



Photo: William Vest-Lillesø

# EDUCATION, RIGHTS AND RESILIENCE

## OXFAM IBIS' HUMANITARIAN PROFILE (DRAFT)

Oxfam IBIS works to save and protect lives, reduce suffering and promote the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalised girls and boys, women and men affected by crisis. Oxfam IBIS is committed to strengthen local leadership in humanitarian response and applies a multi-stakeholder approach to development of resilience through collaborative relationships between women and men, communities, civil society and different levels of government.

We live in a time with growing humanitarian challenges - including socio-political conflicts, worsening climate-related disasters and protracted crisis situations with repeated cycles of fighting. These challenges show a great need for new ways of working at local, national, regional and global levels in order to protect human rights in crisis situations and leave no-one behind. Globally 125 mio people affected by conflict and disasters are let down by their national leaders and the fractured "international community" because of failure to prevent and resolve conflicts, build resilience, tackle gender inequality and ensure access to the assistance and protection that women, men and children are entitled to receive.

In the face of escalating humanitarian demands and global commitments for change amongst others the Charter for Change, the Grand Bargain and World Humanitarian Summit Commitment to Action Oxfam is together with others committed to change its ways of working<sup>1</sup> to promote rights and dignity.

Specifically, Oxfam IBIS supports people to uphold their rights to conflict- and gender-sensitive education in crisis situations (SDG#4). Free formal and non-formal quality education is the right for every child, young person and adult – also in crisis situations. Oxfam IBIS supports directly access to quality education for girls and boys, youth and adults and also works to mainstream education into other humanitarian interventions regarding protection, WaSH and food security and livelihoods (EFSLV).

Oxfam IBIS will act as broker to strengthen the capacity and leadership of communities, civil society and local authorities in humanitarian response. Oxfam IBIS adds value to Oxfam through the partnership approach, and specific technical expertise, mainly within education and gender equality, that complements existing parts of Oxfam humanitarian work, ensuring coherence and exploring ways to maximize impact for example through support to relevant policy influencing.

<sup>1</sup> Commitment to Change: What world leaders must promise at the World Humanitarian Summit, 2016



## HUMANITARIAN PROFILE

---

Oxfam is committed to work with others to uphold the principle of “leaving no-one behind” and ensuring the respect for the Humanitarian International Law. Oxfam IBIS engages with duty bearers and other actors to facilitate timely and safe access to humanitarian assistance and protection for affected people. A human rights based approach is key to reaching highly vulnerable groups such as girls, women and displaced populations; including supporting girls and boys, women and men at risk or caught up in humanitarian crisis to raise their voices and claim their rights.

Oxfam is globally committed to meaningfully engage with others for improved coordination and efficiency of humanitarian resources. Through the “One Programme Approach” Oxfam aims to strengthen the engagement and links between humanitarian and development actors and sectors. For the last 15 years Oxfam IBIS “education in emergency and fragility work” has demonstrated that the context of emergency and development exists in a continuum, without any delineation of the phases. On this basis we have developed a strong framework where education interventions depend on the context and where education interventions aim to bridge the gaps between phases of emergencies<sup>1</sup>. In humanitarian crisis education contributes to (re)-building capacities of the communities and is thereby an important brick for self-reliance and resilient development.

Oxfam IBIS will work as an integral part of Oxfam, drawing on the professional experiences of the confederation in humanitarian crises both in relation to sector specific expertise (WASH and community engagement, livelihood and empowerment for youth, protection and gender) and in relation to safety and security, administration, accountability mechanisms, and HR.

### EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES AND FRAGILITY (EIE&F)

Oxfam IBIS works with education using a rights-based approach. Education is lifesaving and crucial for both the protection and development of girls and boys, youth and adults affected by crises. It can restore a sense of normalcy and safety and provide them with important life skills. It is also one of the best tools to invest in their long-term future and in the peace, stability and economic growth of their countries.

Often humanitarian programming does not sufficiently include education, but for Oxfam IBIS it is imperative, that education shall always be considered an integrated part of any humanitarian intervention. Integrating education in acute humanitarian responses maximizes impact and cost effective delivery of sustainable results across more sectors. Education can be seen as an approach, cross-cutting or a specific project in an intervention.

Oxfam IBIS humanitarian programmes will work to empower communities, local partners and selected groups for example youth and women through relevant and conflict sensitive education, training and/or capacity development that do no harm. Education interventions are expected to enable displaced men and women, girls and boys to acquire relevant knowledge and capacities to reduce vulnerabilities through protection against violence, food and nutrition, health and hygiene. Additionally, it will help people affected by crisis to build resilience based on community led and sustainable solutions as a basis for self-reliance by linking the humanitarian intervention and long-term, sustainable development work taking into consideration the root causes of the crisis and gender inequality.

---

<sup>1</sup> Oxfam IBIS Concept Paper on Education in Fragile Situations, 2015

## THE SPECTRUM OF EDUCATION WITHIN OXFAM HUMANITARIAN WORK

EDUCATION AS AN 'APPROACH'	EDUCATION AS A 'SECTOR'	
<p><b>Education as an enabling right</b> All Oxfam humanitarian programmes will empower communities, local partners and selected groups e.g. youth and women through relevant and conflict sensitive education, training and/or capacity development that do no harm. This is the responsibility of all humanitarian staff.</p>	<p><b>Education as cross-cutting</b> Specific education components (e.g. basic literacy/skills development, capacity development of teachers, alternative education models) are integrated into a humanitarian response along-side Oxfam's protection, WaSH and EFSVL interventions.</p>	<p><b>Education Interventions</b> Projects and programmes that have specific education objectives and are of sufficient scale and scope to be considered 'stand alone'. (These are often multi-year programmes in protracted crises with both a humanitarian and more long term approach).</p>

Oxfam IBIS' experience places the organisation in a strong position to develop innovative models for quality education in fragile situations that bridges gaps and supports transition to more stable situations. Relevant and gender-sensitive education addresses root causes of conflict as it contributes to change processes about values and behavior, and provides opportunities to promote local leadership and a platform for dialogue between communities, emerging civil society and governments.

Oxfam IBIS approach has a focus on building local leadership and partner capacity to implement formal and non-formal inclusive quality education models.

In **acute humanitarian crisis**, Oxfam IBIS focus on innovative approaches and models, including:

- Temporary basic literacy, life skills and skills development for children, youth and adults
- Specific approach for adolescents/youth and for displaced populations - to avoid producing 'lost generations' of citizens without a relevant education - bridging to formal education
- Capacity development processes and other support to teachers/educators
- Gender Analysis and Equality in and through education response
- Conflict sensitive education (INEE standards)
- Psychosocial support (PSS) and protection as part of safe learning environment, also for teachers/educators (a component Oxfam IBIS will need to develop further)
- Collaboration with and capacity development of communities, civil society organizations and local authorities - and bringing actors together to discuss challenges and identify solutions

In **protracted crisis/fragile situations**, including:

- Alternative and Second Chance Education for conflict-affected adolescents and youth (for example basic literacy, accelerated learning programmes, life skills, skills development, technical vocational training)
- Education with a gender focus for example involving boys and men as champions ensuring that women and girls are not left behind
- Advocacy for relevant and sustainable educational opportunities for vulnerable groups, including IDPs and refugee populations
- Community involvement and capacity development in establishment of education initiatives e.g. through Parents Teachers Association (PTAs) and to strengthen local leadership
- Building resilience and local capacity, including for learners, organizations and education systems
- Capacity development and support to establishment/creation of National Education Coalitions (NEC) and other policy platforms
- Support to Governments /Ministry of Education (for example minimum standards, capacity building, curriculum development)

## GENDER EQUALITY

Oxfam IBIS will through its humanitarian response work to support particularly poor and vulnerable women and girls in improving their quality of life, to live in greater security and dignity, as a result of being more empowered. Empowering women and building a stronger inclusive civil society to engage with traditional, local, and national power-holders will lead to an environment where there is a stronger social contract and basis for peace and development. Particularly through education interventions Oxfam IBIS will work to enhance women's and men's knowledge and capacities to empower girls and women to participate effectively in decision-making in schools, management committees and communities, and to end discrimination and violence against girls and women.

Oxfam IBIS will also increase financial support and level of engagement with women's rights organizations to engage in humanitarian preparedness, response and influencing. All interventions will be informed by gender analysis and include targets and indicators to measure improvements in the situation of women and girls, including adequate training on the Oxfam Gender in Emergencies Minimum Standards and IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action.

## RESILIENCE

Oxfam has established the Resilience Knowledge Hub (KH) with the ambition to change its ways of working. It has elaborated a framework and guidance on Oxfam's approach to resilience and informs programming across the humanitarian and development nexus. "Understanding the context" through involvement of crisis-affected girls and women, boys and men, local authorities and other stakeholders and through local leadership is a main component of the pathways to resilient development.

Oxfam IBIS pays increasing attention to inclusive dialogue and developing resilience of the most vulnerable and marginalized people in order to contribute to conflict reduction and conditions for peacebuilding and to the respect for International Humanitarian Law. Under the Resilience KH Oxfam IBIS will continuously work at strengthening capacity and learning through participation in two major activities (next 2 years): 'linking humanitarian and development contextual analysis' and 'working with local authorities in protracted displacement crises'.

## HUMANITARIAN INFLUENCING

Advocacy for human rights in crises and for international humanitarian law and principles is imperative for enhancing the protection of civilians and for increasing local leadership in humanitarian action. Oxfam IBIS will work for the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable before, during and after crises through targeted advocacy at local, national and regional levels. In these contexts Oxfam IBIS will act as broker to strengthen the capacity and leadership of communities, civil society and local authorities in humanitarian response (c.f. Charter for Change, Grand Bargain and World Humanitarian Summit Commitment to Action).

Oxfam IBIS will strengthen its advocacy interventions based on the existing Oxfam platforms to hold duty bearers accountable through influencing governments, UN and regional organisations in West and East Africa and in relation to the African Union, while at the same time adding value to the existing work of Oxfam, specifically related to the right to equal education and protection. Furthermore Oxfam IBIS will make sure that the views of marginalized groups are at the heart of influencing work and that advocacy efforts support the building of a constructive dynamic between different actors for improved protection of civilians, changes of policies and practices, enhanced impacts of life-saving humanitarian assistance and sustainable long-term development work, more active participation of those who are often excluded from decision making – including through amplifying the voices of affected communities.

## OXFAM IBIS' WAYS OF WORKING

**Community involvement** is a foundation for change and durable solutions. Oxfam IBIS' and Oxfam's expertise in community mobilization and participation will be strengthened through defining clearer core models and principles for community engagement in both rural and urban contexts and by working with others to expand the evidence base. All teams – WASH, gender, protection, education, food security and livelihoods will continue harmonizing activities in developing comprehensive context analysis to inform programme design and a coherent approach to working with affected communities.

**Gender sensitive approach** through the joint forces in Oxfam with the aim to reduce the unequal impact of conflict and disasters on men and women by recognizing how power differentials affect the most vulnerable groups. We will increase our focus on poor women's needs, understanding the power dynamics between women and men and ensuring that this informs our humanitarian work.

**Local leadership and capacity.** Oxfam IBIS has sound experience with working in partnerships with civil society organizations from development and post-conflict contexts. It will add value to Oxfam's work to increasingly work with national/local partners and build their capacity as humanitarian response actors. A contextually adapted and tailor made version of Oxfam IBIS approach to partnerships and capacity development is implemented in conflict affected contexts. Oxfam IBIS approach will gain from expertise in Oxfam and be based on participatory, multi-stakeholder analysis of the humanitarian ecosystem such as 'Fresh'. The 'Fresh Analysis' (implemented by Oxfam in seventeen countries for example in Somalia) is used to assess the capacity of local humanitarian actors in a given context and following present concrete proposals on how to develop humanitarian capacities, leadership, and coordination for preparedness and an effective response in a country. Given the crucial role that local and national state structures will need to play, Oxfam will also support and advocate for each state's capacity and will to respond and prepare, and to do so in line with international humanitarian principles and standards.

**Coordination, Coherence and Accountability.** Oxfam is involved with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination, policy development and decision-making relating to humanitarian assistance. As part of the IASC transformative agenda Oxfam sectors (for example WASH and protection) and Oxfam IBIS education team will work with Global and National Clusters (Education) to support coordination, efficiency, advocacy and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) by

1. developing effective mechanisms for ensuring programmatic accountability to people affected by emergencies,
2. coordinating efficient implementation and
3. ensuring collaboration with national authorities and alignment with national policies and guidelines.

Oxfam IBIS will continue collaboration with other international networks and alliances for example Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and adhere to the Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, Response and Recovery - A Commitment to Access, Quality and Accountability.

**Innovation.** Oxfam IBIS will continuously explore improved gender and conflict sensitive approaches to education in emergencies and will in collaboration with other agencies under the umbrella of Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) document good practices and support development of new and innovative approaches. In addition, good practices will be documented to showcase innovations that states could adopt at scale. Oxfam IBIS will in collaboration with other partners (for example UNHCR and UNESCO) explore how new and affordable technologies can reinforce education in emergency and crisis contexts, and expand learning opportunities and inclusion for displaced people, including digital solutions that can better include low-skilled and low-literate youth and adults into digital education and knowledge society to help close the literacy gap.

## OXFAM IBIS' HUMANITARIAN CAPACITY AND VALUES

Oxfam IBIS will work as an integral part of Oxfam, drawing on the professional experiences of the confederation in humanitarian crises both in relation to sector specific expertise (WASH and community engagement, livelihood and empowerment for youth, protection and gender) and in relation to safety and security, administration, accountability mechanisms, and HR. In collaboration with local partners the humanitarian work is mainly implemented by the Oxfam Country Offices, which operate in more than 90 countries, and with technical support and capacity building from Oxfam's Global Humanitarian Team (GHT).

As documented through its track record from projects in Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Haiti, South Sudan and Somalia, the strength of Oxfam IBIS is to provide transformative education and skills development in protracted crisis/post conflict situations, enabling vulnerable people to build knowledge, life skills and capacities to enhance resilience, initiate recovery and prevent future crisis. Oxfam IBIS will establish, pilot and build up Oxfam education in emergencies and fragility interventions in few countries (initially South Sudan and Mali) to ensure equal access to quality education and as an approach and cross-cutting activity along with other Oxfam programmes/sector interventions. Good practices will be documented, showcased and will form the basis for stepping up in additional countries. Oxfam IBIS will invest in and work to be an integral part of GHT.

### HUMANITARIAN CAPACITY

Oxfam as a confederation has gone through several changes in the last couple of years in order to streamline and become more efficient especially in responding to emergencies. The GHT was created with a remit to provide surge capacity and support to all large disaster responses. Oxfam complies with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Sphere standards. Oxfam is currently planning the independent and external Common Humanitarian Standards (CHS) certification with Oxfam IBIS and Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI). Oxfam is a member of the CHS Alliance and has contributed to the set-up of the CHS and the system of verification and certification procedures. Last year the GHT carried out a CHS self-assessment as part of the commitment through Oxfam GB to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) in the UK.

### TECHNICAL RESOURCES AND COMPETENCIES

Two Humanitarian Support Personnel (HSP) on Education in Emergencies will be hired for Category 1 and 2 humanitarian responses in coordination with Oxfam GHT. They will be deployable project staff in emergencies and part of a large pool of diverse technical staff under GHT. They are, together with national staff, the primary responders in new emergencies. They are deployed globally from their home base for periods of between 3 to 6 months and are central to enable the start up and maintenance of large scale responses.

The management of the Humanitarian Portfolio will be the responsibility of the Humanitarian Team of Oxfam IBIS, including two Technical Advisors (Education and Gender/Advocacy) and a Humanitarian Manager, who will ensure quality control, timely results reporting and risk management. Risk management will be based on risk analysis and operational procedures in place within the Country Team and GHT.

### CONCEPT PAPERS DEFINING OXFAM IBIS' UNDERSTANDING AND APPROACH

- Quality Education
- Transformative Education
- Educator Professional Development
- Youth Education and Training
- Mother Tongue-Bilingual Education
- Education in Fragile Situations
- Education and Gender Equality

*All concept papers can be found at [www.oxfamibis.org/education](http://www.oxfamibis.org/education)*

June 2017

[oxfamibis@oxfamibis.dk](mailto:oxfamibis@oxfamibis.dk), Vesterbrogade 2 B, 1620 Copenhagen V, Denmark