



OXFAM CANADA STAMP PROGRAM SUPPORTING OXFAM'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Context

Oxfam made its COVID-19 response a global institutional priority on 18 March 2020. People already fighting for their rights, working to lift themselves out of poverty and overcome inequality are now faced with staving off COVID-19.

Poor countries with fragile public health systems, where people are already facing many threats to their survival, are at greatest risk of infection and death. With partners, allies and supporters, Oxfam has been campaigning for equitable systems, including universal healthcare and health inequities; strengthening the ability of excluded groups and civil society organizations to engage with authorities; and supporting women to be recognized for their power, influence, and agency. We build our boldness on these movements and spaces.

Women have been the most deeply affected during this crisis because they make up 70 per cent of health care workers worldwide and will be at the frontlines of this pandemic, which puts them at high risk of infection. Women also hold an unequal share of care responsibilities around the world, and this care work will increase dramatically in this crisis, whether it is due to caring for sick parents or caring for children at home while schools are closed.

RESPONSE

Based on decades of humanitarian programming and advocacy, Oxfam believes that the best response is one that engages communities in building solutions, supporting local humanitarian leadership and ensuring that women and girls are empowered and their needs addressed.

Oxfam's expertise in fighting diseases like this has put us in a strong position to save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19 in each wave of this pandemic. Around the world, our local teams and partners are helping to protect people now and save lives in the future.

BY THE NUMBERS

Together we have already helped 14.3 million people.

We're working with 581 partner organizations.

We're helping people in 68 countries.

AREAS OF FOCUS IN OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE:

- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**
Increasing the distribution of soap and strengthening sanitation services, including facilities for washing hands, as well as access to drinking water, especially for people living in overcrowded refugee camps and urban areas.
- **Advocacy with Governments**
How governments, companies and institutions responded to this crisis in the early days, and continue to well into the pandemic profoundly dictates people's experience of the crisis. Oxfam is working to influence the policies and behaviours of those in positions of political and economic power, so that no one is left behind.
- **Sharing Reliable Information**
The people who are most at risk of COVID 19 are likely also the people who have less access to information – because of problems with the language used, literacy levels, mobility and even understanding of content. Not all information is equal – in closed societies where women are discouraged from engaging freely, extra effort needs to be made to engage with them.

PEOPLE'S VACCINE

As long as COVID-19 exists anywhere in the world, it is a threat everywhere. But, in spite of our shared risk, the world's richest countries have exercised a "me first" approach to the COVID-19 vaccine, buying up more than half the total supply – with grave consequences for the world's poor.

Over the past year, Canada has made large contributions to the global fund in charge of distributing vaccines to poor countries. But we urgently need to show more global solidarity. In fact, many countries at the World Trade Organization are now leading the charge to waive intellectual property rights and patents on COVID-19 vaccines.

Oxfam is working to get the Canadian government to sign on to the initiative to waive intellectual property rights and patents on COVID-19 vaccines for the sake of our collective health.

Your support is helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 in vulnerable countries to prevent a catastrophic loss of life. Thank you for your generosity.

THIS IS WHAT OXFAM IS DOING AROUND THE WORLD RIGHT NOW:

- In **Kenya**, we are distributing multi-purpose cash grants so people can meet their immediate basic needs of food, water, medicine and temporary shelter items.
- In **Myanmar**, we have increased our health promotion work around hand and respiratory hygiene in the camps where we work.
- In **Somalia**, we have established a call centre in partnership with the Ministry of Health to ensure continued awareness-raising on COVID-19.
- In the **Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan**, we are using social networks and WhatsApp to spread messages promoting good hygiene practices. We are reaching more than 2,000 children with awareness sessions on proper handwashing techniques.
- In **Indonesia**, we're working with our network to advocate for vaccine distribution, production, and easier access for communities.
- Awareness raising campaigns on COVID-19 preventive measures in **South Sudan** through: Radio messaging, Vehicle mounted PA system campaign, Distribution of leaflets about COVID-19 education.
- In **Pakistan**, we have installed water tanks in a large centre where people are quarantined to allow them access to clean water. And in **Iraq**, we are advance-shipping hygiene and infection control materials, in addition to delivering public health awareness campaigns.
- Offering psychological support in the **Philippines** for those coping with the uncertainty of the displacement period and quarantine restrictions.
- Raise awareness about the spread of COVID-19 and the work being undertaken by Oxfam and its partners at tea stalls and mosques in **Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**.
- Oxfam is providing 100 beds and hygiene kits to quarantine centres in **Gaza**, as well as hygienic protective clothing, handwashing facilities and sterilization materials for 750 medical staff working in 15 non-governmental medical centres.