

SOUTH SUDAN CRISIS

July 2014 – Six Month Report

Prepared for the States of Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

"The South Sudan crisis is at a tipping point. We either act now or millions will pay the price. We cannot afford to wait, we cannot afford to fail." Mark Goldring, Oxfam Chief Executive



"When there isn't much food I give it all to the small children. I remain without food. I feel weak, I'm not strong like I was before, but there's no alternative so I just have to accept it." Ayen Yak, mother of six (above left). Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

Overview

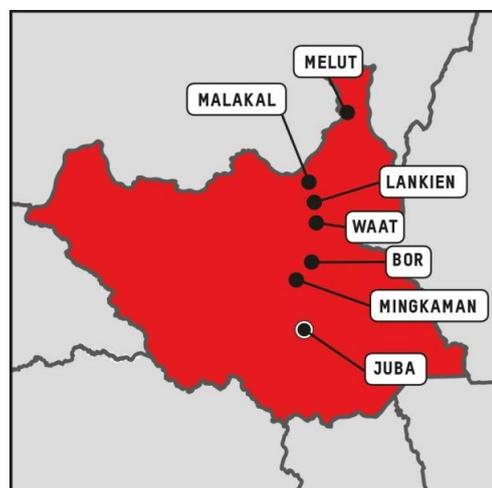
- Over **1 million** people displaced within South Sudan
- Nearly **5 million** people in need of urgent humanitarian support
- **261,000** people reached by Oxfam's response

The situation

Since conflict broke out in December 2013, at least 10,000 people have lost their lives. More than a million people forced from their homes are seeking safety in South Sudan, while the number of South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries has risen to over 360,000¹.

In total, 4.9 million people need urgent humanitarian support now – including 200,000 children suffering severe acute malnutrition – and 7 million risk not having enough to eat in the months ahead unless international aid is dramatically and urgently increased.

Many have had to leave behind their possessions, crops and livestock or sell their assets to escape



Where Oxfam is working in South Sudan

and have no means to buy food, water and other

essentials. Most people were not able to plant crops, so there will be no harvest in the coming months and no food stored to see them through next year.

Camps are becoming overcrowded and poor sanitation is increasing the risk of disease, with reported cases of cholera in the capital Juba increasing.

Oxfam's response

Since December, Oxfam has reached 261,000 people at several locations across South Sudan with food, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene materials and training. We are also supporting supporting thousands of refugees in neighbouring countries, including 63,000¹ in Uganda.

Experienced Oxfam teams on the ground in South Sudan are:

- Providing clean safe water by drilling boreholes and setting up water supply systems
- Distributing food – we have already helped 125,000 people in Mingkaman and Jonglei
- Improving sanitation for 180,000 people through latrine building, waste disposal and hygiene training. This includes support to 23,000 people in Juba to prevent the spread of cholera.

WHAT WE'RE DOING IN SOUTH SUDAN



The camp in the UN compound in Juba where Oxfam is providing water and sanitation for 13,500 people

¹ Includes South Sudanese people already seeking refuge in neighbouring countries before the conflict began
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In the last six months, over a million people forced from their homes have taken refuge at locations within South Sudan itself. Oxfam has reached 261,000 people – the majority of them in South Sudan – in desperate need of food, water and sanitation. Oxfam has:

- Distributed food to 125,000 people in Mingkaman and Jonglei state.
- Reached 180,000 people with clean water, safe sanitation including latrines, and hygiene training.
- Deployed a dedicated team in Juba to respond to a deadly outbreak of cholera, supporting 23,000 ‘at risk’ people with public health promotion and improved water facilities.

Mingkaman

In Mingkaman, we have partnered the World Food Programme (WFP) to distribute food to over 100,000 people. We have also reached 45,000 people with water and sanitation. Our programmes include providing clean water, latrine construction, waste disposal and hygiene promotion.

As elsewhere, the squalid and cramped conditions in which people are living make the spread of disease a huge concern, and public health education and training all the more vital. Activities include cleaning water containers, training on disposal of rubbish and human waste and personal hygiene, such as handwashing.

Juba

Oxfam has supported 13,500 people seeking refuge at UN House with clean water, latrines, public health promotion, and vouchers to buy charcoal for cooking. We have installed solar lighting to keep people safe at night near latrines and reduce the risk of physical and sexual violence (an approach we are also implementing at Malakal camp) and are introducing a food voucher programme, so that people with no money can buy food from local markets.

Other locations in South Sudan

We have supported 19,611 people in **Melut** with clean water and sanitary latrines, a campaign to promote environmental cleaning to prevent the spread of disease. Connected to this, we are also paying people to carry out essential construction and cleaning work for the benefit of the wider community.

Our programme in **Bor** has supplied 4,700 people with hygiene and sanitation kits, and improved drainage around schools and clinics to limit the spread of disease.

At **Malakal**, 17,579 people have benefited from our hygiene promotion, and water and sanitation work. We also intend to supply fuel efficient stoves so that people can cook more easily and use less wood, which is in very short supply. Malakal camp is very prone to flooding and Oxfam will be planting trees to prevent waterlogging near latrines and showers.

We are supporting WFP food drops from aeroplanes in **Jonglei** since the rains have made road access impossible. Our teams on the ground take collection of the food as it is dropped from the air, and ensure it is distributed to those who need it most.

The coming months



Families continue to arrive every day



Camps have become water logged due to the rainy season. Oxfam engineers pump out the water in these channels every day but the ground is sodden and unstable

With the number of people facing hunger expected to rise to 7 million in the coming months and monsoon rains making many roads impassable, Oxfam and other agencies face a mammoth task getting aid to millions of people in hard-to-reach areas. Without better humanitarian access and funding, there is a growing risk of famine.

Governments and international institutions, including the US, UK and EU, pledged \$600m to help South Sudan, when they met at a conference in Oslo in May under the auspices of the UN. With a confirmed outbreak of cholera in Juba and the nation on the cusp of a catastrophic food crisis, Oxfam is calling for donor governments to turn these promises into actual aid money – and fast.

Please see appendix one for a brief summary of our work with South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and Uganda.

CASE STUDY

Kuir Mayen Atem and her children ran for their lives after fighters attacked her village. She is staying at Mingkaman camp where Oxfam is providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene training, and working with the World Food Programme (WFP) to distribute food.

“I remember the night we left our home really well. There was an attack on our village. Men, women and children were being killed with guns and machetes. I was so scared – I thought I might die as well that day. I could only think about taking my children to safety.”

Kuir escaped to Mingkaman, where she now lives with her husband, mother, five children and her siblings – 12 people in one cramped makeshift shelter.



“Here we feel safe but it’s tough living like this. We used to live nearer the water stations but then monsoon floods forced us to move. Now, it takes up to eight hours just to get water. We have to get fresh water everyday as otherwise it will spoil and the children will get sick.”

Kuir is receiving food from Oxfam and the World Food Programme, and our teams are currently drilling boreholes at several more locations across the camp, including one near where Kuir is staying.

“It’s very tough for the small children to eat sorghum without sauce as it is hard on their stomachs and hurts them. I feel so sad to see my children having to live this life here, I wish we could go home but we don’t even have a home to go back to. Our house was burned down the day we ran.”

**THANK YOU TO THE STATES OF JERSEY FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK IN
SOUTH SUDAN**

Appendix One

OUR WORK IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Oxfam is working in Uganda and Ethiopia with some of the 360,000 refugees who have crossed from South Sudan into neighbouring countries.

Uganda

Over 108,000 South Sudanese refugees have fled into Uganda. Oxfam is working with local partners to support 63,000 people – including refugees and members of the communities hosting them – providing clean water, improving sanitation facilities, and promoting good hygiene to prevent disease outbreaks.

Water and sanitation

To ensure there is enough clean drinking water, Oxfam is constructing more boreholes and distributing chlorine tablets to families which they can use to purify the water they consume. We are making sure there are enough latrines and washing facilities, and that they are built to withstand the rainy season conditions, and segregated by gender.

Food

We are distributing fuel efficient stoves for cooking. We are also training and distributing tools and seedlings to enable communities and families to establish kitchen gardens, growing vegetables to supplement their diet and sell for income.

Income

Through our cash-for-work programme, people have the chance to earn income on basic construction work like clearing access roads and digging waste pits. Since refugees are working alongside people from the communities where they are staying, the initiative also helps to reduce tensions between the different groups, whilst improving the infrastructure that they all share.

Peace building

To nurture peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, Oxfam and its partners are supporting both groups to work together to promote dialogue and understanding. In everything we do, we're engaged in national, regional and international advocacy in order to encourage peace building and reconciliation.

Ethiopia

Since December 2013, more than 130,000 people have fled to three camps in a remote corner of western Ethiopia near the border with South Sudan. Oxfam is currently working in one of these camps, setting up water supply systems and helping dispose of rubbish.