



## Oxfam EU: media advisory and calendar

Current and upcoming topics and events – June and July 2022

1 June 2022

Oxfam EU's monthly media advisory contains details of stories, reports, and events for the next **two months**. It also includes the ongoing topics Oxfam works on. Please get in touch for **interview requests, statements, background information and advance copies of upcoming reports**. Read more about our work and see our latest press releases at [oxfam.org/eu](https://oxfam.org/eu).

### Upcoming events and releases

#### June

**2 June – Business & Human Rights:** Oxfam and other civil society organisations will organise a roundtable on 2 June, 9h – 10h30. The roundtable will focus on the impact of the new EU rules on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence on food supply chains. MEPs in attendance include Heidi Hautala, Bettina Vollath, Axel Voss and Martin Häusling. There will also be a session with young activists during the event. Please contact for more information.

**7 June – Climate Crisis:** Oxfam will publish a briefing paper on loss and damage ahead of the **Bonn Climate Change Conference** (6 - 16 June). Please reach out should you wish to receive an embargoed copy.

**6 to 9 June – Tax:** The European Parliament will vote on a proposal for a carbon border tax (CBAM). Oxfam will publish a media reaction and experts are available for comment.

**9 June – COVID-19:** Oxfam, as part of the People's Vaccine Alliance, will publish a press release ahead of the 12<sup>th</sup> World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference on 12 – 15 June. The proposal for an intellectual property (TRIPS) waiver will be discussed and a decision on the waiver is expected to be reached. The original proposal was meant to allow low-income countries to produce their own cheaper generic COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments.

**13 – 14 June – Humanitarian:** Colleagues from Oxfam in Palestine will be in Brussels as part of a campaign to highlight the impact of the 15 years of blockade on young people living in the Gaza strip. Please reach out for more information.

**17 June – Tax:** EU ministers will decide on an EU minimum tax proposal after it has been blocked several times. Oxfam will publish a media reaction and experts are available for comment.

**27 June - Energy Council:** European Energy Ministers will meet and are expected to discuss the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive. Oxfam experts are available for comment.

**26 to 28 June – Inequality:** Oxfam will follow the G7 Summit in Germany. Oxfam will focus on the climate crisis, the impact of the Ukraine war on the cost of living and on hunger hotspots, and vaccine inequality.

## July

**July (TBC) – Food security:** Oxfam will publish a briefing paper on how our broken food system is causing hunger to spiral.

**4 July** – The European Parliament will vote on a resolution on food security in low-income countries. Oxfam will publish a media reaction and experts are available for comment.

**11 July – Food security:** The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will publish its annual State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report. Oxfam experts are available for comment.

**27 July – Tax:** European Commission will publish its proposal for Pillar 1 of the tax reform agreement (BEPS 1). This pillar focuses on taxation rights. Oxfam will publish a media reaction and experts will be available for comment.

### Ongoing topics

**Ukraine war:** Oxfam is partnering with local organisations in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova and Romania, aiming to reach up to 800,000 people to provide aid, food and equipment, legal support, counselling and protection services. We continue to advocate and lobby governments to provide a **safe haven to Ukrainian and other refugees**; to avoid **aid diversion** and highlight the **consequences of this crisis on hunger crises** around the world, particularly in countries in **East Africa** and the **Middle East**. Oxfam also **supports** excess profit taxes, and a windfall tax on energy companies that could make up for the current increase in energy prices due to the conflict in Ukraine.

**Covid-19:** Covid-19 threatens to kill millions of people and push hundreds of millions more into poverty. **Women are particularly affected**. The pandemic has exposed the **extreme inequality** in our world. Together with hundreds of local partner organisations across 68 countries, **we have reached over 14 million people**. We are working to deliver clean water, soap and other hygiene supplies along with running prevention and awareness campaigns through trainings, radio, social media and more. We are also addressing the ongoing urgent needs of those facing hunger and displacement by distributing cash, vouchers and food. As part of the **People's Vaccine Alliance**, we advocate for the **fair and equal distribution of vaccines** across the world.

**Economic recovery:** Oxfam calls on the EU to build back a better, greener and more just economy. The trialogue agreement on the top-line figures for the EU's long-term budget **did not match the urgency and gravity of our situation and the challenges ahead**. At the same time, Oxfam commends the decision to introduce new EU common taxes. By funding the recovery through progressive, common EU taxes such as a **digital tax**, the most profitable companies pay their fair share while governments can avoid austerity and lessen the impact on the most vulnerable in our societies. Oxfam supports the plan to push European countries to reform their tax systems to stop aggressive tax planning in exchange for funding to help the Covid-19 recovery.

**Tax reforms:** Oxfam works on tax justice. We follow the following topics: **EU tax havens blacklist and the reform of the Code of Conduct Group**; **public country-by-country reporting**; **state aid cases on tax deals**; common consolidated corporate tax base/BEFIT; global tax reforms including a **global minimum effective tax rate**, a redistribution of taxing rights and shell companies' initiative.

**Debt:** **Oxfam has called on the Commission and EU governments** to support debt relief, and if necessary, debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries. Debt relief is a must, not an option. It is urgent to provide room in a government's budget to invest in health and economic recovery. All countries, from the EU member states to the US and China, and private creditors including

bondholders and multilateral institutions must do their part and stop cashing in money from countries running out of reserves.

**Migration – Oxfam’s response:** Oxfam and its partner organisations work with refugees and migrants in Greece, Italy and Spain to protect people in search of safety. We have scaled up our support to people seeking asylum in Greece as a response to the pandemic and its aftermath. **The new EU-funded refugee centre is “prison-like” with reports of de facto detention and revenge tactics.** Over a year ago, **Oxfam filed a legal complaint** calling on the European Commission to launch an infringement procedure against Greece for its systematic breaches of EU asylum law. The complaint is still under consideration by the European Commission.

**Migration Pact:** The EU’s proposal for a migration pact **will only replicate the same problems already seen at the EU’s borders.** This pact should ensure that people arriving in Europe can seek asylum in proper living conditions. It should place human rights at the centre of the EU’s work. As part of this, the EU must avoid making return agreements that put people at risk or sends them to unsafe countries. It should also refrain from using development aid as a political tool to serve only European interests. Instead, the EU should practice what it preached in June’s **European Council** when it called on third countries to stop using migrants as pawns to gain political concessions as well as foster a **human rights approach to its cooperation with third countries.**

**Conflict and crises:** Oxfam works with local partners to support people in crises. Local organisations and first responders, in particular women and women-led organisations, are critical to an effective crisis response. The EU must involve them from the outset in its humanitarian response and support their access to critical information and decision-making mechanisms. The EU should also do more to ensure governance systems work for all, and it should promote human rights and the inclusion of women. Putting cooperation with security forces at the centre of humanitarian action risks ignoring people’s actual needs and compromising the safety of humanitarian actors and the people they support. We follow developments in many countries including **Yemen, the Sahel region, Syria, Myanmar, and OPTI.**

**Climate crisis:** People in vulnerable situations around the world are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis. Oxfam advocates for decisive action by the top polluting countries and industries. The EU’s **current target of 55% reduction in emissions by 2030 is not enough to tackle the climate crisis.** We need cuts of more than 65% to keep us on track with the 1.5C goal of the Paris Agreement. For the **EU’s climate package (Fit for 55),** we are following the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and proposals to increase renewable energy (RED). The current proposal for a carbon border tariff is unfair as it could burden some of the world’s lowest-income countries with a heavy tariff and channels tax revenue into the EU budget rather than into climate action. The new proposal on renewable energy must only include real renewables and must rule out burning trees and crops for fuel. Oxfam also advocates for the EU to phase out food-based biofuels as a significant share of current emission reductions is achieved through policies that rely on increased land use to produce bioenergy. **Such land-hungry ‘net zero’ policies are a threat to global food security that could result in an 80 percent increase in food prices** and drive more hunger. This danger is now compounded by the war in Ukraine.

**Business and human rights:** Oxfam works to end the human suffering behind the products we purchase by partnering with the people producing our food. We call on the EU to **put forward a strong law to clean up supply chains worldwide and make business sustainable.** This means holding companies and their **directors** accountable for irresponsible business practices. The proposed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive introducing mandatory human rights

and environmental due diligence for companies operating in the EU single market is a key instrument to achieve this.

**Food systems:** The EU must support an agricultural transformation that guarantees farmers their rights in poorer countries. The current global food system perpetuates poverty and widens the gap between the rich and the poor. Covid-19, and more recently the war in Ukraine, have added fuel to the fire with more and more people not being able to feed their families. The EU must support fairer and more sustainable food systems that put small-scale food and agricultural producers first and support them in tackling the climate crisis and making sure all workers are paid a living wage.

### Contact information

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### About Oxfam

Oxfam is a global movement of people who are fighting inequality to beat poverty and injustice - now and for the long term. We advocate for just and fairer economies. We strive for gender justice and for the rights of women and girls in all their diversity. We fight for climate justice and create safe spaces that allow people to hold the powerful into account. Rooted in communities, we tackle the causes and consequences of disaster and conflict.

Oxfam's European Union office in Brussels works to influence decision-makers in the EU institutions and member states to ensure that European policies affecting low and middle-income and crisis-hit countries have a positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of those in need. [Read more.](#)

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