



CWRD UPDATE

South Sudan Crisis Update

South Sudan has been affected by both human-caused and natural disasters for the last five decades, bringing the youngest nation in the world to the brink of collapse.

The first disaster was the Civil War of Liberation between the Islamic regime in North Sudan and Christian and animists Southerners who wanted their own independent country. The war lasted more than 50 years, killing 2 million and displacing more than 5 million others. On July 9, 2011, South Sudan was declared the youngest nation in the world.

In December 2013, a second civil war erupted between the two major tribes of South Sudan, the Dinka and the Nuer. The fighting caused the displacement of 2.5 million people who became refugees in the neighboring countries of Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Democratic Republic of the Congo. This disaster also displaced 1.9 million people to refugee camps where they have been confined for more than eight years. The ongoing war has caused more than 400,000 deaths. South Sudan is now the center of Africa's largest refugee crisis, third in the world after Syria and Afghanistan.



In addition, a deadly flood and swarms of locusts destroyed thousands more lives and livelihoods. Drought demolished crops throughout the country. Since February, violent rampages among the tribes in eastern South Sudan have wreaked havoc. The impact of more flooding since August and Covid-19 has been catastrophic.

According to the United Nations, more than 6 million people—over half of the country's population—are facing emergency food insecurity levels this year, with 500,000 children at risk of severe malnutrition. This points to a serious risk for mass starvation if the conflict does not abate and access to

food is not sustainably improved.

The Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia (ECCSSE) leadership and South Sudan Coalitions of Churches conducted assessments to identify those most vulnerable to the impact of flooding, Covid-19, famine, poverty, and violence. Through relief funding from Covenant World Relief and Development (CWRD), ECCSSE staff members, along with local church coalitions and organizations, distributed food and nonfood items to more than a thousand people and over 150 households throughout several counties in South Sudan.

The relief has transformed the lives of hundreds of people who were desperately looking for food and other basic needs. It has mitigated the sufferings of people who were affected by horrible disasters—especially children and adults suffering from sickness, acute malnutrition, aging, disability, and new mothers.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Please consider donating at covchurch.org/cwrdd/.

Sex Trafficking Statistics

MAP FROM MIGRATIONDATAPORTAL.ORG/THEMES/HUMAN-TRAFFICKING

Approximately 250,000-350,000 American children and youth are at risk for sex trafficking each year.

Globally, an estimated 4.7 million persons are caught in sex trafficking today.

The average age of a sex trafficked victim is 13 years old.

Last year sex traffickers made more than \$99 billion in profits—that's more than Microsoft, Nike, Google, and Starbucks combined.



Introducing Nils Clauson

We are delighted to welcome a new member to the team: Nils Clauson as CWRD partner liaison! Nils and his wife, Erika, have served as global personnel in Mexico since 2004. During that time, Nils has been closely involved with ministries of La Fundación para el Desarrollo Familiar (Family Development Foundation) in Monterrey and Fuentes Libres in Oaxaca, both long-time CWRD partners. In recent years, he has taken on the role of liaison between CWRD and community development partner organizations in Mexico and Honduras. As the Clausons transition to a season of serving as global personnel based in the U.S., it is a natural fit for Nils to expand his role with CWRD.

FREE: an anti-sex trafficking initiative

The fight against sex trafficking is both global and local. That is why FREE, the anti-sex trafficking initiative of the Evangelical Covenant Church is a collaboration between Serve Globally and CWRD on the global front and Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ) here in the United States. The FREE team has intentionally identified like-minded local and global organizations to partner with us in this initiative.

In January, more than 200 people registered for the two-day launch event of FREE, where we learned from global and local partners engaged in the fight to break the cycle of sex trafficking and heard inspiring stories from advocates of survivors. The event had representation from eight regional conferences and Canada.

Now the hard work begins. We have the opportunity to give this project a strong start by joining

together to Pray, Learn, Give, and Act .

Our global partners were chosen for their proven track record in the battle against sex trafficking. In Mexico City, we are partnering with El Pozo de Vida; in Zambia we partner with Freely in Hope; and in India, we continue to partner with the Hindustani Covenant Church/Covenant Social Services. We also partner with International Justice Mission (IJM) in combating the online sexual exploitation of children.

FREE highlights the work of each of these ministries in prevention, intervention, restoration, and comprehensive services for trafficked survivors. We partner together, recognizing that people need to participate in their own empowerment.

We are excited to invite you to give to this crucial initiative here: giving.covchurch.org/free



Kids Helping Kids: Caring for God's Creation

Each year, CWRD leads the development of Kids Helping Kids (KHK), a free resource for children. Through KHK, children learn from and respond to the faith stories of children from around the world.


Beginning last year and continuing into 2021, we are sharing stories from Covenant partners around the world about how children are caring for God's creation. These stories are written at an elementary school reading level so that all children may understand and learn from our global partners.

Learn more and download at CovChurch.org/kidshelpingkids.



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF
& DEVELOPMENT

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