



# OXFAM GERMANY

UNITED FOR A JUST WORLD  
WITHOUT POVERTY

Strategic Plan 2018-2020 | Executive Summary



**OXFAM**  
Deutschland

# INTRODUCTION

For the first time since the end of the Cold War the world is facing a radical change. Ten years ago, the global financial and economic crisis caused divisions that undermine social cohesion in many countries. Right-wing populism and nationalism are on the rise, while values of universalism, human rights and international humanitarian law are on the back foot. At the same time, these developments provoke favourable counter-reactions. Many people have realised that something fundamental is at stake and they are starting to become committed to social justice, democracy, climate protection or solidarity with refugees. And Oxfam supports them.

Our vision is a just world without poverty – a world in which people respect the ecological boundaries of our planet and do not live at the expense of future generations; a world in which they can influence the decisions that affect their lives; a world in which they can live safely and have the means to restore their livelihoods in the event of crises and disasters; a world in which all people are treated equally and are able to exercise their rights, for they are rights, not privileges.

Our central strategic approach is to combine emergency aid, development cooperation and development policy and campaigning. In crises such as natural disasters, armed conflicts or epidemics, Oxfam provides life-saving emergency aid. Together with the local population and local partner organisations, we carry out development projects in the international Oxfam confederation to overcome poverty. We also raise our voices against unjust structures in society, economy and politics.

We rely on the cooperation of committed people and responsible governments to achieve the changes we strive for. When citizens demand their rights, and states make these demands the basis of their actions, we have ideal conditions for sustainable and human development.

This document is a summary of Oxfam Germany's Strategic Plan, which sets out the framework for our work until 2020. The plan outlines six areas in which Oxfam Germany is particularly committed and sets out six objectives that we will work towards in the coming years: the right to be heard, gender justice, saving lives, sustainable food, fair sharing of natural resources, the funding of development and promotion of health and education. These objectives emphasize our commitment to human rights and their importance for a human worldwide development.

# OBJECTIVE 1: THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD

- ▶ Strengthening civil society
- ▶ Holding governments accountable
- ▶ Involving people living in poverty in decision-making processes

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

People must have the opportunity to defend themselves against injustice in order to overcome poverty sustainably. This can only be achieved if they are able to exercise their right to be heard, to political participation, to freedom of expression and information, to freedom of assembly and to fair justice. However, these rights are threatened in many parts of the world, including countries with a strong democratic tradition.

## ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE BY

- ... demanding that governments create the legal framework needed to ensure that civil society can organise and exercise its rights.
- ... promoting civil society organisations that defend the rights of poor and marginalised people.
- ... supporting marginalised people in influencing decisions that affect their lives.
- ... holding political and economic stakeholders accountable for their actions and make relevant information publicly available.
- ... calling on Oxfam's supporters to see themselves as active global citizens and to act accordingly.

## AIMING FOR THE FOLLOWING RESULTS

Poor and marginalised people will be increasingly involved in decisions that affect their lives. They will have the opportunity to make informed decisions, to organise themselves to defend their interests and have access to the judicial system.

Citizens will help to overcome poverty and inequality by making sustainable consumer choices and demanding measures from governments and companies that protect the rights of poor and marginalised people.

# OBJECTIVE 2: PROMOTING GENDER JUSTICE

- ▶ Strengthening women's rights
- ▶ Protecting girls and women against violence

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Two thirds of the approximately one billion people who can neither read nor write are women. Women provide 60 percent of the work, produce 50 percent of our food, but earn only ten percent of the global income and own only one percent of the property. Systematic discrimination against women and girls is both a cause and a result of social inequality. It promotes poverty and there is an urgent need to overcome it.

## ACHIEVING THE GOAL BY

- ... ensuring that women's rights remain a priority on the political agenda in Germany and the wider international context.
- ... supporting women in taking leadership roles in their communities at different levels.
- ... supporting the establishment of women's organisations and movements fighting for women's rights and gender equality.
- ... supporting poor and marginalised women in particular in demanding their rights and participating in economic and political decision-making.

## AIMING FOR THE FOLLOWING RESULTS

An increasing number of women will assume leadership positions. The growing commitment of women's organisations will strengthen women's rights at international level.

Especially poor and marginalised women will know their rights, demand them and will be able to improve their situation.

Cases of violence against girls and women will significantly decrease and will be no longer accepted by society.

People will become committed to sustainable change and contribute to more gender justice.

# OBJECTIVE 3: SAVING LIVES, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

- ▶ Expanding emergency and disaster aid
- ▶ Strengthening international humanitarian law

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The right to live in freedom and safety is a fundamental human right. However, crises such as natural disasters, famines, armed conflicts and epidemics cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of people every year and threaten the existence of millions. The ability of governments and international actors is insufficient to meet the growing need for humanitarian relief.

## ACHIEVING THE GOAL BY

- ... providing the people affected with drinking water, latrines, washing facilities, food and other vital items in times of natural disaster and crisis.
- ... supporting the population in the development of new livelihoods and the reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure.
- ... continuing our efforts at national and international level to ensure that international humanitarian law is implemented and strengthened.
- ... urging policy-makers to consistently protect the civil society in conflicts and to eliminate the causes of crises and armed conflicts.
- ... working together within the confederation to strengthen the institutional capacities of states and local civil society organisations to improve their capacity to respond to crises and disasters.

## AIMING FOR THE FOLLOWING RESULTS

The number of children, women and men who die, fall ill or lose their livelihoods as a result of crises and disasters will have significantly decreased.

The supply of drinking water, food, sanitary facilities and other things that people in acute emergencies urgently need will be secured.

The right to a self-determined life in dignity, without violence and oppression, will also be fulfilled in emergency situations.

State institutions and civil society in crisis-prone countries will be willing and able to provide high-quality, impartial and independent emergency aid.

# OBJECTIVE 4: SUSTAINABLE FOOD

- ▶ Applying human rights-based approaches
- ▶ Promoting the social and ecological reorientation of agriculture

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

In 2016, the number of people suffering from hunger rose again for the first time in years. Hunger has many causes: unequal access to land and water, discrimination against women, unfair trade rules, neglect of small farmer structures or unfair wages. When someone goes hungry, the human right to food is violated, either through action or inaction by governments and companies or the impacts of political decisions in other countries.

## ACHIEVING THE GOAL BY

- ... supporting above all those people who are denied their human right to food through systematic discrimination.
- ... promoting a reform of agricultural and food policy and the implementation of fundamental food sovereignty principles.
- ... making sure that soil fertility and water retention capacities are improved and biodiversity is preserved.
- ... promoting especially local markets, while testing and applying in particular (alternative) marketing models.
- ... demanding more support, especially for small-scale women farmers and support rural women's organisations.

## AIMING FOR THE FOLLOWING RESULTS

People who suffer from hunger in poor rural regions will be able to exercise their right to food and be better prepared for crises.

People who are currently marginalised and living in extreme poverty will be able to raise their standard of living.

More small-scale farmers will be in a position to develop stable livelihoods, secure their food supplies and increase their production.

Small-scale farmers will receive more financial support and investments will be increasingly aimed at small-scale agriculture instead of relying on agricultural corporations.

# OBJECTIVE 5: FAIR SHARING OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- ▶ Redesigning global value chains and supply chains
- ▶ Guaranteeing justice in the use of natural resources
- ▶ Protecting livelihoods against climate change

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Growing competition for land, water and other natural resources is putting more and more people under pressure and endangers their livelihoods. Small-scale farmers, field workers, indigenous people, women, and people living in the slums of large cities are particularly affected. This often results in continuing poverty, crises and conflicts.

## ACHIEVING THE GOAL BY

- ... urging companies and governments to assume responsibility for the sustainable and fair use of natural resources.
- ... supporting people to assert their rights in the use of natural resources.
- ... supporting people living in poverty in exercising their rights to basic services such as adequate housing or water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
- ... supporting workers, cooperatives and (small) entrepreneurs to improve their livelihoods.
- ... urging governments to pursue ambitious climate protection goals so that each country contributes equally to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- ... putting pressure on the German government to make more financial resources available for climate change adaptation in poor countries.

## AIMING FOR THE FOLLOWING RESULTS

More people living in poverty will be able to assert their right to equal access to natural resources within ecological boundaries.

More marginalised people will be able to improve their livelihoods.

German development cooperation will support more projects that contribute to a fair and sustainable use of natural resources.

# OBJECTIVE 6: FUNDING DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTING HEALTH AND EDUCATION

- ▶ Keeping the 0.7% commitment on development aid
- ▶ Ensuring fair taxation
- ▶ Demanding accountability

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Additional funding is needed to eradicate extreme poverty and combat social inequality by 2030. The governments of poor and rich countries alike must make funds available for poverty reduction and sustainable development and use them to improve the living conditions of the people most affected by poverty.

## ACHIEVING THE GOAL BY

- ... encouraging the governments of poor countries to increase their own revenues and use them to ensure free access to public education and health systems.
- ... advocating that Germany achieve the internationally agreed target of allocating 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) to development aid through real financial transfers to poor countries.
- ... advocating the introduction of fair national tax systems so that the ultra-rich and corporations in poor as well as rich countries make their fair contribution to tax revenues.
- ... supporting civil society organisations in encouraging governments, corporations and multi-lateral organisations to achieve greater transparency and better accountability for the money they spend.

## AIMING FOR THE FOLLOWING RESULTS

The funds allocated to humanitarian aid, poverty reduction and sustainable development will have increased significantly.

More poor and disadvantaged people will benefit from rising tax revenues and improved transparency and accountability.

More people in poor communities will have access to public, high-quality and free education and health systems.