

Fighting inequality & Rigged Rules

Presentation to UUSJ

April 15, 2018



OXFAM
America

Who is Oxfam?

- Global anti-poverty and social justice organization
- Active in more than 90 countries around the world
- Founded in Oxford, UK to provide famine relief during World War II
- Oxfam America founded in 1973, headquartered in Boston, with significant DC presence

Oxfam & Inequality

- Global campaign launched in 2014
- Combat “rigged rules” that allow the rich and powerful to game the system
- 4 pillars:
 - Living wage
 - End tax dodging
 - Public services (health + education)
 - End inequalities of gender, race, ethnicity, etc.



Reward work,
not wealth

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Extreme Rewards to wealth

- There are now 2043 billionaires worldwide with total net wealth on \$7.7 trillion. Last year saw the biggest annual increase in billionaires in history, one more every two days.

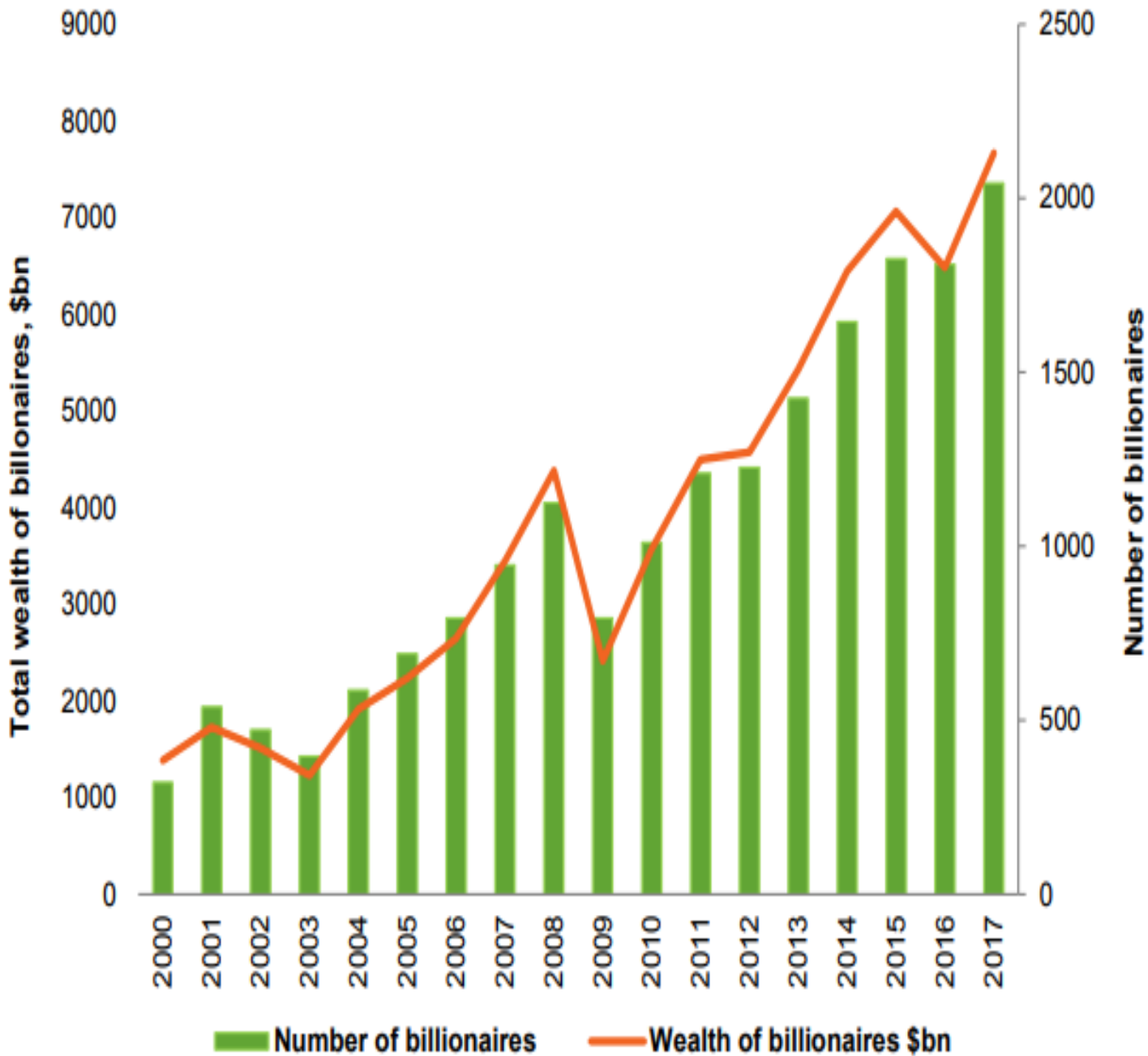
[Forbes, (2016 and 2017), Billionaires list, March 2017]

- Between March 2016 and March 2017 billionaires saw their wealth increase by \$762bn. This huge increase could have ended global extreme poverty seven times over.

[Poverty data from World Bank based on 2013 estimated for extreme poverty gap at \$1.90/day, calculated in local currency and converted to market dollars]

- 82% of all wealth created in the last year went to the top 1%, while the bottom 50% saw no increase at all.

[Credit Suisse, (2017), 'Global Wealth Databook']



THE TIMES OF INDIA
INDIA

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News > India News > Please tell Davos why 1% of Indians get 73% of wealth: Rahul Gandhi to PM Modi

Please tell Davos why 1% of Indians get 73% of wealth: Rahul Gandhi to PM Modi

TIMESOFINDIA.COM | Updated: Jan 23, 2018, 23:20 IST



HIGHLIGHTS

- Rahul cited a media report quoting Oxfam's survey highlighting the vast gap between the India's rich and the poor
- Oxfam released a survey which said that the richest 1% in India own 73% of the wealth generated in the country
- Today, PM Modi became the first Indian leader to address the keynote address at the WEF's plenary session in Davos

مجموعة صغيرة من الأسر الغنية استحوذت على 82% من الثروة الجديدة التي لمّت فيه العام 2017

من الثروة الجديدة التي لمّت فيه العام 2017

CNBC

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EVERY CLOSING IS ALSO AN OPENING

DAVOS WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Inequality gap widens as 'world's richest 1% get 82% of the wealth,' Oxfam says

- Approximately 82 percent of the money generated last year went to the richest 1 percent of the global population, the report said, while the poorest half saw no increase at all
- Last year, Oxfam said billionaires would have seen an uptick of \$762 billion – enough to end extreme poverty seven times over
- The report is timely as the global political and business elite gather in snow-capped Davos for the World Economic Forum's annual meeting this week

Moneyweb

MARKET UPDATE with Nastassia Arendse

SA's widening inequality untenable, needs to be addressed – Oxfam

These also saw soaring the wealth saw getting some of the profits, and the majority of profits are actually accruing to the top 1%, says Oxfam director Siphokazi Mkhazi

7:33 January 2018 14:04

LATEST PODCASTS

- Monday @ 11h30
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Top CEOs take 4 days to earn a Bangladesh worker's life pay

By ASSOCIATED PRESS
PUBLISHED: 09:57, 22 January 2018 | UPDATED: 10:02, 22 January 2018

Share 6 shares

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) - A CEO from one of the world's top five global fashion brands has to work for just four days to earn what a garment worker in Bangladesh will earn in an entire lifetime, campaigning group Oxfam International said Monday.


In the run-up to the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, Oxfam has sought to put inequality at the heart of this week's deliberations of the rich and powerful.

BBC NEWS

Business

'World's richest 1% get 82% of the wealth', says Oxfam

7:33 January 2018



The gap between the super-rich and the rest of the world widened last year as wealth continued to be seized by a small minority, Oxfam has claimed.

Oxfam America

TAX DODGING DRIVES POVERTY AND INEQUALITY WORLDWIDE



Goal: End corporate tax dodging

Top-line goals are to push companies to:

1. Be more transparent about tax policy and practice
2. Align tax with actual economic activity
3. Use their political influence to support a more level playing field on tax

Research on 70 US Companies

Seven sectors:

- Apparel
- Banks and Finance
- Extractives
- Food and Beverage
- Pharmaceuticals
- Retail
- Technology

Three issues:

- Climate change
- Diversity & inclusion
- Tax reform

New oxfam report



OXFAM MEDIA BRIEFING
April 12, 2018

Dollars and Sense

Corporate responsibility in the era of Trump

Background

Companies including Pfizer, Walgreen's, Archer Daniels Midland, Google, Exxon, JP Morgan, and Nike have garnered attention for speaking out against President Trump's policies and rhetoric in the first year of his presidency. However, when it came to flexing their lobbying muscle, the same companies mostly put their money behind advocating for lower taxes, which paid off handsomely in billions of dollars in tax cuts.

Introduction

Oxfam analyzed the stated policies, values, and public messaging of 70 of the largest US corporations across seven sectors between November 2016 and November 2017 and compared them to their lobbying activities. Our analysis focuses on three high level social and economic issues engaged by the Trump administration in its first year in office: climate change, diversity and inclusion, and tax reform.¹



KEY INSIGHTS: Climate change



Climate change

- 37 have publicly available climate change value statements
- 33 made public statements supportive of addressing climate change
- 23 made public statements supporting the Paris Climate Agreement

KEY INSIGHTS: Diversity & Inclusion



Diversity & Inclusion

- 67 have publicly available diversity and inclusion value statements
- 24 made public statements about President Trump's Muslim travel ban (including all 10 technology companies)
- 15 made public statements about immigration reform (including 9 technology companies)
- 33 made public statements or joined an action to support LGBTQ issues
- 18 made public statements or joined an action to support gender equality

KEY INSIGHTS: Tax reform



Tax

- 13 have a publicly available tax policy statement
- 30 made a public statement about tax reform

Lobbying



- The 70 companies in our list spent **\$281,466,163** to lobby Congress on **3,031** issues in 2017.
- Collectively, they reported lobbying on climate change **19** times; diversity & inclusion **138** times; and tax **552** times.
- They spent an estimated **\$1.5 million** lobbying on climate, almost **\$11 million** on diversity and inclusion issues, and almost **\$44 million** to lobby on tax.

And then there is Tax Reform...

- The return on investment for tax lobbying includes lowering the 70 companies' tax bill by an estimated **\$313 billion** on past offshore earnings *alone* compared to the tax rate when those earnings were made.
- This does not account for additional corporate tax savings in other provisions of the 2017 tax reform.



Ultimately This is An unjust and unsustainable model...

- At the bottom, workers have seen rights eroded, while at the top corporations are consolidating and put under huge pressure to deliver ever greater returns for wealthy shareholders. Corporations can use the mobility of their investments to force the race to the bottom on tax and wages.

... but one which can be transformed

Regulate, restructure and redesign our economy and the way businesses are run:

- Concrete, time bound targets and action plans to reduce inequality
- Recognize and protect the rights of citizens and their organisations to freedom of speech and association
- Eradicate the use of tax havens and ensure progressive taxes are raised
- Publicly commit to achieving universal free public services and social protection floor

To end the inequality crisis, we must build an economy for ordinary working people, not the rich and powerful

Questions & Comments

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