

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

Asia and South Asia

Nepal Earthquake



A second earthquake of 7.3 magnitude struck Nepal on 12 May. The epicentre was located 76km northeast of Kathmandu, in Dolakha district. The UN has estimated a number of 8 million people affected. There is a huge risk of waterborne disease and time is ticking to secure shelter and adequate sanitation before the monsoon rains begin in early June.

Oxfam has 5 bases responding in 7 of the worst-affected districts, and so far we have helped over 100,000 people. The greatest needs have been in public health (water supplies, sanitation, and essential hygiene

items) and shelter, and as one of our engineers put it; “we need to get some form of waterproof shelter to as many people as possible”. The coming monsoon will mean further misery to homeless communities that don't have adequate shelter, but it is also the start of the planting season, and we have been distributing seeds as well as food to ensure families don't miss out. One of our Food Security specialists explains one of Oxfam's distributions of food, seeds, and other essential items on our [Facebook Page](#). *Photo: Anu (7) helps other community volunteers to prepare materials during an Oxfam distribution of hygiene kits in Sankhu. The kits contain a bucket for clean water, a bar of soap, oral rehydration salts, and towels, helping people to meet their basic sanitation needs. Oxfam has also provided the community with emergency latrines to help prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases. Watch Anu's story in this [short video](#).*

China – Tibet Earthquake

Neighboring countries were also affected by the Earthquake in Nepal, including India, Bangladesh, Buthan, Pakistan and Afghanistan. In particular the Tibet region, located at the western part of China, was further hit by a 5.9 magnitude earthquake at on the same day (25 April). In Rikaze Prefecture, at least 26 people have been killed, up to 40,000 houses were either collapsed or damaged causing 63,989 people to relocate. A total of 300,000 people have been affected. Targeting to the relocated populations in 11 remote and poor townships in two seriously affected areas – Nielamu County and Jilong County, Rikaze Prefecture, Oxfam mobilized 214 cotton tents and 1000 sets



of cotton quilts and mattress from our preparedness warehouse based at Lanzhou City, Gansu Province and procured food items from the local market. All relief materials were distributed on 10 May 2015. Photo 2: Oxfam supported cotton tents were set up in the relocation areas.

Maghreb & Middle East

Yemen crisis



With the escalation of conflict in Yemen now in its second month, civilians are bearing the brunt of the conflict. 19 out of Yemen's 22 governorates have now been affected by airstrikes or ground conflict and the death toll continues to rise. The blockage of air, land and water routes prevents basic commodities like food, fuel and medical supplies from reaching the population. We have repaired two water supply systems, installed a solar-powered one to reduce the dependency on scarce

fuel, and distributed one month's supply of cash to vulnerable families in Hodeidah, helping up to 65,000 people. A further 45,000 are having water trucked to them while we map the availability of local water sources and make arrangements to improve these. South, in the city of Aden, water supplies to the city have been disrupted by the conflict but Oxfam has stepped in to support the local water authority to continue its efforts to keep the network functioning – up to 800,000 will benefit from this partnership.

The proposal by the Saudis of a 5-day pause (from 12 to 17 May) in fighting has been answered by 22 agencies (of whom Oxfam was one) calling instead for a permanent end to the conflict. Grace Ommer, Oxfam Country Director in Yemen said: *"A five day break in bombing is not enough to help the people of Yemen. There needs to be an immediate and permanent cease fire by all parties and the de facto blockade needs to be lifted to allow in much needed food and fuel. Despite the temporary agreement to allow aid in to Yemen, it is still unclear how this will happen given the increasingly levels of insecurity on the ground."* Read our full [press release](#).

Did you sign our petition calling on government to push for an immediate and permanent ceasefire. to open land, sea and air routes in order to ensure access to essential food, fuel and medicine, to stop sending arms or providing military support to any side of the conflict? So far we've collected 16,367 signatures but we need to get more! Sign the petition [here](#)! *Photo: An Oxfam distribution in Hodeidah providing sanitation products, water filters and containers to communities affected by the current crisis in Yemen, Oxfam May 2015*

West Africa

Ebola crisis

On Saturday 9th of April, Liberia was declared Ebola-free, with 42 days gone since the last victim died there. **Oxfam has reached over 1.4 million people in Ebola affected and at risk countries** (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria) since the start of our response in May 2014. In Liberia, we have supported almost 474,000 people through our water and sanitation activities in health facilities and schools as well as community based work spreading key messages to reduce Ebola transmission. In response to Liberia officially being declared Ebola free, Oxfam's Country Director in Liberia Mamudu Salifu said: *"Shifting the approach from top down to bottom up was vital in getting Liberia to zero cases. The government recognised early on that working with ordinary people, rather than forcing health measures on them, would ease fears*

and mistrust around Ebola. Ensuring that communities play a leading role has been an essential factor in stopping the spread. Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea should now work together to ensure the region as a whole achieves zero cases. Building people's trust is crucial and working with communities should be a priority if the region hopes to reach zero and stay there." Continue reading our [press release](#).

Central African Republic



Oxfam has been working in Bangui since January 2014 and in August 2014 we expanded our programs to Bria (Central East of CAR) in order to cover the immediate needs of conflict-affected populations in the Haute Kotto prefecture.

In Bria our activities include well/borehole construction and rehabilitation, construction of school latrines, community mobilization for construction of household latrines, voucher distribution for food, hygiene kits and kitchen utensils, cash transfer distribution, seeds distribution, livelihoods grants, support to market gardening, and promotion of good hygiene and nutrition practices.

In the capital Bangui, in addition to the existing water and sanitation activities, in early 2015 we launched a new programme in Bangui and Bimbo (peri-urban Bangui) aiming to promote access to basic needs for returnees and support economic opportunities for vulnerable households affected by the conflict, and also strengthening and improving the capacity of girls, boys, women and men to protect themselves against conflict-related risks. Furthermore the project will improve the conditions of access to water, sanitation and hygiene in these districts. Photo: Children in Saint Joseph De Mukassa site, Giulia Rindi, Oxfam

Horn and Eastern Africa

South Sudan – conflict

On Tuesday the 12th, South Sudan's parliament has unanimously passed a bill that would more closely regulate the NGO sector in the world's youngest country. In response, Zlatko Gagic, Country Director for Oxfam in South Sudan, said: *"We are deeply concerned that this Bill may make it more difficult for NGOs to do our work. We need clarification of a number of key provisions for us to understand its full impact. (...) With 3.5 million people projected to be facing severe hunger by the end of June, we need an enabling regulatory environment that allows humanitarians to access communities in both government and opposition areas to deliver assistance safely."* Read our media reaction [here](#).

Since the start of the crisis in December 2013, over 2 million people have fled their homes and there are currently 506,000 refugees in Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya. The worst affected areas are in Greater Upper Nile (Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states) where fighting continues, preventing people's freedom of movement, blocking many major supply routes, and squeezing communities at this crucial moment in the dry season where roads could be used to transport food and other goods.

Oxfam is currently supporting over 480,000 people with humanitarian assistance including clean water, hygiene facilities, food, fuel and income support. Of this, 300,000 have been provided with clean water, and education on good hygiene and sanitation practices, and 250,000 received either direct food aid or livelihoods support. Our development work includes food security and livelihoods such as support to agriculture, peace building, governance and civil society, often working through South Sudanese partners. We have also helped over 100,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and 145,000 in Uganda. Read more about what we're doing in the [South Sudan Update](#) and like [our Facebook](#) and Instagram (@oxfamsouthsudan) page with

pictures, videos and more updates and follow us on [Twitter](#).

Burundi

Violent protests erupted as predicted after the President declared he would be seeking a third term. About 111,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries to escape political violence, citing fear of violence and intimidation as primary reasons for leaving. In particular, the number of refugees arriving in Tanzania has risen exponentially over the past week. Lake Tanganyika stadium in Kigoma is serving as a transit point for refugees, from where they are being transported by buses to an old camp at Nyarugusu 150km away. Conditions are becoming very congested, and we have staff on the ground working with a local organisation to improve the water supply. Additional kit to equip water and sanitation facilities is coming from our contingency stocks in DRC and Kenya. The confirmation of several cases of cholera is a serious concern. Regular updates are being posted on Oxfam in Tanzania's [Facebook page](#), do like it and read our full [press release](#).

Ethiopia

A severe water shortage is affecting parts of Somali region, the result of cumulative droughts over the past 2 years, and almost total failure of the short rains this April. Oxfam teams have been assessing the situation and have found no pasture and livestock in poor condition. We have begun helping around 10,000 people access tankered water.

Pacific



Vanuatu - Tropical Cyclone Pam

Just under two months since Tropical Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu, Oxfam has surpassed their beneficiary target of 25,000 individuals and is continuing to expand their projects across the islands of Efate, Epi and Ambrym. Last week 260 livelihoods kits and seeds were distributed in south east Epi as well as 605 hygiene kits in Efate, reaching a combined total of 4,325 individuals. Oxfam partner Wan Smolbag performed their Sanitation Play in seven communities to a total audience of over 1,400 people.

Across the response, Oxfam has now reached 26,208 people with clean water provision, water system rehabilitation, cash for work and hygiene kit, livelihood kit and seed distributions. Photo: Distribution of seeds and livelihoods kits, Nalema, Epi island, Meaghan Barry, Oxfam

Central and South America

Guatemala

More than 750,000 people in Guatemala have lost their crops due to the drought and coffee rust virus that has been affecting the country since 2014. Oxfam has been responding by helping about 2,000 families build soil conservation structures while giving them emergency cash grants to meet immediate food needs.

Colombia

In northern Colombia, the prolonged drought has exhausted water sources causing serious shortages for drinking, food preparation and hygiene practices. It has also significantly affected livelihoods in terms of crop losses and death of livestock. Emergency water and food is being brought in by the authorities. Oxfam, in partnership with a national broadcast station, has been publicising the crisis in the media and has successfully



generated support by urban populations for drought-struck families by seeking 'clicks' on social networks, that have translated into funds for water systems, solar panels, and filters for 38,000 people. The campaign will start its second phase in the coming days. *Photo: Installation of water systems, Wuipa indigenous community, municipality of Uribia, Guajira department, Oxfam*

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>