



## THE ROMERO FUND

Richard, 17, is looking after his five brothers and sisters, Godfrey, 14, Ivan Agnerwot, 9, Ivan Onono, 5 and Prossy, 7 since their parents died in the South Sudan conflict. Photo: Mark Stedman.

South Sudan

## URGENT NEED: HELPING FAMILIES REBUILD THEIR LIVES

The brutal conflict in South Sudan has left hundreds of thousands of people dead, 5.3 million facing severe food insecurity and over 4 million people displaced. The nature of the war is especially violent; including sexual violence and attacks on vulnerable sections of society due to impunity of the armed groups. Sexual violence in particular is intended to deliberately break down community cohesion through shame and stigma. Many children have been orphaned.

### REFUGEES HAVE EXPERIENCED HUGE TRAUMA

Hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese have fled over the border to Uganda in the face of fierce fighting and the rampant targeting of civilians. Their stories are absolutely harrowing and most have arrived with just the clothes they are wearing. The area of Palabek in northern Uganda is close to the border with South Sudan and has become one vast settlement area for refugees. There are 33,000 refugees there currently and the number is increasing every day. Of these 60% are under the age of 18.

Richard Mwaka is just 17 years old but has become the sole provider and carer for his five younger brothers and sisters.

“We come from Puge in South Sudan – it’s near the border with Uganda,” Richard says. “Our father died of disease two years ago. In August last year when the war got too much our mother gathered us together and we headed for the border on foot. I remember people dying. Mother left us to go to try to find some food and ran into the rebels. They killed her. Other people on the road told us. We continued travelling to the border with our aunt but she wasn’t allowed to cross. I crossed alone with the smaller children.”

Richard’s younger siblings are aged between 5 and 14 years. He says it is difficult being the head of the household. “Our mother used to provide us with everything we needed – clothes, shoes, food. Now I have to try to do this but we have very little. We brought some seeds, two chickens and the clothes we were wearing – that’s all. We planted the seeds and are growing some okra. We cook for ourselves. Mother taught me how to cook.”



## WHAT IS THE ROMERO FUND?

The Romero Fund aims to raise **€2.1 million** over three years to tackle urgent human rights abuses and humanitarian needs in some of the world’s poorest places.

# WHAT WE CAN DO

Trócaire is providing humanitarian aid and, through our partners, starting longer term projects to help the South Sudanese people rebuild their lives. We are supporting vocational training for young people, agricultural projects to help families grow their own food, and one to one counselling for severely traumatised individuals.



Trócaire repaired a borehole in the village of Adior, South Sudan which was 20 years old and broken down. It saves people walking long distances. Trócaire also put in latrines for community use.



During a recent visit to Yirol region in South Sudan, I met some of the people who we have helped. One woman, Rachel, told me that she had received food for her and her seven children. They had been driven from their home by the war and had arrived into Yirol with nothing. Trócaire's work is a lifeline for people like Rachel. She said that the food had saved their lives. We are also providing seeds and tools to people who have access to land. When the rains do come this equipment will mean that they will be able to provide for themselves. Ultimately, that is all people here want.



**Eoin Wrenn, Trócaire - Head of Region, East Africa**

## WITH YOUR HELP...

we can **support families** with:

### HUMANITARIAN AID:

- ➡ Food to eat and safe water to drink
- ➡ Sanitation facilities
- ➡ Drugs and medical supplies

### FARMING AND LIVELIHOODS:

- ➡ Helping establish vegetable gardens and small farms
- ➡ Training and provision of tools and seeds

### PEACEBUILDING:

- ➡ Helping people become more aware and confident to hold representatives to account
- ➡ Peacebuilding and reconciliation with communities affected by conflict

# €20,000

will provide **1,400 farming toolkits** which include seeds, hoes, a rake and a watering can.

## SOUTH SUDAN FACTS

Population:	<b>12.6 MILLION</b>	
Human Development Rank:	<b>187 OUT OF 187 COUNTRIES</b>	
Life expectancy:	<b>IRELAND</b> 81.6YRS	<b>DRC</b> 57.3YRS
	Average years of schooling:	<b>12.5YRS</b>

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# TRÓCAIRE IN SOUTH SUDAN SINCE 1976

## IMPACT:

Last year, we provided seeds and tools to 20,000 people in South Sudan.