

(WORLD)



KEIRA KNIGHTLEY WITH REBECCA KARKWASNI, 25, WHO IS RAISING FIVE CHILDREN ALONE SINCE HER HUSBAND DIED IN APRIL

KEIRA KNIGHTLEY: DISPATCHES FROM SUDAN

Civil war in South Sudan has ravaged the country, leaving millions homeless and starving. Keira Knightley tells *Stylist* about her recent visit to the area with Oxfam

What shocked you most when you visited South Sudan?

I try to keep abreast of current affairs and what's going on around the world, and you think you get used to images of conflict and poverty. But standing in the middle of a refugee camp, with thousands of people crushed into an area you could walk around in 20 minutes, where there's raw sewage everywhere and where the latrines have collapsed because the rainy season has hit, it

really makes you go, "F**k. This is *horrendous*." The fear in the air is palpable, but you feel powerless.

Some of the women you met were of a similar age to you but have such different lives. How did you relate to them?

It made me realise how fortunate I am to live where I do and to have had the life that I've had, but also that, emotionally, we are essentially all the same. I spoke to one woman, Nyanyier, who had lost her husband and two children in the conflict, and asked how she felt. She said she wanted to take her own life but felt God wouldn't let her, and that she had to stay strong for her other children. She was heartbroken; I could relate to that. I asked

another woman, Rebecca, who had also lost her husband, what she missed most about him. She said, "I miss the way he holds me. I miss the way he plays with the children and I miss the way he makes me laugh." In the same situation, I know I'd say the very same thing.

What's the most inspiring thing you experienced out there?

The spirit of the people. This conflict took everybody by surprise, nobody was prepared

for it, yet out of that chaos, order has been achieved. You go into camps and you've got politicians, teachers and doctors and they've tried to create as much structure as possible, by building medical centres and schools. Being in this terrible situation yet still making the best of what you've got takes incredible strength. Oxfam is out there building latrines, installing water pumps and getting food to the area, but they urgently need more funds. Anything people can give, I can personally promise it's going to a good cause.

Donate at oxfam.org.uk/southsudan or text DONATE to 70066 to give £5. Texts cost £5 plus standard network rates. £25 can provide a family of six with food for two months; £5 provides food for two people for a month.



SINGING A SONG TO TEACH REFUGEE CHILDREN ABOUT SAFE HYGIENE PRACTICES