

Case Study: Tearfund, South Sudan

Cash-based humanitarian assistance

The Challenge

Violent clashes between the Government and opposition forces began in Juba, South Sudan in December 2013, and soon spread to other parts of the country, sparking the South Sudanese Civil War. The conflict forced many people to flee their homes, with millions left malnourished by drought and extreme weather conditions.

The Solution

Tearfund identified that cash transfer programming is a dignifying way of supporting people in need and that it could be an effective method of providing humanitarian aid in South Sudan.

In 2018, Tearfund proceeded to implement a cash transfer pilot programme in Juba, South Sudan. The aim of the two-month pilot, which supported 500 households and approximately 2,500 people, was to test how smart card technology could be used in remote areas to provide vulnerable families with access to food and other vital items that they needed to live.

The programme utilised sQuid's digital cash-based assistance technology that distributed funds via contactless smart cards to beneficiaries. Each household was issued with a sQuid multi-wallet contactless smart card and received \$120 per month, with funds split in to two wallets – one for food and goods, and one for cash.

The funds were pre-loaded on the smart cards in local currency and were used by beneficiaries to buy food, goods, and to access services from locally contracted Tearfund vendors, who were equipped with sQuid's mobile Point of Sale (POS) devices.

This successful pilot programme and digital delivery of funds enabled Tearfund to trace each payment to the intended beneficiary and account for every dollar - improving programme transparency, accountability and providing households with the food and support desperately needed in this war-torn country.



sQuid's cash-based assistance solution for Tearfund included:

-  Funds distributed via multi-wallet contactless smart cards
-  Programme management and analytics hub
-  Digital accounts for beneficiaries
-  Full training and in-field support

"I have run a number of projects in South Sudan, but none of them have given the same positive feedback from beneficiaries as this. The smart cards make their lives easier – they feel less exposed, more confident and less stressed. They feel like they can live again."

Paola Castiati, Global Cash Specialist, Tearfund

The Results



\$120k

Distributed over
2 months



500

Households
supported



2,500

Beneficiaries
(*estimated*)



5

Vendor locations
equipped with
mobile PoS devices



For more information:

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