

Note of the Oxfam Australia Board Meeting – 12 February 2021

It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to our first meeting of the year. Despite meeting virtually for over twelve months the Oxfam Australia board has been able to stay connected with the organisation and each other, and whilst we look forward to meeting face to face again, like many Boards we have come to appreciate that online meetings are not only effective but bring added flexibility and efficient use of time and resources. Our thanks to the hard working executive team and staff who have kept the Board well informed and provided excellent briefings and papers for discussion and debate.

This year we commenced with a strategy session on understanding OAU's impact. While it would have been wonderful to meet in person for this session our decision to go virtual was fortuitous, with the Victorian Government calling a snap lockdown mid meeting!

OAU has been engaged with the Observership Program, which places young, talented and energetic individuals with non-profit Boards for a structured learning experience, for a number of years. It was my pleasure to welcome our Board observers for 2021, Stuart White and Kim Ly Nguyen and we look forward to working with them this year.

The impact workshop was very productive and enabled the board gain a deeper understanding of the current state of OAU's work in relation to impact, exploring a shared understanding of the concept of "impact" as it relates to OAU in the context of our new strategic framework and involving Board in the work of articulating a desired future state in relation to our work around impact in the context of our new strategic framework.

The workshop was followed by a short business meeting. The Board received an updated on the investigation into the suspected data incident.

Next up the Board heard from CE Lyn Morgain about some of the key matters on OAU's agenda. The Board noted the disturbing situation in Myanmar and learnt all Oxfam staff are safe. They were updated on the work of Oxfam and partners in Pacific countries affected by Cyclone Yasa. It was great to hear about the impact of our Water Governance program in supporting change agents like Nawa, an Indigenous Karen women in Mae Hong Son Province in Thailand whose actions led to recommendations by the UN and National Human Rights Commission in Thailand to include Indigenous women in consultations about a major water project impacting their community.

Oxfam's important report "The Inequality Virus" has had a significant amount of coverage and has brought awareness to people and governments across the world.

The final business item was an update from Finance Risk and Audit Committee and financial reporting. The team presented on the 2021-22 Budget Parameters.

The OAU team has developed some exciting strategies to grow Oxfam's income over the next three to five years so we can continue to do our important work in tackling inequality to create just and sustainable world.