

Sudan - Emergency and Relief Update

January 2011



Sudan, officially the Republic of Sudan, is the largest country in Africa and the Arab world. After two North – South wars fought between 1955 – 1972 and 1983 – January 2005, a peace treaty (Comprehensive Peace Agreement - CPA) was signed. The CPA set a timetable by which Southern Sudan would hold a referendum on its independence.

Election for a southern government were held in mid- 2010 and the referendum was set for the 9th of January 2011. During the past months, concerns over renewed conflict have been voiced in the South as many see a peaceful separation from the North to be an unlikely outcome.

Though a fragile peace was forged between North and South, Darfur a large desert region in the North –West remains a conflict area. Communities along the southern border to Uganda and Congo also suffer under the continued raids of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), a religious and military group fighting against the Ugandan government. The group was formed in 1987 and is led by Joseph Kony, who proclaims himself the spokesperson of God. This is now one of Africa’s longest-running conflicts.

Members of the **Episcopal Church of the Sudan (ECS)** primarily live in southern Sudan where the seat of the Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul and Mothers’ Union provincial office are also located (Juba, Central Equatoria State).

The Diocese of Yambio will be in charge of the project and we will purchase the items from Kampala. The Internally Displaced People (IDP) have been registered to ease the distribution process.

The LRA have been on the loose and are mercilessly attacking and killing and even mutilating the bodies of the victims, some who are unfortunately members of my congregation and church workers, not to mention that I myself almost fell prey to this melee on the fateful day as I was coming from Juba.

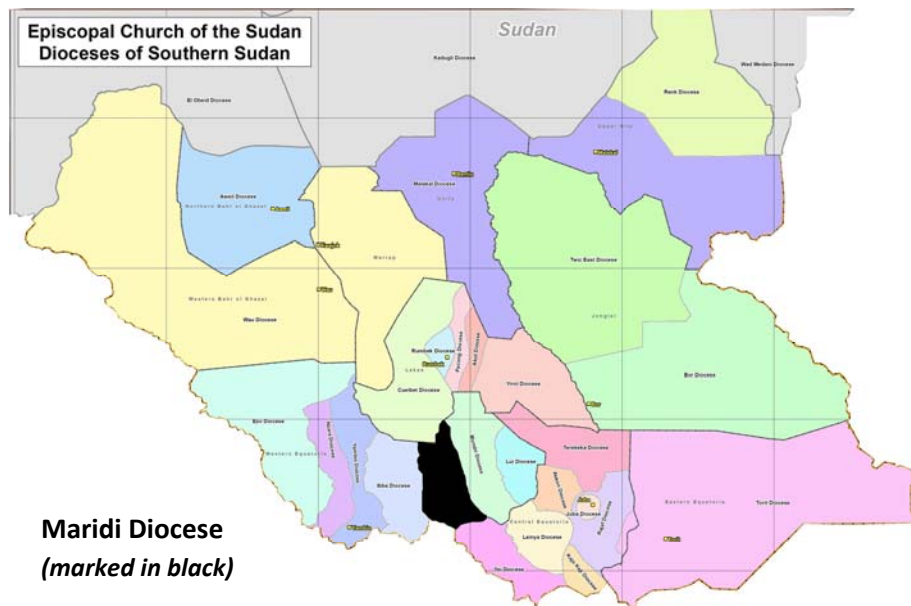
The numbers are alarmingly raising- 20 people have been reported killed in Nabiapai and 5 in Bazungua (approximately 7 miles from Yambio Town).

It is very disheartening to see people on the run; men, women and children alike. Some find somewhere to seek refuge but others are caught up in the predicament. To my surprise, the responsible authorities in matters concerning security are doing very little to contain the situation.

As a result of this situation the number of IDPs has also increased and there is need for food shelter and other non food items to provide for them.”

A budget was sent to Mary Sumner House and the Trustees agreed to send £5,000 to Yambio Diocese to help with the emergency situation. Sudan Development and Relief Agency (SUDRA), the ECS's Relief and Development arm are helping the Mothers' Union to distribute funds effectively.

December 2010 - £5,000 sent to Maridi Diocese to respond to LRA attacks



Email from Rev Eunice Naima, MU Worker of Maridi Diocese in December 2010:

“Greetings to you from Maridi! I would like to let you know about the present emerging situation in Maridi. Last night the Lord's Resistant Army attacked Nzumara Village in two separate attacks, killing two people, leaving two wounded and abducted a pregnant woman and a baby. Many people have escaped from the area. The situation calls for an emergency Relief support to the displaced.”

A budget was sent to Mary Sumner House and the Trustees agreed to send £5,000 to Yambio Diocese to help with the emergency situation. Sudan Development and Relief Agency (SUDRA), the ECS's Relief and Development arm are helping the Mothers' Union to distribute funds effectively.



Pictures of villagers fleeing Nzumara village

During the killing around 27 Dinkas were killed and 17 Jur-Belli. There were three children amongst the dead. Around 44 people lost their lives in May 2010 and the fighting continued until June 2010. At the time the government sent forces as a buffer between the two sides. Many villagers left their houses and ran to central villages within Pacong Diocese and south of Wulu town. Around 50 houses were burnt down and a lot of livestock was destroyed or looted.

Around 27 villages were deserted and no cultivation (months of cultivation from May to June) took place. Around 1,300 children and 1,000 adults were displaced due to the tribal clashes. The church has also found that around 500 adults have returned from Khartoum to settle in the South in anticipation of separation. These adults are in need of help to assimilate and settle back into their home villages.

Intervention

Emergency food as well as help to resettle the families back into the villages is needed as well as peace building amongst the Dinka and Jur-Belli tribes. The target was to help around 1,300 persons affected by conflict with food (sorghum, groundnut and dried fish) and non-food items.

Cueibet Diocese

Background: Clashes between the GOSS Army, Dinka and Nuer tribes in Cueibet Diocese

The government is still aiming to initiate large-scale disarmament in the state as there are still many guns in the hands of the youth in local villages.

Young men are seen as being responsible for killing, cattle – raiding and theft and perpetuate violence by wielding the gun. Many of these incidents happen between different Dinka tribes or between the Nuer and the Dinka. This increases tension and incidents of violence become more common.

One such incident in February 2010 involved a Dinka Rek of Tony County (War-rap State) to clash with the Dinka Gok of Cueibet county (Lakes State) and both sides made cattle raiding attacks in retaliation against aggression. Young men from the Dinka Rek tribe had taken more than two hundred cows from the Dinka Gok. The Dinka Gok, in order to retaliate effectively, tried to break into a police station in Mekoot town to take all the guns stored there. The police in the police station tried to prevent the young men from breaking in and started shooting at them. When the army heard of this they eventually became involved and the shoot-out stopped. The army made the mistake of shooting the chief (leader) of the Dinka Gok who were attacking the police station.

The next morning the Dinka Gok attacked the army to avenge their chief's death.

"This was a very bad day. 17 people were killed and many houses burnt down, shops were looted and all civilians deserted the area. On Monday the dead bodies were still lying everywhere and nobody was in town. The situation was getting worse. After four days the SPLA commander came from Rumbek town to rescue the situation and to bury the chief."

Bishop of Cueibet

In total around 28 people died and 36 were badly injured. Around 66 families were displaced and 78 children made homeless. Around 380 houses were burnt and 178 shops around Mekoot town.

Food, shelter and help to rebuild their lives are needed for the people of Mekoot town. The local government has estimated that around 3,400 people were displaced due to the clashes. Many refuse to go back to the town and are left without food and shelter.

The armed forces have been ordered to remain 8km away from Mekoot town.





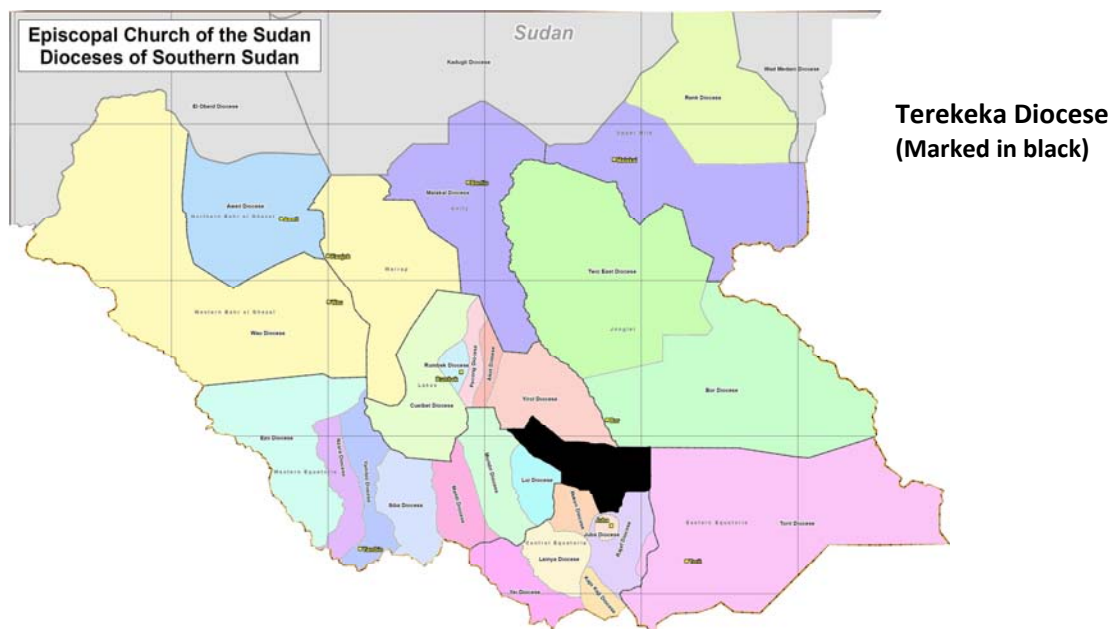
The Diocese of Cueibet and Mothers' Union wanted to respond to this disaster by helping the displaced. The aim is to provide them with food as well as non-food items (cooking utensils etc), as well as to initiate peace building activities between the tribes. The Diocese of Pacong and Cueibet as well as the Mothers' Union asked Partners including Mary Sumner House for help. A budget was sent to Mary Sumner House and the Trustees agreed to send £10,000 to Pacong and Cueibet Diocese to help with the emergency situation. Sudan Development and Relief Agency (SUDRA), the ECS's Relief and Development arm are helping the Mothers' Union to distribute funds effectively.

November 2010 - £5,000 sent to Terekeka Diocese to respond to tribal conflict and floods

In November 2010 we received a relief request from the Bishop and Leader of the Mothers' Union in Terekeka Diocese. In a village in Gemeza archdeaconry around 650 people were living without shelter and food as all their houses had been burnt down.

The origin of this emergency had been tribal conflict between the Mundaris and the Dinka tribes who were fighting over cattle. Many fled to an island in the middle of the Nile River. The river flooded and caused more displacement.

Children and pregnant mothers are most vulnerable to the wet conditions that are increasing the number of sick suffering from diarrhea, malaria and others.



The biggest problem is starvation as many struggle to eat more than one small meal a day. The Diocese wishes to target around 1,940 people who are currently living without adequate shelter or food supply.

The trustees have agreed to send £5,000 towards food and shelter to the Diocese of Terekeka.

Sudan: Looking ahead

January 2011 – Referendum and insecurities

The referendum took place on the 9th of January and most predict that if the votes are counted correctly (a process which will take around a month) then Southerners will vote for secession with a 99% likelihood. The outcome of the referendum was no surprise with 98% of Southerners voting for secession. The turn out was overwhelming and surprised many election observers.

9th January 2011: Sunday

Most Rev Dr Daniel Deng Bul, together with the Archbishop Paulino Lukudu of the Roman Catholic Church advanced to Hai Jalaba Junior School polling station to cast their referendum ballots. With the Archbishops were an accompanying entourage composed of a delegation from the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) who had come as an ecumenical body of referendum observers.



**The Archbishop of Sudan casts his vote –
9th January 2011**

**“We have been waiting fifty years for this
day. This is the day, this is our time”**



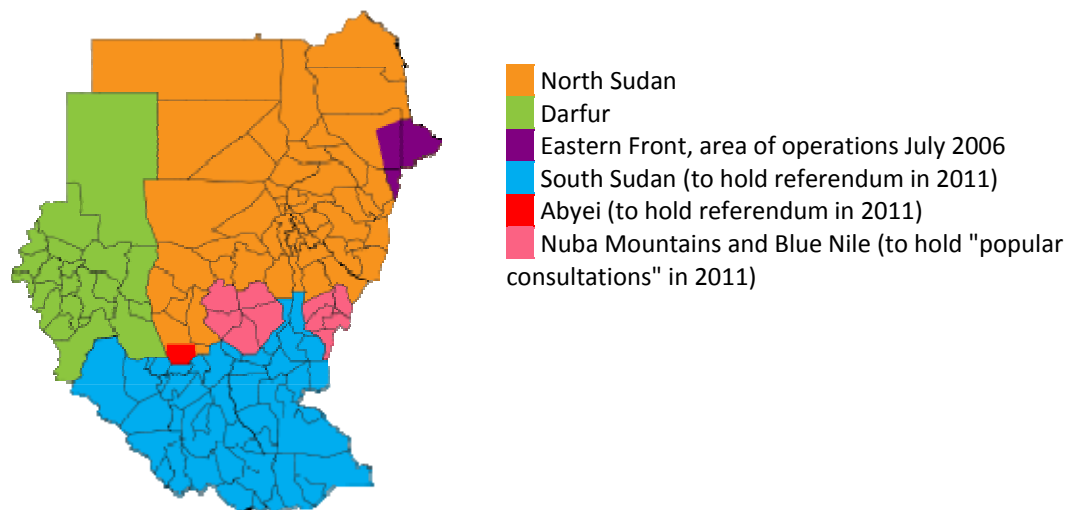
**The Catholic Archbishop (in white) and
the Anglican Archbishop Daniel Deng are
greeted by Jimmy Carter, US President
(1977 – 1981) who travelled to Sudan to
support the Southern Sudanese during
the referendum process**

In a letter to Partners, the Archbishop reported the following: “We give thanks to the Almighty God that since January 9th, southern Sudan has been relatively peaceful. More than 60 per cent of those registered to vote have voted and there have been very few reports of violence or referendum irregularities from Sudanese, international referendum observers or the media at this time.”

Already estimates of Southerners who are living in the North returning back are as high as 2 million. Fear of a sharia law governed state after secession and bad treatment of southerners in the Northern Sudan has forced many to flee back south. The church and NGOs have been trying to prepare for a possible large influx of internally displaced people. It is anticipated that Dioceses along the border to the North will be sending us relief request in order to cater for returning Southerners.

Disputed territories

The following map shows the Northern Sudan in orange (Darfur in green is part of Northern Sudan) and Southern Sudan in blue.



The territories in other colors are disputed territories, all of them with large oil reserves. Particularly Abyei (red) has experienced violent conflict and continues to do so.

On the 12th January 2011, the Archbishop issued an appeal on behalf of Abyei: “There is still lingering violence along the border particularly in Abyei and Greater Unity State. Civil unrest in this area rages on and is certainly one of the biggest threats to national security, which has inevitably hampered referendum preparation to the extent that talks have reached a stalemate. More than 30 people have been killed in the area since January 9th and there is no indication that the killings will stop.”