



The Emergency Response to Humanitarian Crisis in Rumbek

1.0 Background

The recent announcement of famine by the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) and the United Nations had revealed to the South Sudanese public and the international community that the severity of food inadequacy across South Sudan. As we are all aware of the full scale of the starvation situation in the country, it is, not only the states in the Old Upper Nile region where the citizens are in need of food, but also in the greater Bahr El-Ghazal and Equatoria regions. For instance, the citizens of Western Lakes State (WLS) are facing one of the most severe food famines in the today's history. This is why it is imperative for us, the Diaspora members of WLS communities (Australia, Canada, Europe & the U.S.), to plan strategically for ways to raise and generate fund to avert the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the land of Akon-Buoi. It does not matter how big or small our collective contribution may be, but what counts is our determination to stand up and help our people at this critical time of their needs.

The Emergency Response to Humanitarian Crisis in Rumbek is a humanitarian-based idea that was created in our last meeting to discuss and address the declared starvation in the state. The ERHCR is an individual-driven fundraising initiative by the concerned Diaspora persons of WLS residing in Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand, East Africa and the United States to avert the sweeping hunger. To execute this fundraising plan of action, we have set it out in a three-phase basis that includes

(1) Mobilization of Funds

(2) Procurement and Transportation of Food

(3) The Distribution of Food.

2.0 Mobilization of Funds

The viability of this project would depend on how many people would financially pledge and contribute their money. The mobilization strategy to raise the necessary fund to salvage the starvation is designed to specifically target the Diaspora members of the WLS communities residing in the aforementioned countries. It is worth mentioning that any member of our WLS who does not reside in one of the above-mentioned countries, but is willing to contribute financially is highly welcome to take part in this community-based funding initiative.

Like any other fundraising plans, it is always important to have a target or an estimated amount of bags of food items to fundraise the money around. The ERHCR financial projection is to raise substantial fund that can afford our group to purchase an estimate of 10,000 bags (50kg) of Maize or Sorghum.

The following cost estimation or analysis would be based on different variety of food pricing. Most importantly, the exchange rates are based on “Spot Rates,” which are the exchange rates that are determined by the time in which the willing buyer and the willing seller are discussing and negotiating with each other on the appropriate pricing of the goods based on the quality and quantity. Therefore, at the time of ascertaining these prices, the exchange rate for \$1 equals 3,240 Ugandan shillings (UGX). One can see this in the financial estimation table 1 below that the total cost of a 50-kg bag of Maize is 81,000 UGXs. In other words, 81,000 UGX equal \$25.00.

Our fund raising strategy would be based on the options below (see Table 1).

Therefore, we, the designated committee, are appealing to the members of the Agaar-Dinka and Belle communities wherever they are in the world to pitch in their financial contribution of \$25 or more to at least to purchase a bag or more. This is a “dig-deep appeal” to our caring members of WLS to contribute anything.

Breakdown of costs of food items and transportation from Uganda to Rumbek.

AMT/US\$	AMT/UGX	No. of Bags	Qty/KG	Items/Details	S/No
	63,000	1	50	Maize Cereals/Grains	1
	18,000			Costs of Transport	
25.00	81,000			Total costs	
	95,000	1	50	Maize Flour	2
	18,000			Costs of Transport	
34.00	113,000			Total costs	
	175,000	1	50	Bean	3
	18,000			Costs of Transport	
54.00	193,000			Total costs	
	180,000	1	50	Rice	4
	18,000			Costs of Transport	
55.00	198,000			Total costs	

3.0 Procurement & Transportation of Food Items

The procurement of food items would take place immediately after the necessarily fund is tangibly collected. This would be followed by purchasing and transporting of the purchased quantity of food items from Uganda to Rumbek. To facilitate this phase of our plan, we suggested that a steering committee is formed to coordinate and deliberate between our community and the company in which these food items would be purchased from. Another suggestion would be based on how many people would substantially contribute their fair amount of the estimated money to realize the planned project. It is approximately estimated that, if we, the members of the WLS communities significantly contributed beyond expectations, therefore, we will be obliged to send some of member(s) of the Diaspora team to be part of the monitoring and facilitating committee.

4.0 Distribution of Food

The final phase of our project would be the fair distribution of the purchased food items to the affected communities of WLS. The question on everyone's mind now is –how fairly can we distribute the purchased food without favoring some sections or communities over others? To remedy this foreseeable problem, we propose the equitable food distribution through the trusted traditional Agaar-Dinka and Belle Paramount Chiefs and other entities with high social regards. By so doing would give us an opportunity to reach out to the members of our communities who are living in the most inaccessible rural areas of WLS. We are also welcoming any suggestions on this matter that may produce a better alternative to the above-layout plan of action.

5.0 Final Report

This is the final stage where we would summarize the successes and failures of the ERHCR project. It would include the following: Summary of the fundraised, procurement & transportation of food items from Uganda to Rumbek, and the distribution process.

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