



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 medicines and vaccines to Mother of Mercy Hospital

Dr. Tom Catena and the Diocese of El Obeid recently sent an urgent request for needed emergency supplies of medicines and vaccines for Mother of Mercy Hospital, and they needed these life-saving supplies to reach the hospital before the rainy season started. The rainy season makes transportation of any sort difficult, or even impossible, in South Sudan. So it was truly critical that these supplies reach the hospital before the rains came.

After consulting with Dr. Tom and the diocese's management team about the needs of the hospital's patients, we agreed to send them a grant from Sudan Relief Fund for \$111,000. This amount covered both the purchase and transportation of the needed medicines and vaccines.

We were eager to help because Mother of Mercy Hospital is the only surgical hospital available in its region of South Sudan, an area with approximately one million people. Statistics show that most of the hospital's patients are women and children. In 2014, the children's ward accounted for 41 percent of patients, while the female ward and the maternity ward accounted for 32 percent. The most common illnesses in children under five years of age are malaria, pneumonia,

other respiratory infections, diarrhea-related diseases and malnutrition. Last year there was a measles outbreak.

It is estimated that health services at Mother of Mercy Hospital and its community-based outreach programs will directly benefit thousand of patients this year. Dr. Tom reports that, based on current visitation trends, the hospital will treat 36,000 outpatients and 5,950 inpatients in 2015. He further estimates that, as in previous years, the majority of patients served will be women and children. This demonstrates the urgency in getting medicines to the hospital. And the need for vaccines is every bit as crucial.

In an effort to prevent large-scale outbreak of disease, the hospital plans to vaccinate 19,200 children onsite and through its outreach activities at public health centers. The Mother of Mercy Hospital immunization program has provided vaccines to children under age five and pregnant women since 2010. This year the program will continue being run by the hospital, while being expanded through the hospital's outreach program to also serve patients at public health centers. At first, immunizations at the public health centers will be offered during supervised visits on a bi-monthly basis. Then once the public health

centers have the proper facilities, they will be able to provide vaccinations on a daily basis.

What's more, when the supply of vaccines made possible by Sudan Relief Fund arrives, health staff will be able to go to surrounding villages to increase the coverage, using vaccine carriers. Increasing coverage of vaccinations is critical to preventing these infectious diseases and avoiding outbreaks such as the measles epidemic in 2014.

Finally, please keep in mind the critical importance your prayers and financial support play in our work. Without generous souls like you, the Sudan Relief Fund could never have provided these urgently needed medicines and vaccines to Dr. Tom and Mother of Mercy Hospital. You will find a reply form and envelope included with this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*. Your gift today will continue our mission of bringing the Gospel of Christ -- and providing food, shelter and medical care -- to God's children in South Sudan.



Dispatching emergency medicines and vaccines to Dr. Tom and Mother of Mercy Hospital was made possible by the generosity of Sudan Relief Fund supporters.

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VICTIMS TELL OF BRUTAL CIVIL WAR DIVIDING SOUTH SUDAN

According to the London Evening Standard charred debris from rocket-hit homes and testimony from victims who lost loved ones give a disturbing insight into the devastation wrought by the civil war in South Sudan.

The houses were destroyed by opposition forces seeking to topple Salva Kiir, President of the world's newest nation, during attacks on the town of Renk, in Upper Nile state. Renewed fighting has hit the area, with the boom of weapons heard close to the town.

Civilians described losing parents and other relatives in the cold-blooded killings that have typified a brutal conflict now approaching its 17th month. It follows the collapse of peace talks between Mr. Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar. They have been leading rival forces since 2013, when a dispute between them erupted into armed clashes. Fighting began in the capital Juba after an alleged coup attempt by Mr. Machar, then spread.

It has claimed at least 10,000 lives and up to two million people have fled their homes. Human rights campaigners have documented abuses "on a massive scale" including the targeting of civilians on ethnic grounds, killings in hospitals, mass executions, and recruitment of child soldiers. Upper Nile is one of the worst affected states.

Security guard Laverick Maraba, a 54-year-old father of five, lost his home in Renk and still exhibits trauma. "I was preparing food before going to work," he said. "Suddenly the rebels started shelling from the other side of the Nile. Two shells fell, then the third hit my house. I was inside one room and the shell hit the other. There was a huge explosion and the ground shook. Everything was burned. It had taken me 15 years to buy those things. Now they are all gone. I could hear the sound of the explosion in my ears for two days. It was awful."

Obach Chol, age 35, a translator at a clinic,



The strife in South Sudan shows no signs of letting up — making the Sudan Relief Fund's mission more important than ever.

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A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

I have just received an urgent letter from Father Mario Debattista O.F.M, who is with the Franciscan Friars in Juba, South Sudan.

Father Mario was updating me on the building of a new Friary Residence and Parish Office in Juba that the Sudan Relief Fund has provided financial backing for.

Construction is going well but there is a major problem.

In short, inflation is skyrocketing in South Sudan. This has led to the cost of building materials shooting up by an average of 25 percent so far. And projections are that the total cost of building the Friary Residence and Parish Office will be 50 to 60 percent higher than originally thought.

This means the Friars have been burning through their funds at an alarming rate. And Father Mario hopes that we can forward the remainder of the funds we'd promised now, as opposed to later (as we had originally planned).

Could you help me answer Father Mario's urgent call for help? If you can, please send another prayerful gift to the Sudan Relief Fund TODAY. I know from your past support that the love of Christ flows freely from your gracious heart. And I thank you for keeping the people of South Sudan in your prayers!

Yours in faith,

Neil Corkery
President

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said he lost his brother and uncle last year during an assault on Renk: "There was shelling and the government forces fired back. My brother Ronyo used to collect vegetables from the fields to sell in the market and next morning he went out on his motorbike. But the rebels ... saw him and shot him dead." He continued: "My uncle was a policeman. One of his colleagues defected to the rebels and shot him in the leg, then in his head. He fell dead. It was awful. His wife had two children and a third coming. She gave birth the next month."

Others bereaved during the fighting are living in the Abayok camp on the edge of Renk. It was originally for South Sudanese people heading home in the months after their country gained independence from Sudan in 2011.

As the London Evening Standard reports now it is a haven for refugees fleeing violence in Upper Nile state. Adisona Chol, 38, said her husband Arkangelo was shot dead in the town of Malakal, and described the "slaughter" of another woman's brother and children. She now sleeps with a stick and a machete by her bed.

Sabit Abaa Chol, 31, said: "I lost my mum and dad. The forces were fighting and they were fleeing when they were shot on the roadside. I was walking with them. It was terrible. I saw them fall but wasn't able to help. I just had to keep running with my children and wife." Later, "a soldier tried to shoot me but the rifle jammed. He tried several times but it wouldn't fire. Then he said I could go. God's hands were there for me."

The UN has threatened to tighten sanctions already imposed on both sides. Across South Sudan, most are simply hoping for an end to the fighting.

South Sudan finance minister warns of economic disaster

South Sudan will face imminent economic disaster if global donors do not extend more financial support, the South Sudan minister of finance has announced. Finance Minister David Deng Athorbei told reporters that he had appealed to the global donor community and international financial institutions to extend more financial support to avert economic disaster, admitting that the country is in a "difficult" economic situation.

The finance minister said that he recently met with foreign diplomats, financial

institutions and representatives of donor countries. He told them that the government needs their support and understanding.

"We are a new country, very young country with a lot of challenges," Athorbei said. "Our priority areas were competitively almost the same at independence but when this war came, it reversed everything and took us back to square one."

He continued: "Our economy is now in a difficult moment and for this reason we appeal to our friends in the region and around the world to extend us hands of friendship and cooperation. We need their support and understanding."

According to Athorbei, the donor community should not punish the people of South Sudan with imposition of sanctions. Instead they should help provide support to scale up the ailing public and private sectors, which he said need fresh capital.



South Sudan Finance Minister David Deng Athorbei

Sudan Relief Fund plays a unique — and indispensable — role in war-torn South Sudan

Much of the world has no idea what's happening in South Sudan. But Sudan Relief Fund supporters do. They know of the terrible hardships suffered in the country.

Few journalists are here to report what is happening to the people. There are only the priests, brothers and sisters who are doing God's work to tell the horrific tales of killing and forced starvation to the outside world.

By and large, the Sudan Relief Fund is the only organization that's providing emergency food aid, medicines and water to save people's lives that couldn't make it into a UN refugee camp.

The slaughter these children of God have

suffered since the unrest began is horrifying. Men were taken from their homes and tortured. Boys were taken by the rebels and forced to fight against their own people. Girls were taken out into the streets and raped repeatedly. Women, children and the elderly were slaughtered, shot with guns, butchered with knives. Many people burned to death when rebels torched their homes. Thousands of the elderly, children and the weak drowned while trying to cross the Nile River to safety.

Today more than 140,000 people are surviving in the bush, largely because of the lifesaving aid that we're able to provide. These 140,000 suffering souls were among the 260,000 civilians who fled rebel fighting and looting in the Diocese of Malakal over a year ago. They fled for their lives with nothing but the clothes on their backs. And now, most of them are nearly dead from starvation.

That's why the Sudan Relief Fund is working with Brother Bernard Hengl from the Comboni Brothers to purchase and distribute food and other aid. With the support of our donors, SRF has provided 25 tons of sorghum -- a main food staple for the locals. Yet we must provide much more sorghum to tens upon tens of thousands more people to prevent mass starvation.

We've also provided about 200 blankets. We bought every blanket we could find in Juba, and we're scouring the region for even more. What's more, we're delivering drinking water by any means we can. People are getting sick drinking unclean water from the Nile River, including children dying from waterborne illnesses like diarrhea.

In all, it will be a long time before people can safely return to their villages in Malakal. Until that day comes, the Sudan Relief Fund is committed to doing all we can to keep these poor souls alive. The generosity of our many supporters makes our work possible -- and for them we give thanks to Almighty God.



God compels us to do all we can to feed and care for these displaced persons.

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
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YOUR MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO HELP THE POOR OF SOUTH SUDAN . . .

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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YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT ENABLES US TO GO FORTH AND REMAIN IN COUNTLESS PLACES IN SUDAN TO BRING HELP,
HOPE AND CHRIST'S LOVE.

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