

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



On the 25th March, a Saudi Arabian led coalition commenced a campaign of heavy airstrikes across much of Yemen. More than 60% of the population is already reliant on aid and this escalation will result in food and fuel shortages and hasten Yemen's descent into a worsening humanitarian crisis. Instability and the government's decision to lift subsidies have driven up fuel prices. Without diesel, farmers struggle to power their water pumps and take food to the market. **Continue reading.** Grace Ommer, Oxfam's country director in Yemen, said: *"It is heartbreaking to watch conflict escalate in a country that is already grappling with a*

humanitarian crisis. Yemen's economy is on the brink of collapse. It is vital that supplies of food and fuel coming into Yemen are maintained to help those struggling to get clean water and enough to eat. International donors should increase their support at this critical time. Failure to do so will result in a humanitarian catastrophe unfolding throughout the country". Oxfam continues to provide critical assistance to help those caught up in the crisis. Read our **press release** and for more information see **OCHA update on the humanitarian situation.** (Photo: Inside a house destroyed in Yemen. Before the crisis more than 10m Yemenis did not have enough food to eat. Abbo Haitham, March 2015)

Syria crisis

On Tuesday 31st March, Kuwait hosted the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria to raise the resources required to respond to the urgent needs of 18 million people in Syria and neighbouring countries.

Coinciding with the Kuwait conference on Syria, Oxfam published its 2015 Syria Crisis Fair Share Analysis and calculated **that nearly half of the world's top donors didn't give their fair share of aid to the Syria crisis in 2014**, based on the size of their economies. Now, in 2015 aid actors estimate that \$8.7 billion is needed to support people in desperate humanitarian need.

However, **total aid pledged** in Kuwait City (US\$3.8 billion) is less than half the amount needed this year.



Read our full [press release](#) on the Kuwait Conference. Andy Baker who leads Oxfam's response to the Syria crisis said: "[...] Unless more donor countries massively step up in the wake of the conference, the increasing numbers of people fleeing their homes and struggling to survive will be less and less likely to receive assistance. What does the international community expect millions of Syrians to survive on?" **Continue reading.**

While donors are discussing the humanitarian response, Oxfam continues its work in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Some of the recent accomplishments include equipping five villages on the outskirts of Idlib with their own wells to reduce pressure on the city supply. And in Tartous governorate, just North of Lebanon, we have been supplying and installing further pumps and generators to supply water to villages whose populations have been swelled by people displaced from homes elsewhere. (Photo: A group of Syrian refugees in Zaatari Camp in Jordan wait to be paid by Oxfam in return for their work as part of the organization's "Cash for Work" program. Pablo Tosco / Oxfam, February 2015)

Pacific



Vanuatu - Tropical Cyclone Pam

Severe Tropical Cyclone Pam passed through Vanuatu on March 13, affecting 166,000 people across 22 islands. 15,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed, up to 96% of food stocks decimated and 110,000 people are in need of clean drinking water.

Oxfam has so far reached almost 7,000 people with clean drinking water and hygiene kits on the islands of Efate and Ambrym and will begin rehabilitation of water systems in the coming week. Our food security team have been busy surveying the market for materials for

garden kits and Cash for Work kits and procurement for these items will begin in the next days. Oxfam is also coordinating the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team, a coordination mechanism of 11 core member agencies based in Vanuatu, including non-government organisations, UN agencies and the Red Cross. (Photo 1: Men from Eton village rebuilding a house that was destroyed by Cyclone Pam. Vlad Sokhin/Panos, Oxfam. Photo 2: Oxfam distributed water to over 3000 people in the communities of Etas, Amy Christian/ Oxfam, March 2015)



West Africa

Ebola crisis

After more than 20 days of no cases, a **new case was confirmed in Liberia**. Surveillance remains high and contact tracing is ongoing along with intensified community engagement. The national countdown is on again, as all in Liberia hope that we can count 42 days without a case. The Oxfam's Public Health Engineering team is working on providing clean water and hand washing facilities to Schools in Monrovia and on the



rehabilitation of public health centres, with 14 complete, 5 ongoing and more than 30 identified for rehabilitation.

In Sierra Leone, there continues to be around 3.5 cases a day. The government has imposed a 'lock down' of several days (finished on 29 March) in order to carry out a 'National Zero Ebola Campaign', its goal being to stop the spread of the disease and raise awareness. Oxfam, with partners, has provided Community Health Committees (CHCs)/mobilisers, supported chiefdom training, active case finding and social mobilisation and, in Koinadugu, CHC supervisors held radio discussions on the Ebola

response. In Guinea Bissau, mass awareness-raising campaigning were also organized, involving women from local associations, reaching almost 37,000 people.

So far, the total Oxfam beneficiary number across 6 countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Gambia) stands at a little over 1.3 million people. (Photo: Agnes Nyantie. 42 age, 5 children. Community Health Volunteer. Liberia, Pablo Tosco /Oxfam)

Nigeria – Conflict

The postponed Presidential elections took place on March 28th. Opposition leader Buhari won with 54% of the votes against incumbent Jonathan. Despite few incidences, the overall security situation across the country remains relatively calm. Regarding Nigeria's presidential election, Oxfam's Country Director in Nigeria, Evelyn Mere, said: "No matter the outcome of Saturday's elections, the next government of Nigeria faces an enormous task. In Nigeria's northeast, the impact of the ongoing conflict is staggering, and much more must be done to ensure the safety of all Nigerians, especially the more than 1.5 million people who have fled their homes and villages. Civilians are bearing the full brunt of this conflict, and the situation for many is perilous. [...] In addition to urgently addressing the humanitarian emergency, whoever is elected must strive to curb pervasive inequality so that Nigeria's resources benefit its entire people."



Oxfam and local partner, Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication, are responding in Yola, North-east Adamawa,

working in 16 locations to provide much needed humanitarian relief to displaced people from 41 communities. With funding from ECHO, we are carrying out several hygiene promotion activities including constructing latrines and bath spaces, disseminating relevant hygiene-related messages, distributing hygiene kits, and providing technical support to the State Emergency Management Authority (SEMA). With continued funding support, we are projected to reach at least 100,000 people before April 2015, with access to clean water, sanitation, and health promotion. (Photo: Oxfam workers prepare the distribution of food and other essentials, February 2015, Benedicte Kurzen/ Oxfam.)

South Sudan – conflict

The government passed a Constitutional Amendment Bill 2015 on 24 March to extend the President's term of office by three years. This follows the suspension of IGAD-led peace talks on South Sudan. The conflict continues and 2.5 million people are facing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity (See [Jan-Mar 2015 IPC Analysis](#)) and 1.5 million people are internally displaced by conflict since December 2013 (see [OCHA update](#) on the humanitarian situation).

Our current concerns are about the degradation of the economy as the Sudanese pound collapses against the dollar. As a result of our recent assessment of food availability in Jonglei (where we supported food air drops last year) we are changing our activities to do cash and voucher distributions instead, in order to give a boost to local markets and supply chains. [A report by Voice of America](#) from the northern Jonglei describes how people are coping with ongoing food scarcity, demonstrating people's resilience in pretty desperate circumstances and including an interview with our Food Security Officer.

Moreover, news of rising conflict in the Nuba mountains in Sudan suggests that a number of refugees could flee across the border into a remote and dangerous part of South Sudan. Oxfam will join the United Nations in assessing an area for a refugee camp and will consider the request to build the water and sanitation facilities for it.

Sudan – recent displacement

Since January 2015, a new wave of violent conflict has forced tens of thousands of people in North Darfur to flee their homes. As of 22 March, in North Darfur [OCHA identified 32,700 newly displaced people](#), of whom the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has registered 20,000 people.

Oxfam and local partners are providing clean water to 12,772 people includes new IDPs and host community in Shgraa villages in Rural El Fasher.

In South Darfur, Oxfam partners distributed startup packages for 103 new arrival women in Kalma Camp and the needed materials and seeds for 80 Lead Mothers to start establishing their homestead gardens.

Ethiopia – displaced people from South Sudan

As reported in the [last update](#), In Gambella, a new camp – Jiwe- is being set up for South Sudanese refugees. It has now been agreed that Oxfam will take the lead on the sustainable water programme. In terms of public health promotion and sanitation, this will be done by 6 different NGOs with Oxfam being one of them. Oxfam however will only do public health promotion and not sanitation.

South Asia

India – Jammu and Kashmir Floods

Heavy rainfall has affected the Kashmir Valley in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, north-western India, over 28 and 29 March. The rainfall has triggered the overflow of Jhelum river in the districts of Srinagar and Pulwama and landslides in Budgam district. Oxfam has an ongoing humanitarian response in the region that started in September 2014. Currently, we are doing a rapid assessment of the situation and have prepositioned 400,000 chlorine tablets and emergency hygiene kits in Srinagar to address water and sanitation needs if floods get stronger and needs increase.

South America



Peru - Floods

On March 24 a massive landslide, caused by heavy rains, buried parts of Chosica district, 47 km from the capital Lima, killing at least 9 people and affecting almost 500 families.

Since the landslides damaged existing water pipe, access to safe water represents one of the most urgent needs. Oxfam has delivered four water bladders (10 000 litre each) to the affected district. Currently, families are getting water from water trucks provided by the local government who is leading the response. Oxfam and partner Predes is supporting local authorities with technical advice in the water and sanitation sector and will continue monitoring the emergency situation.



(Photo 1 and 2: Ensuring access to safe water in Chosica district, March, Oxfam, 2015)

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>