

VOICES

**THANKS
TO YOU**

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DONATIONS
IN ACTION**

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OXFAM
Australia



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Our life-changing development programs and life-saving humanitarian efforts are made possible by the generous support of donors like you and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Oxfam Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the original custodians of the land, and respects the rights they hold as the Traditional Custodians.

We also recognise the dispossession of the land and its ongoing effects on First Nations Peoples today.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.

Cover photo: Mymensingh, Bangladesh: Shomi, on duty at the faecal sludge treatment plant in Mymensingh. Shomi was one of 20 young women who did a 15-day training course that covered life skills and green jobs. The objective of the training was to develop entrepreneurs who would produce environmentally friendly products, like compost. Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam. This project is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Connections

with Lyn Morgain, Chief Executive

It's been a busy few months since our last edition of Voices, and I'd like to say a big thank you to every one of you. This year marks Oxfam Australia's 70th anniversary. Over the years, your passionate support has made it possible for us to keep working towards an equal world without poverty, and we simply couldn't do it without you.

In this edition, you'll meet Ana in Timor-Leste, whose participation in a savings group has helped her plan for the future. You'll hear from Leanne, a Straight Talk alum who is using technology to keep young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connected to Country and culture. And we also celebrate the success of climate activists in the Pacific who took their battle for climate action to the United Nations and the International Court of Justice.

Earlier this year, we were saddened to hear that one of our most dedicated and hardworking supporters, Brian Moran, had passed away. Brian worked tirelessly over many years to leave the world a better place, and we are grateful to have known him. You can read about his incredible efforts on Page 6.

And there's much more inside these pages, thanks to you.

Letters to Lyn



Photo: Keith Parsons/OxfamAUS

Dear Lyn,

Wishing you every success and thank you for all you do. – Luisa

Dear Lyn,

I am so pleased that Oxfam has set up a partnership with the Kimberley Aboriginal Women's Council. It seems as though KAWC will fulfil many very important needs. I am really delighted that my small contribution is helping to bring about important things!!! – Clea

Dear Lyn,

I started to support CAA very soon after emigrating to Australia in 1980. After 40 years I still like to support Oxfam as I like the way it works by liaising with the local people to find out just what help is needed and where. Oxfam was the first to say, "A hand up rather than a hand out". I think they were the first charity to start "Gifts in kind". With all good wishes. – Patricia

Dear Lyn,

Congratulations on the good work that you do. I have been supporting Oxfam since it was an organisation called Community Aid Abroad. It seems like a long time now but I have no intention of giving up any time soon. – Pat

Dear Lyn,

I have been donating to Oxfam [since] when it was known as C.A.A. I wanted to help those in developing countries to have the usual facilities, such as clean water, sanitation and food as I have. I have been very interested reading about these countries and what Oxfam has achieved. I am also pleased to read about the development of small industries and businesses by the women in these countries. Women are so resourceful! – Gillian



If you'd like to share your story, drop me a line at enquire@oxfam.or.au, scan this QR code or use the enclosed form and Reply Paid envelope.

Thanks to you ...

A group of activists in the Pacific achieved their goal of having the United Nations General Assembly support a resolution calling for the International Court of Justice to issue an advisory opinion on climate change.

Women in Timor-Leste are increasing their business opportunities, growing their networks and learning new skills by joining savings groups and participating in training sessions as part of Oxfam's Hakbi'it program.

Oecusse, Timor-Leste: Maria, pictured in her garden, joined Oxfam's Gender Action Learning System training as part of the Hakbi'it program. Photo: Ismenio Pereira/Oxfam. This project is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Malua Bay, NSW: Kayeleen Brown is a proud Walbunja and Wehlابل Bundjalung woman. She advocated tirelessly for cultural fishing rights on the NSW South Coast. Photo: Aimee Han/Oxfam.

NSW Recognises Fishing Rights

When the Parliament of New South Wales held an inquiry in July 2022 into the failure of successive governments to support Aboriginal cultural fishing, one of the clearest and strongest calls for change came from Kayeleen Brown, the head of the Katungul Aboriginal Corporation Regional Health and Community Services.

Ms Brown, a Walbunja and Wehlابل Bundjalung woman from the NSW South Coast, honed her political skills as one of the first participants of Oxfam's Straight Talk program.

She told the NSW parliamentary inquiry that cultural fishing was one of the foundations of a healthy lifestyle in her community, but that Aboriginal fishers had been the target of over-policing, which was threatening this centuries-old way of life.

In 2009, the NSW Parliament passed an amendment to the Fisheries Management Act 1992 (NSW) to allow for cultural fishing. Known as Section 21AA, the amendment has never been entered into force.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, since 2018 Oxfam has worked with communities along the South Coast, jointly advocating to have the amendment enacted. Oxfam made submissions to the inquiry, which found that the government had "failed to effect the will of parliament" by not commencing the legislation.

"Oxfam has been working with the South Coast communities since 2018 and we're proud of the partnership that we've developed," said Ngarra Murray, former Executive Lead of Oxfam Australia's First Peoples program. "We want to thank Danny Chapman, chair of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Kayeleen Brown from Katungul, and Wally Stewart from the fishing rights group, for their efforts on this campaign."



Photos: Supplied



Vale, Brian Moran

Without a plan, a goal is just a wish – but Brian Moran had both the plan and the passion to make a huge impact on the global fight against poverty.

As one of Oxfam's longest serving and most dedicated volunteers, Brian contributed greatly to the fight against poverty and injustice, and he changed countless lives in the process. Sadly, Brian passed away this year after a five-year battle with bowel cancer.

At university in 1972, Brian joined the Community Aid Abroad group (which later became Oxfam Australia). He also travelled overland from Indonesia to Europe, where he crossed some of the poorest nations in the world and witnessed the injustices that impelled his desire for change.

It began with the innovative idea of setting up a coffee cart in the Botanical Gardens at the end of the

Community Aid Abroad Walk Against Want. Brian enlisted friends (including his then girlfriend, who he went on to marry, Kathryn Clements) to raise money to fight poverty. Their success fuelled Brian's desire to raise more money, and in 1989 he worked with the Fitzroy Community Aid Abroad group, launching the inaugural Quiz Against Want.

This became an annual quiz night for 300 people, and ran for 22 years. Brian secured a venue at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and roped in high-profile hosts, including Jane Clifton and Lawrence Money.

"He was never going to do things in half measure, so he'd go all out getting people on board to donate as

much as possible to maximise fundraising for Oxfam," Kathryn said.

When Oxfam's annual Christmas Tree Drive was at risk of being discontinued due to overwhelming operational challenges, Brian persuaded Oxfam to allow him to voluntarily run the campaign, delivering trees to over 3,000 homes in Melbourne using volunteer drivers with trailers, utes and station wagons.

"It really was extraordinary," Kathryn said. "I was amazed by his commitment, how his brain worked and how he could rally people. Brian was someone who wanted a fairer world, he was driven to help make it so – and he was modest about the impact he had on people all over the world."

Despite raising millions of dollars over the years, inspiring countless others to join the cause, and being awarded an Order of Australia medal for his contributions, Brian remained humble about his achievements.

"Brian's desire to give back matched his belief in Oxfam's integrity and effectiveness in working within the most vulnerable communities to give them the skills to lift themselves out of poverty," Kathryn said.

"He loved Oxfam's approach to addressing poverty and inequality internationally and within Australia's indigenous communities, and he worked tirelessly because he knew that the money would go where it was needed most. That was all the recognition he wanted."

For all the lives he helped improve and the phenomenal commitment Brian showed to a more just world, we say an enormous thank you.

Vale, Brian Moran.



East Are'are, Solomon Islands: Shirley lives with her family in East Are'are and uses a canoe to travel to school because the coastal footpaths are eroded. The people in her community in East Are'are are trying to adapt to radical environmental changes resulting from climate change. Photo: Ivan Utahenua/Oxfam.

A MORE EQUAL WORLD IS POSSIBLE



Leaving a gift in your Will can help create a fairer future

Dhaka, Bangladesh: Garment workers Kakoli* and Sabina*. Oxfam's What She Makes campaign demands big clothing brands pay the women who make our clothes a living wage. Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam. *Names changed to protect identity.

Big win for climate activists

After years campaigning for climate action, a group of activists from the Pacific had a big win in March – and we are excited to share this great result with you!

Thanks to your generous support, Oxfam Australia's Pacific Climate Change Collaboration Influencing and Learning Project (PACCCIL), was able to work with the group of young activists as they pursued climate justice on the world stage.

As a result of their advocacy, the United Nations General Assembly moved to support a resolution calling for the International Court of Justice to issue an advisory opinion on climate change. This was a landmark decision, with world leaders officially asking the International Court of Justice to clarify – in legal terms – the impact of climate change on human rights.

The campaign for the decision started in 2019, when a group of law students from the University of the South Pacific banded together to make themselves heard.

The students were members of groups in both the Vanuatu and Solomon Islands Climate Action Network's – both supported by the PACCCIL project.

This result – and others like it around the world – would not be possible without the tireless campaigning of these grassroots activists – or the incredible generosity of our Oxfam Australia supporters.

Decisions like these show the power of strengthening, and standing with, local organisations, and making sure they have the tools, resources and knowledge they need to raise their voices and stand up for their rights.

Thank you for choosing to play a part in this important work!



Kurigram, Bangladesh: Shabana stands in front of her compost plant, proudly displaying the fertiliser she produced. Photo: Munir Hossain/Oxfam.

Shabana's new life

Like so many countries, Bangladesh is feeling the impacts of climate change, including severe storms and rising sea levels. Thanks to supporters like you, for the past decade, Oxfam has been working with national and local organisations in Bangladesh to build community resilience to climate change and help people, like Shabana, to earn a reliable income and gain leadership skills.

Shabana, from Kurigram district in Bangladesh, was married at just 14-years-old and had a baby within the year. She and her husband experienced extreme poverty and both Shabana and her baby were malnourished.

But this never stopped Shabana from dreaming of a better future. Her family owned a tiny piece of land in front of their house, which Shabana always wanted to cultivate.

After seeing other women in her community becoming involved with Oxfam's REECALL project, Shabana was keen to join too. She became a member of her local community-based organisation, one of 35 organisations developed by Oxfam's partner, GUK.

Joining the program changed Shabana's life. She trained in eco-friendly and climate adaptive agriculture and received a "vermin compost house". The program supplied 13 kinds of seeds, a pheromone trap, a net to protect her vegetables, agro-consultation, and cash for cultivation, irrigation and fencing.

Shabana started her own business – an eco-friendly and climate adaptive vegetable garden – and is now producing organic vegetables that are popular in local markets.

Today, Shabana is contributing to her family's income. From her climate-smart garden, she earns BDT 8,000 (AUD \$110) every month, giving her family a more stable lifestyle.

Visualising a brighter way

The oldest living culture in the world is embracing 21st century technology to keep young people connected to their communities and culture, thanks to a woman with big dreams and an even bigger vision.

Leanne Sanders, a proud Kamilaroi, Tati Tati, Wadi Wadi and Mutti Mutti woman, has dedicated years to building Visual Dreaming, a First Nations, female-led tech company that uses digital solutions to help young Aboriginal people dream, believe and achieve.

Leanne, who attended Oxfam's Straight Talk program in Canberra in 2022, has a degree in health science and has spent her career working in the aged care, disability and mental health fields. But it was the tragic death of her cousin that motivated her to become an entrepreneur.

"I lost my young cousin to mental health," she said. "That was like a really big, triggering moment for me."

Leanne believes the mental health system is fragmented and difficult for young people to navigate.

"There's not a lot of ... consideration around connection to community and culture, and having goals and focusing on them.

"So, I decided I was going to build an app and save the world!"

Leanne's app, also called Visual Dreaming, enables young Aboriginal people to create and connect with their "dream team", which might include Elders, aunts, sisters or teachers — people who are only ever a click away with support and advice.

"A part of the sisterhood is that no matter where they go in their journey, they will always come back and feel connected and supported as sisters through the app," Leanne said.

Young people can also privately record their story



Photo: Jillian Munday/Oxfam

through the app and play it to service providers when they first meet them.

"They can record their story in a private place, where they feel safe to record how they're feeling," Leanne said. "So, they don't have to say the words out loud, but that doctor or the psychologist or anyone that is supporting them can just hear what's happening for them."

Leanne's vision of supporting women didn't stop with the release of the app. Working closely with Elders, community members and service providers, Leanne and her team recently introduced Butterfly Dreaming, a leadership and personal development program for First Nations girls aged 8 to 16 years.

Butterfly Dreaming builds leadership and pride in Aboriginal identity and culture, and reduces social isolation, mental illness, incarceration and suicide.

The program focuses on strengths, not problems.

"We never talk about deficits," Leanne said. "We want them to know their dreams can come true."

GIFTS THAT DO GOOD GREAT

Make your loved ones smile with a truly thoughtful gift. With the festive season just around the corner, Oxfam has gifts to suit everyone!

Your lucky recipient will receive a card explaining how their gift is helping others, and you'll both feel good knowing that you're tackling poverty together.

OXFAM UNWRAPPED



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Photo: Keith Parsons/Oxfam



Mymensingh, Bangladesh: Shirin and Rumi work on hand-made, eco-friendly products. Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam. This project is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Creating opportunities in Mymensingh

For the 65,000 people who live in Mymensingh, Bangladesh, a faecal sludge treatment plant is improving health outcomes – at the same time as offering young people employment opportunities.

The plant has the capacity to treat the waste of 16% of local residents, and in 2021-2022, it treated 374 cubic metres of faecal sludge. It also produced 10,000 kilograms of compost as a by-product.

Thanks to the support of people like you, Oxfam and its local partner, NGO Forum, built the plant as part of the Resilient, Inclusive and Innovative Cities project. To encourage the community to use the toilet waste emptying service, Oxfam and NGO Forum organised discussions with local authorities, community and religious leaders, and youth volunteers. Project staff also visited houses to explain the service and understand any challenges people had to using it. These face-to-face discussions helped build trust,

which led to greater awareness of the treatment plant and more people using it.

But it's not all about faecal sludge! The project has a dual role: it also runs the Green Jobs program, which provides training and employment opportunities for local young people.

Shirin and Rumi (pictured) took part in a 15-day training course that covered life skills and green jobs. The objective of the training was to develop entrepreneurs who would produce environmentally friendly products.

The women are now making a range of hand-made products including bags and penholders, and are earning a living independently.

Oxfam Trailwalker

Oxfam's Trailwalker is one of the most inspiring challenges in the world, inviting teams to tackle a 100km, 55km or 30km bush trail within 40 hours. It's tough, but the feeling of crossing the finish line is something our Trailwalkers never forget! Thanks to this year's walkers, the Melbourne event in March saw more than 420 teams raise \$1.97 million.



Photo: Sam Biddle/Oxfam



Photo: Aimee Han/Oxfam



Photo: Aimee Han/Oxfam

Oldest Trailwalker ready to give it another go

Question: 82, 7, 100, 34. What do these numbers have in common? Answer: Brian Green

In March, at age 82, Brian took on Oxfam Trailwalker for the seventh time, finishing the 100km course in 34 hours.

Brian is a Trailwalker Legend (someone who's completed the walk more than five times), and his legendary status was cemented when he took home the People's Choice Award at the post-event Celebration Night.

"It was great," Brian said. "Getting a bit of recognition might encourage other older people."

As the oldest participant in the Melbourne 2023 event, Brian was surrounded by nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews and the support of a "pretty strong family".

In fact, it was a nephew who introduced Brian to Trailwalker back in 2012, and the family hasn't looked back — they've competed together ever since, either as walkers or support crew.

Brian walks with his daughter every weekend and believes walking "keeps the family together". It also gets him out of the house and keeps him fit. "I live in a retirement village and have no garden to look after," he said.

But Brian wasn't always so active. He only began to take sport seriously in his sixties, when he retired. In the last 17 years, Brian has done Trailwalker seven times,



Melbourne, Australia: Brian Green, left, credits walking with keeping him fit and keeping his family together. Photo: Sam Biddle/Oxfam.

Melbourne's Around the Bay in a Day cycling event 12 times, and in February he clocked up 360km of walking "to top myself up".

"I believe if you do the training, you can do the walk," he said.

While he found the 2023 Trailwalker track the hardest one so far, Brian said it was the most enjoyable. "If it's flat, it's boring. There were certainly some challenges."

Brian was resolute at the end of this year's event that he was ready to hang up his walking shoes.

"I said, 'That's it!'. But then one of my grandsons said he wanted me to do it, so God willing, I'll be here next year. I've got to keep going."



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Oecusse, Timor-Leste: Ana started her own business after joining a savings group established by Oxfam and local partner Masine Neu Oecusse. Photo: Oxfam. This project is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Saving for a bright future

Opportunities for women to earn an income can be limited in remote Timor-Leste, and it's even harder for women like Ana, who is living with a disability. But thanks to supporters like you, Ana was able to join a savings group and achieve her dream of saving enough money to open a business.

Ana lives in the Oecusse region of Timor-Leste. Apart from a short period working as a guesthouse cleaner several years ago, she has struggled to earn an income and relies on her parents for money.

In April 2021, Ana learned about a savings group operating in her village as part of Oxfam's Hakbi'it project, through our local partner Masine Neu Oecusse. She eagerly joined the local group, called Romansa. Right from the start, she felt welcomed and looked forward to the weekly meetings.

"As a young person with a disability in this group, I never experienced discrimination from other members, because Romansa values strong team collaboration," Ana said.

Through the group, Ana achieved her dream of saving \$50. She then used her newfound financial knowledge and business training to open a kiosk next to her house, where she sells food and household items.

"I felt a big change in my life ... I could leave behind my life where I was unemployed and not productive to build a kiosk and continue to save money for my next dream. One big change is that I can now manage my money," Ana said.

Hakbi'it means "empower" in the local language of Tetum. In Timor-Leste, Hakbi'it is supporting women in rural areas to gain more control over their lives, earn a steady income and amplify their voices in public.

David's dedication to a world without poverty

After a 42-year career with an international insurance company, David Clark was never going to take retirement lying down.

Within months of calling time on his project management career, David was on the lookout for meaningful ways to spend his time — and having grown up in a family with a long history of supporting people around the world, he knew the type of organisation he wanted to support.

"My parents sponsored a child in India," he said. "I knew when I was 18-years-old that I wanted to give," David said.

David got a taste of volunteering after the 2004 Boxing Day Asia Pacific tsunami, when his employer donated office space and staff to take telephone donations for a week or so.

Some years later, when he had recently retired, David was watching coverage of a cyclone in Fiji and saw that Oxfam was calling for donations. He immediately donated money, but also started thinking about donating his time and expertise. "I wanted to help people," he said.

Fast forward seven years and David is now one of Oxfam Australia's longest-serving volunteers as well as a regular donor. He has also decided to leave Oxfam a gift in his Will.

While he doesn't see his role as difficult, David uses his organisational background to make sure that what he does "is efficient and meaningful". Thank you for your support, David!



Melbourne, Australia: David is a regular in Oxfam's Melbourne office. Photo: Jessica Magdalena/Oxfam.

Your compassion at work in East Africa

Right now, more than 31 million people in East Africa are facing acute hunger.

Your generous donations have helped us work with local partners to reach 1,232,729 people with lifesaving water, food, sanitation, health support and protection. People like Sankuus.

Last year, we told you about the incredible difficulties Sankuus was facing as a result of the drought in Kenya. His wife died while she was out looking for water and Sankuus had to bury her where she lay. He is now

raising his children alone, and doing his best to provide food and a home for them.

With donations from our wonderful supporters, in June this year Oxfam and local partners were able to distribute cash payments to 755 households in Kenya. Known as multi-purpose cash transfers, the payments give people the flexibility to buy food and other essentials from local markets.



Wajir county, Kenya: Sankuus, in front of his house. Photo: Khadija Farah/Oxfam.

“Water is life, without water you can’t drink, cook, or wash after you go to the bathroom. Life means having water.”

– Amina

Your donations in action

The hunger crisis in East Africa is the largest hunger emergency in the world today.

The likelihood of El Niño developing later this year is increasing, and people are bracing for heavy rains that could lead to floods, landslides and mudslides. We know that this can result in waterborne diseases, displacement of people from their homes, and crop losses.

Thanks to the very generous donations of kind supporters like you, Oxfam is on the ground in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. Here are just some of the ways your kind support is helping.

Ethiopia

Oxfam installed a solar-powered pump on a well just outside the town of Gol’Anod, home to about 350 households. The well was originally powered by a diesel pump, but in late 2022, Oxfam installed 56 solar panels to power the water pump, and pipes to bring the water two kilometers into the town. This has reduced the amount of time women need to walk back and forth to a water source, which has also made life safer for the women and girls in the village.

Kenya

Oxfam and local partners are working in Kenya to ensure families have enough money to put food on the table. In recent months we reached 755 households with multi-purpose cash transfers. We also delivered dignity kits to 500 women and girls and cash payments to 1,200 women and school-aged girls so they could buy menstrual hygiene products.

Somalia

As the drought continues its hold in Somalia, the situation in camps for internally displaced people grows increasingly dire, with people most vulnerable to malnutrition and disease being worst affected.

In Somalia, Oxfam and local organisations have built 10 latrines, reached 4,020 people with hygiene information, visited 1,560 people through protection committees to spread the word on staying safe, and assisted 49 survivors of gender-based violence with specialised psychosocial support, clinical support and legal services. In Burtinle, 15,000 people now have access to water after a borehole was rejuvenated.

South Sudan

In South Sudan, Oxfam and its partner organisations are on the ground assisting thousands of people with lifesaving aid.

In June this year, we distributed food to 106,090 people, and lipid nutrient supplements to 6,100 children at risk of malnutrition. We also reached 300 households with water treatment chemicals and safe storage items, and delivered water, sanitation and hygiene kits to 450 households. We reached 300 households with dignity kits for adolescent girls and women.



“Without the cash transfer, I don’t know how my family would have survived.” – Bishara

Wajir, Kenya: Shopkeeper Fatuma serves Bishara, who received a cash transfer so she could buy the essentials her family needed. Photo: Mark Wahwai/Oxfam.



“We fled because staying where we were would have meant certain death from starvation. There are eight members in our family, and the fact that we’re all still alive feels like a miracle.” – Fadumo

Deynille camp, Somalia: Fadumo, a resilient yet desperate mother of eight was compelled to flee her village due to the severe drought. The family now lives in a makeshift camp on the outskirts of Mogadishu. Photo: Oxfam.



“I had to leave my home with my two children after the war started. We had walk for hours to get to this location and finally to Walgaa. We arrived with a lot of older people, I’m now helping by cooking and cleaning for them.” – Hekima

Sudan: Hekima fled her country because of conflict. In Akobo, she volunteered to help older refugees by cleaning and cooking for them. Photo: Fatuma Noor/Oxfam.



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Isiolo county, Kenya: Abdia, pictured with her son, took part in a water project in Barambale, Isiolo county, where a water point was set up by Oxfam and local partner organizations, MID-P. Photo: Eyeris Communications/Oxfam.