



# SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

## South Sudan Urgently Needs Help to Stave Off Famine, U.N. Warns

— The New York Times, April 3, 2014

## FAMINE LOOMS

All of South Sudan celebrated when the new nation gained its independence from Islamic North Sudan in 2011. However, today, the fragile nation faces the most devastating food crisis to strike Africa since the 1980s.

More than 3.7 million people, close to one-third of the total population, are at severe risk of starvation in South Sudan. Shortages

of seeds, farming tools and continued fighting between rebels and government troops have resulted in fields remaining fallow. The time for planting has come and gone. And in this agricultural nation where people must grow what they eat, there will be no harvest. Only with humanitarian aid will a human catastrophe be averted.

In April, UN officials noted that five million people were in dire need of assistance, and that UN agencies had difficulties in pre-positioning food stocks before the beginning of the rainy season when heavy rains make it difficult to navigate roads and force aid groups to drop food supplies from planes and helicopters.

More than 700,000 people have been forced to leave their homes since the outbreak of violence between government forces and

fighters loyal to former vice president Riek Machar in December. More than 250,000 people have reportedly taken refuge in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan. In Darfur, there's been a rapid deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

As a result, the Sudan Relief Fund is partnering with clergy and the Church in the region to provide emergency food aid to affected dioceses where U.N. and other food aid has yet to reach.

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## SOUTH SUDAN IN BRIEF...

- The Republic of South Sudan (ROSS) officially became a new country on July 9, 2011 and a member state of the United Nations on July 14, 2011. ROSS is governed by a Parliament. Salva Kir is the President.
- Juba is the capital and is located on the Nile River in the southeast section of the country.
- More than 8 million people live in South Sudan.
- English is the official language, but tribal languages and Arabic are widely spoken.

### ***In South Sudan:***

- More than one million primary school children have no access to basic education.
- In a country the size of Texas there are 60 miles of paved roads.
- 1 out of 7 women will die from pregnancy; only 10% of all deliveries are attended by a skilled health practitioner.
- 1 out of 5 children die before their fifth birthday.
- A 15-year-old girl has a higher chance of dying in childbirth than completing high school.
- 92% of women are illiterate.
- 6.4% of people have access to proper sanitation facilities.
- In 2010 the UN World Food Program fed 4 million South Sudanese, one half of the total population.
- In 2014, 5 million South Sudanese face certain starvation unless the world, the Church and YOU intervene.

## A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

### PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

The work that began in 1998 at the request of Bishop Macram Max Gassis continues in the Nuba Mountains and throughout the whole of South Sudan because of your generous and ongoing donations to the Sudan Relief Fund.

With your help, the Sudan Relief Fund continues to operate the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains. We provide supplies and medicines and support for Dr. Tom Catena, the hospital's only physician. Our work there is ongoing despite severe food shortages and indiscriminate bombing of civilians by the radical Islamic government of North Sudan.

Meanwhile, further south, we're working to save lives, too. In the diocese of Malakal the Sudan Relief Fund provided emergency food aid to thousands of people grappling with starvation and facing famine.

With the support of our friends and donors, the Sudan Relief Fund is bringing hope and aid to your brothers and sisters who are injured, sick, starving and displaced. With the onset of the rainy season in May, we're answering ever more urgent calls for emergency feeding programs for infants and small children, and basic life-sustaining food rations for adults.

Today, in the Nuba Mountains and South Sudan we're answering the suffering cries of a desperately poor and persecuted people. And we thank God everyday for every single dollar you're able to give to Sudan Relief Fund in Christ's holy name.

Thank you for your love, prayers and gifts!

Yours in faith,

Neil Corkery, President

### DIOCESE OF TOMBURA – YAMBIO THE WORK CONTINUES!

The work of the Sudan Relief Fund continues in the Diocese of Tombura – Yambio. In addition to providing much-needed emergency humanitarian assistance, we're laying the groundwork for an ambitious well drilling project to provide villagers with safe and consistent access to clean, disease-free drinking water. We're working with Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala and other clergy to improve sanitation to stop the spread of deadly dysentery and other diseases.



In February 2014, the Sudan Relief Fund began to train members of the Apostolic Societies in the diocese in the Church teachings. This training answers the call of the New Evangelism—a call to bring not only material aid to needy people but to offer them and sustain them in the hope and teachings of the Gospel as well.

Currently, we're training members of the Legion of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Catholic Action, Holy Family, St. Monica Group, St. Joseph, and St. Vincent de Paul. In addition, to assisting these groups in mission and in ministry, these groups in turn help us identify individuals in direst need.

By working hand-in-hand with Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala to bring the Gospel and humanitarian aid to a part of the world where life is hard and there is no electricity, running water, roads, or medical services, together we are answering God's call to serve.



### DIOCESE OF RUMBEK CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY!

Thanks to the gifts of donors like you, construction will soon be underway for a residence for priests of the Holy Family Cathedral. We also secured a safe and reliable off-road vehicle for the bishop so that he can visit the Missions and substations, villages, clergy, and religious Brothers and Sisters serving in the diocese.

The Sudan Relief Fund is also assisting the Church in meeting the basic needs of five diocesan priests in Rumbek, (shelter, food and water) so that they can remain in Rumbek to meet the spiritual needs of the people.



### DIOCESE OF MALAKAL EVACUATED!

The Diocese of Malakal is the poorest and largest diocese in the Republic of South Sudan. And right now, it is the most devastated. Hundreds of thousands have fled the diocese since fighting between government troops and rebels broke out in December. Food stores were looted. Markets, churches and homes destroyed. The conflict has led to at least 739,000 becoming internally displaced, and 123,000 refugees.

According to Doctors Without Borders, hospital patients were murdered in their beds. And Msgr. Roko Taban, administrator of the diocese, said there have been mass evacuations in the states of Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei. There's been mass looting and attacks on both hospitals and pharmacies, and malaria and diarrhea are on the rise. And all diocesan priests and women religious have fled alongside the people in search of safety, food, water and medicines.

As a result, Sudan Relief Fund is putting its activities in the diocese on temporary hold. Instead we're focusing our efforts on meeting the survival needs of the displaced and all refugees. Please pray for peace and the return of the people and the Church to the area.

# THE NEED FOR REFUGEE KITS RISES!

It's a kit filled with simple items...a mosquito net, soap, a tarp, salt, a water container, and other such basic items...that can make a very real difference for a refugee fleeing violence and hunger in South Sudan.

The Sudan Relief Fund provides refugee kits to individuals and families in need with the help of its donors.

Today, need is outstripping our supply. That's why the Sudan Relief Fund is allocating more resources to provide kits to the increasing number of refugees who need them. We're purchasing refugee kit supplies and making plans to transport these kits to the region. Thousands of donors have increased their support to purchase a kit or more.

***"The lives of children and women and men, and the wounded is just deplorable, so we are appealing to men and women of goodwill to be at our side at this moment and offer support to improve the emergency."***

- Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala, Bishop of the Diocese of Tombura – Yambio, Vatican, interview with Vatican Radio

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS MEET IN SOUTH SUDAN

The Catholic bishops of Sudan and South Sudan met in Juba in January and called for an end to government corruption in Sudan and greater involvement of the Church in the peace process. The bishops voiced concern for the suffering of the peoples of the Nuba Mountains, Darfur and Blue Nile in Sudan, the contested area of Abyei and for those affected by recent violence in the Ecclesiastical province of Juba in South Sudan.

The bishops called for the implementation of the cease-fire signed on January 23rd, and criticized the exclusion of the Churches and other civic forces from peace talks held following the eruption of fighting in South Sudan this past December. Please pray for our Catholic bishops in Sudan and for all the clergy and religious risking their lives for peace there. Bishop Gassis many blessings upon his retirement.



### SUDAN RELIEF FUND

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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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