

OXFAM INTERNATIONAL

Liaison Office to the African Union (OI-AU)

ANNUAL REVIEW 2014

**PROMOTING ACTIVE
CITIZENSHIP IN THE
AFFAIRS OF THE
AFRICAN UNION**



OXFAM
International



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This is the Annual Review 2014 of the Oxfam International Liaison Office to the African Union (OI-AU) formally established through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the African Union and a Host Agreement with the Government of Ethiopia.

ABOUT OXFAM INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICE TO THE AFRICAN UNION

Present in Addis Ababa since 2006 to engage with the African Union and enable citizens' participation, Oxfam International formally set up a Liaison Office to the African Union in recognition of the fact that the African Union is a positive force for realising social, economic, political and cultural rights of Africans. At the centre of this, is the belief that the primary agency for change on the continent lies with African citizens and African organisations.

Our Liaison Office to the AU has been carrying out three main programmes and a number of other engagements: (1) Active Citizenship in the Affairs of the African Union and (2) Peace, Security and Humanitarian Affairs. In the first instance, the office supports civil society organizations and ordinary African citizens to engage with the African Union and be part of the policy debates and decisions that affect their lives. This role is in line with the AU's vision of a people-driven organization as well as to build an integrated, prosperous Africa, an Africa driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena. (3) In 2014, the office launched an Extractive Industries programme with the appointment of a Senior Policy Advisor for Extractive Industries.

Under the Active Citizenship Programme, partners from across Africa are consistently supported to engage with the African Union in various ways. This includes building their capacity to understand the African Union and effectively engage with it, providing policy analysis, financial and logistic support to enable African CSOs to influence the decision making process by participating in the various AU policy organs meetings. We also organize training aimed at increasing advocacy, media and communications capacity of our partners.

On Peace, Security and Humanitarian Affairs: The office engages directly with the African Union's peace and security and humanitarian organs in terms of policy and advocacy, research and information building on Oxfam's operational presence in 33 African countries including a number of conflict affected

countries such as Sudan, South Sudan, DRC, CAR, Mali and Somalia. In relation to Oxfam's global Rights in Crisis campaign, our work aims to support the rights of African citizens affected by humanitarian crisis.

Our Extractive Industries Programme carries out advocacy, campaign and research on extractive industries and transparency in the governance of Africa's natural resources. The aim of this programme is to make Africa's minerals and natural resources work for the benefit of African citizens. This work is built on Oxfam's 15 years of experience of working on extractive industries in a number of African countries and also lobbying global mining companies.

Our Representation Mandate is about managing the wider Oxfam Confederation's relation with the African Union, ensuring greater cooperation with the continental body in the framework of the existing Memorandum of Understanding between Oxfam International and the African Union. This also includes linking various other Oxfam Programmes with the African Union covering issues such as Economic Justice (Agriculture, Land, Climate Change) Basic and Essential Services, Gender Equality and Financing for Development.

Our Theory of Change:

"Change happens when African Citizens are informed, empowered and enabled to influence policies, practices and are able to use mechanisms to hold their leaders accountable"

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW!

I am pleased to present you with our 2014 Annual Review.

This Review is a summary of key outcomes and impacts of our activities from January to December 2014.

This year, OI-AU provided diverse support to over 100 African citizens representing various national and regional NGOs and coalitions to engage with and contribute to the African Union decision making process. Our partners and staff participated in more than 20 gatherings of AU policy organs, had several direct interactions with Country Representatives and officials of the African Union Commission and other organs. At least 5,000 African Citizens regularly received our “AU Weekly” bulletin and other daily alerts on policy issues and opportunities at the African Union Commission. In collaboration with the Directorate of Information and Communication and other partners, we trained over 50 citizens, NGOs leaders and media practitioners on “Understanding and engaging the African Union”. We worked closely with the Government of Lesotho and the Peace and Security Council on the improvement of the Livingston Formula to facilitate a greater involvement of CSOs in the work of the Peace and Security Council. Throughout the year, we have supported the work of the peace and security organs of the AU, linking them with citizens and affected populations from the 33 African countries where Oxfam operates. We supported the holding of the Citizens’ Continental Conference on Agriculture and Food Security and over 5,000 copies of our “AU Compendium” have been distributed to citizens, policy makers of member States and the media.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the committed and dynamic team of staff based in Addis Ababa,



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the various Oxfam policy teams around the world, our International Secretariat in Oxford our national associates and volunteers who own these achievements.

I would like to thank the African Union Leadership and our numerous friends and allies from various departments of the AUC, the Embassies and sister organizations for their strong collaboration over the year.

I would finally like to thank the Government of Ethiopia, our Host, and especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Immigration for their support and facilitation of our operation in Addis Ababa.

I now invite you to peruse our 2014 Review

Désiré Assogbavi

Resident Representative & Head of Office

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Our Annual Training was successfully held in January in collaboration with AU Directorate of Information and Communication. 25 participants, leaders of national and regional NGOs as well as media practitioners from 7 countries (Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Zambia, Malawi and Uganda) spent two days to learn about the decision making process of the AU and how non-state actors can participate in the continental body. The training was opened by the Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy who

represented the AUC Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. Among the resource persons were Dr. Zuma's Advisor on Strategic Planning Ambassador Febe Potgieter, the Chief of staff at the AUC Jean-Baptiste Natama, the Secretary General of the Commission Jean Mfasoni, Directors of Rural Economy and Agriculture, Information and Communication, and the Head of Citizens and Diaspora Division. An aptitude test was written by participants and certificates presented.



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OI-AU Media Lead trained the State of the Union Coalition members in Kigali, Rwanda on how NGOs may use media in their advocacy work. Hosted by the Collective des Ligues et Associations de Defense de Droits de L'homme au Rwanda (CLADHO), the training included a competition on stories written about the African Union by Rwandese journalists. 50 journalists were in the competition and the winner was invited to Ethiopia to cover an AU Summit.

OI-AU hosted a delegation of Zimbabwean Heads of Christian Denominations, who came to Addis Ababa to learn on how best they can engage with the African Union. OI-AU staff inducted the delegation on engaging with the AU and its organs.



OI-AU hosted 20 Masters' students of different nationalities from the Addis Ababa based Institute of Peace and Security Studies for a seminar on conflicts in Africa.



20 Activists from 10 countries working on agriculture and land issues visited OI-AU and received a training on "understanding and engaging the African Union". Activists met and engaged with the AU Department of Rural



Economy and Agriculture and had face to face meetings with the Ambassadors of Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, Mozambique, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and Cameroun. The activists also engaged with officials of the Land Policy Initiative. Our partners were also given a tour of the African Union Commission by the AU Department of Communication and Information. The tour was concluded by a diplomatic cocktail and informal interactions with Ambassadors, UN officials, donors and INGOs.

As part of the AU Year of Agriculture and Food Security, agricultural experts, African Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries and Agriculture met in Addis Ababa. Oxfam played a leading role in bringing together non-state actors to engage with those experts and Ministers. OI-AU supported 20 partners to be part of the CSOs Continental Conference on Agriculture and Food Security in June.

ENGAGING THE PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ORGANS

From Livingston to Maseru: Increased CSOs Involvement on Peace & Security

In February, in the framework of the Peace and Security Council's annual retreat, OI-AU worked closely with the Government of Lesotho, the then Chair of the Council to organize a CSOs consultation in Maseru to review the AU's Livingston Formula in order to promote better involvement of NGOs/CSOs focused on peace and security in the work of the Peace and Security Council. This collaboration was catalyzed by the publication by OI-AU of a policy analysis on the Livingston Formula in its quarterly bulletin "Active Citizens." Oxfam's Resident Representative to the African Union, Desire Assogbavi was given the opportunity to brief the Council on the issue of citizen's participation and formulated recommendations on the improvement of the Livingston Formula. The Council then decided to amend the Livingston Formula.

Linking with new PSC Members: Invited by the African Union Commission OI-AU briefed the newly elected members of the Peace and Security Council (Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Libya, Namibia, South Africa, Gambia, Guinea and Niger) on NGOs' contribution to peace and security in Africa.



Promoting the DRC Framework Agreement on Peace and Stability: OI-AU organized in Addis Ababa on the margins of the 22nd AU Summit, its annual dialogue platform between the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy **Mary Robinson**



with representatives of affected populations of the Great Lake region. At the same occasion, Oxfam's Protection Report on the DRC was launched.

Somalia: OI-AU hosted a photo exhibition titled "Somalia: a different perspective" on the occasion of the African Solidarity Initiative.

Over 40 members of the diplomatic community including UN agencies, representatives to the AU and international organizations attended the launch of "Risk of Relapse", a report on the situation in Somalia which highlighted the humanitarian emergency. The event was co-hosted by OI-AU and Save the Children.

Regular Addresses to the PSC: In 2014, Oxfam representatives addressed the Peace and Security Council Open Sessions on several occasions including on silencing the guns, the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, Illicit Financial Flow, Ebola Outbreak etc.

Regional Consultation on the 10 years functioning

of the PSC: The African Union Commission solicited Oxfam to hold a regional consultation with North African CSOs on the 10 years functioning of the African Union's Peace and Security Council in May.

OI-AU brought CSOs from Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Mauritania and Western Sahara to review

the work of the PSC over the last 10 years. The outcome of this consultation held in collaboration with Crisis Action fed into a Continental Consultation on the issue and presented to the PSC in the framework of its 10th anniversary.



Special Focus on South Sudan:

In July, at the 3rd anniversary of South Sudan Independence, OI-AU gathered over 85 stakeholders including Ambassadors of African and Non-African countries, Directors of the AUC, Resident Representative of international organizations, South Sudanese warring parties and the civil society for a panel discussion on the theme: *How to regain the Unity won at independence?*



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Oxfam facilitated the intervention of African Leaders in the South Sudan conflict.

Through a letter signed by former Presidents, Prime Ministers and Heads of Multilateral Institutions, 16 African Leaders appealed to President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar to exercise leadership to bring an immediate end to the fighting in South Sudan.

The Chairperson of the AU Commission Dr. Dlamini-Zuma

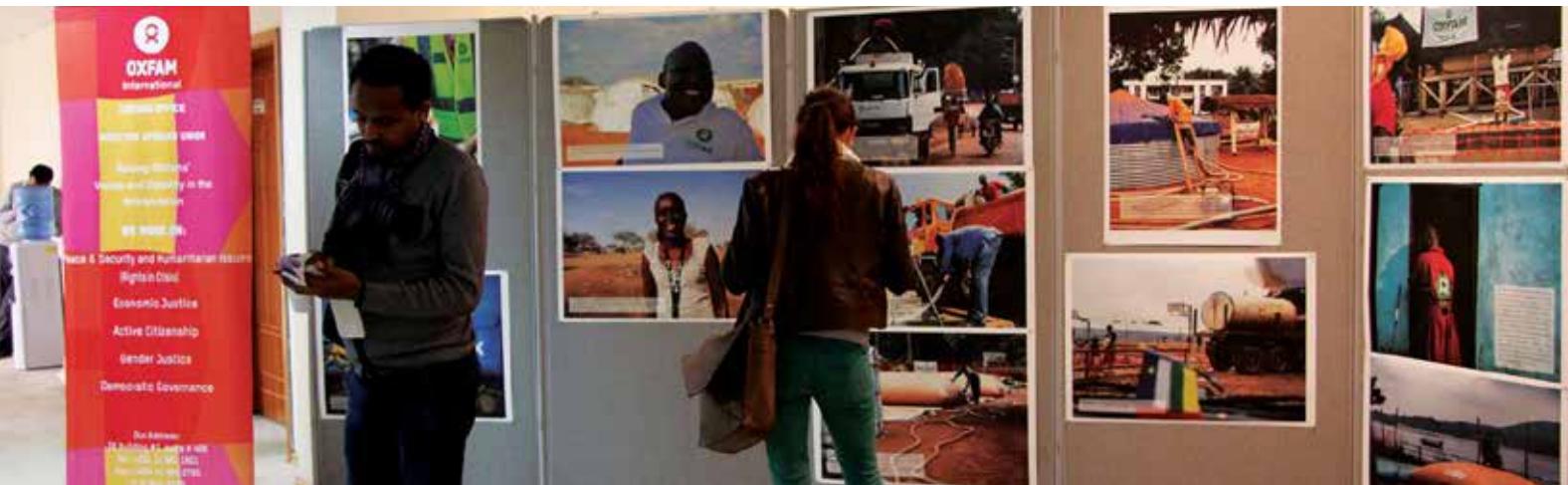
alongside other AUC officials and a number of country representatives visited the photo exhibition jointly hosted by OI-AU, the UN and the AU Commission in the framework of the International Peace Day in Addis Ababa. At least 200 Addis Ababa based policy makers visited the exhibition related to ongoing conflicts in the



continent.

OI-AU supported a delegation of a civil society network from the DRC

« Réseau pour la Réforme du Secteur de Sécurité et de Justice – RRSSJ » for an advocacy and lobby tour in Addis Ababa. The Network monitored the implementation of the DRC Peace Agreement. The delegation reached out all the signatory countries of the Framework Agreement as well as the African Union Peace and Security Department officials in Addis Ababa.



OI-AU took an active part in the 3rd Annual Humanitarian Symposium organized by the African Union Commission Department for Political Affairs (DPA)'s Humanitarian Division in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting focused on globalization and humanitarian effectiveness in Africa.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE, EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES AND OTHER

23 Civil Society Activists from 17 countries in Africa working with the Land Policy initiatives LPI (a body formed by UNECA, the AU and the African Development Bank) were hosted by OI-AU in Addis Ababa in November for a learning and policy engagement visit to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa with the aim to ensure that land issues are prioritized in the AU agenda and that the AU Declaration on Land Issues and challenges in Africa as well as the Framework and Guideline on Land Policy in Africa" are fully implemented in countries. Activists came from: Benin, Burundi, Cameroun, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

OI-AU facilitated a Planning meeting organized by the "Kilimanjaro Women Mobilization" also known as Women on Top of the World Project. The planning meeting managed by Oxfam's GROW Campaign Unit gathered various representatives of civil society organizations working on women and land rights from the five regions of Africa. Participants also attended the inaugural conference on land policy in Africa organized by the African Union, the Africa Development Bank and the United Nations.

Mining and Extractive Industries: In the framework of our new Extractive Industries programme, OI-AU established an initial contact and working relationship with the Directorate of Trade and Industries of

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the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) African Minerals Development Centre. We are looking forward to a close collaboration with both entities in the coming years to support the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision.

OI-AU Team engaged with the historic Africa-US Leaders' Summit that gathered 50 African leaders in Washington DC, USA. The team co-hosted and participated in a number of CSO side events on peace, stability, illicit capital flow, extractive industries and inequality and did a number of media interviews.

Africa - China Dialogue Platform: In the framework of our upcoming Africa-China Dialogue Platform, the Head of OI-AU spent a week in Beijing, China to interact with key stakeholders. At the same occasion, he was invited to give a presentation on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa at the Peking University.



OI-AU participated in the launch of OCHA's flagship report *"Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow: Managing the Risk of Humanitarian Crises"*. Oxfam Representative to the AU was invited as a discussant of the report. At that occasion, Oxfam stressed the need to explore partnership opportunities with the private sector, development actors and African citizens to better fund and deal with humanitarian disasters.

Oxfam Country Director in Ethiopia also briefed the AU Subcommittee on Refugees on the current humanitarian issues in the Horn of Africa. Oxfam used the opportunity to strongly call for urgent action in the Horn of Africa and many other parts of the region that are currently in dire conditions. Oxfam

called for increased effectiveness in humanitarian interventions, to help build the resilience of affected populations and, where possible, focus on preventing humanitarian disasters.

The Head of Oxfam Liaison Office to the African Union was appointed as a member of the Netherlands based **Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies**. (<http://includeplatform.net/>). The platform brings together researchers from African countries and the Netherlands who work with the private sector, NGOs and governments to exchange information and ideas on how to achieve better research-policy linkages on economic transformation and inclusive development.

IN 2015.....

Our Pan Africa Team plans to:

- Continue supporting Citizens' Participation in the Affairs of the African Union
- Support the dissemination and the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision
- Support the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty in Africa and its implementation
- Set up a Africa - China Citizens Dialogue Platform
- Contribute to the fight against illicit financial flow out of Africa to ensure the financing of Africa's Development and will be part of Oxfam's Campaign to tackle extreme inequality in the world
- Contribute in the promotion of Women Empowerment in the Framework of the Agenda 2063
- Influence the debate on financing the post-2015 development Agenda.
- Support African Voices for a fair Climate Deal to be held in Paris

Among others.....

PEOPLE

Our Staff

OI-AU operates under Oxfam International Secretariat as one of its advocacy offices to the multilateral institutions. We work closely with other Oxfam's Pan Africa programme units, regional and country teams across the continent. The office has the following staff:



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Office Assistant

In Loving Memory of Senay Girma

18 September 1988 - 28 December 2014



OUR YEAR 2014 IN PICTURES...



ABOUT OXFAM INTERNATIONAL - LIAISON OFFICE TO THE AFRICAN UNION

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