

Case study

CS07

Client: Oxfam and Tearfund

Project: Groundwater resource assessment

Location: Darfur, Sudan

Date: 2007 to 2008

Project Background

OXFAM and Tearfund have both been involved with emergency relief work in Darfur since the current crisis started in 2003. Over 2 million displaced people currently live in crowded camps each with populations of several tens of thousands. To respond to the initial emergency requirement for water supply in the camps, hundreds of boreholes were drilled. To date these have proved remarkably successful.



With the conflict showing no sign of ending, and water use increasing beyond domestic and health use into applications such as brick making and even re-sale for income generation, the longer term sustainability of groundwater supplies has become a focus of investigative work by both agencies in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). One part of this work requires groundwater levels in boreholes to be monitored so that factors such as responses to rainfall recharge events, natural seasonal variations and depletion from over abstraction can be studied.

The Waterra Solution

Following a series of Levellogger sales to Oxfam and Tearfund in 2007 and subsequent discussions with technical staff at both aid agencies, Waterra offered to provide free training to personnel involved with water resource projects in Darfur. Three workshops were given in the first half of 2008 and training material provided through trainees to others in Darfur. The courses have been tailored to provide field staff with the skills and confidence to efficiently use loggers in the field. Particular emphasis is placed on the adoption of good quality control measures which improve the accuracy and validation of logger data.

The Benefits for Oxfam and Tearfund

The provision of training by Waterra, has enabled Oxfam and Tearfund to improve the core skills of their technical staff travelling to Darfur and for them in turn to cascade this training to other team members based in Darfur. This knowledge is being put to immediate use in a programme of Levellogger installations scheduled for May and June 2008.

Right: The Levellogger and Leveloader products supplied by Waterra to Oxfam and Tearfund are helping these agencies to monitor and manage the groundwater resource in Darfur.



Oxfam

Tearfund



"I am really grateful for Waterra coming to train us and raise our awareness on loggers. It was a "must-have" training session. Thank you for giving us your time, and being prepared to walk this one through with us."

Frank Greaves,
Programme Development Advisor,
Water and Sanitation, Tearfund

"The introduction of Levelloggers in Darfur has enabled Oxfam to retrieve invaluable monitoring data, thereby better safeguarding the groundwater resources which sustain the massive relief camps. We are extremely grateful to Waterra for their continued support and assistance."

St John Day,
Watsan Co-ordinator,
Darfur, Oxfam

