



Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust

The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP
Minister for Development and Africa
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

27 February 2024

Dear Andrew,

Re. Your letter to Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) in August 2023

We share your deep concern over the Sudan crisis. As the FCDO continues to explore new ways of supporting people in need, we urge you not to lose sight of the complex humanitarian emergency in the states of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The states' populations have endured over five decades of repressive military rule and food insecurity. Yet their plight is overlooked by the world's media. Big aid agencies are often unable or unwilling to help.

Our local partner in the region – Compassion and Sustainable Development Africa (CSDA) – asked us today to pass on the following statement:ⁱ

Everyone predicts famine in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. UNITAMS [the UN Mission in Sudan] has suspended its operations. There is no way to bring in food for those who need it most.

Natural and manmade disasters have affected the last farming season. Draught, inconsistent rainfall, swarms of locusts, birds and other hazards affect the plantations. This dry season will last for at least three months, before the next rainy season begins in May.

The situation is dire. Food has been used as a weapon against the local people, who are mainly indigenous Africans and who have been subjected to untold suffering for 53 years. There is an urgent need to hold perpetrators [of previous and ongoing atrocities] to account.

The people of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile are not given the attention they deserve from the international community. They are sometimes mis-characterised

as 'minority rebels'. This is not true or fair. They are struggling for a genuine case to have a share in power and to be included equally, as indigenous groups, in the country's mainstream life and structure.

CSDA conclude their statement by calling on the UK Government – during meetings with Troika, Quad, the African Union, UN or IGAD – to show “equal treatment and attention to all regions of Sudan, including these two states.”

There is an urgent need for unfettered humanitarian access in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Mason', with a small dot at the end.

Sam Mason
Chief Executive Officer
Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART)

ⁱ HART has partnered with CSDA (formerly the New Sudan Council of Churches) since 2006. We provide emergency relief to host communities, internally-displaced people and refugees at risk of starvation.