



Oxfam Canada, founded in 1963, is an international development agency working with over 100 partner organizations in Africa and the Americas. We work with partners to tackle the root causes of poverty, injustice and inequality, helping to create self-reliant and sustainable communities.

In Canada, Oxfam works on development education, advocacy, public awareness and building a constituency of support for our work.

Oxfam Canada is a member of Oxfam International, an alliance of the twelve Oxfams worldwide. With Oxfam International, we work on joint campaigns, for example Education Now, to raise awareness of issues, and to influence the policy of governments and institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations. By working together, we also feel we increase the impact and effectiveness of our individual programs. Our work is made possible by the financial contributions of over 50,000 individual and institutional donors across Canada.

## **Fair and Sustainable**

Poor people often have a clear idea of what could help them to overcome their problems, but they lack the resources to put their ideas into practice. That's where Oxfam comes in – providing the necessary funding, training, and support to get people started, whether they are farmers making a living off the land or workers striving for better working conditions and pay.

- *Explore an example of Oxfam's efforts in The Land Challenge activity.*

## **Basic and Necessary**

In poor countries, many people don't have proper medical care or access to basic health information that can help protect them. Many people die of illnesses that could have been prevented or treated. Oxfam helps people improve existing health services and promote health and hygiene in their own communities.

It's hard to change your life for the better when you don't know how to read or write. Yet today, millions of children are being denied their best chance to escape poverty; unable to go to school because it's miles away, or because their parents can't afford the fees. As illiterate adults, they probably won't earn enough to send their own children to school – so the cycle of poverty will continue. Oxfam's Education Now Campaign is part of a global movement to put pressure on world leaders to make education for every child a reality.

- *Explore more about the basics of life in The World in Food Quiz..*

**Safe and Secure**

Oxfam has a world-wide reputation for emergency relief work; providing among other things, shelter, clean water and sanitation services to people whose lives have been turned upside-down by conflict or natural disaster. Even more importantly, Oxfam puts long-term programmes in place to help people rebuild their lives and to prepare for and minimize the impact of future crises.

**Hear and Be Heard**

Most poor people have little say in the decisions that affect their lives and virtually no power to change things. Oxfam helps people organize and gain the skills to speak out together, so that their views and needs are heard.

**Equal, Free, and Fair**

Often the most vulnerable people are those who are oppressed within their own society. This might be because they are women or because of disability, ethnic or cultural identity. With support from Oxfam, people can begin to take control of their own lives and to challenge the negative views that keep them living in poverty.

*For more information, check out*  
**[www.oxfam.ca](http://www.oxfam.ca)**