OXFAM’S WORK IN SOUTH SUDAN
Oxfam is an international confederation of 17 organizations working together with partners and local communities in more than 90 countries to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger, and injustice. We are part of a global movement for change, empowering people to create a future that is secure, just, and free from poverty. We work with people in more than 90 countries to create lasting solutions.

Oxfam has been working in South Sudan since 1983 on humanitarian response, governance, conflict resolution, advocacy, women’s rights, policy reform and recovery and resilience.

Cover picture: Nyawol Pui collecting clean water from one of the many Oxfam water points in Lankien town, Jonglei state. Stella Madete/Oxfam.
Following decades of fighting, South Sudan formally became an independent state in July 2011. There was high expectation for growth and many believed they would not see another conflict in the country they fought so hard and long for. Unfortunately, erupted in Juba in December 2013 and quickly transformed into a national, political and ethnic crisis. Since then, over 2 million people have been displaced and severe food insecurity and disrupted livelihoods and markets have left millions people severely food insecure.

Oxfam envisions a South Sudan that is free from poverty and injustice, in which all South Sudanese live in peace and dignity, equally enjoying their rights and fulfilling their responsibilities as full citizens of a state that operates effectively according to principles of good governance. We are responding to immediate life saving needs while addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality, linking with complementary development and campaigns approaches in order to build the resilience of vulnerable communities, and of women and girls in particular, against continued cycles of violence, displacement, and isolation for communities. Our work focuses on four pillars:

- **Saving lives, now and in the future:** Women and girls, people with special needs, and other vulnerable individuals and communities are more resilient to shocks, and when they do strike, have equitable access to adequate levels of safe, timely, and effective humanitarian assistance that addresses their particular needs and priorities, allowing them to survive in dignity.

- **Resilient Livelihoods:** Poor and vulnerable households and communities, and female headed households, male youths, and landless/displaced persons in particular, are able to meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life in a sustainable manner that is resilient to shocks, stress, and uncertainty.

- **Advancing Gender Justice:** Poor and vulnerable women and girls experience an improved quality of life, living in security and dignity, as a result of being empowered economically and socially to be transformative leaders and change agents within their households, communities, and nation.

- **Governance and active citizenship:** Poor and marginalised citizens of South Sudan, and their representatives in Civil Society, are better able to claim and access their rights from traditional, local and national authorities, institutions and systems that operate according to principles of good governance.

Oxfam currently operates in nine States implementing both humanitarian and long-term programmes. We have extensive experience implementing water, sanitation and hygiene, protection and gender programming in emergencies, as well as governance, gender justice, livelihoods, and peace-building programmes. We have a dedicated team working across South Sudan to help those affected by the conflict recover and rebuild.

- Oxfam has supported over 860,000 people with humanitarian assistance including clean water, hygiene facilities, food, fuel and income support. Of these, 540,000 have been provided with clean water, and education on good hygiene and sanitation practices, and 320,000 received either direct food aid or livelihoods support.

- Our development work includes food security and livelihood activities, peace building, governance and civil society support, often working with South Sudanese partners. We have reached over 350,000 people so far.
In emergencies, food and shelter, safe water and sanitation are the highest priorities when responding to people affected by conflict. In South Sudan, over 1.6 million people have been forced to flee their homes because of the ongoing conflict. Many are sheltered in protection of civilian sites and in informal settlements and camps, with no access to essential goods and services. Oxfam is working in South Sudan to help conflict-affected people gain access to safe, timely, and effective humanitarian assistance that addresses their particular needs and priorities, allowing them to survive in dignity. We are also working with communities to identify ways in which we can support long-term solutions to the recurrent problems that lead to conflict and lack of resources.

**ACCESS TO WATER**

More than 55 per cent of the people in South Sudan do not have access to safe water. People walk for long distances to collect unclean water from contaminated wells and ditches, leading to sickness. In conflict-affected areas, access to clean water is even more limited as many have fled their homes with little to nothing. Improving access to water is essential to transforming lives.

In Jonglei, Upper Nile, Central Equatoria, Unity Warrap and Lakes States, Oxfam is providing water to over 540,000 people through a network of taps, pipes, and water tanks that ensure that clean water is accessible to as many people as possible. This is achieved through water treatment and the borehole drilling.

Engaging with communities on access to clean water is an opportunity to dialogue on peace building and sustainable service delivery. In Western Bahrel Ghazal and Central Equatoria, Oxfam is working with the local community to reduce inter-communal conflict over access to and control of water resources. In partnership with the rural water department, we assessed the number of existing water sources, the number of people using them and areas prone to conflict and used the findings to inform our response plan.

Oxfam is also training water management committees and pump mechanics, selected by the communities they represent, to ensure that the boreholes are maintained long after we’re gone.

Images from left: Oxfam water points at the UN Camp in Juba; Food distribution in Mingkaman; Hygiene promotion in Melut. Petterick Wiggers; Pablo Tosco/Oxfam.

**ACCESS TO FOOD AND INCOME**

After the crisis broke out, many families were displaced from their homes and left without food or income, or any means to acquire either.

**Food and voucher distribution**

Oxfam coordinates monthly food drops and distributions to people displaced by the conflict as well as those hosting them. To supplement food distributions, we introduced cash and commodity vouchers that are used to buy food from local shopkeepers, reducing dependence on handouts and encouraging trade to slowly rebuild fractured markets.

**Fuel and fuel efficient stoves**

Lack of fuel to cook food is one of the biggest challenges facing people displaced from their homes. Leaving the camp to collect firewood is dangerous for women and buying charcoal from vendors is expensive and beyond the means of most. Oxfam distributes charcoal to provide a safe alternative. We also provide stoves that burn charcoal more efficiently, reducing the risk to women and children as they do not need to make as many dangerous trips to collect fuel.

**Livestock, fishing and income**

Oxfam is providing fishing nets and hooks to support fishermen improve their catch. We are also distributing cash vouchers to increase people’s purchasing power as well as vouchers that are exchanged for goats in the open air market.

**Agriculture**

Oxfam is distributing seeds and farming tools to displaced communities to cultivate vegetable gardens. These gardens are managed by the communities and provide a source of food and income for many. Oxfam is also providing fishing gear and training to fishermen to help increase their daily catch and income.

**ACCESS TO SANITATION**

Access to sanitation is a basic human right, but access to sanitation facilities is extremely poor. This has serious health implications, as it puts people at constant risk of preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid.

Oxfam is preventing the spread of disease by constructing latrines in camps and settlements to provide safe and sanitary spaces. Oxfam has built and repaired hundreds of community and household toilets in South Sudan since the crisis broke out. We have also constructed washing blocks and hand-washing stations for easy access to good hygiene and public health.

**Public Health**

Public health and hygiene promotion plays a key role in fostering individual and collective ownership, and sustainable use of water and sanitation facilities. Oxfam is contributing to improved hygiene and health through public discussions and home visits on best health and hygiene practices, and educational sessions with children. Oxfam was at the forefront of the Cholera response in Juba in 2014 and 2015, taking swift action to contain its spread. We are also:

- Distributing hygiene kits that contain buckets, soap and clean underwear to families can stay free of disease.
- Setting up and training hygiene committees and volunteers to manage and maintain water and sanitation facilities, promote good hygiene, as well as providing brushes, gloves and wheelbarrows to keep pumps, wells and toilets clean.
- Providing water kits, containing jerry cans, buckets and water treatment materials, so families can drink clean, safe water.

540,000 people now have access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.

320,000 people now have access to food and income.
Advancing the rights of people to adequate and sustainable livelihoods has been a cornerstone of Oxfam’s work for many decades.

The complex interaction between food, land, water and trade, competition over scarce resources, combined with price volatility, and the ongoing conflict in South Sudan, means that food systems are constantly being stressed. Oxfam is working with communities to address the root causes of these tensions, and finding innovative ways to address them, enabling them to meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life in a sustainable manner that is resilient to shocks, stress, and uncertainty.

Oxfam is training farmers on alternative farming methods and distributing farming tools, and seeds to promote cultivation in areas where possible. We are also conducting business training and providing cash grants to community members as capital to start businesses that will sustain them. They include fishing and farming groups, as well as entrepreneurs. Beyond focussing on increased food production, we are advocating for equality and economic diversity by connecting farmers and fishing cooperatives to markets. Oxfam supports these groups coming together to not only discuss production and income, but share their views on gender, governance and active citizenship.

We’re working with communities on natural resource management, disaster risk reduction and using alternative sources of energy. Oxfam piloted its first solar powered borehole in Rumbek and after its success improving harvest and quality of life, will roll out the project in other parts of Lakes state.

At Oxfam, we put women at the centre of all our work to ensure that vulnerable women and girls experience an improved quality of life, living in security and dignity, as a result of being empowered economically and socially. Women have the primary responsibility for managing the households but are often excluded from playing meaningful decision-making roles and/or holding influential positions of power.

Oxfam is currently implementing a gender justice programme that advocates for the elimination of all violence against women. We have set up protection committees at village and payam levels that are safe spaces for women to address issues that they face. With support from national partners, we provide free medical support, legal advice, and referrals so that survivors are able to access justice at county and national level.

300,000 people accessed training, tools, and seeds to increase their land’s yield and feed their families.

8,900 people were supported by our Gender Justice work.
Overcoming the legacy of decades of conflict in South Sudan requires balancing multiple priorities: meeting urgent humanitarian needs; building core state functions and capacities; and addressing the causes of insecurity. There is limited opportunity for people to exercise their right as active citizens because of limited access and the ongoing conflict.

Oxfam is helping communities recover from one of the world’s longest conflicts with our governance and peace building programmes. We are supporting marginalised citizens of South Sudan, and their representatives in Civil Society, better claim and access their rights from traditional, local and national authorities, institutions and systems that operate according to principles of good governance.

We work closely with the county departments to ensure that our strategies are aligned and that our work is sustainable. We have held various training and planning workshops with members of the county government, focussing on annual planning, budget management and monitoring and evaluation among other things. We also work with over ten local organisations in the Greater Equatoria to widen the reach and impact of our work by facilitating training on financial systems, project cycle management, fund raising and advocacy.

Oxfam is working with civil society organisations (CSOs), communities and power-holders, to promote good and transparent governance. At national and local levels, Oxfam brings together key stakeholders to dialogue on issues affecting communities. Projects range from building civil society networks, to promoting civil society engagement in legislation and ensuring government accountability. We are also supporting exchange visits between counties, communities and organisations to encourage shared learning.

Oxfam works with County governments and leadership structures to develop strategies to better engage with communities and that community members are encouraged to demand accountability from their governments and for Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to be accountable to them as well.

Oxfam is one of a small handful of organizations conducting campaigning and advocacy on South Sudan that is responsive to priorities and developments on the ground. We are not only a leading humanitarian and development agency, but we also put campaigning and influencing at the center of everything we do. We ensure that our analysis is shaped by context and informed by the concerns of the people we suport, and local civil society. We use our network of dedicated and well-connected advocates and media colleagues in capitals such as London, Washington DC, Addis Ababa and Nairobi to inform the international community about humanitarian conditions and protection concerns and direct actionable recommendations to influential targets globally.

Oxfam has consistently spoken out on key issues, being one of the few operational agencies to do so both publicly and privately. We seek to address the root causes of conflict and poverty in South Sudan and increasingly do this through partnering with civil society, building their capacity to be more influential as agents of change in their communities and at a national level. We actively lobby local, national and international institutions to prioritize civilian protection, access to humanitarian aid, gender justice and food security in South Sudan.

Oxfam’s water brief, “A City Exposed: Clean water runs dry in Juba, South Sudan,” developed by the advocacy and campaigns team based on research carried out by our water and sanitation experts, highlights the rising cost of water amid the ongoing cholera outbreak. It received significant media attention from national, regional and international media, drawing attention to the unfolding crisis from all corners of the world. Oxfam’s rapid response and advocacy work surrounding the report triggered high level conversations, setting the agenda for discussions on the sheer scale of the outbreak and the need for additional resources to contain it.

Our research and work on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) mandate renewal positioned us as one of the lead agencies advocating on protection of civilians, with many of Oxfam’s recommendations included in the new mandate. Oxfam also produced, “From Crisis to Catastrophe,” a briefing paper that made the explicit link between conflict and food insecurity and set out the steps humanitarian agencies, parties to the conflict, the Government of South Sudan, the UN Security Council, UNMISS and the international community must take to prevent a worse situation in 2015. The paper established Oxfam as a lead mobiliser and coordinator of NGOs on difficult and sensitive issues.

We also raise the voices of the South Sudanese people that have been affected by the conflict, making sure they are heard globally.
Oxfam’s WORK in South Sudan

Oxfam has a dedicated team working across South Sudan to rebuild livelihoods, provide humanitarian assistance and promote active citizenship. We focus on providing clean water, public health and livelihoods support, and work with partners on peace building and governance issues. We have supported over 8,000,000 people in South Sudan with humanitarian assistance and over 350,000 with long term development and support.

Number of people reached from 2014 - 2015.

868,000
Humanitarian work.

350,000
Development.

1,201,800
Total number of people reached with Oxfam support.