

## Note of the Oxfam Australia Board Meeting – 11 December 2020

The Oxfam Australia (OAU) Board held its final meeting for the year on 11 December via zoom.

The agenda was very full as we brought an unprecedented year for OAU to a close.

After an in camera session at the commencement, acknowledgement of country, and adoption of minutes and discussion of action items, the first substantive item on the agenda was the Chief Executive (CE) Report for December.

Lyn Morgain updated the Board on key initiatives the organisation had undertaken in the last months. The Board was pleased to note the Federal Budget included several significant investments in the Asia Pacific region, including an extra \$500 million over three years to roll out a COVID vaccine to the Pacific and South East Asia regions and a development package of over \$500 million for South East Asia. These announcements follow the sector led End COVID For All campaign.

OAU also recently contributed to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's consultations on the Pacific Island Forum 2050 Strategy and to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy, in line with OAU's five-year strategic framework. The CE also reported on the highly successful launch of OAU's What She Makes campaign which seeks to ensure the payment of living wages by securing commitments from big brands to improve their purchasing practices. The Board received updates on the #SuraHoHaulhaOsamentuEstadu2021 campaign aiming for persons with disabilities to be taken into account in the 2021 Timor-Leste State Budget, and in exciting news from the Mekong Water Governance Program we learnt that Mr. Paul Sein Twa, co-founder of Oxfam partner KESAN in Myanmar has been awarded the 2020 Goldman Environment Prize for his significant work in preserving the environment and Karen culture in Myanmar.

On the domestic front, the CE reported that the OAU team has continued to manage a significant workload through a year of great internal change and through the pressure of Victoria's COVID lockdown. The organisation is developing new agile ways of working which allow for greater transparency and accountability and will deliver OAU's strategic goals more efficiently and effectively.

Oxfam International work continues at pace, with the Global Strategy Framework released to positive feedback in late November. It was pleasing to report that the Oxfam International Constitution was adopted and due to come into effect in March 2021.

Finance Risk and Audit Committee reported and the Board congratulated the FRAC Chair Sally McCutchan for her leadership in a year which presented some significant challenges for the organisation. The board was pleased to receive an update on plans to grow public fundraising in coming years. The Committee also reviewed OAU's Insurance Renewal for 2021 and it was great to see an initial Post Implementation Review for OAU's new supporter database with benefits already being felt and noted the return on investment which will be realised through the coming years.

It was also noted that the process to change OAU's auditor to BDO Australia had been finalised, and the Board looks forward to working with BDO for the FY21 audit and going forward.

Next the Board discussed plans for developing a performance reporting framework, with a workshop scheduled for the new year. The Board aims to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of OAU's work in the context of its new strategic framework.

A key project throughout the year has been the process of board reform, co-ordinated by the governance working group. The board had a productive discussion on design of a new skills matrix and building a board more strongly aligned to the organisation's strategic framework. OAU is transforming to a leaner more agile organisation and our governance structure will reflect the new capabilities required to deliver our strategy and have the greatest impact in achieving our purpose of relieving and eliminating poverty by tackling inequality.

2020 has been a challenging year for OAU, with significant issues such as managing in a COVID restricted environment, and the resulting difficulties of working remotely and staff isolation, along with managing in an income constrained environment. The team has responded by undergoing a major transformation in the structure of the organisation and in developing new ways of working and along with my fellow directors, I want to thank our CE, Lyn Morgain and the rest of OAU's amazing and dedicated staff for their hard work in creating a new organisation that will take OAU into the future whilst at the same time ensuring our important work in some of the world's poorest communities has continued to change lives. The fruits of this

hard work will be seen throughout 2021, but most importantly we are in a great position to deliver on our exciting strategic framework over the coming five years.

I want to thank my fellow Board directors whose hard work and passion for the work of Oxfam has guided OAU through a difficult year and has positioned it for an exciting 2021.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank all of Oxfam's supporters; you are the ones who make the important work of Oxfam possible and who will help us see the change we want to see – a just and sustainable world without poverty.