

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

Yemen peace talks on 19<sup>th</sup> of June in Geneva collapsed despite four out of five Yemenis needing aid (**continue reading**). As anticipated in the previous update, Oxfam's programme took an important step in becoming fully operational by setting up two teams for Hajja and Amran governorates. The target is for initial



activities to commence this week and programmes to be at scale by August 15<sup>th</sup>, targeting about 300,000 people. The next assessment for Taiz is now scheduled to take place during next week; Taiz is one of the most badly affected areas, suffering both air strikes from the Saudi-led coalition and intensive ground combat between the Houthis and rivaling factions. Besides the sheer infrastructural destruction, displacement has been large with people spilling out into rural Taiz and neighbouring Ibb governorate. By expanding into Taiz, and with

further planned expansions into urban areas such as Aden over the next few months, we hope to have reached one million people by the end of the year. The challenges are huge. While our focus for now is squarely on the conflict-affected areas which are harder to reach and where the currently most vulnerable people are located, there is also the fallout from the economic situation which is dire. The UN has publicly said that Yemen is 'a step away from famine'.

Have a look at **this blog** on our website about how a group of Yemeni women came together to bike in the streets of Sanaa, as a protest against the war and lack of fuel, and to demand equal rights. *Photo: Bushra al-Fusai, the brains behind the [#BikeForYemen](#) campaign organized through social media which called on women to ride their bikes through the war torn capital in order to protest against the ongoing conflict.*

### Syria crisis

In Syria we are currently helping to provide water for more than a million people across conflict lines by drilling new wells and repairing old and damaged water networks. Oxfam is planning to expand its program from supplying water to providing toilet and washing facilities, as well as hygiene promotion, to some of the millions of displaced people across the country, many living in unfinished and disused buildings. Speaking from Damascus, chief executive of Oxfam GB, Mark Goldring, said: "For us to do our job as humanitarians properly, we need to work more closely with the communities we are helping". In Aleppo, one of the hardest hit areas, Oxfam has supplied water by road, and is working to permanently boost the water supply with a huge 6 meter-long 2000KvA generator, which will power the pumps from the main wells and allow improved water to up to a million people. Oxfam is facing a number of challenges with its work in 10 of the 14



governorates of Syria. The ability to assess needs and monitor program work is hampered by safety issues and bureaucratic hurdles. [Continue reading.](#)

On World Refugee Day, **District Zero' documentary trailer was launched.** This is the story of a Syrian refugee who begins a new life in Jordan's Zaatari camp fixing mobile phones and helps fellow refugees print off photos of happier times. The film is part of the **EUSaveLives project** by Oxfam

and the European Commission's Office for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO). (For more info on Oxfam's work around World Refugee Day, please see the box at the bottom of this newsletter!) *Photo: A Syrian woman watches workers build Oxfam latrines in an informal refugee settlement in Lebanon's Northern Bekaa where she lives with her family of 6. Last winter, Oxfam installed more than 100 latrines in this area, to benefit more than 1,200 refugees. In addition, more than 160 water tanks were put in place. Credit: Oriol Andres Gallart/Oxfam, February 2015*

## West Africa

### Ebola crisis

How are things going in West Africa since media attention went elsewhere? In Liberia two people were tested positive for Ebola, seven weeks after the country was declared free of the virus, Oxfam is focusing on supporting public health services post-ebola – improving water systems in health centres and schools. In Sierra Leone we are continuing to do a huge amount of work helping indirect maintenance of treatment units and community care centres and distributing hygiene items. One individual recently told a staff member: *“Ebola is worse than war. In a war you can run, but you cannot run from ebola. Instead you are locked up in quarantine and your life is on hold”*. In Sierra Leone, we are still doing very exciting work on social mobilisation as part of our ongoing ebola response - having conversations directly with individuals and communities living in affected areas, and with quarantined households. We prioritise activities that raise awareness of practices that might put people at risk of ebola, and engage people in activities to reduce those risks, while tackling some of the more common misconceptions around treatment – eg the fear of ambulances and what actually happens when someone is taken away in one. Teams are also doing some exciting research work with communities in Koinadugu, investigating community perceptions of the health care system and working to help re-build trust and communication with local health units.



### Central African Republic

As we reported in the last update in May, in CAR Oxfam is working in different locations, in the capital Bangui and, since August 2014, we expanded our activities in Bria (east of the country). Moreover, since May 2015 Oxfam has a project in Paoua (in the north-west of CAR) to rehabilitate water infrastructures in seven health facilities. In addition, the

activities in the field should start at the end of the raining season. In June, our team conducted an exploratory

mission in Paoua surroundings and in Bocaranga to assess the humanitarian situation. The mission detected high levels of needs: many boreholes are not functional due to the conflict and consequent lack of maintenance risks to cause community clashes. In terms of food security and livelihood, lack of access to the fields in the last two years, due to security reasons and the late arrival of the rainy season have brought the population to an emergency situation (IPC4). Oxfam will explore the possibility to open a new permanent base in the area to respond to these needs. *Photo: Bria – EFSVL distribution, Oxfam*

## Horn and Eastern Africa

### South Sudan crisis

Cholera has reappeared in Juba, starting in the camps where displaced people still live. Oxfam has revamped its efforts – campaigning on safe handwashing, and working with the City Council to ensure that water vendors are selling safe chlorinated water. But the cholera story is dwarfed by recent accounts of atrocities taking place in Upper Nile (where we have had to leave because of insecurity). And the latest official reports about food security in the country are very worrying, saying "the severity of food insecurity in June and July is likely to be worse than previously anticipated, especially in areas cut off from assistance." So seriously not good in South Sudan right now.

## Asia and South Asia

### Nepal

The monsoon has arrived, and rains have already caused landslides which have added to the difficulty getting access to some remote areas. New threats of disease are increasing among people crowded in insanitary conditions – Hepatitis E, giardia, cholera, and rotavirus. Oxfam's distributions of Lifesaver cubes (which filter viruses as well as larger bacteria and cysts out of drinking water) will help some communities. But in addition to the basics like shelter, water, and food, we are racing to get seeds to people to minimise disruption to longer term food security. Rice accounts for around half of Nepal's total cereal production, and



farming provides a livelihood for about two-thirds of Nepalese people, many of whom are subsistence farmers. So far Oxfam has distributed rice seeds to almost 16,000 farmers in Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok and Dhading. Families who do not get seeds in the ground before the end of June will not be able to harvest rice until 2016, meaning that many will have less food to eat or sell. *Photo: Govinda Sapkota (32) of Tripureshwor VDC, 35 km from HQ Dhadingbesi of Dhading district, one of the volunteers at the rice seed distribution, passes a sack of seed to a man.*

### Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) conducted an impact assessment in DPRK on early June 2015. Field observations show that the drought had damaged close to 80% of transplanted maize and rice seedlings in Spring 2015. Besides, water reservoirs and ponds have almost dried up and some left only 27% of water level. The DPRK government is calling for relevant assistance from international partners and community. Many farmers are planting maize seedlings instead of rice because it requires less irrigation water. However, local farmers' coping mechanisms are insufficient and tremendous emergency responses

are needed from the international community. FAO is formulating an Emergency response project and needs support from international partners and donors. Oxfam will meet with FAO representative in Beijing and conduct a field trip to DPRK (late June to early July) to discuss scope of intended activities and layout funding details soon.



### China - Flood in Southern China

In many provinces of Southern China, over 4.15 million people were affected by floods. Oxfam targeted to the poorer provinces as well as Guizhou and Hunan to provide cash grant, quilts and rice for over 10000 affected rural villagers. The cash grant and the in-kind materials have been distributed by the mid of June. Since the 10th June, unfortunately, another round of torrential rains triggered floods and landslide in Southern China again, causing at least 5 deaths and over 1.76 million people affected. Dahua County of Guangxi Province was one of the most seriously affected areas in the floods. The rains caused heavy devastation

on infrastructure including housing, bridges, part of road access etc. in various levels. After the on-site assessment with our local partner, Oxfam provided personal hygiene items to 1211 relocated villagers in the county.

## Central and South America

The region is on alert for the **consequences of an El Niño year**, with the high likelihood of long periods of drought in some areas and heavy rainfall in others. The Climate Risk Index (see full report [here](#)) has ranked



Honduras as the most vulnerable country in the world and the most affected by climate change in the last 20 years, while Nicaragua and Guatemala are among the 10 most affected. Oxfam has been responding to drought and the coffee rust virus in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador, aimed at ensuring adequate assistance and livelihood support to people most affected.

In the meantime, Central American governments and the Disaster Risk Reduction community gathered in El Salvador on 18-19 June for the **third Consultative Forum of the Central American Policy for Integrated Risk Management** (PCGIR). The event was

attended by over 250 civil society organizations, that constitute the Regional Coordination for Risk Management, as well as national and international organizations. On this occasion governments were required to recognize Central America as the most vulnerable region to Climate change risks, which every year leave large losses (especially in the area called "Dry Corridor") and policy makers were asked to include gender-sensitive guidelines and social inclusion in the design and implementation of policies.

### Colombia

About 150 000 people in the South have been affected by an oil spill which has polluted rivers in rural and

urban area of Tumaco. Most people living in the area are indigenous and Afro communities with high poverty who rely heavily on the rivers, not only as their source of drinking water, but for their living for transport and trade. Oxfam and the Colombian Red Cross are making efforts to send a water treatment plant in the area.

## Pacific

### Vanuatu - Tropical Cyclone Pam

June the 13th marked **three months since Tropical Cyclone Pam hit Vanuatu**. Most sectors in the response are now moving from first phase response to recovery activities, which will include the transition of clusters into sectoral working groups and the official start of the Government's National Recovery and Economic Strengthening Program Plan on 1 August. A national Government-led 'Lessons Learned' workshop on the response was carried out on June 24-25 with an official report to be circulated in the coming weeks.

Oxfam has commenced planning for the recovery phase and will conduct a rapid market and livelihood assessment in July in order to understand the remaining food security and livelihood needs of affected communities after the first phase of the response. Oxfam is



also continuing with water and sanitation system rehabilitation and the production and distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in line with Public Health Promotion (PHP) activities. Oxfam's partner Wan Smolbag has adapted their hygiene promotion play to focus on bush latrines, treatment of diarrhoea with homemade ORS and hand washing to more accurately reflect the local context.

On 9-10 June a national *Women in Emergency Response and Recovery* forum was attended by over 140 participants from communities, women's organisations, disability organisations, government non-government organisations. The forum complemented reflections undertaken by clusters in providing a platform for women, young women and women with a disability to share and learn from their stories of resilience and develop recommendations for improving disaster management. The event was co-organised by Oxfam, the Department of Women's Affairs, Care International, UN Women, the Vanuatu Women's Centre and the Australia Pacific Technical College. *Photo: Stella and Chantal wait for their turn to get a voucher, Groovy Banana, Oxfam*

## #WORLDREFUGEE DAY

The world is experiencing a serious refugee crisis; in 2015 almost 60 million people are living as refugees having fled violence and destitution. (See UNCHR report "World at War" on 2014 global trends). Across the world Oxfam marked World Refugee Day on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, with blogs, events, and publications to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world. Please watch and share!

- **From South Sudan - I Have a Name - Stories of Hope and Determination.** This beautiful short film highlights some of the struggles refugees have gone through since the conflict broke out in December 2013 in the world's youngest nation. In South Sudan 2M people forced to flee their home. See where people have fled [here](#) and read more about our work in South Sudan [here](#)
- **BLOG - Maya Mailer (@MayaMailer)**, Oxfam's Head of Humanitarian Policy & Campaigns, explains why we in civil society - and our political leaders - should be doing some serious soul-searching. [Sahrawi refugees](#)
- The Sahrawi refugees from **Western Sahara** fled from conflict into **Algeria** in 1975. Oxfam has been delivering humanitarian aid to Sahrawi refugees and raising Sahrawi voices at a global level since 1975. We recently published a briefing paper on the situation: **40 Years of Exile: Have the Sahrawi refugees been abandoned by the international community?**
- Somalia- Somali returnees from Yemen, survivors of a conflict that needs to end. Today we are facing a regional crisis that warrants our attention. A crisis that impacts within Somali shores and to a country dear to Somalis: Yemen. [Continue reading.](#)

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>