

# OXFAM'S WORK ON MINING, OIL, GAS, AND POVERTY

## PAN AFRICA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES PROGRAM



Africa is endowed with about a third of the world's mineral resources, but not enough of the billions of dollars these resources generate is devoted to health care, education, and to help small-scale farmers. Countries need the right institutions and transparent policies to help citizens play a role in deciding whether, and therefore how, oil, gas, and minerals are exploited, and how revenues from these resources are spent to reduce poverty.

### OXFAM'S WORK ACROSS AFRICA

Oxfam is a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. An international confederation, Oxfam works with people in more than 90 countries to develop long-term solutions to poverty, and campaign for social change.

Our work on mining, oil, and gas issues in Africa is growing. We are working with countries that are just discovering and beginning to develop resources, like Mozambique, Uganda, and Kenya, as well as countries with a long history of natural resource extraction like Ghana, Mali, Senegal, and South Africa.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Our Pan-Africa program works with the African Union Commission, the African

Mineral Development Centre, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the Pan-African Parliament, and the African Union Commission on Human and People's Rights to strengthen the contribution of mining, oil, and gas revenues to poverty alleviation in Africa, using progressive policy instruments such as the Africa Mining Vision (AMV). Our work focusses on:

**Protecting human rights and FPIC:** Oxfam's work focuses on protecting human rights and livelihoods. We ask governments and companies to respect the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for communities, especially for indigenous peoples.

**Ensuring transparency and accountability over financial flows:** Public disclosure of payments made by oil and mining

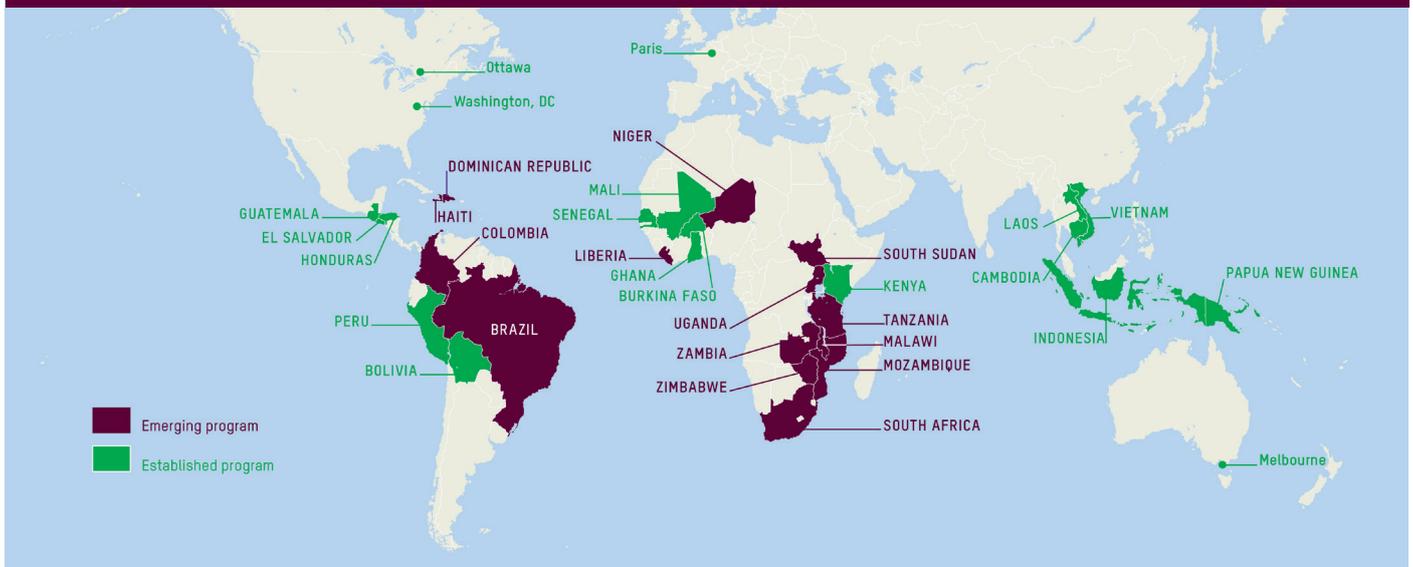
companies to governments—as well as contractual and other financial information—is essential for greater accountability of revenues. Oxfam has played a leading role in promoting disclosure requirements in US, European, Australian, and African laws; at international financial institutions; and at national and subnational levels. .

**Putting women and girls first:** Women and girls in communities affected by EI are particularly vulnerable to environmental and public health problems, are at increased risks of sexual harassment and violence, and are often excluded from decision making. Oxfam pushes companies and governments to take steps to understand and address these issues.



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## WHERE DOES OXFAM WORK ON EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES?



### PAN AFRICA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Oxfam's Pan Africa program works in partnership with the Africa Initiative for Mining, Environment and Society (AIMES), Publish What You Pay–Africa, Southern Africa Resource Watch, Third World Network–Africa and Tax Justice Network–Africa.

**SENEGAL, MALI, and BURKINA FASO:** Monitoring allocation of revenues and spending in local budgets.

**GHANA:** Support for organizations researching oil revenue management and expenditures; pro-poor investments in small-scale agriculture; oversight of oil and gas revenue management at the district and national levels through the Public Interest and Accountability Committee; training village women to become paralegals.

**ECOWAS:** Advocating for West African states to adopt the ECOWAS Mining Code and protect the rights of communities to free, prior, and informed consent.

**NIGER:** Supported groups advocating renegotiation of more favorable contract with French uranium company Areva and protection of civil society activists.

**KENYA:** After helping create a civil society platform to research and advocate for social and environmental safeguards

and fair distribution of revenues in oil-producing regions

**TANZANIA:** Advocating for transparency of contracts; supporting local partners to advocate for social and environmental safeguards and fair distribution of natural gas revenues in Mtwara and Lindi regions.

**ZAMBIA:** Developing tax justice program to ensure copper revenues are invested in essential services.

**MALAWI:** Protection of mining-affected communities, transparency of mining revenues, and monitoring potential new oil developments.

**MOZAMBIQUE:** Helping civil society advocate for open contracts, revenue transparency, accountability, and human rights in the coal and natural gas sectors; research on resettlement of communities affected by the Rio Tinto/ICVL coal project in Tete province.

**ZIMBABWE:** Supporting the Publish What You Pay coalition; local community engagement with companies, and Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission documentation of human rights violations and environmental impacts of mining.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** Extractive tax transparency campaign; transparency policy recommendations for Davis Tax Committee tasked with providing reform recommendations to the Finance Minister.

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FRONT: A Senegalese woman uses a sluice to find small specks of gold. There's a major gold mine in this area, but few women work there. *Rebecca Blackwell / Oxfam America*

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