

TOOL OF THE TRADE

Oxfam bucket

Name Charlie Damon.

Job Humanitarian worker.

Where Oxfam Australia (east Asia program).

Why is it important? In an emergency, clean water is usually hard to access: an earthquake may have broken a pipe, or water is contaminated by floods. The Oxfam bucket enables communities affected by disaster to keep the water delivered to them clean. It has a lid and a tap, so it is a key aspect of our humanitarian response.

What do your colleagues think? Oxfam developed the bucket, and our water and sanitation engineers say it has been a fantastic development in technology. Before that families would store the clean water in dirty containers or whatever they had. Communities love it because it's easy to use – it has a tap on it – and also people can carry it on their head or shoulders.

Unusual moment? When I was in the Solomon Islands in 2007, we were doing an earthquake and tsunami response. I saw families who had lost their homes use the bucket as a mini-rainwater tank: they ran the water off the roof into the bamboo gutter, where it poured into a bucket. I was particularly fascinated by the creativity.

How much does it cost? About \$15. We have stocks in countries we think might need them. Donations to our international crisis fund go to things such as clean water.
oxfam.org.au.

SUE WHITE



Coming clean: Charlie Damon.