

# Oxfam in Uganda Humanitarian assistance to South Sudanese refugees

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http://www.oxfam.org/en/emergencies/southsudan



### **KEY FIGURES**

96,001 South Sudanese refugees in Uganda

36,440

People provided with humanitarian assistance by Oxfam

26,740

People reached with water

10,350

People reached with Hygiene and Sanitation

9,700

People reached with Emergency food security and vulnerable livelihoods

Reverse below: An Oxfam water bladder providing water in one of the settlements in Adjumani

#### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Conflict in South Sudan has forced more than 96,001 South Sudanese to flee to Uganda since 16 December 2013. Uganda currently hosts the largest share of the 204,000 refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries in recent months. Most refugees crossed the border at Elegu and Oraba, after which the Government of Uganda has settled them in the northern districts of Adjumani, Arua, and Kiryandongo.

As physical and food security in South Sudan continues to deteriorate, there are concerns of further influxes of South Sudanese refugees into Uganda and other neighbouring countries.

#### **OXFAM RESPONSE**

To date, Oxfam and our local partners have supported 36,440 refugees and members of Ugandan host communities by providing clean water for drinking and household needs, improving sanitation facilities, and promoting good hygiene to prevent disease outbreaks. We are also distributing energy-saving stoves and providing short-term jobs in a Cash-for-Work programme. In everything we do, we are engaged in national, regional, and international advocacy in order to encourage peace building and reconciliation.

Oxfam has been working in Uganda for over 40 years providing humanitarian assistance as well as long-term development work with some of the most vulnerable communities in the country. Working with local partners, Oxfam has helped over 700,000 people in the regions of West Nile, Acholiland, Lango, Teso, and Karamoja.

TOP: Women opening an access road in Simbili settlement, Arua under the Oxfam Cash-for-Work programme

#### PROVIDING CLEAN WATER

Oxfam is providing water to 26,740 people in the settlements in Arua and Adjumani.

We currently truck water from the Nile to refugee settlements as a short term measure while the number of boreholes is being increased. The water is thoroughly treated and tested before delivery and storage in tanks and bladders in the settlements.

For the longer term, Oxfam is drilling and rehabilitating boreholes to provide refugees with sustainable water sources. Boreholes are strategically drilled in areas that benefit both refugees and host communities so as to reduce resource strain and potential tensions, while ensuring everyone has access to water.

Oxfam is supplying approximately 14 litres of water to each person per day.

26,740

**REACHED WITH WATER** 

#### **SANITATION**

With few sanitation facilities available in the settlements, open defecation is common and increases the risk of water contamination and disease.

Oxfam is providing refugees with construction tools and materials including latrine slabs so they can construct household sanitary facilities. Over 400 households - with an average size of 5 members - have constructed latrines and bathing shelters with Oxfam's support.

2,000
REACHED WITH

#### **HYGIENE PROMOTION**

In addition to providing clean water and sanitation, Oxfam distributes relevant hygiene materials, including bar soap, basins, sanitary towels for women, children's potties, brooms, gumboots, gloves, and detergent, and promotes good hygiene practices including waste disposal. Hygiene promotion plays a key role in fostering ownership and sustainable use of water and sanitation facilities.

With the start of the rains in March, there is an increase in the use of stagnant water. Untreated, this stagnant water significantly raises the risk of disease. Oxfam's hygiene promoters have intensified household water treatment among the refugee settlements that still lack access to safe water.

Over 200 households in Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement and over 1,470 households in the settlements in Adjumani have received services related to the improvement of hygiene.

8,350 REACHED WITH HYGIENE PROMOTION

Right: Simbili host community recieving Cash for work payment after working with refugees in Simbili settlement, Arua



## EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY AND VULNERABLE LIVELIHOODS

**Energy-Saving Stove distribution** 

One of the biggest challenges facing refugees is accessing sufficient firewood to prepare meals. Refugees, typically women, have to walk long distances to collect firewood, putting them at risk of sexual assault. Harvesting wood can also create conflicts with host communities over the right to use local forests. To help refugees save time and make the limited firewood as efficient as possible, Oxfam has distributed Energy-Saving Stoves to over 2,038 households.

Cash-for-Work programme.

Oxfam is providing short-term employment to both refugees and host communities to help ensure that they can earn small amounts of money to meet basic needs. Oxfam's Cash-for-Work programme includes basic construction work like clearing access roads and digging waste pits. As newly-arrived refugees work alongside host community members, the initiative helps to minimize conflict between the different groups, and improves the infrastructure that they all share. To date, over 2,800 people have benefitted from the Cash-for-Work activities.

6,900
REACHED WITH ENERGY-SAVING STOVES

2,800 REACHED WITH CASH-FOR-WORK

