



A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY PRESIDENT OF SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

As I reflect on Sudan Relief Fund's priorities and efforts this quarter, my thoughts and feelings turn to a profound belief that has always given me solace – the belief in God's unwavering protection of the innocent.

Focusing on a region of the world so often marred by turmoil and injustice, it can be easy to lose sight of the goodness that resides in humanity. It is during these trying times that I turn to my faith, finding comfort in the belief that a higher power is watching over us, particularly those who are innocent and vulnerable.

I see this in so much of the work detailed here. The kindness of our donors, and the tireless work of our partners, allow us to deliver medical care to the most vulnerable, build schools to create a better tomorrow, and rescue desperate souls from the clutches of violence.

God's protection of the innocent is a beacon of hope that guides our actions and inspires us to stand up against injustice. It serves as a reminder that no matter how dire the circumstances may seem, there is always a force greater than us at work.

As we navigate the complexities of life, let us not forget the divine promise of protection for the innocent. Let us strive to be the instruments of this divine protection, championing justice, and safeguarding those who are most vulnerable in our society.

May our faith in God's love and protection for the innocent continue to inspire us to make the world a better place, one act of kindness and justice at a time.

Yours in Christ,

Neil Corkery, President

December 2023



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

Improving Health & Education for Thousands Sudan Relief Funds Are Building the Future in Ave Maria, Rimenze

Reliable access to quality education and public health are two of the most pressing issues facing our brothers and sisters in South Sudan. Thanks to the generosity of Sudan Relief Fund donors, we are building strong links to these vital, life-changing gifts for thousands.

In Ave Maria Parish, SRF funds have been the driving force in the growth of St. Peter Health Center. This year alone, SRF has funded over \$60,000 in medicines for this miraculous operation, now the only properly staffed health center in the region after the state run facility failed.

SRF has also provided more than \$50,000 to expand the reach of Dingimo Primary School and Don Bosco Primary School in the diocese. These two educate over 700 children and serve as role models for how a brighter future can be built for the children of South Sudan.

This is part of an ongoing five-year program of improvements that includes upgrading the infrastructure and furniture of the schools, creating youth clubs and sports teams to foster

a culture of harmony, expanding teacher training and providing food programs for families.



In Rimenze Parish, SRF has partnered with the Christian Brothers of Instruction to continue constructing a modern and inviting vocational school that now serves more than 800 students.

Having already supported the building of two new classroom blocks and dormitories, we have recently provided funding for a multipurpose hall capable of seating over 400 students. It will offer a sheltered area for eating, celebrating Mass, and other communal gatherings to further the community spirit of the schools and its surrounding communities.

These projects are only a few of the many critical health and education initiatives that your support of Sudan Relief Fund is helping implement across the country. Together, we are bestowing God's blessings upon countless lives.



SUDAN RELIEF FUND

P.O. Box 7084 • Merrifield, VA 22116 • 1-888-488-0348
www.sudanreliefund.com

Your financial support helps us save lives and bring Christ's love to the suffering people of South Sudan and the Nuba Mountains. The Sudan Relief Review is published by Sudan Relief Fund (SRF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible. ©2023 Sudan Relief Fund. All Rights Reserved.

MERCY SOCIETY SUDAN RELIEF FUND

The Sudan Relief Fund Mercy Society is a group of supporters deeply committed to bringing immediate necessities and long-term hope to the people of South Sudan. If your giving meets or exceeds certain levels, you will be automatically enrolled

as a member. Mercy Society members have a fast, lasting impact in helping meet the needs of those suffering in South Sudan. In recognition of their key role in helping to fulfill our mission, Mercy Society members receive exclusive benefits.

To learn more about the Mercy Society, or to make a one-time contribution to Sudan Relief Fund, visit sdnrlf.com/ways-to-give.

INSIDE

- Improving Health and Education .. 1
- Shining the Light of Love in Nzara 2
- Key Partnership Helps Moms Thrive 3
- War Escalation Fuels Humanitarian Crisis 3
- A Message from Neil Corkery 4

Shining the Light of Love in Nzara

Empowering the Sick and Innocent with Hope



With your generous help, the light of God's love is shining brightly in the town of Nzara, in the deep southwest corner of South Sudan.

In 2004, Comboni Missionary Sisters created a caring space for people living with HIV/AIDS in Nzara. Here, children born into HIV are cared for away from the stigma and abandonment of society. Through healthcare, nutrition programs, and education, the program raises a skilled and informed next generation. And perhaps most importantly, it halts the perpetuation of HIV from parents to children for future generations.

LEAVE A LEGACY TO BE REMEMBERED FOR GENERATIONS

The dire situations for the needy and poor in South Sudan are a reality for the foreseeable future. But your love for these desperate and sick people can live on when you join the Sudan Relief Fund Legacy Society.

You can keep their communities thriving by specifying a legacy gift be made to Sudan Relief Fund as part of your estate plan, in your will or trust or by consulting with your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer.

You can also support them through a donor-advised fund. By contributing to the fund, you receive an immediate tax donation for the entire amount of your contribution.

At Sudan Relief Fund, we are blessed to have such generous donors. Please remember the poor of South Sudan in your legacy planning or by opening a donor-advised fund today. Contact Matthew Smith, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Development, at 617-604-3042 or visit sdnrlf.com/legacy-society for more information.



SRF funding continues to play an important role in sustaining this wonderful program. In addition to food programs and healthcare, each year school fees are provided for up to 400 orphans and vulnerable children from grades K-8. Since 2021, we have also supported vocational training on economic development to help young men and women develop important life skills to generate income and prosper.

For the coming year, we were able to approve a \$70,000 funding request that will further support education programs, public awareness efforts, family and patient counseling and essential healthcare for countless innocent children living with HIV.

Nzara is now also home to St. Bakhita Orphanage, housing more than 100 children under the loving tutelage of Sister Bianca Bii. The relocated orphanage was made possible by SRF funding that has given these precious little ones the ability to safely attend local schools, and access quality healthcare from nearby St. Theresa's hospital.

Our efforts for the orphanage are ongoing. SRF continues to provide funds to deliver shelter, food, clean water, clothing, and medicine to give orphaned children a new life—and hope for a brighter future.

Key Partnership Helps Moms Thrive

CHAMPS Program Takes Aim at Maternal Mortality



SRF continues to support the Children and Mothers Partnership Program (CHAMPS), which brings lifesaving services to the most vulnerable.

For the coming year, we will fund over \$500,000 toward helping mothers access health services earlier in their pregnancies, encourage skilled deliveries, and support healthy behaviors at home across South Sudan, including regions where previously there was little or no neonatal care available.

The goal is nothing less than preserving the miracle of life: South Sudan's maternal and infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world. A harrowing number of girls and women still give birth on dirt floors in the

villages or countryside. They labor in unsanitary conditions and without medical supervision.

At St. Theresa Hospital in Nzara, this partnership has delivered critically needed medical care. Thanks to support from donors, the hospital now has an operating room, a maternity ward, and a blood bank. The team there can now provide a safe environment for mothers to give birth and receive follow-up care for infants during their crucial first weeks of life.

With your generosity and God's guiding hand, we will expand this program to even more locations in the years ahead, making a literal life and death difference for women and children throughout South Sudan.

War Escalation Fuels Humanitarian Crisis

SRF Partners Provide Aid, Safe Transport to Refugees

The brutal conflict which broke out this spring in Sudan shows no signs of ending. In September, the resignation of a U.N. special envoy to the region dealt a severe blow to hopes for peace talks.

The escalation of atrocities being committed against civilian populations has exacerbated a severe humanitarian crisis which has seen already seen hundreds of thousands fleeing across the border into South Sudan.

Sudan Relief Fund and our partners are working diligently to provide basic food and shelter to the masses of incoming refugees, as well as clean water and hygiene items. The Malakal refugee camp near the northern border has seen 17,000 people arrive in the past four months alone. The numbers continue growing daily.

Recently the Vatican Secretary of State and Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan visited the Malakal camp to assess and encourage the people. Sudan Relief Fund's partner on the ground, Fred Otieno, accompanied the visitors to demonstrate the plight of the refugees.

Thousands remain trapped in Khartoum or Sudan, trying to get out. In May, Sudan Relief Fund supporters helped furnish a rescue boat to transport trapped refugees to safety. The boat carries 800 passengers over a two-day journey to the northern border of South Sudan.



Your support has kept this lifeline running. It is essential we continue God's work in providing mercy and comfort to the many who, through no fault of their own, find themselves trapped in the destructive grip of war in this region.