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*Dear Sam.*

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 February, about the humanitarian situation in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, Sudan.

I share your concern about the situation in these states and across Sudan and condemn the ongoing hostilities there in the strongest terms. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have dragged the country into a wholly unjustified conflict, with utter disregard for the Sudanese people and the impact that the conflict is having on Sudanese populations. There are 24.8 million people who are currently in need of assistance.

The conflict has displaced more than 8 million people inside and outside the country, including over 1.8 million people who have fled Sudan to neighbouring countries. The UK's top humanitarian priority is to secure far greater access for humanitarian agencies, and for those agencies and communities in Sudan, to be able to reach one another safely.

We are providing £38 million in humanitarian aid to support people in Sudan in 2023-2024. We are also helping those fleeing to neighbouring countries as a result of the conflict, with £7.75 million to support existing and new Sudanese refugees as well as vulnerable returnees and host communities in South Sudan and £15 million to those in Chad. UK-funded support is being delivered through the UN and other trusted partners, and is providing nutrition, safe drinking water, medical care and shelter, as well as supporting protection services including for those affected by Gender Based Violence.

The UK, alongside Norway, jointly funded the Sudan Humanitarian Conference that took place in Cairo on 18 – 20 November; an event that brought together Sudanese grassroots organisations, NGOs and the international humanitarian system to develop coordination mechanisms to give a greater voice to Sudanese organisations in the humanitarian response.

We are also seeking to mobilise more funding with other donors, raising the profile of Sudan's food security crisis in New York, in Europe and with Gulf partners. A concerted and urgent effort is required from the international community to ensure sufficient funds in order to stave off catastrophic food-related deaths, as well as to continue to press the warring parties to provide sufficient humanitarian access.

I would like to thank you for HART's continued work on Sudan. The UK continues to pursue all diplomatic avenues to press the parties into a permanent ceasefire, to allow unfettered humanitarian access, to protect civilians and to commit to a sustained and meaningful peace process. We urge all Sudanese stakeholders to engage in an inclusive dialogue that will deliver the peace and stability that the Sudanese people deserve.

With every good wish,  
Yours ever,  
Andrew

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