

## South Sudan Crisis January 2015 – One Year Report Prepared for the States of Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

*“I’m a refugee and I feel really bad. These things affect me in my heart. I used to have a house with everything in it. We could stay at home and everything we needed was available. We had plenty of food and my children were never sick but now we are refugees. Everything has changed now and we have nothing.”* Nyamakoch Deng, 25, widow and mother of three children living Deythoma camp in Melut

Since conflict broke out in South Sudan on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013, thousands of people have been killed, more than 1.5 million people have been forced from their homes within the country, and a further 469,000 have fled to neighbouring countries.

Those displaced within the country are sheltering inside the grounds of UN bases and makeshift camps, or living with extended families and host communities. Conditions are dire with serious shortages of clean water, sanitation facilities and food. During the rainy season, camps and shelters flooded, water supplies were contaminated and roads became impassable which restricted the movement of traders bringing food to markets. Progress towards a resolution of the conflict has been frustratingly slow, and with the onset of the dry season, it is likely that fighting will increase and the food security situation will deteriorate further. Oxfam is committed to continuing to support vulnerable people with emergency aid, to help people get back on their feet in the longer term, and to call for a permanent end to the fighting.

We have been helping people affected by the conflict since the fighting began. We started working in two UN bases in Juba, and as fighting spread we expanded our team to open new programmes in eight locations across the country. Over the last year we have reached more than 342,000 people by:

- Providing safe water through a combination of trucks, tanks, taps, pumps, pipes and boreholes.
- Improving sanitation by building and maintaining toilets and bathing shelters.
- Promoting safe hygiene practices, distributing hygiene materials and training community volunteers.
- Improving access to food by distributing food, cash and vouchers, and the tools to make a living.



At UN House in Juba, people displaced from their homes by fighting collect water at an Oxfam supported water point. Photo: Petterik Wiggers/Hollandse

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE



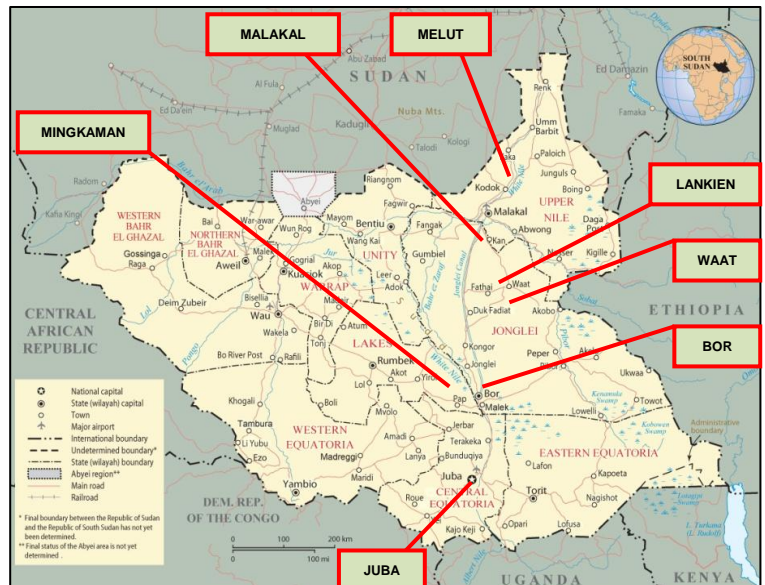
OXFAM

## Oxfam in South Sudan

Oxfam has been working in Southern Sudan since 1983, providing humanitarian aid to people affected by conflict, drought and floods, and long-term development assistance to some of the most vulnerable communities. Over this time, we've helped more than 500,000 people and we are committed to sustained assistance during this current crisis.

Over the past year we have provided humanitarian aid to people sheltering in UN bases, makeshift camps and host communities across the country, including:

- Juba: 28,000 people in the UN House camp on the outskirts of the city.
- Mingkaman: 99,000 people in a settlement by the Nile in Lakes state.
- Melut: 20,500 people in a camp in Upper Nile State.
- Malakal: 15,000 people in the UN camp in Upper Nile State.
- Jonglei: 7,200 people in Bor, on the other side of the Nile from Mingkaman, where there is a UN camp housing displaced people; and more than 35,000 people in Lankien and Waat, where displaced people are dispersed among the local population. As the dry season approaches and fighting intensifies, we are expanding our work across northern Jonglei.



## Oxfam's response: water and sanitation

Oxfam is providing clean, safe water to thousands of people in South Sudan using pipes, pumps, boreholes and water tanks. Where necessary, we also truck water into areas that need it urgently.



An Oxfam worker helps fill a bladder tank from a water truck in Mingkaman. Oxfam is providing around 60,000 people in the camp with safe water every day using water trucking, tanks and pipes, and by drilling boreholes.

*Photo: Keiran Doherty/Oxfam*

In Melut Oxfam is providing water for more than 20,000 people living in the makeshift camp. We are also providing sanitation facilities including 200 communal latrines.

In Lankien Oxfam has repaired seventy five boreholes and we have moved a drilling rig to the area in preparation for the new year when we plan to increase the rate of borehole drilling and repairs. We also plan to replace existing water pumps with the innovative 'blue pump', specifically designed to have fewer moving parts and require less maintenance than a standard water pump.

In Bor we established a water supply and sanitation system inside the UN base for people unable to leave due to fighting, and we have provided hygiene education for children throughout the camp. Outside of the base, we are repairing facilities in the town, including in Bor's main hospital, that have been badly damaged by fighting.

## Oxfam's response: public health promotion

In crowded and unsanitary living conditions, disease is a major threat. Oxfam's public health promotion activities include training on safe hygiene practices like hand washing and the proper use of latrines; community activities to dispose of solid waste; and the distribution of sanitation and hygiene materials.

In Mingkaman, where people live in camp-like conditions, we are providing soap to more than 80,000 people every month to prevent the spread of Hepatitis E. We provided 320 families with tools to clear the bushes and rubbish from around their houses, and more than 2,000 people a week are attending hygiene sessions run by Oxfam trained latrine monitors.

In Melut, community health promoters went from door to door offering advice and training on good hygiene practices to more than 2,500 families. We also ran community sessions to clean jerry cans, and to clean up the local area, disposing of rubbish and solid waste.

In Lankien Oxfam ran child-friendly hygiene workshops for more than 400 children, as well as running campaigns to promote jerry can cleaning and hand washing. We trained community health volunteers on how to teach others to use water and sanitation facilities safely, and trained twelve people to become mechanics to maintain water pumps.

## Oxfam's response: gender and protection

Oxfam aims to ensure all its humanitarian programmes are 'safe programmes' that avoid causing inadvertent harm, and are sensitive to the needs of women. Whatever we do and wherever we work, we apply this approach, and it has significantly contributed to the quality of our programmes.



In South Sudan we are talking to households that are child or female-headed, or include members who are older or who have disabilities, about their specific needs. We are also talking to communities to understand the challenges they face, both people displaced from their homes, and host communities, who find that scarce resources such as water are put under increased pressure by the increased population. We bring together those displaced and the host communities to discuss and resolve issues, reduce tensions and promote integration.

An Oxfam worker installs a solar-panelled lantern on a family's tent in Malakal camp. The solar lamp project was set up by Oxfam to improve safety for women in the camp, for whom sexual violence is a major risk. Oxfam have given solar lights to 6,000 families in so that women can feel and be safer when going to toilets and washing areas at night, where there is a risk of violence and rape. *Photo: Simon Rawles/Oxfam*



Malakal has changed hands six times since the conflict began. The town has been ransacked with schools, homes and the hospital looted and destroyed. More than 18,000 people are sheltering in a UN base just outside Malakal town. The conditions in the camp are crowded, and during the rainy season people had to live in thick mud, with little escape from mosquitoes, sewage and disease (see picture above). It was particularly difficult around water points, which often flooded, making it difficult to collect water. Oxfam built ten bridges so that people could get to the water points safely. *Photo: Simon Rawles/Oxfam*

## Oxfam's response: access to food

Thousands of people are struggling to access enough food to feed their families due to a limited harvest at the end of 2014, poor road conditions, fuel shortages, and renewed fighting which have limited the food available in markets and pushed up prices.<sup>1</sup>

In the UN base in Juba, Oxfam has distributed cash to enable more than 25,000 people to buy food, and vouchers to pay for the milling of grain and the charcoal with which to cook it. In the UN base in Bor, we have given every household a fuel efficient stove and we are providing vocational training until it is safe enough for people to leave.

In Mingkaman, Oxfam distributes food to more than 85,000 people a month, and in Jonglei we are partnering with the World Food Programme to distribute food delivered by airdrops. This option is only used when there is not enough food available in the local markets.

Our aim is to reduce people's reliance on food distributions. We are working with families to increase their capacity to provide food for themselves by planting gardens to grow groundnuts, beans and maize, and by providing fishing equipment. In Lankien, Waat and Akobo we have distributed seeds and tools to 3,000 families, and provided 900 fishing families with lines and hooks. In Mingkaman, we have provided more than 4,000 families with vegetable and crop seeds, and more than 2,000 households with fishing tools.

## Oxfam's response: Ethiopia and Uganda

Almost half a million people have fled into neighbouring countries, and are living in refugee camps and host communities with little or no access to clean water, sanitation and food.

In Uganda we are providing tens of thousands people with a daily supply of clean water using pumps, tanks and taps. We have dug latrines, built bathing shelters, provided hygiene kits and conducted child-friendly training in hand washing and personal hygiene. We are working with communities to keep the environment clean, such as supporting information broadcasts on the radio and providing tools, and we are looking at how we can introduce a tree planting programme in the coming year. To help people earn a living, we are training communities on how to make energy efficient stoves, which can then be sold.

In Ethiopia we are working in several camp locations, providing water through trucking and pumping from source. We have built dozens of communal latrines, and we are working with communities and partners to ensure latrines are maintained – disinfected and pits emptied – and the environment is kept clean, for example organising cleaning committees and providing tools such as buckets and brooms.

**Thank you to the States of Jersey for supporting people affected by conflict in South Sudan**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fews.net/east-africa/south-sudan>



For people sheltering in the UN base in Juba, fuel for cooking is scarce. It can be dangerous to collect wood from outside the camp, and nearby forests are quickly depleted. Traditional stoves made of coiled metal burn fuel inefficiently as they lose heat quickly. Oxfam has distributed 2,300 stoves that burn charcoal more efficiently, as well as vouchers to enable people to buy charcoal from local traders. "Charcoal burns more slowly with this stove, compared to the one I used to use before. It saves time, as you don't have to keep adding charcoal, and it saves money because you don't have to keep buying charcoal after the vouchers have been used" says Yang Pal, who received a fuel efficient charcoal stove from Oxfam.

*Photo: Mackenzie Knowles Coursin/Oxfam*