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

New Hope for the Next Generation Maternity Ward at St. Theresa Hospital Modernizes Critical Care

St. Theresa Hospital in Nzara is a place of hope. In this isolated pocket of the country, it provides medical care for over 20,000 patients every year, the sole provider of this lifeline in an area where no other critical care facility exists for hundreds of miles.

The generosity of SRF donors extended a vital lifeline to new mothers and their precious babies by helping fund a new maternity ward at St. Theresa.

Sarah, a volunteer nurse, remembers when there was no modern maternity

"If it were a sunny, warm day, the baby might stay warm enough to survive," she said. If it were cold and overcast, there would be no incubators or oxygen. If the baby needed antibiotics, there may not be refrigeration to preserve the vital medicines.





A MESSAGE **FROM NEIL CORKERY PRESIDENT OF** SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ.

While much of the world focuses it attention elsewhere. the situation in South Sudan remains dire.

War in Sudan broke out more than a year ago. Since then. South Sudan has absorbed almost 700.000 people fleeing from violence. These refugees join the tens of thousands already displaced by South Sudan's internal political instability, economic challenges, and widespread food insecurity.

It is a humanitarian disaster on an unthinkable scale.

Yet despite these immense challenges, your generous support of Sudan Relief Fund (SRF) has made a significant impact. Your compassion and commitment are the lifelines for countless people and communities across this region.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support. which enables us to carry out our mission and bring the miracle of God's love to the people of South Sudan.

Yours in Christ.

Neil Corkerv President



I recently returned home from a visit to South Sudan and Sudan to meet with our partners on the ground. As I reflect on this trip, I feel a mixture of both sorrow and hope.

I was deeply moved to witness firsthand the amazing work being supported by your donations to help those who are so desperately struggling.

I was especially touched after my return by a message I received from Father Avelino. Violence in the area meant I was unable to visit him at Ave Maria parish, sparking great fear on my part for the safety of the people there.

Yet Father Avelino wrote with his deepest thanks for Sudan Relief Fund's funding of his community garden project, which provides food for the internally displaced (IDPs) in his care. "You have made 603 IDPs happy!" he reported. "They are now planting the seeds in the plots assigned by the community. Life is back on track!"

The needs of the people in this region remain great. But I have personally seen the impact that even the smallest act of kindness can make here.



Senior Vice President. Strategic Partnerships and Development









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ward in Nzara to help mothers and babies in distress. Without incubators, oxygen, or batteries beyond the solarpowered ones that lasted only two to three hours, a newborn's survival depended heavily on the weather.

Now, thanks to the modern capabilities of the SRF-funded maternity ward, these new lives can survive and thrive. St. Theresa offers facilities like an operating theater for surgeries, X-ray diagnostics, a maternity ward that can perform emergency C-sections and host critical care for preemies, and a children's ward.

Throughout the country, most of the few state hospitals funded by the government have shut down or are insufficiently staffed and resourced. This leaves St. Theresa as the only light for mothers in labor, children who are sick, fathers who've been injured, or families victimized in the recent violence.

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The Lives You've Saved

SRF Partner Delivers Food, Opportunity for Struggling Family

Catherine Migidi is a 35-year-old mother of four children, who is extremely grateful for the difference SRF and a key partner made in their lives.

When Catherine's husband died, she was left with the responsibility of providing for her family.

Opportunities for women to support themselves in South Sudan are few and difficult to come by. When a wife loses her husband, she loses income and, often, hope.

Star Support Group (SSG) is an SRF partner in Yambio, South Sudan. It offers programs to at-risk families to help them achieve self-sufficiency, including offering members a chance to be part of a community farm.

In her widowhood, Catherine's greatest need was food. Through SSG, she found work helping to maintain the farm, and received food immediately for her household. In



addition, she was able to receive tools and resources to establish her own kitchen garden for her family.

Today, her personal garden is flourishing, and she's able to grow enough food to sustain her family. A scholarship provided by SSG allows her oldest child to attend Masia

Primary school. Catherine even had the opportunity to bolster her own education, graduating from an adult English class.

Sudan Relief Fund and our partnership with SSG have dramatically changed the trajectory of Catherine's family for the good. Catherine summed it up when she told us, "I am so grateful for the support from SSG. May God bless you all."

Bringing Healing Through Kindness *Our Continued Commitment to Malo Leper Colony*

Generous support from SRF donors continues to transform lives in the Malo leper colony, under the loving care of the Missionary Sisters of Charity in Rumbek.

More than 200+ people suffering from this misunderstood illness that can be treated with penicillin, call the colony home, along with their family members. At any given time, the people sheltered here can number in the thousands.

Leprosy is generally found among highly impoverished communities where victims lack access to proper sanitation and healthcare. Because they're relentlessly chased away from contact with anyone, they can't get the help they desperately need.

Partnering with SRF, the Sisters provide food, shelter and critical life necessities to many who would otherwise be rendered a death sentence from their illness.

The Missionary Sisters of Charity has been in the Diocese of Rumbek for more than 20 years. Established in 1950 by Mother Teresa, their mission is to care for "all the people who feel unwanted, unloved, and uncared for throughout society". Your generosity has allowed the Sisters to deliver needed care for orphaned children, developmentally disabled girls, and elderly women. In Malo, their work has created a thriving community for those suffering with leprosy, providing food, medical treatment, and even such basics as shoes. An agricultural initiative has even been undertaken to create sustainable access to food.

Your gifts are granting new life to hundreds who were previously held captive by the devastating effects of this dreaded but curable disease.

Planting the Seeds of Life *Farming Program Thrives at Ave Maria*

Sitting near the western border of South Sudan, Ave Maria parish has provided refuge for thousands of weary families seeking safety from the violence in the region.

Originally a refugee camp for displaced victims of civil war, the parish has become a community of its own, with much of its lifesaving work benefitting from the generous support of SRF donors. The church at Ave Maria stands as a beacon in the western jungle, offering hope to the homeless and the war torn. Here they're greeted by Father Avelino Bassols, the priest who oversees the many programs at the parish.

Amidst the chaos in the region, Father Avelino has stood strong, developing and nurturing critical services offering sustenance and hope to the many in his care. One of the most important is developing a long-term food solution in this region of famine.





LEAVE A LEGACY TO BE REMEMBERED FOR GENERATIONS

At Sudan Relief Fund, we are blessed to have such generous donors. Please remember the poor of South Sudan in your legacy planning. Contact Matthew Smith, Senior Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Development, at 617-604-3042 or visit **sdnrlf.com/legacy-society/** for more information. Families arriving at the parish receive a small plot of land along with gardening tools and seeds to begin to farm crops, giving them access to a sustainable food source. Our donors recently provided thousands of pounds of seeds, including maize, beans, rice, tomatoes and others for this effort, as well as hundreds of pieces of vital farm equipment like spades, rakes, wheelbarrows, buckets and more.

With your generosity and God's love, this important work can continue improving and saving lives in South Sudan.





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.

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