



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

Sudan Relief Fund comes to the rescue of orphans at St. Bakhita Home in Tomburo-Yambio



Orphans at St. Bakhita Home desperately need food, medicine, schooling and other necessities of life.

The St. Bakhita Home for Orphans and Vulnerable Children could have faced extinction without emergency aid from the Sudan Relief Fund.

The Orphanage in Tombura County in South Sudan is run by the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio. The Home shelters 56 orphans ranging from one to seventeen years of age. There are 43 girls and 13 boys.

Most of the children come to the Orphanage because their parents died from AIDS and have no one to care for them. Because of internal turmoil and attacks from the radical Islamist regime in north Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan has been unable to care for its orphaned children. St. Bakhita Home is

among the humanitarian organizations trying to take up the slack, but it is a constant challenge.

This is why, with the prayers and support of our faithful donors, the Sudan Relief Fund will provide funds to the Orphanage for the next year. The children have several urgent needs, including:

Food: On average, the Orphanage could only afford to feed the children one meal a day -- and some days they went with no food at all. The children haven't been getting enough nutrition and calories for proper development and maintaining good health. We are providing food and related items needed for preparing healthful meals for the children.

Medical Care: The Orphanage has no medical staff or first aid supplies. In the past, one disabled child and an elderly grandmother died from disease-related illnesses due to lack of medical treatment. The nuns running the orphanage are training a staff member to handle first aid on site. We're also providing medicines, including AIDS medication for children who are HIV positive. And we're providing transportation and paying expenses for cases that need to be referred to larger medical facilities at Nzara or Yambio (about 185km away).

Education: Fifty of the orphans are old enough for school, but very few are attending because there is no school onsite and the Orphanage cannot afford the expenses of sending the children to

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nearby schools. We are stepping in to pay school fees for all the children, such as tuition, uniforms, books and school supplies.

Security Fence: Thieves and rapists are a constant threat to the children and the Orphanage. So we're helping to complete a wire security fence around the entire grounds. Once completed, this will protect the children's dormitory as well as the Orphanage's water source, kitchen, toilets and other facilities.

Latrines and Bathing Rooms: The Orphanage has only two old and poorly constructed latrines. They are about 100 yards away from where the children sleep, making it dangerous for them to trek back and forth at night. The Orphanage has no bathing facilities, forcing the children to bathe outside in the open. So we're paying for a four-room latrine and a four-room bathroom close to the children's dormitory.

We're also providing basic items such as clothing, shoes, soap and sanitary items for the girls as well as other toiletries. In all, our goal is to give the orphans at the St. Bahkita Home the chance to develop in a safe environment. To receive the care every child deserves so they can grow into adulthood capable of supporting themselves and their families.

Your prayers and generosity enabled the Sudan Relief Fund to come to the rescue of these orphans. There's a reply form and envelope included with this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*. Your support again now will advance our mission of bringing the Gospel of Christ -- and providing food, shelter and medical care -- to the children and adults of South Sudan.

A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

In South Sudan, war continues to disrupt the lives of innocent children and adults.

And the worsening famine that results from the fighting threatens tens of thousands with death.

But the Sudan Relief Fund and our beloved Catholic Church remain close to the people impacted. In this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*, you can read about the work your support makes possible.

We're caring for orphans lacking food, education and the basic necessities of life. We're working to save more than 22,000 children from starvation in the months to come. And we're helping to fund a farming project that is teaching local people to feed themselves.

This is all very hard, expensive work. It couldn't happen without your generosity.

And as the war and famine drag on and on, we're constantly overwhelmed with desperate pleas for emergency assistance. That's why I pray you will continue blessing the people of South Sudan with your Christian generosity.

Your help is urgently needed for our wide range of upcoming initiatives. Such as building new classrooms for St. Mary's Primary School in Yambio, and continuing our vital support of Dr. Tom Catena and the Mother of Mercy Hospital in Gidel. So PLEASE help us once more with any gift you can spare.

Thank you and God bless you for keeping the Sudanese people in your prayers.

Yours in faith,



Neil Corkery
President

MORE THAN 22,000 CHILDREN RISK DEATH FROM WORSENING FAMINE

Less than four years after South Sudan declared its independence, the Sudan Relief Fund is among aid organizations racing to head off a large-scale humanitarian disaster. According to UNICEF and the World Food Program, nearly one-third of South Sudan's population faces "acute" or "emergency" levels of hunger and malnutrition -- South Sudan's food crisis is almost entirely man-made. After eight months of civil war ...

- ** About 1.1 million of its roughly 11 million people are internally displaced ...
- ** Farmers missed this year's planting season because of the violence.
- ** Livestock, which accounts for as much as 70 percent of the calories consumed by some communities, have been looted, killed and scattered in the mayhem.
- ** River trade, which forms a lifeline for many towns and cities cut off from the capital by road during the rainy season, has ground to a virtual standstill.

Experts have held off on making a formal famine declaration -- there are specific criteria that must be met before such a declaration can be made -- but aid workers caution against waiting for that before taking action.

"The declaration of famine is a technical term," said Jonathan Veitch, UNICEF's representative in South Sudan. "It will be too late if we wait. We have to all act now." Children are already dying, he said.



Sudan Relief Fund is helping to feed our poor brothers and sisters dying from hunger.

By the time the UN declared a famine in Somalia in 2011, roughly half its 260,000 victims had already perished, according to a study commissioned by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

South Sudan also is facing a deadly cholera epidemic. Transmitted mainly through contaminated food or drinking water, cholera causes severe dehydration and can lead to death in a matter of hours.

Efforts to contain the cholera outbreak have been hampered by persistent insecurity in the country's northeast, where most of the fighting has occurred. Despite an internationally mediated cease-fire, sporadic clashes between government and rebel troops have continued, and there have been reports of both sides delaying or seizing aid to civilians. This month, six aid workers were targeted in what were apparently ethnically motivated killings.

Months of peace talks haven't made headway. "Neither of the parties exhibit much urgency around the humanitarian issue," said John Prendergast, a former U.S. federal government official with years of human rights activism on Africa issues. He described the hunger crisis in South Sudan as a "ticking time bomb."

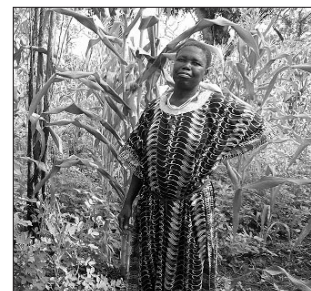
If hostilities continue into the dry season, aid workers fear that conditions could deteriorate substantially. As bad as the situation is now, at least there are water and plants on which displaced populations can survive. Once the dry season hits, those last lifelines will disappear.

Some experts predict that South Sudan will hit "peak malnutrition" in February or March. Aid agencies say that is when a famine is most likely to be declared.

This reporting was made possible in part by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

HELPING PEOPLE FEED THEMSELVES THROUGH "SEEDS OF HOPE"

Amid all the unrest and conflict in South Sudan, progress continues in many parts of the country. Sudan Relief Fund helps fund a farming project that is helping the people to feed themselves. This project is literally planting "seeds of hope" for the local people.



This project teaches the local people sustainable farming -- so they can feed themselves while promoting commercial activity in their communities.

The farm is on 5,000 acres of land provided by the Tombura-Yambio Diocese. The project is led by Sister Rosa Le Thi Bong RNDM, from Vietnam, where she initially helped 40 families develop better food production -- planting better crops, harvesting and storage. Sister Rosa has been working in South Sudan for almost seven years, has learned the Azande language, and is very well liked by the locals.

Most of the farm has been cleared and a timber post and barbed wire fence erected to mark out clearly the large plot of land. A borehole has been installed that provides access to water for the farm but at least one further borehole will be needed. Sister Rosa has already determined some of the crops that will grow well in the area such as green gram, maize and papaya.

Sister Rosa has also brought in many beehives, thereby expanding the capacity of the people to produce good quality honey. She has also introduced new livestock including pigs. The people have been taught to cultivate using oxen, introduced in the area by Sister Rosa as well as small "walking tractors" to help cultivation.

A Nigerian Marist, Brother Christian Mbam Nbudisi FMS, handles the bookkeeping. But local people provide all the labor and supervision. The project is labor intensive yet the wages earned by the workers have created desperately needed commercial activity in community marketplaces. There will be surplus product to market in Yambio and beyond. But the key first step in this project is alleviating hunger in the local community. That will make the project sustainable so the people can look after themselves. In all, this "seeds of hope" project is a great model for other local communities to follow.

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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YOUR MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO HELP THE POOR OF SOUTH SUDAN . . .

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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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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