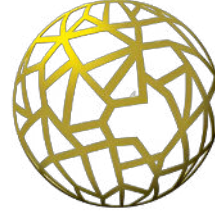


To: Minister for Foreign Affairs
Senator the Hon. Penny Wong
Foreign.Minister@dfat.gov.au



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Cc: Minister for International Development and the Pacific
The Hon. Pat Conroy MP
Minister.Conroy@dfat.gov.au

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CC: Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs
The Hon. Tim Watts MP
Tim.Watts.MP@aph.gov.au

04/09/2024

Dear Ministers,

We write to you following 500 days of conflict in Sudan. We call on you to take the following urgent actions, similar to what have been asked of governments globally:

1. **Demonstrate strong political leadership** by increasing diplomatic engagement to secure a ceasefire and a durable political settlement
2. **Provide immediate new and additional funding to the humanitarian response**
3. **Support diverse Sudanese civil society groups**, including youth and women-led organizations, in the peace process.
4. **Promote humanitarian access** through diplomatic pressure to secure the delivery of humanitarian goods and services necessary to alleviate the suffering of Sudanese civilians, especially women and girls.

The Australian Council for International Development, alongside the diaspora, welcomed the \$29 million in humanitarian assistance the Albanese government provided to the Horn of Africa in June, including \$13 million for those in Sudan and neighbouring countries hosting displaced Sudanese. However, since this announcement, the crisis has continued to hit new devastating and historic lows, particularly in Darfur.

ACFID members are still operating in Sudan and surrounding countries and continue to be ready to respond, including through local partners, to assist the people most in need in hard-to-reach areas.

This is a grim milestone for a conflict which has caused devastating loss, grief, hunger, displacement and been met with a humanitarian response from donors which only scratches at the surface of what is so desperately needed. This milestone is also a reminder of how much more there is to do for an end to be in sight for Sudanese people within and outside of Sudan.

The international donor community has to-date failed the people of Sudan. There has been a lack of meaningful diplomatic tools or engagement utilized to pressure warring parties, and a disturbingly quiet response to a declaration of famine in July by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification in Zamzam internally displaced camp, holding at least 500,000 IDPs.

It is believed that 10.4 million people are now displaced, including nearly 8 million internally displaced, and UNHCR estimates that an additional 220,000 refugees and refugee returnees have left Sudan since the eruption of conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in mid-April 2023. In total, 52% of those displaced are children, with over 2 million under five years old. In this context, aid has been constantly targeted, stolen, and the courage and tenacity of humanitarian workers tested time and time again through attacks on their envoys.

In previous declarations of famine by the IPC in Somalia in 2011 and South Sudan in 2017, the Australian Government swiftly responded. We urge you to do the same now. We know that this Australian Government, representing the Australian people, can and should do more, particularly for the approximately 13,000 Sudanese people who call Australia home. It is time to meet this catastrophe with the level of urgency and intensity that it requires.

We look forward to welcoming the Australian Government's swift and generous support to the people of Sudan as they suffer through what may be the humanitarian catastrophe of our times.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Purcell', written in a cursive style.

Marc Purcell, CEO of ACFID, and the undersigned:



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*Australian
Lutheran
World Service*



Save the Children



act:onaid



Until we are all equal



**CENTRE FOR
HUMANITARIAN
LEADERSHIP**



**Caritas
AUSTRALIA**

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE *actalliance*

