



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

Sharp increase in violence, devastating inflation and rainy season plunge South Sudan into chaos

South Sudan is spinning toward anarchy. It has been tragic enough that war has ravaged this country for more than two decades. But recently fighting between government forces and rebels has increased dramatically.

The armed conflict also has ugly ethnic undertones, bringing to the surface old resentments between the Dinka and Nuer tribes.

UNICEF reports that at least 129 children were killed, with boys castrated and girls raped, during a clash just before the rainy season started. Other children were thrown into burning buildings. This is but one example demonstrating the sheer brutality of the fighting seen in the country.

Rapid inflation has forced many of the South Sudanese to burn through what little money they had for food. The cost of maize, beans, sugar and other basic items doubled or tripled in just 12 weeks alone. Some parts of the country are on the verge of famine. Severely malnourished children with stick-thin upper arms can be seen everywhere.

As the price of oil has fallen on world markets, the South Sudan government's oil revenues have plunged. The result? The government has no money to pay soldiers or law enforcement. This has led to widespread mayhem and turmoil, with criminal gangs carrying out widespread acts of lawlessness. To cite a typical case, a truck convoy of bed nets was recently stolen at gunpoint on a highway. Further evidence of the growing chaos is the fact that 13,000 children have joined armed groups, and that more than 1.2 million South Sudanese have been forced from their homes.

With the rainy season now started, the roads turn into mud, making transportation nearly impossible. Another factor fueling the increased violence is that military operations on both sides lack command and control. This produces a war sustained by looting and advanced through atrocities. There are reports of whole villages being leveled and of piles of burnt corpses. And the worst slaughters probably go unreported due to the country's vastness.

But the worst may be yet to come. Many aid organizations are leaving South Sudan due to the lack of any order in the country. It may soon be the case that the Catholic Church will be the only group of any significance providing the people with food, medicine and other services. Since the Sudan Relief Fund supports many Church aid projects, our role in this war-torn nation couldn't be more critical.

The prayerful support of generous friends like you makes our work for the desperately poor souls of South Sudan possible. If you feel God is prompting you to donate again, please follow your heart and do so immediately. There is a reply form and envelope included with this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*. Your sacrificial gift will mean everything to those struggling to survive, who literally may have no one but us to turn to.



Sudan Relief Fund remains committed to serving God's children in South Sudan, even as many aid organizations are leaving the country.

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TIME MAGAZINE NAMES DR. TOM CATENA ONE OF THE WORLD'S "100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE"



The humanitarian work of Dr. Tom recognized by TIME magazine is made possible by the generosity of Sudan Relief Fund supporters.

Dr. Tom Catena's lifesaving work has long been recognized by the supporters of the Sudan Relief Fund in particular and the humanitarian aid community in general. But now Dr. Tom's work is reaching a much larger audience. *TIME* magazine has included him in its 2015 list of the "100 Most Influential People" in the world.

The magazine's profile of Dr. Tom is written by Andrew Berends, who has made a film about the Sudan war called "Madina's Dream." Dr. Tom is included among *TIME*'s lists of "Pioneers" section.

"Meeting Tom Catena is the closest I have come to meeting a saint," writes Berends. "He runs the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the war-torn Nuba Mountains of Sudan with an unparalleled level of devotion to his Catholic faith and the Nuban people who seek his care." Civilians are struggling to survive amid ground fighting, aerial bombardment and even planned starvation at the hands of the government.

He notes that humanitarian organizations are prohibited from delivering aid. Yet "Catena defies the ban and is the only surgeon serving a population of 750,000 people." Berends ends the profile by writing, "[Catena] tells me his greatest reward is the sense of peace that comes from serving those in need, soldiers and civilians alike. In spite of the hardship, he is exactly where he wants to be."

A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

Dr. Tom Catena tells me that Mother of Mercy Hospital is seeing a sharp increase in patients, as the fighting in South Sudan has grown worse.

On one day alone, he performed surgery on seven children, all victims of a bombing attack. One precious child had to have a leg amputated.

But Dr. Tom is also gravely concerned about skyrocketing inflation. The mounting cost of living has made it impossible for the hospital staff to afford the basic necessities of life.

As a result, Dr. Tom is hoping we can provide the hospital with a \$120,000 EMERGENCY GIFT to cover staff salaries for four months to get them through the rainy season, which has traditionally been a difficult time for the country.

Won't you help me answer Dr. Tom's emergency request? Please, if you can, send another prayerful gift to the Sudan Relief Fund as soon as possible.

My heart swells with gratitude when I think of how much you've helped the people of South Sudan in the past. And I thank you for doing whatever God allows at this critical time!

Yours in faith,

Neil Corkery
President

SRF funding the Ragozere Agricultural Innovative Centre in Western Equatoria State

Western Equatoria State in South Sudan has the potential to become “the breadbasket of South Sudan.” The region has fertile soil and hard-working locals, who have been farming the area for generations.

What these farmers have lacked are the modern agricultural practices that will empower them to produce enough food to meet the demand in their country. They have only known subsistence farming, which yields low crop volumes, leaves farmers vulnerable to natural calamities such as crop pests, and results in widespread food insecurity among the general population.

What’s more, these farmers rely only on rainfall to grow their crops, with virtually nothing produced during the dry seasons. They’re also unfamiliar with the role animals can play in increasing crop production. And they know little about the proper storage, processing and marketing of their harvests.

To unlock the potential of Western Equatoria State, the Sudan Relief Fund is partnering with the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio to build the Ragozere Agriculture Innovative Centre. We estimate this project will ultimately benefit not only the local farmers, but also the countless more South Sudanese at risk from food insecurity.

Once built, the Ragozere Centre will offer:

- Hands-on training to local farmers in modern farming practices;
- Greater food production by utilizing organic manure, fertilizers and other organic farming methods;
- Facilities where farmers can safely store their harvests, and where their crops can be properly processed;
- The creation of fish ponds, a community park and natural forests;
- A gateway to achieving sustainable and reliable quality food production based on proven organic farming techniques.

The Ragozere Agriculture Innovative Centre exemplifies the kind of long-term solutions that are required for South Sudan to achieve peace and stability.

SRF providing scholarships for 128 deserving students living in Tombura-Yambio Catholic Diocese

The Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio is located in the Western Equatoria State, where the illiteracy rate, as in all of South Sudan, is roughly 80%. Most of the parents are much too poor to send their children to school. That’s the tragic reality of parents raising children in an impoverished country devastated by more than two decades of war.

But education is key to seeing South Sudan emerge as a prosperous nation. So the Tombura-Yambio Diocese has created a scholarship program, which the Sudan Relief Fund has agreed to financially support for the coming academic year.

We believe this project is a major step to creating an intellectually dynamic and well-educated society. Moreover, it will help lay the foundation critical to restoring peace and stability to Western Equatoria – and ultimately the entire nation. By training South Sudan’s future leaders, the violence and wars fueled by illiteracy will be reduced. And the scholarships will support students engaged in important fields including medicine, law, agriculture, economics and engineering. What’s more, this program will enroll girls as well as boys.

The scholarship breakdown for the coming academic year is: 70 scholarships for students in primary school; 50 for students in secondary and primary school; and 8 scholarships for students attending university. This brings the total number to 128 scholarships for deserving students.

There’s an old saying that “children are our future.” That saying has never been truer than for the people of South Sudan.

At least 4.6 million people at risk of severe food insecurity in South Sudan

The ongoing conflict and related economic downturn in South Sudan has left 3.8 million people facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity, according to a recent UN report. That is 1.3 million more than the last projection made in December 2014.

The forecast that the situation could further deteriorate this summer, with 4.6 million people becoming severely food insecure. That would be 40% of the country’s entire population.

At the Sudan Relief Fund, we can say with confidence that things are at least as bad as estimated. *In fact, they are very likely even worse now that the rainy season has arrived to complicate relief efforts.*

The conflict and insecurity disrupted last year’s planting season in the Greater Upper Nile region and has led to the displacement of millions of livestock animals as herders fled from the fighting across the country. As conflict escalated, more people were being displaced above those already recorded in 2014. Meanwhile, even in non-conflict affected areas many markets are not functioning properly while rising inflation and depreciation of the local currency are driving food prices upwards.

“Observed trends, such as market disruption with increasing food prices, will inevitably lead this population to spiral into acute levels of food insecurity across the country,” said Erminio Sacco, Chief Technical Advisor of the Agriculture Food Information System in South Sudan, a food and agriculture organization (FAO) funded by the European Union. “This means they will not be able to adequately sustain their livelihoods or meet their food needs...”

The IPC report noted that improving the food security situation will greatly depend on security, conflict resolution, economic stabilization and unrestrained humanitarian access.

As part of its country resilience program, the United Nations’ FAO has scaled up efforts to reach 2.8 million people with emergency livelihood support including crop kits, vegetable kits, fishing kits and livestock treatment kits in 2015. But the Organization warns that the South Sudanese people’s ability to recover will remain fragile until people can fully resume rebuilding their livelihoods.

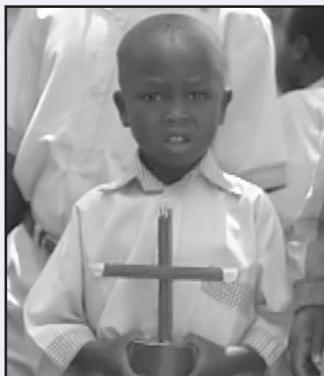
“FAO South Sudan is adapting its operations and prioritizing emergency livelihood interventions to reach people who are severely food insecure, but the main concern is safety and accessing these people in time,” said FAO Representative Serge Tissot. He added, “To avoid a further and potentially catastrophic decline in the food security situation of the most vulnerable, it is critical that partners continue and possibly expand their work on emergency livelihood support as well as on building resilience.”



Educating deserving students today is key to creating a stable South Sudan tomorrow.

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.

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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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HOPE AND CHRIST'S LOVE.

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