

Private view: 17 April 2012

Open to the public: Wednesday 18 – Sunday 22 April 2012 11am - 6pm free entry

gallery@oxo, Oxo Tower Wharf, Bargehouse Street

South Bank, London SE1 9PH

www.coinstreet.org

TURKANA

www.oxfam.org.uk/turkana

Cover photo: Mary Atabo and her family stand outside their home in the village of Kaalatum. Mary's shop was destroyed by flash floods and 90 of her 100 goats died due to drought. Since then, she has struggled to feed her children, Pauline (13), Imana Nancy (15) and Lopili (7). Oxfam is working to support the livelihoods of drought-hit families like these across Turkana.

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gallery@


GROW
FOOD. LIFE. PLANET.


Oxfam

PRESENTED BY OXFAM IN SUPPORT OF THE GROW CAMPAIGN





I'm pleased to present the Turkana collection in partnership with Oxfam. The photographs in this exhibition represent work I'm extremely proud of and also an experience I'll never forget.

The Turkana region in Kenya is an incredible place – and that's mainly down to the people who live there who face seemingly everlasting droughts. The people I met during this trip made me realise that, even among all the hardships of a changing climate, people love, desire and dream of a better future. That's why it was really important for me to portray the community in the best possible light.

I've always been attracted by the night because it's a time when the most fascinating things can happen. So in Turkana, I explored the idea of photographing people during the night – often in the places where they sleep. To photograph people, I used the full moon, along with long-time exposures and different kinds of lights like torches and strobe flash. Since I was using moonlight and had assembled a team to help me, I only had a very short window to get the shots I wanted, no repeats. It was a real challenge!

Thanks to this experience, I know that, even though Turkana is one of the world's poorest communities, its people are determined not to be beaten by poverty. This is why the work Oxfam is doing is so important – it's giving people the tools they need to rise to challenges most of us will never have to face.

I hope this collection is a fitting tribute to the people I met in Turkana.
Thank you for visiting, I hope you enjoy looking at the photographs.

Alejandro Chaskielberg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alejandro Chaskielberg". The signature is fluid and expressive, with varying line thicknesses and loops.

Thank you for visiting Turkana. This Alejandro Chaskielberg exhibition was created in support of GROW, a movement of people campaigning for a world where everyone always has enough to eat.

For the past 40 years, Oxfam has been working in Turkana, north-west Kenya, to support people who have been let down by the global food system. People like those in the exhibition – Nanyiti, Frederic, Elisabeth, Rebecca, Tioko, Mary, Joseph, John, Peter, Napva, Losike and Lokesiro.

Right now, unpredictable weather and rising food prices are having a devastating impact on Turkana's pastoralist communities. We've been helping people find new ways to feed their families with our gardening, fishing and livestock projects. And we're also working hard to provide people with clean water.

Outside Turkana, the global food system has let even more people down. Climate change, land grabs, food price hikes and intensive farming mean that nearly a billion people are going hungry worldwide. **But it doesn't have to be this way.**

As you walk around the exhibition, you will see for yourself how the smallest things can make the biggest difference – like creating vegetable gardens out of dry, dusty landscapes to enable farmers to grow food and support their families. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Oxfam is helping some of the world's poorest people to survive.

www.oxfam.org.uk/grow



Nanyiti Alkaram, 52, is proud that she can now grow vegetables to feed her family. Years of drought mean she has faced a daily struggle to survive. But now, Nanyiti has hope. Oxfam has helped her community to use nearby wells and hand pumps to irrigate their land. This means Nanyiti can put new gardening tools provided by Oxfam to good use.



Frederic Ekuman, 13, and his friends take a break from digging for water at the roadside in Kanka Lungurio. Drought means that children have to dig holes over a metre deep in search of muddy water, before carrying it back home – often walking for miles with these heavy loads.



Rebecca Eporon moved to Natoo village when her family were killed in a raid. During the drought, she lost all her animals and struggled to survive. Now she is part of Oxfam's gardening project and plans to own a farm one day. "The gardening project changed my life. I am now able to give the children vegetables to eat and can even send them to school."



Most of John Ekono Ekiman's animals died during recent droughts. He was unable to feed his family until Oxfam gave him four camels. "Camels are very important in a pastoralist life; they represent life, wealth and hope. When you have just one camel to milk it can save the family. I remember laughing when Oxfam gave me my camels; it was the happiest moment of my life."



Before she got involved in an Oxfam gardening project, Elisabeth Ekatapan was struggling to raise eight children on her own. She now grows enough to feed her children and can sell what she has left over to make a better living. "If I could make one thing happen it would be to have my own business and earn money."



Lokesiro Natelem Eseron is part of Oxfam's gardening project in the village of Nato: "We used to work with livestock but now it's gone. We're growing vegetables in the garden for our children and I hope this will improve their health in the future. Most of us now have our hopes in children. We thought that pastoralism was the only life but now we have lost all the livestock, we are sending our children to school. Small projects like this bring us some money so we can support our children."



Elisabeth Ekatapan and her family sleep under the stars in Northern Turkana. "At night I dream about being a rich woman, I dream about my children getting married and having good futures. In my dream another woman from the village comes to me and says 'Wow! Good things have happened to this woman!' I think this dream could maybe be a premonition."



Joseph Ichom takes to the expansive waters of Lake Turkana. With help from Oxfam and his fellow fishermen, he's learning the ropes and has found a reliable market where he can sell his fish for a stable price. As well as distributing fishing nets and rope, Oxfam is also providing fishermen with training on responsible and effective fishing techniques.



Peter Abwell (far right) alongside other fishermen in the village of Katiko, holding up a new fishing net donated by Oxfam. As well as providing essential tools of the trade like this, Oxfam is also distributing food vouchers to the most vulnerable families here. People use the vouchers to buy dried fish from local traders, providing these new fishermen with a guaranteed market for their catch. Peter owns the local fish shop and says: "People in this village see me as a role model as I gave birth to a new idea of being a trader."



Tioko Korima waters the vegetables she is growing in her new garden. Surrounded by greenery and crops standing at waist height, she's amazed at the transformation that has taken place in her village. Since Oxfam introduced the gardens in 2011, the project has transformed this land and the people who depend on it.



Napva Kaanvang and Losike Kangirwa collect water for local women to use on the vegetables growing in nearby gardens. Thanks to Oxfam's gardening project, food continues to grow here even when the rain doesn't fall.



Women in Turkana are nearly always solely responsible for finding food for their children, which is why Oxfam started the gardening project. Around 88% of those who work on these irrigated plots of land are women, growing vegetables to feed their families. The small income they earn from selling what's left over goes towards their children's school fees.



Photo overleaf: Frequent drought means livestock herders are finding it increasingly difficult to keep their animals alive. Oxfam is helping pastoralists like Peter Lokonyi (far right) adapt to changing weather patterns by supporting their efforts to earn a living fishing on Lake Turkana. A 'cash-for-work' project has enabled Turkana's fishermen to buy basic tools such as hooks, nets and twine, as well as timber for making and repairing boats. Peter says: "My family and friends see me as a role model because my children are at school and I am earning a living." He is depicted here in the moonlight with his fellow fishermen by acclaimed night-time photographer Alejandro Chaskielberg.



Turkana and you. What's next?

Almost 95% of Turkana's population live below the poverty line. Over 80% of people do not have enough water to drink – let alone food to eat. The main water sources are simple wells dug into dry, often contaminated, riverbeds – so water-related illnesses like cholera and diarrhoea are common.

Oxfam's gardening and fishing projects are making a big difference as the people of Turkana emerge from the worst drought in decades. With their pastoralist way of life under threat, people here are trying to find new ways to feed their families. But there's so much more that can be done.

How you can help

The people of Turkana desperately need a reliable water supply. Without it, they will struggle to stay healthy and keep the animals they rely on for food and income alive. With your support we can make a big, life-saving difference:

- £5,417 will repair one broken water point
- £7,917 will build a well and hand pumping system
- £12,821 will drill a deep borehole and install a solar pump

Your donation will bring water to more people in Turkana. Use the envelope provided to change the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

To request more information please contact Gail Williams on +44 (0) 1865 473933 or at gawilliams@oxfam.org.uk

www.oxfam.org.uk/kenyawater



Oxfam would like to extend its special thanks to the One Foundation for its exceptional support of our work in the Turkana region

Thank you