

Quarterly Bulletin 104

February 2021

Published by the Sudans Committee of
Salisbury Diocese
www.salisbury.anglican.org



O Lord of all gifts, You taught us to live and to love. You taught us how to serve one another as You served, not counting the cost but being available to all. We pray that You will give us generous hearts and spirits that willingly give of our time, talent and treasure to build up Your Kingdom here on earth. Take our feet where they need to go, give us hands that readily reach out to others, give us ears to hear the silent cries of another, eyes to see their needs and hearts to reach out to them. May we bring You to them in our own unique way. We ask this in all humility and gratitude. Amen.

ROBERT HAYWARD

In November Robert was awarded the St Aldhelm Cross for his outstanding contribution to the life of Salisbury Diocese. Robert spent many years working in South Sudan and Sudan, where he was Christian Aid's Country Manager. Since his retirement he continues to advise Christian Aid, and he has served for many years on our Sudans Committee, where his knowledge of the countries and situation on the ground has been invaluable in forging and sustaining links and partnerships, enabling funds raised in the diocese to be wisely and well applied locally.

Robert says "The award of the Aldhelm Cross is a great honour and a wonderful surprise! The prayer and financial support that Salisbury Diocese, its Deaneries and its congregations give for the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan responses to emergencies, theological colleges, schools, capacity-development and diocesan projects are hugely appreciated by the churches and I am very fortunate that my work with Christian Aid takes me to both countries and allows me to meet directly with, pray with and plan and monitor projects with church members responsible for the activities Salisbury supports."

SUDANS COVID APPEAL 2020

A detailed report has been received from the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA) stating how they have spent the first tranche of money we sent from our very successful Diocese 'SOAP AND FOOD' appeal. Recorded COVID cases in Sudan now total 30,000 and those in South Sudan total 5,700. Both countries lack testing facilities and contact tracing, meaning that there is certainly under-reporting; true infection rates may be much higher. Infections in Sudan are most prevalent around Khartoum. In South Sudan they seem to be focused on particular areas, so SSUDRA has concentrated its efforts in affected areas: Juba, Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria and Northern Bahr El Ghazal.

SSUDRA has identified and trained Hygiene Promotion Facilitators to work house-to-house in the community and camps, to engage health experts on radio shows and to disseminate messages on hygiene and sanitation. Local handwashing demonstrations have been given including the use of hygienic no-touch 'tippy tap' water containers. Changing handwashing habits is important and some work has been done on identifying attitudes to hygiene and cultural barriers. SSUDRA distributed soap, laundry soap, sanitizers, tippy containers and water collection containers. For many people obtaining enough water to maintain hygiene is very difficult; inhabitants of Juba for example have to buy water and it is expensive for them. Wearing of facemasks has reduced transmission of infections in churches.

Following this reporting a further tranche of the 'SOAP AND FOOD' appeal money will be sent to the ECSS. Thank you everyone who supported this appeal. Your generosity is making a difference.

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

The Sudd Institute has analysed the negative effects of the pandemic on the economy. They report dramatic reductions in domestic production and revenue collection followed by a very volatile rising cost of living. Average prices for basic commodities have risen by 30%. Employment and wages have been depressed and government employees are owed

7 months salary arrears. The informal work sector is the worst affected meaning that women are disproportionately affected. Because COVID has reduced world demand for oil, the government's oil revenue, which represents about 90% of its income, has fallen and it has had to delay, renegotiate or default on loan repayments and payments due under the Transitional Finance Agreement to Sudan. The lockdown (now eased) deprived some 2 million school-aged children of education with very little opportunity to continue learning at home. See the full report at <https://suddinstitute.org/publications/> The Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic in South Sudan: An Update Jan 2021

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SUDAN

A similar picture of increased prices for basic foods, rising unemployment and falling exports is seen as in South Sudan. Forty-five percent of households reported being worried about having enough food. The inadequacy of safe water and sanitation is apparent and many people reported that when they needed medical assistance they could not access it, with 80% of the population living more than 2 hours from a medical clinic. Only 10% of children who attended school before COVID-19 were able to continue education at home. See the report [Sudan - COVID-19 pandemic's second wave hits twice faster and has major socio-economic impact on families | Digital Situation Reports \(unocha.org\)](https://unocha.org)

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Grants of £2,500 each have been sent to four theological colleges: Bishop Allison Theological College; Bishop Gwynne Theological College; Bishop Yeremaya Theological College and Shokai Bible Training Institute. In the past these colleges have received an annual grant of £5000 but due to the effect of COVID-19 on the income for the Sudans Link it isn't possible to fulfil their expectations at this time.

MEDICAL LINK

Revd John Simmons has taken over from Mike Maclachlan as Chair of the Medical Link sub-committee. Our heartfelt thanks go to Mike who

has chaired the committee for 18 years and who will remain as a committee member to support the transition. John has a background in accountancy and in strategic planning in the voluntary sector. He is passionate about the need for Christians to be fully involved in addressing social need.

The third of 2020's consignments of primary healthcare medicines was sent in the form of twelve kits destined for Ezo, Nzara (2), Yabongo, Yabua, Yambio (2), Mageda, Saura , Maridi (2) and Olo. A new pharmacist has been identified: Dr Weki who is Director for Health at Yambio and owns a pharmacy based in Juba with a branch at Nzara. His prices are lower than the previous supplier with good quality and shelf-life. Obtaining quotes from more than one supplier has helped to ensure your donations are spent most effectively.

Fees are owing for nursing and midwifery students at Mary Help College of Nursing and Midwifery in Wau. We have assured the College that these will be paid as soon as we are able to. The cancellation of important fundraising events due to COVID-19 is impacting on our ability to support students and is likely to affect our ability to send vital primary healthcare kits in 2021.

SUPPORT THE LINK BY A REGULAR DONATION

COVID-19 restrictions on fundraising events mean that we will struggle to finance all the grants and support that we normally send to our brothers and sisters. If you feel you could give a regular donation via the bank it would help very much. There is a standing order form on the website and you can choose whether to support medical or general costs. Visit <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/the-sudan-link/donate> or contact the Sudans Link Treasurer, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB.

DATA PROTECTION

If have any queries about use of your data or wish to be removed from the mailing list please contact *Anne Powell, Sudan Bulletin Editor*, sudanbulletin@outlook.com Tel 01258 861397