

# Caring for South Sudanese Refugees

Facilitating peace and reconciliation, social cohesion, and trauma care services for South Sudanese refugees.

## The Situation

South Sudan is the world's youngest country, having gained its independence from Sudan in 2011 after decades of violent conflict. Unfortunately, this did not stop the violence and horrific human rights abuses. Since 2013, over 4 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes, with more than 2.5 million fleeing to neighboring countries. Many of these host countries are facing difficult times themselves, which contributes to conflict with those who arrive from South Sudan.

This ongoing crisis of violent conflict and forced displacement has left individuals, families, and whole communities highly vulnerable, as they face threats to their safety and security, including but not limited to extreme hunger, family separation, violence and persecution, and limited access to basic services such as education and medical care.

RECONCILE International, a partner of RCA Global Mission, has played a vital role in advocating for and brokering peace, which gave rise to the *Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan* in 2018. While it has been a slow process towards the implementation of this agreement, RECONCILE continues to work on peacebuilding at the national level.

RECONCILE also works at the grassroots level, providing compassionate care to South Sudanese refugees and their host communities.



*View the other side of this sheet to see how you can help.*

## Savia Ayia's Story

"War took everything from us, including my home and my husband's life. With six children, life became difficult. Horrible. I often sat at home with nothing to do, living with depression. I felt helpless and hopeless. Today, I have forgiven those who caused misery to our family."

Sabina Ayia was a participant at the refugee dialogue for peace and reconciliation in Adjumani Refugee Camp, led by RECONCILE International. Women survivors are extremely strong and continue to prevail, and the support of this international community is partly why. Your encouragement has the power to inspire hope during their darkest moments.

## The Need

In response to the continuing refugee crisis and conflict in South Sudan, we are committed to raising \$85,000 (USD) by May 2023 to serve South Sudanese refugees in the Pagirinya and Rhino Refugee Camps and their host communities in Uganda. **Your gifts will equip key community leaders to be participants in peacebuilding and reconciliation, social cohesion and integration, and trauma care for South Sudan and among South Sudanese citizens.**

A few specific interventions for this program include:

- Conflict transformation and peace building trainings, that include identifying and equipping Peace Ambassadors within the camps.
- Community reconciliation dialogue forums to improve relationships among refugees and between refugees and their host communities.
- Bi-weekly radio talk shows on peaceful coexistence among refugees, and between refugees and their host communities.
- Trauma healing awareness trainings.
- Ongoing training and mentorship for key peace mobilizers, to continue building and strengthening the capacity of peace ambassadors in community peace initiatives.

*Will you join us in providing compassionate, Christ-like care for the people of South Sudan?*



## How to give

### Online:

Visit [www.rca.org/give/south-sudan-refugee-care-project](http://www.rca.org/give/south-sudan-refugee-care-project)

### By phone (U.S. only):

Call Terri Boven at 616-541-0835.

### By mail:

Make all donations out to the "Reformed Church in America" and designate "South Sudan Refugee Care Project" in the memo portion of your check. Please send your check to Reformed Church in America, Attn: Finance Dept., 4500 60th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512, or, in Canada, to Regional Synod of Canada PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1, Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8.

## \$85,000

helps provide facilitation of peace and reconciliation, social cohesion, and trauma care services for South Sudanese refugees



*Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather serve with RECONCILE, an indigenous Christian organization in South Sudan that trains church community leaders in trauma healing, conflict transformation, and civic education. Shelvis also leads RECONCILE's Peace Institute. He and Nancy participate in training events that nurture the fragile peace in South Sudan by addressing interethnic conflict. Learn more: [www.rca.org/smith-mather](http://www.rca.org/smith-mather)*



*JJ TenClay is the coordinator for RCA Global Mission's Refugee Ministries. She educates and empowers RCA congregations to respond to the refugee crisis locally and globally. She also works with congregations to assist in their efforts to come alongside refugees in their communities. Her goal is to raise awareness and advocate with congregations, missionaries, and partners around the world to help alleviate the refugee crisis. Learn more: [www.rca.org/tenclay](http://www.rca.org/tenclay)*

