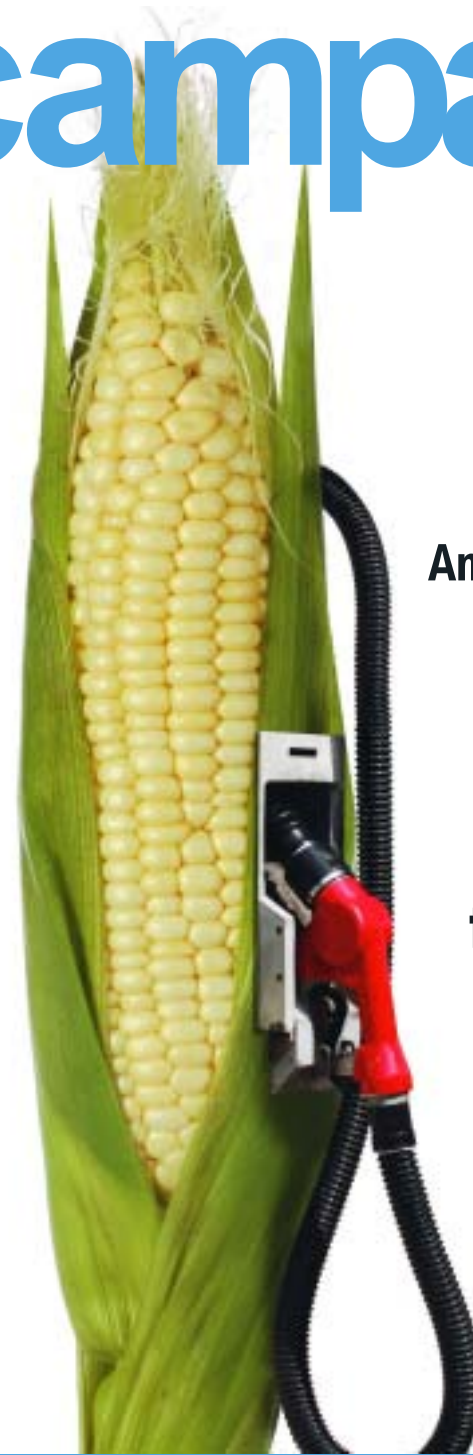


campaigner

SUMMER EDITION 2008



THIS EDITION

Another Inconvenient Truth:

**How biofuels
drive hunger
and fail to be
the solution to
the climate and
fuel crises**

contact:

Belfast Office

115 North Street, Belfast BT1 1ND
Tel: 028 9023 0220
Fax: 028 9023 7771
email: info@oxfamireland.org
web: www.oxfamireland.org

Dublin Office

9 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 6727662
Fax: 01 6727680
email: info@oxfamireland.org
web: www.oxfamireland.org

IN BRIEF

stop the straitjacket



We need you to keep pressing for action on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) - unfair trade deals being pushed by the EU which President Wade of Senegal called 'a straitjacket'.

Oxfam Ireland is working with campaigners in Tanzania and elsewhere to help tackle the EPA's problem. We must keep supporting African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to resist the pressure and demand the EU makes fair any deals which have already been signed. Join us in taking action.

www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns

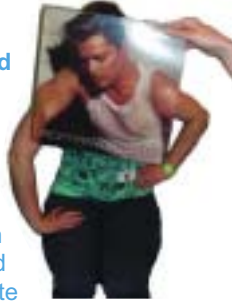
bright young futures

The Oxfam Ireland Campaigns Team joined young innovators at events in Belfast and Dublin last month.

Eight primary schools, from places as far apart as Ballynahinch, Crumlin and Derry, were declared winners in our Big Climate Quiz at the Sentius Young Innovators event at the Odyssey Arena. While at the Young Social Innovators Summit in Dublin, we got people 'sleevefacing'* to encourage them to make music and fight poverty at the same time - via the magic of Oxjam.

www.oxfamireland.org/oxjam

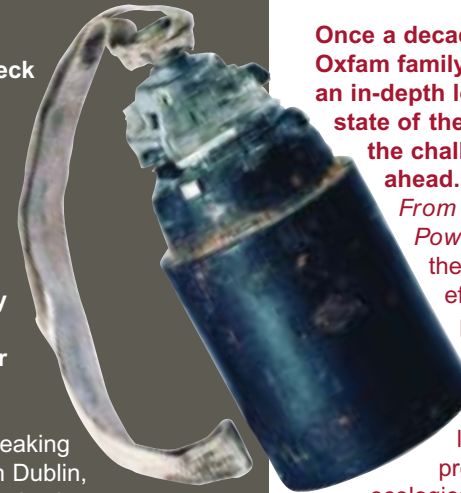
*To sleeveface: One or more persons obscuring or augmenting any part of their bodies with record sleeves, causing an illusion.



together we stopped the bombs

Cluster bombs wreck lives. Across the world they kill thousands of people each year. Not only do they not discriminate between soldiers and civilians - they go on killing and maiming long after conflicts are over.

In May, a ground-breaking treaty was signed in Dublin, banning the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster bombs. Thank you to everyone who signed the Cluster Munitions Coalition petition. For more see www.stopclusterbombs.ie.



DanChurchA1a/Jawad Meini

poverty to power

Once a decade the Oxfam family publishes an in-depth look at the state of the world and the challenges ahead.

From Poverty to Power looks at the causes and effects of

poverty and inequality, as well as the possible solutions. The book "tells us what we must do in the limited time we have to prevent a human and ecological tragedy that will affect, in one way or another, each and every one of us" (Larry Elliott).

To dig deeper into the causes of poverty, you can read the report for free at www.oxfam.org



G8 leaders fail to answer campaigners' wishes

Leaders of the world's 8 richest countries, the G8, met in Japan at the start of July. This meeting coincided with the Japanese Tanabata festival, when Japanese people tie paper wishes to bamboo trees. Oxfam asked supporters to attach their wishes to an online bamboo tree many of which were handed over to the G8 leaders. However campaigners wishes of aid increases, progress on climate change and a plea for healthcare for all, went unanswered. The G8 leaders inaction means that millions of peoples lives continue to be at risk. Oxfam's work in pressuring the G8 and other world leaders on these issues will continue and we urge you to join us to campaign for a fairer world. www.oxfamireland.org

forgotten crisis

Oxfam Ireland's Humanitarian Programme Co-ordinator Michael O'Riordan has just returned from the forgotten emergency in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Here Tandua Lia and Michael carry 20 litre jerry cans of clean water home from the Oxfam Ireland water point near Kamango in North Kivu. As Michael explains; "with 45,000 dying each month this is the world's deadliest conflict since WWII with the civilian death rate much higher than Afghanistan, Darfur or Iraq - yet we rarely hear about it. Nor the fact that the EU has a critical peacekeeping presence there". Oxfam continues to lobby and monitor the EU to ensure that it stays engaged in this brutal and overlooked crisis. www.oxfamireland.org/news



FUEL FOR LIFE

We've all felt the price of our food shop go up recently. The papers are full of advice on how to economise - bring lunch in from home, spice up those leftovers. In fact, the price of food has nearly doubled in just three years. People in developing countries, who spend between 50% and 80% of their income on food, bear the brunt of the crisis. There are a number of causes, but we're not helping by rushing to fuel cars instead of people.



Oxfam campaigners at the Rome Food Summit

So what's behind the food crisis?

Poor harvests in big food-producing countries, such as Australia, probably as a result of climate change, have hit food supplies. Increased oil prices have meant producing and transporting food has become much more expensive and the demand for food has increased as diets improve in China and India. Perhaps most importantly, as the price of food has also gone up, speculators have been attracted to the market. And we've been literally adding fuel to the fire by using food crops to create biofuels.

Tackling the problem will take time: for instance, we need to keep campaigning against the kind of unfair trade rules which have forced poor farmers in the developing world out of business (you can help do this right now at www.oxfamireland.org). Governments need to take urgent action to increase food aid in the short term. They also need to ensure that developing countries have the freedom to pursue the right policies for their economies and agriculture: lest 600 million people go hungry by 2020.

In the meantime, we can take some of the heat out of the situation by halting the rush to biofuels: which has so far been responsible for around 30% of the food price rises (and possibly as much as 70%). The shift has been very rapid - in 2007 one quarter of the US corn harvest was used to produce biofuels in factories like the one pictured left. The European Union has set a target that requires 10% of all transport fuels to come from biofuels by 2010: they are already being blended into the petrol sold on forecourts across Ireland.



Campaigners in Kenya protest against rising prices. Photo: GCAP

Biofuels are supposed to help tackle climate change. However recent evidence suggests that biofuels exacerbate climate change and be an excuse for inaction in cutting carbon emissions. They can also can be hugely expensive and are powering a land grab in developing countries (see "On The Ground: Tanzania" - elsewhere in this issue.)

Keep an eye on our website to get all the latest information on this issue and updates on important actions.

www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns

OXJAM 2008: THE D.I.Y. MUSIC FESTIVAL

We're looking for DJs, promoters, street buskers, music teachers and just plain old music fans to put on all kinds of music events during the 31 days of October to raise vital money for Oxfam.



Fighting with Wire play Oxjam Belfast in '07
Photo: Helen French

I'm Michelle (yes, that's me wearing my favourite find from the Oxfam shop at last year's Electric Picnic) and I'm here to give you all the support and advice you need to run your Oxjam gig this year.

There's no limit to how big or small the events can be - whether you plan a day-long busk-off on the main street of your town, organise a music night in your local pub or hold a karaoke night in your back garden, it'll add up to one massive, Ireland-wide Oxjam festival.

To get the ball rolling you can contact me at oxjam@oxfamireland.org or check out www.oxfamireland.org/oxjam to download

your toolkit. It contains lots of helpful ideas about organising a gig or party and gives advice on promoting whatever you do in your local press. Or you can also use the form opposite to request a copy.

You can link your event to our Oxjam myspace or bebo pages. Visit www.myspace.com/oxjamireland and let others know about your event, swap tips and download posters and flyers.

Play it. Sing it. Dance it. Spin it. Music is your voice.... Use it.

**From ROI telephone 1890 60 60 65
From NI telephone 0845 30 30 337**

I really wanna rock with you...

If you're in **Northern Ireland** fill out this form, cut it out, add a stamp on the back and we'll send you an exclusive Oxjam organiser's pack.

Or just download all you need from www.oxfamireland.org/oxjam

Name:

Address (including postcode):

Email:

I really wanna rock with you...

If you're in the **Republic of Ireland** fill out this form, cut it out, add a stamp on the back and we'll send you an exclusive Oxjam organiser's pack.

Or just download all you need from www.oxfamireland.org/oxjam

Name:

Address:

Email:

FAIR TRADE PIONEERS

OXFAM IRELAND - AT THE FOREFRONT OF FAIR TRADE SINCE 1986.

Building on our pioneering beginnings, Oxfam Ireland is still a leader and highly respected name in Fair Trade. Our shops have always stocked a wide range of Fairtrade certified food products, as well as an ever-changing range of jewellery, accessories, kids' gifts, home décor and more.

Choosing Fair Trade products makes a difference to some of the poorest farmers and artisans around the world. When you shop, look out for products from these fellow 'Fair Trade Pioneers' and your purchases can have even more impact.

Divine Chocolate has been selling chocolate bars through mainstream retailers since 1998. Although it is a commercial company, its mission is to work for the growers of its cocoa - the Kuappa Kokoo Cooperative in Ghana. In fact nearly half the company is owned by the farmers, who have two seats on the board of directors and actively participate in the management of the company. The farmers receive the guaranteed Fairtrade price for their cocoa, but through this pioneering arrangement they now also share in Divine's profits.

Liberation Nuts is a new company which follows this model of producer ownership. Ground nut growers are some of the poorest farmers in the world,



but now members of nut growers' cooperatives in Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua and India will share in the ownership of Liberation.

Three additional brands you have probably seen in local shops or supermarkets have been involved in the Fair Trade movement for many years. Cafédirect, Equal Exchange and Tropical Wholefoods are dedicated Fair Trade companies; Fair Trade is at the heart of what they do. All three are members of IFAT (The International Fair Trade Association) along with Oxfam Ireland. They not only guarantee their producers the Fairtrade price, but provide support in many other ways such as business development training, technical assistance, quality improvement and even help with basics such as access to water and health care.

www.oxfamirelandshop.org



Oxfam Ireland was delighted to be involved with Ireland's first ever Ethical Fashion Week: Fashion Evolution, which took place in Dublin during April.

FASHION EVOLUTION



Sabina Cotter's 'shower dress' made the final cut

Organised by Re-dress, the week focused on ethical and environmental issues within the fashion industry. A series of events - from fashion exhibitions to public debates and seminars - aimed to educate Ireland's fashion leaders (and followers) on the power of the fashion industry to make the rag trade safe and fair.

Ireland's leading fashion editor Constance Harris introduced key players in the ethical fashion industry. The heavyweight international line-up included London designer and New Consumer Magazine's Ethical Hero 2207 Katharine Hamnett, and Mike Barry, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Marks & Spencer. Oxfam Ireland already works with M&S on a clothing exchange programme in our shops.

The 'Totally Oxfam' fashion competition asked designers to send in their creations, having bought and reworked items from Oxfam shops. One of the final designs was Sabina Cotter's fabulous white full-length dress which started its life as a donated shower curtain.

www.redress.ie
www.katharinehamnett.com
www.marksandspencer.com/plana

Did you know? Every kilogram of cotton grown in Uzbekistan consumes 20,000 litres of water. Choose Fair Trade and organic cotton instead!

Place a
stamp
here

Oxfam Ireland
115 North Street
Belfast
BT1 1ND

Place a
stamp
here

Oxfam Ireland
9 Burgh Quay
Dublin 2

FESTIVAL FEVER

Join Oxfam Ireland again this August at our usual summer haunts as we bring ideas and activities to you al fresco.

A kaleidoscope of colour, aromas, and accents greets you as you meander through Oxfam Ireland's Global Village at the Festival of World Cultures in Dun Laoghaire. Feel traditional Indian fabrics, smell the lavender from Provence, taste Korean kimchi and step into intricate Vietnamese slippers. Whatever you're yearning, you will find it here, in what has become an annual celebration of all that the world has to offer.



This year we'll also be at the festival's Kingston stage. Enjoy the music and hear about Oxjam, a truly unique DIY music celebration that takes place around Ireland in October each year. Pick up your free Oxjam toolkit and learn how you can Make Music, Raise Money & Save Lives. To learn more about Oxjam visit

www.oxfamireland.org/oxjam

Oxfam Ireland, a Fair Trade pioneer since 1986, will also bring fantastic Fair Trade products to the Global Village. You're sure to find the perfect gift... or something for yourself!



Make a Statement at Electric Picnic

My, oh my! The thoughts of Electric Picnic this August start the audio-visual taste buds tingling in anticipation; Aitken and co's promises of new delights have us rubbing our hands with glee.

Oxfam Ireland's tent has become a reliable constant at the festival, a refuge from the madness; somewhere to chat about what's happening out there in the 'real world' beyond The Picnic's borders, or to rummage through Oxfam Ireland's vintage shop to find that back-of-the-rail gem that may later come to embody your Electric Picnic experience.

Note: Oxfam's vintage shop will once again be the place to find the perfect festival hat. If you are not yet familiar with the significance of the festival hat, come and find 'The One', pop it on your head and feel your festival über-ego emerge (Check out Niall's 2007 'find', left).

And with all that reinforced clarity of self, come and share some of your creativity with us by making your statement on a Fairtrade t-shirt or the Oxfam graffiti wall. We look forward to seeing what you and your hat have to say.

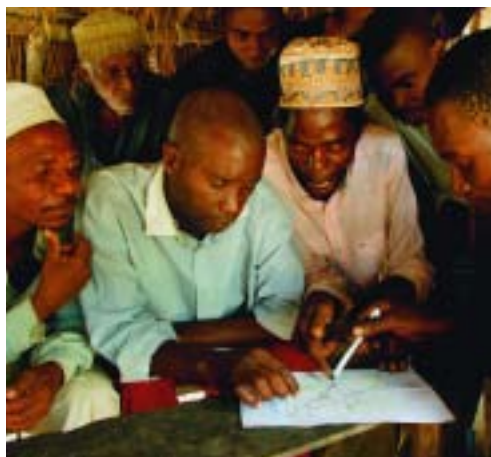
BIOFUELS EXPLORED: ON THE GROUND IN TANZANIA

Today's biofuel policies are not solving the climate or fuel crises, but are instead contributing to food insecurity and inflation, hitting poor people hardest, says a new international report by Oxfam.

Oxfam calculates that rich countries' biofuel policies have dragged more than 30 million people into poverty, as land once used to grow valuable food resources is now cultivated for biofuels. "Biofuel policies are actually helping to accelerate climate change and deepen poverty and hunger. Rich countries' demands for more biofuels in their transport fuels are causing spiralling production and food inflation", says report author and Oxfam's biofuels adviser Rob Bailey.

The chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recently warned that 60 million people worldwide face clearance from their land to make way for biofuel plantations. In Tanzania, reports are already emerging that vulnerable groups are being forced aside to make way for biofuel plantations.

Mtamba is one of 11 villages that skirts 9,000 hectares of land, on which Biofuels Tanzania Ltd - a subsidiary of British Company Sun Biofuels - is finalising an investment deal which will see it setting up operations there. The 11,000 people who live in the area use the land for charcoal making - a major source of income, for firewood and for collecting herbs for food and medicine. Most significantly, the land allotted for biofuel production includes a swamp which is the villagers' only source of water during the dry season. Sun Biofuels will acquire a 99 year lease on the land; whether the villagers have access to this water under the proposed scheme remains to be seen.



Mtamba villagers reading plans for biofuel development (Aubrey Wade/Oxfam)

Rich countries must stop and revise their policies now. Evidence of the damage that will be caused is overwhelming. Even in poor countries where biofuels may offer a new market commodity and increased employment, the potential costs, including environmental damage, land displacement and diminished food and water supplies, are severe and they should proceed with caution.

Oxfam is calling for the EU's 10% biofuel target by 2010 to be scrapped and for all accompanying forms of support for biofuels - subsidies, tax breaks and tariffs - to be reduced or dismantled.

Keep an eye on our website over the coming months to see what YOU can do to take action. www.oxfamireland.org

PASS THE PRESENT

**MY CHILDREN GET SO MANY PRESENTS
ON THEIR BIRTHDAYS; THEY BARELY
PLAY WITH HALF OF THEM!**

**What can I give a child who has
everything already?**

Sound familiar?

Oxfam Ireland has the answer - '*Pass the Present*'. The idea is simple - as the parent of the birthday boy or girl who is having a party, you invite a FEW of your guests (or their parents!) to donate to Oxfam Ireland rather than buying your child a present.

In return, Oxfam will send the birthday boy or girl a fantastic Puzzle Pack (with activity sheets, thank you cards and a certificate) on behalf of those who made a donation. In addition to being great fun, the pack is educational and creates an awareness of other boys and girls in the world who are less well off. You don't need to wait to be invited by the party-giver to make a donation, you might just want to go ahead and do it anyway!



All the funds raised through 'Pass the Present' go towards our long-term work with children and families in Africa. To find out more and to see 'Pass the Present' in action on RTE's Nationwide, visit www.oxfamireland.org/passthepresent

Alternatively, contact us on 1850 30 40 55 (ROI) or 0800 0 30 40 55 (NI).

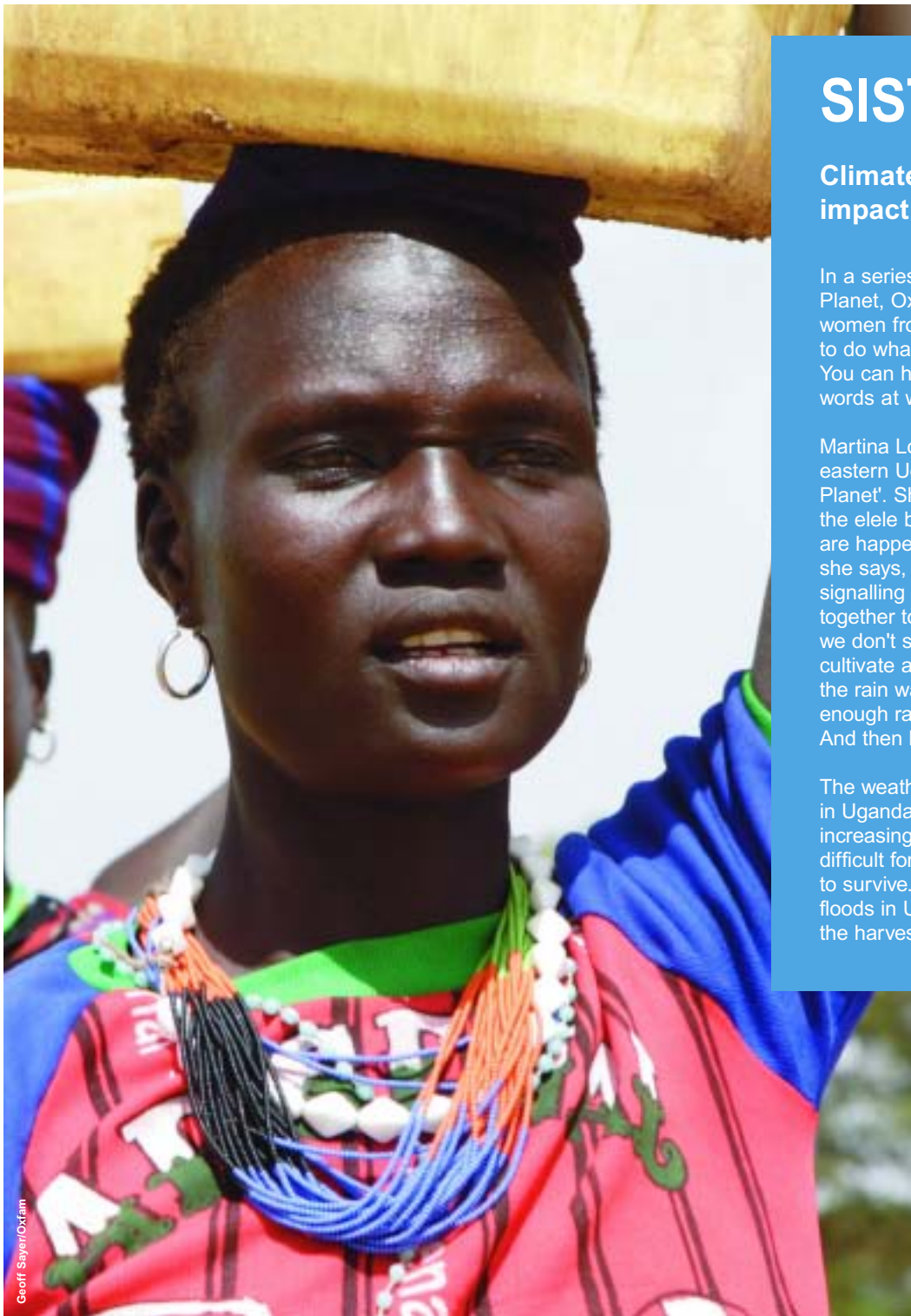


Oxfamgarden: Grow for Africa

It's that time of year again!

Oxfam Ireland has recently launched this year's fantastic range of Oxfamgarden products that are ideal for gardeners of all levels of expertise.

Produced by Willow Design and Publishing Ltd and Oxfam Ireland, the seeds and seed mats are for sale in all Oxfam Ireland's donated and Fair Trade shops.



SISTERS ON THE PLANET

Climate change is already having a disproportionate impact on people in developing countries.

In a series of 4 short films entitled Sisters on the Planet, Oxfam is sharing the stories of strong women from around the world who are determined to do whatever they can to fight climate change. You can hear them tell their stories in their own words at www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns.

Martina Longom from Caicaoan village in north-eastern Uganda is one of our 'Sisters on the Planet'. She describes how the disappearance of the elele bird is yet another sign that strange things are happening to the weather. "In our parents' time," she says, "the elele bird would come and sing, signalling the rain. Everyone would then join together to turn to cultivation. "Now," she continues, "we don't see the bird. We don't know when to cultivate and when to sow. For the last three years the rain was late. In two of them there wasn't enough rain for the sorghum [a local crop] to grow. And then last year the rains came as a flood."

The weather has never been perfectly predictable in Uganda, but in the last few years it has become increasingly unreliable, making life much more difficult for people, like Martina, who rely on farming to survive. In early 2008, six months after the worst floods in Uganda in 35 years destroyed much of the harvest, her family's grain store sits empty.

To feed her family, Martina is trying to earn a living by collecting water and firewood for people in the nearest town. But she must also care for her family alone, as her husband is spending several weeks away from home tending to their cattle. The lack of food and milk is making her children ill, and collecting wood is becoming more difficult.

Deforestation is one of many problems the local women's group in Caicaoan is working to resolve. Members have planted evergreen and mango trees to replace the ones cut down for fuel and charcoal - a highly successful scheme which is also reducing erosion and helping people to earn an income. And because water is becoming harder to find, members have successfully campaigned for and helped to build a borehole. Instead of walking for up to seven hours to collect water, the women now make a 30-minute round trip. Martina is looking forward to joining the women's group and she keenly supports its work to safeguard supplies of water, wood and food. She is a strong advocate of the role education can play in the fight against climate change. As she succinctly puts it: "Education gives us alternatives."

Stand alongside Martina at
www.oxfamireland.org/campaigns

Oxfam and Climate Change

Climate change represents a serious threat to poor people and Oxfam's mission. Oxfam has joined with other groups in the Climate Change Coalition in NI and Stop Climate Chaos in the Republic of Ireland. We're working hard to tell stories like Martina's to wake up the world to the tough changes that must be made.



The 2nd Umbrella Action Day on June 15th: Stop Climate Chaos supporters took to the beach again to press the Irish Government to deliver on climate change commitments