



OXFAM COUNTRY STRATEGY KENYA 2015-2020

INFLUENCING SOCIETIES



OXFAM



Peter a fisherman and trader, fishing in Lake Turkana
Photo: Brian Inganga/Oxfam

Front cover photo: The women of Nawoyatir village sing and dance in celebration of the arrival of clean water.
Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

A fishing net is being pulled out of the ocean, creating a dynamic scene with waves and a clear blue sky. The net is made of fine mesh and has a thick orange rope running along its edge. The water is dark blue with white foam from the waves. The sky is a bright, clear blue with a few wispy clouds.

VISION

**A TRANSFORMED KENYAN
SOCIETY THAT CHALLENGES
POVERTY AND INEQUALITY TO
CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS**

Oxfam's vision is a just world without poverty:
a world in which people can influence decisions that affect
their lives, enjoy their rights and assume their responsibilities
as full citizens of a world in which all human beings are valued
and treated equally.

CONTEXT

GROWTH AND INEQUALITY

Kenya has emerged third in the top 20 fastest growing economies in the world in 2015, with an expected growth of 6% (Bloomberg Business, 2015). In 2012, Kenya achieved lower middle income status and was ranked the ninth largest African country with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$55.2 billion (World Bank, 2014). Despite this positive trend on economic growth, Kenya is one the most unequal countries in the world, with a Gini coefficient of 0.445 (SID,2013).

THE COUNTRY'S TOP 10% HOUSEHOLDS CONTROL 42% OF TOTAL INCOME WHILE THE BOTTOM 10% CONTROLS LESS THAN 1% (SID, 2013).

42% of its 44.4 million people live below the poverty line with wide disparities in the distribution of poverty across the 47 Counties. Kajiado, the least poor County, has a poverty rate of 11% and a poverty gap of 2.5%, compared to Turkana, with 94.3% poverty rate and a poverty gap of 67.5%, respectively (CRA Kenya County Factsheets, 2011 and 2013). There is unequal access to services such as health care, education, clean water and sanitation across the Counties. Inequality results to exclusion and powerlessness and is a source of conflict/ethnic tensions.





Teresia, a small scale trader at her tailoring kiosk in Kibera informal settlement with her two children.
Photo: Benson Guantai/Oxfam

Oxfam seeks to address inequality in wealth, power relations and access to basic services by working on governance and accountability, natural resources, women rights and humanitarian systems.

OUR GOAL

CHALLENGING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

Oxfam envisages a Kenya in which each individual, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, or social standing, can access basic services, can fully participate and be heard, and can make free and informed choices to build sustainable livelihoods and resilience to external shocks.

Since starting work in Kenya in 1963, Oxfam has worked with partners in long-term development programmes, humanitarian assistance, promoted peace and managed conflicts between communities and campaigned for better governance and equitable access to services


In Kenya, Oxfam envisions a transformed Kenyan society that challenges poverty and inequality focusing on four goals:

- (1) Civil society maximises civil society space and ensures more equitable raising and spending of financial resources at county and national level;
- (2) Poor and marginalized communities get a fair share of natural resources and their benefits;
- (3) Women gain power over their lives to participate in, and contribute to public life;
- (4) The severity of future humanitarian crises on communities in Kenya is reduced.

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The rapid rise of extreme economic inequality is significantly hindering the fight against poverty. New research from Oxfam has shown that in Kenya, Indonesia and India, millions could be lifted out poverty if income inequality was reduced.

Oxfam Even It Up report

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Susan, a smallscale trader at her
banana wholesale shop in Kibera
informal settlement, Nairobi
Photo: Benson Guantai/Oxfam

Oxfam in Kenya aims to bring about increased active citizen engagement in governance, improved service delivery and increased accountability. Oxfam works closely with the county and national governments, civil society, communities, international development actors and the private sector.

OXFAM'S THEMATIC FOCUS IN KENYA 2015-2020

KEY CONTEXTUAL ISSUES OXFAM KENYA IS ADDRESSING

1.) GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Oxfam's work focuses on creating vibrant and dynamic citizens and Cso's that, maximise their public engagement space and hold government to account on their freedoms as well as for a progressive tax and expenditure regime that is transparent and accountable with the aim of enhancing improved livelihoods and reduced inequalities.

2.) NATURAL RESOURCES: Oxfam's work will continue to support well-organised and informed civil society that uses evidence based advocacy to influence the Kenyan government to develop policies and laws that ensure fair distribution of natural resources and their benefits to all Kenyans consequently resulting in the reduction in poverty and inequality.

3.) WOMEN'S RIGHTS: Oxfam aims for transformational change that will see women participate fully in and in control of decision making processes at formal and informal levels, gain more power in mainstream politics and access resources.

4.) HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM: Oxfam works with partners to help communities build and strengthen their resilience to natural disasters, such as floods, landslides and recurrent droughts which have increased over the years.



**OUR SERVICES REACH
OVER 2 MILLION
PEOPLE EVERY YEAR**


A Turkana elder holds out his mobile phone during a public baraza discussing public awareness and information access around community participation in oil and gas in Turkana County
Photo: Brian Inganga/Oxfam

IMPACTING LIVES THROUGH INFLUENCING & CAMPAIGNS

KEY SHIFTS PLANNED IN OXFAM'S WORK 2015-2020

Over the next five years, Oxfam in Kenya will significantly shift its way of delivering programmes that adopts an influencing and campaigning strategy to positively impact on the lives of the disenfranchised and poor people. Oxfam will be bold yet realistic about its ambition to achieve scale.

To deliver this strategy Oxfam will invest in the team capacity and skills. Its role will be to convene to build wider coalitions, broker partnerships to help build national institutions capacity, strengthen their networks so that they can lead in shaping up the development agenda by holding the government to account, through a collective citizen's voice. Oxfam will invest in strengthening its accountability and measure disaggregated changes that will be made in the lives of women from those in society in general. Oxfam and partners will deliberately work towards bringing transformative change in the lives of women across all thematic areas.

A photograph showing several camels of various sizes gathered around a water trough in a dry, arid landscape. The camels are light-colored, and their long necks are extended towards the water. In the background, a person wearing a blue headscarf and a patterned dress is visible, standing near the trough. The sky is clear and blue, and the ground is dry and dusty. The overall scene depicts a daily activity in a rural, arid environment.

Camels taking water at the Eldas water troughs. in Wajir County
Photo: Jane Beesley/Oxfam

ACHIEVING POSITIVE CHANGE AT SCALE

Oxfam is deliberately working towards bringing transformative change in the lives of women and men nationally while retaining existing footprint in the rural (arid and semi arid lands) and urban areas in order to gather evidences of the drivers of inequality and use the same for influencing change.

Time to end extreme inequality



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