

These updates cover emergencies Oxfam is currently responding to around the world, although please note they don't intend to be comprehensive.

Maghreb & Middle East

Yemen crisis

Since the scale up of the conflict in March, nearly 25,000 additional people are going hungry each day in Yemen as the blockade and fighting restrict food, fuel and other vital supplies. One in two people – nearly 13 million people – are now struggling to find enough to eat, and half of them are on the brink of starvation. **Continue reading.** This week saw a heavy intensification of airstrikes and a spike in civilian deaths due to bombings. A first-hand account from Tariq Roland Riebl, our *Head of Programmes* in country: *“Despite this being the worst, it would be utterly misleading to think this is exceptional. It is but the latest and heaviest in a series of hits on civilian targets including hospitals, market places, water pumping stations, electricity plants, schools, universities, residential homes, and even camps full of people fleeing the violence.”* Watch the entire Skype interview [here](#).

Oxfam has completed its assessment in Taiz governorate, and our Programme Manager reports that *‘the findings are heart-breaking’*. The cultural capital of Yemen, known for its artists, actors, and musicians and famous for housing the country's best university has been reduced to a Blade Runner-type nightmare. In terms of disease outbreak, this is a ticking time bomb if not dealt with soon. The sombre scene would have been unimaginable to Yemenis even a few months ago. There are obvious opportunities for Oxfam to begin working in Taiz alongside our work in other governorates, and plans are being made now for both Taiz and Aden. Oxfam is also rapidly scaling up its humanitarian response in the north through increased water trucking, latrine construction and short term grants to the poorest households. *Photo: Oxfam emergency response in Yemen, June 2015, Oxfam*



Syria crisis

Following the formalisation of our partnership agreement with the Syrian Ministry of Social Affairs, Oxfam is working to scale up its activities in the country and deepen its engagement with local partner organizations. We will have direct access to respond to the needs of communities that fled their homes to escape violent conflict. Since the beginning of the crisis, local families have been the first to come forward and offer shelter to fellow-Syrians that lost their homes. In the ongoing conflict, host communities are facing increasing poverty and pressure on their water supply systems and resources. We will be assisting homeless families as well as their host communities to ensure that everyone has access to clean water and sanitation facilities and disease

does not break out in areas with high population density. To learn more about what we've been doing in Syria to date, please see our Blog [here](#).

West Africa

Ebola crisis

The official evaluation of our response to Ebola in Liberia and Sierra Leone is now publicly available at the following [link](#). This report reviews Oxfam's response to the Ebola crisis in the two countries at organisational and programme delivery levels. The context of the epidemic presented extreme challenges for Oxfam, as it did for many organisations. At its onset there was a general lack of understanding of the disease and how to respond to it effectively and safely. A pervasive and persistent climate of fear, coupled with changing predictions about the likely evolution of the epidemic, influenced analysis and response at all levels. There was strong pressure to treat the whole crisis as a medical emergency requiring a medical response – organised through top down processes – rather than as a crisis of public health.

Oxfam is responding to the Ebola outbreak and will contribute to the recovery. We are working in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Senegal to help over 3.2 million people.

Horn and Eastern Africa

South Sudan

**CHOLERA:
WHAT WE'RE DOING IN SOUTH SUDAN**

- 1** Raising awareness on prevention and treatment
- 2** Repairing water facilities to ensure availability of clean drinking water
- 3** Providing soap, buckets and emergency water treatment
- 4** Using radio and volunteers to spread vital hygiene messages

OXFAM

The country marked its 4th anniversary this month, with two-thirds of the population (about 8 million people) lacking the food they need to stay healthy. Oxfam, along with other organisations, continues to deliver humanitarian aid in extremely challenging circumstances, facing hostility and attacks against humanitarian workers, and the commandeering of assets. The latest cholera epidemic in Juba comes as no surprise. Inflation and rising fuel prices have sent the price of water skyrocketing. More and more people are being forced to drink dirty river water because they cannot afford to buy it. Throughout Juba, Oxfam is rehabilitating boreholes, supporting chlorination of water delivered by water trucks and increasing water treatment services for bicycle water-

vendors. We are also installing hand washing facilities at strategic locations and working with restaurant owners to raise awareness about the importance of using clean treated water for cooking and selling food. We are also raising awareness of prevention methods and treatment through radio messaging and our dedicated volunteers on the ground. For more information do read our media brief – 'A City Exposed – clean water runs dry in Juba' at the following [link](#). *Image: In Juba, #SouthSudan, 39 people have now died of #cholera, 7 are children. Oxfam is there: <http://oxf.am/Zdzq>*

Sudan

Nearly 210,000 people are affected with conflict in Darfur (western Sudan). The total number of internally displaced people is now up to 2.5 million. Oxfam continues working with local partners and community committees to support water and Sanitation services in both camps and host communities. The rainy seasons already starts in Darfur, and it will strength from next month. Oxfam is working with local partners to provide support for farmers to be prepared and get benefits from this season, in North and South Darfur. As part of the *Lead Farmers Project*, a total of 830 farmers completed their trainings on the main agricultural skills that



would help them to improve the quality and the quantity of their products. Additionally, they received seeds and tools and they are already starting planting. *Photo: North Darfur, one of the lead farmers showing her product, Neimat Abas, Oxfam, March 2015,*

Somalia

The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains fragile. According to the **Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit-Somalia**, food security conditions for agricultural dependent livelihoods are likely to deteriorate due to below average harvest outlook. A total of 3 million people need humanitarian and livelihood assistance including 731,000 people in Emergency and crisis situation. However, overall, the Gu rainy season (April – June) was good and most areas received above normal rainfall which led to improved water availability and pasture growth. Nonetheless, other areas recorded significantly below normal rains including coastal areas, parts of Gedo and the north-west. Malnutrition rates remain high among internally displaced people (IDP). Recent assessments indicate critical levels of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM¹) above 15% in five settlements. The malnutrition rates among the displaced in Dhusamareeb, Kismayo and Mogadishu also remain serious with a GAM between 10% and 15%. In Somalia, Oxfam has a mix of humanitarian interventions mainly focusing on the South Central region of the country. To respond to the unfolding humanitarian situation, Oxfam has scaled up its on-going activities as well designed new programs to save lives and livelihoods of vulnerable populations and avert the risk of the situation deteriorating.

Asia and South Asia



Nepal

Saturday 25th of July marked the **three-month anniversary of the earthquake in Nepal**, Oxfam has helped 330,000 people with life-saving emergency assistance in the form of access to clean water, construction of latrines, distribution of food, seeds, hygiene and shelter kits and it is aiming to reach 400,000 people by the end of August. With the onset of the monsoon season, humanitarian assistance is ongoing but there is increased focus on rebuilding stronger shelters, providing livelihoods' support and working with partners to influence the wider reconstruction activities. In the middle of the Monsoon season, heavy rainfall and the danger of landslides in anyway difficult to access areas, cause a continued challenge in reaching vulnerable communities in remote locations. The Oxfam teams are working tirelessly, camping out on their way to deliver much needed assistance and implementing innovative logistical solutions to shorten and ease the long walk some Nepalese people need to make to reach our distribution sites. *Photo: Trainees install a metal sheet on an improved temporary shelters in Chokati VDC, Sindhupalchok*

district, June 2015, Oxfam, continue reading.

¹ Different GAM thresholds exist that can be used to categorize emergency situations. However, a GAM value of more than 10% generally identifies an emergency. Commonly used thresholds for GAM are: <5% = acceptable; 5% to 9.9% = poor; 10% to 14.9% = serious; >15% = critical

China



At late June and July, the torrential rains triggered floods in a large area of Shaanxi Province and Guizhou Province respectively. In Shaanxi, a total of 28 counties in the province were hit by floods, affecting 451,000 people. The flood in Guizhou Province also caused 900 houses collapsed and damaged and 200,000 people affected. Oxfam targeted to three heavily-hit counties namely Nanzheng, Foping and Songtao and delivered rice and cooking oil as food aid, quilts and cash grant to a total of 13,000 impoverished villagers in Shaanxi and Guizhou Province.

On the other hand, since May 2015, Yunnan Province continues to be hard hit by high temperature and low rainfall, causing large-sized damage on crop fields such as maize, buckwheat, fruit etc. and shortage of drinking water for human being and livestock. As of 9 July, around 1 million people and 835, 000 livestock were suffering from shortage of drinking water. Oxfam provided over USD 20,000 of subsidies for the rural villagers in one of seriously affected areas namely Heqing County on water trucking in order to secure the safety and sufficient water for them. For the food shortage problem, the rural villagers could rely on their stocked staples at the moment. Oxfam would further assess the need on it in the near future. Oxfam will keep monitoring on the flood and drought situation in China and take further actions if necessary. *Photo: crop fields and houses damaged by the flood in Guizhou Province, Oxfam*

Central America

Honduras

The availability of food for many families in the 'dry corridor' (approximately 161,403 families) is at risk and they have still not recovered from the food security crisis caused by the 2014 drought. Oxfam is assessing needs, building on our regional experience as well as other agencies' in the country, such as the World Food Programme. Our aim is not only to support the affected communities to cover their food and other basic needs, but to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. We will also be lobbying the authorities to make greater investments in people's ability to earn viable livelihoods rather than repeatedly resorting to emergency relief.



The global humanitarian system is overstretched; inadequately investing in risk reduction and prevention, and providing assistance that is often insufficient, inappropriate and late. **Humanitarian action led by governments in crisis-affected countries, assisted and held accountable by civil society, is usually faster and more appropriate,** saving more lives and alleviating the suffering of many more men, women and children. Yet, during 2007–2013, less than 2 percent of annual humanitarian assistance went directly to local actors. Next year's [World Humanitarian Summit](#) is a chance to **review and challenge both the humanitarian system and importantly the root causes of vulnerability and crises.** It's an opportunity to rebalance power and resources within humanitarian action, to minimise inefficiencies and make local and national leadership, accountable to affected people, the default position – effectively turning the system on its head.

- Oxfam has launched a new report, '[For Human Dignity – the World Humanitarian Summit and the Challenge to Deliver](#)' that sets out what we want to see from this process.
- On 28th of July, Oxfam published the briefing paper [Turning the Humanitarian System on its Head](#). In this research report, **Oxfam puts the humanitarian system under the lens and finds that it must change to remain effective;** with locally led humanitarian action whenever possible; adequate funding to state and non-state actors in affected countries; and stronger partnerships between international and local actors, focusing on strengthening local capacity.

Find more information on the above emergency programs and our other responses:

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/emergencies>

If you need pictures in high resolution or have any questions please contact

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<http://www.oxfam.org>