OXFAM
Australia

MONASH
University

The Oxfam-Monash Partnership
ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015
FINAL PARTNERSHIP REPORT

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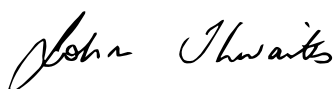
1. A message from the Oxfam-Monash Partnership

2015 is a critical year for the Oxfam-Monash Partnership, marking the conclusion of the original Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between Oxfam and Monash University in 2010. After the past five years of close collaborative work, catalysing a broad range of impactful research, student engagement and practitioner development programs, we find ourselves now at a time for reflection on what we have achieved, and on what might lie ahead. Accordingly, this annual report looks beyond our activities of the past twelve months, to provide a sense of some of the important outcomes that our partnership has enabled and achieved over the past five years.

As we revisit and consider this work that we have done, and reflect on what we have achieved, we find ourselves immensely proud of how far we have come. Indeed, the impact that the Partnership has had, and the exciting potential that it continues to represent for the future, gives us strong reason for continued commitment to our partnership. Our experience to date has validated and affirmed the vision and belief that first brought us together; that by combining our resources and knowledge, we could achieve far more than would otherwise be possible. And although we have learnt since this time that working in close academic-NGO partnership comes with its own unique challenges, our commitment to this fundamental vision and belief remains strong.

As a result, at the time of writing we are working through a collaborative and participatory process of revisiting and refreshing our joint vision and purpose, as well as exploring how we might build upon the strong relationships that we have established, to initiate even bolder and more ambitious forms of collaboration moving forward. The renewed vision that is emerging is one focused on developing and driving development innovations at an even larger scale, and generating even more significant positive change for developing communities around the world.

Interestingly, this emergent vision aligns almost seamlessly with the long-term intent set out in our founding agreement. Five years ago, the Partnership's founders described how the accumulation of experience, knowledge, best practice and relationships over the five years of working together would provide a strong basis for the development of a renewed collaboration, 'dedicated to ongoing innovation in the field of international development'. As such, they noted that 'support for this proposal sows the seeds for long- as well as short-term impact'. How right this has proved, and how excited we are to find ourselves now at a point that has been so many years of hard work in the making. Importantly, we extend our significant and ongoing gratitude to the generous philanthropic donor that has made this possible, and to all of the individuals who have supported and engaged in our work along the way.

With the challenges of sustainable development becoming ever more pressing, it is increasingly well recognised that collaborative approaches will be crucial to developing some of the new solutions that we are in such clear and urgent need of. With a deep understanding now established of one another as institutions, and with extensive knowledge and experience of how to work most productively across our respective institutional cultures, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership is keen for the challenge. We look forward to the future with our commitment to working together remaining as strong as ever.

Hon. Prof. John Thwaites	Dr. Helen Szoke	Prof. Edwina Cornish
Chair	Chief Executive	Provost and Senior Vice-President
Oxfam-Monash Partnership	Oxfam Australia	Monash University

Introduction

2. Vision, Mission and Objectives

Development organisations and academic institutions both play key roles in global development and poverty reduction. Yet their impact can be much greater when these efforts are combined. Recognising this, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership was established with the vision of forging new solutions to development challenges, and enhancing the contributions of both Oxfam and Monash to community empowerment and positive global change.

Mission

The mission of the Oxfam-Monash Partnership is to improve development practice and its outcomes for communities. The Partnership does this by bringing together the differing yet complementary resources of the NGO and academic sectors, and combining these to achieve greater development impact than would otherwise be possible.
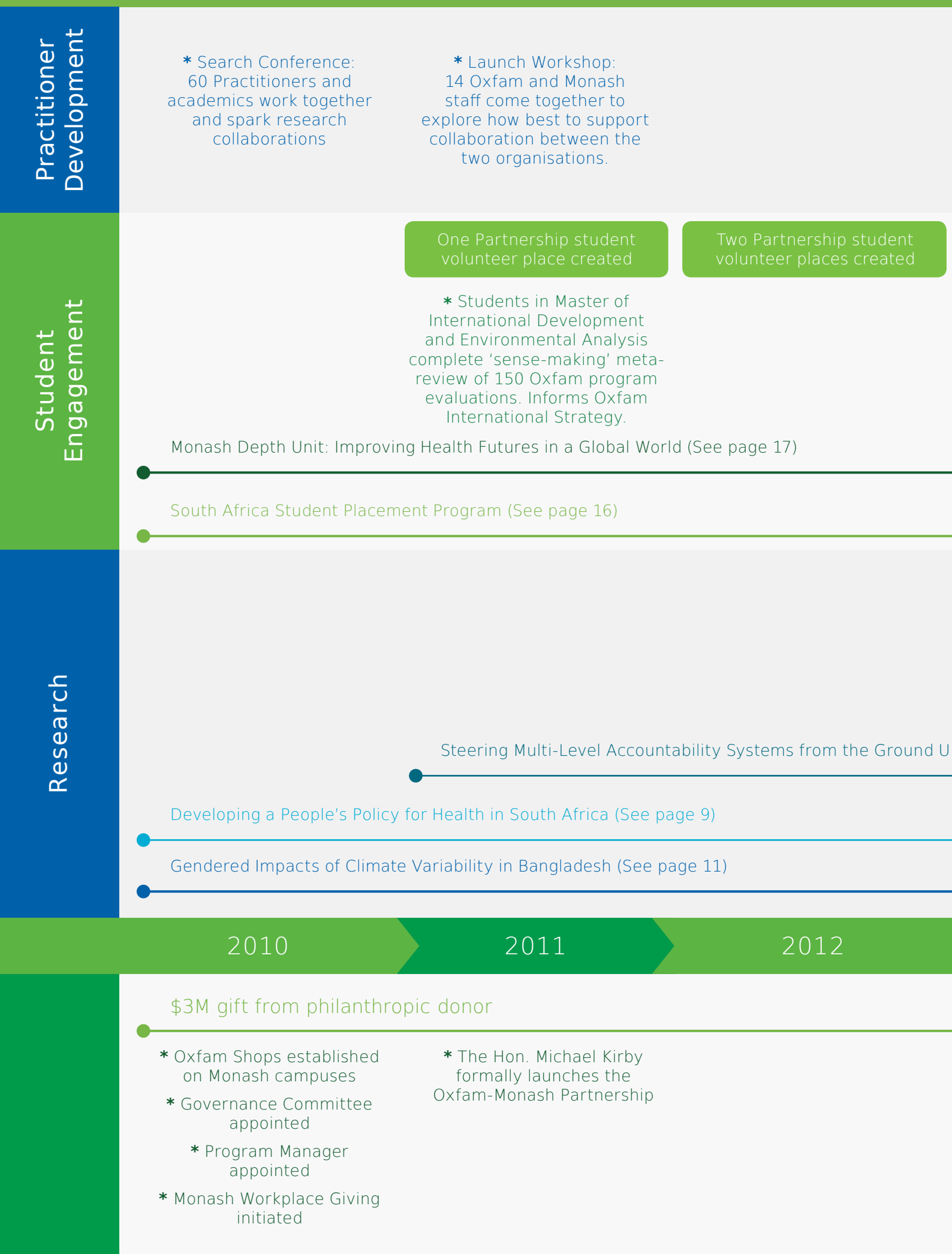
Objectives

- To facilitate action research projects that foster innovations in community development, and empower people living in poverty to improve their lives and livelihoods.

- To communicate the evidence generated through these initiatives to influence and inform key stakeholders, to strengthen and improve Oxfam's own policy and programming, and to enhance the efficacy of broader development efforts.

- To engage students in the work of Oxfam and the development sector, and to provide them with the skills and opportunities necessary to contribute to positive social change.

Outcomes and Impact

In this, the last year of our current partnership agreement and funding term, it is timely and necessary to reflect on the extent to which our partnership has achieved the objectives and ambitions that were set out in 2010. As such, this report goes beyond an account of the past year alone, to consider and highlight some of the key outcomes and stories of our partnership journey over the past five years. While not intended to represent a comprehensive evaluation of the Partnership's impact, which has indeed been deep and extensive, we do seek in this report to celebrate a few examples of the significant outcomes that our alliance has made possible, and to convey some tangible sense of the positive difference that the Oxfam-Monash Partnership has made in the world through our work.

The OMP Journey: Major Activities 2010-2015

Practitioner Development

* Search Conference:
60 Practitioners and
academics work together
and spark research
collaborations

* Launch Workshop:
14 Oxfam and Monash
staff come together to
explore how best to support
collaboration between the
two organisations.

Student Engagement

One Partnership student
volunteer place created

Two Partnership student
volunteer places created

* Students in Master of
International Development
and Environmental Analysis
complete 'sense-making' meta-
review of 150 Oxfam program
evaluations. Informs Oxfam
International Strategy.

Monash Depth Unit: Improving Health Futures in a Global World (See page 17)

South Africa Student Placement Program (See page 16)

Research

Steering Multi-Level Accountability Systems from the Ground U

Developing a People's Policy for Health in South Africa (See page 9)

Gendered Impacts of Climate Variability in Bangladesh (See page 11)

2010	2011	2012

$3M gift from philanthropic donor

* Oxfam Shops established
on Monash campuses

* The Hon. Michael Kirby
formally launches the
Oxfam-Monash Partnership

* Governance Committee
appointed

* Program Manager
appointed

* Monash Workplace Giving
initiated

* OMP Symposium: Learning Through Partnership. Sharing best practice and emergent knowledge from NGO - academic research partnerships, and the OMP's own research projects. (See page 21)

* Two Oxfam staff granted scholarship to Monash Castan Centre Human Rights Course (See Page 23)

OMP FUTURE SERIES

Launch Event: Building Collaborations for Change

Research Partnerships in Practice: NGO- Academic workshop hosted with ACFID University Network

Four Partnership student volunteers engaged	Seven Partnership student volunteers engaged	Six Partnership student volunteers engaged

Year 1 winners, Sustain me, launch mobile app to market (See page 16)

Oxfam - Monash Innovators (See page 17)

Research Internships begin to be offered to enrolled students

Semester - length placements initiated

Developing a Gender Violence Index for the Asia-Pacific (See page 13)

Facilitating Rural Women's Participation and Recognition in Sustainable Livelihoods in Post-War Sri Lanka (See page 12)

Empowering Community Voices (See page 10)

p in Cambodia (See page 10)

Gender Analysis of Savings and Loans Groups in Timor-Leste (See page 13)

2013   2014   2015

* Comprehensive mid-term review process to evaluate Partnership progress, achievements and challenges to date. Lessons integrated into strategy for 2014-15

* Series of participatory workshops at both Oxfam and Monash to refresh the strategic vision for the Partnership, and to catalyse a new phase of collaboration between the two organisations

Research

The pursuit of applied collaborative research lies at the very core of the Oxfam-Monash Partnership's work. By combining the research rigor of Monash academics with the practical expertise and networks of Oxfam staff, over the past five years the OMP has been able to facilitate a number of unique action research projects that have contributed directly to improved development practice, and to the empowerment of communities around the world.

Our research objectives

Our founding agreement laid out a number of core objectives for the research conducted through the Oxfam-Monash Partnership:

- To support effective community development initiatives, and to pilot new innovations through action research methods, focused on empowering people living in poverty to improve their lives and livelihoods

- To collect a better evidence-base on Oxfam's impact and how it has been achieved
- To communicate and disseminate the evidence generated by our research, to inform advocacy efforts and to influence development decision-making, policy and practice

Our MOU also outlined a number of thematic priority areas and a guiding methodology for our research work:

Our Thematic Priorities

Accountability:
Supporting communities to provide feedback to development agencies, governments and other key decision-makers, and in doing so hold these actors to account

Climate change:
Supporting communities to adapt to climate change

Gender equality:
Promoting gender equality, with the aim of improving women's lives, family wellbeing and community development outcomes.

Our research approach: Participatory Action Research

Participatory Action Research (PAR) was identified at the beginning of the Partnership as our methodology of choice, to ensure that our research would play a direct role in empowering communities and local NGOs to achieve their development objectives. PAR is a cyclical research process, in which researchers work closely with communities to identify and define the challenges they experience, to design and implement new solutions, and to collaboratively reflect on their outcomes and further iterate and strengthen responses. Ideally, the tools and strategies developed through this process can also be shared to support development efforts in other places and communities.

The following pages present a few key case study examples of just some of the ways in which our research programs have achieved outcomes and impact against the objectives set out above, as well as highlighting some of the additional benefits and outcomes that have flowed from the process of conducting collaborative research through the Oxfam-Monash Partnership.

3. Key Research Outcomes and Impact

Outcome: New community development innovations piloted through action research methods

Many of the Partnership's research projects have worked with communities to design, implement and evaluate new community empowerment and development innovations, and have distilled these findings into concrete and transferable models, tools and resources to enable their broader application and impact. Two examples in particular demonstrate how this outcome has been achieved – the Partnership's research in South Africa, and the Empowering Community Voices project.

Developing a People's Policy for Health in South Africa

The Oxfam-Monash research project 'Developing a People's Policy for Health' was initiated in 2011, in response to strong concerns that the needs of the most disadvantaged communities in South Africa were being excluded from the development of a new National Health Insurance scheme (NHI). To address these concerns, the project team set out to develop and test a 'User Guide', aimed at building the capacity of local community-based organisations to engage their communities in the policy process, and to ensure the adequate representation of their needs and concerns in the final policy. Using this Guide as a starting point, the project team worked with three community-level partner organisations, each of whom built on the Guide to develop and implement their own innovative community consultation processes. The result of these community consultations was significantly increased community input into the drafting of the ultimate NHI policy.

In addition to this immediate positive outcome, the research team was also able to consolidate their findings and analysis into the development of two comprehensive and innovative models of community consultation – the first for use by intermediary organisations such as Oxfam, to help them support public participation in accountability systems, and the second for the use of local community-based organisations, to assist them in facilitating successful local community consultations. The second of these consultation models has already been adopted and used to great effect by two local community-based organisations in South Africa.

'The project really helped us to be involved as citizens in a process in our own country: the young and the oldest. It made us more united as a community. We realised that we've come from far – a long way to get to this point now. We can see that some things are changing, but we also recognise that we have rights that in practise are not being respected. We've become much more aware of such concepts as equality and dignity and respect'

Sophakama (local implementing partner)

'We realised that… none of us had any good reference point for proper consultation, either. Our only experience was of meetings that were always about information, but not real engagement. Or rubber-stamping something someone else had already decided. It made us want to design a better process for consultation that was not about information, but was about experience.
And so we did: when we eventually developed a training manual and a process guide for how to do our consultations, we designed it in a way to incorporate first how people were affected by the issue, then information, then reflection on meaning, and constructive provocation.'

Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action
(local implementing partner)

Empowering Community Voices

Over the past five years, our Research Fellow, Dr Larry Stillman, has conducted innovative work to develop new and more effective means of bringing community-level voices into development decision-making processes. Working across both South Africa and Bangladesh, Dr. Stillman has produced an instructive model for participatory, community-driven development in South Africa, and has begun to identify possible new ways of using mobile technologies to promote community empowerment in Bangladesh – in particular, as a mechanism for disseminating important information to, and collecting key information from, communities. This important work has led to the development of an exciting new research project, involving close collaboration between Oxfam in Bangladesh, Oxfam Australia, and the Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University. The project is expected to break down the isolation of disadvantaged Bangladeshi communities, by providing them with access to the information they need to be able to take action to improve their wellbeing and livelihoods.

'This project provides a great opportunity for Oxfam in Bangladesh to explore innovative ways to enhance community information exchange and support communities in the country to lift themselves out of poverty. Easy access to information on humanitarian disasters, how to increase crop yields and market produce, and support for victims of violence will be particularly useful for poor and vulnerable communities in remote areas'

Snehal V. Soneji, Country Director, Oxfam in Bangladesh

Outcome: Increased evidence-base on Oxfam's impact and how it has been achieved

A significant benefit of the Partnership's research work for Oxfam has been the ability to generate externally-verified evidence of Oxfam's impact in communities. One particular example is the Partnership's work in Cambodia.

Steering multi-level accountability systems from the ground up in Cambodia

In Cambodia, many communities are being displaced and their livelihoods threatened by large scale infrastructure and development projects that they have very little knowledge of, or control over. The Partnership's research project in Cambodia sought to strengthen the ability of communities to hold these external actors to account, by working with three communities to identify the barriers that currently prevent them from engaging in accountability processes, and identifying the key factors that enable some communities to develop stronger accountability processes than others.

While one key outcome of the project was the development of educational tools and resources which could be used by other Cambodian communities to take action against unwanted developments, the project also analysed Oxfam's development model in Cambodia and its impacts, and produced an academic evidence-base to support the efficacy and impact of Oxfam's approach. 'Capacity, sustainability and accountability in the face of modern development: Lessons from Oxfam's Australia's development model in Cambodia' (Bottomley, 2013: see Appendix) is a published book chapter produced by the research team, which outlines in detail the strengths of Oxfam's programmatic approach, and highlights areas for improvement in Oxfam's methods of facilitating community engagement in political and decision-making processes. Along with a series of case studies produced by the research team, which provided evidence-based recommendations for development NGOs and their accountability programs, this evidence has since been used to improve Oxfam's programming in the Southeast Asian region.

Outcome: Research influencing advocacy, policy and practice

Across all of the Partnership's research work, the dissemination and sharing of findings has been a distinct phase built into the research design itself, to enable and promote the uptake of the evidence we generate into development policy and programming. As such, all of our research projects have contributed to this outcome in some way. A few specific examples of how this has occurred are provided below.

- In March 2014, the research team of our project 'Gendered impacts of climate variability in Bangladesh' hosted a series of consultative workshops in Dhaka, bringing together government stakeholders, local NGOs, local women's leadership groups, academics and community members, to discuss the findings of the research project and its implications for policy on climate change adaptation and gender equality. During this process, women's groups and community members were able to directly advocate to government for the change in policy and programs that they would wish to see enacted, based on the issues illuminated and substantiated by the research process.

- In 2013, the Partnership hosted a research symposium, bringing together all of the Partnership's research team members, as well as practitioners and academics from across the development sector, to share the knowledge emerging from Partnership projects, and their implications for practice. This symposium is discussed further in 'Practitioner Development'.

- Findings from across our research projects have fed directly into improving the design of many of Oxfam's programs and policies; our South Africa project has informed the development of an Essential Services Program in South Africa, while our current project in Timor-Leste is also influencing the design of Oxfam's integrated rural development program.

4. Research Activities 2014-15: Current Projects

In the past year, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership has supported three research projects; in Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and across the Asia Pacific.

Facilitating Rural Women's Participation and Recognition in Sustainable Livelihoods in Post-War Sri Lanka

Women make a highly significant contribution to agricultural production in Sri Lanka, yet these contributions are typically overlooked and undervalued. Indeed, while the Sri Lankan government has in recent years implemented a range of new programs to stimulate livelihoods in rural areas, women and the unique challenges that they face have been largely ignored in the development of these programs, leaving them vulnerable to ongoing risks, such as exploitation and unsafe working conditions. In this context, there is a pressing need for stronger evidence and information regarding the role and experiences of women in the Sri Lankan agricultural sector, as well as on the barriers they face to establishing safe, equitable and sustainable livelihoods.

This research project aims to examine the current constraints on women's access to sustainable livelihoods in this sector, and to support increased equitable participation and recognition. The research is generating evidence that will assist in pushing for national policy reform, and that will strengthen Oxfam's programs in Sri Lanka's rural and agricultural communities. Most importantly, however, the project is also working closely with networks of rural women in Sri Lanka, to equip and empower them with the skills to advocate for change, and to challenge the barriers that they face.

Community Impact

Having now completed their data collection and analysis, in September this year the research team will return to Sri Lanka to discuss their findings with the rural women who participated in the research, and to work with them to determine, based on the research, the specific changes that women would like to see their government and other key actors enacting to improve their situation.

In October this year, the research team will then work with Oxfam in Sri Lanka to initiate a two-year campaign based on the recommendations and evidence emerging from the research project. The launch of this campaign will bring the rural women involved into direct contact with government representatives and other key stakeholders, to articulate their needs and call directly for the policy reform they desire.

A community action plan and documentary (filmed in both Singhala and Tamil) are currently being developed, to support other communities of women in Sri Lanka to advocate for change.

Image credit: Pavithra Jovan de Mello/Oxfam Australia 2014

Research Team Members

Dr. Samanthi Gunawardana, Co-Chief Investigator, Project Lead and Lecturer, Monash University

Thiagi Piyadasa, Project Lead and Gender Co-ordinator, Oxfam Australia

Balasingham Skanthakumar, Co-Chief Investigator, Oxfam Australia in Sri Lanka

Kate Greenwood, Program Management Coordinator, Oxfam Australia

Gender Analysis of Savings and Loans Groups in Timor-Leste

A deeply gendered division of labour characterises the Timor-Leste economy. Women are particularly vulnerable to unemployment and underemployment, due to higher rates of illiteracy, lower rates of education, and greater involvement in the subsistence agricultural sector. On average, women earn one-eighth of what men earn, and much of the work available to women is "informal", with remuneration paid in cash, and no opportunity for negotiation of fair wages or working conditions.

At the same time, women are increasingly becoming involved in savings and loans schemes - one of which is administered by Oxfam in Dili - and it is hoped that women's increasing leadership and participation in these schemes may accelerate their social and economic empowerment. Despite these hopes, however, the gendered and social dynamics within such schemes, as well as their real impacts on gender relations in Timor-Leste more broadly, remain understudied.

This project is investigating the gendered dynamics within the Oxfam Savings and Loan Group in Timor-Leste, to explore the relationship between women's control of economic resources, and their social, political and economic empowerment. The results of the study will fill a significant gap in the evidence-base behind Oxfam's programming in this area, and are expected to have a significant impact on the way in which Oxfam works to support women's empowerment through its savings and loan group initiatives in the future.

Evidence and Influence

Through the research team's planned schedule of community reports, journal articles, conference presentations and policy papers (directed at both national and international audiences), the evidence generated through this project is expected to have significant influence on the programming and policy of many key actors in the space. Indeed, the research team is already consulting with Oxfam to discuss the practical implications of the research for Oxfam's new integrated rural development program design, and to assist Oxfam in integrating these findings accordingly.

A community action plan and documentary (filmed in both Singhala and Tamil) are currently being developed, to support other communities of women in Sri Lanka to advocate for change.

Research Team Members

Dr. Sara Niner,
Lead Researcher, Monash University

Dr. Katy Cornwall,
Senior Researcher, Monash University

Glenda Laslett,
Timor-Leste Country Director, Oxfam Australia

Jaclyn Donahue,
East Asia Project Management Coordinator, Oxfam Australia

Developing a Gender Violence Index for the Asia Pacific

In certain areas of the Asia-Pacific region, development outcomes for women, girls and other socially excluded and marginalised populations have been the poorest in the world. Gender inequality and discriminatory socio-cultural norms are deeply entrenched, and patriarchal systems and structures still prevail widely. As a result, women and girls are frequently subject to violence and abuse. The prevalence of gender violence is a critical concern in the region, but a lack of reliable data continues to act as an obstacle to the development of evidence-based policies and programs that could address the issue.

This project will develop a Gender Violence Index for the Asia-Pacific, which will use a gender lens to scrutinise and disaggregate forms of recognised violence, and to identify normalised and invisible forms of violence, across a range of relevant dimensions. After receiving seed funding for initial work on the index development in early 2015, the research team will be leveraging further Australian Research Council funding to launch the index within the next year.

Research Team Members

Monash Academic staff:
Professor Jacqui True, Dr. Samanthi Gunawardana, Dr. Swati Parashar, Dr. Paddy Rawlinson, Dr. Sara Niner, and Sharmini Sherrard

PhD and Masters Students:
Sri Wiyanti Eddyono, Yasmin Chilmeran, Maria Tanyag

Oxfam Australia advisors:
Chrisanta Muli, Research Team Leader; Anna Trembath, Gender Advisor

Student Engagement

Monash University hosts over 65,000 enrolled students at its campuses around the world – an immense student body, representing an immense potential to inspire and engage these students as active citizens, and to mobilise their skills, talents, knowledge and enthusiasm in pursuit of Oxfam's global objectives. Recognising this, the Partnership has worked over the past five years to offer a number of programs that have connected students from diverse academic backgrounds with the development sector, built their commitment to development action, and allowed them to make real contributions to the work of Oxfam and its partners around the world.

Our student engagement objectives

Our Memorandum of Understanding identified two key objectives for the Partnership's student engagement work:

- To equip the next generation of development workers and activists with the skills needed to promote positive change in people's lives

- To make it possible for increased numbers of students from various faculties to become familiar with the practice of effective development and to become engaged in action research and project volunteering

These objectives have been pursued through our delivery of four key student programs and opportunities:

South Africa Student Placement Program	Oxfam-Monash Innovators	Depth Unit: Improving Health Futures	Student internships and volunteering
Six-week and semester-length placements with Oxfam South Africa and a number of its local partners, offered to a select group of students each year, and providing an opportunity to gain first hand development experience	A dynamic two-week program, mobilising students from diverse academic backgrounds to develop innovative solutions to challenges posed by Oxfam Australia, and to pitch these solutions for the chance to see them implemented in practice	An elective, multidisciplinary unit, engaging expert Oxfam staff as guest lecturers, and covering a range of global health and development issues. The involvement of Oxfam guest lecturers brings a unique practical perspective to the study of these global issues and questions.	Regular opportunities for student internships with the Partnership in the areas of communications, events and research assistance, and facilitating internship opportunities within research project teams

Feedback from the students who have engaged with the Partnership in these ways has consistently demonstrated the impact of these programs on their personal and professional development, as well as on their commitment to pursuing development action in their own future careers. The following pages tell just some of these stories of impact, before reporting on our particular activities for the 2014-15 year.

4. Key Student Engagement Outcomes and Impact

Outcome: Students equipped with the skills to promote positive social change

South Africa Student Placement

The South Africa Student Placement program is the longest running program of the Oxfam-Monash Partnership, having provided annual placement opportunities for students since 2008. Throughout this time, it has consistently delivered on our core objective of developing students' skills in development work, by providing 56 students with first-hand, immersive learning experiences with Oxfam and its local partners in South Africa.

Over the course of the program's existence, we have heard countless stories from participating students of the significant change that the program has made in their lives – encouraging and inspiring many to pursue work in international development, and equipping them with some of the practical skills necessary to do so. The close nature of our relationship between Oxfam and Monash has enabled and lent a professional nature to the placement experience that is unparalleled in comparison to other international placements on offer to university students, providing unique skill development opportunities, and enabling students to make a direct and valuable contribution to the work of the partner organisations with which they are placed. A few student reflections are illustrative of the program's impact:

"It gave me incredibly unique experiences that gave me an in-depth insight into development"

Kate Sievert

"There were so many learnings which have now become integrated into my ongoing thinking about development work"

Daniel Lichter

Innovators winners: Sustain Me
Eleanor Meyer and Stephen Halpin

One of the central aims of the Oxfam-Monash Innovators program is to build the skills and capacity of students to drive their own positive change in the world. A standout example of the program's success in this respect is the story of Eleanor Meyer and Stephen Halpin, who, since winning the first Innovators program in 2013, have worked for two years to realise their project idea, 'Sustain Me'; a mobile app that encourages and supports individuals to live more sustainably in their everyday lives. The Sustain Me app launched to market in July this year.

Reflecting on her experience, Eleanor states that 'what the Innovators experience really did for me was give me an opportunity to think about certain problems that I cared about, and to ponder whether I could somehow address these. The Innovators really propelled me into thinking about what I could achieve with my own capacity… it made me realise what I could do. From there, there was no ignoring it. I had to do it'.

Eleanor and Stephen have now founded the Sustain Me Group; a social enterprise that counts the majority of Melbourne's metropolitan councils as major clients. Stephen has also used a portion of the Innovators prize money to further his skills and the enterprise's development at the School for Social Entrepreneurs. Through the process of building their app and enterprise, both Eleanor and Stephen have developed a range of critical change-making skills, including communications, pitching, stakeholder engagement, and, most importantly, leadership.

The Partnership is incredibly proud of the team's efforts, and has been thrilled to see the Innovators program having such a profound positive impact on the lives and career trajectories of Monash students.

Oxfam-Monash Innovators

One of the greatest strengths of the Oxfam-Monash Innovators model has been its ability to bring together students from diverse academic backgrounds to address social and development challenges. In the first year of the program, participants came from across the faculties of Arts, Engineering, Business and Economics, Medicine, Law and Education, while in the second year of the program, recruitment was specifically targeted to bring together students from the areas of international development, art and design, marketing and communications. This multidisciplinary nature of the program has been frequently cited by participants as one of its most valuable aspects, presenting them with a rich learning experience not typically afforded by their normal academic studies. As student feedback shows, the Innovators program has also engaged students that might not otherwise have become involved in the work of the social justice and international development sectors:

> "It's definitely opened my eyes to new ways that I could apply my skills, and to prospective career opportunities"

As a consequence, the Innovators program has been attracting increasing interest from Faculties all across Monash, and a number of exciting opportunities have arisen to build further on the program, as well as to integrate it into coursework across the university. We hope to explore these opportunities as we move into the next phase of the Partnership.

Student feedback: Innovators

'It was so amazing that they truly believed in the students and allowed us to explore, dream and to be adventurous with our ideas. It's an amazing initiative which really helped me learn more about myself, and what we as a community are capable of changing in the world'

'It really helped me feel more confident in working with different people with different backgrounds and skills'

'Putting us in a team with members from divergent fields helped us to develop and combine our different skills and backgrounds. It turns out people from different backgrounds have several ways to approach issues and solve problems – it was a great experience'

Monash Depth Unit

The Monash Depth Unit: Improving Health Futures in a Global World has engaged over 100 students from a range of academic backgrounds in the interconnected issues of international development and global health. By bringing these students into direct contact with expert Oxfam staff, many students enrolled in the unit have reported becoming significantly more aware of a wider range of development issues than they would otherwise have been exposed to through their standard academic studies. The perspective brought by Oxfam guest lecturers has also enabled students to develop a uniquely practical perspective on how these issues are addressed by key global actors.

Image credits: Zoe Forbes/Monash University 2014

5. Student Engagement Activities 2014-15

South Africa Student Placement Program

In this seventh consecutive year of our longest-running student program, seven students from Monash Australia and Monash South Africa were placed with Oxfam South Africa, Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, Woza Moya, and Refugee Social Services. The students were a committed and passionate group, from a wide range of academic backgrounds, including politics, management, finance, law, social work, international development and international studies.

Students reported that they found the placement to be a challenging, rewarding and extremely worthwhile experience, and Oxfam and partners benefited greatly from the students' work, which this year included developing a film to raise awareness and understanding of gender-based violence, evaluating and reporting on the internal practices of gender equality within a host organisation, and conducting needs analyses for partner capacity building work.

'Through my experiences in Durban, I have learnt about the gulf between development in theory and in practice, as well as how to apply what I have learnt in university in a real world context'

Le Van Phuc, 2015 participant

Photo credit Oxfam-Monash Partnership, 2014

Oxfam-Monash Innovators

This year, the Partnership built on the lessons of our first Innovators program in 2013 to devise a program model that would enable students to contribute their innovative ideas even more directly to the work of Oxfam Australia, by responding to specific challenges issued by teams at Oxfam. The result brought together students from the fields of design, marketing and international development to work in interdisciplinary teams on one of two challenges set by Oxfam's Unwrapped and Trading teams; how to attract increased foot traffic to Oxfam Shops, and how to enhance sales of Oxfam's Unwrapped gift cards.

Over three dynamic workshops, students worked with expert mentors from Oxfam's Design for Change, the Australian Centre for Social Innovation, and The Difference Incubator to develop their innovative solutions to the two challenges. After pitching their solutions to a panel of judges from Oxfam, Monash and the Difference Incubator, two winning concepts were chosen for further development and possible implementation at Oxfam in 2015. Oxfam judges were incredibly impressed by the quality of work that students produced, and the Unwrapped team in particular is looking forward to trialling a prototype of the winning solution – a goat's milk soap product to complement their Unwrapped gift cards - late in 2015.
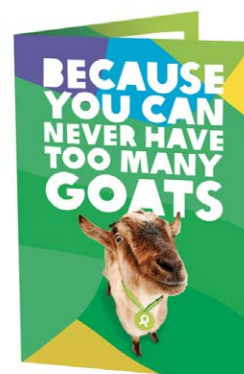
Concepts and student presentations from the Oxfam-Monash Innovators program

Depth Unit

Combining insights from across many areas of Oxfam's work, this year's Depth Unit presented students with the opportunity to learn about the practical challenges facing global health and development practitioners, while grounding and situating these challenges within key theoretical frameworks. Students were able to pursue individual research projects that enabled them to integrate these concepts into their own primary field of academic study, and a number of students received the opportunity to complete a research internship with the Oxfam-Monash Partnership.

Students in this year's unit reported gaining a more nuanced understanding of the multifaceted and complex global health and development system, a better understanding of the work of Oxfam, and a new awareness of how their own diverse areas of study could be applied to help address these global challenges into the future.

Student interns and volunteers

This year, we have continued our commitment to providing Monash students with opportunities to engage with the Partnership through the provision of a number of meaningful volunteer and intern roles. Throughout the year, several Monash students joined the OMP, from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines including public health, arts, science, business and journalism, amongst others. Carmel Wallis and Laura Langdon were two such volunteers, who enrolled in the Monash Depth Unit in Semester Two, 2014. During this time, they were offered a research internship with the OMP, and since then have worked steadily on a range of literature reviews and other key pieces of work for three of the Partnership's action research projects. Recently, they were offered an opportunity to work with Oxfam's Government Relations team, contributing to an ACFID-contracted review of innovation in the Australian international development sector.

For the first time this year, Masters students enrolled in the Masters of International Development Practice were also engaged as research assistants for several OMP-funded research projects. These new opportunities enabled students to complement and enhance their academic studies with practical research experience.

Practitioner Development

One of the exciting opportunities created by the Partnership is the capacity to tap into the vast pools of knowledge, skills and expertise that lie within both Oxfam and Monash, and to bring these together to support the professional development of individuals within each organisation – as well as to advance knowledge and key development discourses and debates. Over the past five years, the Partnership has sought out and capitalised on opportunities to bring Oxfam and Monash staff together in ways that have catalysed new knowledge, ideas and action, and that have enhanced the internal and combined capacity of each institution.

Our practitioner development objectives

The objective for practitioner development as described in our founding agreement was:

- To enable professional practitioners to refine and share their practice

This objective has been realised in a number of ways, including the provision of workshops, symposia, discussion events and staff development opportunities. Some of the key outcomes of these efforts, as well as our particular activities in the past year, are discussed in the pages that follow.

6. Key Practitioner Development Outcomes and Impact

Outcome: Practitioners sharing their practice

The Oxfam-Monash Partnership has hosted a range of events to bring together practitioners and academics from across the development sector to share and discuss their work, to highlight emergent best practice, and to generate new ideas. Many of these have also involved sharing the findings and implications of the Partnership's own research. One of the most successful examples of these events was our research symposium in 2013.

OMP Research Symposium

Held in June 2013, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership Research Symposium, 'Learning Through Partnership', brought together 66 representatives from 11 NGOs and 6 universities to share and discuss the emergent findings of the Partnership's research work in Cambodia, Bangladesh and South Africa. The symposium also drew on the experience of the Partnership's research teams to explore the challenges, benefits and enablers of successful action research in the development space, and to discuss some of the key lessons from the Partnership's experience of NGO-academic partnership - including how partnerships of this nature can be most effective.

The day was evaluated extremely highly by participants, and seeded many new relationships across institutions that yielded future research collaborations. Members of the Partnership's research teams also reported that they benefited greatly from the opportunity to share their lessons and experiences of conducting participatory action research with members of other Partnership research teams, given the challenging nature of this methodology in the development space, and the value of engaging in peer-to-peer learning with other individuals navigating the same unique issues.

Image credit: Carla Gottgens/Oxfam Australia 2013

Outcome: Practitioners refining their practice

In most cases, the opportunities that the Partnership has provided for practitioners to *share* their practice have also been opportunities for these practitioners to *refine* their practice, given the learning that has invariably arisen through the process of sharing experiences and knowledge at these events. However, engagement with the Partnership's work has also refined the practice of both NGO practitioners and academic researchers in a number of ways external to and distinct from our sharing events. A few examples are the experiences of working in joint NGO-academic teams, and capacity-building engagements with local NGO and academic partners.

Research team development

For many of our researchers, conducting participatory action research with the Oxfam-Monash Partnership has been the first time that they have engaged with this methodology, or worked within a collaborative team made up of NGO and academic team members. The very process of engaging in these research teams has therefore been one that has presented rich lessons and professional development opportunities for our researchers, both NGO and academic alike, and combining the different ways of working to which each are generally accustomed has given individuals from both institutions a chance to reflect on their own practice more consciously. As Alex Haynes, researcher on the Partnership's Bangladesh research project states, *'it's impossible to overstate the impact that this project has had on me, and on others, as a researcher, and how much I've learnt through this process'.*

Local capacity-building

In many of the Partnership's research projects, local NGOs and academic institutions have been engaged as implementation partners, building the skills and capacities of local practitioners in developing countries to conduct action research and implement effective community development initiatives. In the Partnership's research work in Bangladesh, for example, a partnership was formed with the University of Dhaka, giving students at the university the opportunity to work as research assistants and data collectors for the research team, and thereby learn about conducting action research in practice. And in Cambodia, the research team established a strong partnership with a local NGO, Equitable Cambodia, who participated in the delivery of the research project and the analysis of its outcomes, and who now remains as a local partner in-country, putting the research's findings into practice with the communities it supports.

7. Practitioner Development Activities 2014-15

Oxfam-Monash Partnership and ACFID University Network joint workshop: NGO-academic research partnerships in practice

This year, the Partnership continued to deepen our engagement with the ACFID University Network, partnering to deliver 'Research Partnerships in Practice' – a joint workshop convened as part of the Partnership's 'Futures Series'. Bringing together participants from 15 NGOs and 6 universities, the workshop enabled a robust discussion on the topic of NGO-academic research partnerships, their common challenges, and key enabling factors and strategies for successful collaborations. The workshop received extremely positive feedback, with the ACFID University Network's own evaluation identifying the workshop as one of the highlights of its research-focused events, and commenting on the positive feedback from attendants, who appreciated the workshop's practice-oriented nature. Experiences and key lessons from the day have since been captured for the benefit of others in the sector, in a Learning and Developing Note that has been widely used by NGO and academic stakeholders.

Castan Centre for Human Rights L&D opportunity for Oxfam staff

This year, with the support of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University, the Oxfam-Monash Partnership facilitated an exciting opportunity for a number of Oxfam staff members to participate in a specialist Monash Masters unit, Economic Social and Cultural Rights and International Law. The unit was taught by Professor Olivier de Schutter; a current member of the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, and one of the foremost global thinkers and teachers on this topic. Access to the course was provided for Oxfam staff through a scholarship from the Oxfam-Monash Partnership.

ACFID University Network Conference

The 5th ACFID University Network Conference was held at Monash University on the 4th and 5th of June. The Oxfam-Monash Partnership was thrilled to participate in the conference by providing sponsorship, and by engaging special guest Ricardo Fuentes-Nieva, the Head of Research for Oxfam Great Britain, as a keynote speaker for the conference. The Partnership also hosted a stimulating panel discussion featuring some of our key researchers, who each delivered fascinating presentations on several OMP research projects, sharing the nuanced new understandings of inequality emerging from this research with the large practitioner audience in attendance.

'I thoroughly enjoyed the course – the content was really useful for my role and it provided a good background on the evolution of Economic, Social and Cultural rights, and the current debates in this area – which links directly into our work. In terms of staff capacity building, this has probably been the most useful formal training that I have participated in during my time at Oxfam'

Chris Madden, Mining Advocacy Coordinator, Oxfam

About us

9. Governance

The Governance Committee of the Oxfam-Monash Partnership consists of seven nominated members. The governing body meets on a bimonthly basis to establish policies and procedures for the Partnership, to evaluate and set its strategic direction, to review proposals for funding, and to provide ongoing monitoring and support for funded proposals.

Chair:
Mark Clisby (July – March)
John Thwaites (June – onwards)

Members:

Pamela Anders	Rebekah Brown
Katie Greenwood	Alexia Huxley
Sue McKemmish	Chrisanta Muli
Jacqui True	Natalie Gray (Jul-Sep)

10. Management team

The Operational Team consists of two staff members that manage the daily operations of the Oxfam-Monash Partnership:

Program Lead: Alexandra Kennedy

Program Officer: Anna Donaldson

11. Volunteers

Our dedicated volunteers support the Partnership's communications, events and research work.

The following individuals kindly volunteered their time and expertise in the past year:

Michael Choong	Carmel Wallis
Zoe Forbes	Marlene Millott
Laura Langdon	Siti Munafiah Walker

The Partnership would like to acknowledge the contribution of long-standing chair, Mark Clisby, who left the Partnership in March 2015. Mark's contribution to the Partnership has been highly significant, and we acknowledge and appreciate his exceptional long-term commitment to the Partnership.

The Partnership would also like to thank Alexandra Kennedy for her invaluable contribution in the role of Program Lead, which she held from January 2014 to June 2015. Alexandra played a pivotal role in further embedding the Oxfam-Monash Partnership within both Oxfam Australia and Monash University, and leaves the Partnership in a strong position from which to grow into the future.

We wish both Alexandra and Mark the very best in their future endeavours.

12. Communications

Building on the new communications strategy implemented in the previous reporting period, the Partnership has continued to maintain a strong web presence to communicate our work and impact, and has provided regular updates to key stakeholders through a range of mediums. These have included the Partnership's monthly e-newsletter, social media platforms, internal communication platforms such as the Monash Memo and Watch This Space, and through contributions to the ACFID University Network's newsletter.

The Partnership has also continued to offer ongoing communication intern roles to competitively selected Monash students, drawn from the Monash Masters of Journalism and other Monash Faculties. The contributions of our interns have been invaluable to the maintenance of the Partnership's communications presence.

Finance

13. Finances and in-kind support

Over the past financial year, the generous donation provided to us by the Empowerment Charitable Trust has continued to provide the core of our organisational funding, and has enabled us to deliver on our program goals and objectives. The Partnership has also leveraged other direct and indirect funding sources to derive even greater impact and value from the Trust's funding. This has included considerable in-kind support from both Oxfam and Monash, including staff time and physical resources. After tracking these contributions, an estimate of their value is as follows:

ESTIMATED IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS: OXFAM AND MONASH

2014 - 2015	2010 - 2015
$ 311,234	$ 1,945,218

This year, the Partnership also partnered with the production company 'Live On Stage' to run three public events, of which a proportion of the ticket sales have been donated to the OMP and Oxfam. This exciting new partnership presents opportunities for further collaboration for fundraising, and is a clear example of how the Partnership can further leverage its brand and the dual audiences of Monash and Oxfam.

14. Fair Trade

The Oxfam shops at Monash's Clayton and Berwick campuses continue to promote the sale of Oxfam fair trade items. Fair trade guarantees that workers and farmers in developing countries receive a fair price for their work, and offers consistent wages and sustainable livelihoods that help to combat poverty. By offering fair trade products at Monash University shops, the Partnership contributes to Oxfam's fundraising, exposes Monash staff and students to Oxfam's products, and helps lead the movement for ethical consumption and fair trade as tools for sustainable global development.

Image credit: Max Bastard/Oxfam Australia 2014

Thank you

Our work and achievements over the past five years would not have been possible without the contributions of individuals within both Oxfam and Monash, and across the development sector more broadly. Our particular thanks go to the following individuals for their significant contributions to the work of the Partnership since 2010.

Adam Shoemaker	Francesca Alice	Marlene Millott
Adrian Devey	Helen Szoke	Matthew Pritchard
Alan Moolman	Inger Harber	May Cheng
Alex Mathieson	Ingrid Klaussen	May Miller-Dawkins
Alexandra Kennedy	Jaclyn Donahue	Meghan Cooper
Alexia Huxley	Jacob Thomas	Naomi Godden
Andrew Hartwich	Jacqui True	Natalie Gray
Andrew Hewett	James Dunlop	Nicholas Molver
Anna Donaldson	James Ensor	Pamela Anders
Bonnie Einsiedel	Jenna Tuckett	Rebekah Brown
Brad Crammond	John Thwaites	Richard Simpson
Bronwyn Du Rand	Judy Mitchell	Samanthi Gunawardana
Carmel Wallis	Katie Greenwood	Simon Adams
Cecilia Hewlett	Kim Ho	Sue McKemmish
Chris Roche	Larry Stillman	Thu-Trang Tran
Chrisanta Muli	Laura Langdon	Tim Morris
Colin Collett van Rooyen	Lisa Elford	William Moore
Craig Rowe	Louise McCall	
Damian Thomson	Mark Clisby	

Appendix: Academic Outputs and Publications

The publications and academic outputs produced through the Partnership's research work are listed below:

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND REPORTS

Alston, M., Whittenbury, K., Haynes, A., & Godden, N. (2014). Are climate challenges reinforcing child and forced marriage and dowry as adaptation strategies in the context of Bangladesh? *Women's Studies International Forum,* 47, pp. 137-144.

Bottomley, R. (2014, May 19). *Seeking Accountability: Boeung Kak Lake and the Role of the World Bank.* Mekong Commons. Retrieved from http://www.mekongcommons. org/seeking-world-bank-accountability-boeung-kak-lake/.

McBeth, A., & Bottomley, R. (2013). Mapping Accountability Processes in Cambodia. *Development Bulletin,* 75, pp. 115 – 118.

Setswe, G., and Witthuhn, J. (2013). Community Engagement in the Introduction and Implementation of the National Health Insurance in South Africa. *Journal of Public Health in Africa*, 4(1), pp. 27-31.

Stillman, L. (2014). *Empowering Community Voices Project: Research Studies from South Africa and Bangladesh.* Centre for Community and Social Informatics, Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University Australia.

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Alston, M. (2015). *Women and Climate Change in Bangladesh: Women in Asia Series.* London: Routledge.

Bottomley, R. (2013). Capacity, sustainability and accountability in the face of modern development: lessons from Oxfam Australia's development model in Cambodia. In Brennan, L., Paker, L., Watne, T.A., Fien, J., Hue, D.T., and Doan, M.A. (Eds.). *Growing Sustainable Communities: A Development Guide for Southeast Asia* (pp 210-225). Melbourne: Tilde University Press.

COMMUNITY AND NGO RESOURCES

Bottomley, R. (2014, April). *Strengthening Community-Driven Accountability.* Briefing paper, Oxfam Cambodia.

Bottomley, R. (2014, April). *Strengthening the Accountability of NGOs.* Briefing paper, Oxfam Cambodia.

Bottomley, R. (2014, April). *Approaches to Seeking Accountability.* Briefing paper: Oxfam Cambodia.

Bottomley, R., Net, V., and Chhoeng, S. (2014, March). *Social Issues, Consultation and People's Participation with Respect to the Lower Sesan 2 Dam.* Briefing Paper, Oxfam Cambodia.

Setswe, G., Witthuhn, J., and Marindo, R. (2013). *User Guide: National Health Insurance in South Africa: Get Informed and Participate!.* Durban: Oxfam South Africa.

Walters, R. (2015). *Consolidating a Model for Consultation and Public Participation in Health Policy Formation: Learning from the Experience of Implementing the Oxfam-Monash NHI-Accountability Project in South Africa.* Durban: Oxfam South Africa.

PRESENTATIONS

Alston, M., and Akhter, B. (2013, June). *Gendered Impacts of Climate Variability and Climate Events in Bangladesh: Project overview and initial findings.* Presentation at the Learning Through Partnership, Oxfam-Monash Partnership Research Symposium, Melbourne.

Bottomley, R. (2013, June). *Community-driven Accountability in Cambodia: an Oxfam-Monash Partnership Research Project.* Presentation to the Learning Through Partnership, Oxfam-Monash Partnership Research Symposium, Melbourne.

Bottomley, R. (2013, June). *Participatory Action Research.* Presentation to the Learning Through Partnership, Oxfam-Monash Partnership Research Symposium, Melbourne.

Bottomley, R. (2013, September). *CDA Research Project: Challenges of Putting Research Into Action.* Presentation to Oxfam Australia, Siem Reap.

Bottomley, R. (2013, December). *Rapid Sustainability Assessment Tools and their Relation to Social Issues and Stakeholder Consultation, using the Case Study of the Lower Sesan Dam.* Presentation to an NGO RSAT raining session, World Wildlife Fund, Phnom Penh.

Cass, T., and Whittenbury, K. (2013, June). *Action Research: Being Flexible and Responsive.* Presentation at the Learning Through Partnership, Oxfam-Monash Partnership Research Symposium, Melbourne.

Gunawardana, S. J. (2015, May). *Understanding the Gendered Political Economy of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods in Post-War Sri Lanka through Life Course Analysis.* Presentation to the Warwick University New Directions in Political Economy Conference, Warwick.

Gunawardana, S. J. (2015, June). *Gender, Labour and Agricultural Livelihoods in Sri Lanka.* Presentation to the 5th Australian Council for International Development University Network Conference, Melbourne.

Haynes, A. (2011, September). *Women, Research and Action: The Oxfam-Monash Partnership in Bangladesh.* Presentation at the Gender and Climate Change International Conference, Prato.

Haynes, A. (2011, November). *Women, Research and Action: The Oxfam-Monash Partnership in Bangladesh.* Presentation at the International Council of Women, Asia Pacific Conference and Workshop, Fiji.

Haynes, A. (2014, August). *Can Climate Challenges Reshape Gender Relations and Foster Greater Gender Equality in Bangladesh?* Presentation at the Royal Geographic Society, London.

McBeth, A. (2012, November). *Mapping Accountability Processes in Cambodia.* Presentation at the Challenges of Participatory Development in Contemporary Development Practice, ANU Conference, Canberra.

McBeth, A. (2013, November). *Forced Eviction for Urban Poverty Development: Boeung Kak Lake Cambodia.* Presentation at the Dislocation and Cultural Space, New Zealand Asian Studies Conference on Environment, Auckland.

Net, V. (September, 2013). *Strengthening Accountability and Inclusiveness in Economic Development Projects: The Case of the Lower Sesan II Dam.* Presentation to the Rivers Coalition of Cambodia, Phnom Penh.

Setswe, G. And Rajcoomar, V. (2013, June). *Participatory Action Research and Community Participation: Developing a People's Policy for Health in South Africa.* Presented at the Learning Through Partnership, Oxfam-Monash Partnership Research Symposium, Melbourne.

Setswe, G., and Rajcoomar, V. (2013, June). *Community Consultations in the Development and Implementation of the National Health Insurance in South Africa.* Presented at the Learning Through Partnership, Oxfam-Monash Partnership Research Symposium, Melbourne.

Setswe, G., and Rajcoomar, V. (2012, August). *Governance and Accountability in the Health Sector: Developing a People's Policy for Health in South Africa.* Presented at the Oxfam-Monash Round Table, Monash University, Johannesburg.

Setswe, G., and Rajcoomar, V. (2011, November). *The New National Health Insurance in South Africa: How it will Affect You.* Presented at Research Day, Monash University, Johannesburg.

Setswe, G., and Rajcoomar, V. (2012, September). *Governance and Accountability in Implementing the National Health Insurance in South Africa.* Presentation to staff and students, Monash University, Johannesburg.

http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/oxfam/