

OXFAM IN LEBANON

Oxfam has been delivering programmes and creating an impact in Lebanon continuously since its inception in 1993. We are active in the sectors of **Inclusive Economic Development, Humanitarian Response and Resilience, Good Governance, and Gender Justice**. In addition, our **Policy, Advocacy, and Influencing work** is firmly grounded in programmatic evidence and ongoing political and economic analyses. This integrated approach allows us to effectively bridge the gap between programmes and advocacy, enabling us to implement comprehensive interventions that bring about meaningful change.

EN ROUTE TO A VIBRANT CIVIC SPACE AND AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

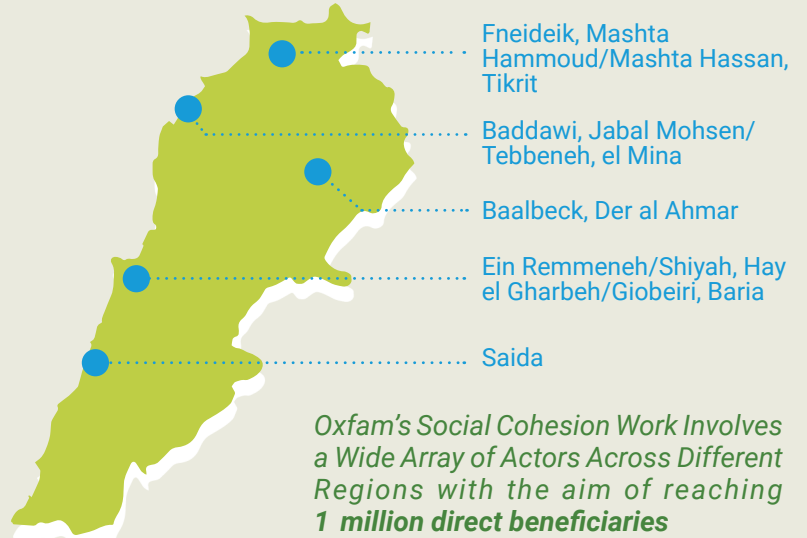
Oxfam's Governance programming is centered around understanding power structures, power relations, and dynamics of influence across intersecting networks of actors. Its primary goal is to support the development of accountability and transparency at the local, civil society, and governmental levels, aiming to enable civic participation for marginalized women, men, and people with diverse SOGIESC, including refugee, migrant, and host communities.

Social Protection	Gender Justice	Economic Empowerment	Decent working Conditions
Women Rights	Local Leadership	Access to services and infrastructures	Sexual Health and Rights
Fiscal Justice	Transparency, Accountability	Social Cohesion	Political participation

Oxfam's Governance Programme Operates Across a Variety of Sectors and Fields

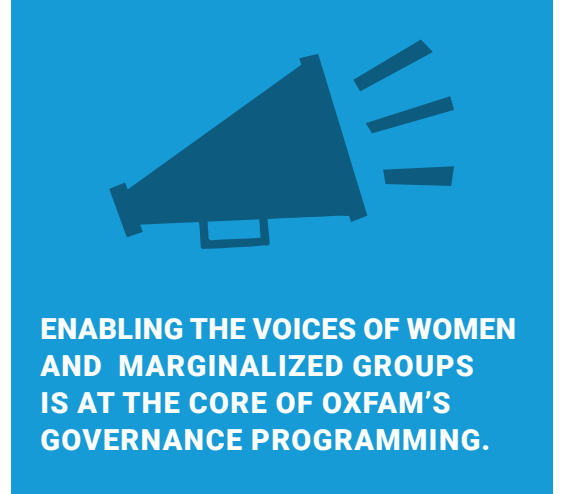
SOCIAL COHESION

Social cohesion is at the core of Oxfam's work in Lebanon. Our programming objectives are directly aimed at **improving communal and interregional social relations affected by social, political and economic tension**. Oxfam focuses on supporting local structures, with particular emphasis on those involving youth and women, to address societal dividers and connectors that affect their wellbeing.



WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS, VOICE AND LEADERSHIP

Our objectives include improving the management, programming and sustainability of local women's rights organizations (WROs), enhancing their advocacy and service provision efforts, and increasing the efficiency of policy-level lobbying. Under such objectives, we continue to provide technical support for WROs to develop fundraising strategies and multi-year funding mechanisms and to introduce them to innovative advocacy strategies addressing harmful norms and attitudes. More broadly, Oxfam has played a central role in facilitating networking opportunities through the organization of learning events, whereby WROs would share their experiences and advocacy successes and failures, and brainstorm on shared agendas for more collaborative and consolidated advocacy strategies.



In light of Lebanon's highly volatile sociopolitical context, our work with WROs focuses on improving their readiness for crisis periods through the establishment of rapid and flexible funding mechanisms. In partnership with local WROs, our work looks to benefit up to 3,218 beneficiaries, including 600 women municipal candidates, and engages prominent political parties to challenge discriminatory practices and implement gender-sensitive local, political and intra-party programming.

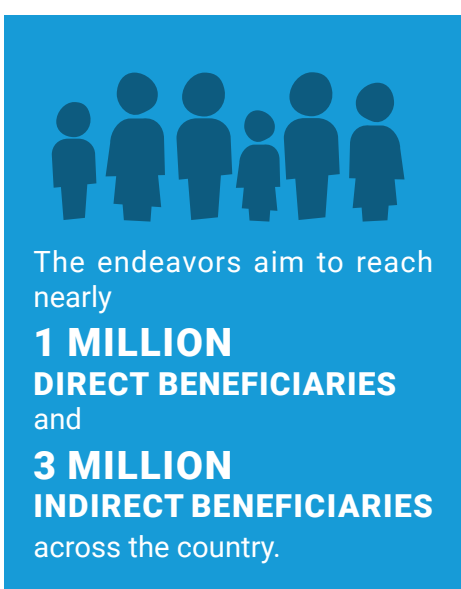
Finally, as part of our philosophy to sensitize our interventions to local contexts, our endeavors have been continually accompanied by gender-focused discussion series in political cafes and across various urban, rural and marginalized regions to engage local communities.

Oxfam's Governance Programme actively supports the Lebanese Feminist Platform, which involves 49 feminist civil society actors and activists. The platform operates across multiple themes, namely producing knowledge, mapping feminist initiatives across the country, facilitating coordination efforts among women's rights organizations, and identifying priority needs and gaps to be addressed.

STRENGTHENING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In the context of shrinking civic spaces in Lebanon and the region, Oxfam has prioritized **influencing policymaking processes, strengthening civil society, and reclaiming public spaces**. To this end, Oxfam has strengthened the organizational capacities of over 68 civil society organizations through advocacy- and influencing-centered capacity building, funding mechanisms and the facilitation of community-based discussions and network expansion ambitions. Our efforts have also included supporting an informal collective of community-based organizations to promote the rights of people from different SOGIESC. The collective particularly worked on providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and SRHR services including medical testing, raising legal awareness, advocacy and knowledge production.

In addressing **immediate-to-long-term outcomes**, our Governance programming will continue to adopt transformative approaches while engaging activists and change makers in advocacy efforts. We will continue to locally ground our efforts to contribute to a wider civic space that addresses issues of oppression, lack of access to freedoms, and violations of rights.



Over the past three years, Oxfam engaged women and youth organizations and local initiatives, providing them with access to gender-sensitive conflict prevention and resolution tools through participatory and community-based approaches. More specifically, we offer sub-granting schemes to support local community organizations and initiatives that address the root causes of tension. In 2023, Oxfam initiated the 4-year implementation of WEAM, an EU-funded project aimed at mitigating identified sources of communal tensions in 12 Lebanese subregions and mainstreaming conflict sensitivity across all EU-funded programmes. Our work in social cohesion continues to involve a diverse array of actors, including more than civil society organizations, 100 social enterprises and social entrepreneurship support organizations, 20 new start-up models, professional sports associations, academic institutions, local influencers, international organizations, and public authorities, including ministries, municipalities, and mayors.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Through partnerships with local organizations, Oxfam has focused on **improving access to and awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** in Lebanon. Over the past two years, Oxfam has joined international forums and has built strategic partnerships to design and implement quality SRHR programs. This includes participating in the 2022 International Conference on Family planning in Thailand and the 2023 Women Deliver Conference.

Our Governance program has sought to raise public awareness, including that of decision-makers, regarding the importance of SRHR for young people. Our approach involves a two-pronged strategy: addressing gaps in services, information, and decision-making on SRHR issues on one hand, and focusing on efforts to change harmful social and cultural norms and values on the other.

In collaboration with partner organizations, Oxfam has focused on delivering comprehensive sexual education training programs to young women and men, as well as adolescent girls and boys. We have also concentrated on capacity building programs tailored to midwives, nurses, and general medical practitioners particularly on providing SRH services to patients.

Our partner-led programming has prominently features direct action initiatives, providing voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) and distributing family planning commodities and menstrual health management (MHM) kits for households. In the pipeline, Oxfam is planning to facilitate training for 75 community and healthcare workers on mainstreaming SRHR and gender-sensitive approaches in healthcare, with two thirds of beneficiaries being women. Engaging 10 women's organizations and 2 civil society organizations in Tripoli alone, our SRHR work aims at reaching an estimated total of 13,000 direct beneficiaries and indirectly benefiting 51,500 individuals, more than two thirds (68%) of whom are women.



Oxfam Volunteer Sara Kanaan alongside representatives from across the world in the 2023 Women Deliver Conference