
Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date:	6 April 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	SL/LP/027/17
Contact Officer:	Sharon Lang	Contact No:	01475 712112
Subject:	Oxfam Emergency Appeal – East Africa Food Crisis – Request by Councillor McCabe		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of a request received from Councillor McCabe that the Council considers supporting the Oxfam Emergency Appeal relative to the East Africa Food Crisis. The appendix provides information on the countries involved, the extent of the crisis and Oxfam's response.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has previously donated £10,000 to the Ebola Appeal, £10,000 to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal, £10,000 to the Malawi Food Crisis Appeal and £10,000 to the Yemen Crisis Appeal, all from the Contingencies Fund.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council considers the request by Councillor McCabe.

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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EAST AFRICA FOOD CRISIS MARCH 2017

"In this day and age, we should not be seeing people dying simply because there is not enough to eat. We should all take a share of the responsibility."

Dorothy Sang, Oxfam Humanitarian Campaigns Manager, South Sudan

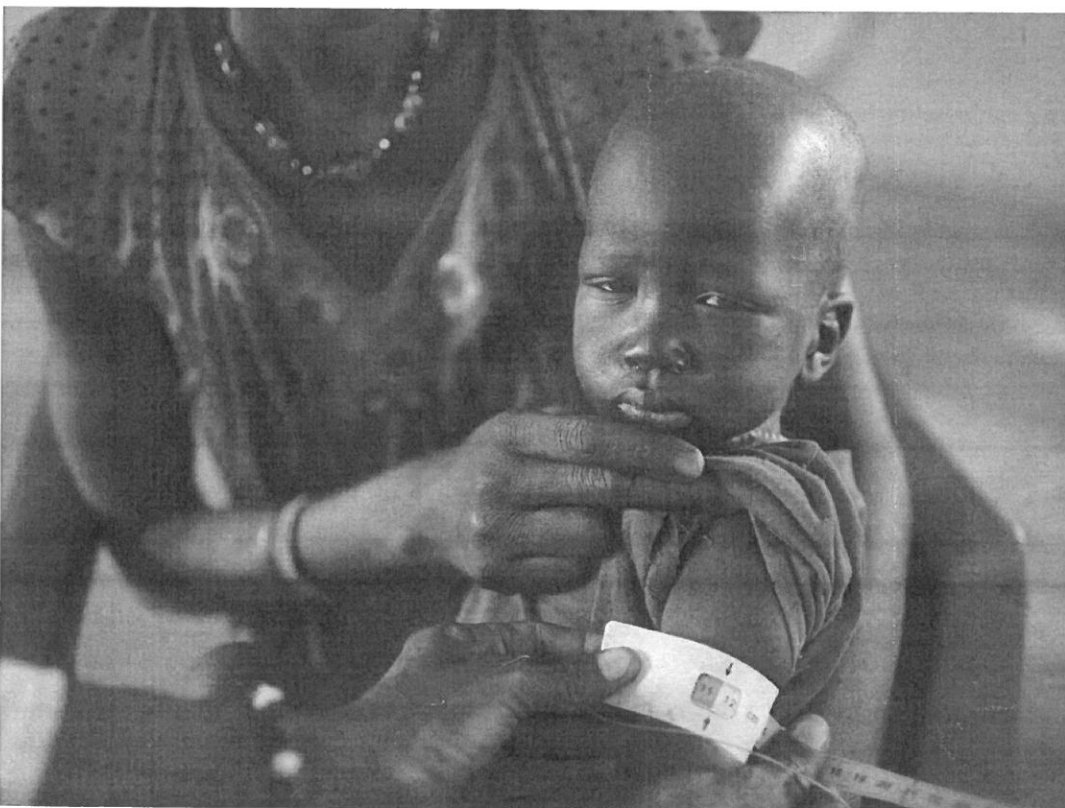
East Africa is in the grip of a devastating food crisis. Millions of families are facing starvation because of droughts in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Famine has been declared in parts of conflict-stricken South Sudan. We urgently need to scale up our efforts to save more lives.

More than **19 million people** across East Africa are facing terrifying food shortages. Drought has caused crops to fail and cattle to die in parts of Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya – leaving millions facing starvation and desperately seeking a safe source of water. Brutal war in South Sudan has driven more than 3 million people from their homes and left millions more in need of emergency food.

Famine has been declared in the worst affected areas; the first time famine has been declared anywhere in the world since 2011.

Right now, many families are surviving only on what they can find to eat and coping with the excruciating physical pain of hunger on a daily basis. Tragically, some people are already paying the ultimate price in this crisis.

Malnutrition is having a devastating impact and as ever, children are among the worst affected. Not only is it claiming lives but it also poses a serious threat to a child's long-term development - and their ability to fight off disease. It is absolutely vital that we provide clean water as well as food – water-borne diseases can spread quickly in situations like this. This has grave consequences when people are already weak from hunger – and children are especially vulnerable.



George* sits on his mother's lap as health personnel take his measurements to determine his nutrition level. There are 208 malnutrition cases in this hospital of SAM (severe acute malnutrition) and MAM (moderate acute malnutrition) according to the nutritionist. This doesn't include the many adults facing extreme hunger in the area.

Last year, Oxfam reached over 10,000 people with clean and safe water in Nyal and Ganyiel in Panyijar County, having installed every borehole in the county.

Nyal, Unity State, South Sudan

*Name has been changed

Photo: Bruno Bierrenbach Feder/
Oxfam

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CURRENT SITUATION

In Ethiopia this year, an estimated 300,000 children will become severely acutely malnourished and it is expected that 9.2 million people will not have a regular supply of safe drinking water. 5.6 million people urgently need food.

In Kenya, the arid and semi-arid lands and coastal areas are worst affected. 2.7 million people are considered severely at risk. Malnutrition rates have reached a critical level.

In Somalia, the UN has been warning of a famine. The number of people in need of emergency food aid has doubled in the last six months to 6.2 million. Over 360,000 acutely malnourished children are in urgent need of support.

In South Sudan, ongoing conflict means that 7.5 million people are now in need of humanitarian assistance. Half the country's population are expected to be affected by extreme hunger by July – and famine has already been declared in parts of the country.

OXFAM'S RESPONSE

Despite some reports that aid isn't getting through, we are on the ground and reaching some of the worst affected regions.

- Throughout South Sudan, Oxfam is providing water and sanitation to help people avoid diseases like cholera and diarrhoea, which can lead to malnutrition and prove fatal. In the past year alone, we have helped over 600,000 people across the country.
- We are also providing travel vouchers for people to take canoes to reach food distributions – thereby ensuring that the most vulnerable people who are sheltering from the conflict on remote islands can access aid.
- In Ethiopia we are water trucking to 280,000 people in the Somali region.
- In Somalia we plan to reach over 200,000 people with clean water, sanitation and cash assistance for food.

We urgently need to get food and clean water to women, men and children facing starvation. It's a race against time to save lives.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The below are indicative costs associated with our programme work in East Africa:

Project Activity	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Provide people with clean, drinkable water for a month, through trucking activities	1,000 people	£5 per person	£5,000
Help a family meet their food needs for a month	400 families	£37 per month	£14,800
Provide 15,000 people with access to life-saving clean water through the rehabilitation of water points	3 water points (each reaching approx. 5,000 people)	£8,000 per water point	£24,000

*A small percentage of your donation is retained for essential governance, management and financial control (10%).

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING OXFAM'S LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE TODAY.