

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

## **South Sudan Conflict Leads to Emergency Appeal for ABM**

As the situation worsens in South Sudan, with tens of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) needing emergency relief aid, ABM has launched the South Sudan Conflict Emergency Appeal in support of its partner, the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan (ECSSS).

Violence has been escalating and has resulted in many people fleeing from their homes, impacting significantly on other states and surrounding countries. People are dying from hunger and disease.

There have been over 1,000 deaths with an estimated 194,000 IDPs, many seeking refuge in UN camps and also in church compounds.

The Most Rev'd Dr Daniel Deng Bul Yak, Archbishop of the ECSSS wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury appealing for assistance in the church's response to internally displaced and injured persons and to advocate for successful peace talks in Addis Ababa.

Christopher Brooks, ABM's Fundraising Manager said ABM responded to the call by establishing an Emergency Appeal.

"ABM has been supporting the Relief and Development arm of the Episcopal Church - Sudan Development Relief and Advocacy (SUDRA) - to respond to several resource and conflict caused emergencies over the past two years, since the country voted to be independent of Sudan in January 2011," he said.

"It is essential that we continue this partnership and support in this time of great need. There have been plenty of causes to give to recently with the disaster in the Philippines and Christmas but the people of South Sudan need our support in this time of crisis so we aim to raise \$50,000 to assist the church to meet urgent needs of displaced and injured people, particularly in Bor Town and nearby areas."

The SUDRA Coordinator, the Archbishop and other church staff are leading the response and have travelled to Bor and Aweiral areas, where much of the fighting continues to take place, to assess the situation.

The church has an infrastructure capable of responding to these emergencies and an excellent network to ensure that emergency food and medical supplies get to where they are most needed – a network that complements large agencies and the UN response.

The crisis has stemmed from fighting in the capital, Juba that broke out in late 2013 between soldiers loyal to both sides after President Salva Kiir accused the ex-vice President, Riek Machar of attempting a coup, which he denies. The politicians are from different communities which has caused the violence to take on ethnic undertones.

Unfortunately, peace talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia have been delayed once again due to further disagreements. The South Sudanese rebels and government negotiators are expected to meet to try to negotiate a ceasefire.

**Please donate to this Emergency Appeal and help the people of South Sudan. Give online at [www.abmission.org/southsudan](http://www.abmission.org/southsudan) or phone 1300 302 663.**

**ENDS**

*The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.*

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

For more information please contact Elizabeth Baker, ABM Media Consultant on 0425 814 134.

## **Notes for the Editor**

Photo attached, although unfortunately not high resolution.

Caption: People from Bor who fled to Awerial to escape the fighting. (Copyright; SUDRA, used with permission.)

The full letter from Archbishop Deng Bul Yak is available at [www.abmission.org/southsudan](http://www.abmission.org/southsudan).