Climate change is contributing to an increase in the frequency and intensity of typhoons, as well as a general rise in temperatures and rain leading to an increase in droughts, flash floods and landslides. All of this is having a large impact on small holder farmers in Asia. © Tessa Bunney

A RESILIENT AND PRESENT FUTURE IS A CHOICE

ASIA RESILIENCE HUB:

Oxfam in Afghanistan
Oxfam in Bangladesh
Oxfam in Cambodia
Oxfam in Indonesia
Oxfam in Laos
Oxfam in Myanmar
Oxfam in Nepal
Oxfam in Pakistan
Oxfam in the Philippines
Oxfam in Sri Lanka
Oxfam in Vietnam
Mapping of resilience work in Asia

Asia is exposed and vulnerable to a wide range of natural and manmade hazards. In many respects, it is the global epicenter for disasters.¹ Its location makes it prone to destructive hazards that are exacerbated by climate change, leading to an increasing number of cyclones, sea level rises, severe drought, and other extreme climate effects. This vulnerability is compounded by poverty. The majority of the world’s poorest today are in Asia,² thus protection and recovery from these disasters remain difficult.

In Asia, Oxfam continues to work with partners and vulnerable communities to promote resilience against existing risks and new risks from natural and human induced disasters that impact disadvantaged poor people in Asia. This map provides an overview of the extensive work in 11 countries in Asia and features different kinds of approaches towards building resilience: small holder agriculture and enterprises; water resilience; urban resilience; natural resource management; working with the private sector to build resilience; and climate finance and gender justice, among others.

**AFGHANISTAN**

Women are the most vulnerable in the context of Afghanistan, they have less role in community affairs, less access to basic services, lack of voice in decision-making processes, even though they carry out the major work in the agriculture, animal husbandry and household chores. Women efforts are ignored and are mostly unpaid. Oxfam empowered women in Daikundi province to play an active role in community affairs and decision-making process. Learn more...

![Election process of the women candidates to lead and manage the almond and diary enterprises to earn better income for diary and almond producers. Photo by Walizada](Image)

**Current Programs on Resilience**

**Supporting livestock and almond producers, especially women.** The program invested to improve the almond and dairy producers from different dimensions that enabled the producers to have better income, the interventions include building the technical capacity, access to improved varieties, access to the extension services, establishment of the thematic institutions in each community lead by women and establishment of the almond and diary enterprises managing by women.

**Improvement in water management and water source rehabilitation.** In drought affected areas Oxfam enabled the communities to properly use the available water. The interventions include building better water management system and water saving techniques, rehabilitation of the water sources, reducing the water wastage and enabled the community to access new water sources.

**Improvement of community pastures and soil management.** Over grazing, drought and lack of rehabilitation plan dramatically reduced the capacity of the pastures, Oxfam projects enabled the community to apply hilly and drought affected pasture management system to avoid over grazing, rehabilitated the pastures with drought resistant fodder seeds and raised awareness of the people on preservation of the pastures.

**Linkages of Oxfam-supported enterprises with the private sector.** Access to market and competition with imported products is one of the major challenges of the locals. The program focused on improving the quality and quantity of the almond and dairy products, linking the local with national traders and linking the relevant government department to provide better and enabling environment for the local products.

**Women's economic empowerment programs.** The interventions enabled the very disadvantaged women like widows, women headed household and PWD to contribute in the household food security, economy and having role in decision making. The inputs invested as source of income are: green houses, goat distribution, small business development, almond nurseries and technical skills building. These interventions enabled the community to understand and apply gender equity and equality.

![Afghanistan remains one the poorest counties in the world, more than 80% of the population livelihoods depended on agriculture and animal husbandry. The country affected by decades of war and natural disasters especial the impact of the climate change as drought, these phenomena affected the lives and livelihoods of the people to earn income to support their lives, so the people used migration with in the country as IDPs and out of the country with acceptance of the major risks as a coping mechanism so that unemployment, overcrowded in urban areas and environmental degradation even more added to the problems.](Image)
Current Programs on Resilience

**Flagship Resilience Program**

Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL) contributes to building different resilience capacities of the vulnerable people living in coastal, river, island, and wetland areas through more than 800 community-based organizations (CBOs).

**Small holder agriculture**

Economic empowerment of dairy producers, maize producers, crab producers, producer groups led by women; promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices. **Employment and enterprises**

Job-related and entrepreneurship skill development for youth.

**Water Resilience**

Saline and flood tolerant WASH facilities; women WASH platforms.

**Natural Resource Management**

Community participation in trans-boundary river management; increased access to common natural resources.

**Urban Resilience**

Home-based workers and domestic workers (a significant portion are climate migrants); environmentally friendly construction; urban DRR projects.

**Climate Finance**

Implementation and support to the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC); alternative risk transfer mechanism through index-based flood insurance.

**Private Sector Resilience**

Working on impact investment of the private sector; promoting market-based responses to emergencies through WASH market mapping and analysis; ensuring tax justice.

**Gender and Resilience**

Young rural women’s economic empowerment; recognizing, reducing and redistributing the care work burden of women for economic empowerment; ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) for economic empowerment; production, marketing, and employment centers for women.

**ICT and Resilience**

Participatory Research and Ownership with Technology Information and Change (PROTIC); agro-meteorological advice; use of technology in adaptive agriculture.

**REE-CALL** builds resilient communities with enhanced leadership capacity and livelihoods and equips them to face the impact of climate change and disasters. In this photo, Oxfam is helping women in the northern Char Islands to form dairy producer groups so they can pool their resources and sell their milk in bulk. Photo submitted by Oxfam in Bangladesh.
Indonesia is the most populous country in Southeast Asia and the fourth most populated country in the world. Despite being classified as a lower-middle income country, poverty, inequality, and vulnerability are still real challenges in the country. Out of a population of 254 million, around 30 million people live below the poverty line and the gap between the country’s richest and poorest people has increased.

Indonesia’s unique geography makes its population and their livelihoods vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels, natural disasters, and volcanic eruptions. Learn more...

Zuhra turns small fish left to dry the traditional way in the sun. Oxfam works to help communities develop sustainable ways of making a living. Photo: Jim Holmes.


Current Programs on Resilience

- **Small Holder Agriculture and Enterprises**: Drought-adaptive farming to promote livelihood resilience.
- **Urban Resilience**: Convergence of DRR, climate change, and Sustainable Development Goals through integrated waste management; working with cities and districts on resilience.
- **Private Sector Resilience**: Support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for resilience; national influencing on implementing guidelines for SME resilience.
- **Gender and Resilience**: Women’s transformative leadership in resilience building.
Laotian agriculture and cattle breeding are extremely sensitive to natural disasters and climate change impacts, and disaster risk management (DRM) and adaptations to climate change are crucial to building sustainable livelihoods and resilient communities. Oxfam helps to strengthen DRM and adaptation program development and implementation in partnership with the government. Oxfam aims to increase the capacity of communities, schools, and leadership at the village, district, province, and national levels to manage disaster risks, adapt to climate change impacts, and respond to disasters, as well as to build a culture of safety and resilience. Learn more...

Photo: Oxfam in Laos

Current Programs on Resilience

Providing DRM and climate change adaptation (CCA) information among the communities of Vientiane and Oudomxay province project areas; developing community-based adaptation and DRM plans; early warning message dissemination to farmers; livelihood adaptation funds to farmers (for example, cucumber, vegetable and chili plantations; raising goats; technical training for farmer groups on how to develop resilient livelihoods to adapt and cope better with disasters). Other efforts include facilitating livelihoods; cost-benefit analysis; market analysis to identify adaptive livelihood options; and implementation and monitoring progress and achievements of livelihood activities.

Working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on the institutionalization of DRM (e.g. supporting the Ministry on development guidelines on a common rapid assessment form, disaster preparedness, response planning and a simulation exercise, and DRM integration into social and economic development plans); supporting formal and non-formal migrant workers; working with the government to ensure social protection issues are addressed.

Oxfam’s Mekong Water Governance program supports the greater inclusion of civil society organizations (CSOs) in water resource governance and decision-making in the Mekong region, where Laos is one of the major stakeholders in the program. To manage the program Oxfam works with civil society and networks to deliver the program through dedicated gender and water resource management activities to better manage local water resources, and undertake more open policy dialogue on water resource management. Oxfam also works with government partners at district and province levels in Oudomxay Province to develop forest and land use planning, product value chains, and product marketing, as well as facilitating advocacy work to improve policy and practice.

The Building Resilient Livelihood and Responsive Agribusiness project supports agribusiness, SMEs and Farmers Organisations (FOs) in Beng and Houn Districts, Oudomxay Province, to introduce DRR CCA knowledge; assess how their business could be involved in creating resilient communities; and provide knowledge on disasters, integrate DRM within the value chain of key products, and advocate for good practices at the national level in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), in order to embed corporate social responsibility (CSR) into the agribusiness value chain so that SMEs and farmer groups benefit.

Gender mainstreaming in humanitarian and resilience programs in conducting assessments, analysis, project design, implementation, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) to ensure participation, decision-making, resource allocation, mobilization, and utilization as per the needs of women, men, and children. Oxfam and partners conduct gender analyses and organize training and orientations for partners and people we work with to ensure gender needs, priorities, and mainstreaming to improve program results and sustainability.

Na Chantahun, mother-of-six, has lived all her life in Sisaath village in the Vientiane Province of Laos. She is married to the village chief, Sonphet, and the couple have six children who are all studying in Vientiane. Over the past decade a paved road and electricity have improved life for the village’s 50 families. But alongside this welcome progress climate change has brought unprecedented and unpredictable new weather patterns, disrupting harvests and lifestyles in the farming-dependent community. Photo: Tessa Bunney.
Current Programs on Resilience

Strengthening market linkages for rural communities and smallholders and through partners, providing technical support to diversify livelihoods of vulnerable communities, including those affected by conflict. This includes for example Small grants to women for initiating small scale enterprises.

Strengthening communities and civil society to influence water resource decision making and support communities’ rights to access water for their livelihoods. Through this work, Oxfam aims to reduce communities’ vulnerability, promote sustainable use of resources and advance their resilience.

Through governance programming, communities have better relations with local authorities in disaster prone areas.

Strengthening communities to assert their rights and protect their natural resources. We raise awareness on these rights, develop evidence and capacity of local actors to advocate for change.

Environmental conservation and long-term strategic plan against the flooding.

Influencing government and private sector to improve policies and practices (in line with national and international laws and standards) in protecting the rights of rural communities, and maximizing benefits for them.

Supporting women’s leadership across the programmes and facilitating women’s participation in decision making, including in disaster risk preparedness activities, but also in community-based advocacy; Recognizing and aiming to reduce gender based violence in community; Mainstreaming Gender in community based DRR processes; Mobilize the community through sensitization workshops to ensure that women are represented in different DRR committees.

Strengthening resilience and emergency response in conflict affected areas. Strengthening local humanitarian capacity through increased funding and support for local humanitarian action by advocating for the implementation of the Charter for Change; Integrated programming in conflict-affected areas, such as equipping displaced people and conflict-affected communities with the skills to better engage local authorities (state and non-state) to address immediate and long-term needs and concurrently working with local authorities to better understand and respond to community needs. This is strengthened by increasing displaced people and conflict affected communities’ voices for potential return and/or resettlement and diversifying their livelihood capacities to reduce aid dependency and to bounce back from the shocks; Increasing community knowledge on Local development funds.
Climate resilient agricultural practices in Saptari, Sarlahi, Rautahat and Dhanusha Districts in Nepal.

WASH innovation project for micro-hydro—3Rs (recharge, retention, and reuse)—in Sarlahi District.

Working with the government on the Nepal Urban Strategy.

Eco-DRR approaches as pilot projects; linking leasehold forestry for climate change adaptation project.

Climate finance for advocacy program.

Working with the private sector on a climate change adaptation project.

Cross-cutting gender activities in all DRR and CCA interventions.

Oxfam has been supporting the people of Nepal for more than 30 years with the vision of creating a just society without poverty. Through its sustainable development program, earthquake response program, and its media, advocacy, and campaign work, Oxfam in Nepal aims to provide people with livelihood opportunities, ensuring that development-related activities are demand-driven and sustainable and that the most vulnerable are empowered to claim their rights. Learn more...
Current Programs on Resilience

Producers: herbal medicine, lentil, chili, wheat, cotton, mustard oil, dairy, nursery for climate resilient species, multi-cropping producer (vegetable); advocacy for the recognition of female agricultural workers as formal labor and their inclusion in labor policy; increasing the productivity of small holder farmers through dairy enterprise and agri-businesses; capacity of small holder women land grantees to productively cultivate lands granted by government; RICE Project.

Sprinkler unit in drought areas; solar tube wells for irrigation and vegetation; donkey tube wells; ecosystem-based DRR and CCA; advocacy initiatives to abolish the “licensing system” for freshwater bodies.

Youth ICT center (computer education, information dissemination through SMS for early warning, market, weather, and other services). In urban areas Oxfam’s work is about rights and power, WASH planning and infrastructure, livelihoods (especially youth and informal workers), social accountability, and knowledge management. Oxfam collaborates with national/provincial government on planting. It advocates for youth in academia/universities on climate change and food justice issues affecting food security, livelihoods, and business; Recently, Oxfam in Pakistan is awarded ‘Promoting Urban Climate Change Resilience in Asian Cities (In Pakistan, Sialkot in Punjab and Abbottabad in KPK)’ which will be implemented in two districts of Pakistan.

Worming and composting; sustainable land and agriculture management; bio-gas plants; vertical garden; natural resource management: management of soil content and carbon stock.

Advocacy on climate finance tracking and advocacy for standardization in Sindh and Punjab.

Technical support and direct purchasing support/extension services in rice and dairy value chains.

Resource allocation for CCA, specifically for women in agriculture.

Rural resilience initiative to provide a comprehensive risk management system; introducing shock-responsive social protection mechanisms; micro-insurance and crop insurance in the agricultural sector; GIS-based early warning system.

Oxfam in Pakistan works to raise awareness of the issues relating to climate change and to help people better adapt to deal with its consequences, thereby increasing resilience to disasters and climate change. Oxfam is committed to strengthening in-country humanitarian capacity to respond to disasters and supporting people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after emergencies. For more information, click to watch this video.
Jilena is a farming leader in her community and has attended Farmer’s Field Schools where she learned about crop diversification and SRI (system of rice intensification) farming. Photo: Tessa Bunney.

Current Programs on Resilience

**Small Holder Agriculture and Enterprises**
Farmer field schools, integrated farming system, participatory organic, certification (EMBRACE project); agri-venture agreements in Mindanao (GRAISEA).

**Water Resilience**
Septage waste water treatment—septage management; markets-based approach to WASH.

**Urban Resilience**
Youth and employment (economic resilience); micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) financial inclusion; Increasing Metropolitan Readiness & Resiliency through Digital Financial Inclusion. Financial inclusion of underserved and unserved households living in high risk and vulnerable areas with lowest access to banks and other financial services. The project aims to promote the access to digital financial services along with financial literacy to help target families manage their finances, save money and invest in micro-social and business insurance to protect their assets, livelihoods, and small businesses.

**Natural Resource Management**
Recovery of Haiyan-affected areas through economic empowerment.

**Climate Finance**
Support to 28 local governments on People Survival Fund (PSF) applications; partnership with Center for Local and Regional Governance for tracking of climate finance.

**Gender and Resilience**
Care work initiatives in Eastern Visayas and Mindanao; women's market (Project EMBRACE); EVAW in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)—Creating Spaces project; reproductive health and essential services (ARCHES).

**Private Sector Resilience**
Incubation of MSMEs and business continuity planning, which is designed to increase the ability of players within the value chain to sustain and bounce back from losses after a disaster; Electronic Prepaid Solution Scaling-up Aid Disbursement and Financial Inclusion (i-AFFORD). In partnership with Visa, private sectors and government, Oxfam will continue to intensify use of digital payment for emergency and development cash transfer programs through electronic prepaid system. Banking on the successful simulation results of EPS in urban and rural areas affected by disasters (i.e. typhoon Glenda and Ruby), a scale-up program will be implemented to: 1) enhance EPS disbursement developed infrastructures to efficiently deliver additional scale, increase platform capabilities and strengthen infrastructure functionalities; and 2) promote financial inclusion of disaster affected population.

**Other Resilience Programs**
Meso-insurance for Disaster Readiness and Recovery (MINDER)—catastrophe fund (CAT fund) for local governments; Adaptive Livelihoods and Emergency Readiness and Timely Response of Communities (ALERT Communities). - 4 municipalities in Eastern Visayas which are affected by recurrent natural disasters have enhanced capacities for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, and are better equipped to co-lead on relief and recovery efforts in collaboration with local authorities, with the overall aim of reducing vulnerability and suffering among disaster prone communities.

*The Philippines is the third most disaster-prone country in the world. Climate change is contributing to an increase in the frequency and intensity of typhoons as well as a general rise in temperatures and rain leading to an increase in droughts, flash floods, and landslides. Oxfam in the Philippines works to improve the country’s resilience to disasters, to save lives now and in the future by investing in mechanisms that reduce the risks and the impacts of disasters, and by being able to respond quickly to disasters, prioritizing assistance for the most vulnerable. Watch the video on Building Resilient Communities. Visit the website for more information.*
Current Programs on Resilience

Conducting a study to identify the impact of climate change on small holder farmers. The final report will be available in March 2017. Women’s economic empowerment in regions through social enterprise development in spices, fruits and vegetables, handlooms, paddy, and coir; enhancing employment opportunities and incomes of women, strengthening value chains, and addressing gender imbalances; livelihood/business development initiative for people with disabilities; promoting a market-based approach and networking with the private sector to increase the income of the rural poor farmers/community.

Oxfam in Sri Lanka was awarded an EU grant to carry out work on WASH. The focus will be on enabling sustainable access to safe drinking water and supporting the government to introduce inclusive water management systems.

Implementing a weather-indexed insurance project to support the small holder farmer to combat the impact of natural disasters (floods and droughts).

Oxfam in Sri Lanka plans to build upon successful weather-indexed insurance that was implemented in partnership with the private sector.

Strengthening and promotion of gender-based violence help desks at hospitals; aligning programs to the national action plan on eliminating sexual and gender-based violence by updating the promotion of a vigilant committee manual as a base document for strengthening referral systems; engagement in the global EVAWG campaign by initial activation of the campaign in country; mainstreaming gender into all programs including economic justice, humanitarian, and DRR.

Oxfam in Sri Lanka contributed to the development of the national community resilience framework. Oxfam will continue working with the government on implementation and promotion of the framework. Oxfam actively applies and promotes the use of technology such as weather stations, water system monitoring, and mobile applications in its women’s economic empowerment projects.
Current Programs on Resilience

Programs on sustainable production practices: Gender Transformative and Responsible Agribusiness Investment in South East Asia (GRAISEA); sustainable and equitable shrimp production and value chain development in Vietnam; EDF (Enterprises Development Fund) to promote inclusive investment, impact investment.

Promoting community alternative energy solutions in Ca Mau province to contribute to better Mekong water governance; community empowerment for integrated water management in An Giang Province, Mekong Delta; research on the impacts of sediment reduction and nutrient loads on the agricultural productions and livelihoods in the Mekong regions of Vietnam; building a sustainable youth network in the Mekong Delta; enhancing collaboration and connectivity on trans-boundary water governance in the 3S River Basin for community sustainable livelihoods.

Building urban resilience through develop a data service (DataLab) that is aimed to provide citizens with alerts in case of an emergency as well as with accurate information and advice regarding preparation and mitigation the disaster; Migrant workers (working in both formal and informal settings); access to better and inclusive social protection.

Building the resilience of 11,000 men and women (60% women) in Ben Tre province to disaster and climate risks to increase the adaptive capacity of poor people (in particular women) and local authorities to disaster and climate risks in coastal communities in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam.

Building the resilience of agriculture small scale producers and Micro-Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) to disaster and climate risks through engagement with Microfinancial Institution (Tinh Thuong MFI, under the Vietnam Women's Union) and the Spark Centre for Social Entrepreneurship Development.

Women's economic empowerment through agricultural value chain enhancement in Lao Cai; promoting a the Women Empowerment Mainstreaming, Advocacy and Networking (WEMAN) framework and the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology approach that aims to enhance women's economic empowerment and gender justice through GALS application in the agricultural/aquaculture value chains; piloting gender impact assessment in A Luoi and the Srepok 3 Dam 3S area in Central and Central Highland Vietnam.

Rights to Food and GROW Campaign:
1. Small holder farmers collaboration.
2. Food and climate change adaptation.
3. Food price volatility

The Red River and Mekong Deltas in the north and south of Vietnam are highly vulnerable to climate change. Poor households, women-headed households, and those who own very little or no land are the most vulnerable, as they have the least access to resources and the fewest opportunities to participate in processes to adapt to climate change. Oxfam, in partnership with the government, has promoted participatory approaches and made sure to always include vulnerable households in discussions and activities. As a result, the number of women participating in local planning processes to develop socio-economic development plans has increased by 60 percent. Learn more...