Connecting Scotland – how Scottish organisations engage internationally

Oxfam Scotland

Introduction
Oxfam Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Committee’s inquiry – “Connecting Scotland: how Scottish organisations engage internationally”.

Oxfam works to overcome poverty in over 90 countries around the world. Our experience and expertise in development and humanitarian assistance is recognised internationally. We have worked in Scotland for over 50 years, starting as a small fundraising group raising funds for Oxfam’s global world. Today we continue to fundraise for our international programmes and emergency response, but we also campaign on a wide range of issues linked to poverty reduction at home and abroad. This includes: climate change, access to health care and education, aid levels and the quality of aid, gender equality, extreme economic inequality, the right to be heard, trade, and domestic poverty. We also work to promote development education, specifically global citizenship for young people.

In addition, we play a prominent role in Scottish civil society through: the work of our staff; our prominent role within a variety of networks and coalitions; the activities of our supporters; and the efforts of our more than one thousand shop volunteers based in 50 shops.

Q: What international activities are happening now in your sector and/or organisation?

Oxfam Emergency Response
2014 was a highly challenging year, and this trend has continued in 2015. The below information offers the committee a picture of challenges Oxfam have acted upon recently:

- **Ebola, West Africa**
The first Ebola cases begin to be noticed in Liberia in June 2014. The spread of Ebola to Sierra Leone and Guinea meant that in October the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was declared a Category 1 Emergency for Oxfam. For the three affected countries, all essential parts of the health system were dysfunctional or lacking, with resources particularly low in rural areas. This drastically inhibited the early identification and effective treatment of Ebola. So far the total number of Ebola cases has passed 25,000 and over 10,440 people have died. Oxfam has directly reached over 1.3 million people, through making house to house visits to raise awareness about Ebola and other activities. We’ve distributed 14,525 hygiene kits to individual households. We’ve supported 35 health facilities, provided water and sanitation facilities in 9 health facilities in Sierra Leone and 4 in Liberia, and provided clinical hygiene equipment for 18 health units.

- **Syria**
The Syria crisis has entered its fifth year, with no end in sight. At least 190,000 people have been killed. Almost half of the pre-war population has been forced to leave their homes including over 3.2 million who have sought refuge in neighbouring...
countries. Oxfam has been scaling up our emergency programme in the region since 2012. We are helping refugees who have fled into Jordan and Lebanon to meet their basic needs. We supply clean water and help refugees who need food, hygiene essentials and shelter. We’re working with families in camps, unofficial settlements and in rented accommodation, supporting both refugees and the communities that host them. In 2014, Oxfam programmes in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon reached over 1.4 million people.

- **South Sudan**

South Sudan is just over three years old, but is facing the world’s worst food crisis – driven by the most recent conflict that erupted in December 2013. In June 2014 Oxfam launched a UK appeal for funding. Since the conflict broke, more than 10,000 people have lost their lives and 1.5 million people have been forced from their homes. The number of South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries has risen to over 469,000. Since December 2013, Oxfam has reached 484,534 people in several locations. Our humanitarian response includes: food distribution and livelihoods, water and sanitation, and public health promotion.

- **Gaza**

In July 2014, the Israeli bombardment of Gaza began – leading to the displacement of 250,000 people; Oxfam’s programme ensured we quickly assisted 80,000 people. In August, a Disasters Emergency Committee appeal (supported by £200,000 from the Scottish Government) was launched; helping Oxfam reach nearly 420,000 people, largely through partners. In December Oxfam also responded to serious flooding in Gaza city. During the height of the crisis, Oxfam reached 669,860 people (37.2% of the total affected population). Before the crisis Oxfam programme beneficiary numbers were around the 350,000 mark.

- **Iraq**

Since the start of the Islamic State (IS) offensive an estimated 648,000 individuals have been displaced due to the conflict. Combined with the earlier Anbar crisis, 2014 has seen the displacement of 1.8 million people. This widespread conflict has resulted in thousands of people being displaced several times in an attempt to avoid fighting. Oxfam, through partners, has continued its work in the affected areas despite the many inherent challenges.

- **Extreme weather events**

Life is already a struggle for poor communities but climate change is making things much harder. Droughts and floods are becoming increasingly frequent, while growing seasons are more unpredictable. It means millions of people are going hungry. Oxfam is seeing the affects of climate change through our work. In 2014 there were multiple extreme weather events including: flooding in Pakistan and India, drought in Central America and another typhoon in the Philippines. This trend has continued in 2015: there were floods in Malawi in February and, in March, Cyclone Pam – one of the worst cyclones ever seen in the Pacific region – hit Vanuatu causing widespread devastation and 11 deaths. Some 166,000 people have been affected on the 22 islands out of a population of 247,300. Given the negative effect of climate change on poverty reduction, Oxfam has published a report which aims to analyse how well the world’s food system is prepared for the impacts of climate change.
At any time, Oxfam is responding to around 25-30 emergency situations worldwide. For more information about our emergency response work please use this link.

Long-term Development
While Oxfam is primarily seen as an emergency/humanitarian charity, we aim to build long-term solutions through development programmes which target everything from improved maternal health care and the promotion of new farming techniques to the building of sustainable livelihoods. All of our development work is about promoting self-reliance rather than dependency. We believe the best people to help poor communities are community members themselves. We listen, support and empower them to find and implement the right solutions. Wherever possible we work in partnership with local organisations.

Scottish Government Funded Projects
Between 2005 and 2015, Oxfam has been awarded a total of £5,712,234 from the Scottish Government’s International Development Fund and the Climate Justice Fund. The funding has enabled us to deliver a number of essential development projects, including in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Significantly, Oxfam campaigned for the creation of the Climate Justice Fund to help those most affected by the climate change which Scotland helped cause. In addition, the Scottish Government has supported our emergency response work both directly and through contributions to the Disasters Emergency Committee, of which Oxfam is a prominent member.

Below is a snap shot of three projects covering emergency response, development work and climate justice (Appendix 1 gives a full break down of Oxfam Scotland’s past and present projects funded by the Scottish Government):

- **Emergency Response: Pakistan Earthquake (2006-2007), £50,000**
  Oxfam targeted up to 200,000 people in the districts of Shangla, Kohistan, Mansehra, Muzaffarabad and Bagh through reconstruction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems, public health promotion, livelihood activities, disaster preparedness and capacity building, coupled with an advocacy programme to ensure people’s rights and needs were being met.

- **Development: Food Security for Tanzanian Farmers (2012-2015), £1,331,773**
  Tanzanian small-holder farmers, with women as the new role models for agricultural development, are being supported to become resilient, overcome poverty and respond to the challenges of climate change through sustainable and innovative systems of food production, improved market access and income security. As part of this project, Oxfam produced two films to showcase our work in Tanzania.

- **Climate Justice: Zambia Climate Justice Initiative (2012-2015), £490,097**
  The project aims to develop and promote climate resilient livelihoods among small scale farmers and households. It promotes improved natural resource management and supports community led strategies to increase preparedness – this includes the development of an information base in the
community to allow farmers to better understand hydrological changes. The wider community is also being reached via a series of school debates and radio programmes.

Our People
Oxfam has staff from around the world and, over the years, we are proud of the contribution made by people from Scotland. In addition to their considerable direct impact, this has enabled Oxfam to attract media coverage in Scotland, helping us to better inform the public. Having Scottish voices tell their stories resonates with the Scottish public and it helps to build solidarity with those people and communities Oxfam’s works with overseas. The work of people from Scotland also boosts our fundraising and political advocacy output.

For example:
- Daniel Gorevan from Glasgow is Oxfam's Policy Advisor on the Syrian crisis – based in Amman, Jordan. Daniel co-authored Oxfam's recent report – called "Failing Syria" – on the Syrian refugee crisis. He was interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland’s Good Morning Scotland and his recent article was published in the Herald newspaper.
- Jenny Lamb, from Aberdeen, is a Public Health Engineering Advisor for Oxfam. As part of our emergency response team, Jenny has been deployed to many different countries including Haiti, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Chad. Jenny has been interviewed in by a variety of Scottish media outlets.
- Angus McBride, from Edinburgh, is currently working on Oxfam's Emergency Sanitation Project developing new sanitation kits.
- Until recently, David MacDonald, from Renfrew, led Oxfam's response to the Ebola crisis across West Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal. As a result, we achieved a great deal of Scottish media coverage, particularly during the Disasters Emergency Committee’s (DEC's) Ebola Crisis Appeal – including in the Daily Record.

Making Scotland’s Voice Heard
Oxfam Scotland has played an active role in many campaigns in Scotland that have an international impact: from the Make Poverty History campaign in 2005 to the Enough Food for Everyone IF campaign in 2013 and, in 2009, the Wave – the biggest climate change demonstration Scotland has ever seen.

Oxfam Scotland also raised Scotland’s voice in support of the successful campaign for a global Arms Trade Treaty. We were privileged to campaign alongside two fathers from Scotland whose children were murdered: David Grimason, whose two-year-old son Alistair was shot dead in a Turkish cafe in July 2003, and Dr. Mick North, whose five-year-old daughter Sophie died in the Dunblane shooting. Both men supported Oxfam Scotland’s campaigning for the Treaty. For example, David travelled with Oxfam to meet communities affected by armed conflict in Turkana in Kenya and subsequently took his story to the United Nations in 2012 (short film), attending the handover of the global Control Arms petition to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. The Treaty came into force in December 2014.
Oxfam Scotland has also worked to campaign for action on climate change at home and abroad. Scotland achieved political consensus when the Scottish Parliament voted for the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 – creating a target to cut Scotland’s greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. We work in partnership with Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) to lobby for the action needed to deliver the Act. We also campaign for a strong global deal to reduce worldwide climate changing emissions. As part of a SCCS delegation, Oxfam Scotland attended the most recent Conference of the Parties (COPs) in Lima in Peru in December 2014. We highlighted Scotland’s world leading climate change targets through the promotion of the film ‘Scotland’s Climate Action Story’. In addition, in November 2014, again in partnership with SCCS, we held a video screening and discussion event at the European Parliament hosted by David Martin MEP. The purpose was to inspire other countries, and the EU, to take the action needed to tackle climate change.

On Scotland’s High Streets
Oxfam is proud that we currently have 50 Oxfam shops in Scotland, ranging from general shops to specialist outlets focused on music, books and even DIY. Oxfam has over 1,000 volunteers who help run our shop network. Last year Oxfam’s Scottish shops generated £5.6 million pounds in sales, providing critical funds which to help with Oxfam’s vital work.

Q: Please describe how and why these activities take place. Are other sectors or organisations involved?  What do these activities contribute or achieve?

Right now, we live in a word in which nearly a billion people go hungry every day. Yet, at the same time, just 80 people own the same wealth as half of the world’s entire population put together, on these current trends – by next year, 1% of the world’s population will own more wealth than the other 99%. At the same time, without significant action, the world is facing the prospect of catastrophic climate change. Oxfam believes these twin challenges – extreme inequality and climate change – are the defining challenges we face and are captured together within new research called The Doughnut.

Against this context, Oxfam’s activities – indeed our underlying purpose – is to help create lasting solutions to the injustice of poverty. We are part of a global movement for change, one that empowers people to create a future that is secure, just, and free from poverty. However, we know we cannot tackle poverty alone, and therefore partnerships are at the core of how Oxfam works to create, as well as campaign for, change. That partnership working is evident in the projects the Scottish Government has funded.

Therefore, all of Oxfam’s work – long-term development, humanitarian response and disaster prevention, and campaigns and advocacy – are guided by the principles of partnership. These are (i) shared vision and values (ii) complementarily of purpose and added value (iii) autonomy and independence (iv) transparency and mutual accountability (v) clarity on roles and responsibilities (vi) commitment to joint learning. Programmes implemented in partnership are likely to be better at encouraging and enabling the real participation and investment of people in poverty.
Partnerships can be challenging, and mistakes can happen – but we learn from these, so our partnerships grow stronger.

Oxfam works in a variety of partnerships Scotland, in countries around the world and at the global level. The number of partners with whom Oxfam engages grows year by year. The key relationships we seek are those that most effectively address the root causes of poverty, vulnerability and injustice, and that strengthen people as empowered agents of their own development. Oxfam is privileged to be able to partner with thousands of local civil society organisations who are crucial in supporting the actions of poor and marginalised people and communities in the development of lasting, locally-owned solutions as well in raising their diverse and locally-grounded voices for equitable development at home and worldwide.

Oxfam welcomes and engages with these diverse actors in a variety of ways, including long-term partnerships and shorter-term strategic alliances. We recognise that programmes implemented in partnership are likely to be better at encouraging and enabling the real participation and investment of people in poverty. Our aim is to create significant added value by: (i) helping to bring together different actors to work on common problems; (ii) supporting organisational and institutional capacity; (iii) generating and sharing knowledge, whether produced at local or global levels; (iv) promoting innovation and alternative solutions that may be brought to scale; (v) helping to hold duty-bearers to account for recognising, protecting and fulfilling the rights of women and men living with poverty and injustice.

Q: What should organisations in Scotland do to be effective internationally? Are you aware of any good examples of this from Scotland or another country?

Oxfam believes that the Committee is right to highlight how organisations and indeed the Scottish Government can be more effective internationally. For Oxfam and other NGOs we have been assessing this issue in relation to how Scottish organisations and Government can be more effective when it comes to being a responsible stakeholder in advancing a development agenda internationally. We want to ensure that Scottish organisations can help build a global sustainable and equitable society.

**Policy Coherence For Development**

In partnership with the Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland (NIDOS), Oxfam has been examining ways in which Scotland can enhance and maximise its international development work whilst recognising that, in today’s world, national, regional and global prospects are increasingly interwoven. Increasingly, national policy must address trans-national issues, this means domestic decisions can and do have an international impact. Scotland’s impact on the world is not limited to its international development and aid policies. The time is right to discuss how Scotland can ensure its global impact contributes to the goal of equitable and sustainable development.

While we welcome the commitments to international aid by both the Scottish and UK Governments, we know that aid alone is not enough to eliminate global poverty. How our companies operate, the things we as consumers buy, and government policies on areas such as energy, transport, and trade all impact on people and the
environment across the globe. We therefore need to examine and adopt a policy coherent approach to enhance our contribution to sustainable and just global development. In short, we must ensure Scotland does not ‘not give with one hand and take with the other’.

This approach would ensure all government departments consider the wider impacts of their policies through a pro-poor lens, avoiding contradictory policies that have a negative impact globally. It would involve a whole of Government approach, with all government departments and policies complying with, and contributing to, the goal of equitable and sustainable global development. Such an approach involves proactively identifies conflicting objectives or interests in order to make well-informed and well-considered strategic choices.

The NIDOS report (which the Committee will have received via the NIDOS submission) ‘Policy Coherence for Development: Exploring and Learning from European PCD Approaches’ highlights the different ways in which policy coherence has been adopted by various other Governments – including Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden. We urge the committee to examine this report.

Global Citizenship Education

Oxfam is also a member of the International Development Education Association of Scotland (IDEAS) which is a network of organisations and individuals involved in Development Education and Education for Global Citizenship across Scotland. This is an important element of our work in Scotland as education is the bedrock on which a nation builds itself. It instils values and helps to develop a sense of principles in its citizens. In a fast-changing and interdependent world, education in Scotland can, and should, help young people to meet the challenges they confront both now and in the future. Oxfam believes that education here can fight poverty everywhere. We need education which allows people to become informed and critically aware citizens – outward looking and committed to a just and sustainable world.

The Scottish Parliament will soon have the power to extend the vote to 16 and 17 year olds, allowing them to vote in the 2016, and subsequent, Scottish Parliament election. It is therefore essential that global citizenship education is properly funded in Scotland to ensure future generations can continue to hold politicians and decision makers to account. It encourages children and young people to explore, develop and express their own values and opinions, whilst listening to and respecting those of others. This is an important step towards children and young people making informed choices as to how they exercise their rights, as well as their responsibilities to others. However, whilst progress has been made in recent years to boost funding for this crucial work, funding remains insecure. If we want to ensure Scotland has informed and critically aware citizens we must invest in this key area.

Overview

The Committee’s inquiry seeks to examine how Scotland is engaging internationally; Oxfam believes Scotland should be proud of its commitment and engagement via the International Development Fund (IDF) and the Climate Justice Fund (CJF). This highlights that Scotland has, and continues to have, an active role in assisting developing countries.
However, it is not just in the area of the IDF and CJF that Scotland’s international engagement has an impact. The decisions our government takes – in areas such as energy, transport, trade and procurement – combined with how our companies operate and what our consumers buy, all impact on people and the environment across the globe. Scotland must ensure we do not give with one hand and take with another. Governments and organisations should also adhere to ethical principles of partnership when engaging internationally.

Finally, Oxfam would like to state our appreciation for the significant financial and campaigning support we receive from the Scottish public. This, combined with the vital financial support of the Scottish Government, enables us to engage, assist and work in partnership internationally to create lasting change. This is life-changing and life-saving.

April 2015
Appendix 1:
Oxfam projects funded by Scottish Government 2005-2015

Between 2005 and 2015, Oxfam has been awarded a total of £5,712,234 from the Scottish Government International Development and Climate Justice Funds. This has supported a wide range of long term development projects in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia as well as several emergency responses globally.

1. Developing Malawi’s Millennium Development Goals: Oxfam in Malawi and Scotland (2005-2008) £217,000
The Chiradzulu HIV and AIDS Response Programme was an innovative programme, developed from the experiences of the Joint Oxfam Programme in Malawi. The main challenge for the Chiradzulu HIV Response Programme was to demonstrate that HIV was the underlying key concern across livelihoods and healthcare issues. From the outset, the response had to develop a new approach for programme delivery, targeting of beneficiaries, selection of operational partners, and relevance of the interventions to HIV.

2. Emergency Response to Pakistan Earthquake (2006-2007) £50,000
Oxfam targeted up to 200,000 people in the districts of Shangla, Kohistan, Mansehra, Muzaffarabad and Bagh through reconstruction and rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems, public health promotion, livelihood activities, disaster preparedness and capacity building, coupled with an advocacy programme to ensure people’s rights and needs were being met.

3. Managing HIV in Malawi through Enterprise and Empowerment in Malawi (2008 – 2010) £400,000
Empowered approximately 50,000 of the most vulnerable people affected by HIV in Chiradzulu District in order to develop sustainable livelihoods and to exercise their rights in gaining access to appropriate health services.

Increased access to safe water for at least 50,000 vulnerable women, men and children to rapidly reduce the public health threat posed to them by damaged sewage infrastructure.

Oxfam’s response aimed to assist at least 80,000 people, spread across seven makeshift camps in Port-au-Prince. The main focus of our activities was water delivery, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.

6. Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods for Vulnerable Groups, Particularly Women, in Chiradzulu District – Malawi (2010-2013) £400,000
This project built on the two previous projects i.e. the ‘HIV and AIDS Response Scale-Up Programme’ 2005-2008 and the ‘Managing HIV in Malawi through enterprise and empowerment 2008-2010’.

7. Empowerment for poor smallholder farmers in Pakistan (2010 – 2013) £348,000
This project addressed some of the key challenges faced by small-scale farmers, particularly women, over the course of three years. Oxfam established producer organisations and farmer organisations, creating a network which is now able to benefit from collective purchasing powers and from processing produce together.

Overall, the floods response programme of Oxfam in Pakistan reached 1,280,035 beneficiaries. Approximately, 300,000 people were reached in the emergency phase of the programme in Upper Sindh programme. For the specific component funded by the Scottish Government 4,025 flood-affected households (28,175 people) were reached. The main focus of the Scottish Government funding was to provide 1,200 shelter kits.

This project contributed to poverty reduction, the empowerment of women and worked to address the complex economic, social and legal challenges faced by widows and vulnerable women in Iraq.

10. Emergency provision of safe drinking water in Gedo, Somalia (2011) £100,000
The emergency provision of safe drinking water through a voucher system targeting 53,172 drought affected beneficiaries consisting of internally displaced people (IDPs), pastoralists, and the drought affected host communities in Elwak, Balad Hawa, and Garbaharey districts in Gedo Region in Somalia.

11. Women farmers access value-chains and adapt to climate change in Lilongwe, Dowa and Mchinji Districts (2012-2015) £382,283
The project is enabling 15,000 women farmers across the three districts to work equitably in agribusiness, facilitating their linkages to other specialised service providers, improve their access to factors of production and facilitated an enabling environment for women’s agro-based enterprises in the value chains. This will lead to their increased income and sustainable, improved livelihoods.

Tanzanian small-holder farmers, with women as the new role models for agricultural development, are supported to become resilient, overcome poverty and respond to the challenges of climate change through sustainable and innovative systems of food production, improved market access and income security.

The project aims to develop and promote climate resilient livelihoods among small scale farmers and households by promoting natural resources management techniques and community led strategies and increasing levels of preparedness by developing an information base in the community which will allow farmers to better understand hydrological changes. The wider community is also reached via a series of school debates and radio programmes focussed on water management and other elements of natural resource management.

The objective of the project is to support 19,200 poor smallholder producers, especially women, to become resilient by earning a decent living from farming and new enterprise activities. The project engages directly with, or affected by, HIV and AIDS recognising that this group is particularly marginalised and disadvantaged. The project addresses producers’ limited access to markets, limited skills and technology, lack of access to financial services and weak capacity for advocacy.

15. Improved productivity for economic development of smallholder women and men farmers in Pakistan (2013-2016) £349,979
Oxfam is promoting women’s property rights and productivity, enhancing dairy livestock production, and strengthening small businesses to increase the incomes of 1,500 small holder farmers in three districts. The project challenges the inequalities in land ownership whereby women are systematically disadvantaged. Women are also trained and resourced to irrigate utilise their land effectively. In Balochistan and Punjab, farmers and small business holders are empowered through Producers Organisations established by the project, and assisted to overcome barriers in accessing markets, financial services and necessary agro inputs.

16. Food Security for Tanzanian Farmers Extension Year Funding. Tanzania. (2015-2016) £300,000
Additional funding awarded will allow Oxfam to build on the successes of our block funded project working with small holder rice and vegetable farmers in Tanzania. Continued use of Oxfam’s ‘Gender, Enterprise and Markets’ (GEM) approach will scale up the work of the previous project, enabling a further 11,000 farmers to work collectively, access reliable domestic and overseas markets for their produce and yield greater power to advocate for their needs to decision makers and duty bearers.

17. Improved Livelihoods for 3,000 Poor Farmers and their Families in Rural Malawi. (2015-2018) £598,767
This project aims to address the inter-related challenges of economic insecurity and access to energy, to reduce levels of poverty for a target group of 3,000 rural poor households (1,800 of which are headed by women). Based in three districts, the project will also indirectly improve the lives of more than 13,800 people. Solar power units and irrigation sites will be established and sustainable resource management training delivered. Farmers will become linked to commercial buyers and reliable markets and develop small scale business enterprises using solar power.