Flight Log

August 2023

Emergency flights in South Sudan

MAF launches a disaster response to help refugees fleeing conflict

PHOTO: CONCERN, SOUTH SUDAN

On 19 June, MAF launched an official response to serve the transit camp in Renk, South Sudan, where almost 150,000 people have arrived from neighbouring Sudan to dire conditions.

New, weekly MAF flights from Juba have transported tonnes of aid and relief supplies, medevac patients, food and NGO workers. An MAF flight from Juba to Renk lasts just three hours and saves days of road travel, which is now almost impossible during the wet season.

According to the UN, at least 1,000 refugees arrive every day from Sudan. 90% of them are South Sudanese nationals who had previously fled violence in their home country. 74% of the refugees are registered in Renk, where a temporary camp has been set up with limited facilities, insufficient supplies and lack of shelter. The NGO community and an emergency evacuation group called the Citizens' Call have been working around the clock to assess and respond to growing needs in Renk.

Dr Paul Gal Atem, Director of Concern South Sudan, was one of MAF's earliest disaster response passengers. He said, 'There are no toilets, basic services, or proper shelter. Some have been given tents. Others are using bedsheets to cover their heads from the heat. There is no food for younger children. They are in dire need of support.'

On 4 July, MAF Pilot Jono Pound transported 512kg of medical supplies to Renk and brought 16 refugees back to Juba on his return flight — all of them South Sudanese nationals seeking repatriation. Jono says, 'I'm overjoyed to be part of the process of bringing refugees to safety. Flights like this are part of the reason I became a pilot in the first place.'

Pause for prayer

We know that the needs are great in Renk, with those seeking refuge having experienced great trauma. Lord, we pray for every MAF flight taking place this week to alleviate the suffering of refugees in Renk. We pray too for the MAF partners offering practical and medical assistance. May Your love be demonstrated through each and every flight.

Emergency response

You can help MAF's support for the refugees in Renk by giving financially online, where your gift will be given directly to subsidise the weekly flights between Juba and Renk. If you'd like to do so, please visit **www.maf-uk.org/emergency-appeal**

Find out more about the crisis

MAF is receiving regular updates from our colleagues working on the ground in Juba and Renk — and our News team have been compiling the stories online. Visit **www.maf-uk.org/news** to read more about MAF's Disaster Response flights in South Sudan. Please share them with your church and friends.

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