



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

Millions may soon starve to death.... **FAMINE HITS SOUTH SUDAN!**

After years of turmoil, the United Nations has declared a famine in South Sudan. More than 100,000 people are on the verge of starvation. Nearly 5 million more — equal to 40% of the country’s population — are in urgent need of food. That number is expected to rise to half the country’s population by July. **If more humanitarian aid doesn’t arrive soon, millions could die.**

“Our worst fears have been realized,” said Serge Tissot of the Food and Agriculture Organization, part of the UN. “Many families have exhausted every means they have to survive.”

The war and a collapsing economy have disrupted farming and left people with little choice but to scavenge for food to survive. The situation is dire. Thousands of children and families have fled their homes and are living deep in the swamps or sweltering bush. These desperate people are surviving off wild plants and filthy, contaminated water.

“Over a quarter of a million children are already severely malnourished,” said Jeremy Hopkins, a UNICEF official in South Sudan. “If we do not reach these children with urgent aid, many of them will die.”

The UN calls the strife in South Sudan the greatest humanitarian crisis the world has seen since 1945. Many aid organizations have fled the area due to the unrelenting chaos and staggering violence. With the collapse of the government and the constant stream of bloodshed, the Catholic Church is the only functioning institution left in the country.

This makes the efforts of the Sudan Relief Fund vital. We remain committed to staying close to the people and helping those in need of food, medicine and other humanitarian aid.

We are blessed to have generous donors like you who make our lifesaving work possible.



Of the millions desperate for food, more than 250,000 are severely malnourished children who could soon die without urgent aid.

As one of our caring supporters, you know the tragic story of South Sudan better than most. The country broke off from Sudan in 2011 after decades of guerrilla war. There were two years of peace. Then an ethnic conflict erupted almost four years ago. Each side fields an army of battle-hardened soldiers who often target civilians.

As a result, tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and millions more driven from their homes. And the violence has disrupted the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Both the government and the rebels have attacked humanitarian convoys and warehouses, making it difficult to deliver aid to the hardest-hit areas. Catholic Bishops and aid officials have been urging the armed groups to allow emergency supplies to pass through their areas, but so far to no avail.

South Sudanese are fleeing to churches where they hope they’ll be protected. **Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala**, the Catholic Bishop of Tombura-Yambio, says seven of his 33 parishes have become refugees for thousands — and in some parishes, tens of thousands.

All this chaos has led to malnutrition rates soaring above emergency levels, and countless people dying from hunger.

That’s why the UN is now classifying the crisis in South Sudan as a famine.

To make matters worse, the famine has hit South Sudan just as the UN warns the country could suffer genocide — the likes of which was last seen in Rwanda. The UN conducted a seven-month inquiry and issued a report documenting cases of ethnic cleansing, mass rape and deliberate starvation.

Yet another worry is the prediction of drought striking South Sudan. Meteorologists have said that this year is going to be especially hot and dry across much of eastern Africa.

Pope Francis has spoken about the crisis in South Sudan and plans to visit the country in October.

Neil Corkery, the president of the Sudan Relief Fund, says the pope and the Catholic Church are the only people that could help bring about a peaceful solution. During a recent interview on EWTN Corkery stresses that Pope Francis will try to “refocus the

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With your support, Sudan Relief Fund is feeding those at risk of starvation.

international community on the gravity of this crisis that's there, and convene the warring parties to try to bring them to the table and get some peace."

In the meantime, with millions of innocent children and adults desperate for food, please pray for them. Then please rush any gift you can spare to the Sudan Relief Fund today. You'll find a reply form and envelope enclosed with this issue of *Sudan Relief Review*. Your prayers and financial support will help us save the lives of those facing starvation. The clock is ticking, so please let us hear from you as soon as possible.

SRF helps South Sudanese refugees in Uganda with your support

When South Sudan descended into renewed violence last July, the Bidi Bidi refugee camp was established across the border in Uganda and expected to hold 40,000 people. Soon after it opened in August, it started growing by twice that number every month. Now it's a sprawling expanse of mud-walled huts and tents, home to 272,000 South Sudanese refugees who fled famine and ethnic cleansing in their native country.

The Bidi Bidi settlement is believed to be the largest single refugee camp in the world. Its rapid growth bears testimony to brutality of life in South Sudan, which the UN warns is on the verge of genocide.

Every day, thousands of people cross the border into Uganda. This year, the UN expects another 300,000 South Sudanese refugees to arrive, on top of the more than 600,000 already in Uganda. Of the current refugees, 86% are women and children. The Government of Uganda does what it can, but the camp simply cannot handle

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A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY

PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ,

As bad as the famine in South Sudan is now -- and the situation is dire -- an even bigger crisis is looming.

The ongoing conflict and the scorched earth policies of government troops have prevented farmers from planting their crops. There's now little hope the people will be able to grow food, leaving them completely reliant on humanitarian aid.

The Diocese of Tombura-Yambio is in an area with very fertile soil, and it was once the breadbasket of South Sudan. But the farmers have taken refuge in Catholic parishes, along with thousands of other civilians, to escape the violence.

This means crops aren't being harvested. Crops that could help feed **millions of people in desperate need of food.**

This tragedy unfolds as the government has totally collapsed. I was recently interviewed on EWTN, the global Catholic TV network, where I took the opportunity to point out that the Catholic Church is the "only functioning institution in civil society" left in South Sudan.

Moreover, I explained that only the Church is still delivering humanitarian aid to those living in the most remote parts of the country.

That's why I give thanks to God for **your generous support** of the Sudan Relief Fund. Your Christ-like generosity has helped us save so many lives in the past. And for that, you will always have my deepest and most sincere gratitude.

But with this war-torn country in the grips of famine -- and with tens of thousands on the verge of starving -- please rush any gift you can spare to SRF right away. Thank you and God bless you.

Yours in faith,
Neil Corkery
President

the flood of refugees pouring in.

That's why — thanks to your generosity — the Sudan Relief Fund provides Bidi Bidi with support to care for needy refugees already there, and for those still pouring across the border. With your help, SRF provided more than \$90,000 toward what's called a "livelihood project."

Uganda has a unique refugee policy. It allows refugees in the country to work, travel and mix with the surrounding community. Many of the South Sudanese refugees are hardworking and experienced farmers. But, having fled their homes with literally only the clothes on their backs, they lack the means of creating a new livelihood.



The vast majority of the 272,000 South Sudanese refugees in the Bidi Bidi camp are women and children.

Through this "livelihood project," and your generosity, 2,018 families received emergency distribution of seeds, tools and training necessary to become self-reliant farmers.

Yet we have so much more to do.

Assessments of Bidi Bidi and other refugee camps show that many people are facing "acute" or even "emergency" levels of hunger and malnutrition. This isn't simply due to a lack of food. It's also due to the food not being able to stay in the body long enough to accomplish its nourishing work.

Sanitation problems and unhygienic conditions, specifically the lack of access to clean water in adequate amounts, has taken a toll worse than even a lack of food.

So many refugees face problems of malaria, diarrhea, dysentery and intestinal worms. These all stem from a lack of clean water, sanitation and hygiene — and they all contribute to general malnutrition and ultimately more needless deaths.

SRF is funding a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program in the region where the Bidi Bidi camp is located. The WASH program will provide water security by means of drilling boreholes, building latrines, and providing training on sanitation and hygiene.

As opposed to the current solution of trucking in clean water (which is unsustainable due to cost and treacherous travel conditions), the WASH program will create clean wells right within the camps — providing access to clean water that is both safer and more reliable. This program — and all of Sudan Relief Fund's lifesaving work — could not happen without the generous financial contributions of our supporters.

SRF-backed 'Dr. Tom' profiled in American newspaper

Dr. Tom Catena is an American doctor from upstate New York who has dedicated his life to caring for the sick and suffering in South Sudan for the past 10 years. Affectionately called "Dr. Tom," he is the only trained surgeon in the Nuba Mountains region, which is the size of Scotland. And he cares for hundreds of patients each day at Mother of Mercy Hospital — with help from caring donations from Sudan Relief Fund supporters.



Dr. Tom Catena and his wife and nurse, Nasima.

Melinda Henneberger, a journalist with the *Kansas City Star*, recently accompanied the Sudan Relief Fund on a trip to South Sudan. She had the opportunity to sit down and speak with Dr. Tom and hear about the lifesaving work he and his team perform every day in South Sudan — a place where women still often die during childbirth and children of dehydration from untreated diarrhea.

In addition to his lifesaving work, Henneberger notes that Dr. Tom provides much more than medical care to the local population. His decision to stay on and work in a hospital that has been bombed by government forces inspires the kind of gratitude by the locals that can only be described as love.

Henneberger writes:

I met with Catena in his hospital where there are nearby foxholes where they seek shelter during the bombings. He spoke of a recent successful surgery on a 9-year-old girl who was injured five years ago, which caused urine to leak through her skin.

The day before my visit, he'd treated an 18-year-old who'd been in labor for three days. Her baby was dead by the time she arrived — with no paved roads, few cars and gasoline no one can afford, too many patients die on their way to see him — but he was able to save her.

The article also touched on the local Nuba people celebrating Dr. Tom's recent marriage. His wife is a Nuba-born nurse, Nasima Mohammed Bashir. "Dr. Tom is a Nubian now!" a local friend says. More than 2,000 people attended the wedding.

Nasima has childhood memories that include the day 15 students died in a bombing. Many others she grew up with have had limbs blown off — including one young man who was out grazing his cows one day when a plane flew over dropping bombs, blowing off his arms. Now, "[H]e's writing with his mouth."

Dr. Tom is extremely grateful for the continuous generosity and prayers of Sudan Relief Fund supporters. He is committed to being a good steward of the funds you help provide to the hospital. As Henneberger put it in her article:

Catena says he is motivated by his Catholic faith and seems to have settled in the area. He told me the only one way he'd leave this life is if things got so much better that his patients there didn't need him anymore. That will not be happening any time soon.

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.

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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