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*Dhaka, Bangladesh:
Garment worker *Shima
(26) photographed at
her home in Dhaka.*



WHAT SHE MAKES

and How You've Helped

Oxfam has been pushing five of Canada's biggest and best-known fashion brands to take the necessary steps to paying the women that make our clothes living wage.

There is terrible inequality in the fashion industry, and we know that transparency is a key step towards corporate accountability.

We're thrilled that more than 20,000 Canadians signed the "What She Makes" pledge, demanding that Canadian brands pay a living wage, and stop denying basic human rights throughout their supply chain.

Systemic exploitation, and widespread poverty wages are denying the women making our clothes basic human rights and decent lives.

The campaign currently focuses on Canadian brands Aritzia, Herschel Co, Joe Fresh, Lululemon and Roots and tracks their journey towards paying a living wage through our brand tracker found here: <https://www.oxfam.ca/what-she-makes/brand-tracker/>

Shima is who we're fighting for.

Shima is from a rural village in Bangladesh. Shima left school and trained to become a seamstress, moving to Dhaka, to help support her family.

Shima lost her foot at age 10 due to an infection. It took years for her to find a job because of her disability... no one wanted to hire her.

She finally found a job at a factory and began making t-shirts for global fashion brands.

For years, Shima walked to and from work with her limb wrapped in a rag, bleeding often and in immense pain. Her colleagues took up a collection so she could visit a doctor, who advised her to purchase an artificial foot.

Shima had to take out a loan to pay for it, and she often goes to work hungry now because she can't afford to feed herself and make her loan payments.

Shima works six days a week for almost 10-14 hours a day, she doesn't receive overtime and earns a little over \$100 CDN a month.

Through our collective actions, we can show our solidarity with the women who make our clothes, like Shima, and get Canadian companies to respect human rights and pay living wages. Please sign the pledge here: <https://www.oxfam.ca/what-she-makes/join-us/>. And thank you for lending your voice to the call for justice.

PAYING UP: it's time for those responsible



Food Crisis in West Africa

West Africa has been hit by its worst food crisis in a decade, with 27 million people going hungry.

Oxfam and 10 other international organizations are sounding the alert that this number may have reached a historic high of 38 million by the time you read this newsletter.

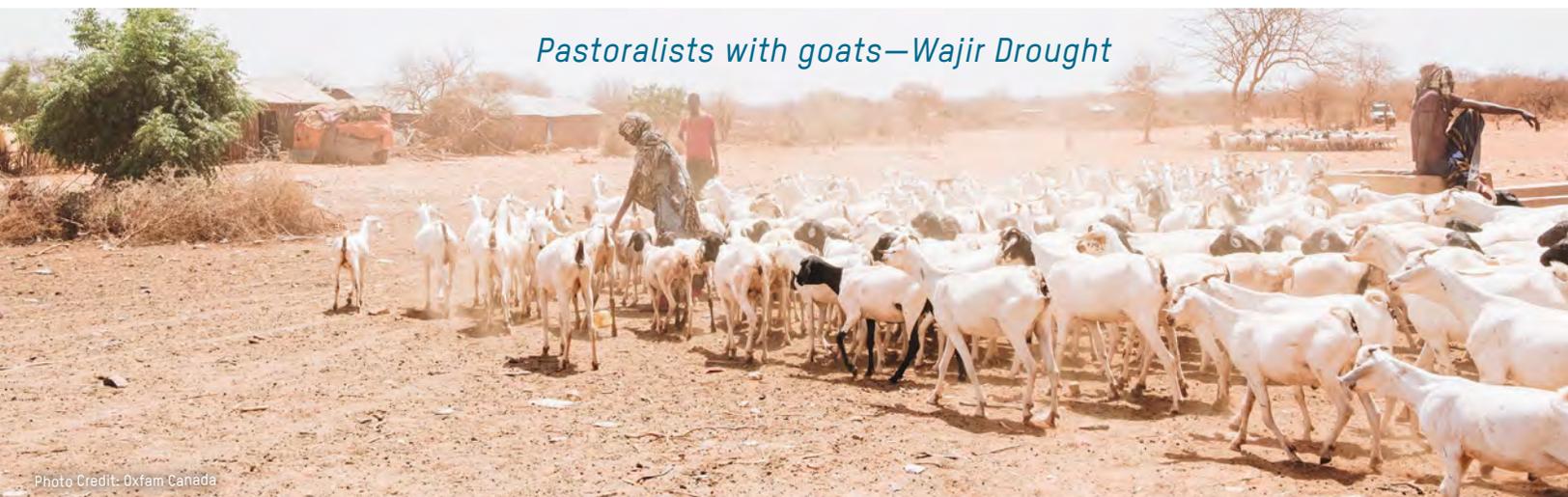
Far from getting better, food crises have been increasing across the West Africa region, with the number of people in need of emergency food assistance nearly quadrupling from 7 to 27 million in just the last seven years.

Safiatou had to flee her village because of the violence in Burkina Faso. *“I had almost no milk left so I gave my baby other food. He often refused to*

take it and lost weight. In addition, he had diarrhea, which worsened his condition.”

Ramata Sanfo is a herder from Burkina Faso. *“The rains were scarce. There is no more food. With the lack of grazing, the sheep are getting thinner and this forces us to sell them at a loss. I used to have 12 sheep, but now I only have one left,”* she explains. *“I would like to have my cattle back so that I have enough money and my children can go back to school.”*

Oxfam is deeply grateful to the donors who are stepping up — working with local partners to provide urgent, life-saving assistance in the short term — like cash transfers, clean water and sanitation, and supporting people to produce climate-resilient crops — and investing in longer-term programs to help protect communities from future climate shocks.



for climate change to foot the bill

Ahmed, Oxfam staff member, at Water storage in Puntland, provided and constructed by Kaalo and Oxfam, has completely dried up as water harvesting has ended after the lack of rainfall for almost four years.



Footing the bill

Climate destruction. Climate change. Extreme weather. Disasters. Food insecurity. These challenges go hand in hand. And at the heart of each of them is inequality.

Oxfam is working at the epicenter of these issues. We are on the frontlines supporting people already affected — and helping to grow the resiliency of communities. We are also active at the government level to demand the change which is our last hope.

Footing the bill

A question for you: who foots the bill to provide humanitarian aid when extreme weather events like flood or drought leads to disaster? And who should?

Oxfam's recent report, *Footing the Bill*, points to a stark fact: the richest 1% of people on this planet are emitting twice as much carbon pollution as the poorest half of humanity. We've created the climate conditions that cause extreme weather-related disasters.

For example, rich and industrialized countries have contributed around 92% of historic emissions. They're still contributing 37% of current emissions.

Africa's emissions stand at just 4%.

Yet in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia alone, there are over 24 million people who face severe levels of hunger and food insecurity — today — though those countries combined are only responsible for just 0.1% of global emissions.

In drought-ravaged Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, one person is likely dying of hunger every 48 seconds.

It's unfair. It's unjust. And it's time it ended.

In fact, when the UN calls for help, donor countries only respond with about half the funding that's needed.

And so, again, it comes down to all of us.

Today and every day, Oxfam is on the ground meeting people's urgent needs in hunger hotspots around the world.

Charities like Oxfam and other members of the Humanitarian Coalition are doing all we can to raise funds from the Canadian public to be able to respond to the humanitarian emergency that is unfolding. The Coalition has already managed to raise over 10 million, with the government match, for urgent funding to provide food, water, and emergency relief to people facing extreme hunger.

And with your support, Oxfam, alongside local partners, has been able to save lives across West and East Africa, and support families to return to self-reliance and build resilience against future shocks. Thank you for your continued support.

“Rich countries, wealthy people and big corporations most responsible for causing climate change must pay for the harm they are causing,”

(IAN THOMSON, POLICY MANAGER, OXFAM CANADA)



HER FUTURE HER CHOICE

STRENGTHENING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

In Ethiopia, 17-year-old Kulil Abebaw's family informed her that she would be married to a 31-year-old local man she had never met.

But Kulil had attended a training session held by Oxfam partner, Pathfinder International, and she knew about her sexual and reproductive rights.

Armed with this knowledge and confidence, Kulil was able to convince her family to call off the wedding.

Then she began advocating for other adolescent girls she knew who were being compelled to marry.

Kulil's determination led to a massive shift in her community resulting in the cancellation of all the forced weddings.

This is a powerful story illustrating the impact of our international campaign, Her Future Her Choice (HFHC). While Kulil and her friends have safely gone back to their studies, Oxfam and our partners are continuing this vital work in many countries.

In Zambia, abortion is legal, but this law is not always respected by school authorities. When Oxfam partner, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) found out that a grade 12 pupil had been

expelled for having an abortion, they pressed the school authorities to readmit the girl into school.

In Malawi, a HFHC-trained health care worker, Romeo Quinn Burton, has now become a safe source of health care and family planning for youth in his community. 23 year-old Martha Sinoya says of Romeo, "When we go to the facility we usually ask for Romeo and he assists us in a confidential way."

And in Mozambique, Laura Fazenda received training from Women and Law in Southern Africa Mozambique (WLSA). She says she now has the confidence and expertise she had lacked before, especially in the areas of early marriage, early pregnancy and unsafe abortions.

"This knowledge has come at a time that all people need it due to the level of violence that women and girls suffer."

Women's rights begin at the most fundamental level –control over their own bodies and futures. With our partners and our supporters, Oxfam is helping to ensure that.



OXFAM UNWRAPPED

When you purchase a gift at Oxfam Unwrapped, you're investing in projects and activities that tackle the root causes of poverty and advance women's rights.

Give a meaningful and unique gift to someone special,

while supporting Oxfam's vital work to save lives and advance opportunities for women around the world. When you purchase a gift, you're making a donation of the same value, which allows us to supply these items to those who need it most. Now that's a gift that will do good!

**GIFTS
THAT DO
GOOD**

Check out our selection of impact and special occasion gifts at unwrapped.oxfam.ca

TWO YOUNG STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Two caring students, Raiyan and Akshay from Mississauga, Ontario recently participated in a Dragon's Den Charity Project at their school.

Students had to convince a panel of judges to invest money in a charity that addressed an issue of importance to them. Raiyan and Akshay did a full media presentation on Oxfam Canada and were able to donate their winnings of \$250 to Oxfam's work.

In Raiyan's words...

'Thank you for giving me and Akshay the opportunity to share why we chose Oxfam. At first me and my partner didn't know much about Oxfam, but my teacher Ms. Conroy told us that Oxfam was an amazing organization and that they were a jack of all trades, so me and Akshay decided to choose



Oxfam. As me and Akshay were researching more and more we have developed a sense of passion and a drive to talk more about this organization.

We chose Oxfam for their equality where they believe that everybody has equal rights and opportunities, inclusiveness, making commitments to value every person in need and courage, taking the initiative to support people in need. With all these qualities Oxfam has managed to help people suffering from poverty, conflict and help people in need of humanitarian assistance."

Legacy giving

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

Oxfam's new Planned Giving Specialist hopes more Canadians say "yes!" to Wills

For those of us who advocate for social justice, it's part of our DNA. It's something we've done our entire lives: trying to make the world a better place.

And that fire for justice can continue even *after* we're gone.

With a gift in your Will, ending poverty isn't just part of your life, it's part of *your life story*.

"And yet," says Catherine Boivin, our new Planned Giving Specialist here at Oxfam Canada, "only 55% of Canadians have a Will, and of those, only 10% leave a gift to charity. It's staggering!"

"There's a lot of unlearning that has to happen in Canada about Wills," continues Catherine. "The idea, for example, that you can't take care of your loved ones if you leave a gift to charity in your Will.



In fact, a charitable gift can simply offset the taxes owed after you pass without impacting your loved ones whatsoever."

Another big hurdle for many Canadians? *"The idea that it's expensive or time consuming to write or update a Will,"* says Catherine.

"The world of Wills has democratized in the last decade," says Catherine. *"You can write a quality, valid Canadian Will for free online. And in many provinces, you can write a simple supplement to your Will (called a codicil) – again, for free! – so your Will can evolve with you."*

Catherine plans on hosting a webinar later this year on democratized Will-writing.

If you'd like to get an invitation to the webinar – or if you simply want to chat Wills with Catherine – you can reach her at catherine.boivin@oxfam.ca or 613-862-1607.