Today 2.4 BILLION PEOPLE LACK ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE WATER AND SANITATION. OXFAM IS WORKING IN OVER 50 COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS, through improved governance &
Fragile Context: Sierra Leone

181/188 in the Human Development Index

Child mortality 161 deaths for every 1,000 children born.

>14 percent of these deaths are due to diarrhoea.
Urban Growth and Inequalities

Capital 1.5 million population

Dam built to serve 300,000 population

>500,000 people not covered by water supply network

High water losses (45–50%)

Poor revenue collections

Illegal connections
Planning policies excluded almost half of the city’s population.

Poorest areas including city slums are the most un-serviced areas.
Freetown WASH Consortium (FWC) programme focuses on increasing access of low-income communities to safe and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene services, and pro-poor policies
Sustainable water for communities in Tajikistan

Communities living next to rivers and canals in Tajikistan were experiencing high levels of sickness due to unclean water and poor water resources. Oxfam has been working for nearly three years at national and municipal level with the government to convene key water sector players to address long-standing problems with rural water supplies.

- Oxfam has helped 23,000 people to access safe drinking water
- Contributed to the improvement of the regulatory framework and new Water Law
- Enabled better coordination between the water sector providers and consumers improving local governance
- Increasing accountability of services and affordable payment mechanisms
- Helped women's groups to monitor and give feedback on the water

How it was done

Greater community engagement and feedback, mapping problems, needs and prioritized them.
Why Oxfam?

• We have a world-renowned expertise and reputation helping communities to secure safe water supplies and better sanitation
• Working in both relief and development contexts
• Water projects in over 50 countries around the world
• Entrepreneurs in the WaSH sector, setting up our own WASH Innovation Fund
• Expertise in delivering water solutions in fragile contexts
• Influencing global thinking on water via the Global WaSH Cluster and SWIFT Consortium

Why now?

• Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, with SDG 6 specifically targeting availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
• Growing urbanisation means that resources are being exacerbated. By 2025, ½ world's population will live in water-stressed areas.
• Inequality is rising, increasing disparities in access to basic services
• Climate change is causing more frequent and severe weather events
• Increasing humanitarian crises meaning a greater need for humanitarian assistance

Active Engagement to Inform Policy

• Representative sampling and feedback
• Innovative information capture
• Awareness and encouragement of right to engage
Fragility & Disruption

Droughts

Floods

Cholera outbreaks

Ebola outbreak

Political Unrest

#Stop the spread
Disempowering

- Parallel structures.
- Loss of knowledge, networks and support structures
- Mixed messages from multiple sources & confusion, lack of trust

Empowering

- Strong Partnerships
- Evidence to influence
- Two-way communication
- Recognition of community-based organizations
Overcoming Constraints in a Fragile Context

Information:
Prioritize -(re)building the information ecosystem
*Inclusive* information flows
Rebuilding trust between the state and population.

Governance:
Identifying independent mobilizer
Legitimate social networks
Links with formal structural systems.
Adaptive management to shocks
Thank You
Jola Miziniak
On behalf of Oxfam Sierra Leone