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© OXFAM IBIS 2016
ISSN: 1901-9211

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ABOUT US
Oxfam IBIS is the Danish member of a global movement of people who won’t live with the injustice of poverty. Together we help children and adults to a better future through education, enabling them to combat poverty in their own lives and to take part in building better societies. We save and rebuild lives in disasters. We help people build better lives for themselves. We speak out on the big issues that keep people poor, like inequality, discrimination and climate change. And we won’t stop until every person on the planet can live without poverty. Join us.
I am left both breathless and impressed when looking back at the activities of Oxfam IBIS in the course of the past year. On the one hand, it was a dramatic and in many ways sad year, with external factors posing major challenges. On the other hand, in spite of the tough conditions, we fortunately managed to deliver a series of great results in which we can only take pride. I will get back to those.

To me the worst thing to happen during the year was the cutback in Danish development cooperation, which forced us to reduce activities and lay off staff dramatically. It had an impact on interventions and results both at home and abroad. What particularly saddens me is that we had to give up plans for new education projects, and that children and young people will thus miss the chance in life that a quality education would have given them.

It is disgraceful that, being one of the richest countries in the world, we find it expedient to reduce Denmark’s contribution to a better world by more than DKK 3.5 billion (EUR 470 million). It’s easy to imagine what could have been accomplished with this money. And it is acutely felt when budget cuts exceed, every single year, the funds raised by Danish organisations’ televised Denmark Collection 30 times over. It makes no sense to claim otherwise.

The refugee crisis fills me with concern on a daily basis. In the spring, it galvanised us to stand up for refugee children’s right to go to school. A life on the run is not something one can just put behind, so we must see to it that, at a minimum, the children get an education that will equip them for their future adulthood. They should not be punished twice.

Massive exposures of tax dodging in LuxLeaks and the Panama Papers revealed huge problems in getting everyone to contribute to the common economic good in a fair and transparent manner. And most recently, South Sudan – the world’s youngest country – fell back into civil war and chaos. It brings terrible suffering to ordinary people and wrecks important education projects that were busy bringing hope and opportunities to children and young people.

A LIGHT IN THE DARK

Despite the challenges, it was still a year in which we became stronger than ever. This is because we joined Oxfam. We have now become Oxfam IBIS, thus forming part of a global movement of people who won’t live with poverty. This enables us to fight poverty and inequality in over 90 countries across the world. It brings hope and courage to carry on the struggle.

One of the absolute highlights for me was in March, when I signed the final agreement on admission to Oxfam. It was a solemn moment, representing the culmination of many years of profound reflections and important debates. The ceremony took place at the same place, the University of Oxford, where Oxfam was founded 75 years ago, which obviously added another touch to the sensation of history in the making.

Oxfam IBIS’ volunteers were, this year once again, a great source of inspiration to me. They demonstrated drive and determination to reach more people, fomenting debate and presenting opportunities for direct action. For example, they backed up our petition to let refugee children go to school by collecting signatures and crowdfunding city bus adverts. And they produced a delightful little video that brought the story about our change of name to Oxfam IBIS to lots of Danes on social media.

I am looking forward to the global struggle in the year to come under the banner of Oxfam IBIS. It will be exciting to see what we can accomplish together with partners, volunteers, members and all the other Oxfam organisations. I am convinced that together we can make a massive contribution to the fight against poverty and inequality.

Mette Müller
Chairwoman of Oxfam IBIS
TOGETHER WE CAN ERADICATE POVERTY

In March 2016, IBIS officially became Oxfam IBIS. We took this step because poverty is a global problem, which we need to eradicate through global cooperation. Our Oxfam membership offers huge opportunities – join us!

WE ARE OXFAM – TOGETHER!
Oxfam is a global movement of people who won’t live with poverty, and we work together to end this injustice for everyone.

We are ordinary people from all walks of life: Idealistic enthusiasts, school teachers, catering students, policy experts, mining activists, cocoa farmers, women’s rights advocates, water engineers, parents, fundraisers, development practitioners, campaign staff, indigenous peoples, and many more.

We believe we can be empowered by working together for a just and equal world without poverty. A world where everyone has the opportunity to get a good education, so that they can fight poverty in their own life. Where everyone exerts influence on the decisions that affect their life. Where everyone becomes safer and comes back stronger after disasters. And where everyone is able to exercise their rights and duties as full citizens in a democratic world, where all are seen and treated as equals.

50 YEARS OF HISTORY
It is, of course a coincidence that we are turning 50 and becoming Oxfam IBIS in the same year. Nevertheless, it makes quite a lot of sense.

For 25 years, we were the Danish chapter of World University Service (WUS), a global network of student organisations which fought for education for all. Our sympathy with liberation movements and the struggle against Apartheid changed our approach, as we actively sought to support these movements’ quests for freedom and democracy by means of education.

Our programmes and ambitions grew. We ceased to belong to WUS, and for the next 25 years our name was IBIS, an independent Danish development organisation, free to partner up with whoever shared our belief that education creates development.

One such partner has been Oxfam. Our cooperation has been particularly strong at the political level, seeking to influence the unjust structures that keep people in poverty, but we have also joined forces to secure education for all, including through the Global Campaign for Education, the Danish arm of which is the Education for All campaign.

The need for closer ties of cooperation grew. In the year 2000, we joined Alliance 2015, carrying out joint programmes with other NGOs in Europe. This engagement has now ended.

Oxfam has over 70 years’ experience and works in more than 90 countries. We know what it takes to eradicate poverty. And we can mobilise and involve people and resources across the world to make it happen. Last year, Oxfam helped more than 25 million people, and conducted campaigns in favour of an even higher number of people.
BLAZING NEW TRAILS ...  
The struggle against poverty and injustice has always been in IBIS’ DNA. The only difference now is that we are fighting alongside even more people, and the whole world has become our field of work.

We have joined a vigorous organisation that is quick to react when disaster strikes. This also enables Oxfam IBIS to be ready to involve the Danes in helping victims come back stronger, so that they can cope on their own, perhaps even better than before.

Oxfam IBIS is known as one of Europe’s strongest champions of everyone’s right to a good education. Oxfam is the world’s leading expert in securing water and sanitation in disaster scenarios. Our cooperation criss-crosses all areas, and we are happy to share our knowledge with other organisations too.

... YET STAYING ON COURSE  
In Oxfam IBIS, we continue to work for a just world, in which everyone has equal access to education, influence and resources. We still believe that partnerships are the path to sustainable development. By working within Oxfam, opportunities for cooperation are expanded.

The struggle for quality education continues to be the top item on our list. Because schooling that gives one the ability to earn livelihood and the courage to speak up is one of the most important tools for facing up to inequality and fighting poverty.

As members of Oxfam, we are strengthening our efforts to prevent big corporations and absurdly rich individuals from hiding vast fortunes in tax havens – money that could have been spent on, for instance, schools for the poorest people in the world. This is because the struggle against tax havens needs to be waged globally, and those in power will pay real attention when we speak with one voice.

Likewise, we will continue to fight for the rights of indigenous peoples, not least in Latin America. Because poverty also needs to be fought when it is confined to particular vulnerable groups.

THE END OF POVERTY?  
Ending poverty for everyone isn’t a pipe dream. We know that people have the power to do it – that a person’s time, money or action can help to end poverty for someone else. But more than that, we believe that within our lifetime, we really won’t live with extreme poverty anymore. It’s hard to believe but the proportion of the world who are living on less than $1.25 (the World Bank’s definition of extreme poverty) has halved in just 15 years, from 36% to 18%. We believe, and leading experts agree, that in 15 more years we can end extreme poverty for good.
COUNTRY BY COUNTRY
"I JUST PUT UP WITH MY HUSBAND BEATING ME"

GUATEMALA: Violence and sexual abuse is everyday life for many Guatemalan women and children, and a lot of crimes are committed with impunity. Last year, Oxfam IBIS focused on breaking the taboo.

Wearing her colourful traditional dress, Silvana Ajenal Cajas sits upright on the premises of Oxfam IBIS’ partner Proyecto Miriam. Here she has worked to help women affected by violence to a better life. Today she is a proud Mayan woman who fights for her people. However, the past has left deep scars. For seven years, she endured a marriage in which violence, oppression and fear were the daily fare.

“I accepted that my husband hit me and locked me up. I’d always dressed up in our traditional clothes with pride. But he said he couldn’t stand those disgusting indigenous people, and forbade me to wear them. He treated me like I was worthless,” recounts the 32-year-old woman.

Instead of reporting her husband to the police, Silvana considered other solutions to escape the violence. Because she had begun to believe that she deserved it.

“I thought about taking my own life, but I didn’t want to do it alone. I couldn’t leave my daughters with him. And I didn’t have the right to kill them too,” she says.

Assisted by Oxfam IBIS, last year Silvana obtained a scholarship, enabling her to take a diploma course. This gave her the right tools, first to help herself get out of the violent relationship, and then to help others do the same.

EFFORT THAT WORKS
Violence and sexual abuse are extremely taboo-ridden in Guatemala, and far too often such crime goes unpunished. Victims are wary of denouncing it, fearing retaliation from the perpetrator or his family.

It is at the core of Oxfam IBIS’ work in Guatemala to combat violence against women. In 2015, we carried out – alongside the rest of Oxfam – a campaign under the heading “Not a single woman must be beaten anymore”. Through information materials, radio and TV spots, we drew attention to the need for violence to be reported to the police. The work took place in close dialogue with the local authorities, who welcomed the campaign and assisted in its execution.

The results are in plain sight. In the seven municipalities where the campaign was carried out, reporting of violence went up by 90 percent compared to the previous year.

RIGHTS: Following a prolonged process, 350 families from the Maya Ixil people were awarded just over one million euros in compensation from the company behind a hydro-power plant, which had been built on their land. Oxfam IBIS had provided assistance to this effect, including analysis and legal counselling.

CONVICTIONS: The Supreme Court of Guatemala sentenced two former military men to 360 years in prison for murdering, raping and keeping Mayan women as sex slaves in the so-called Sepur Zarko case. The verdict marks a great triumph for the Mayan women, whom we have supported in their struggle to expose the numerous crimes committed against them during the civil war in Guatemala.

EDUCATION: 11,758 people were taught about their rights during 2015 with support from Oxfam IBIS.
MODESTA’S FAMILY WILL NOT BE EVICTED

NICARAGUA: A few years ago, the Rama and Kriol peoples were finally recognised as owners of their territory. However, poor peasants from the rest of the country continue to be drawn to this uncultivated land, giving rise to conflict. Official lease agreements are a good solution for both parties.

Modesta Gaitan Roger is the oldest in the settler family. Along with 18 of her children, grandchildren and children-in-law, she lives in a couple of small huts on stilts in a remote area of the Rama-Kriol territory. There are no roads. The only way to get there is by boat. It takes hard work to farm this land, and none of the children go to school. But at the end of the day, they have succeeded in piecing together a livelihood from scratch.

The trouble is they are not Rama or Kriol. They have arrived from another part of Nicaragua, and they do not own the land that they inhabit. This has caused them a lot of problems.

PAPERS GIVE SECURITY

In 2009, the Rama and Kriol were officially awarded their territory in south-eastern Nicaragua. This was a massive victory for these indigenous peoples, who had fought for years for what was rightfully theirs. However, since then, poor settlers from other parts of the country have encroached on the territory illegally. They clear the forests and grow the land against the will of the Rama and Kriol.

This is why, in 2015, the Rama-Kriol territorial government drew up, with support from Oxfam IBIS, a guide for peaceful coexistence between the settlers and the local indigenous people. It requires settlers to abide by a host of rules. In return, those who are approved may enter into an official lease agreement, which entitles them to live there.

Modesta Gaitan Roger’s family are among those whose right to reside in their new homes has now been set down on paper. And it means the world to them.

“We’re much better off now! We used to be in constant trouble over someone wanting to expel us,” she recounts.

“We’ve become much more secure in our tenure,” her son-in-law, Gregorio Ruiz elaborates. “[Today everyone knows we have a lease agreement, and if a problem comes up, we go to the office of the territorial government right away.”

Land-holding issues are highly complex all over Nicaragua, but the guide to coexistence drawn up by the Rama and Kriol has proven successful both for settlers and for indigenous inhabitants. The idea is to use it as a blueprint for other indigenous peoples in the country who need to administer territorial rights and protect the environment.

3 MILESTONES IN 2015

EDUCATION: 3,274 people from the education sector were involved in a variety of projects with the aim of raising the quality of education in the country, for example by teaching in the pupils’ mother tongue.

HUMAN RIGHTS: We supported the Nicaraguan human rights commission. As one of the results, 115 young people were trained as human rights defenders, thus enabling them to stand up for the rights of their communities today.

MICRO-FIRMS: 100 poor Nicaraguans, of whom 70 were women, received help to start up small businesses, thus giving them a livelihood.
BOLIVIA: For the extremely poor indigenous people in the Bolivian highlands, learning to read and write is not enough. The children also need practical skills to improve the lives of their families here and now.

For a visitor from Denmark, a horticultural superpower, the humble greenhouse does not impress. But for 16-year-old Marcos, it represents something of a revolution. In the barren landscape of the Bolivian highlands where he lives, plant growth is usually limited to a few dry tufts of grass here and there, nibbled on by llamas. So the vegetables that Marcos has learned to grow in the school’s greenhouse, and is now able to plant on a patch at home, mean the world for him and his family.

Bolivia is inhabited by 36 indigenous peoples, each with its own culture, traditions and language. This poses quite a challenge for the planning of what the children should learn at school. Accordingly, Oxfam IBIS and our partners have – in cooperation with the authorities – embarked on the development of regional and local curricula, so that all Bolivian children can be taught something that makes sense to them and in their own language. The latter cannot just be taken for granted. In many classrooms across the country, children sit without understanding a word of what is spoken.

LOCAL ADAPTATION
One of the tenets of the curriculum in the area where Marcos lives is that the children, in addition to reading and writing, should also learn something practical. It is decided locally what this might be. In his village, they have agreed that horticulture is a good idea. In neighbouring villages, the children learn to raise rabbits or fish, to sew or work with wood, depending on what makes the most sense in each place. Thus, schools are helping create tangible development and progress, at the same time as they are giving the children an academic education.

Preparing curriculums for each and every indigenous people in Bolivia is a vast endeavour. This year we managed 16 out of 36.

3 MILESTONES IN 2015

PROTOTYPES: Models for intercultural bilingual education were tested in selected schools with good results, as 1,499 teachers were taught and trained to use the models, and 80 percent of the teachers subsequently used them in the classrooms. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education decided to turn these schools into models for the implementation of the Education Act.

WOMEN AT WORK: 462 mature and young women completed a professional course in either gastronomy or children’s clothes production. In addition to acquiring vocational skills, the women were trained in running their own businesses. 20 small firms dedicated to catering and 20 to production and sales of children’s clothes were set up in 2015. The women’s income rose by about 30 percent.

YOUTH MEETINGS: In five towns, local youth networks were strengthened. Young people met in community centres, enabling them to join in cultural activities, debates and workshops on young people’s rights, on how to influence authorities, and how to raise funds. Among the teaching subjects were Facebook and YouTube.
The days in Yaw H-Gbapoan’s life used to be barely distinguishable. He got up. Ate. Toiled in the field. Went to bed. The next day would be the same, hopefully with something to eat again.

12-year-old Yaw comes from a poor peasant family in northern Ghana. His family lives hand to mouth from a small plot slightly bigger than a vegetable patch in a rich country, the soil of which is becoming increasingly exhausted as the years go by. This is how people in this area have lived for generations.

But now Yaw’s life has changed. Recently he took a decisive step towards a brighter future. With his heart in his throat, he set foot in a classroom for the first time ever.

A GREAT SUCCESS
Actually, Yaw had become too old to start at school. But now he has been enrolled in a CBE class, a nine-month crash course, whose intensive pace has been especially designed for older children like him. Hopefully, this will allow him to catch up on what other pupils of his age have learned, and then leapfrog directly into grade 3 or 4 after completing the course.

For years, Oxfam IBIS has been working on this supplementary educational programme targeted at poor Ghanaian children from the rural districts, who would otherwise never have set foot in a school. In 2015, 6,009 children began in a CBE class, and fully 97 percent of them completed it.

The success has been so eye-catching that the authorities are now engaged in rolling out the concept in 21 districts. The aim is that 200,000 children will graduate from the 9-month course in the period 2012-2018.

Yaw’s dream is to continue in school after the course is over. And he has reason to be optimistic. 93 percent of the pupils move on to a mainstream primary school afterwards.

FIRST SCHOOL DAY AS A 12-YEAR-OLD
GHANA: Just like thousands of other children in the rural districts, 12-year-old Yaw had given up his dream of going to school. A special course has now helped him enrol.

3 MILESTONES IN 2015

GIRLS’ SCHOOLS: Oxfam IBIS’ Girls Model School was such a success that the authorities in another district decided to copy it. Accordingly, even more poor girls are now getting the opportunity to receive a quality education.

TAX HAVEN: Our partner ACEP published a report on illegal money flows and loopholes in the tax system, which has cost Ghana USD 3.86 billion over a period of ten years. The report became a hot issue in the media, and ACEP entered into a dialogue with the authorities about reforming extractive industries.

FEMALE CHIEFS: Although women often hold much power in tribal communities, this role is fading away. Our partners set out to turn the spotlight back onto traditional female chiefhood. Among their activities in 2015, they published a photo diary about some of these women’s lives. It is intended to inspire other women getting involved in politics.
In euros, the amount is 188,170,000,000. That is 188.17 billion. Quite a bit of money indeed. In a poor country like Mozambique, it is six times the annual GNP.

This is the amount expected to enter government coffers in tax revenues alone, after US oil company Anadarko discovered immense natural gas deposits under the seabed off the country’s shores in 2012. Small wonder the authorities are eager to get production started.

This is why they have granted an area of 70 square kilometres (27 square miles) to Anadarko, where the company plans to build an enormous industrial plant, ‘The Big Factory’, as the locals call it.

The problem is the area is not uninhabited. The Quitupo people have lived there for generations, farming the land and fishing in the sea. These 5,000 inhabitants will be forced to move to make room for The Big Factory.

According to Mozambican law, they have the right to be involved in the process. They must be fairly compensated. And all information needs to be presented to them in a language that they understand, so they can be sure that their living conditions in the new place will be better and not worse than where they are today.

However, this is not how the process has played out so far.

A STRONGER WATCHDOG

This is not the first time in the history of Mozambique that the local community has been short-changed in a case like this.

In 2009, 7,000 families in another province were resettled to make room for a large factory of the Brazilian-owned corporation Vale Mozambique. The consequences were disastrous, not just for the displaced families, but also for the new factory, which still suffers from constant strikes and work stoppages.

This is why we joined forces with a series of other international NGOs to tackle this case. We are supporting the national platform for extractive industries, which is composed of 35 local organisations. They act as watchdog towards the company and the authorities.

Together we have trained the local population in the law, rules and regulations. We have strengthened the resettlement committees, which represent the inhabitants about to be evicted. Meanwhile, our partners have attended a variety of public meetings. The fourth round in this series of meetings was held in 2015, and the struggle is not over. For the time being, it has resulted in the Quitupo people staying on their land. The building process has been suspended until their rights have been taken into account. The Big Factory will just have to wait for a bit longer.

TEST:

Many pupils in Mozambican schools are unable to read. We have therefore worked to measure reading skills among third graders with a new testing tool. It has boosted the motivation of teachers and school managers that they can now measure the quality of teaching. In 2015, 3,139 pupils were tested, and 87 percent were found able to read and write. This was an improvement of 17 percentage on the previous year.

BANK ACCOUNT:

According to a law from 2013, 20 percent of the income from forestry must benefit the local population, but the law had never been upheld. Oxfam IBIS helped local councils in the Mocuba District to open bank accounts, into which an amount equivalent to €14,400 was subsequently deposited. This money can now be spent on improvements in the community.

TECHNOLOGY:

A random sample showed that 45 percent of teachers in Mozambican schools failed to turn up in class. Together with our partners, we set up a group on the social medium WhatsApp, where citizens can share photos of teachers’ truancy. The system is used by the authorities to keep an eye on whether teachers report for duty. As a direct consequence, two teachers have been dismissed.
Flakes of light wood hit the ground, as 23-year-old Patience Kudee carves fine and intricate patterns into the tabletop. She is making a table as part of her practical exam for the Carpentry Degree at a centre called Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE), which is located in the town of Zwedru, deep in the Liberian rainforest.

Last year, Patience was hired by a local carpenter. However, she soon realised that her ambitions went further than being the errand girl. So she quit her job and began to take evening classes. Here a friend told her about EYE, and she was inspired to apply for registration. Now she is on her way to becoming a graduate carpenter, the only woman in her class.

After more than ten years of civil war, Liberia was already a weak state before Ebola began to wreak havoc. The education system was in tatters. Many were dropping out of school, few girls completed their education, and teachers were in short supply.

Ebola only made matters worse. Due to the danger of infection, having more than ten people in a room was banned, so the schools had to close for a whole year.

BACK AFTER EBOLA
In mid-2015, the schools opened again, but many parents, still in fear of ebola, were nervous about sending their children. Therefore, much of Oxfam IBIS’ work in the country in 2015 was dedicated to informing people that the schools were once again safe.

When EYE opened ten years ago, the aim was to provide Liberia’s young people with livelihoods after the civil war. Students are aged between 15 and 35 years, and have already gone through far too much. Some have lost close family members, others fought in the war as child soldiers.

At the centre, they obtain a diploma course, e.g. in bricklaying, carpentry or cosmetology, and afterwards a mentor supports them in setting up their own business.

Due to Ebola, Oxfam IBIS had to close EYE last year. But once it reopened in March 2015, 70 students were enrolled and stayed until course completion after ten months. One of them was Patience.

The diploma means the world for the 23-year-old woman. It gives her the courage and skills to start up as a self-employed business owner in the future. And such drive is precisely what it takes to set Liberia on a new path to development.
GOLD FEVER RAGING

BURKINA FASO: Poverty-stricken miners use toxic chemicals to extract gold from the soil, having no idea of the hazards. Oxfam IBIS has provided them with training.

In the bone-dry, dusty landscape in the Sahel Region bordering the Sahara, thousands of men, women and children work in a modern-day Klondike. This is because there is gold in the soil, and the precious metal has a magnetic pull on the local population, who are among the poorest in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Using hand power, the men dig deep holes and shafts in the ground, from which they extract the gold with rudimentary methods. Working in the intense heat is exhausting and potentially deadly. It does not help matters that workers have begun, in recent years, to extract the gold using chemicals such as mercury and cyanide. Very few of them have ever been to school, and nobody has the slightest idea of how dangerous these substances are.

This is why Oxfam IBIS, alongside a local partner, has taught around 100 representatives of the mining company and the workers about rights and risks, both to themselves and to the environment. We cooperate with both the trade union and the local authorities in order to improve working conditions. And it has been a success, as all parties involved have been pleased to take part.

“This training has been highly valuable to our members. Before, many of them knew nothing about the laws, rights and duties that go with their job,” says the local trade union leader.

It is the intention that course participants help spread the new knowledge to all their colleagues. And the trade union chairman envisages great prospects, hoping that these experiences will inspire people in other parts of Burkina Faso:

“Just like here, there are thousands of miners in other places. We want all of them to learn what we’ve learned.”
Closed schools are not commonly associated with better learning. But for the children at KDEC Primary School in Kocheor, this was indeed what happened.

The school has 225 pupils and five teachers, and is located in a remote rural area. The pupils had neither schoolbooks nor other basic teaching aids. They performed poorly in national exams, which must be passed to carry on in secondary school. Thus, in 2014, only six pupils sat for the exam, and every single one of them failed.

Accordingly, a low level of expectations was the order of the day when the massive Ebola outbreak hit, and the school was closed to prevent infection, just like other Sierra Leonean schools. This was what prompted Oxfam IBIS to support remote learning by radio. And together with our partners, we distributed packages of schoolbooks, notebooks and pencils to pupils. Moreover, teachers gathered pupils in small groups and followed up the radio lessons. This enabled these children to continue school during the Ebola outbreak, while parents could keep an eye on whether they did their homework.

The radio school was a success. In fact, so much so that it continued as a supplement to classroom teaching after the schools reopened. In 2015, the school in Kocheor was able to sign up no less than 16 pupils for the national exam. And this time all of them passed. So not only was the children’s education successfully kept going while schools were closed – it was actually improved.

In total, 4,128 children benefited from Oxfam IBIS-supported remote teaching by radio during the Ebola outbreak, and more than half of them were girls. At the same time, 1,034 teachers received in-service training in teaching methodology.
A tall boy with a sombre look in his eyes limps through the dust into the classroom, where he sits down on a stone. He produces a notebook with footballers and gets ready to use his pencil. The bandage around his foot has been changed lately. However, it only alleviates the symptoms of the bullet wound he received in battle two years ago.

Steven Gai Jule is 16 years old and studies at the Oxfam IBIS-sponsored ALP school in Ganyiel in northern South Sudan. When he was 12, he was dragged out of school and sent to an opposition army military camp. He fought against the government troops for two years, until he was wounded in an attack.

Steven got off lightly compared to many of his comrades, who were killed in battle. And despite complications in the healing of his bullet wound, preventing him from playing football with fellow pupils, he is nevertheless delighted to be back in school.

ALTERNATIVE TO WAR

Sitting around Steven, are other former child soldiers, refugees and young people who also had to break off school due to armed conflict. The ALP School enables them to catch up on what they have missed out on by means of a four-year course, which Oxfam IBIS has previously tried out with success following the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone. It encompasses training teachers to deliver quality education in schoolchildren’s mother tongue, building schools, distributing teaching aids and involving parents. So far, we have set up ten ALP schools in northern South Sudan. They provide pupils with an alternative to war and equip them with basic academic skills, enabling them to contribute constructively to developing their young nation.

Children and young people are immersed in learning, sitting on stones, empty cans, tree stumps and broken plastic chairs. Despite being in such a humble state, the classroom is full of hope and dreams of a South Sudan without war and famine. Steven’s dream is to become a doctor. “Then I can save lives and treat my people,” he says with his hand on his bandaged foot.

MILESTONES IN 2015

SMALL BUSINESSES: 1,329 people studied a course of basic reading and business understanding, and were helped to start up 88 small business groups, which produced and sold, for instance, tea, pastry and second-hand clothes. The groups earned between €15 and 50 a month last year. That is hardly a fortune, but it is much more than what the group members have previously had to spend.

HORTICULTURE: 7,972 South Sudanese – primarily women – were taught, among other things, how to grow vegetables. This will enable them to give their family a varied diet, and some of them will harvest a surplus for sale on the market.

EDUCATION SECTOR: Oxfam IBIS took the first step to set up a partner platform, so that local NGOs, authorities and other stakeholders can cooperate on building South Sudan’s education sector from the ground up.
VOLUNTEERS

POLITICAL FESTIVAL IN BORNHOLM
This year was the first time Oxfam IBIS’ volunteers attended the annual ‘Folkemøde’ (translated by the organisers as ‘The People’s Political Festival’) on the island of Bornholm. Together with MS ActionAid Denmark, we circulated a petition against tax havens, and we took part in numerous debates, including when the Minister of Foreign Affairs presented the government’s new development cooperation strategy.

COLDPLAY CONCERTS
Oxfam was invited to the British rock band Coldplay’s world tour, where we passed around a petition in support of the global ‘Stand As One’ campaign in solidarity with the world’s refugees. So obviously the volunteers from Oxfam IBIS were there when the band hit Copenhagen in early July. And our team did well. In fact, we came out on top by collecting more signatures in a single night than anywhere else in Europe.

REFUGEE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL
We handed over more than 10,000 signatures to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, petitioning him to help get all refugee children in the world in school. This was possible not least thanks to the efforts of our volunteers. They supported the campaign by petitioning in front of Christiansborg, which hosts the Danish parliament. Here they got people to sign the petition, among other activities.

FRESH START IN AALBORG
Actually, the volunteer group in Aalborg closed down in the summer of 2015. But a small core of students refused to give up. In early 2016, they singlehandedly managed to get their local chapter back on its feet. They have already been on the street on several occasions, shown films in the Student House and taken part in debate meetings.

LATINO FILM
In 2015, the successful ‘Latinofilm’ concept attracted more than 500 people in Copenhagen and Aarhus in order to watch and discuss films from Latin America. This promising development continued into 2016, when Aalborg joined in. When the city’s volunteer group announced its first film showing, the interest was so overwhelming and soon it was sold out.

OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN MATERIAL
Initially when volunteers in Aarhus produced photos and videos about the transition from IBIS to Oxfam IBIS in June, it was mainly intended for internal consumption. However, the material was so good we ended up using it in Oxfam IBIS’ official campaign on social media about the change of name.

SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT
In 2015, we held five info meetings around the country. 127 people turned up, expressing an interest in becoming Oxfam IBIS volunteers. Accordingly, by the end of year, we had reached 111 so-called ‘core volunteers’,

FACEBOOK, PUBLIC SPEAKING AND FABULOUS FILM NIGHTS
More volunteers joined Oxfam IBIS over the past year. Their efforts to involve the Danish people are crucial for our organisation. In 2015, they were in contact with more than 75,000 people. Here is a selection of what they did.

Sebastian Chatham, Oxfam, Mads Christensen, Lotte Ærsøe, Rikke Hovn Poulsen
i.e. the dedicated core making sure the wheels keep turning. In addition, we relied on about 120 volunteers with a slightly more flexible commitment, who would lend a hand as needed during campaigns and events.

**CLIMATE MARCH**
In November, people across the world marched in the big Climate March, calling politicians to attention prior to the climate change negotiations in Paris. In Denmark about 600 activists took to the streets, including a good handful of volunteers from Oxfam IBIS.

**TAX CAMPAIGN**
Of course, the tax campaign during the Danish spring also involved lots of volunteers. They circulated a petition and produced social media contents, among other activities.

**WORLD’S BEST MORNING PARTY**
The World’s Best News is a concept in which NGOs, companies and government authorities join forces to celebrate encouraging developments taking place in the world. The annual tradition is for Oxfam IBIS to hand out newspapers and breakfast at Copenhagen’s City Hall Square, but this year we went a bit further up. We managed to get a massive morning party going, with 1,200 revelers dancing to the DJ’s tunes, taking note of the upbeat message, and drinking free coffee. About 40 volunteers helped to make it possible.

As a civil society organisation fighting global inequality and poverty, engaging the Danish people is at the core of Oxfam IBIS’ work. The more people know and support our visions, the stronger we are when pushing for a more just distribution of the world’s resources. Every year, our volunteers are in dialogue with many thousands of Danes.

**SEBASTIAN CHATHAM**
Campaign coordinator, Oxfam IBIS

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**MARIA LIBONATI, 26 YEARS**
Studies Spanish in Copenhagen
Has been a volunteer at Oxfam IBIS Latinofilm since January 2015

**Why did you become a volunteer at Oxfam IBIS?**
“I’m studying Spanish, I’ve travelled widely in Latin America, and I generally think it’s an amazing continent. So when I moved to Copenhagen, I longed for a forum of people I could share this interest with. I searched on the web, and I happened to come across Oxfam IBIS. Shortly after, I attended an info meeting to hear about the organisation’s work, and it just sounded so exciting. Here were some cool people, and I just felt it was a place I wanted to be.”

**What do you do as a volunteer?**
“I’ve been attached to the Latinofilm group since the beginning. We show documentaries and arrange talks about Latin American subjects. I recently became the group leader, so now I’m the one responsible for the events. In the spring, I also took part in passing around a petition for the Refugee Children in School campaign. It was cool to be out and about like a true activist, meeting lots of people in the street, so I’d like to do more of that sort of stuff.”

**What’s in it for you?**
“First and foremost, I get to know a lot of interesting people who care about the same issues as me. In fact, I’ve met several of my really close friends here. Academically speaking, it enables me to move in international circles, where I can practise my Spanish and talk with people from Spain and Latin America. And then it’s nice to spend my time on something that makes just a tiny difference for other people in this world.”

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**“I JUST FELT IT WAS A PLACE I WANTED TO BE”**
His long limbs do not really fit under the small desk. Nevertheless, former child labourer Samuel Asare enjoys being at school, despite being several years older and a whole head taller than his classmates. Because this 18-year-old young man is quite clear about why he is here.

“In the modern world, you need an education to make it in life. I saw others of my age who could speak English and do lots of other stuff, because they’d gone to school. I wanted to learn that too,” he explains.

In fact, Samuel began school again and again in the course of his childhood, but dropped out every time.

“All morning, I used to work in the cocoa plantation, and in the afternoon, I’d work at home. I was always exhausted, and my body was aching. So I never got to do my homework,” he recounts.

Last year, Samuel’s father was contacted by the local child protection council, which has been set up as part of the project in Ghana sponsored by the Danish chocolate manufacturer Toms. The council is composed of committed citizens, namely parents and teachers, who inform the community about the importance of going to school. They managed to convince Samuel’s father that he had to give priority to his son’s education.

“The best part of being in school is to see how happy my mates are when they play. And the worst part is when I have to help cut the grass. It reminds me of my time in the field,” says Samuel Asare.

TOMS

In Ghana, we have just completed a three-year joint project with chocolate manufacturer Toms about fighting child labour and ensuring sustainable chocolate production. Farmers in 30 communities have learned how to improve their yields. And we have supported them in eradicating child labour. For example, the locals now get a higher price for their cocoa, if their children go to school. The quality of teaching in local schools has been raised, while parents have been involved in combating child labour in the community. And it has paid off. The proportion of children doing excessive labour has fallen from 9.8 percent in 2013 to 1.5 percent at the end of 2015.
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CSR COOPERATION

In late 2015, Oxfam IBIS entered into a new partnership with Lighthouse Aviation Group, which was founded relatively recently, working with aircraft leasing. The firm supports a three-year project in Bolivia aimed at giving 640 children from the Uru people a quality education. Poor and vulnerable children and youngsters will be taught in seven schools, both in their own language and in Spanish. In addition, 59 teachers will upgrade their qualifications in bilingual education. This is the first time ever that Lighthouse Aviation Group has entered into a CSR partnership.

CLAUS MEYER

Alongside the famous chef Claus Meyer, Oxfam IBIS has founded the Food School in Bolivia. By training poor and primarily indigenous young people in the culinary arts, the Food School creates jobs. Thus, 226 young people went through a nine-month course in 2015, preparing them to set up their own business and earn a livelihood. Furthermore, once again in cooperation with Claus Meyer, we have founded Restaurant Gustu in La Paz, which has become one of the very finest restaurants in the entire continent of South America. The project contributes to elevating Bolivia’s gastronomic culture and to promoting local ingredients and traditional cuisine.

THE LB GROUP

In mid-2016, a project was completed at two of the so-called ‘happy schools’ in Mozambique, where the LB Group (Lærerstandens Brandsforsikring), a Danish insurance company with roots in the teaching profession, helped ensure high quality education for a total 2,830 children. Teacher training and parental involvement were key concepts. Furthermore, a library was built and equipped, acquiring 800 schoolbooks for the children. The figures speak for themselves. The proportion of third graders capable of interpreting short texts rose from 42 percent in April 2014 to 85 percent in October the year after.

HEMPEL

The paint producer Hempel is keen to take on global responsibility, which is why the company, acting through the Hempel Foundation, supports education for the world’s poorest. Cooperation with Oxfam IBIS began in 2011, when Hempel initially supported two schools in Mozambique, and this commitment has since been significantly expanded, turning Hempel into our largest private sector partner today. Thus, in 2015, the Hempel Foundation supported a variety of education-related Oxfam IBIS projects in Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Ghana and Bolivia. Since 2011, the Hempel Foundation has helped give more than 10,000 children a quality education, which they would not otherwise have received.

Why do you cooperate with Oxfam IBIS?
“I heard about the organisation for the first time at a reception some six-seven years ago, and I was the one who got in contact after that. You’ve got a longstanding track record as the best in Denmark in the field of education. You’re highly competent and knowledgeable, and most of our results together have been quite good. So overall we’re very satisfied with our cooperation.”

What has been the greatest success?
“That has definitely been our projects in Ghana, where we’ve helped get thousands of children from rural districts to school, children who’d never otherwise have had an education. We have taken part in building 12 schools, which have since been transferred to the government, and continue to work well. It gives us immense satisfaction to have made a difference for so many people in this way.”

What does Hempel gain from the cooperation?
“It’s a fabulous story to tell our staff at Hempel that the fruit of their intense labour is helping to send the world’s poorest children to school rather than just being pocketed by shareholders. At some stage, we calculated that each employee is helping to support nine children’s education around the world. This is a source of great pride and boosts job-satisfaction for everyone.”

BENTE MØLGAARD Director of CSR at Hempel

“IT BOOSTS JOB-SATISFACTION TO HELP CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL”
CAMPAIGNS

THE DANISH POPULATION SUPPORT OUR CASE

People signing online petitions has proved to be an effective tool in the struggle against poverty and inequality. During the past year, we launched three major and several small such petition drives. And the Danish people have responded with massive support.

STOP THE UN-DANISHNESS
When? September 2015
Where? stopudanskheden.nu (stop the un-Danishness.now)
How many signatures? 15,000
Demand? The Danish government must shelve its development aid budget cuts
Success? No

The National Budget Act for 2016, adopted by the government recently formed by 'Venstre' [Liberal Party of Denmark], amounted to a historical slashing of Danish development aid. All support for Latin America was abolished, and Denmark’s contribution to education in the world was reduced by three quarters. Furthermore, the cuts were imposed with such immediate effect that agreements with local partners in the countries of cooperation had to be broken.

At Oxfam IBIS, we viewed these measures as an attack on many of our country’s values, such as commitment and solidarity, which we Danes are renowned for around the world. This is why we launched the website stopudanskheden.nu (stop the un-Danishness now), asking the Danish people to help us put pressure on the government to stop the cuts. We believed – and continue to believe – that it is madness to reduce support for the world’s poorest people in the midst of a historical refugees crisis. It only makes matters worse.

Despite the active support of 15,000 Danes and intense debate on social media, it is a well-known fact that we failed to get the government to reverse its course. Consequently, we had to reduce our programme drastically both in Africa and Latin America.

STOP TAX HAVENS
When? Spring of 2016
Where? oxfamibis.dk/eventup
How many signatures? 18,500
Demand? Denmark must take the lead in the fight to eradicate tax havens
Success? Yes

Oxfam IBIS has fought against tax havens for almost a decade. In January 2016, we published new figures about worldwide inequality. Oxfam has calculated that 62 grotesquely wealthy people own the same as the poorest half of the world’s population. And in April, the tax haven skeletons came tumbling out of the closet, when the Panama Papers exposed massive evasion of tax rules.

On both occasions, our Director of Programmes and Influence, Lars Koch, turned to the media to transmit the message that we will never overcome extreme inequality in the world, unless everyone pays their fair share of tax. At the same time, all of Oxfam kick-started a massive petition drive aimed at putting pressure on world leaders to shore up international tax rules so as to be able to afford schools and healthcare for the world’s poorest. Working together across the globe, we managed to get over 280,000 people to sign our petition.

As on offshoot of the international campaign, both the OECD and EU are launching initiatives to end the tax dodging: the OECD is now involving developing countries in the effort against tax havens, while the EU has come up with measures that combat tax havens and require companies to submit their accounts country by country, making it transparent where they transfer their profits to.

In Denmark, this endeavour enjoys broad popular backing, which has indeed convinced almost all the political parties to support it. However, since there is still some way to go, we will also be using the numerous signatures in years to come to remind politicians that we need to put a stop to tax havens.
To some people, mass signings of petitions may well evoke memories of a bygone era, but actually it is still a highly effective tool here in the digital age.

“To sway decision-makers, we need more than just good arguments and well-founded analyses. The only thing politicians truly respect is the judgement of voters. This is precisely why it’s so important to show that the Danish people support us and demand action,” explains Director of Public Engagement, Annelie Abildgaard, from Oxfam IBIS.

And we do not need several hundreds of thousands of signatures to make an impression. Getting elected as a Danish MP takes in the region of 20,000 votes. So even if collecting 15,000 signatures does not sound that remarkable, it can make a world of difference for politicians.

“When, for instance, we hand over a signed petition to a minister, he or she usually knows that we hold the upper hand,” says Annelie Abildgaard.

Moreover, our experience shows that many people contribute actively by sharing the message on social media after they have signed. In this manner, we reach more people, and it enables us to engage even more Danes in the struggle against poverty.

“We find that a signature is a good starting point for a talk about how to do even more to exert pressure in favour of a particular cause. And this is regardless of whether the talk takes place on Facebook or through our call centre staff,” says Annelie Abildgaard.

**YOUR SIGNATURE WIELDS POWER**

In the Danish spring, we perceived yet another opportunity to get the Danish people to help us pressure the government to give priority to education for the poorest and most vulnerable people on Earth. Foreign ministers were to meet in Istanbul for the first World Humanitarian Summit in history. We knew that education was going to be a key topic. This is because, at a time when historically high numbers of children and young people are fleeing, it is crucial to secure their education, even when their surroundings are far from safety.

Thanks to the signatures of 10,000 Danes, we did indeed succeed in getting the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kristian Jensen, to support the establishment of a fund for education in crisis scenarios. And not only that: he also promised to try to allocate more money to education among the poorest in the world.

In addition to signing our petition, thousands of Danes also donated money to buy city bus adverts, which drove past the Danish parliament for four weeks with the message: “Refugee children must go to school now!” We intend to maintain the pressure on politicians and keep the Minister of Foreign Affairs to his promise.
THE TAX DIALOGUE

GETTING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON OUR TEAM

Tax havens are a huge problem for developing countries. But how do we get the companies to pay their taxes with joy? We have asked this question to some of Denmark’s largest corporations though ‘The Tax Dialogue’ – an innovative initiative that really makes things happen.

WHAT IS IT?
We gather the senior tax and CSR executives of some of Denmark’s largest corporations at workshops and conferences. Here we discuss fair and responsible taxation. For example, we have talked about transparency, tax rebates and tax havens. This allows us to become wiser as regards the challenges faced by businesses, while they get a chance to appreciate our views. The project started in 2014 and ends in early 2017, and we have managed to involve some of the true heavyweights of Danish enterprise, such as Maersk.

DOES IT REALLY PAY OFF?
A lot has already happened since Oxfam IBIS began to address responsible tax. Accordingly, we believe the world will look quite different in ten more years. By then it will be impossible for a business to justify tax dodging, either to themselves or to society. And those who do not dodge will step forward to show it with pride!

UN PRINCIPLES:
Oxfam IBIS has been in continuous contact with the UN’s Global Compact Office, i.e. the people defining the principles which the world’s leading businesses would like to live up to, as it vouches for their responsible behaviour. We work for Global Compact to incorporate ‘responsible tax’ into its principles. In 2016, they held two webinars on the subject, and one of their sources was a report drawn up by Oxfam together with some of our NGO colleagues. This is a giant leap in the right direction.

DOES IT REALLY PAY OFF?
Dialogue is the way forward. There is a certain distrust of the tax practices of multinationals, not least because tax is difficult both to understand and to explain. Misunderstandings arise too easily about, for example, tax havens and tax rebates, if we fail to explain ourselves. This is why we have chosen to help shed light on the debate and take part in The Tax Dialogue.

ANNETTE STUBE
Head of Group Sustainability, Maersk Group

3 MILESTONES

AN AGENDA HAS BEEN SET:
Oxfam IBIS has held six workshops and two conferences in Copenhagen and London, attended by top tax executives from some of Denmark’s biggest multinational corporations and industrial associations. All participants were keen to join in the debate and happy to commit themselves to meeting again. This is a major achievement in itself, since, as recently as a few years ago, tax was something the business community had no interest in discussing with the public at all.

DEVELOPMENT BANKS:
The Dutch development bank FMO has, in consultation with Oxfam IBIS, developed a tax tool, which they use to investigate companies applying for support to invest in developing countries. FMO has, for many years, measured the businesses’ environmental and social footprints in the countries in which they operate, but it is novel for them to also look systematically at taxation. Several other development banks, including the Danish IFU, have begun to examine the tax issue as well, and we are in dialogue with the World Bank about the same. It is crucial to get the development banks on board, since they finance many of the companies that operate in developing countries.

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ANNETTE STUBE
Head of Group Sustainability, Maersk Group
In spring, two out of three regular Danish schools had Oxfam IBIS’ Reading Rocket on the timetable. 175,904 children held the book in their hands, and 8,497 teachers used the material in their teaching. These are the impressive figures that sum up the completion of this year’s Whole World in School campaign. And it is a pass mark, if we ask campaign coordinator Heidi Brehm.

“The teachers’ feedback is that the Reading Rocket is an integral part of their annual study plan. It contributes to making our citizens of the future interested in global affairs,” she points out.

Oxfam IBIS has published the Reading Rocket every year since 2004. The book is a blend of fictional stories and portraits of children in developing countries. This year it was about Burkina Faso. It is a part of the Danish Whole World in School campaign, which is in turn a part of Global Campaign for Education.

ALMOST A MILLION FOR BURKINA FASO
After learning about Burkina Faso, 623 classes collected money for education in the country. Most pupils sold lottery tickets, but some came up with other fun types of fundraising, such as playing musical chairs in the senior citizens’ club or selling poetry compilations. In total the children raised 957,245 Danish kroner (about € 128,500), which is the highest amount for many years.

“That’s a lot of money! We’ve worked out that it costs 400 Danish kroner to send one child in Burkina Faso to school for one year, so close to one million can really do a lot,” says fundraiser Bertil Suadicani from Oxfam IBIS.

The money helps send a lot of children to school, while teachers have their qualifications upgraded, parents get involved, and schools receive new materials. Thus, the Danish schoolchildren have helped their peers in Burkina Faso get a good education that is supported by their community.

PRESSURE ON THE PRIME MINISTER
On 4 May 2016, 800 Danish pupils showed up on Christiansborg Square in front of the Danish parliament for the Whole World in School Day of Action. The aim was to put pressure on Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, convincing him to work towards sending all the world’s children to school.

For the fourth year, the Danish prime minister came out to take part in the Day of Action. Here he was able to see with his own eyes how committed Danish children are to the cause. And in his speech, he promised he would work for it too.

“Thanks to the massive support from Danish schoolchildren, we can now hold the prime minister to account for his promise,” says campaign coordinator Heidi Brehm.
REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Sometimes borders must be crossed to bring about the greatest changes. This is why we have set up three cross-cutting programmes to create cross-wise solutions. Here is an excerpt of the highlights during 2015.

CIVIL RIGHTS AFTER EBOLA: Sierra Leone’s two largest mining corporations went bankrupt after the Ebola outbreak, and observers feared that those in power would forget all about human rights in their zeal to attract new investment to the hard-pressed economy. Through AAP, Oxfam IBIS has fought to strengthen the rights of the population. This is crucial for the people of Sierra Leone, who depend on sharing in the profits from minerals like iron and diamonds. This effort may devise a method that can be replicated in other countries, and the World Bank is paying attention to the process.

MEGAPHONE AGAINST TAX CHEATS: Aggressive tax planning in the extractive industries poses a huge challenge in Africa. Oxfam IBIS has fought for greater transparency for many years, and now the results are beginning to show. We are allowed access to see how much the companies pay in tax in the various countries. Together with our partners, we have designed an economic model that reveals whether the countries’ tax agreements with mining companies are acceptable, and where there might be any loopholes. The model enables us to address politicians and civil servants with highly accurate recommendations that are hard for them to ignore. In future, this might translate into millions, perhaps even billions, in hard currency as additional tax revenues for these countries, which can then be spent on healthcare and education.

MEDIA COVERAGE ENSURES OIL CONTROL: Ghana is often hailed as a pioneering country in Africa as regards the distribution of oil proceeds. The independent entity PIAC is tasked with protecting oil resources against misuse and corruption. However, together with a local partner, Oxfam IBIS discovered that PIAC was left without any National Budget allocation. Thanks to media coverage, discussion at a major conference and dialogue with politicians, this was changed. Accordingly, PIAC today has sufficient funds to monitor whether the Ghanaian people benefit from oil revenues.

COMBATING POVERTY IN AFRICA

The regional programme Africa Against Poverty (AAP) works to reduce inequality and poverty across the continent, with a special focus on extractive industries, tax and climate.
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NEW GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GOAL: In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the new global ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ to be met by 2030. Our partner organisation, Global Campaign for Education, which we support, among other ways, by co-funding its secretariat, worked hard for the adoption of a separate goal of quality education for all. Meetings were held, information was distributed and lobbying was carried out. The Global Campaign for Education can therefore claim a great deal of the credit for the fact that we now have a separate goal regarding quality education, which all governments in the world have committed themselves to fulfilling by 2030.

MONEY FOR EDUCATION: In order to get the Danish government to pay a decent contribution to the Global Education Fund, we launched a massive media campaign. This led to five analyses in Danish newspapers, 12 radio and television interviews, dialogue sessions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and two public meetings. This massive coverage paid off. In June 2015, the Danish government committed itself to transferring DKK 400 million (about € 54 million) annually to the Global Education Fund for the next three years. This was a great triumph for EAPI, even though the new government cut the amount later in the year.

UNCONVENTIONAL COOPERATION: Ghana’s tax revenues from the oil industry are normally invested in other key sectors. To map out how much is spent on education, two of Oxfam IBIS’ partners from different sectors forged an unconventional cooperation. They drew up a joint analysis of the oil money, and by combining expertise in extractive industries and in education, the two organisations were able to put considerable pressure on the government. The result was unmistakable: In 2014, 11.4 percent of oil revenues was spent on education. In 2015 the figure had climbed to no less than 45 percent.

EDUCATION AS A GLOBAL WEAPON

Education Against Poverty and Inequality (EAPI) was brought into being in order to boost the struggle for quality education in Latin America and Africa. This relatively recent programme achieved good results in 2015.

SUCCESSFUL TAX CAMPAIGN: In 2015, we launched the global campaign Fair Taxation of Multinationals. It was kicked off in ten Latin American countries as part of the global #TaxJustice movement. The campaign helped to make populations throughout the continent aware of multinational corporations’ tax dodging. Through information work and lobbying, pressure was exerted on governments, achieving the active involvement in the campaign of several national authorities. The latter is of the utmost importance to ensure that the countries are up to the task of taxing the extraction of natural resources.

MILLIONS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: The indigenous villages in the vicinity of Peru’s largest oil concession have for decades suffered the existential threat of oil pollution. It causes tremendous health problems, and international conventions have been violated. In 2015, Oxfam IBIS supported the indigenous organisation FECONACO in negotiating a new agreement with the government. Since this effort failed, FECONACO and other organisations mobilised the inhabitants for a peaceful 15-day blockade of oil-drilling activities. The result was a historical agreement between the government of Peru and the indigenous peoples organisations. Henceforth 0.75 percent of oil revenues must be invested locally – equivalent to € 27 million next year alone. Furthermore, the polluted areas must be cleaned up, and health conditions will be investigated.

RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA

Latin America Against Poverty and Inequality (LAPI) has a special focus on extractive industries and indigenous peoples’ rights

DANISH AFICIONADOS: in 2015, we launched ‘Latin Dinamarca Social Club’. The initiative gathers up the threads of Oxfam IBIS’ Latin America work, and charts the course for our work with volunteers, members and other Latin America aficionados in Denmark. By the end of the year, we had reached 3,000 subscribers to our newsletter Latinamerikalyst (Latin America News), and in the second half of the year alone, our events, social media presence and campaigns brought us into contact with 18,000 Danes.
The results of Oxfam IBIS' work in 2015 are satisfactory. In nearly all areas, the momentum towards our strategic goal is ahead of schedule, and this is despite significant challenges both home and abroad this year.

2015 saw a difficult start-up in the previously Ebola-affected countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia. There was a civil war-like scenario in South Sudan, internal conflict and unrest in Burkina Faso, a shrinking space for civil society in Nicaragua, Mozambique and Sierra Leone, and not least budget cuts in Danish development aid, which led to a 28 percent reduction in Oxfam IBIS' frame grant from Danida. The latter led to a series of dismissals at the head office and austerity measures in many countries, which in turn resulted in changes to programmes and planned activities, as well as dismissals of staff around the world. It has forced us to prioritise, wielding the knife in numerous areas, for instance by abandoning climate change as an important field of work for Oxfam IBIS.

Our global education programme produced good results in its initial phase. We managed to involve partners at multiple levels in the global struggle for quality education for all. Thus, we helped ensure that the UN's new Sustainable Development Goals include a separate goal about quality education for all.

The two regional programmes for Latin America and Africa made a coordinated effort to put taxation of oil and minerals on the agenda in relation to the financing of global development. In Latin America, in particular, the programmes helped to defend the rights of local communities facing vast infrastructure and extractive projects.

Many resources were used in our analysis of the Oxfam movement and how associating with it would provide opportunities to boost our efforts for the world’s poorest. At the same time, as early as 2015 it became clear that this new cooperation is going to strengthen and streamline our work in many ways. We worked hand in hand with Oxfam in the areas of fundraising, campaigns and policy-making, and in numerous cases also in the implementation of programmes. The initial experiences were highly positive, which indeed persuaded IBIS' Annual Assembly in 2015 to decide to become part of Oxfam.

Oxfam IBIS took part in publicising the UN’s new Sustainable Development Goals – and, as previously mentioned, we played an important role in bringing about the separate goal of quality education for all.

Another key aspect of our work in education was a drive to increase the participation of girls and women on school boards and in school management. Furthermore, we contributed to promoting responsible taxation as an important source of funding for the UN’s new global goals.

Popular commitment in Denmark was strong in 2015. The Whole World in School campaign engaged 175,000 Danish schoolchildren in the plight of their peers in developing countries. The campaign for tax justice was also successful, not least through The Tax Dialogue project, in which we exchanged ideas with a number of Denmark’s largest corporations, investors and other stakeholders about responsible tax.

Through the media and campaigns, Oxfam IBIS went beyond our previous outreach. We entered into dialogue with more Danes, and we involved more people in our campaigns. Together with the rest of the Oxfam family, we carried out a major inequality campaign, by means of which we helped change the Danish people’s view of responsible tax, making it more illegitimate for companies and the super-rich to avoid tax.

THE YEAR’S FINANCIAL RESULT

2015 was characterised by the fact that Oxfam IBIS, in the middle of the year, discovered the existence of accumulated programme overspending taking place over the period 2010-2014, especially on activities under the Danida framework grant, but also on other projects. It sums up to DKK 16.2 million (€ 2.17 million) under the Danida framework grant. The overspending has been financed by tapping into the equity of Oxfam IBIS. The money has been continuously added to budgets for our regular programme work, and has thus contributed to carrying out more activities in pursuit of our organisational mission. In mid-2015, a series of measures were taken, which ended the overspending.

The accumulated programme overspending was partially reduced in the course of 2016 by means of Danida’s rules for carrying forward spending from one year to another. However, this means that fewer funds will be available for activities in 2016.

As a consequence, by the end of 2015, the total equity owned by Oxfam IBIS was DKK 2.4 million. By the end of 2016, we expect this amount to reach, by means of savings, DKK 4.7 million. This is an
absolute minimum for an organisation of Oxfam IBIS’ size. In the coming years, we will focus fully on re-establishing our equity.

The accounts for 2015 were also affected by the budget cuts in Danish development aid. Our organisation’s annual budget was reduced by DKK 36 million with only two months’ notice starting from January 2016. This abrupt cutback had major repercussions for our finances and programme work. Even so, the year’s financial result was a satisfactory surplus of DKK 838,000, which is above the budgeted surplus of DKK 380,000.

The income from individual contributors rose in 2015, and this, alongside fundraising from private enterprises and foundations, is clearly an area of priority.

In 2016, we expect a higher surplus of DKK 1.3 million based on improving project finances, tightening cost control and stepping up fundraising efforts.

Yours faithfully

OLE MØS
Director of Operations, Oxfam IBIS
### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danida framework grant</td>
<td>17,156</td>
<td>17,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other institutional donors</td>
<td>10,647</td>
<td>11,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private funds</td>
<td>1,780</td>
<td>2,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operational grants</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>29,690</td>
<td>31,174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development activities</td>
<td>23,430</td>
<td>25,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian work</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaigns and advocacy</td>
<td>2,768</td>
<td>2,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total project and progr. activities</strong></td>
<td>27,278</td>
<td>28,728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Losses and provisions for projects</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other costs</td>
<td>2,257</td>
<td>2,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other costs</strong></td>
<td>29,577</td>
<td>31,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yearly net result +/-</strong></td>
<td>113</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Balance as of 31/12 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets and deposits</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets (outstanding accounts and liquid assets)</td>
<td>8,080</td>
<td>8,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>8,435</td>
<td>8,771</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity (net assets) as of 31/12 2015</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>1,743</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Short-term debt liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unspent donor funds</td>
<td>6,026</td>
<td>5,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severance pay</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other debts</td>
<td>1,644</td>
<td>1,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>8,435</td>
<td>8,771</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of members and supporters by the end of 2015: 10,086
Share spent on administration in 2015: 7.60 %
Share spent on administration excluding communication and fundraising: 5.90 %
Where the money comes from

- Danida framework grant: 17,156 (57.8%)
- SIDA: 4,836 (16.3%)
- Alliance 2015: 230 (0.8%)
- GIZ: 180 (0.6%)
- Danish humanitarian aid: 1,102 (3.7%)
- Other Danida funds: 1,395 (4.7%)
- NORAD: 112 (0.4%)
- Dutch Government Funds: 1,265 (4.3%)
- EU: 765 (2.6%)
- Private funds: 1,780 (6.0%)
- Other funds: 869 (2.9%)

Total income: 29,690 (100.0%)

Private fundraising

- Members and reg. contributors: 667 (37.5%)
- Firms and foundations: 940 (52.8%)
- Collections: 173 (9.7%)

Total fundraising: 1,780 (100.0%)

How Oxfam IBIS spends the money

- Latin America: 7,655 (25.9%)
  - Guatemala: 3,550 (12.0%)
  - Nicaragua: 2,015 (6.8%)
  - Central America: 544 (1.8%)
  - South America: 1,545 (5.2%)

- Africa: 14,946 (50.5%)
  - Mozambique: 5,452 (18.4%)
  - South Sudan: 1,578 (5.3%)
  - Ghana: 2,482 (8.4%)
  - Liberia: 2,231 (7.5%)
  - Sierra Leone: 2,329 (7.9%)
  - Burkina Faso: 518 (1.8%)
  - Rest of Africa: 354 (1.2%)

- Regional programmes: 1,843 (6.2%)
  - EAPI: 736 (2.5%)
  - LAPI: 555 (1.9%)
  - AAP: 552 (1.9%)

- Other activities: 5,133 (17.4%)
  - Other programme activities: 2,810 (9.5%)
  - Communication and fundraising: 542 (1.8%)
  - Innovation: 23 (0.1%)
  - Administration: 1,758 (5.9%)

Total costs 2015: 29,577 (100.0%)
Thank you for your support!

Dear volunteers, members, supporters, partner firms, foundations and all others who have helped Oxfam IBIS this year. Your work, donations, signatures and backing have made an invaluable difference in the struggle against poverty. See you next year!