

# Oxfam launches million dollar appeal for Rwanda

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LONDON, April 14 (Reuter) - British aid agency Oxfam launched a nationwide appeal on Thursday saying it needed more than a million pounds (\$1.5 million) to help tens of thousands of refugees fleeing bloodshed in Rwanda.

The death of Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana in a rocket attack on his plane last week sparked a wave of tribal bloodletting in the tiny central African state.

"We're going to see an appalling crisis," Oxfam spokesman John Magrath told Reuters. "Everyone I've talked to is extremely worried...We desperately need money from the public."

He said Oxfam was providing immediate help to 50,000 people using all the equipment it has in stock. "We're going to spend over one million pounds and that is probably just the start."

Funds raised would be used to provide shelter, water supplies, blankets and clothing for a tidal wave of refugees already flooding into nearby Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania.

He said Oxfam was particularly anxious about the fate of 300,000 Burundian refugees who fled to Rwanda before the current crisis. "Where they're going to go nobody knows," Magrath said.

He said Oxfam feared for the safety of 19 of its aid workers in Rwanda who have not been seen since the violence began.

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