

Subject: Coronavirus emergency: how to help with Oxfam.

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From: Mother Jones

To: ML-Ad_Ops

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OXFAM SCALES UP RESPONSE TO HELP POOR COMMUNITIES ADDRESS LOOMING COVID-19 CRISIS



I hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and safe in the midst of the coronavirus crisis. As I'm sure you're witnessing, even in wealthy countries, families are struggling without sufficient support like paid sick leave and affordable healthcare.

It's with that in mind that I'm reaching out today with urgent news. The Greek island of Lesbos – home to thousands of asylum seekers, trapped living in overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions – has a confirmed case of COVID-19.

In an environment like a refugee camp where close quarters and a lack of clean water and soap make preventative measures like frequent handwashing nearly impossible, the impact of COVID-19 could be devastating.

Lesbos is just one of *hundreds* of places where people are already hard-pressed to access adequate and affordable health care, and COVID-19 poses a serious new threat. As a leading water and sanitation organization, Oxfam's teams are on the ground now around the world, providing advice and support tailored to local languages and customs. We're working with longstanding local partners to slow the spread of COVID-19 by increasing the delivery of soap, sanitation services, and clean water to people in higher-risk environments and educating communities on the importance of proper handwashing and other practices to stay healthy.

We need your help. Right now, we need to scale up our response to save lives, so we can help refugees affected by COVID-19 and all families living in poverty.

[Please, make an emergency donation today. Your contribution will help meet the most critical needs >>](#)

With the help of the Oxfam community, we're coordinating our response to COVID-19 with partner organizations, government ministries of health, and key UN agencies in up to 50 countries.

Thanks to our expertise in public health outbreaks, we're mobilizing worldwide – from refugee camps in Jordan and Bangladesh to the most vulnerable communities in Italy – to make sure people have safe, clean water and toilets, and ensuring communities affected have accurate information and advice.

We also understand that this is more than a public health crisis. For example, as families are forced to remain in their homes and support centers and networks are closed, we're concerned about increased risk of gender-based violence. We're taking action here, too: our partner in Jordan, the Jordanian Women's Union, is continuing to find ways to provide assistance to survivors of domestic violence despite a rigid lockdown that keeps people in their homes.

Our response extends beyond public health, because this pandemic affects more than just people's physical health. **No one individual, community, or country can deal with this crisis alone – coronavirus anywhere is a threat to people everywhere.** We must work together, in our communities and across borders, with dignity and compassion – and we must keep up our long-term work to fight poverty during this crisis.

[Donate today >>](#)

On behalf of the Oxfam community, please know how deeply we appreciate your dedication to fighting poverty, hunger, and injustice with us. I hope you and your loved ones are able to stay healthy and safe in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Abby Maxman
President
Oxfam America

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