

**COMMUNIQUE:  
OXFAM AUSTRALIA (OAU) – BOARD MEETING – APRIL 2016**

The Oxfam Australia board met for the first meeting of the year in its new meeting pattern, following on from extensive work of the 3 board committees over Q1 of 2016, a comprehensive interim report from our Chief Executive in February and important meetings of Oxfam International (OI) held in Oxfam in March.

The board reviewed and approved two keystone elements to OAU's agenda for the coming period:

- The Operational Plan (OP) 2106-2018 and the agency's Budget for FY 16/17, framed with a new financial year end to align with Oxfam globally. The new OP is better aligned to our strategic and operational objectives and is expected to be a far better tool for management and the board to use for efficiency and transparency.
- The Budget is responsible and foresees a break-even outcome in a tough economic and political setting. Nonetheless the board was proud of the team's effort to grow OAU over the last year and for the first time, break through \$100 m income (by a good margin), helped by the record response to the Nepal earthquake.

Management and the board have been collaborating on more informative and streamlined reporting arrangements, the first fruits of which were seen by the board in the form of a new Chief Executive's Report and a series of subject matter reports. Again, these should serve to enhance efficiency and clarity and enable the board to better monitor and exercise governance over key areas.

The board also discussed and approved:

- A report-back on the meetings on the Executive Board and Board of Supervisors held in Oxford in March, including a focus on the progress towards a global humanitarian unit and response, development of affiliates in southern countries, and financial planning associated with the move to a 2020 context.
- The financial report, led by the Finance Risk and Audit Committee and the CFO, in which not only the Budget was traversed but also an update on the Income Plan, performance of Oxfam Trading, the risk report, and this part of the meeting also approved the new WHS policy and changes to delegations
- Reports by the Governance and Public Engagement Committees which covered important changes to implement our new Community Network model for engaging with stakeholders and supporters. Some changes to OAU's Constitution will be enquired to give effect to these changes and these were discussed in the meeting.

Acting on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, which consists largely of external members, the board has appointed Greg Ridder and Lindy Tallis as Directors. Greg brings considerable finance and accounting acumen as well as excellent knowledge of INGO strategy and operations while Lindy brings invaluable expertise in risk management and experience in NFP governance.

In the in camera session of the board, the board reviewed the performance over the past year of our Chief Executive Dr Helen Szoke. The board is delighted with Helen's contribution to the entire gamut of OAU's operations and reiterated its complete confidence that we are led by an outstanding person.

Dennis Goldner  
Chair