

# Pacific partnerships

No one knows better what a community needs than the people who belong to it. That is why Oxfam partners with local groups. We currently work with over 15 organisations across the Pacific; people who are already working hard to help themselves and are committed to building a better future for their communities.

Our partners understand the local context and help us to connect with communities. The work we implement together encourages real participation of people living in poverty, increasing sustainability and bringing a lasting impact.

Oxfam provides our partners with funding, but we also help develop their skills, knowledge and capacity to improve and expand their work. We bring a global and regional perspective, plus years of experience supporting rural development and agriculture, to help our partners identify and address the root causes of poverty.



TOM GREENWOOD



JERRY GALEA

## Ending poverty and injustice

Oxfam exists because poverty and injustice are unacceptable. We believe in the power of people to change the world we live in. Working together with communities, local partners and supporters, we can build a fairer, safer, more sustainable world.

We work in three ways: we respond to emergencies immediately, saving lives and helping survivors recover; we work in 98 countries providing people with the skills and resources they need to work their way out of poverty; and we campaign to change unjust policies and practices that keep people in poverty.

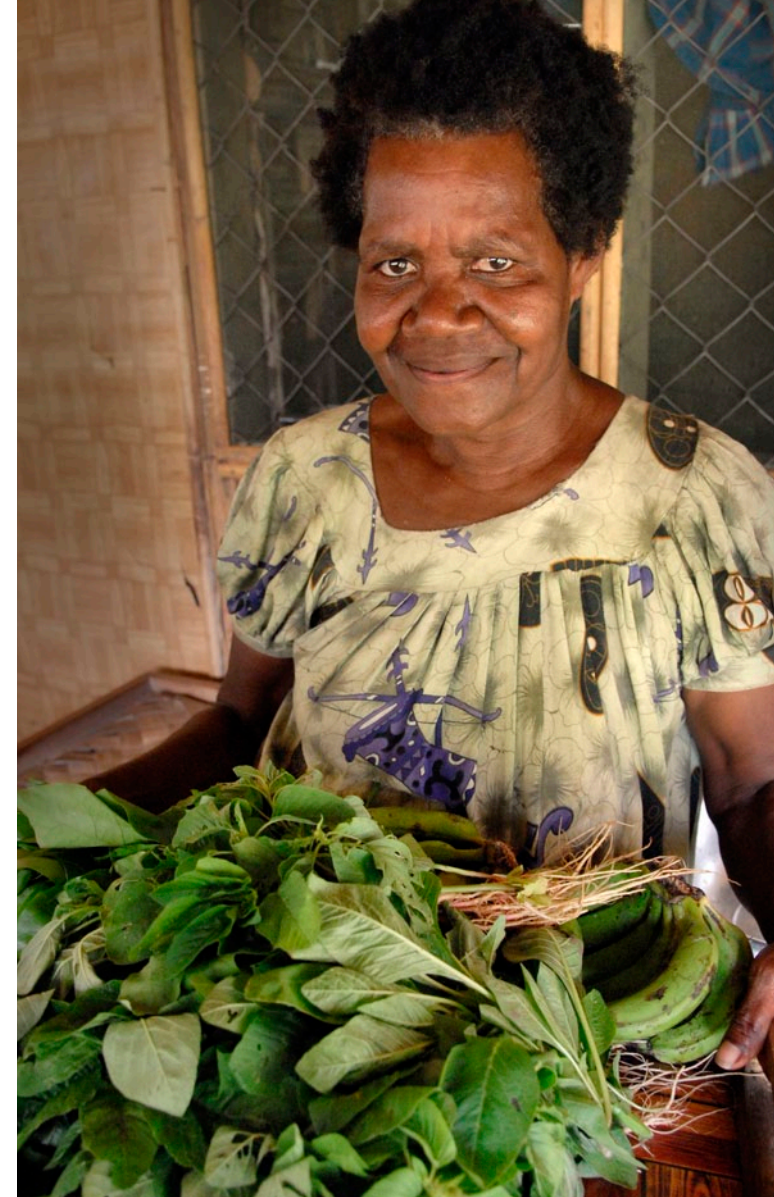
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**[oxfam@oxfam.org.nz](mailto:oxfam@oxfam.org.nz)**

FRONT COVER: In Papua New Guinea and across the Pacific, Oxfam is supporting rural communities to improve their incomes and live a healthier life through better farming practices, increased crop yields, and by adding value to commodities through processing, organic certification and fair trade. PHOTO: JERRY GALEA/OXFAM

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## Building sustainable livelihoods in the Pacific

[www.oxfam.org.nz](http://www.oxfam.org.nz)





JANE USSHER

## At the heart of Pacific livelihoods

Having enough food to eat and a reliable income is a fundamental human right. A secure livelihood means a secure future for people and their families, and the chance to live with hope, rather than fear of the future.

Many people in the Pacific lack the opportunity to work and earn a steady income and find they are unable to meet the daily needs of their family. Every day they face difficult choices – should they pay school fees or send their children to school without lunch?

Oxfam is supporting small-scale farmers in the Pacific and Southeast Asia, demonstrating how productivity can increase

with investment and through sustainable techniques such as organic farming. We provide support for improved farming practices, better crop yields, and the organisation of producers into effective and accountable associations. A key to creating opportunities is to add value to commodities through processing, organic certification and fair trade. We provide the partnership, training, technical assistance, capacity development, market links and financial help to make this happen.

A highlight of Oxfam's recent work in the Pacific has been helping young people to build decent livelihoods in their villages, instead of being forced to move to cities where they risk falling into a cycle of unemployment, crime and violence. In Samoa, organic farming has had a huge impact by helping families increase their incomes through higher prices for crops. In Vanuatu, we are helping young people learn new vocational skills so they can earn a living and contribute to their community.

But for change on a bigger scale, investment in developing country agriculture must grow. We need effective, ambitious government support, and the right investment from companies. Through our GROW campaign, we are changing the way the world thinks about food production. We can help small-scale farmers to grow more, grow better and press governments to take urgent action to preserve our world's scarce resources and share them fairly.

Long-term, lasting change can only happen when institutions are accountable and good policies are in place. That is why we are helping the Pacific to navigate through complex trade negotiations, so they can get a fair deal in international trade and maintain control over policies that will help them develop their economies and end poverty. We are working to ensure that aid programmes do more to support small producers in the Pacific.

We have helped to make New Zealand the fastest growing fair trade market in the world. We are helping producers adapt to climate change and continuing to push for a global climate treaty that will protect the livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the Pacific from the devastating impacts of climate change.

**Find out more about our livelihoods work at [www.oxfam.org.nz/livelihoods](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/livelihoods)**



## Small business, big changes in PNG

Oxfam and its partner Hela Rural Women's Development Foundation is supporting a group of entrepreneurial women in Papua New Guinea to rear and sell their own chickens, helping them to financially support their families and communities.

Each woman is given a box of day-old chicks to rear. At eight weeks old they are sold as broilers for local people to eat. In the past, people rarely had access to chicken meat as local hens were not good enough to eat. But now, the popularity of eating chicken means the women are guaranteed an income, and family diets are improved by much-needed protein.

"The women are using this income to buy clothing, food, school fees and medicines and to pay off their loans," says Tweedy Malagian, Oxfam Programme Co-ordinator in PNG. "A finance officer is also helping the women to save money in new personal accounts. Only the women themselves can draw money from the account. This prevents their husbands from accessing the money because experience has shown they will often squander money on alcohol, paying clan debts or compensation repayments."

All the women involved are gaining respect and admiration from the wider community and inspiring more women to earn an income for themselves.

**Find out more at [www.oxfam.org.nz/png](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/png)**



JANE USSHER

## Boosting village incomes in Samoa

In Samoa, Oxfam and our enterprising partner, Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI), have successfully turned coconuts into a viable income for hundreds of rural families by helping them manufacture, market and export organic, virgin coconut oil.

Mano Lami from Siumu village tells us: "Before we joined the WIBDI programme, we earned very little from our coconut farm. We used to produce copra but the price was so low that we stopped. WIBDI supported us with becoming certified as organic in 2001. We now get a much better price for our coconut oil. We used to rely on remittances from my children and relatives overseas to pay our bills, but now we have money of our own."

WIBDI works in rural villages across Samoa, identifying opportunities for income generation and job creation at the village level. They support families with training, supervision and technical knowledge. They also provide access to microfinance, assist with organic and Fairtrade certification and facilitate links between rural communities and global markets.

Read more about our work in Samoa at [www.oxfam.org.nz/samoa](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/samoa)



JANE USSHER

## Training for a brighter future in Vanuatu

With Oxfam's support, Rural Training Centres in Vanuatu provide vocational skills training for young people, giving them a vital opportunity to build a better future and contribute to their families and communities.

Many young people living in rural Vanuatu are forced out of the education system much too early because of school fees and limited spaces. Without schooling or skills, many drift into urban centres to look for work, often falling victim to drugs, crime or early pregnancy.

"I attended primary school up to Year 6 (age 12), but then I failed my exam and was pushed out of the school system," says 19-year old student, Kency Phillip.

"I wanted to work and help my family, but I didn't have any skills to do anything in the village. Then I heard about the Rural Training Centres. I'm now working for my certificate to become a carpenter. Carpentry and furniture making are life skills that I will always be able to use. I want to build my own house or work in a company to earn income for myself and my family."

Read more about our work in Vanuatu at [www.oxfam.org.nz/vanuatu](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/vanuatu)



## GROW

Why, in a world that produces more than enough food to feed everybody, does one in seven of us go hungry? Because of the deep injustice in the way the global food system works. Rising food and oil prices. Climate change. Unfair trade. Gender injustice. Land grabs. These issues are connected and contribute to a food system that is failing us and destroying the natural resources we all rely on.

We can grow and share food more fairly and sustainably, but we need a new way of thinking. We need to begin a conversation in our homes, communities and workplaces, and together we can share ideas and solutions for a future where everyone always has enough to eat.

**Be a part of it. [www.oxfam.org.nz/grow](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/grow)**

## Peace and prosperity

Oxfam and the Community Development Agency are working with rural communities in Papua New Guinea to increase family incomes. With our support, coffee farmers are improving yields, people are growing nutritional gardens with more diverse crops, and families are getting technical advice for rearing small livestock like goats, rabbits and chickens. This practical support is setting communities on course for a peaceful, sustainable future.

**Find out more at [www.oxfam.org.nz/png](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/png)**



JERRY GALEA

## Nuts about coconuts

Many young people in Tonga face an uncertain future with few jobs and limited opportunities for training and education. Oxfam and the Tonga National Youth Congress (TNYC) are working to overcome these obstacles.

“We’re helping young people start up and manage their own virgin coconut oil businesses, from harvesting and processing to selling and marketing. Communities are benefiting with new skills, a steady income and a product with huge potential, both in Tonga and abroad,” says Vanessa Lolohea of TNYC.

**Find out more at [www.oxfam.org.nz/tonga](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/tonga)**



TOM GREENWOOD

## Rice of life

In East Timor, Oxfam is working with the Movimento Cooperativo Economico-Agricola, helping farmers to organise in co-operatives and access the skills, tools and markets they need to earn a decent living for their families.

“Our income has really grown since forming the co-operative,” says Dominicos Hale Mone, who lives on a small rice farm in Covalima with his four children and his grandchild.

“Now we have enough rice to feed our family and have extra to sell. We’ve managed to fix up our tractor and buy new seeds and we’re also fixing up our house and water supply. Next, we’ll invest in nets and motors for our fishing boats.”

**Find out more at [www.oxfam.org.nz/east-timor](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/east-timor)**

