



What is the problem we face?

The first genocide of the 21st century occurred in Sudan. This started in Darfur in 2003 when the government turned cruelly upon its own people there. That earned President Omar El Bashir and several of his cohorts indictments by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide. But they have gone on to commit similar atrocities on a massive scale in the Nuba Mountains and in Blue Nile State. Over the last decade, at least 350,000 Sudanese have died, tens of thousands have been injured, raped, tortured, imprisoned, and several millions have been displaced and impoverished.

The ethnic cleansing that Khartoum visited upon its borderlands is directed at its citizens of black African identity. But the oppression has also spread recently to its own Arab-dominated heartlands. As people of all backgrounds who have been made desperate by daily humiliations protest in the capital and other cities, a new program of vicious suppression is underway, orchestrated by the state security and intelligence services. The death toll has been mounting even as the injured have been callously denied medical attention in government hospitals. The prisons are full, abuse is rampant and the rule of law is comprehensively subverted by the regime. Independent media and civil society critics have been silenced, humanitarian agencies bullied into silence, and fear stalks the land.

The international community has failed to hold Bashir and his cronies accountable for their crimes against humanity. United Nations and African Union peacekeeping and political peacemaking processes have all failed in the face of Khartoum's intransigence or divide-and rule tactics that have made the world unwilling or unable to take a concerted and principled stance against injustice and tyranny.

Additionally, Sudan has become a serious threat to international peace and human security. Hundreds of thousands of its people have been forced to migrate and become refugees around the world. Sudan's internal crisis has huge destabilising impact across its borders, for example, in South Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic. Sudan also exports its problems wider afield across Africa through its links to terrorism, the proliferation of weaponry on the continent, and the outbreaks of communicable disease spawned there as critical services such as immunisation are denied to its most vulnerable populations.

While resistance against the regime has also increased and, sooner or later, there will be change for the better in Sudan, it is not clear when this will occur. Meanwhile, on current trends, the suffering of ordinary people continues to



worsen. The community and social impact is long-term – potentially spanning generations – by sowing the seeds of repeated cycles of violence. That will make ever more difficult the reconciliation and recovery that must happen one day.

Why do we need to act?

Humanitarian access to long-suffering populations has been systematically denied. Although deliberate obstruction by the Sudan government makes it difficult to conduct an independent and authoritative assessment of human vulnerability and trends, rough estimates suggest that at least 7 million people are in desperate need of the basics for survival in Sudan's borderlands or as refugees in neighbouring countries. This is additional to the growing numbers of people also affected in the heartlands.

A corollary of the lack of credible information is the low level of awareness within the international community (public, media, and policy makers). Furthermore, the absence of credible monitoring and verification helps the regime's international propaganda efforts to hide what is going on, and enables it to falsely project itself in an undeserved favourable light. It is clear that, well-meaning as it has been, conventional international diplomacy has failed – and even enabled the regime to buy time to tighten its oppressive stranglehold.

We must act to expose and counter the true and full extent of the human impact of the crisis in Sudan. This is for two reasons: first, to help the suffering people urgently and directly; and second, to generate greater public concern and political attention for tackling root causes and finding more effective solutions.

What will we do?

This global **people-to-people for Sudan (P4S)** initiative comes out of specific ideas and appeals for help put forward by the long-suffering Sudanese themselves.

We are obliged to take this initiative ourselves as *global citizens* because our formal *global institutions* have proved themselves to be ineffective. The UN Security Council is paralysed by internal differences, and UN humanitarian and other large international agencies are unable to operate freely within Sudan in accord with established humanitarian principles to reach people who need help most. *People 4 Sudan* will have two major components:

- ✓ Sudan Humanitarian and Human Rights Observatory
- ✓ Sudan Humanitarian Assistance Facility



Sudan Humanitarian and Human Rights Observatory

This will be a web-based system for receiving and collating reports of incidents of mass atrocities and crimes against humanity from all parts of Sudan, and recording the related mortality, morbidity, and destruction.

The information will come directly from courageous in-country reporters. It will use available communications technology and established epidemiological surveillance methods. Data received will be checked and verified as best as possible. In this way, an independently credible **atrocities monitoring and human impact tracking system** will be created and kept constantly up-to-date, and trends analysed. We have studied similar efforts elsewhere (eg Syria, Iraq) and consulted appropriate experts to make a preliminary judgement that this is quite feasible in the case of Sudan.

As part of the Observatory's work, we propose to hold a "**Sudan Humanitarian Conference**" bringing together those engaged in human rights monitoring and humanitarian work in Sudan including, in particular, those who are somehow managing to work here and there in the most difficult-to-access areas.

By collating what we know, we aim to make an overall estimate of the scope of the atrocities and the consequent needs. We hope that this will help build an international consensus on the need to protect, assist and prevent, including best strategies for countering impunity, and humanitarian provision

Sudan Humanitarian Assistance Facility

This will mobilise resources internationally, mainly but not exclusively, through the Sudanese diaspora, for the provision of humanitarian assistance to hard-to-access populations in greatest need inside Sudan, and to under-served refugees in the region.

Our extensive consultations with the Sudanese diaspora in Africa, Europe, and North Africa indicate that there is great concern and desire to help their communities back home. Many are doing it already through various personal and creative means but they have the capacity and strong desire to help on a bigger and more organised basis through a more reliable mechanism.

Thus the key features of the Facility are that it will provide

- a) a trusted channel for mobilising support from the extensive Sudanese diaspora and other well-wishers of Sudan; and
- b) provide a reliable means to support indigenous Sudanese organisations and build their capacity to help their own people.



The Facility will work with, and not replace or duplicate, groups that are working well on the ground. They know best how to reach their own people in greatest need. In doing so, we seek to minimise the bureaucratic burden of project management on practical workers at the frontline of humanitarian delivery.

The Facility's assistance priorities will be guided by insights gained from the Sudan Observatory including the Sudan Humanitarian Conference. Starting priorities for assistance in accessed areas are as follows:

- **No one is left unheard** i.e. the atrocities committed are registered, and the pain and suffering of individuals and communities given respectful expression through human rights advocacy for justice, accountability, and restitution.
- **No one goes to sleep hungry** i.e. there is at least one meal a day being eaten by suffering people.
- **No one dies from a preventable cause** i.e. essentials of primary healthcare are made accessible, mothers do not die in pregnancy, children survive, and injuries inflicted by the war are treated.
- **No child grows up with an empty head** i.e. basic education is provided so that oppressed communities do not lose the self-knowledge and culture essential for their future (which is often an aim of those embarking on genocide).

These outcomes will be realised through local projects executed by local organisations. A list of projects for support will be available shortly.

How will we mitigate or manage risks?

To minimise diversion and to ensure that assistance reaches the people intended, the following strategies will be adopted:

- channelling assistance only through trusted local groups that are known by affected communities and draw their legitimacy from them. (We are aware of several such groups with the comparative advantage that they know where the greatest vulnerabilities lie and can access hard-to-reach areas).
- mostly providing goods and services that are self-targeting i.e. inputs that are of little value for anything other than local life-saving purposes.
- using trickle-in approaches so that small quantities of resources are transferred at a time. (The operation will be effective in the aggregate in meeting the needs of vulnerable populations, but will avoid massive convoys that could be targets for attack).



PEOPLE4SUDAN

People-to-people initiative to advance human rights through humanitarian action

How will we organise ourselves?

People4Sudan is an independent set-up that works to established international standards of transparency and accountability. The Initiative is intended to be Sudanese-owned and driven with support from other trusted and well-known international humanitarian and human rights experts of known integrity.

P4S is visualised as a network of interested people and groups wanting to bring practical hope and help to the marginalised and suffering people of Sudan. The initial focus will be on building-up support through affiliates in the countries that have large numbers of Sudanese diaspora, especially the US, Canada, UK, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Nordic countries, South Africa, Australia, Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan.

P4S is registered in the UK as a charity and subject to prevalent legal requirements there. Parallel registrations will be pursued in other countries where sufficient support emerges. These will channel support to the UK hub that will consolidate resources coming in from around the world.

Accordingly, the following organisational structure is envisaged:

- a **board of trustees** of up to five people to meet UK charity registration and legal accountability requirements. (A similar arrangement can be considered for other countries – in accord with their local laws – with crossover of some of the same individuals in all places).
- an **advisory group** of eminent and respected persons invited to join on account of the credibility and respect they command, and their practical track record of working on humanitarian and human rights matters in Sudan and elsewhere.
- to provide validation and peer review of the outputs from the Observatory, an **Expert Technical Panel** is foreseen consisting of eminent academics with expertise in relevant skills such as epidemiology, statistics, information management, social and anthropological analysis, economics, law and humanitarian and human rights programming.
- a **general assembly** of individuals and institutions that affiliate themselves by giving practical and material support. (Affiliates are requested to contribute a membership fee of at least US\$200 per annum as individuals and US\$1000 per annum as institutions/agencies to go towards the core budget of *P4S*. The general assembly would meet virtually at least once a year. (Provision will be made for individual affiliates in developing countries unable to find \$200).



At national and subnational levels, **representatives** are envisaged. They would be appointed/endorsed by the board of trustees supported by the members of the advisory group resident in that country.

None of the individual positions are expected to be remunerated except, in due course, a director who would be appointed to oversee its day-to-day work. To start with, this position's functions will be shared by the trustees and advisory group members – until the volume of work justifies the recruitment of a director.

How will we finance ourselves?

A start-up budget of US\$ 75,000 is estimated and subsequently, a core budget of approx. US\$ 150,000 annually (details available). Administrative overheads are kept low by not maintaining a separate physical office and, instead, utilising the infrastructure and technical expertise of one or more affiliates of P4S.

The financing model envisaged is that apart from start-up costs that will need external subsidy, the initiative is expected to largely sustain itself through the financial support of the Sudanese diaspora and other well-wishers of Sudan. Thus the scope and size of the Initiative will depend on the extent of solidarity attracted by the spirit and substance of this Initiative – and will not be donor driven.

Target sources of funding are individual and institutional affiliates; crowd sourcing contributions; and grants from foundations and other well-wishers. 90% of all un-earmarked funds received that are in excess of the approved core annual budget will be applied to component 2 i.e. provision of practical humanitarian assistance through Sudanese local organisations. The balance of 10% will be retained for cash flow purposes and ensuring continuity and contingency for unforeseen demands and for risk management.

What will we achieve?

The most fundamental and inalienable of all human rights is the right to live. Of course, this must be accompanied by the other basic dignities and rights to which all human beings are entitled everywhere. *People 4 Sudan* is a humanitarian venture but very much conceived as a contribution to the attainment of these basic human rights.

The core belief that underpins this initiative is that human rights advocacy without also striving to do one's utmost to relieve human suffering is possibly unethical. Thus, humanitarianism and human rights work are two faces of the same coin – even if each is different in its outlook. Accordingly, the practical scope of P4S is summarised as follows:



Vision: Sudan changed to become an inclusive and peaceful nation with a government that respects, on an equal basis, the human rights of all citizens from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Purpose of People4Sudan: To assess and draw attention to the human impact of the atrocities being committed in Sudan, and mobilise Sudanese capacities to assist their own most marginalised communities.

Objectives:

- To set up & maintain a system for tracking the mass atrocities and crimes against humanity being committed, and their physical and social impact on the most vulnerable and marginalised people in Sudan and to provide an expert analysis of trends (**Sudan Humanitarian & Human Rights Observatory**)
- To set up & maintain a system for enabling the Sudanese diaspora and other friends of Sudan to contribute towards meeting urgent human needs in Sudan (**Sudan Humanitarian Assistance Facility**)

Impact: The *People 4 Sudan* initiative seeks wider results as follows:

- ✓ Provide credible data on a systematic basis on mass atrocities and crimes against humanity as well as their impact, to energise advocacy with key international stakeholders and guide practical efforts for change.
- ✓ Contribute to the strength and morale of the most marginalised and hardest to access people in Sudan so that they survive these dark times, remain resilient and capable to work for the change that must come from within their own country.
- ✓ Through being responsible for direct humanitarian assistance delivery, help to build useful skills and capacities of local Sudanese civil society groups – as preparation for nation rebuilding, once change occurs in Sudan.
- ✓ Channel the concerns of different parts of a somewhat frustrated Sudanese diaspora onto a shared and constructive enterprise that will also help unite them across divided identity settings and, thereby, progress the vision of a future inclusive Sudan that respects its diverse people equally.



PEOPLE4SUDAN

People-to-people initiative to advance human rights through humanitarian action

How will we measure and monitor progress?

The overarching crucial indicators for success would be as follows:

- ✓ Extent to which the Sudan Observatory is able to cover all parts of Sudan
- ✓ Extent to which the Sudan Observatory's analysis is used to guide advocacy and assistance programming by other organisations
- ✓ Extent to which Sudanese assistance groups expand their capacity and outreach to help their own vulnerable communities
- ✓ Extent to which targeted vulnerable communities have their assessed needs for food, basic health, and primary education met.

What can you do to make the difference?

After its launch in Addis Ababa on 20-22 January 2014 during the 3rd Session of the Civil Society Forum on Sudan and South Sudan, the *People4Sudan* initiative will continue to be refined even as it pilots its work, receives more views from stakeholders, and gains practical experience.

People4Sudan has attracted good initial support from several partners (list available) and seeks more. You can join us to make a real difference in one or more of the following ways:

- Become an individual or institutional affiliate member
- Share your knowledge and skills to help this initiative grow, for example helping with legal and financial management, IT, social media promotion, media and publicity, data management and epidemiology, reporting from the ground, going on field missions, analysing developments... and many other ways
- Advise, strategise, monitor and report through joining the advisory group
- Propose, appraise, and validate specific projects and activities on the ground to be supported by the Sudan Humanitarian Assistance Facility.

To know more please visit www.people4sudan.org and write to people@people4sudan.org indicating how you would like to be involved.