



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 suffering under yet another outbreak of senseless violence in capital of Juba even as it celebrates five years of independence

Sudan Relief Fund provides Refugee Kits to our South Sudanese brothers and sisters facing starvation

The unrelenting civil war in South Sudan has brought the people here to their knees. An estimated 50,000 people have been killed in the five years since the new nation of South Sudan was born. As of the fifth anniversary of independence on July 9, 2016, countless numbers of South Sudanese citizens have been displaced, and more than three million are starving.

Soldiers have recently renewed fighting in the capital city of Juba which has caused innocent civilians to stay home in fear, unable even to go to the market, these people were already on the verge of starvation. It is a very tense situation. Because of security concerns, hardly anyone can cultivate the crops they need to feed their families.

Brother Bernhard Hengl, of the Comboni Missionaries, has stated, "People will be in a more pathetic situation than already before. There will be hunger and suffering all around Juba and neighboring villages!"

Many people have lost everything. Villages and crops have been burned, and many people have been forced to flee and hide in the bush and swamps. They survive only on twigs, leaves and water lilies. The tragedy is that South Sudan could be a very fertile country. The Nile runs through South Sudan, and provides plenty of opportunity for cultivation. By any measure, South Sudan *should be* a country full of hope. Instead, it's now in the grip of a massive, man-made humanitarian crisis.

Because of the intense violence and resulting chaos, most aid organizations have fled South Sudan. That has left the Catholic Church and the Sudan Relief Fund virtually alone in providing lifesaving aid for our poor brothers and sisters in the country, where one in five people have been displaced.

We have resumed a major initiative



delivering Refugee Kits to the people on the ground. Each kit contains a cooking pot, four plates, four mugs, four spoons, one cooking spoon, two sauce pans, one knife and a carton to pack it all in. Along with the Refugee Kits, we have also continued to deliver sorghum and other food staples to the displaced.

Dr. Tom Catena of the Mother of Mercy Hospital in the Nuba Mountains has seen firsthand the lifeline and hope these kits provide. "I can say for sure [the kits] are all very useful," Dr. Tom says. "All the items

in the kits are used and don't go to waste." He adds that the distribution of these kits, like all services provided by the Sudan Relief Fund, is made possible by the generosity of our donors.

Thanks to our donors, we have been able to serve the people here for 17 years. We've

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been bringing water, food, shelter, and the message of Christ's love to the people of South Sudan. We've drilled bore wells, provided medical supplies, built schools and trained teachers and catechists. In addition, we have provided what shelter we could for a generation of South Sudanese displaced by war.

But, because of the crisis happening right now, we're concentrating our efforts on delivering food and Refugee Kits. These kits have proven essential for so many displaced people. Without them, many would not be able to survive. This is a catastrophic crisis unlike any seen since North Sudan's genocide against the people in neighboring Darfur.

We are issuing an emergency plea for every SRF donor to help us deliver as many Refugee Kits as possible. If you can help, please use the reply form and envelope enclosed with this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*. God bless you for your charity and love for Christ's children in South Sudan.

SRF funding helps orphans in Western Equatoria State

The number of orphans in South Sudan has risen dramatically over the last several years. In response to this, and with the support of you, our generous donors, we have been providing funds to the Welfare Support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project.

The project was designed to address the daily and immediate needs of 56 children staying at the St. Bakhita Orphanage in Tombura in Western Equatoria State. It was begun in August 2014 and has changed forever the lives of the orphans it has served.

Due to instability in South Sudan, essential food, security and medical costs have been skyrocketing at the orphanage. We have helped secure part of the orphanage with chain link fence to keep the children safe. We also provide funding for food and medical care for the children.

There are five categories of aid that the orphans need and that we are able to provide thanks to our donors:

1) Monthly Feeding Costs

We have sent money to feed the orphans. The children used to eat once or twice a

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A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

I've just spent 40 minutes on the phone with Brother Bernhard Hengl of the Comboni Missionaries in Juba, South Sudan.

Brother Bernhard called me because the humanitarian situation in Juba is dire and deteriorating rapidly. I could even hear gunfire in the background as we talked!

In the past few days, about 15,000 people have taken refuge in churches and other religious buildings. And many times that number are now displaced as the fighting rages on.

Even before this latest crisis, three million South Sudanese were starving. But now one week of fighting in Juba has made the situation much, much worse. And that's why Brother Bernard called me with his EMERGENCY PLEA for our help in getting food and humanitarian aid to these children of God in South Sudan.

I must turn to you for help in meeting Brother Bernhard's emergency request. Please send any gift you can to the Sudan Relief Fund TODAY, if at all possible.

August God bless you for your Christ-like love for our hurting brothers and sisters who have no one else to turn to.

Yours in faith,



Neil Corkery
President

day, but through SRF support they are now having three meals a day. The children were also forced to cook for themselves, both before and after school. But now a cook has been hired with a little incentive paid to her from the monthly feeding budget. This has saved the children the burden of cooking for themselves after coming back from school late in the evenings.

2) School Fees

The fees for school were also quite prohibitive for the orphans. But we realize the next generation of South Sudanese must have the quality education required to lead their country to peace and prosperity. So we are paying the school fees for the children at the orphanage. Uniforms were also bought as well as other school materials such as books, pens and paper for all children attending the school.

3) Medical Costs

All outstanding medical bills for the orphanage were paid, thanks to our generous donors. With you and our other compassionate supporters backing us, we have been able to pay for all ongoing medical costs for the children and staff at the orphanage as well.

4) Solar and Battery Power Installation

Two batteries, an inverter, and a controller have been installed to provide light to the main building at the orphanage. Two solar panels were connected to charge the batteries and provide light to the children. This will both improve their performance in the classroom and provide better security.

5) Other basic necessities for the orphans

The orphanage had been missing many household items before we began supporting the project. Now the children benefit from many items we've purchased – including chairs, benches, iron boxes, plastic bags, shoes, clothes and many other staples.

Thanks to our generous donors we have been supporting St. Bakhita Orphanage in Tombura through the Welfare Support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children Project for two years. In that short time, we have witnessed the miraculous and transforming power of Christ's love in the lives of these boys and girls.

At one time, these children had no one to care for them. Then they arrived at the St. Bakhita Orphanage. Between the orphanage staff and generous donors half a world away, they benefit from the nurturing and spiritual development that will last them a lifetime.

Catholic nun dies from wounds suffered in South Sudan ambush

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of Sister Veronika Terézia Racková. She was ambushed while taking a patient to a hospital in the town of Yei. Sister Veronika died from her wounds after being airlifted to a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.



Sister Veronika Terézia Racková gave her life serving God's children in South Sudan.

Sister Veronika, a member of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, was shot in the stomach.

She also suffered multiple fractures of the pelvis. Once she reached the hospital in Kenya, her condition was considered critical. She eventually died after multiple cardiac arrests.

The media in South Sudan have reported that three people have been arrested in connection with the killing.

Sister Veronika was head of St. Bakhita's Medical Centre in Yei, South Sudan. She previously served in Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Indonesia and Ghana. Yei River State Information Minister, Stephen Lodu Onesimo, condemned the incident as an "undisciplined and barbarian act." He added that the attackers "must be brought to justice."

This tragic death underlines the risks nuns face in this conflict-torn country. *Sudan Relief Review* previously reported on Solidarity Teacher Training College in Yambio being attacked by thieves. Four nuns were assaulted, with one sister being raped.

Yet despite the risks to their physical safety, and even their lives, the love those like Sister Veronika have for God's children in South Sudan is an inspiration to all humanity. Everyone connected with the Sudan Relief Fund mourns the loss of Sister Veronika, and prays for her soul that is now with God.



Children at the St. Bakhita Orphanage with the plastic bags made possible by supporters of the Sudan Relief Fund.

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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Monthly giving to Sudan Relief Fund couldn't be easier. You can make a tax-deductible gift every month by an automatic draft from your checking account or credit card. And because it's done automatically on the same day every month, it's convenient and requires no extra effort on your part. Plus you have total control: you decide how much you want to donate -- and you can stop making monthly donations at any time.

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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