

**WE WON'T  
LIVE WITH  
POVERTY AND  
INEQUALITY**



**OXFAM**



## WHY WE ARE HERE

Oxfam is a global movement of people working together to end the injustice of poverty and inequality. We are here, because 70% of the Liberian people are living in poverty – and we won't live with that. **WE WORK FOR A LIBERIA WITH AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EVERYONE,** where all people can influence the decisions that affect their lives. And where everyone is treated and valued equally. Because these things are rights, not privileges.

Head of Oxfam in Liberia's WASH-programme, Gloria Kafuria, is explaining to a group of children why they need to wash their hands. She is one of 51 employees at Oxfam in Liberia. "Working for Oxfam gives my life purpose. Seeing the impact of our work on the communities makes me happy to continue doing more every day," Gloria says.

## WOMEN AT THE HEART OF IT ALL

Liberia is a highly unequal country when it comes to gender. Liberian women are still disproportionately affected by poverty, they are grossly under-represented at all levels of politics, and gender based violence is way too common; rape, sexual assault and abuse of women and girls are the most commonly reported violent crimes in the country. **OXFAM HELPS WOMEN BECOME FULL AND EQUAL MEMBERS OF THEIR HOUSEHOLDS, COMMUNITIES AND COUNTRY.** We support women building organizations and become leaders. We encourage them to take control of their incomes and assets. And we help women exercise their right to a life free from fear and violence.

Lowinre T. Wehayee (45) used to live in a violent marriage, and eventually her husband left her. At first she was scared - she didn't know how to support five children all alone. But after receiving training from Oxfam's partner, FCI, the family farm is now running better than ever, and she is head of the local women's group. "I've realised that everything a man can do, a woman can do, too," Lowinre says. In the future, she is planning to run for village chief.





Lotte Eisebe

## EDUCATION IS THE FUTURE

Youth make up more than 65% of the Liberian population, but unemployment among them is alarmingly high. Many young men and women have not finished their education, and they are widely excluded from participating in decision-making that affect their own lives. **OXFAM WORKS TO PROVIDE TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION TO ALL LIBERIANS.** We advocate to influence curricula and teaching methodologies. We provide young people with skills like farming techniques and basic literacy. And we support them in learning about their rights, so that they become active citizens who participate in society and help build a more prosperous and peaceful future for their families - and for the whole country.

"The programme changed my life. I have learned so many things that I had never heard of before, and I am a much better farmer today, better able to support my family," Gibson T. Swen (25) from Zwedru says. He went through Oxfam's 10 month Technical Vocational Education and Training programme, where learners are taught basic literacy and numeracy, entrepreneurship, life skills and agricultural training.



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## WATER SAVES LIVES

Water borne diseases are some of the biggest killers in Liberia today. Without clean water and basic hygiene, deadly diseases can sweep through entire communities. **OXFAM PROVIDES PROTECTED WATER WELLS WHERE THE NEED IS HIGHEST, AND TAPS AND LATRINES IN SCHOOLS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.** We establish health clubs for children and adults. We test new and innovative ideas, such as tiger worm toilets and solar powered wells, so that more people in the future will benefit from the work we do today. We are there when people are forced away from their homes due to flooding. And we always make sure that our solutions are sustainable, so that they will keep on improving peoples lives, even after we leave the communities.

Six-year-old Varney Shelton is having a glass of water from the well Oxfam installed near his home in Dolo Town, Margibi County. This township was hit extremely hard during the Ebola outbreak in 2013 with more than 500 deaths. Oxfam was working in Dolo Town during the crisis, installing protected water wells and toilets, and promoting good hygiene in the community. Today, five years later, we are still there, making sure that Shelton and his friends and family don't get sick from drinking the water.

## WE GIVE PEOPLE A VOICE

Active citizens who work together can change the world! We support Liberian community movements and organizations, from youth groups in Grand Gedeh to women's platforms in Monrovia. **BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE THEMSELVES KNOW BEST HOW TO FIGHT POVERTY AND INEQUALITY IN THEIR OWN LIVES.** We work with partners and allies at community-, regional- and national levels; helping people to help themselves out of poverty, and supporting everybody's right to be heard. And we make sure the voices of the most marginalized people are heard loud and clear among leaders and duty bearers at all levels.

Cecelia Karla (left) and Mariah (right) Brooks are women's rights activists in rural Liberia - they have had enough with violence against women! They are demonstrating at the Grand Gedeh Women and Girls' Colloquium called "A'hi po Wulu Dui: Let's Speak with One Voice" organized by Oxfam's partner YOCEL in fall 2018. At the moment, Oxfam is working together with 16 local partner organizations to make real change all over Liberia.



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