



SUDAN RELIEF REVIEW

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

In South Sudan, the suffering find hope thanks to your support

Without a doubt, the people of South Sudan are suffering greatly in the midst of unrelenting war and chaos. But your generosity — and your prayers to Almighty God — are improving the lives of our brothers and sisters half a world away.

You are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, and bringing Christ’s love to the poorest of the poor. For so many in this devastated young country, things are improving bit by bit — and this improvement wouldn’t be happening without friends like you.

One of the biggest ways your prayerful support is transforming lives is through the education of children.

The Loreto Rumbek Primary and Secondary Schools, which your support has made possible, provides a safe haven for girls so they can receive an education. Having just celebrated their ten year anniversary, the schools continue to grow to provide young girls with a bright future. Without the Loreto Secondary School, many of the students would have already been forced into marriage and denied the right to an education.

One of the incoming students, Josephine, says, **“I am glad I made it to join Loreto. I will encourage my classmates to study hard as we start and live happily in school.”**

Surrounded by chaos and death, the



Children are thriving at Catholic schools in South Sudan thanks to the blessing of your Sudan Relief Fund donations.

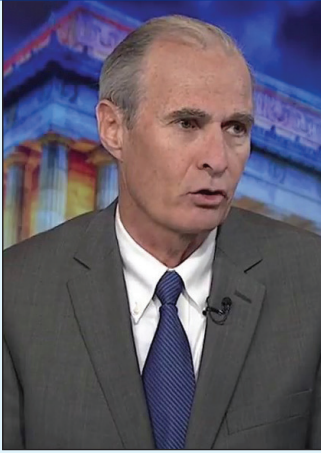
school is a ray of hope and provides comprehensive support — a refuge offering protection, food, education, clothing, health care, and social and spiritual formation for hundreds of young girls. With the support of donors like you, Sudan Relief Fund has funded the school’s food program for four years, helping to keep these vulnerable girls fed and safe.

“[Sudan Relief Fund] donors heavily invest in these students, and parents’ contribution to keep the girls in school is vital,” says Mr. Yuga, headteacher of Loreto Secondary School. “We are very proud of our new students and we wish them every success in their studies and development.”

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

Dear Friend in Christ,

Your generous gifts are truly making a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ in South Sudan.

But with more than 7 million people still in desperate need of aid this year, the situation in South Sudan remains a serious humanitarian crisis.

As you know, because of the unrelenting war, no one has been able to plant anything in this country. The violence has literally made it impossible for people to grow the food needed to feed themselves. And this has been a huge, HUGE crisis.

But, with friends like you partnering with us, we are providing emergency relief to these poor people and saving lives. And despite the ongoing conflict, we continue to establish schools, churches, hospitals, and other institutions of civil society to build a peaceful and prosperous South Sudan.

Your faithful support also furthers the Catholic Church's presence in these peoples' lives. It's the Church that gives them the spiritual underpinning needed to provide the hope they can get back to a normal life.

Thank you and God bless you for helping to build on the hope you've established with your continuing prayers and compassion. Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Yours in faith,
Neil Corkery, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil Corkery". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

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Meanwhile, **your generous support is also funding the education of students at the new secondary school at Ave Maria, the Catholic parish church outside of Mupo, in the dioceses of Tombura-Yambio.** The church was built almost a century ago by Combonian missionaries from Italy, but it fell into disrepair decades ago and is practically unusable.

Now, it's being refurbished by two Spanish priests, Father Avelino Bassols and Father Albert Salvans. Ave Maria Parish is now the epicenter of the peace and rebuilding effort in South Sudan's Diocese of Tombura-Yambio.

"Our mission here is to bring the Gospel in full, and that means not only spreading the Gospel, but also bringing education, peace, and reconciliation to the region," says Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala.

While the priests work in the slow rebuilding of the shrine, your support is helping to build the new secondary school. The school will serve all the students from the nearby towns of Yubu, Ngpotoneyo, Nboko, and Sabamile.

"In the state of Tombura, 84% of the population is Catholic, and I mean, truly Catholic," says Father Avelino. "We need schools, drinking water, a healthcare facility, issues we are addressing with the help of the Sudan Relief Fund."

As you can see, your prayers and gifts are making a difference for our brothers and sisters in Christ in South Sudan. God bless you for being part of the Sudan Relief Fund family and transforming the lives of so many.

You help the ‘Blue Sisters’ bring hope to abused women and girls

Founded three decades ago in southern Sudan, the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary are usually known by the bright blue color of their habits, giving them the nickname “Blue Sisters.”

In the Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, Bishop Edward Hiiboro Kussala tasked them with providing permanent assistance to the many women — including young girls and teenagers — who have been raped, abused or abandoned amid the violent conflicts that have plagued the region for years.

“There is a major stigma that falls over these mostly young women who are victims of the violence of war,” says Sister Ester, local superior for the Blue Sisters. The four sisters help with the recovery of 100 women in a facility in the town of Yambio, next to the diocesan chancery.

“The sisters are an incredible blessing,” Bishop Kussala explains. “They were founded by my predecessor, Bishop Joseph Abangite Gasi upon the request of the Sudanese bishops, who realized that a community of African sisters was sorely needed.”

According to Sister Ester, the women living at the shelter vary in age and with regard to their level of trauma.

“Several of them remain still in a state of shock, barely aware of their reality,” she says. “Our ministry is to help them to recover from the consequences of the terrible suffering they have endured, through love, patience, prayer, and therapy.”

The sisters help some women cope with AIDS, and they help others to raise their children — many of whom were conceived in rape. According to Sister Ester, “the connection with their children, surprisingly, is a significant part of the healing process, and not part of the trauma, as some tend to believe.”

Although the civil war has significantly abated in this part of South Sudan, the shelter still welcomes abused women every day. For this reason, the Blue Sisters want to expand their facility and enhance the care they provide. **That’s where the generosity of Sudan Relief Fund supporters like you rides to the rescue.**

“Thanks to the significant financial help of the Sudan Relief Fund, we are a few months away from finishing a brand new facility, where the sisters, our experts and volunteers will be able to provide the best treatment possible to our women,” Sister Ester says. “Our goal is to gradually integrate these women into society with the adequate

spiritual and mental stability, and with a clear path to their future.”

Thank you for your continuing help and prayers!



Sister Ester is thankful to Sudan Relief Fund donors for helping the “Blue Sisters” care for abused women and girls.

Refugees in Riimenze rely on your generosity

With little time to escape with their lives, 28-year-old Simone and her five children, aged 2 to 11, were forced to flee when the violent war reached their home. They found a safe haven in the small village of Riimenze, where the grounds of the Catholic church there now serve as a refugee camp.

Simone’s family arrived two years ago with nothing but the clothes on their back. Simone wishes nothing more than to go back home, raise her children, and live a peaceful and prosperous life. But it’s simply not safe to return.

“Life here is very difficult,” Simone says.

Sadly, the ability to care for poor souls like Simone has been stretched to the limit. The only health clinic available on site is extremely small and inadequate. It only has one room. So patients must be treated outside, under trees, or inside tents — which often flood during the rainy season.

More than 7,000 children, women, and men are living in the same camp as Simone.

One of them is a poor elderly man named Felipe. Two years ago, his life turned upside down. Soldiers ransacked his village. Homes were looted, vandalized, and burned to the ground. Innocent people were beaten, raped, and even killed. Felipe is safe on the church grounds in Riimenze, but he still lacks food and medicine. He lives under a grass-thatched hut, and heavy rainfall causes his roof to leak.

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Simone and her five children are among the 7,000 refugees your support helps us feed and care for in the Riimenze camp.

Felipe and Simone and her children are far from alone in their plight. Everywhere you look, thousands of poor families desperately need medicine and food.

The reality is, these suffering souls wouldn't stand a chance without the compassion of Sudan Relief Fund supporters like you. Thank you for finding it in your heart to help us bring hope and life of these refugees in their time of crisis.

Bringing food and hope to the homeless of Wau

Nearly 300 miles north of Riimenze lies Wau, the third-largest city in South Sudan. More than 16,000 homeless are crowded into five church parishes surrounding the city — and they are starving.

“Each time I visit the church parishes, I’m always struck by the desperate need of assistance and the harsh living conditions,” says David Dettoni, Sudan Relief Fund’s Director of Operations. “Your heart would break to hear the cries of hungry babies and to see the tears in their mother’s eyes because they don’t know where or when their next meal will come. And for most, **SRF is their only source to receive lifesaving food.**”

The starving children and families of Wau look to you in their time of crisis. Thank you for responding with Christ’s love and your gifts to Sudan Relief Fund.

PLANNED GIVING, LEGACY GIFTS, BEQUESTS, WILLS & ESTATE DONATIONS

What will your legacy be?

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 in your estate plans.



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