



Emmily celebrates a new solar powered water point installed by Oxfam in Mabondo village, Masvingo District, Zimbabwe.

Photo: Aurelie Marrier D'Unienville / Oxfam

OXFAM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

STRATEGY FRAMEWORK 2021—25



OXFAM

INTRODUCTION

OXFAM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA VISION “A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA”

WE are part of a movement in Southern Africa working with the most vulnerable and poor sections of our society so that they can challenge and advocate for the transformation of our growth and development models. This regional strategy framework sets out our commitment, over the next five years, to a just and sustainable future for all people in Southern Africa.

The current growth and development models of countries in Southern Africa have worsened inequality and failed to meaningfully reduce poverty and secure people's rights within the region. Southern Africa continues to be the region with the

highest number of 'unequal countries' across the globe, as the legacy of centuries-old settler colonialism and the structural inequalities it entrenched keep casting a long shadow on the region.

An estimated 88 million people (45% of the population) live in extreme poverty across the region. This accounts for 9% of extreme poverty globally, even though Southern Africa only accounts for about 2.5% of the world population. It is often women and girls who shoulder the burden of systemic poverty, injustices, and inequalities, in addition to the unending scourge of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse of girls.

The increased frequency and severity of climatic shocks, such as cyclones and droughts, worsens the likelihood of recurring humanitarian crises given the weak resilience and adaptive capacities of most countries in the region. Natural hazards continue to turn into humanitarian emergencies which have left millions of people displaced and without secure livelihoods.

Despite the many challenges bedeviling the region, there are opportunities to transform our economic and development models in ways that can boost equitable growth, reduce poverty and inequality, and broaden economic inclusion.

Community campaign event in ending violence against women and girls in Malawi

Photo: Watipaso Kailwo/Oxfam





Eswatini delegates at a two days meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa where they were unpacking the regional mining vision at a meeting convened by Oxfam in Southern Africa and SADC Parliamentary Forum Photo: Daud Kayisi/Oxfam

WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION

A just and sustainable future for all people in Southern Africa.

OUR MISSION

We fight inequality to end poverty and injustice.

OUR VALUES

Equality: We believe everyone has the right to be treated fairly and to have the same rights and opportunities.

Empowerment: We acknowledge and seek to expand people's agency over their lives and the decisions that impact them.

Solidarity: We join hands, support, and collaborate across boundaries in working towards a just and sustainable world.

Inclusiveness: We embrace diversity and difference and value the perspectives and contributions of all people and communities in their fight against poverty and injustice.

Accountability: We take responsibility for our action and inaction and hold ourselves accountable to the people we work with and for.

Courage: We speak truth to power and act with conviction on the justice of our causes.

We will be open to scrutiny from our partners, allies,

stakeholders and the people we serve. We will listen, learn and co-create solutions with them. We want to be a partner of choice for our peers and local actors.

OUR APPROACH

We recognise and value the people's agency over their lives and the decisions that impact them. Our partners, allies, stakeholders and the communities we work with will take the lead while we enable local actors to influence the systems and institutions that hold power and resources needed to tackle poverty and inequality. There is need to have vibrant and diverse civic space in order for these changes to be possible and sustainable. We therefore commit to strengthening that civic space and promoting democratic governance.

Our success as Oxfam in Southern Africa depends, in many ways, on the quality of our partnerships with the youth and women's movements as well as delivering interventions that are rooted in local context.

Youth-led progressive and feminist movements are some of the most powerful drivers of change in many countries, pushing path-breaking progress on political accountability, climate justice, gender equality and economic transformation.

We are convenors and brokers: We recognise the value of networks, people power, shared platforms,



Sarah from Nyanyadzi is a beneficiary of Oxfam rehabilitated Nyanyadzi Irrigation scheme in Chimanmani, Zimbabwe. She has been a subsistence farming taking care of her family for twenty five years now Photo: Cynthia Matonhodze/Oxfam

and capabilities for influencing, collaboration, knowledge building in challenging complex issues in rapidly changing contexts.

We are feminist: We recognise that there is no economic, social, and environmental justice without gender justice. Feminist principles guide all our action and interaction.

We fight inequality and injustices: We take sides against poverty and injustice everywhere, working with people, communities, partners and allies for just and sustainable solutions.

We are humanitarian: We work with communities before, during and after crises to build their resilience, save lives, and together address the root causes of conflict and disaster. We are committed to supporting local leadership in humanitarian work, and we will actively seek partnerships with local CSOs in our humanitarian work in the region.

OUR AMBITION

We can only achieve our vision of a just and sustainable future for all people in Southern Africa by working in solidarity with the vast majority of individuals and entities who make up the movement fighting poverty, inequality and injustices across the region.

We will place accountable governance at the core of all our work and we will also work to influence democratic values and promotion of civic space across the region.

Working alongside our partners, allies and the constituencies that we serve, we will contribute to thought leadership, and we will help facilitate and convene around Gender Justice, Just Economies, and Humanitarian response and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Our approach will primarily enable local actors to influence the systems and institutions that hold power and resources needed to tackle injustices such as poverty and inequality.

We are particularly interested in working with women

and the youth, who are affected the most by poverty, inequality and injustices.

Our work will contribute to National Development Frameworks of the countries we work in, the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Unions' Agenda 2063, which is a shared framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development for Africa.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

If Oxfam, partners, allies and citizens come together to fight inequality, poverty and injustice, then we can collectively realise a just and sustainable future for all people in Southern Africa.

If we collectively work to transform agriculture and food systems and ensure that there is fiscal justice and equitable governance of extractive resources, then we will be able to achieve just economies across the region.

If we collectively support transformative women's leadership, women's economic empowerment, end violence against women and girls, and facilitate realization of sexual reproductive health rights for women and girls, then we can attain gender justice across the region.

If we place Accountable Governance as core to all our work, we will facilitate active citizenship that holds duty bearers accountable, we will contribute to effective states that enable a context within which economic, social and gender inequalities are reduced across the region.

If we invest in Local Humanitarian Leadership, Anticipatory Action Systems and Forecast Based Financing then local actors will be empowered to work collectively with communities to better anticipate disasters, prepare and improve their ability to cope, influence policy and build back better. It is expected that targeted communities will be disaster-ready and have capacity to save lives, reduce risk and enhance quality of life ensuring gender equality and promoting resilient livelihoods.

THE SPACE WE WORK IN

THE TRIPLE BURDEN OF POVERTY, INEQUALITY & GENDER INJUSTICES

SOUTHERN African countries face three related developmental challenges –poverty, inequality and gender injustices – despite being a resource-rich region with good prospects for inclusive and equitable development. An estimated 88 million people (45% of the population) in Southern Africa live in extreme poverty. However, existing development and economic models have failed to uplift the lives of people from poverty. The 2020 World Food Programme global report on food crises indicates that over 45 million people across Southern Africa faced acute food insecurity due to weather extremes, economic shocks and conflicts.

The Covid-19 pandemic caught Southern African countries unprepared, and the pandemic exposed the deepening structural inequalities across the region. It showed that several governments in the region have repeatedly under-invested in essential social services such as education, health, water, sanitation, and social protection. Millions of people live in poverty and they do not have access to basic healthcare. For example, in Malawi at the onset of the pandemic, there were just 25 intensive care beds for more than 18 million people. In Zambia, there was one doctor per 12,000 people – as opposed to the WHO's acceptable standard of 1 physician to every 5,000 people. Most countries have extremely weak social protection systems, economies are highly informalized and susceptible to shocks, and millions of people live precarious lives.

The pandemic has affected communities that had barely recovered from other recent major shocks such as Cyclone Idai, droughts, floods, and conflict, which had severely affected people's incomes and livelihoods.

Urban poverty and food insecurity is also on the rise across the region, and this could potentially be a result of rapid urbanisation in some areas which is



Julia, an aid worker for Oxfam, demonstrates good hygiene practice in Beira, Mozambique, three months after Cyclone Idai
Photo: Peter Caton/Oxfam


not complemented with industrialisation and provision of essential social services such as water and decent housing and economic opportunities for the growing urban populations. People in most countries have no incentive to remain in the rural based sector; they are leaving for perceived employment prospects in urban areas further creating migration driven challenges. Rapid urbanisation exerts a lot of pressure on governments' policies, increasing the demand for essential services and goods (water, energy, food, etc.) and calling for significant investments in creating jobs and providing infrastructure and services. An estimated 2.2 million urban Zimbabweans are in need of food assistance and this is close to 30% of food insecure people in the country (World Food Programme, 2020).

The urban poor face additional challenges of lack of access to affordable health, water and sanitation services, as well as high levels of unemployment. Urban populations are equally affected by climate variabilities and extremes, especially droughts and floods. The effects of climate change are at times worsened by poor service delivery and economic challenges. Therefore, there is a need for governments and development agencies to scale up actions to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of poor and vulnerable urban populations.

CONTACT DETAILS

MAIN OFFICE

The Programme Director
Oxfam in Southern Africa
Plot 250 Zambezi Road
Roma Township
Box 35624 Lusaka
Tel: +26(0)211 292070 291085

 Oxfam in Southern Africa

 OxfaminSAF

COUNTRY OFFICES

The Country Representative
Oxfam in Malawi
Green Heritage Building
Area 13 Market
Private Bag B331
Lilongwe, Malawi

Country Representative
Oxfam in Zambia
Plot 250 Zambezi Road
Roma Township
Box 35624 Lusaka
Tel: +26(0)211 292070 291085

Country Representative
Oxfam in Zimbabwe
13 Brigadier Atif Road| Manzil Park|
Mt Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: +263(242) 369603, 369564, 369873

Country Representative
Oxfam in Mozambique
Rua Tenente General Oswaldo Tazama, 169 B |
2º - 3º andares - Bairro Sommerschild II,
Maputo, Moçambique
Telephone: +258 21 49 29 48