Keynote Address
Alex Lia

• Former intern with the Oxfam-Monash Partnership
• Final year Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Bachelor of Arts (BA) student
• Researcher at Humanitarian Advisory Group
A Brief History of the Oxfam-Monash Partnership

• A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) has been in place between Monash and Oxfam since 2008.

• As of 2008, OMP has had several hosts at Monash.

• Monash Sustainable Development Institute hosting from 2015 onwards.

• It is reviewed by the two organisations on a regular cycle.

• The current MOA will take us through until 2019 which is in line with the current OMP Statement of Strategic Intent.
Overall Goal:
Together achieve greater impact than would otherwise be possible towards SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17 Partnership for Goals.

**Goal 1:** Deliver world-class research that makes a difference in people's lives

**Goal 2:** Connects current and future practitioners and policy makers with the evidence-base to effect change

**Goal 3:** Respected for its evidence-based promotion of the systems, policies and practices that benefit communities

**Sustainability and multipliers:** Resilient, sustainable and equipped to deliver against our mandate, mindful of our responsibilities to future generations

Strategy 1: Quality innovative research

Strategy 2: Internships in strategic research

Strategy 3: Showcase OMP research in key events

Strategy 4: Leverage for countries & the partnership

Climate change, migration and displacement

Gender multi-dimensional empowerment

Water and Sanitation for Women and the Socially Excluded

Evidence-informed Social Policy and Advocacy – gender & social inequity and poverty reduction
Alignment with Oxfam Research Strategic Intent

- **Scan the horizon** and put Oxfam ahead of the curve in terms of the sustainable development challenges
  - Strengthen research partnerships, alliances and coalitions;
  - Provide strategic leadership and guidance in development of Oxfam research collaborations;
  - Champion relevant, effective and ethical research; and
  - Add value to the way in which research is used to inform development policy and practice

- **Translate data and knowledge** to formulate an evidence base for policy and practice

- **Explore and test the assumptions** for programs and public engagement to ensure continuous improvement

- **Create, measure, evaluate interventions** for leveraging the evidence to deepen the impact

- **Translate data and knowledge** to formulate an evidence base for policy and practice
Research that makes a difference in people’s lives

Examples of ongoing collaborative research projects

- **Micro-desalination project** – Prototype development and pilot testing in selected countries where Oxfam operates

- **Use of blockchain technology for social impact** – Start of the art review of the existing evidences and pilot research design and implementation in selected country

Scoping for new collaborative projects

- **Mekong Community Accountability, Cambodia**
  - 2011 – 2017

- **Women’s Participation in Agriculture, Sri Lanka**
  - 2013/14 – 2017

- **Migration State of Evidence Review**
  - 2016 – 2018

- **Microfinance and Gender Empowerment, Timor Leste**
  - 2013/14 – 2017
Research that makes a difference in people’s lives

Research translation activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cambodia</th>
<th>Timor Leste</th>
<th>Sri Lanka</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• In-country launch of research briefs</td>
<td>• Adoption of Savings for Change (ScF) model</td>
<td>• Use findings to inform in-country campaign</td>
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<td>• Longitudinal study for leveraging sustained support</td>
<td>• In-country ScF technical follow-up support</td>
<td>• Communicate summary findings with GPS and Parliamentarians</td>
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Key OMP Role

• Broker relationships between Oxfam staff and Monash Faculty/Students – IT, Business School, Social Sciences, Law & Chemical Engineering

• Showcasing research activities – Public conferences, seminars, & social media
Connects practitioners and policy makers

Student Engagement

• Guest lecture series – Masters level
• OMP Prize for Research Excellence - Best Masters student thesis (MIDP)
• Internships linked to research priorities
  • Blockchain and CTP
  • Gender in humanitarian context
  • Previous intern profiles
• Career Planning Day for PhDs and Careers Practitioners Seminar

Joint Positioning

• Report launch events – e.g. State of Evidence Review on Global Migration and Sri Lankan Women in Agriculture reports
• Targeting students, faculty, and development practitioners
Respected for evidence-based promotion

- Joint “thought leadership” and advocacy activities eg:
  - Questioning the impact of microfinance on gender empowerment
  - Assessing the use of Blockchain Technology in scaling Cash Transfer Programs
  - Supporting innovations – development of low lost and energy efficient micro-desalination technology

Resilient, sustainable and equipped to deliver

- Active representation from both Oxfam Australia and Monash University
- Mobilise capital in support of ongoing and new research projects around priority thematic areas:
  - Climate change
  - Gender
  - Innovations
  - Accountability
Opportunities for Monash Students

Contribute to priority research that makes a difference
- Internship with Oxfam around key priority research areas
- Connect practitioners and policy makers

Connect with Oxfam’s work in the aid sector
- Support Oxfam campaigns and meet like-minded people through Oxfam @ Monash student society
- Volunteer directly with Oxfam
My internship with the Oxfam-Monash Partnership

- Research internship mapping Oxfam Australia’s portfolio of work against the Sustainable Development Goals
Reflecting on my experience with OMP

• Internship was flexible to fit around my studies
• Formed strong connections with colleagues
• Ongoing connection with the partnership today
• Internship lead to a number of other opportunities
Opportunities that have followed my internship

• Placement with the legal unit at Oxfam Australia head office
• Travel scholarship to attend the International Conference on Sustainable Development in New York
• Role as a researcher at Humanitarian Advisory Group
Questions / Comments?