

Think country information

Liberia: Infrastructure

For Oxfam Water Week 2013, all money raised by schools and communities went towards supporting an irrigation project in Liberia. The video describes the benefits that improved water infrastructure has brought to farming communities, specifically farmers in the lowland swamps of Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties in south-east Liberia. This has enabled these communities to work hard to overcome their water problems.

Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world – 182nd out of 187. 57.5% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Ten years after the end of a protracted civil war, Liberia is still struggling to rebuild. Agricultural production in particular has failed to recover from the destruction, and the country now has to import most of its rice, the main staple food. Today, a third of the population is undernourished and very vulnerable to food price increases.



Chad and Angola: Conflict

The conflict film clip concerns issues resulting from conflict in two different areas in Africa.

The first conflict region is Sudan and shows pupils what Oxfam did to help refugees living in displacement camps in Chad. Oxfam workers drilled boreholes and monitored supplies to provide water for thousands of homeless people.

The second conflict region is Angola, in south-west Africa. Decades of civil war in Angola destroyed much of the country's infrastructure and displaced huge numbers of people. This film clip shows what Oxfam did in the Angolan city of Kuito. Conflict devastated the city's buildings and infrastructure, as well as routes in and out of Kuito, which means supplies had to be brought in by air. Oxfam provided water on the ground by drilling boreholes and building wells. It also ran hygiene promotion programmes where communities taught themselves how to stay clean while operating the pumps and using the makeshift latrines. In emergency situations, Oxfam also hands out hygiene packs containing soap and other sanitary materials, to enable people to use good hygiene practices.



Zimbabwe and Uganda: Drought

The drought film clip concerns issues resulting from drought in two different areas in Africa.

The first region suffering from drought is Zimbabwe, in southern Africa. People in Zimbabwe are struggling because of recent dry spells that have continued through the country's agricultural season. This film clip shows pupils what Oxfam is doing to help farmers who rely on crops for their livelihoods. With water at a premium, effective irrigation and water storage is critical. Oxfam workers are helping to install 'drip kits' that control the flow of water to irrigation channels and save local people both water and time. This allows local people to meet the challenge of drought.

The second region suffering from drought is Uganda. Oxfam worked with local people to find better ways to protect water supplies in the face of unpredictable weather caused by climate change. This film clip investigates the idea of communities planting of trees because the roots gather moisture and protect soil from wind and rain while the branches act as a wind break.



Ethiopia and Haiti: Water Infrastructure

The water infrastructure film clip concerns issues resulting from people not having enough water infrastructure in two countries in different parts of the world.

The first region suffering from problems with water infrastructure is Ethiopia in north-east Africa. With much of the country caught in the grip of poverty, current water infrastructure is not always sufficient. Indeed, access to water and sanitation in Ethiopia is amongst the lowest in the world. Without such access, many Ethiopians are forced to live without proper sanitation and to walk for hours to collect water. Oxfam is working to improve water infrastructure throughout the country. This film clip shows pupils the difference that a simple water pump can make to a village that previously lacked a water supply.

The second region suffering because of issues with water infrastructure is Haiti in the Caribbean. In January 2010, a catastrophic earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti, and the surrounding region. Estimates of the numbers killed run into the hundreds of thousands, while over a million people were made homeless. With so much of Haiti's infrastructure destroyed and so many people displaced, emergency assistance was needed to help provide water and sanitation to the survivors. The country declared a state of emergency, indicating the need for assistance to deliver basic services. This film clip shows Oxfam working to provide water to displacement camps through the use of water trucks and water storage facilities.



Around the world: Floods

The floods film clip concerns issues resulting from flooding and other climate related problems experienced around the world. The film clip was made in the run-up to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009. With most world leaders attending, much was made of the fact that the conference was a golden opportunity for the world to make collaborative progress towards the goal of reducing the effects of climate change.

This film clip highlights the importance of campaigning to achieve long-term solutions to water vulnerability. It shows footage from a number of 'climate change hearings' that were held around the world to generate momentum as the conference approached. People from around the world who had been affected by changes in the weather took to podiums to tell stories about their plight and to urge politicians to work together to find a solution. Oxfam is working to encourage people to talk to each other and to talk to politicians. It is imperative that people work together to find global solutions as the effects of climate change continue to have a drastic impact upon the lives of the most vulnerable people in the world.