



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

More than 1.25 million South Sudanese on the brink of starvation

By the time this edition of *Sudan Relief Review* reaches your mailbox, South Sudan's brutal civil war may have resumed. The fragile ceasefire signed last December began collapsing almost immediately, with violent skirmishes threatening to plunge this young nation into open warfare yet again.

As a supporter of the **Sudan Relief Fund**, you know about the bloodshed and chaos engulfing the lives of these poor souls more than most. The situation in South Sudan has been called the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II, but mainstream news media coverage is practically nonexistent.

After five years of civil war, more than 1.25 million people in South Sudan are facing starvation according to the latest analysis of the United Nations. **The U.N. warns that if fighting continues, famine will spread to several places across the country early this year and almost half the population of 11 million will be severely food insecure.**

One of those suffering hunger is Bob Wol, a 29-year-old husband and father. His wife and five small children hadn't eaten in days when he went in search of help. After six days of walking, eating fruit picked from trees, he reached a government-held town where he said soldiers wary of rebels ambushed him. They shot him in the back and thigh.

"When I got shot I was just thinking that I didn't want to die before I got food for my family," Bob says. **"I was trying to get food [for my family] and my government tried to kill me."**



Refugees awaiting emergency food shipments made possible by your support of the Sudan Relief Fund

Unfortunately, Sudan Relief Fund can report that Bob's story is a familiar one. All across South Sudan we hear firsthand accounts of **both government and rebel forces using food as a weapon of war**. Innocent civilians are routinely detained, raped, and killed — many while they are trying to cultivate their fields.

In the Equatoria region, once considered the breadbasket of South Sudan, almost half the population is already facing extreme hunger. And the situation is likely to get even worse.

Residents say soldiers are stealing their food, and at the same time the soldiers won't allow these innocent people access to their crops to grow their own food.

"How can I ask soldiers with guns for my food back?" 48-year-old father John Lasona asks. "The hunger is killing me."

Elizabeth Nyakoda is a 35-year-old mother of five children who has been reduced to begging for food for her

family. She blames the hunger on the years of fighting. Rubbing her hand over her little girl's protruding rib cage, Elizabeth says, "When the child cries from hunger, what can I do for her? There are no options."

But thanks to the prayerful support of friends like you, the Sudan Relief Fund works to create options for these desperate souls.

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A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

With the endless stream of bad news flooding out of South Sudan, I wouldn't blame anyone for wondering if anything good happens in this devastated country.

I've recently returned from South Sudan, and let me take this opportunity to tell you, YES, there are success stories — and your prayerful support helps make them possible!

For instance, at Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains, American-born surgeon Dr. Tom Catena is saving the lives of the persecuted Nuba people every day. And as you can read about in this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*, Dr. Tom lent his expertise to train Nuba native Dr. Ahmed Zacharia so that Dr. Tom is no longer the lone surgeon in the region.

That means even more people will have access to urgently-needed medical care.

In Rumbek, Sudan Relief Fund is supporting the Loreto Girls primary and secondary schools. In the face of the violence, poverty, and death surrounding Rumbek, these schools provide a safe haven for young girls to learn and find stability among the chaos.

Sr. Orla Treacy, IBVM, the principal of the Loreto Rumbek programs, sent me a message recently about the wonderful progress they're making at the schools. And she expressed her thanks for the continued support and prayers from Sudan Relief Fund supporters.

With your help, we're providing funding for services at a large refugee camp in northern Uganda bordering South Sudan. More than 1 million South Sudanese have fled to Uganda to escape the chaos in their homeland.

I also wanted to let you know about the Jeanne-Antide Center in the city of Rejaf — a facility funded by Sudan Relief Fund that is dedicated to helping orphans find solace through shelter and education.

With the opening of the new center, we are so grateful to finally provide these young orphans with a secure learning system and ensure their immediate safety with a loving home. Although we have completed building the center, our work is far from over.

Together, we can continue to save lives and bring stability to this war-torn nation. Thank you for your caring support of the Sudan Relief Fund. May God bless you.

Yours in faith,
Neil Corkery

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With your support, the Sudan Relief Fund has recently provided emergency food and other humanitarian aid to refugees who flooded a camp in the Bahr el Ghazal region. We worked with the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa to feed roughly 700 starving families and 638 others — including elderly people with disabilities.

Sister Anne Wandia of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters says she could see the “joy and renewed hope” on the faces of those your generosity touched. In addition to saving the lives of those dying from hunger, your support helped us distribute soap to improve hygiene, shelters for those who would otherwise live outside, and mosquito nets that have reduced the level of malaria cases.



You're helping us save the lives of these children — and keep them in school so they can continue learning

Yet as the ceasefire breaks down, the turmoil in South Sudan has brought more than 1.25 million to the brink of starvation. And millions more could soon join them. This is why your sacrificial gifts are needed now more than ever. The Sudan Relief Fund will never abandon these downtrodden souls — because of the prayers and partnership of friends like you.

Meet Dr. Ahmed Zacharia, trained by Dr. Tom Catena

For more than a decade, Dr. Tom Catena was the only doctor serving a region of more than 750,000 people at Mother of Mercy Hospital.

Dr. Tom treats hundreds of patients every day suffering from rampant diseases, malnutrition, and horrific wounds from the conflict that has ravaged the region. Due to the overflow of patients, Dr. Tom's services were stretched so thin that he feverishly needed additional help.



Dr. Ahmed Zacharia's work saving lives wouldn't happen without friends like you donating to SRF.

To meet this critical need, Nuba-born Dr. Ahmed Zacharia received hands-on surgical training from Dr. Tom. Having a second trained surgeon on staff was a blessing. Yet it took remarkable perseverance from Dr. Zacharia to make it happen. It took him 11 years to complete his six years of medical study. Why? Because he spent time in jail, where he was also tortured for opposing the Islamist government.

But Dr. Zacharia's love of medicine leaves him notably free of bitterness toward his captors. "Even those injured on the front lines" fighting his own people receive medical attention from him when needed. "There are medical laws and you treat them. It's straightforward," he explains.

At first, Dr. Zacharia worked at Mother of Mercy Hospital with Dr. Tom. The hospital is surrounded by foxholes for shelter in which patients and medical staff crouch when military aircraft approach.

"Once, shrapnel flew directly over me," says Dr. Zacharia. "It ripped the face of the man next to me to pieces. His brains spilled out. I was covered in blood. People tried to help me, but I said, 'Your doctor is fine. It is not my blood. It's the other guy's blood.'"

But due to the overwhelming need for lifesaving medicine in a region stretching 19,000 miles, the two decided it would be best to split up. Dr. Zacharia began by creating a clinic of his own and is quickly expanding it to be a complete hospital, El Gigaiba.

"You need to dream big if you want to accomplish a lot," says Dr. Zacharia, as he expressed his goal of expanding the hospital to 500 beds.

Because of generous support from Sudan Relief Fund donors, we have already funded 100 beds for El Gigaiba Hospital and provided \$150,000 worth of critical medical supplies. We are in the process of installing a well for clean water and food delivery program to feed the hungry.

Yet Dr. Zacharia longs to have the full allotment of 500 beds to better care for his suffering neighbors. Without adequate space, deserving patients will be turned away and denied the lifesaving care they desperately need.

In all, Dr. Zacharia's selfless dedication to bringing hope and healing in a forgotten part of the world inspires a gratitude among the local population that can only be called love. Despite daily bombings, this heroic doctor risks his life to treat the wounded, cure the sick, and save lives. As a married man with a young child, this 40-year-old doctor dreams of a better life for his family despite an uncertain future.

Meanwhile, **Dr. Tom dreams of using Mother of Mercy Hospital as a training center that produces more dedicated physicians in the mold of Dr. Ahmed Zacharia.** And the Sudan Relief Fund will continue providing the support needed to make Dr. Tom's dream come true — as long as generous friends like you stand with us.

SRF works to end the misery of human trafficking in South Sudan



Your support helps to rescue young children from the cruelty of human trafficking.

In our world today, millions of people are trapped in slave-like conditions. This is especially true for young children and women exploited by human trafficking. And orphans in the Nuba Mountains are some of the most vulnerable to this abuse. Some are sold as laborers, others become sex slaves.

Although combating this issue seems monumental in scope, this is not stopping the Sudan Relief Fund from doing what we can to protect these orphan children from the dark world of human trafficking.

David Dettoni, Director of Operations for the Sudan Relief Fund, recently returned from the war-torn area to meet with our newest partner, Make Way Partners. "Their mission is to protect the children and women who are most at risk to



human trafficking and other forms of human oppression through education and mobilization,” David says.

With the help of our generous supporters, Sudan Relief Fund is currently funding the construction of a dormitory at their newest orphanage located in the Nuba Mountains, Our Father’s Cleft (OFC). Each new dormitory your support helps us fund provides 25 more children with a safe place to sleep and call home.

Sudan Relief Fund is also providing scholarships for the first group of 14 students who have graduated from the orphanage school to attend Catholic University in Juba.

In the midst of such mindboggling evil, your generosity helps children hold onto hope and receive an opportunity for a brighter future.

OFC is the sole orphanage in the Nuba Mountains providing complete housing, schooling, and care for 500 desperate children from preschool to 12th grade. But there are hundreds more desperately needing help. The orphanage is underfunded and the cost of supporting the orphans extremely high.

Outside, the scene is heartbreaking. Women and children constantly stand outside the fences of the compound begging for shelter and waiting to come in.

“Every night our indigenous leaders must close their gates on those vulnerable outside simply because of the limited space and lack of funding,” says Kimberly Highland, President of Make Way Partners. “There is no place for orphans to go and we do not want to turn them away, but we need help!”

David Dettoni explains why the Sudan Relief Fund is committed to the orphanage.

“I was able to see firsthand the incredible work being done at Our Father’s Cleft and the large hearts of the staff and caregivers,” David says. “We are extremely proud to work with an organization like Make Way Partners that understands the dire need for providing consistent, sustainable, transformational care and infrastructure for unadoptable orphans and widows held captive inside warzones.”

He adds that the needs are huge, but with donors like you rallying to the cause, all things are possible.

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



What will your legacy be?

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 in your estate plans.



SUDAN RELIEF FUND

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