



# NATURAL RESOURCES

Oxfam aims to ensure women, men and youth in poor and marginalized communities secure their rights to access, control, own and benefit equitably from the exploitation of land, extractive resources and other natural resources in the areas they live.

## CONTEXT

Land is an important economic, social and cultural resource in Kenya. Communities derive their livelihoods from land and this resource also holds critical extractive resources including; minerals, oil and gas. Land is an important site for individuals and communities to ascertain their origin, retain their identity and cultural heritage.

Kenya's extractive industry is growing with the discovery and commercial development of the oil resources, in Turkana and increased exploration. There are expectations that oil resources and the development of associated infrastructure, will result in an economic gain for Kenya. The country can fully benefit from its extractive resources through; putting in place and fully implementing a good legal and policy framework, that recognizes and secures community rights and promotes transparency and accountability.

Large-scale land based investments such as extractives, energy and commercial agro-projects investments, threaten the lives and livelihoods of pastoralist and other marginalized communities as they limit mobility, access to and control over natural resource assets. This also increases the likelihood of conflict between, communities and the private companies.

Oxfam's work on natural resources in Kenya mainly focuses on land and extractive resources such as oil, gas and minerals. The organization leverages Oxfam's global reach and global programme on extractives, to provide technical expertise and linkages between local and global advocacy-as the extractive sector is globally linked.

## TARGET POPULATION



Women, men and youth in poor and marginalized communities living on community land in Kenya and International Oil Companies.

## PARTNERS



Government agencies, civil society, academic, religious and research institutions, private sector actors, individuals and marginalized communities.

## OXFAM'S WORK IN NATURAL RESOURCES IN KENYA

### RESEARCH AND POLICY

Oxfam carries out technical and cutting edge research, to inform national discourse, policy and practice reform at county and community level. Oxfam's research and policy work, is the bedrock of effective and evidence based influencing. The current research and policy work focuses on: the implementation of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), development of the Lokichar- Lamu crude oil pipeline, effective Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) processes in the oil sector, subnational revenues management, local content development in the sector and petroleum cost audits to ensure Kenya secures a fair share from its resources.





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To ensure communities demand and claim their rights to access, own, control and benefit equitably from the resource, Oxfam works with local partners to raise affected communities' awareness on impact of Extractive Industry (EI) developments and land access framework for effective engagement with duty bearers. Supporting

communities includes; providing access to information on their rights and how they can negotiate, for equitable agreements with companies and the government. Oxfam and partners also support communities to inform and influence decision-making processes such as County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), county budgets

and planning for extractive revenues. Oxfam holds dialogues to support local leaders, representatives of marginalized groups that is women and youth, to have the knowledge and skills to effectively engage with county government and International Oil Companies on extractive governance at the sub-national level.

## CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIPS

To influence reform, Oxfam largely works through partnerships with local organisations. The organization is a member of the Kenya Civil Society Platform

on Oil and Gas (KCSPOG), it participates in the Publish What You Pay coalition, partners with the media, academia, artists and religious leaders. Building alliances

with every partner, who brings their unique value in delivering the program objective and reaching impact at scale.

## WOMEN RIGHTS IN NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE

As an organization that is committed to putting women at the heart of its work, in its work on natural resources, Oxfam purposefully focuses on supporting women to claim and realize their rights to own, access, control and benefit equitably from the land, extractives and other natural resources in the areas where they live. Oxfam aims to influence gender sensitive

and gender equitable policies and practices by government and the private sector. The organization works with local partners to ensure that; the development of natural resources does not extremely and negatively impact women, particularly marginalized women such as indigenous or pastoralist women. Oxfam conducts research on the impacts of extractives on

women's rights and actively works with partners, to ensure that women effectively participate in decision making processes on natural resources governance. The program is integrated with Oxfam Kenya's Women's Rights thematic area to ensure, complementarity and nuanced gender approaches in project design and delivery.

## POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Oxfam aims to influence the development of effective legal, regulatory mechanisms and structures that safeguard community rights and promote transparency and accountability. This is important as the extractive sector in Kenya is growing. Oxfam engages with legislators at national and county levels to develop and implement progressive gendered legislation for the regulation of the land and extractives sectors. Oxfam facilitates the provision of technical expertise,

information and evidence to government officials, civil society organisations and private sector operators on instituting effective and enabling policies, laws, and frameworks such as the community land regulations, petroleum regulations, transparency and accountability regulations, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) guidelines, sub-national extractives industry revenue sharing. Oxfam engages with International Oil Companies (IOC) to ensure, they comply

with both the national and international best practice in oil and gas that they have signed up to. This is aimed at ensuring that both government and IOC's conduct their duties in an effective and responsible manner, for the realization of the rights of poor and marginalised Kenyans to access, own, control and benefit equitably from the use of land and other natural resources, as provided for in law and policy.

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