



Oxfam
America



Oxfam America in Central Africa

A sapling. A stove. A faucet with clean running water. A grant to start a small business. A pathway to peace for neighbors at war. Oxfam America's programs in the Darfur region of Sudan are helping hundreds of thousands of people meet their needs—not just for health and safety, but for dignity and well-being.

The conflict that erupted in Darfur, Sudan, in 2003 resulted in one of the largest humanitarian disasters in the world. More than two million people have fled their homes to the relative safety of camps for displaced people. In 2010—with no end in sight to the fighting—violence is still uprooting rural communities. Oxfam America is helping more than 275,000 displaced Darfuris protect their health and safety and live with dignity in the temporary settlements that have become home.

Stoves that save lives

The trek for firewood in Darfur, which grows longer each year as the forests recede, is a very dangerous one: The countryside is rife with armed groups, and women and girls who leave the camps face the risk of assault and even death. Oxfam America is working with two partners to manufacture and distribute more than 9,000 stoves that are 75% more efficient than the traditional version—a project that is serving both to protect the environment and to reduce gender-based violence. Reducing fuel needs also helps those who can manage to purchase wood in the marketplace: Lower fuel costs means

more money is available for school fees, food, and other necessities.

“Because it is clean water, we don't have diseases...”

Without clean water and the means of disposing of waste safely, crowded camps provide an ideal environment for the outbreak and spread of deadly diseases like cholera. Oxfam and two local partners have installed wells, water tanks, pipes, generators, pumps, and taps to deliver clean water to 175,000 people in the camps of northern Darfur, and we are expanding our operations southward.

“The clean water we get is what we want for eating, for drinking, for bathing, for washing, for taking care of our children,” a camp resident recently told a visitor. “Because it's clean water, we don't have diseases or health problems. Isn't it good!”

We are also providing sanitation facilities and materials for more than 225,000 people. Our staff and partners join forces with community members to continuously raise awareness about the importance of hygiene in preventing disease.

“Oxfam America has the know-how and the right programmatic approach... [and] is a moving force of organization and sheer proficiency.”

Andrew Pendleton, Northern Darfur Area Coordinator, UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

What is Oxfam America?

Oxfam America is an international relief and development organization that creates lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and injustice. Together with individuals and local groups in more than 90 countries, Oxfam saves lives, helps people overcome poverty, and fights for social justice. We are one of the 14 affiliates in the international confederation Oxfam.



Working together to end poverty and injustice

“Security is not tanks and armies and machine guns. It is perception.”

Ahmed Adam Yousif, Director, Ajaweed Organization for Peace and Reconciliation, an Oxfam America partner

A dignified living

Oxfam America and two partners offer grants and small-business loans—as well as assets like donkeys, donkey carts, and plows—to help many of those affected by the conflict earn a decent living. Much of our work focuses on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable camp residents, such as women and disabled men who are supporting families, but we are also assisting farmers in rural areas outside the major towns and camps.

“A vulnerable widow who had nothing in the past now has something. The donkey cart program helped people earn an income,” says a community leader in a camp near El Fasher. “These programs have really improved the lives of our people.”

Healing the wounds of war

In many parts of Darfur, the conflict has created a dangerous climate of fear, killings, and reprisals. An Oxfam America partner recently completed a year-long program to help revive a traditional conflict-resolution system and restore harmony among three neighboring tribes in northeastern Darfur whose relations had been badly damaged by the conflict. The project involved intertribal cultural and sporting events and the formation of a committee to resolve disputes between the communities; it ended with a pledge from leaders to promote trust, prosperity, and peaceful coexistence.

Front: In the camps for displaced people, Oxfam America and our Sudanese partners are making sure that the water flowing from taps and pumps is healthy and clean. *Eva-Lotta Jansson / Oxfam America*

Above: Oxfam partners are giving a hand to women and disabled men who are supporting dependents, providing them with the materials and training they need to start small businesses. *Elizabeth Stevens / Oxfam America*

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