The Oxfam-Monash Partnership continues by virtue of the support and vision of the Empowerment Charitable Trust. Through that work, the Partnership is able to achieve research outcomes that can deliver measurable benefits to communities; to connect the current and next generation of practitioners who will work to achieve those benefits; and to lobby and advocate for the policy and practice changes that will transform communities.

FURTHER INFORMATION
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INTRODUCTION

The Oxfam-Monash Partnership was established with the generous support of the Empowerment Charitable Trust to improve development practice and its outcomes for communities. More specifically, the Partnership aims to bring together the differing yet complementary resources of the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) and academic sectors, and combine these resources to achieve greater development impact than would otherwise be possible.

At the conclusion of the 2015 Memorandum of Agreement, the partnership undertook a period of collaborative and participatory reflection to refresh its joint vision and purpose. A new Memorandum of Agreement is attached to this report, which reflects the outcomes of this reflection process and outlines an ambitious collaborative research agenda, student engagement and practitioner development activities that will generate positive change for development communities around the world.

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Confirm the commitment of both parties to the Partnership to 2019 and to provide detail about those commitments via the Memorandum of Agreement and Statement of Strategic Intent;
2. Highlight the activities and outcomes of the Partnership’s activities in 2015 and 2016; and
3. Bring the Oxfam-Monash Partnership reporting in line with the new Monash University financial year (January – December).
The partnership continues to work to guiding principles that inform its strategic agenda and day-to-day operations. These principles are:

**Equality** – mutual respect between members of the Partnership, irrespective of size, power and influence.

**Transparency** – dialogue on equal footing with an emphasis on early consultations and sharing of information.

**Action-research oriented approach** – outcome based and action oriented research that seeks to directly and indirectly improve the lives of people living in poverty.

**Responsible and ethical behaviour** – a commitment to accomplishing tasks responsibly and with integrity.

**Complementarity** – building on our comparative advantages and complementing each other’s contributions and those of our stakeholders and networks.

**Sustainability** – undertaking our work in a manner that builds the sustainability of our respective and joint projects including sustainable change for those we seek to assist.

**Multipliers** – actively seeking opportunities to scale-up and multiply the impact of our work including pursuing additional funding sources for the Partnership’s work.

Our 2016-2019 Statement of Strategic Intent outlines our collective commitment to:

> world-class research that makes a difference in people’s lives;
> connecting current and future practitioners with the evidence base to effect change; and
> evidence-based advocacy for the systems, policies and practices to benefit communities.
In 2015-2016, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership continued its program of quality research that increases the evidence base on impact which is in turn used to influence policy and practice in international development.

Outcomes include:

- **Confirmation of new thematic research priorities** which reflect the ongoing and emerging program needs of the communities and partners with which Oxfam works. These thematic priorities were developed in a participatory, cross-agency process drawing on Oxfam Australia’s country engagement strategies, a key reflection of the research needs and agendas of in-country teams.

  - **Gender equality** – promoting gender equality with the aim of improving women’s lives, family wellbeing and community development outcomes.
  - **Climate change and resilience** – supporting communities to adapt to climate change and to build the capacity to anticipate, mitigate and respond to these changes.
  - **Migration** – understanding the migration-development nexus including regular, irregular and multiple migrations and their impact on communities.
  - **Development practice** – as the development community engages with the 2030 agenda, shaping development goals and milestones to support communities.

- **A revised research matching process** that builds on lessons learned from the previous phases of the Partnership to foster successful research relationships. Previously, the Partnership operated on an open-call expression of interest process at fixed periods in the yearly calendar. While this process is still available, the Partnership has developed an additional staged approach which enables flexible engagement between Oxfam in-country teams, Oxfam Australia staff and Monash University academics.

  - Oxfam Australia has nominated thematic research champions for each priority area. These champions work with in-country teams to identify research needs and develop preliminary research concepts. These concepts are then used to undertake a university-wide search for research databases and faculty resources to identify Monash capacities in nominated areas.
  - From this search process, multi-faculty matching workshops are held to support interdisciplinary research teams to develop research questions together, identifying methodologies and avenues for involving communities as active agents in the design, delivery and analysis for research.
  - This rolling matching process has led to new and emerging project collaborations across multiple faculties in the areas of migration, mental health, desalination, climate finance, humanitarian remittances, water and natural resource management, gender-based violence, and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**RESEARCH**


"HAVING DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS FROM OXFAM GIVE UNIQUE INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE, WHICH I CAN IN TURN APPLY TO MY STUDIES, HELPS ME GROUND MY LEARNING AND REFLECT ON DEBATES IN ACADEMIA AND HOW THEY APPLY TO THE REAL WORLD."

Sean, Student of Master of International Development Practice, Monash University.

Handcrafts materials used by the Moris Hamutuk women group in Oecusse from Timor Leste (Alfred, Prado/OxfamAUS)
While some of these collaborations are at the early stage of development, others are in the funding and delivery stages. These include:

- Health and economic benefits of water-sensitive urban environments, a five-year proposal to implement a water-sensitive approach in Khulna, the third largest city in Bangladesh. The project will measure the public health, environmental and behaviour change impacts of the approach with exiting initiatives for policy and practice translation. This multi-region research identified barriers and enablers to women’s participation with key findings and recommendations were made with regards to hybrid/indigenous adaptations to microfinance models; policies and strategies to build self-resilience in program communities; literacy and numeracy fundamentals for program fundamentals. A final report for the Gender Analysis of Savings and Loan Groups in Timor Leste transitioned from the methodology studied in this research to the ‘Savings for Change’ methodology which answers some of the research’s key findings with micro-finance model to the ‘Savings for Change’ methodology. Further publications from earlier research projects include:

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- Let’s make our families safe: a two year impact evaluation of the Safe Families project in Solomon Islands using a stepped wedge trial to measure the impact on attitudes and social norms that affect family and sexual violence in two provincial in the Solomon Islands. The project partners with the Oxfam Australia, Solomon Islands, The Equality Institute, the London School of Tropical Health and Medicine, and the Jean Hailes Research Unit of Monash University. It is currently under consideration for funding by the World Bank at USD 150,000.

- A water sensitive approach to climate resilience in Bangladesh, a five year proposal to implement the water-sensitive urban design approach in Khulna, the third largest city in Bangladesh. The project will measure the public health, environmental and behaviour change impacts of the approach with exiting initiatives for policy and practice translation. This multi-region research identified barriers and enablers to women’s participation with key findings and recommendations were made with regards to hybrid/indigenous adaptations to microfinance models; policies and strategies to build self-resilience in program communities; literacy and numeracy fundamentals for program fundamentals. A final report for the Gender Analysis of Savings and Loan Groups in Timor Leste transitioned from the methodology studied in this research to the ‘Savings for Change’ methodology which answers some of the research’s key findings with micro-finance model to the ‘Savings for Change’ methodology. Further publications from earlier research projects include:

- Continued outcomes from previous Partnership-supported research activities including:

- A final report for Facilitating Rural Women’s Participation and Resilience and Delivery of Gender-related Services in Sri Lanka with realising initiatives for policy and practice translation. The project’s findings contribute to policy and implementation for women’s economic empowerment. This research is a comprehensive evidence base with regards to the impact of gender-blind agricultural policies at the national and regional level. At end of 2016, the report and findings were being translated into Sinhalese and Tamil for further community feedback in order to increase gender analysis in Sri Lanka’s agricultural policies and programs.

- Finishing the report for Gender Analysis of Savings and Loan Groups in Timor Leste with a practitioner guide to debt lessons learned.

- Finalising the report for Assessing and Lutheran Groups in Timor Leste with a practitioner guide to debt lessons learned.
In 2015-2016, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership continued its work to correct development practitioners and policy makers with the evidence base to effect change. The Partnership participated in a range of practitioner and public events that showcased the Oxfam-Monash Partnership’s research and enabled practitioners to develop and share their practice.

Activities included:
- Influencing and partnership with civil society, a sister-agency professional development initiative to develop leadership in partnerships with civil society, particularly in the context of evidence with food security and climate change policy change. Speakers included Roselyn Nyatsanza, Oxfam in Asia, and Hikaru Eggertsson, ActionAid Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, and Samantha J. Gunawardana, Faculty of Arts, Monash University.
- Partnering for Impact on Sustainable Development: Gender, Peace and Security, from Policy to Practice: realized women, peace and security in Asia Pacific. Kim Kendee-an, Head of Gender Justice, Oxfam International, delivered this presentation on gender and the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of UNSCR1325 on women, peace and security, and set strategic agenda; nominating key speakers and actions and the learning agenda for solutions, with particular focus upon the Asia Pacific. Research for development impact network conference steering committee, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership lead, together with the course coordinator for this Master of Development Practice, is an active member of the Research for Development Impact network committee, and shapes this key national conference agenda; nominating key speakers and actions and the learning agenda for solutions, with particular focus upon the Asia Pacific.
- In 2015-2016, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership strengthened its systems and policies to ensure they are fit for purpose and able to deliver against the Partnership’s vision and mission. Activities include:
  - Establishment of an Operations Committee, a standing group of representatives from states and international organisations, and representatives from and to this interactive forum for community members, community-based organisations and the emergency preparedness and management community, including agencies, think tanks, government, emergency services, recovery organisations, communities, knowledge providers and practitioners.
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- Establishment of an Operations Committee, accompanying Terms of Reference for the Operations and Governance Committee.
- Development and agreement of a memorandum of Agreement 2016-2019 in line with both organisations strategic directions.
- Development of a Statement of Strategic Intent which builds on the existing platform of collaboration since 2010 and establishes a framework for success, proposed activities, and a framework for monitoring, evaluation and learning. Behavied website and branding to bring the Oxfam-Monash collaboration inline with the new Monash University branding and to position information with the Monash Sustainable Development Institute.
- Fair trade positioning at two campuses, the Oxfam convenors at Monash’s Clayton and Birkenhead campuses continue to promote the sale of Oxfam fair trade items and are often featured in Monash student activities, showcasing the labour rights issues for workers and farmers in developing countries.

In kind contributions for the same period: $27,995. In kind contributions to date: $2,202,944.

GEORGE KENNEDY, A MAJOR OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Practicum student with the highest achieving research thesis in 2016.

Support to Monash student activities as a sponsor / mentor including:
- George Kennedy, a Master of International Development
- Impact Award of the Oxfam-Monash Partnership Award for Research with Oxfam programs and teams, focused on issues of migration, gender, and climate change and resilience.
- Placement of four Monash student interns and volunteer placements.
- Responding to international disasters and humanitarian crises.
- Capacity building for Oxfam at Monash's fair trade activism.
- Project planning and management in international development
- Coordinating and interactive workshop that brought together major stakeholders, donors, non-governmental organisations and civil society, particularly in the context of evidence with food security and climate change policy change. Speakers included Roselyn Nyatsanza, Oxfam in Asia, and Hikaru Eggertsson, ActionAid Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, and Samantha J. Gunawardana, Faculty of Arts, Monash University.
- Reframed website and branding to bring the Oxfam-Monash collaboration inline with the new Monash University branding and to position information with the Monash Sustainable Development Institute.

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