

THE PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF OXFAM
INTERNATIONAL AS INTERNATIONAL NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (INGO) TO SOLVE
SOMALIA FOOD INSECURITY PROBLEM

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Abstract

Somalia experienced 19 (nineteen) years for food crisis problem since 1992, and reached its peak in 2011. The crisis worsened by long standing conflict in the country combined with climate change, with the result that United Nations declared Somalia to be famine in 2011. The food crisis has driven world's attention, especially non-governmental organizations concern on humanitarian issues, such as Oxfam International. In 1992, Oxfam International engaged to overcome food crisis and continue sustainable participation in addressing food crisis in 2011. Oxfam International cooperate with the local communities in Somalia by building water sanitation, providing clean water, delivering assistances such as foods, medicines, and also providing cash money. Oxfam International also supports and trains local people, especially farmers in agriculture, so they can produce food. By trained local farmers, it can help produce enough food to feed the population and reduce the possibility of famine in Somalia. The objective of this research is to explain the Oxfam International leading role in doing proactive involvement for humanitarian aids in Africa. The analysis is done based on the role of international non-governmental organization to handling the issue of food security in Somalia. To conclude, Oxfam International has shown meaningful efforts to give long-term impact on solving food insecurity problem in Somalia.

Keywords: famine, food insecurity, Somalia, oxfam international, humanitarian aids

Introduction

Africa is the world's second largest continent covering approximately 20% of the earth's land and 6% of the earth's surface (National Geographic, 2013). It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Indian Ocean to the west and the Mediterranean Sea to the north. The Red Sea and the Suez Canal lie to the north-east and separate Africa from Asia. Africa is broadly divided into five regions, such as Northern Africa, Western Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa. The seasons are fairly well defined in those regions that lie in the northern and southern hemispheres. The seasons of western, central and eastern Africa are less easy to define since these regions lie between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and tend to have a more constant temperature range throughout the year. There are 53 countries in Africa. The population of Africa is growing rapidly with a growth rate approximately 3% per annum (National Geographic, 2013). About 70% of Africa's population relies on agriculture for income and times of drought can produce severe hardship. The climate of Africa together with the effects of the Slave Trade, colonization, international trade and internal wars and conflicts make Africa the world's poorest continent (National Geographic, 2013).

In the middle of 2011 a severe drought hit the Horn of Africa hard, resulted a major food crisis across the region. More than 12 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia experiencing humanitarian assistance due to the crisis, and the

worst number in this achieved by Somalia and the United Nations has declared on July 20, 2011 (UNOCHA, 2011). Eight areas in southern Somalia very high risk of famine, if there is no help that could save their situation in some future time. Some of the causes of food crisis in Africa are the rare of rainfall in Africa, so the drought hit Africa in a long time, and another factor is the conflict that occurred in the country worsened the condition there. Due to the prolonged conflict, the food crisis occurred in Africa. On 20 July 2011, the United Nations (UN) declared Somalia to be famine. Eight regions in South Somalia was the highest number of famine. More than 4 million people affected direct impact of this crisis (UNOCHA, 2011). Therefore, combination of drought, the increasing of food cost and fuel, also the prolonged conflict worsened the condition of Somalia people.

Since the 1992 food crisis happened in Somalia, the Oxfam International had done several humanitarian activities in the country. It has been working in Somalia over the years. Oxfam International in cooperation with local Somali organizations to delivered and distributed aids to the people in need in the country. And over the past few years Oxfam International has provided essential services to the people that really need help for the long term (Oxfam America, 2011).

This research emphasizes on the engagement of the Oxfam International on food crisis in Somalia. As an international non-governmental organization (NGOs), the Oxfam International gives its attention to the food crisis that

happened in Africa. Along with the times, actors in international relations today is in fact not only the state, the role of international organizations is increasingly developing not only international governmental organizations (IGOs) but also international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). NGOs are all structured organizations that operate internationally and without having any official relations with the government of the country, although the role of NGOs has not been dominant throughout other actors such as states, IGOs, and Multinational Corporations (MNCs). In some cases, NGOs proved capable of influencing the decisions of international, mainly through public opinion.

In the future, the swift currents of democratization and the weakening of the state influence in public life, it is not likely to encourage the growing role of NGOs as an actor of international relations. Human form of non-governmental organizations to achieve the objectives of social, economic and political, which of them have formed a large formal institutional structure and the other, only occasionally held a meeting to discuss the common interests of its member. These organizations raise funds, allocate and also distribute various types and forms of information (Sitepu, 2011).

The Oxfam International is an international confederation of 18 organizations working together with partners and local communities in more than 90 countries. The 18-member organization of the Oxfam International confederation are based in; Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany,

Great Britain, Hong Kong, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Quebec, Spain and the United States (Oxfam International, 2016).

Currently, still many people live in poverty as the Oxfam International is determined to change that world by mobilizing the power of people against poverty. Oxfam International established in 1995 by independent group of non-governmental organizations, and aims to work together to reduce poverty and injustice and to prevent wider impact. The name “Oxfam” comes from “Oxford Committee for Famine Relief” founded in Britain in 1942 (Oxfam International, 2016). The forerunner of this institution is the formation of a committee that includes members of several social activists and academics from Oxford University, England.

In 1942, a group of people in Oxford, England concerned about the problems of hunger and suffering endured by civilians during World War II, the committee has attempted to send food supplies to women and children starving in Greece which has been dominated by the enemy in World War II. From that moment, they start to form a committee to help the refugees in Greece, and then they agreed to call themselves, the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief that eventually become Oxfam (Oxfam International, 2016).

In 1960s, Oxfam International aid slightly changed into the effort to improve agriculture and food production (Oxfam International, 2016). In the decade of the 70s, Oxfam

International began to develop in other 12 countries beside the United Kingdom and continental Europe, as well as expanded humanitarian aid for disaster and the formulation of a global solution in the poverty issue (Oxfam International, 2016). Oxfam International works directly with communities and strives to ensure that poor people can improve their lives and livelihoods, also have a voice in decisions that affect them. Every international organizations work together to achieve greater impact through the collective efforts. Besides being a world leader in delivering emergency assistance, Oxfam International implement long-term development programs in vulnerable communities. Oxfam International also a part of global movement, a campaign with others, for example, to end the unfair trade rules, demands for health care and education for all, and to combat climate change (Oxfam International, 2016).

The main concern of Oxfam International is to fight poverty around the world as well as working with local organizations and government in providing relief to the poor in the world in order to create a life of dignity and self-contained. Oxfam International as an organization engaged in humanitarian issues, especially to eradicate poverty and hunger (Oxfam International. 2016. Who We Are), happened in Somalia, make the dependents of every family become severe. All Oxfam's work is framed by its central commitment to 5 broad rights-based aims; the right to a sustainable livelihood, the right to basic social services, the right to life and security, the right to be heard, and the right to an identity.

Within this framework, Oxfam International works together on 4 “change goals”, i.e.: 1. Economic Justice, 2. Rights in Crisis, 3. Essential Services, and 4. Gender Justice (Oxfam International, 2010-2011).

Seventy years after the first Oxfam International was formed to respond to a food crisis, food remains a critical problem. Around 2011 and 2012, people were facing a global crisis. International food prices are rising for everyone, but the problem is most extreme in developing countries, hitting the world’s poorest people hardest.

Since 2011 to 2012, it was major food crises in East Africa where agricultural production fell by a quarter from 2010, and food prices went up between 25 to 60 per cent more than the five-year average (Oxfam International, 2011-2012). Therefore, the Oxfam International is supporting small-scale farmers and agricultural programs by focusing on farming techniques, tools, access to markets and adapting to the effects of climate change.

In response to that, in June 2011, Oxfam International launched its four-year campaign, GROW. The campaign aims to tackle the failings in the global food system. Oxfam International wanted to create a movement of people to build a future where everyone on the planet has enough to eat, always. GROW is working in more than 40 countries around the world, with a wide variety of partners and allies and is pushing for changes at the international level (Oxfam International, 2011-2012). Oxfam International focused on four interlinked aspects of the global

food system that contribute to world hunger, such as land grabs, food price volatility, supporting sustainable farming, and climate change.

According to Oxfam International, the food crisis may be triggered by severe drought, but the underlying causes are poor governance, conflict, chronic under-investment, and marginalization of regions and communities. Humanitarian aids save lives, but aid alone will not address the root causes of such crises, or stop them from happening again in the future. It is no coincidence that the worst affected areas are the poorest and least developed. In response to that, Oxfam International lobbied governments, donors and international decision-makers to take a long-term approach in tackling food crises.

In 2013 and 2014, Oxfam International continues its humanitarian program in Somalia. Around seventy per cent of the population in Somalia has no access to clean drinking water, and fewer than one in four people have adequate sanitation facilities and basic health services (Oxfam International. 2013-2014:41). Oxfam's approach has been to target those most at risk, particularly malnourished children and pregnant women. Oxfam International also set up nutrition programs and provided cash vouchers so that people could buy products from local markets, rather than depend on food aid.

Between January and March 2014, over 360.000 people benefitted from Oxfam's humanitarian assistance, making a total of over one million people reached since January 2013

(Oxfam International. 2013-2014:41). Local partners have been critical to the success, providing access to, and understanding of, how best to respond to the needs of a wide range of communities (Oxfam International. 2013-2014:41). Oxfam International also made good use of digital technology to target people affectively, for example use of mobile phones to transfer money securely to those most in need. Together with its partners, Oxfam International also set up the tree planting programs.

In 2015, Oxfam International continues it works alongside its partner, Hijra, constructed water tanks, sanitation facilities and latrines, and delivered hygiene promotion activities, so that people in Afgoye and Mogadishu had access to safer conditions (Oxfam International, 2014-2015: 55). Oxfam International also set up a program to provide beneficiaries with small amounts of cash so that they could make their own decisions about what food and necessities to buy. This goal is to reduce their sense of dependency by offering choice in uncertain times.

OXFAM International Involvement in Africa

The humanitarian crisis in Somalia reached its peak during 2011 when a severe drought caused famine throughout most of the country, provides an important case study for assessing the issues raised by the counterterrorism laws and their effects on humanitarian actions (Harvard Law School. 2013). Somalia's recent history is marked by instability, turmoil,

and uncertainty. After the fall of Siyad Barre's government in 1991, various groups struggled for dominance and control of the country. Diplomatic talks held in Nairobi during 2004 led to the creation of the Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG), which the United Nations (UN) and the African Union recognized as the legitimate government of Somalia (Kaplan, Stephanie Hanson and Eben, 2008).

The basic understanding to an NGO's access in Somalia is local acceptance. They work through local communities and local NGO, which is The Somalia NGO Consortium.¹ It is a voluntary coordination mechanism of NGOs for NGOs: given the highly insecure environment, the complexity of the operating environment and the large numbers of agencies working in Somalia, a coordinated voice is critical to successfully conduct development and humanitarian aid in Somalia (Somalia NGO Consortium. 2015).

Therefore, in Pillar Five of public policy framework made by the Federal Government of Somalia, there is International Relations-Building, collaborative relations and Polishing the National Image.² It mentioned that they continue to engage actively with the international non-governmental organizations

¹ The Somalia NGO Consortium was established in 1999 and has since grown to become an effective network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working together to improve international aid coordination and raised the presence and profile of NGO representation within aid coordination structure in Somalia. Its currently hosted by Care International, NRC and DRC which provide the legal framework and administrative support to the Consortium's personnel.

² Somalia Federal Republic. 2013. *Foundation of New Beginning The Six Pillar Policy*. Accessed December 23, 2016. <http://www.villasomalia.gov.so/project/foundations-of-new-beginning-the-six-pillar-policy/>.

(INGOs), and also mentioned that they create and enabling environment where the international community can support the recovery and reconstruction process. It shows that the Federal Government of Somalia believe that without the support of the international community, Somalia cannot be recovered from the issues that that faced (Somalia Federal Republic, 2013).

Oxfam International has a long history of working with and through local Somali NGOs in Somalia in delivering and distributing assistance to the people in Somalia. In 1990s, Oxfam International was one of the non-governmental organizations that cooperated with the United Nations as its implementing partners to delivered humanitarian aid in Somalia (United Nations. n.d.). The communities act as the principal buffer against demands made by external elements. Through their representatives, they put relentless pressure upon the local authorities to allow the NGOs work freely (Oxfam International, 2009).

This INGO believes that people affected by conflicts and disasters have the right to live safely and with dignity. Those people most at risk have the right to be free from violence, to have clean water, shelter and food; they also have a right to be heard and to take control of their own daily life.

There are 13 million people affected across East Africa in mid-2011 caused by a major food crisis. Families' livelihoods were destroyed as livestock died and harvests failed. Triggered

by the poorest rains in 60 years, which caused severe and repeated drought, more than 12 million (Oxfam International, 2011-2012, 27) people were left in desperate need of aid across Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. Tens of thousands of people believed to have died, particularly in Somalia, where the first famine of the 21st century was announced.

Meanwhile, Oxfam International launched its largest ever appeal in the continent and received overwhelming response from supporters. Working with communities, governments, and local and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), Oxfam International has assessed more than three million people in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia with safe water, sanitation, cash and other support (Oxfam International, 2011-2012, 27). This assistance provides both life-saving humanitarian aid as well as long-term development support, helping communities cope with a changing climate and increasingly frequent droughts.

Oxfam International already had existing programs in all three countries affected, with much of Oxfam International work focusing on long-term development programs in drought-prone communities. To maximize the impact, Oxfam International undertook a regional wide response -rather than approaching each country separately- while taking into consideration the differing country contexts. In Somalia, longstanding conflict made delivering international aid incredibly complex. While it is too dangerous for Oxfam International to have permanent staff in Somalia, Oxfam International has been working in Somalia

for many years, entirely through a trusted network of local organizations; when the famine hit, Oxfam International was able to use the existing relationships to get help to those in need.

During 2011 and 2012, when people felt the emergency developing from Oxfam International has been providing clean and safe water, improving sanitation and public health, providing nutrition, and rebuilding livelihoods and increasing access to food, markets and services. With serious drought, crippling Somalia, many thousands of desperate families left their homes and relocated to search food and water. Working through the local Somali organization SAACID, Oxfam International provided clean water and sanitation for the displaced families living there. Oxfam International understands that the most vulnerable groups in disaster situations are often most severely impacted by water scarcity. They also have fewer economic opportunities (Oxfam International. 2011-2012, 28).

In 2013 to 2014, more than 3 million people still need humanitarian assistance, 1.1 million people remain displaced, and 1 million live as refugees in other countries (Oxfam International, 2013-2014, 41). Oxfam International continues its humanitarian program in Somalia by setting up nutrition programs and provided cash vouchers so that people could buy products from local markets, rather than depend on food aid. In 2015, the number of people needing assistance decreased into 2.9 million people (Oxfam International. 2014-2015, 55).

The Role of INGO in Somalia

The changing times and its development have widened the characteristic of actors in international relations. Beside state actors, international organizations increased its involvement which consists of international governmental organizations (IGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). NGOs known as the structured organizations that work internationally without having ties with the government of the country, even though its roles do not always dominate rather than state actors, IGOs, and Multinational Corporations (MNCs). In some cases, NGOs had proven capable to influence the international decision, particularly through public opinion. The swift currents of democratization indirectly changed the state influence in public life and encouraged the growing role of NGOs as an actor in international relations. Some of the non-governmental organizations that concern with the humanity to achieve the objectives of social, economic and political which formed as a large formal institutional structure and some others occasionally held a meeting to discuss its members' common interests. These organizations raise funds, allocate and distribute various types of information (Sitepu, 2011).

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a legitimately constituted for voluntary association of individuals or groups that does not tied with the government or a for-profit enterprise, although it may and often receive government and corporate's funds. Regardless its financing source, an NGO keeps up its status only as the government representatives without

membership or participation (Non-Governmental Organization. n.d.).

In the recent decades, the number of non-governmental organizations has ballooning to represent its interests that addressed the current issues and trying to solve it, as well as gaining the recognition of limited government programs in addressing the social problems. Since 1980, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) started to rise within the development policy has been widely documented (Edwards M, Hulme D. 1992). Today, NGOs became important and has a substantial scale of international development. The more familiar NGOs roles and its well-known campaigns, being actively involved in broader development activities that include democracy building, conflict resolution, human rights work, policy and analysis, as well as research and information provision.

Non-governmental organizations are generally classified based on their interests and methods (Non-Governmental Organization. n.d.). The typology used by World Bank and other international financial agencies such as Asian Development Bank classified NGOs as the operational advocacy (Asian Development Bank, 2004). The main purpose of operational NGOs is to provide relief in the form of labor, managerial, expertise, products or equipment in the development-related project, for instance, Oxfam International that concern with poverty alleviation, might provide equipment and skills to find food and clean drinking water.

Non-governmental organizations today have taken up a place of extraordinary importance and relevance in the society. Currently, they turned into the fundamental reasons of improvement in the lives and underprivileged people. NGOs create broad impacts for underdeveloped as well as developing countries. They also played a crucial role for peace building especially the country like Somalia. Their activities included negotiations, provide facilitation, and mediating for sustainability of peace in Somaliland. In this situation, Oxfam International has a big role in overcoming the food crisis in Somalia by delivering the food, livelihood, clean water, and healthcare. It shows how Oxfam International plays significant role in helping people in crisis.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are increasing the influence they are able to play on global politics. As far as they represent political values, interests, and demands that cut across the borders of the state. Furthermore, they participate in many trans-national and world-level actions programs, and are recognized also by policy-makers as actors of the world political system, the reserved domain of the states. For this reason, it is quite safe to say that they have an impact on the transformation of the structure and processes of world politics. At the same time, it is safe not concealing that the NGOs effective actor continues to depend on the access given to them by state governments and international organizations (IOs) to international institutions and common decision-making processes and actions (Irrera, 2014).

Thus, regarding to human rights concerns, they will help lift people and injustice, allow them to assert their dignity and guarantee sustainable development. Oxfam International is determined to change that world by mobilizing the power of people against poverty. Around the globe, Oxfam International works to find practical with innovative ways for people to lift themselves out of poverty and thrive. Oxfam International save lives and help rebuild livelihoods when crisis strikes. And Oxfam International also campaign so that the voices of poor people are heard and can influence the local and global decisions that affect them. Oxfam International works with partner organizations and alongside vulnerable women and men to end the injustices that cause poverty (Oxfam International, 2015).

Oxfam International is an international confederation of 17 organizations working together with partners and local communities in more than 90 countries. The 17-member organization of the Oxfam International confederation are based in; Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Quebec, Spain and the United States (Oxfam International, 2015).

All of Oxfam's work is framed by its commitment to five board right-based aims, such as the right to a sustainable livelihood, the right to basic social services, the right to life and security, the right to be heard, and the right to an identity (Oxfam International. 2014). Oxfam International is registered as a Foundation in The Hague, Netherlands. Each affiliate is a

member of the Foundation and subscribes to the Foundation's constitution through an affiliation agreement. The Oxfam International Secretariat provides co-ordination and support to the confederation. All affiliates share a single Strategic Plan that provides the shared agenda for all affiliates to choose the approaches and themes of work that will enable them to achieve the most impact in their specific contexts (Oxfam International, 2015).

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity appears when people are lack of access to the sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food. Therefore, they could not have enough consumption due to the unavailability of food, inadequate purchasing power, or inappropriate utilization at household level to meet a healthy life. Despite the progressive technological innovations, political and social changes in the recent decades, the number of extremely hunger people on the planet increased as well. Today, more than 850 million people remain hungry. While food security became a global phenomenon, the majority of extremely hungry people around 840 million and live in the developing regions of the world, with a total of approximately 218 million in some areas of Africa (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2012).

Food insecurity can also have a number of impacts on the people. For instance, malnutrition resulted from the insufficient or unbalanced dietary could bring detrimental effects for the

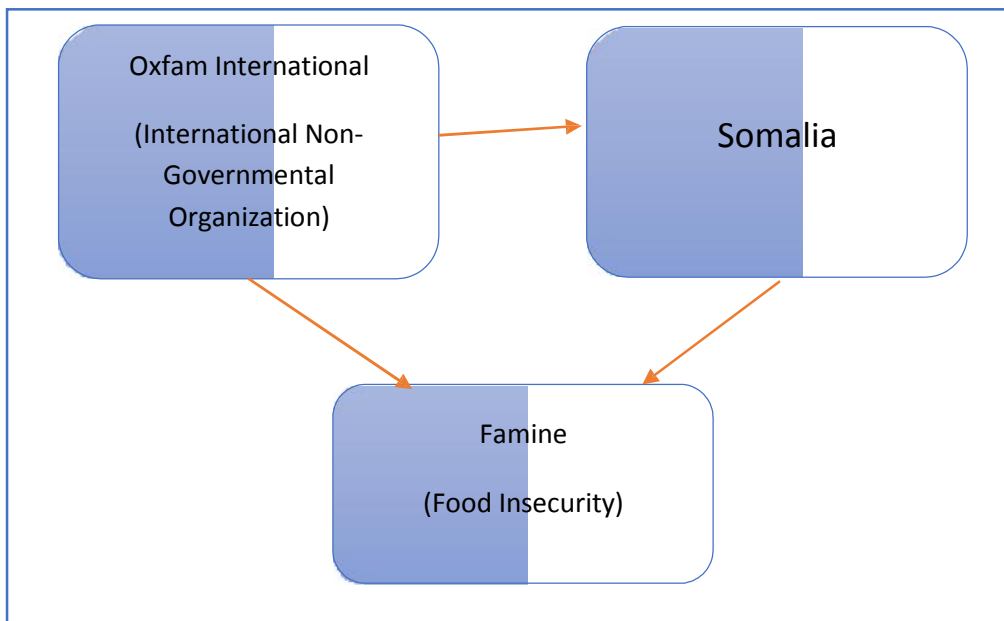
malnourished people. There are some reasons of why billions of people are living each day with food insecurity because its poor distribution, coordination, food production, and lack of natural resources. State's action and globalization are some factors that indirectly related to food security.

Food insecurity not just limited to the problem of insufficient food production, availability, and intake, it also includes the poor quality or nutritional value of the food. Soaring food prices and food riots are parts of many symptoms of the prevailing food crisis and insecurity. Climate change and weather notions present and forecast, are generally compounding food insecurity and drastically changing farming activities as diagnosed by Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGRIAR) in June 2011 (Sasson, 2012).

Somalia's humanitarian crisis reached its peak in 2011 when severe drought cause famine throughout most of the country, it provides an important case study for assessing the issues raised by the counterterrorism laws and their impacts on humanitarian activities (Harvard Law School, 2013). Somalia's current history marked by unsteadiness, turmoil and uncertainty after the fall of Siyad Barre's government in 1991, various groups struggled for dominance and control over the country (Harvard Law School, 2013). Since then, there is no clear government that led the country. Therefore, Somalia needs help from outside to solve the food crisis in the country, which is the non-governmental organization (NGO). Oxfam International is one of the international NGO that has been

working in Somalia over the last decade (Oxfam America, 2011). As one of the international NGO that concern about humanity, hunger problem and poverty around the world, Oxfam International help by reducing the crisis in the country by delivering assistance for the people.

Figure 1 – Oxfam International in Somalia



Oxfam International cooperates with local Somali organization SAACID, by providing clean water and sanitation for the displaced families living there. Oxfam International continues its humanitarian program in 2013 and 2014 in Somalia by setting up nutrition programs and provided cash vouchers so that the people could buy products from local markets rather than depend on the food aid (Oxfam International, 2013-2014, 41).

Oxfam International Humanitarian Program in Somalia

Every person deserves dignity and respect, and to enjoy their rights to life and security, and the assistance and protection that make it possible. Oxfam International is bound to help provide assistance and protection in each crisis where it works. That is humanitarian imperative according to Oxfam International. That help must be impartial, which means the aid is for every person, according to their needs, without discrimination because of race, gender, religion, age or anything else; and independent which is directed without influence from any interest group or political group (ICRC, 2009).

Oxfam International commits to more effective crisis response, both through Oxfam's own capacity and increasingly through the capacity of other organizations, partners and communities. Increasing the work to reduce the risk of disasters (DRR) and build the resilience of communities, drawing from experience and learning from existing programs with civil society. Strengthen the institutional capacity of states to respond to crises, working on a set of selected countries to drive transformative change at the global level. Influence others and campaign for the respect of the rights of communities who are at risk or affected by conflicts and disasters at the grassroots, national, regional and global levels. Support poor women and their organizations in emergency preparedness, risk reduction and response, through intensive capacity building and partnerships, by assisting women and men to safely voice their concerns and hold duty bearers accountable (ICRC, 2009).

Oxfam International help people caught up in natural disasters and conflicts across the world with clean water, food, sanitation and protection (Oxfam International, 2016). Oxfam International delivers assistance and strives to ensure civilians are protected from violence. Where possible, Oxfam International supports civil society and state bodies to do so. Where not, Oxfam International works with its staff and international agencies, and help bring international NGOs together to coordinate program and policy (Oxfam International, 2013).

Oxfam International responded to many emergencies which did not make the headlines, but where people still desperately needed assistance. Globally, Oxfam International continued their campaign towards a strong Arms Trade Treaty, working to end the suffering due to an unregulated and irresponsible arms trade. Growing numbers of vulnerable people, a rise in disasters, and the failure to put the most fragile states on the path to development has significantly increased emergency needs. Oxfam International continues to push for reform of the international community and national governments are better prepared to respond quickly and to prevent the worst effects of disasters (Oxfam International, 2012, 27).

There are 13 million people affected by the crisis was declared across parts of East Africa in mid-2011 (Oxfam International, 2012, 27). More than 12 million people were left in desperate need of aid across Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya

because of the poorest rains in the last 60 years that caused severe and repeated drought. When the first famine of the 21st century was declared in Somalia, many people lives in needs of aid because of their livelihoods were destroyed as livestock died and harvest failed. Around tens of thousands of people are believed to have died across parts of East Africa (UN News Center, 2011).

Oxfam International launched its largest ever appeal in the continent and received an overwhelming response from supporters by working with communities, governments and local and international NGOs. Oxfam International has reached more than three million people in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia with safe water, sanitation, cash and other support. This assistance provides both life-saving humanitarian aid as well as long-term development support, helping communities cope with a changing climate and increasingly frequent droughts.

Oxfam International has existing programs in all three countries affected (Oxfam International, 2012, 28), with much of the work focusing on long-term development programs in drought-prone communities. To maximize the impact, Oxfam International undertook a regional wide response while taking into consideration the differing country contexts. In Somalia, longstanding conflict made delivering international aid incredibly complex. While it is too dangerous for Oxfam to have staff in Somalia, Oxfam International has been working in Somalia for many years, entirely through a trusted network of local organizations; when the famine hit Oxfam International

was able to use the existing relationships to get help to those in need.

After years of poor rainfall many local water sources had run dry. Oxfam's engineers repaired boreholes, wells and water pumps, improved traditional water storage reservoirs, and trained local maintenance committees. Due to high malnutrition, poor water supplies, and people moving to escape the drought, there was a real risk outbreak of fatal diseases such as cholera, malaria and diarrhea. Oxfam International built and rehabilitated latrines, and conducted widespread health campaigns in rural areas and crowded refugee camps.

Oxfam International supported community-based nutrition programs in Mogadishu, Somalia, providing therapeutic food to acutely malnourished children under five. In Ethiopia, Oxfam International supported a supplementary food distribution program for moderately malnourished children under five, pregnant or nursing mothers, and some elderly people. A food crisis is not always about a shortage of food – often, food is there but people cannot access it. In many parts of East Africa food was available in the markets but rising prices meant it was too expensive for families to afford. Oxfam International equipped farmers with new tools and seeds, and helped them prepare for the next harvest as well as providing cash to enable people to buy food and keep markets functioning.

With serious drought, crippling Somalia, many thousands of desperate families left their homes, and relocated to search

for food and water. More than 300,000 displaced Somalis were packed into this crowded strip of land (Oxfam International, 2012), where it was a serious challenge to find clean water. Working through the local Somali organization SAACID, Oxfam International provided clean water and sanitation for the displaced families living there. Oxfam International understands that the most vulnerable groups in disaster situations are often most severely impacted by water scarcity. They also have fewer economic opportunities. Oxfam International supported women's participation and leadership in the community, as well as involving women in managing water systems and other key resources.

The food crisis may be triggered by severe drought, but the underlying causes are poor governance, conflict, chronic under-investment, and marginalization of regions and communities. Humanitarian aid saves lives, but aid alone will not address the root causes of such crises or stop them from happening again in the future. It is no coincidence that the worst affected areas are the poorest and least developed. Oxfam International lobbied governments, donors and international decision-makers to take a long-term approach to tackling food crises. Oxfam International helped to establish the 'African Acts 4 Africa' (AA4A) campaign (Oxfam International, 2012, 29), which built on grassroots movements and provided a platform for African citizens to call on their own governments and regional bodies, such as the African Union, to address the food crisis as an urgent issue. African celebrities and popular

musicians from across the continent helped to generate vital political pressure, resulting in African government pledging \$43 million to fund relief efforts. AA4A will continue to hold governments to account in delivering these pledges (Oxfam International, 2012, 29).

The humanitarian crisis in East Africa continues. Good rains in many areas in late 2011, combined with the enormous global aid response, have brought signs of improvement for the future, however, millions of people continue to need support to recover, and communities need basic services and infrastructure to ensure they are resilient in future. Rebuilding lives and livelihoods will take sustained effort for years to come.

Somalis are some of the world most resilient and resourceful people, yet years of conflict and drought have left many people struggling to survive a humanitarian catastrophe. After more than 20 years of conflict between rival factions, cycles of drought and flooding, and with no effective central government. Somalia is in the midst of a humanitarian emergency. Oxfam International has been working in Somalia since the 1960s, providing immediate life-saving aid and long-term development assistance to the most vulnerable people. Somalia is one of the most dangerous places in the world for aid agencies to operate much of Oxfam's work is implemented by local partner organizations and communities (Oxfam International, 2012).

Somalia faces its worst humanitarian crisis in eighteen years, with almost half the population or an estimated 3.64 million people (Oxfam International. 2009), in need of emergency livelihood and life-saving assistance. In the south/central regions of Somalia, aid agencies must cope with threats to their security and control over aid resources posed by armed factions. This has created concerns within the donor community about the accountability of their funding, especially in areas controlled by hardline administrations. Some donors are asking whether it is even possible to work within this environment.

Somalia is a challenging and volatile environment in which to work. The dangerous operating environment means that monitoring of program activities and ensuring that aid is reaching the intended beneficiaries is more difficult than it would be in more secure environments. However, Oxfam International believes the humanitarian imperative forces Oxfam International to constantly explore and undertake innovative methods to ensure effective monitoring of aid delivery. Oxfam International believes that any case of gross abuse or diversion of aid should be investigated by the agencies in question and their donors.

Oxfam International maintains a semi-operational presence in south/central Somalia³ and actively works with

³ Oxfam GB has a semi-operational program in Somaliland delivering humanitarian and development programs. Oxfam GB have programmes and logistical set-ups within reach of project sites in Lower Juba and Gedo regions. Oxfam Novib works to build the institutional capacities of Somali civil society organizations across Somalia, and financially supports the work of its partner agencies.

local NGO partners to deliver humanitarian programs. It has made the strategic decision to identify and train local Somali NGOs on the basics of emergency programming, preparedness and response, and to give them technical and funding support to deliver effective humanitarian programs. Since 2007, Oxfam has trained 28 local Somali organizations on emergency preparedness and response action (in its EPARA /Emergency Preparedness and Response Action program) (Oxfam International, 2009). The engagement with these local organizations is sustained, deliberate and aimed at generating the necessary level of trust between Oxfam and the partner and between the partner and the local community.

Oxfam International has a long history of working with and through local Somali NGOs in Somalia and within the current context; this is the only way humanitarian assistance can reach those who need it. These organizations play a key role in programme implementation. This approach has allowed Oxfam to maintain operations and carry out assessments to assist over 300,000 civilians (Oxfam International, 2009).

Two decades of fighting and instability in Somalia has severely affected the infrastructure and prosperity of the country, making it difficult for people to cope, especially during periods of drought or flooding. While living conditions have improved compared to previous years, more than 3 million people still need humanitarian assistance, 1.1 million people remain displaced, and 1 million live as refugees in other countries (Oxfam International, 2014). Women face the second

highest maternal mortality rates in the world and babies, the highest mortality rates at birth.

Seventy per cent of the population has no access to clean drinking water, and fewer than one in four people have adequate sanitation facilities and basic health services (Oxfam International, 2014, 41). Oxfam's approach has been to target those most at risk – particularly malnourished children and pregnant mothers – with these basic necessities. Oxfam International also set up nutrition programs and provided cash vouchers so that people could buy produce from local markets (rather than depend on food aid).

During January to March 2014, over 360,000 people (Oxfam International, 2014, 41) benefited from Oxfam's humanitarian assistance, making a total of over one million people reached since January 2013. Local partners have been critical to its success, providing access to, and understanding of, how best to respond to the needs of a wide range of communities. Oxfam International also made good use of digital technology to target people effectively, for example use of mobile phones to transfer money securely to the most in need. Somalis are resilient and resourceful people but in 2014 severe drought pushed Somalia into the epicenter of an East African food crisis with 2.9 million people urgently needing assistance (Oxfam International, 2015, 55). Oxfam International worked together with its local partner, Hijra, constructed water tanks, sanitation facilities, and latrines, and delivering hygiene promotion activities, so that over 100,000 people (Oxfam International,

2015, 55) in Afgoye and Mogadishu had access to safer conditions. Oxfam International also set up a program to provide beneficiaries with small amounts of cash so that they could make their own decisions about what food and necessities to buy. This reduced their sense of dependency by offering choice in uncertain times. Oxfam International developed innovative E-cash facilities for the people in the insecure areas using mobile phones to reach people and alert them to payment. Amount of cash also can be used by women to open small shop and tea stalls to provide an extra source of income to feed their families, while other were paid cash to make brooms and energy-saving stoves.

Remittances from the Somali Diaspora, some 40 per cent of the country's revenue, significantly more than humanitarian aid committed by the international community were a lifeline. However, this facility to safely wire cash to relatives was curtailed by banks. In July 2015, Oxfam International with 26 other NGOs launched *"Risk of Relapse: Somalia crisis alert"*, *"Hanging by a thread: the ongoing threat to Somalia's remittances"* resulted by February 2015 in a doubling funds for humanitarian response in Somalia (Oxfam International, 2015, 56).

Oxfam International invests in people at community level to strengthen their resilience, ensuring that the most vulnerable have access to high quality, accountable services during humanitarian crises and are able to develop their capacity to recover and withstand future stresses. Oxfam International

reached 100,000 mobile phone users in a countrywide polio eradication campaign (Oxfam International, 2015, 56). Innovative technology is a vital contribution towards resilience.

In 2014, Somalia and El Salvador piloted Oxfam's Strong Local Humanitarian Actors Program (SLHAP) as a practical way to stimulate civil society, government authorities, and the private sector to take a lead in humanitarian response (Oxfam International, 2015, 56). Building on a contextual analysis to identify obstacles to locally managed responses and through generating dialogue and sharing ideas, the program is building the capacity of local organizations and influencing government structures to create a stronger basis for future program development.

Conclusion

Somalia has seriously been and still is deteriorated due to the continuous conflicts. The majority of population has been weakened; living with no access to social services or reliable sources to income. Somalia's livestock has been decimated and up to 75% of the population was living in a humanitarian emergency, with 3.7 million people in need of food aid, education and health care services. Farming activities, which for many play as the sole source of income, have been worst affected by these practices. Infrastructures have been seriously deteriorated and it was nearly impossible for humanitarian and

transports to reach the victims. The most severely affected fields by the human resources shortage is health and education fields.

In the mid of 2011, United Nations (UN) declared famine in two regions of southern Somalia owing to the worst drought in decades, and appealed for urgent resources to assist millions of people in desperate need of help. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), famine is declared when acute malnutrition rates among children exceed 30 per cent, more than two people per every 10,000 dies per day, and people are not able to access food and other basic necessities.

According to the United Nations, acute malnutrition rates in Somalia at that time is the highest in the world. In the two regions of southern Bakool and Lower Shabelle, acute malnutrition rates are above 20 per cent, with deaths among children under the age of five exceeding six per 10,000 per day in some areas. In 2011, tens of thousands of Somalis have died as a result of causes to malnutrition, the majority of them children.

Consecutive droughts have affected the country in the last few years while the ongoing conflict has made it extremely difficult for agencies to operate and access communities in the south. Nearly half of the Somali population (3.7 million people) was in crisis, with an estimated 2.8 million of them in the south.

The Somali conflicts weakened the majority of people living them with no access to social services or reliable sources

of income. Moreover, the conflict made many Somalis to flee for refugee in the neighboring countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and some other countries. Local and international Non-Governmental Organization and UN agencies responded to Somali crisis. Examples of the interventions include remitting millions of dollars, providing humanitarian support to war victims, creating employment opportunities, setting up small business, improve the livelihoods of many families, and also provide affordable social services.

Many NGOs which concerned with humanitarian issues involved in addressing famine in Somalia, and one of the International Non-Governmental Organizations is Oxfam International. Oxfam International has a long history of working with and through local Somali NGOs in Somalia and within the current context. In 1990s, Oxfam International was one of the non-governmental organizations that cooperated with the United Nations as its “implementing partners” to delivered humanitarian aid in Somalia. The communities act as the principal buffer against demands made by external elements. Through their representatives, they put relentless pressure upon the local authorities to allow the NGOs work freely.

Oxfam International worked together with local and international NGOs in Somalia which incorporated in Somalia NGO Consortium. It is a voluntary coordination mechanism of NGOs for NGOs. As a member of Somalia NGO Consortium, Oxfam International had more access to reach people in needs,

so that Oxfam International can deliver its assistances to the people in Somalia.

Oxfam International as an NGO which concern with humanitarian issue, it understands that the most vulnerable groups in disaster situation are often most severely impacted by water scarcity. So, Oxfam International worked together with local communities provided clean water and sanitation for displaced families. Around 2011-2012, 70% of the population in Somalia have no access to clean drinking water. After the improvement done by Oxfam International in providing clean water and sanitation, the people have more access to clean water. They also improved sanitation and public health, rebuilt livelihoods and increased access to food, markets and services.

In the next year, Oxfam International continues its humanitarian activities in Somalia by setting up nutrition programs and provided cash vouchers so that people could buy products from local markets, rather than depend on food aid. Since the beginning of 2013-2014, over 360.00 people benefitted from Oxfam's humanitarian assistance, making a total of over one million people reached.

In addressing the crisis, Oxfam International has given a long-term effect by supporting local farmers. It has helped the farmers to re-invest in their land and build some security to see them through times of austerity and conflict. Oxfam International improved the fertility of the soil, water supplies have been repaired to irrigate land, seeds and tools are being

used to replant crops and fodder for livestock, and vaccination programs are protecting them from disease.

The GDP in Somalia has increased due to the help of NGOs including Oxfam International. The people of Somalia also felt the impact of Oxfam's long-term program and caused the number of people in crisis to be decreased annually.

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