

A photograph of a woman with a child on her back, set against a background of corrugated metal and wooden planks. The woman is wearing a dark brown top with a blue strap and a colorful patterned skirt. The child is looking towards the camera. The overall tone is somber and documentary.

tearfund

CONNECT

SOUTH SUDAN: SPECIAL REPORT

*"We were on the frontlines
of the conflict..."*

– Norm Holbrook
East Africa
Program Officer

Following Jesus where the need is greatest

HOPE ON THE HORIZON

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering the sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed..." – Luke 4:18

When Jesus read this passage from Isaiah he knew that the people in the audience had been waiting for a long time. Oppressed by the Romans, and many nations before them, Israel had been longing hundreds of years for God to deliver them. I imagine that some thought the day would never come.

In many ways, the people in South Sudan feel the same way. After decades of war, drought, and suffering – their hearts ache for peace and a normal life. When the 2017 famine occurred it was just one more disaster in a series of many. Many question if things will ever improve. Does God care about South Sudan?

Of course the answer is yes. *"For God so loves the world..."* includes South Sudan. And in the midst of crisis, we saw him work powerfully through churches and Christians across Canada to come beside those who were suffering. God is at work and He brings hope.

After three years of helping, we are starting to see flickers of light. Fighting in the country is decreasing and families are able to start farming a building their lives again.

Thank you for helping us follow Jesus where the need is greatest. There is still a lot to do, but perhaps the waiting is almost over.

God Bless,



Wayne Johnson
Executive Director
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PART 1: A CRISIS ERUPTS

4.8 MILLION PEOPLE.

When we heard the number, we could hardly believe it. But years of civil war, combined with drought and pests, meant that millions of people were on the brink of starvation.



Plumpy' Nut packs saved the lives of thousands of children. This peanut-based formula can bring from near starvation to healthy in 12-weeks.

FAMINE CAUSE

1. Military Conflict
2. Massive Displacement
3. Widespread Drought
4. Food Imports Inhibited
5. Fallarmy Worm



We have been working in South Sudan for decades, but the magnitude of this crisis was terrifying. Over 1.8 million people became displaced due to the war. There were unparalleled atrocities against civilians. As Christians, we had to respond. Not doing so would result in many lives lost.

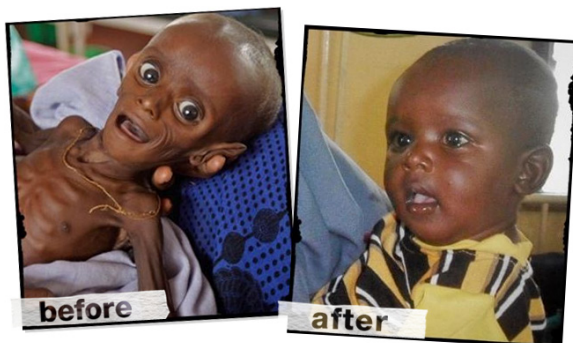
With churches and Christians across Canada, we rallied to provide food and WASH (water, sanitation & hygiene) to who needed it most. "We were serving literally on the frontlines of the conflict," says Norman, our East Africa Program Officer. "It was incredibly dangerous work, and we prayed fiercely."

In the end, it was worth it. Over 10,000 children were screened for severe malnutrition. Starving children were treated with "miracle-food" Plumpy'Nut, a peanut-based formula that took a child on the brink of death to healthy in 12 weeks. **It worked.**

By the end of the famine,

NOT A SINGLE CHILD IN OUR CARE DIED.

It was a miracle. But there was more to come.



SOUTH SUDAN



Our membership with the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank** significantly multiplied the impact of your donations.



\$565,484

TOTAL PRIVATELY RAISED



MULTIPLIED
8.15X

\$4,615,031

TOTAL AMOUNT INVESTED

LIVES IMPACTED:

162,153

People Received Life-Saving Aid

76,928

gained access to clean water

21,492

people provided with emergency food

8,533

children treated for malnutrition

3,159

women received female hygiene kits

HIDDEN SCARS

One of the most sobering parts of the crisis was the fact that an estimated 72% of women and girls over the age of 12 were sexually assaulted. It was heartbreaking to hear.

But we know God can heal. Your generosity helped us start training over 520 South Sudanese church leaders in Biblical concepts of trauma counseling and support to aid in the healing of survivors. As part of the program, survivors are placed in trauma healing groups - led by prior victims - which provide safe places for them to share their experiences and learn about the immense love and value God has for them. This program recently began last year and has already touched hundreds of lives. We currently need more compassionate donors to join this worthwhile cause.

**72% OF WOMEN
AND GIRLS OVER
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SEXUALLY ASSAULTED.**

**“MY HUSBAND TURNED
FROM BEING A CLOSE
FRIEND TO MY WORST
ENEMY...”**

Achol said with tears flooding down her face. At only 19, she was forced to marry her husband after he sexually assaulted and impregnated her. His violence ultimately led to the premature birth and death of her baby.



After trying to escape unsuccessfully, she finally managed to flee. But now she was alone, with no home or food, battling the scars of a lost child and what had happened.

It was during this time, you came alongside her.

She met a pastor who was part of Tearfund's trauma recovery program. He prayed and counseled her and enrolled her in a recovery group - led by female volunteers who themselves were abused. There, Achol is taking small steps towards a normal life.

PART 2: ONGOING TRIALS

Although immediate starvation was avoided, over half of South Sudan's population - 5.1 million people - still faced critical food shortages.

Generous donations enabled us to distribute food rations to 2000 families (13,500 people) in most need; widows, orphans, the elderly, and the disabled. Each family was provided with sorghum, beans, cooking oil, and salt for several months to offer a life-line until they could grow their food. But there was a problem.

Families didn't have the necessary tools to farm. Their poverty was so severe that they sold everything they owned to survive.

We began to distribute farming tools, along with seeds, to help families grow food. They initially made significant progress. But, late rains in 2018, followed up by Fallarmy Worm and intense flooding decimated crops. The situation continued to remain desperate.



South Sudan is a land of extremes. Drought can quickly turn to floods between dry and wet seasons – devastating crops.



TOTAL FOOD DISTRIBUTED


- 2781 tonnes of food
- 161,215 litres of cooking oil
- 348,900 packs of Plumpy' Nut



FARMING HELP

- 18.5 tonnes of seeds
- 5,232 farm hoes
- 2,832 sickles
- 2,400 water jugs
- 354 fishing kits

PART 3: ROAD TO RECOVERY



Village micro-farms are a key component of our recovery efforts in South Sudan, providing a way for vulnerable families to grow their own food.

War, famine, drought, flooding, pests. Our hearts aches for the South Sudanese, praying for things to get better. Despite their trials, many are kind, committed Christians. They have a strong sense of God's justice and peacemaking.

South Sudan has incredible potential. The majority of the land is cultivatable, but only about 4% is cultivated. There is the potential to grow everything from fruit, to teak, to wheat. Moreover, the people have a willingness to try new things.

There has been success with small scale farming - a critical component of moving people into recovery and away from dependency. Farmers are learning new techniques that allow them to farm all year-round. They are so happy when they learn they can again provide for themselves and their

families. For the first time in many years, there is a small sense of hope.

This hope was provided by donors across Canada who followed Christ's call to aid the most vulnerable in their time of need. Without your generous donations, many children and families would have died.

Our prayer is that peace would come soon and that families would be able to rebuild and thrive. That they'd be restored - not just physically, but spiritually as well. There is still a long road to go, and we continue to rely on your donations.

We ask you to continue to come alongside these amazing families and provide them the food, tools, and training they need to escape poverty. It isn't easy, but it makes a lasting difference.



“THE SOUTH SUDANESE ARE INCREDIBLY RESILIENT”

– Norm Holbrook
Program Officer at Tearfund

YOUR LEGACY, THEIR GIFT OF LIFE

We are very grateful to each person who chooses to include a gift in their will to Tearfund, ensuring their life of faith, generosity, and love continues for generations to come.

Including Tearfund in your will is simple and transformative. Whether large or small, all gifts will be used and multiplied by God to build His Kingdom and change lives.

To get started simply contact us using the information provided below. Our friendly staff are waiting and happy to assist you through this life decision and answer any questions you have.

LEARN MORE ABOUT INCLUDING TEARFUND IN YOUR WILL TODAY:

Call: **1-800-567-8190**

Email: **connect@tearfund.ca**

Web: **www.tearfund.ca/legacy**



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