

Dear supporters of Oxfam Japan,

I head Oxfam's programmes in South Darfur, where we are providing life-saving assistance to nearly 200,000 people, and I have seen first-hand the incredible impact your donations are having here. I am from Darfur; I was born here and have lived here all my life, and I am incredibly proud of the work that Oxfam is doing here, with your help. On behalf of our staff and the Darfuri people who depend on us I would like to say thank you.

The money you have raised will help us continue to provide people with clean, safe water and sanitation systems. The people who have fled their homes and are living in the camps have no other way of getting clean water. Your support is also helping us carry out health education to fight the spread of fatal diseases such as cholera and malaria. When so many people are living in such crowded camps these diseases can spread fast, and are particularly deadly for the most vulnerable members of society ? women and children.

I have worked for Oxfam for many years. I was here at the start of the crisis, when the camps were first set up. When I first visited Kalma camp, where more than 90,000 people have sought refuge, many people were dying from malnutrition and lack of clean water. Thanks to the generous support of people around the world we have managed to greatly improve conditions ? mortality rates have been slashed and people now have access to the safe water that every human being needs and deserves.

However, the conflict continues. People are still being attacked; they are still fleeing their homes and arriving in camps; and they do not expect to be able to return home any time soon. The money you have raised helps us make more long-term plans. We are saving lives by providing emergency assistance, but we are increasingly looking to help communities reduce their dependency on outside aid.

We are providing livelihood opportunities to allow people to better support themselves and maintain their basic human dignity. We are training

people as carpenters, builders, veterinarians ? all skills that they can use in their new environment in the camps. We are also investing in helping communities better manage their scarce natural resources, such as water, for years to come. In many parts of Darfur such resources are in short supply.

All of this work is done in close coordination with local communities. We have trained committees to manage water pumps and maintain latrines. Your support is not just providing people with emergency assistance ? it is helping them to help themselves.

Once again, I would like to say thank you for your support that makes this work possible.

Yagoub Osman  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yagoub Osman', is centered on a light blue rectangular background. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract, with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line extending to the left.