

Option 1: Working Lives

Imagine feeling utterly powerless to help your family – not being able to provide them with proper shelter, food or medical care. This is the basic human dignity that the Oxfam100 Club Working Lives programme will restore to thousands of people.

Giving the world's poorest people work that both provides for their families and also restores dignity can seem like a challenging task. Our experiences have proven time and again that even the most difficult circumstances can be overcome. But it takes an ongoing commitment to people in need, so we can help them to help themselves.

These people do not want handouts. They already know the best way to respond to the incredibly tough conditions they face each day, and how to work their way out of poverty to a better future. They just need some support and training to make the good ideas they already have become a reality.

This initiative gives them the means to do it.

Here are some examples of the groundbreaking work that Oxfam100 Club support will make possible.



Dominicos Hale Mone, 54, farms two hectares of rice paddy in East Timor, and is now leading a farmers' co-operative, helping other small farmers to earn a decent living too

A good harvest of rice can make a world of difference to a family in East Timor

Giving young people a future in Vanuatu

In Vanuatu, the education system is stretched beyond capacity. Overcrowded schools only have room for half the children beyond primary level – the rest of the children are left out. Oxfam is supporting trades skill-training for at-risk youths who are no longer in formal school.

This training is happening at a network of rural training centres, which don't just give boys and girls the dignity of contributing to their communities with a decent livelihood – they are stopping the drift of unemployed young people to squatter settlements where poverty, drugs, alcohol and the risk of HIV exposure wait. This training is meeting an urgent need.

\$11,000 can provide teacher training to ensure that young people pushed out of school can continue to have livelihood opportunities.



Robert Ronald at work training young people at Napil Rural Training Centre (Vanuatu)

Restoring farmland in East Timor

After more than two decades of extreme violence and brutality in East Timor, Oxfam has focussed on long-term reconstruction for the past six years, working with rice and coffee farmers across the country to rebuild rural economies. With our support, poor communities are learning efficient farming methods and growing better crops. This has already resulted in a tripling of rice production among the co-operatives, and an increase in the price per kilogram of rice from 12 to 50 cents.

These changes to farmers' livelihoods mean much more than extra income. They mean better food for children – which is critical in East Timor, where 47 per cent of children under five are chronically malnourished – and more sustainable and resilient communities.

Together, we can turn the wave of hunger, malnutrition and poverty that conflict left in its wake.

\$7800 here can set up a new centre for farmers with processing facilities to reduce hard manual labour.



“Since the establishment of the coop the farmers have got deeply involved. Before the farmers were disbursed. Now they are working together.”

Co-operative chairman:
Luis Manuel

Rebuilding livelihoods in Papua New Guinea

Malnutrition is a major issue in Papua New Guinea, especially among children. There is a lack of protein and the country is dependent on imported rice and wheat. Approximately 85 per cent of the population rely on rural subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods, but they now struggle with unpredictable weather, pressure on land, and less productive hunting as forest is lost.

The Tari region, on the remote southern fringes of the Highlands, is particularly disadvantaged despite undergoing major changes due to a massive liquefied natural gas project. Resource extraction in PNG has historically offered minimal benefits to local people and this project has already displaced about 15 communities. People need to start agricultural work on new land, improve their existing farming methods and diversify crops.

Oxfam is working with local organisation Hela Community Care (HCC) to support livelihoods and economic sustainability for poor farmers. Food supplies are becoming more secure and incomes are increasing through seed saving schemes, an animal bank, and small livestock production. Improved local farming knowledge is making a crucial impact on rural poverty and health.

\$11,000 here can set up animal bank of small livestock



New sources of nutrition and income can make all the difference for communities facing endemic poverty and lacking basic services

The people of Tari are seeing tangible and significant benefits to the community and their individual lives

Felismina's food-providing co-operative

Every year in East Timor, families face a "hungry season" where food runs short for up to five months. As supplies dwindle, families are forced to eat whatever they can find – even resorting to roots and leaves.

In Kampong Liasidi, an especially remote region of East Timor, Oxfam is helping families survive the hungry season by earning enough income to provide for their families all year.

Felismina Fernandes sold fried bananas all through her childhood, just to afford food and school. When she heard about Oxfam's co-operatives, she knew she'd found a better way. Our co-operative programme trains people to join together and collectively lease farming or other equipment, so their businesses are more profitable.

Felismina approached us with a proposal to set up the first women's co-operative, starting with a loan to purchase a sewing machine, coffee grinder, corn grinder, and coconut grater.

In its first three months, the new co-operative of women saved around \$270, and the increased production earned the group and additional \$134 – more than double their past income!

Since then Felismina and the other women in the co-operative have also started a small business, sewing and selling children's clothes, which provides them with a stable source of income for their families.

Will you take the lead and help parents provide for their families?



Felismina's food-generating co-operative is helping families survive the hungry season

For further details and financial information call Lettie Bright on 09 355 7410.