



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

Bring the Gospel of Christ, and providing food, clean water, shelter, and medical care, to the people of South Sudan

Sudan Relief Fund provides emergency food aid for the suffering people of Panykang County

Little more than 12 miles south of the city of Malakal in South Sudan, Panykang County is a war-torn place where innocent people are suffering terribly.

The Malakal area has changed hands six times in the last year. Some of the worst atrocities have been committed there. More than 100 civilians were ruthlessly killed in Panykang County just a few weeks ago. That gives you an idea of just how bad things are in the county.

Most of the people are living day to day. The constant, and incredibly intense, fighting has decimated the local farming economy, resulting in chronic food shortages. But the shortage of food has recently become a much more urgent crisis. That's why Brother Bernhard Hengl, Project Coordinator of the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference, reached out to Sudan Relief Fund requesting emergency food aid.

Thanks to the prayers and financial contributions of our generous supporters, we were able to provide this food relief. And do so quickly, since timing was critical to prevent widespread starvation.

The emergency food aid the Sudan Relief Fund provided consisted of three important parts:

1. We immediately distributed sorghum to the local people, because sorghum — a crop common to Africa since ancient times — could be delivered quickly to prevent starvation.
2. Dispatching supplies of cooking oil, sugar, salt, soap, household items and fishing gear soon followed.
3. Then we sent seeds and farming tools the people can use to grow their own food. And we will possibly send cattle in the near future, if security improves.

We are grateful to Sister Elena for her outstanding work in arranging the delivery of this food aid to the hungry souls of Panykang County. There are no banks operating in the region. So locals are forced to use so-called "private agents" for commercial transactions — who often take advantage of them by charging excessive "transaction fees." Sister Elena coordinated delivery of our food aid by working directly with local traders instead of the agents.

We are also thankful to caring people like you, because your prayerful support enabled the Sudan Relief Fund to feed the hungry people of Panykang County. You will find a reply form and envelope included with this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*. Your generosity again today will further our mission of bringing the Gospel of Christ — and providing food, shelter and medical care — to the deserving souls of South Sudan.



Getting emergency food into the hands of the hungry in Panykang County was made possible by the generosity of Sudan Relief Fund supporters.

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LIFESAVING THERAPEUTIC FOOD SUPPLEMENTS REACH MOTHER OF MERCY HOSPITAL

Fifteen metric tons of lifesaving therapeutic food supplements have completed their long journey to reach Dr. Tom Catena at the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains. These supplements — known as “Plumpy’Nut” and “Plumpy’Sup” — treat children suffering from severe malnutrition. Edesia, a non-profit company in Providence, RI, manufactures these “ready-to-eat” products.

The food supplements were loaded onto a 20-foot container boat in Boston. After a long voyage, the ship eventually reached Mombasa, Kenya. From there, the supplements were shipped by truck to Lokichoggio, Kenya, and held through the rainy season. Once the rainy season ended, the supplements were flown to the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan. Then finally transported by truck to Dr. Tom in the Nuba Mountains.

The Whitton-Spector Foundation generously paid for the supplements and the expense of shipping them by boat. The Sudan Relief Fund paid for the air flights. And the Diocese of El Obeid in Nairobi and Tashtego Films in New York City are among the many organizations and individuals whose efforts over many months helped overcome the challenges in getting Plumpy’Nut and Plumpy’Sup to the child patients at Mother of Mercy Hospital.



Dr. Tom and his staff use Plumpy’Nut and Plumpy’Sup to nourish children as young as six months.

Sudan Relief Fund Helping Train New Nurses and Midwives

A recent report put the population of South Sudan at 8.26 million, probably based on the last census. But there are many people in far-flung isolated parts of

A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

Simply put, the death and destruction from the continuing war in South Sudan is unrelenting.

And I’ll be honest. Witnessing the savagery inflicted on these poor souls takes a toll on all of us.

But the Sudan Relief Fund and our beloved Catholic Church remain steadfast in our commitment to stay close to the people. Every day, we wake up determined to save lives, feed the hungry, provide shelter and keep our parish communities intact.

Yes, it is a most difficult task. Yet we know that with God’s Grace and your prayerful support, all things are possible. And we ARE making progress. So much good is happening through your partnership with us!

But so much remains to be done -- because the war and hunger just go on and on with no end in sight. We’re literally overwhelmed by the desperate calls for emergency food aid for small children, even little babies. Won’t you help us answer these calls?

Please say, “YES!” Please continue blessing the people of South Sudan with your Christian charity and loving gift today. I am so grateful for all you’ve done in the past. And I pray you will send another gift NOW -- with so many lives hanging in the balance. Thank you and God bless you!

Yours in faith,

Neil Corkery
President

this new nation who were almost certainly not counted. This has some estimating that the actual population is closer to 11 million.

There are currently only 158 Registered Nurses (RNs) in the country to serve all of its 11 million people. Of those, the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau has trained 49. Each has completed three years of full-time training, including “hands on” clinical practice.

The number of registered midwives in the country is 79, of whom CHTI has trained 18. Like RNs, midwives are desperately needed in South Sudan. CHTI offers three years of full-time training for midwives. Some schools in the country offer shorter training periods, but CHTI opts for longer preparation because it is committed to graduating students prepared to offer their patients higher quality care. Moreover, many so-called “health professionals” in South Sudan have had very little of even the most basic training.

CHTI has recently graduated a class of six women and eighteen men as Registered Nurses, and a class of seven women and eleven men as midwives. All CHTI students learn academically in English, which is not their first language. They know Arabic, which is a great help to them since patients in South Sudan are more fluent in Arabic than English. A dedicated team of doctors, nurse, tutors and administration staff (all religious brothers and sisters) pass on their professional knowledge and skills to the students. They frequently remark on the perseverance demonstrated by the students, as well as the growth in confidence, poise, and maturity they develop throughout their course of study.

At the Sudan Relief Fund, we are dedicated to training more Registered Nurses and midwives through our support of CHTI.

Special thanks to Br. Bill Firman, FSC, Executive Director of Solidarity with South Sudan, for his help in the preparation of this story.



Students in the midwifery program at the Catholic Health Training Institute, which receives support from the Sudan Relief Fund.

Sudan Relief Fund provides lunch program for Loreto Girls' Secondary School

Education is one of the many casualties of the continuing war in South Sudan. Teachers and students are pressed into fighting or must flee as refugees. School buildings have been burned down and teaching institutes closed. Those who are fortunate enough to receive an education do so in informal schools, under trees, or outside the country.

As a result, the overall adult literacy rate in South Sudan is estimated to be 27 percent, with women having a literacy rate of only 16 percent. And the literacy rates are even lower in rural and agrarian areas.

Thanks in part to supporters of the Sudan Relief Fund, the Loreto Girls' Secondary School, run by the Sisters of Loreto, can provide the 170 young women with an island of stability in this war-torn country.

All of the students at the school are on some form of scholarship. But they still must rely on their poor families to supply some of their daily needs. The poverty of the pupil population in Loreto means that the school needs to raise almost \$2,000 per student for its continued operation.

The girls at the school all have family members living in terribly dangerous, life-threatening conditions. Despite these stresses, Loreto provides these young women a stable and safe environment to pursue their academic goals. Much of these funds come from the generous contributions of the supporters of the Sudan Relief Fund. Lunch is the most expensive meal and the major protein source for students. The simple and nutritious food enables students to pursue their studies without having to worry about where their next meal is coming from.

The Sudan Relief Fund is determined to help the young girls at Loreto continue their education. To do so, we must provide around 200 lunches of rice and beans per day during the 39 weeks that the school is in session.

Students at Loreto are encouraged to grow academically and spiritually in a structured and safe environment. The school has a remarkable record of success — 93 percent of Loreto graduates go on to higher education. This in a country where a 15-year-old girl is more likely to die in childbirth than graduate secondary school. We at the Sudan Relief Fund are committed to helping the Loreto Girl's Secondary School continue its remarkable success.



The remarkable success of the Loreto Girl's Secondary School depends on the loyal supporters of the Sudan Relief Fund.

PLANNED GIVING, LEGACY GIFTS, BEQUESTS, WILLS & ESTATE DONATIONS

Please consider remembering Sudan Relief Fund in your estate planning.



Planned giving or legacy gifts are one of the most generous ways you can help the desperately poor people of South Sudan. At Sudan Relief Fund we are blessed to have the most generous donors in the world. Please consult your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer for details on remembering Sudan Relief Fund.

SUDAN RELIEF FUND
PO Box 7084 Merrifield, VA 22116-9798
Tax ID: #52-2148976
Phone: 1-888-488-0348

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Monthly giving to Sudan Relief Fund couldn't be easier. You can make a tax-deductible gift every month by an automatic draft from your checking account or credit card. And because it's done automatically on the same day every month, it's convenient and requires no extra effort on your part. Plus you have total control: you decide how much you want to donate -- and you can stop making monthly donations at any time.

Every dollar makes a difference. To sign up for monthly giving to Sudan Relief Fund simply check the box on the included reply coupon, indicate the amount of your monthly gift and mail it back to us in the postage-paid envelope enclosed. Thank you.



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www.sudanreliefund.com

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HOPE AND CHRIST'S LOVE.

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