

# OXFAM AMERICA ACTION GUIDE: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2012

In many countries, International Women's Day is an occasion to honor and praise women for their accomplishments. This International Women's Day—March 8—join Oxfam America supporters nationwide as we honor the women who make a difference in our lives and in our communities.

Many of the more than 2.5 billion people now living in poverty—surviving on less than \$2 a day—are women and girls. Sixty-six percent of the world's work falls on women's shoulders, yet women earn only 10 percent of the world's income. Even though women produce much of the world's food, millions of women are now facing hunger.

But women also have the power to create solutions. Women are at the center of efforts to increase food production, ensure good nutrition for families, and adapt to the effects of climate change. With the right resources, women worldwide can provide a better life for themselves and their families.

Oxfam supports women partners like Jacqueline Morette, a farmer from rural Haiti whose community organization helps women farmers grow more food and reach new markets to sell their products. And Yvette Cissé, whose organization trains women in Mali to grow and sell organic crops while improving their literacy, accounting, and entrepreneurial skills. Their examples show that women's efforts can—and do—change things for the better. Worldwide, Oxfam's GROW campaign is urging companies and governments to make smarter investments in small-scale farmers, especially women, whose efforts can help find sustainable solutions to hunger.

## Help Oxfam honor women who are changing the world

### Send an e-card

Send our International Women's Day e-card to an inspiring woman in your life, along with your personal message about why you'd like to honor her this year. Find it at [oxfamamerica.org/actfast](http://oxfamamerica.org/actfast).

### Share your inspiration

Help Oxfam America publicly honor everyday women who are making a difference in the fight against poverty and hunger. Add a photo, story, or quote from a woman who inspires you to our interactive photo book at [oxfamamerica.org/photobook](http://oxfamamerica.org/photobook). Hosting an award ceremony? Make sure to post photos from your event.

### Host an International Women's Day award ceremony

**Select an honoree.** On your own, or with a group of fellow students, friends, or colleagues, decide on a woman to honor with Oxfam's International Women's Day award.\* She should be someone in your community whose efforts make a difference and inspire others. Some possibilities include:

- The founder of a local charity or nonprofit
- A chef or farmer who helps promote sustainable food choices
- A blogger or journalist who writes about poverty or social justice
- A friend or relative who volunteers her time and expertise
- An entrepreneur or small business owner who gives back to the community
- A professor who educates others on these issues

\* Note: International Women's Day award recipients are selected independently by Oxfam supporters. Receiving the award does not imply endorsement or other support from Oxfam America.

**Choose an event.** You can make it an informal gathering of just a few people, or raise awareness by organizing a larger event. Consider one of the ideas below. (Go to [oxfamamerica.org/actfast](http://oxfamamerica.org/actfast) to find more ideas, event materials, and other useful resources.)

- Host a House Party. Get Oxfam's step-by-step guide at [oxfamamerica.org/organize](http://oxfamamerica.org/organize).
- Organize an *Oxfam America Hunger Banquet* ([oxfamamerica.org/hungerbanquet](http://oxfamamerica.org/hungerbanquet)).
- Screen a short film about women's efforts to fight poverty, such as Oxfam's *Sisters on the Planet* DVD (order a free copy at [oxfamamerica.org/organize](http://oxfamamerica.org/organize)).
- Make the ceremony part of your monthly book club meeting.
- Host a potluck dinner, or meet for a meal or coffee at your favorite local restaurant.
- Give the award at a school assembly.

**Spread the word.** Plan to host your event on or around International Women's Day, March 8, 2012. Send online invitations ahead of time and promote your event on your social networks to generate interest. (Don't forget to contact your honoree first to make sure she can attend!) If your ceremony is open to the public, add it to Oxfam's community calendar at [oxfamamerica.org/events](http://oxfamamerica.org/events).

**Present the award.** At the ceremony, print out Oxfam America's International Women's Day award (page 3) and present it to your honoree. Use the sample script below as a guide:

*On the first International Women's Day, 101 years ago, more than one million women and men in five countries took to the streets to rally for their economic, social, and political rights. Their efforts helped women get the right to vote and make other important gains.*

*Today, International Women's Day remains one of the most important days of the year in many countries—a time to honor and praise everyday women for their accomplishments.*

*That's why I'd like to present you, [her name here], with Oxfam America's International Women's Day award. Oxfam supports women leaders in more than 90 countries whose efforts fight poverty, hunger, and injustice. We here today join Oxfam in the belief that empowered women can change the world, one step at a time.*

*[Her name here], thank you for [briefly describe the reasons you're honoring her]. You stand in the company of women worldwide who are doing something to change the world for the better.*

**Make it interactive.** Download Oxfam's "Working with women" brochure (go to [oxfamamerica.org/publications/working-with-women](http://oxfamamerica.org/publications/working-with-women)) to find facts and stories about women leaders around the world. Pick one or two examples to share during the ceremony and ask others for their thoughts. You can also ask participants to bring and share a favorite quote or an example of a woman they admire.

**Take action against hunger.** Invite participants to sign Oxfam's petition to make US food aid more effective (see page 4) or join the campaign online at [oxfamamerica.org/grow](http://oxfamamerica.org/grow).

**Tell us about it.** Fill out the form on page 5 and send it back to us with your petition. Don't forget to post a photo or quotes from your event to [oxfamamerica.org/photobook](http://oxfamamerica.org/photobook), or email your story and photo to [actfast@oxfamamerica.org](mailto:actfast@oxfamamerica.org).



**OXFAM AMERICA**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**WOMEN'S DAY AWARD**

presented to

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for her efforts to make a difference in her community.  
With these accomplishments, she joins a global movement of  
women taking action against hunger and poverty.



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SIGNATURE

DATE



