



Ogbonge Soromidayo harvesting catfish from her farm in Ogun State.

Photo credit: Aiken Voka/Oxfam

NAIJA TORI

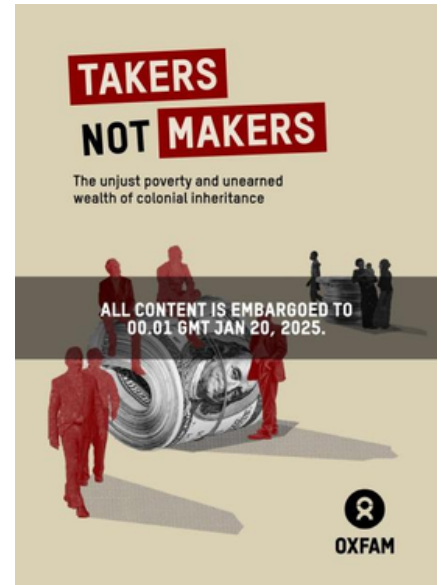
JANUARY – MARCH EDITION



OXFAM

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[Recently published report on Global Inequality...](#)
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A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to the fourth issue of [Naija Tori](#)—our quarterly window into the lives, stories, and work we share with communities across Nigeria. In this issue, we delve into some of the most urgent challenges facing our nation and the world—climate change, inequality, and the rights of women and girls.

This edition highlights Nigeria’s deepening inequality through the Takers Not Makers report and the growing climate financing gap that leaves millions vulnerable. We also showcase the power of young voices through Nigeria’s first Civic Club Competition and celebrate the launch of Phase II of our Social Cohesion Project in North-East Nigeria.

From legislative advocacy for climate policies, to transformative community-led initiatives in gender equality, and urgent humanitarian responses in flood-affected areas of Borno State—this issue is a testament to what’s possible when people come together to act with purpose.

You will read about the Ogbonge Women’s powerful push for food security and inclusion, our strides toward financial empowerment of rural women, and the recognition of unpaid care work as critical to development.

Naija Tori is more than a newsletter—it is a movement of voices working toward equity, justice, and dignity for all. Thank you for being part of this journey. Let’s keep up the momentum.



John Makina,
Country Director,
Oxfam in Nigeria

STORIES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

THE UNJUST POVERTY AND UNEARNED WEALTH OF COLONIAL INHERITANCE

DAVOS 2024: Takers Not Makers – Report

Oxfam predicts there will be at least five trillionaires a decade from now and here's why.

Billionaire wealth has risen three times faster in 2024 than 2023. Five trillionaires are now expected within a decade. Meanwhile, crises of economy, climate and conflict mean the number of people living in poverty has barely changed since 1990.

In Nigeria, the wealth of four billionaires (US \$23.7 billion) could easily cover the whole of Lagos city in 500 naira notes. Meanwhile, over 133 million people, about 70% of the population, face hunger, with women and girls disproportionately affected, making up nearly 63% of the hungry population.

Read more, download the [report and factsheet](#) today.

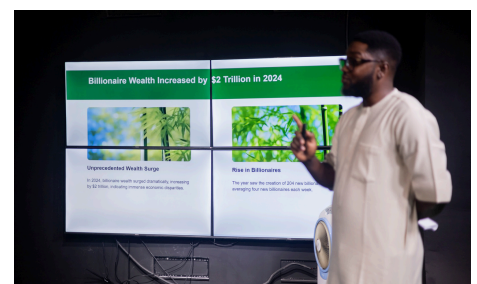
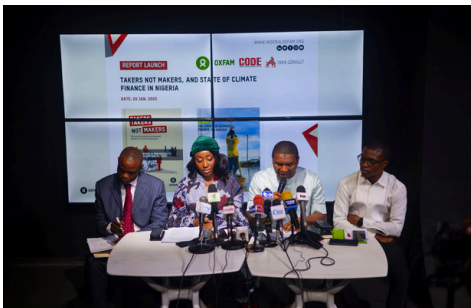


Photo credit: Jide Ojideran/CODE



Climate crisis meets debt crisis: Nigeria faces unmanageable burden as climate funds fall short

Nigeria is among the ten most climate vulnerable nations globally and many Nigerians live in high-risk areas where climate impacts—such as erosion, drought, and rising temperatures—are becoming increasingly severe.

On average, Nigeria receives only 4% (\$704 million) of the \$17.7 billion it needs each year to adapt to the growing number of climate related disasters it faces, reveals a new report published by Connected Development (CODE), INKA Consult and Oxfam.

“The State of Climate Finance in Nigeria” report shows that 75% (\$3.7 billion) of the total amount (\$4.9 billion) received between 2015 and 2021 was in the form of loans, accounting for part of the 36% of the country’s total debt burden, which is at risk of debt distress. With over 37% of the national budget currently allocated to debt servicing, funds essential for climate resilience, healthcare, education, and other social sectors crucial to reduce inequality are missing.

Read our [Press Release](#), download the [report and factsheet](#) today.

STORIES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Oxfam Supports Nigeria's First Civic Club Competition

What better way to build civic engagement, knowledge, and leadership skills than by catching them young?

The competition began with state-level contests in six Nigerian states—FCT, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Delta, and Imo—with 19 schools participating. Finalists from each state advanced to the national finale in Abuja.

The event featured a quiz competition and a solution pitch where students presented environmental projects like tree planting and plastic bottle recycling. Government Junior Secondary School Kubwa 1, Abuja, won the competition.



Photo credit: Jide Ojideran/CODE



Oxfam Launches Second Phase of Social Cohesion Project in North-East Nigeria.



Photo credit: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

Oxfam, in partnership with Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union, and the Nigerian government, has launched the second phase of its 'Support to Improving Social Cohesion through Community Development Planning' project.

The initiative will be implemented in Biu and Kwaya Kusar (Borno State) and Guyuk (Adamawa State), aiming to strengthen community resilience, inclusive governance, and social cohesion through participatory development planning.

The project will directly target 3,100 and 500,000 indirect participants in 24 months.

Read more on [Leadership Newspaper](#).

STORIES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Advocating for Climate Justice Through Legislative Policies

Through astute partnership with [GIFSEP](#), Oxfam has been engaging with the Bauchi, Adamawa and Nasarawa State House of Assemblies to develop a state owned climate policy and risk register. So far, Adamawa State has its policy ready for ascent by the Executive Governor and Nasarawa State held its public hearing on its policy on the 10th April 2025.



Photo credit: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam



Strengthening Safe Spaces for Women

Under the 'Promoting Women's Rights Project'. The established Women's Platform meeting in Michika and Guyuk LGAs in Adamawa State has focused on women's empowerment and their crucial role in society's economic development. By providing a space for women to share ideas and support each other, the platform promotes women's rights and fosters an environment where women are valued as equal contributors to their community's growth. These discussions are empowering women to take ownership of their futures and create lasting, positive change in their society.



Photo credit: CEPAD Nigeria, CRUDAN



Success Stories:

Empowering Women and Girls with Vision and Self-Determination

Through the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) training, we have witnessed a profound shift in how women and girls view their futures. Equipped with the tools to set and achieve personal goals, many participants have shared inspiring stories of how they've created and realized their visions. This empowerment has given them the confidence to pursue their dreams and contribute to the economic and social development of their communities.

Women's Leadership in Traditional Councils: A New Era of Representation

Through the knowledge gained on gender equality, we have seen a remarkable shift in the representation of women and girls in traditional leadership roles. Communities that were once male-dominated are now embracing women in decision-making spaces. This shift is a direct result of our advocacy for women's rights and gender equality, helping to reshape old perceptions and empower women within their communities.

Breaking the Chains of Inheritance Denial: A Cultural Transformation

One of the most significant milestones in our journey has been the acceptance of women's inheritance rights in several communities. Traditional leaders, who once upheld practices that excluded women from inheritance, are now advocating for women's inclusion. This shift, especially in areas where the culture traditionally excluded women from inheritance, reflects the impact of the project's advocacy and training on gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful traditional practices (HTPs).

STORIES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Providing Life Saving Services with Dignity

Since the devastating flooding caused by the collapse of the Alau Dam in Maiduguri, Borno State. Oxfam has mobilised resources to support the reintegration efforts of the government to flood affected populations, through WASH services, multipurpose cash assistance, non food items and hygiene/latrine kits.

Here are some photo stories and video about our intervention in Borno State.



Hygiene promoters engaged in a clean up exercise



Joint review meeting with communities, Government and Sectors

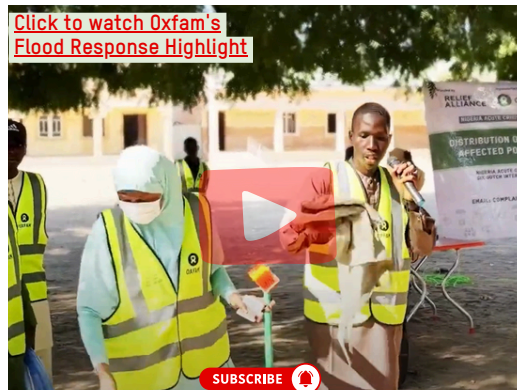


Non Food Item distribution exercise

Photo credit: CRUDAN, CATAI



Borehole rehabilitation at Galtimari



SUBSCRIBE



Borehole rehabilitation at Mashamari 3

Success Stories:

Khadija's journey to recovery.

Khadija (30), living with a disability, faced unimaginable hardship when the flood hit. While others fled, she struggled to escape, her limited mobility making survival a fight. After the waters receded, she was left with almost nothing.

Hope came through Oxfam's cash assistance. "When I received the cash, I felt relief. Finally, I could buy what my family needed the most," she said. It helped her meet urgent needs—food, clothing, and a sense of stability. But Khadija's journey isn't over. She dreams of starting a small business and becoming self-reliant. Her story is a powerful reminder that recovery must go beyond short-term aid—it must create lasting opportunities for dignity and independence.

Ngubdo's story of resilience after the flood

Ngubdo Mohammed Kwasani (57), a farmer from Usmanti in Konduga LGA, watched his life wash away when floodwaters struck his village. Homes were destroyed, toilets collapsed, and families returned to find nothing but mud and debris. "We had to clear the mud for weeks before we could even think of putting up shelters," he recalled.

Support came through Oxfam, CRUDAN, and CATAI, who provided essential relief—mosquito nets, soap, disinfectants, mats, buckets, and more. "The hygiene items have been incredibly useful, and we are still using them today," Ngubdo said. "If not for these mosquito nets, we don't know what would have become of us."

Thanks to this support, Ngubdo and his community regained a sense of safety, dignity, and control.

STORIES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Linking Local to Global

At the launch of Oxfam International's [2023–24 Annual Report, The Power of People](#), Nigeria was spotlighted through the [Road to Prosperity story](#), which highlights the resilience of women farmers in Nkwor Community, Enugu State, South East Nigeria.

Our MEAL officer provided a comprehensive overview of the approach used by Oxfam, in partnership with the Mothers and Marginalised Advocacy Centre (MAMA Centre), to engage and empower these women to demand accountability from the government.

[\[Read more here\]](#)

INTRODUCTION

- In 2018, Oxfam through the Voice program supported MAMA Centre on Empowerment project with about 200 Amachala-Ngwo women farmers as rightsholders from Udi local government to secure palm oil dispensing machine from their government and duty bearers.
- Soon after our implementation of the EMPOWER Project, women from neighboring communities started contacting MAMA Centre with the hope of implementing similar project in their own rural community.
- Consequently, by September 2022, MAMA Centre was privileged to secure an empowerment accelerator grant from the Voice program, for women in the entire Udi local government to engage in advocacy intervention to their state and local governments.
- Key problem identified was the lack of access road to the community

Photo credit: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

From an unfinished structure to a functioning learning space

In partnership with the European Union and the dedication of the Bayan Dutse community, Oxfam in Nigeria successfully completed two blocks of classrooms and a VIP toilet—ensuring more children have access to quality education.

[View through the carousel](#) to see the before-and-after journey and the incredible role the community played in making this possible!

[Watch the handover ceremony highlight](#)

Funded by the European Union

FULFILLING A 27-YEAR OLD DREAM

BAYAN DUTSE STORY

Building site as captured in November 2024. Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

Building site as captured in January 2025. Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

Monitoring Trip

In November 2024, the Country Leadership Team, led by our Country Director and Director of Programmes, visited the Post-ProSELL project site. During the visit, they engaged with stakeholders, project participants, and staff members to strengthen relationships and get onsite insights into the project's impact and challenges.

Oxfam staff with the village chief and members of the building committee during a visit in November. Photo: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

Here's how it all began

← BEFORE

ARDO KOLA LGA, TARABA STATE

Photo credit: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam

STORIES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Celebrating Women's Day: An Oxfam's Point of View Theme: "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."

At Oxfam, we put the rights of women at the heart of everything we do. Celebrating women in meaningful and unique ways is something we deeply value.

As part of this year's International Women's Day (#IWD), we proudly hosted the first-ever IWD celebration in Michika and Guyuk LGAs, Adamawa State. This inclusive, community-driven event brought joy and recognition to an area once considered desolate. For many women, it was a moment of awakening—"We never knew that global events like IWD existed," some shared.

[Watch the Arise News coverage to relive the moments.](#)

In another inspiring effort, we shed the spotlight on Ardo Kola LGA in Taraba State, where a new digital banking linkage was established for the Godiya Malum Women Village Savings and Loan Federation (VSLF). This marks a big step toward financial inclusion and empowerment for rural women.

[Watch the VSLF empowerment story and see the success of our savings groups across the country.](#)

Oxfam continues to celebrate and support the strength, leadership, and resilience of rural women who are driving change in their communities every day.



Addressing the Issue of Time Poverty The Burden of Unpaid Care Work

Oxfam describes unpaid care work as a critical yet undervalued component of society and the economy. It refers to tasks such as caregiving, cooking, cleaning, and other domestic responsibilities that are essential for societal functioning but are not compensated financially. Women and girls disproportionately shoulder this burden, spending significantly more time on unpaid care work compared to men, which perpetuates gender inequality and economic disparities.

Through our work on the Promoting the Rights of Women project—co-funded by the European Union and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)—we conducted a needs assessment that revealed a significant burden of unpaid care work on women in the region. This finding informed the development of a tailored training curriculum for gender champions (primarily men), using the [Gender Action Learning System](#) GALS and [Rapid Care Analysis](#) RCA.

We procured and distributed 13 milling machines across the 13 wards where the project is implemented. The results has significantly improved the economic status of the women, reducing the amount of time spent in preparing meals for the household and commercial purpose.



Photo credit: Oxfam

STORIES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Reflecting, Learning, and Planning for Impact!

Oxfam in Nigeria recently hosted the Program Quality / Country Learning Review (PQCLR) Workshop in Abuja, bringing together participants from across our programme and partner networks.

This engaging and participatory workshop was a pivotal moment for:

- ✓ Reflecting on achievements, challenges and lessons learned
- ✓ Strengthening partnerships and collaboration
- ✓ Co-creating strategies to enhance program quality and impact

With representation from Oxfam and key partners, the sessions were rich in insights and innovation.



Photo credit: Maxwell Osarenkhoe



Truly Ogbonge: Men Can Too!

Creating access to advocacy opportunities is one of the key objectives of our Together Against Poverty project. But what does this really mean?

The Ogbonge Women groups are trained in policy review, partnership development, and influencing skills. These series of engagements led to an official visit to the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Sabi Abdullahi. During the meeting, the women raised critical issues around Gender Responsive Budgeting, with a focus on smallholder women farmers. The visit also served as an opportunity to officially induct the Minister into the Ogbonge Women group—joining H.E. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor of Lagos State—as an ambassador for smallholder women farmers in Nigeria.

[Read this article about the Ogbonge Women.](#)



Photo credit: Aiken Voka/Oxfam

STORIES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

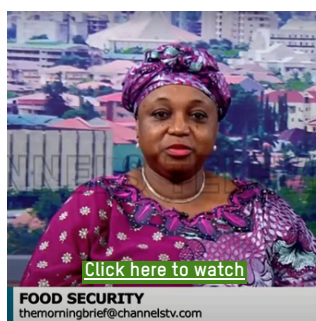
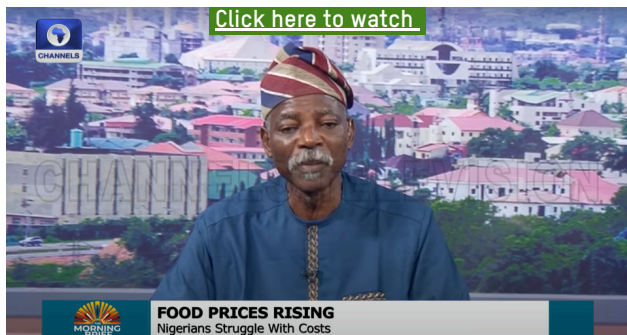
Food Security and the Right to Food Act: Ensuring accountability across all tiers of Government

Food prices in Nigeria have been on an upward trajectory, exacerbating household struggles in a nation where over 63 percent of the population already lives below the poverty line – [Business Day](#).

On March 3, 2023, Nigeria took a significant step towards addressing food insecurity with the signing of the Right to Food Act by former President Muhammadu Buhari. This landmark legislation is designed to guarantee all Nigerians consistent access to adequate and nutritious food. In July 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration declared a national state of security, incorporating food and water availability within the purview of the National Security Council.

However, the implementation has been marred by inefficiencies and a lack of visible impact. Food prices have continued to soar beyond the reach of average citizens, and the promised transformation of land banks and food storage units remains unrealized.

For Nigeria to be food secure, both the federal and state governments should harmonise policies on food and implement the Right to Food Act. Here's how we have been campaigning and advocating for the full implementation.



Oxfam calls for a Comprehensive Re-Evaluation

- Evidence-Based Policy Making
- Transparency and Accountability
- State-Level Collaboration
- Infrastructure Development

[Read our article for more insights](#)

Credit: GIFSEP, Channels TV, Leadership Newspaper



GET INVOLVED

We partner with civil society, women's rights, youth, faith & community groups, state, private sector, foundations & NGOs.

We also work in partnership with like-minded organizations.

- Committed to accountability, we seek it from partners and those they serve.
- Relationships are built on mutual respect, shared vision, and clear roles.
- We value partner autonomy, joint learning, and continuous improvement.

To explore an opportunity for partnership, send a mail to ngapartnership@oxfam.org

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Do you have a comment or an inquiry about this quarter issue, send a mail to maxwell.osarenkhoe@oxfam.org.



Photo credit: Maxwell Osarenkhoe/Oxfam



OXFAM

**GENDER JUSTICE AND
WOMEN**



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