

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

Dear Bishop Patrick

I hope you are keeping well and that your Easter was filled with joy. I know it is not that long since we held our CAFOD Fast Day – and thank you so much for the support you gave to that.

I am sorry to be writing so soon, but I want to let you know that we are launching an [emergency appeal](#) for donations to get aid to the people of Sudan and we need your support.

Whilst the eyes of the world are naturally on the conflict in the Middle East, (and CAFOD is supporting partners there as well as Ukraine), the situation in Sudan is deteriorating rapidly. The people of Sudan need our help urgently. One year into a conflict, we know that 25 million people need immediate humanitarian assistance and that up to 7 million people are now at risk of famine-like conditions by June. Our country representative for Sudan, Telley Sadia, told me that the crisis may become the worst in living memory.

Many aid agencies have left Sudan in the context of the violence between government and paramilitaries, and now, humanitarian workers are struggling to return to Sudan to help. However, you know that the Church has always been there, as we heard from the Catholic Bishops of Sudan in their statement on [21 March](#), and she continues to support communities affected by the crisis.

I am aware that the situation in Sudan is not new to you. You have sent a powerful message of solidarity and prayerful support for the Catholic Bishops of Sudan on behalf of the Church in England and Wales through the [25 March letter](#) signed by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Bishop Paul Swarbrick, which I know, was received with real gratitude.

We are working with the global Caritas Internationalis family to respond to the call from the Bishops of Sudan. CAFOD has immediately released £150,000 from our funds to support our local partners, Caritas Sudan and Hope Friendship for Development Organisation in Sudan, to urgently scale up their emergency responses. Our partners are supporting those who have been displaced within Sudan but also refugees from neighbouring countries who have previously sought refuge in Sudan and their host communities who are now in need of urgent assistance.

They are supporting families with emergency food packages and cash payments so they can buy their own food, water and hygiene products, as well as repairing and building water pipelines so that clean water can reach the communities who need it. Our partners need more support to increase their emergency response and reach communities that other aid organisations cannot. We have the capacity to deploy up to £2.35m of aid, but we don't have the funds.

We are asking Catholic parishes to hold collections for Sudan at Masses this coming Sunday, 28 April, and to pray for the people of Sudan as part of our emergency appeal. We would be most grateful for your endorsement and support for our Sudan Crisis Appeal in your diocese – in your diocesan communications and conversations with clergy - and for your prayers.

Given the scant media coverage in the UK of the crisis in Sudan, we are doing everything we can to raise awareness in the Catholic community and with the wider media. Even in this year of economic stretch for many people here, we know that our community will want to respond with compassion to help people facing imminent famine.

We join with Pope Francis in praying that “the Lord open paths of peace on the African continent, especially for the suffering peoples in Sudan.”

On behalf of our Sudan team and our partners in Sudan, thank you for your support.

God bless,

**Christine Allen**

Executive Director, CAFOD