# MAF continues to support refugees pouring into Chad amidst 'world's largest displacement crisis'

PHOTO: BECKI DILLINGHAM

According to the UN, Sudan had the world's largest number of people facing extreme food shortages in 2023, as conflict displaced more then 8.6 million people last year. It's largest displacement crisis in the world. What's more, over 20 million Sudanese are facing acute food insecurity, roughly one year after fighting broke out on 15 April in Khartoum.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation emergencies director Rein Paulsen warned, 'The risk of famine is here, and is real,' revealing that food production fell by 46% in volatile regions of Sudan such as Darfur and Al Jazirah, which border neighbouring Chad.

With refugees pouring across the border into Chad every day, MAF has been flying urgent equipment and personnel to remote airstrips in Adre, Farchana and Am Djeress, partnering with NGOs such as The Norwegian Refugee Council and the Mennonite Central Committee.

Freight has included medicine and office equipment such as computers and printers — with NGOs and local missions preparing to scale up their response efforts to help the growing refugee community in the coming months.

British MAF Chad Pilot Becki Dillingham, who visited a refugee camp north-east of Goz Beida in March, said, 'Refugees are arriving by foot, donkey and trucks across the land borders into Chad. We have done flights to move medical supplies and urgent equipment into the area, and I envision that we will do more as the rainy season makes roads impassable from June.'

MAF has also been supporting refugees arriving in South Sudan, with flights to the temporary settlement in Renk — which continues to house thousands of returning refugees in dire conditions — continuing into 2024.

## Pause for prayer

Please pray for the growing crisis in Sudan and the surrounding countries, as millions of people face violence, hunger and disease. Pray for the humanitarian community, MAF's partners and local leaders to join together to help those suffering unimaginable needs.

## Big Church Festival

As the sun begins to shine, you may be considering a UK festival or outdoor event in the coming weeks. Why not come and say hello to our MAF team at the Big Church Festival — taking place from 25-26 May in West Sussex? To find out more about MAF's upcoming summer events, visit **www.maf-uk.org/get-involved/events**

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**MAF UK** Castle House, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2TQ
**Scotland Office** Challenge House, 29 Canal Street, Glasgow G4 0AD
**T** 01303 852819 **E** supporter.relations@maf-uk.org
**www.maf-uk.org**
MAF UK @MAFUK MAFUK @flying4life MAFUKFILM
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