industries and produce a lot of [emissions]; they are causing the issues," he says. "A country like mine is affected by their actions. More developed countries need to be aware of what is causing climate change and make sure that what they produce does not harm other countries, and [they should] help us develop alternative solutions to respond to climate change."

A CLOSER LOOK Q

Learn about Oxfam's work with communities affected by climate change and how you can join our campaign to hold wealthy polluters accountable: oxf.am/closeup-climate

'THE FEAR THAT WAS INSIDE US HAS VANISHED'

AS CLIMATE CHANGE INTENSIFIES THE STRUGGLES IN POOR COMMUNITIES, WOMEN'S GROUPS BECOME A POWERFUL FORCE IN REDUCING THE RISKS, WRITES **ELIZABETH STEVENS**.

"I used to be so nervous [that] it was hard for me to utter a word in public," says Anjali Devi Bohora.

This is the same person who—with a women's group she helped organize—brought Wi-Fi and even a road to Khalla Maseti, her isolated, flood-prone community in Nepal. The same woman who has become the go-to in her village for emergencies of all kinds—who now owns a small shop and has become an elected official in local government.

Basanti Buda from Kutiya Kabar—another Nepalese village along the Nepal-India border that experiences devastating floods—echoes Bohora's experience at a community gathering. "We couldn't even come out of our kitchens," she says. "Even if I just had to tell my name, my legs would shake with nervousness."

Heads nod among the women around her. They've been there. But it is a memory quickly and mercifully receding into history. Now, the women of Kutiya Kabar are the movers and shakers of their village—the ones who strengthened the awareness of local officials about disaster preparedness and response,

and through those relationships brought electricity and a road to their community.

At a public meeting, the women are serious one moment and boisterous the next, but never at a loss for words. "I'm not scared anymore," says Rupar Sunar. "I can talk to anyone and laugh openly."

Kaushila Sunar explains: "The fear that was inside us has vanished."

On the coast of Eastern Samar, the Philippines, the story is not so different. "I used to stay at home, and I hardly had any interaction with people outside," says Rowena Obina from Dolores. "I was extremely shy." If you met Obina now, "shy" isn't a word that would pop into your mind. She is a confident public speaker who tells the story of how two women's groups are restoring the mangrove forest that helps protect their coastal community from destructive typhoons. The women's groups have rallied public support for the project, and community groups, police, local officials, and others have helped them plant thousands of mangrove saplings at the site.

HELPING WOMEN STEP INTO LEADERSHIP

In poverty-stricken communities around the world, Oxfam and local partner organizations have helped women join hands to face down sexism, gender-based violence, economic oppression, and every other manifestation of gender inequality.

Women's empowerment groups are playing a central role in an Oxfam program known as ACT (Asia Community Disaster Preparedness and Transformation), which launched with local partners in October 2020 to help vulnerable communities in Nepal, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Indonesia adapt to a changing climate through disaster preparedness, response, and risk-reduction measures—with women in the lead.

Why women? Because they are among the most vulnerable in the face of emergencies so need to be front and center in decision-making around disaster management. Because in the climate crisis, the strengths women tend to bring to leadership—cooperative approaches and deep knowledge of the needs of families and at-risk community members—are needed more than ever.

And because women deserve to have their voices heard in all areas of life.

Oxfam and partner organizations SI-KAT, NEEDS, CIS Timor, Jago Nari, SKS Foundation, and Wave Foundation have helped these women form groups and have provided trainings on everything from disaster preparedness to women's rights to financial literacy to how to run for office. The women themselves have provided the hard work—and the magic. The warm embrace enables a silent, frightened member to find her voice, and the solidarity makes these groups a force to be reckoned with.

The women's groups have brought about profound shifts in the roles and status of women in their families and communities. Husbands are now helping out around the house, women are becoming effective and respected activists, and the threat of gender-based violence is receding.

"There used to be domestic violence here," says Kaushila Sunar. "We have made the community violence-free."

SOMEWHERE TO TURN

Many of the women's groups in the ACT program save money together and make loans to one another from their pooled funds. Most groups have set aside some money—5 percent of their total—for use in emergencies, which enables members to buy what they need during crises without falling prey to unfair lending practices. Most of the loans have to do with managing the everyday emergency known as poverty. One woman might take out a loan for household or school expenses when she runs out of money; another might need supplies to keep her microenterprise afloat. The interest rates are lower than those available elsewhere (3–5 percent per month as opposed to 10 percent per month) and there's no significant paperwork involved. But whether or not a woman takes advantage of the service, the women say they feel better just knowing they have somewhere to turn if they run into trouble.

As disastrous weather continues to ravage coastal and agricultural com-



IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS, THE STRENGTHS WOMEN TEND TO BRING TO LEADERSHIP—COOPERATIVE APPROACHES AND DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES AND AT-RISK COMMUNITY MEMBERS—ARE NEEDED MORE THAN EVER.

munities, women are joining hands and stepping into leadership. Many of them don't know if they can feed their families tomorrow or the next day. Yet, their gatherings are high-spirited and full of laughter—perhaps the most powerful predictors of success and sustainability.

The women's group is like family, says Celsa Nable from the island community of Hilabaan in Eastern Samar, the Philippines. "We just feel happy seeing one another."

TOP: "It might flood at any time, but here we are talking and smiling," says Maya Devi Sunar (right) of Kutiya Kabar, Nepal, "leaving behind our fear by being together." Here, she is pictured with Basanti Sunar (left) and other members of the women's group. *Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam*

BOTTOM: Anjali Devi Bohora serves a customer at her shop, which was funded by Oxfam and NEEDS. After Bohora lost her home to a flood, she became a leader in disaster management. *Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam*

A CLOSER LOOK 🔍

Read more about how women in Nepal are adapting to climate change: oxfam/closeup-womensgroups

HELPING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES ADJUST TO LIFE IN ROMANIA

PARTNERS IN ROMANIA EXPAND THEIR SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIANS SETTLING INTO THE COUNTRY, WRITES **DIVYA AMLADI**, WITH REPORTING BY **BEKKI FROST**.

On March 13, a missile landed about 32 feet away from Olga's home in Vinnytsia, Ukraine. That's when she decided she and her son needed to leave. "We only had time to take documents and necessities," she said. Olga, 34, spoke to Oxfam from the Centre for Humanitarian and Social Aid in Romania, where she'd been staying for three weeks. She told us she finally felt safe, unlike in Ukraine, where, she said, "We had a huge fear that we could die at any minute."

Since the Russian Federation started a military offensive in Ukraine in late February, an estimated 17.7 million people have been reported in need of humanitarian assistance within Ukraine. One-third of all Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes, and Olga and her son are among the 86,206 Ukrainians in Romania, as of late October.

In March, at the peak of the crisis, every day more than 33,000 people crossed to Romania from Ukraine and Moldova. In the first stages of response, the most immediate needs included food, housing, and emergency medical assistance. Now, the numbers of people moving through Romania have slowed to about 8,000 people a day. Nearly 90 percent of refugees in Romania plan to stay until they can return home, and they have obtained temporary protection status (TPS).

As of October 30, Oxfam and partners had provided humanitarian assistance to 600,000 people across Romania, Poland, Moldova, and Ukraine. While basic assistance remains a priority, Oxfam and local organizations are shifting resources to provide comprehensive services to refugees who have made Romania their home. With more people choosing to stay put, organizations are expanding operations to meet increasing needs for access to employment, education, and specialized services for people most at risk in the refugee community, including Roma and LGBTQIA+ individuals, as well as women and children who face a heightened risk of violence and human trafficking.

HOW OXFAM IS HELPING PARTNERS IN ROMANIA SUPPORT UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The center is an initiative of the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Social Services (FONSS), one of the civil society organizations Oxfam partners with in Romania. Prior to the war, Diana Chiriacescu, national director at FONSS, said the organization had no experience with humanitarian crises.

"We deliver services in usual times for people with extreme vulnerabilities, but never in a context of war, trauma, or emergencies of this kind," she said.

Providing humanitarian assistance required an adjustment for FONSS in terms of mindset—learning the language of the sector, structuring intake criteria and exit strategies—and balance between addressing the ongoing crisis and potentially arising emergencies. That's where Oxfam's expertise, built over a long history of responding to humanitarian emergencies, was helpful to local partners.

"We feel that this partnership with Oxfam really helps us to adapt to every stage of the process," Chiriacescu said. "We ... learned how to plan the immediate response. We learned how to think at the second phase. And we also learned ... we need to impose sometimes a way of working with refugees that is adapted to their own needs."

RISKS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

For many refugees, dangers don't stop once they've made it out of Ukraine.

"When we first started seeing the influx of refugees, we realized that these are people with compound vulnerabilities who are not only escaping war, but can easily fall prey to exploiters," said Ioana Bauer, president of eLiberare, an organization that focuses on raising awareness of the risk of human trafficking of people in transit both in Romania and while journeying through other countries.

OXFAM'S UKRAINE RESPONSE (AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2022)

OXFAM HAS PROVIDED SUPPORT TO:



The organization has been supporting people on the move to access their rights and develop individualized safety plans through a mobile unit offering counseling sessions and training to frontline responders across Romania. eLiberare is supporting refugees in Romania who have applied for TPS and are expected to stay in the country for at least one year by helping revise housing and employment contracts to prevent trafficking, exploitation, and situations akin to modern slavery.

LGBTQIA+ refugees make up another group that requires special attention and case management, according to Vlad Viski, director of MozaiQ, an organization that helps the LGBTQIA+ community in Romania. For people with diverse gender identity, crossing the border can be the most challenging aspect of the journey.

Oxfam's partners have been providing comprehensive care to the community, ensuring access to services, including health care, mental health and psychosocial support, nonformal education, and recreational activities.

HOPING FOR THE 'BEST FUTURE'

Valentina, 75, a retired English professor from Mykolaiv, Ukraine, had been living at the shelter for three months when Oxfam spoke with her. When she fled Ukraine, she was ill and physically unable to bring any belongings with her. Upon arriving in Romania in April, Valentina was hospitalized. "Now I'm on medicine all the time, for my problems with my heart," she said.

Even though she brought only the clothes she was wearing, she does not miss her possessions, nor is she worried about her house. "I don't care about things," she said. She misses her son, who joined the army, and her friends.

"I still believe that justice will overcome all the problems in the world," Valentina added. "Everyone here hopes for the best future."

A CLOSER LOOK

Watch interviews with Ukrainian refugees and partners in Romania: oxf.am/closeup-romania



TOP: Olga, 34, spoke to Oxfam from her room at the Centre for Humanitarian and Social Aid in Iasi, Romania. Away from conflict, she said, "We feel completely safe, we know that there's ... no siren, no bomb going to fall, we can safely go for a walk somewhere."

BOTTOM: Diana Chiriacescu, the national director at the Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations for Social Services (FONSS), credited Oxfam's partnership for guiding FONSS through its journey, modeling how to make internal adjustments to move from meeting immediate needs to providing more long-term assistance.

Photos: Ioana Moldovan/Oxfam

A man wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and black rubber boots is watering a garden. He is holding a large, rustic metal watering can with a wooden handle. He is wearing a white face mask. The garden is filled with various plants, including banana trees and other tropical foliage. In the background, there are rolling hills and more vegetation. The overall scene is lush and green.

OXFAM PARTNERS

YOU CAN HELP US CULTIVATE SOLUTIONS TO END WORLD HUNGER

ENDING HUNGER REQUIRES BOTH SHORT-TERM WORK AND A LONG-TERM STRATEGY.

Continuous support helps us provide immediate humanitarian assistance when food crises arise and helps us invest in programming that creates sustainable and durable solutions for the future.

For as little as \$15 a month, you can join our community of Oxfam Partners and help ensure a future where everyone thrives. Use the enclosed envelope or make your gift at oxf.am/closeup-partners.

ABOVE: Margarito López, 38, from Guatemala, waters his garden. In Guatemala and El Salvador, Oxfam partners Corazón de Maíz and ASEDECHI introduced techniques to help farmers like López adapt to the climate crisis. *James Rodriguez/Oxfam*

WE WANT: EQUAL TREATMENT FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION EQUAL RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD A LIFE AND THRIVE FOR EVERYONE

HOW OUR WORK TACKLES POVERTY AND INJUSTICE

Inequality sits at the intersection of all areas of our work. We believe that if we tackle the root causes of poverty and social injustice, we can build a better world.



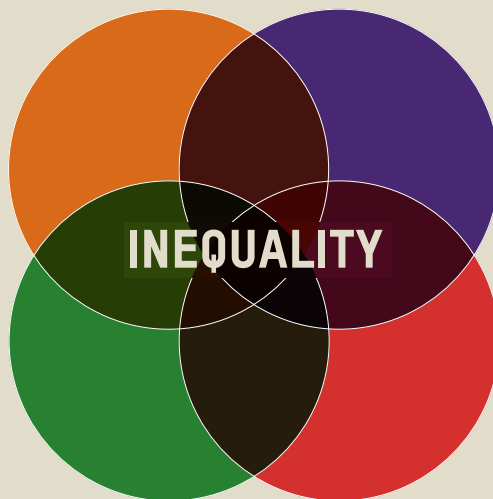
ECONOMIC JUSTICE & EQUAL RIGHTS

Oxfam champions workers' rights and challenges the extreme concentration of global wealth and power.



CLIMATE ACTION

Oxfam supports climate solutions crafted by the people and communities most affected by the climate crisis.



WOMEN'S RIGHTS & GENDER JUSTICE

Oxfam partners with feminist and women-led organizations to end gender discrimination in all its forms and to help women and girls live free of violence.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Oxfam works with a global network of local organizations to offer lifesaving support in times of crisis.

LEARN MORE:

[oxfam.org/closeup-equal](https://oxfam.org.uk/closeup-equal)

The future is equal



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OXFAM AMERICA
PO BOX 97374
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