

Sudan Medical Link (SML) Bulletin June 2021

Introduction

This brief report is to update partners and individuals across the Diocese who have long supported and continue to contribute to the work of the Sudan Medical Link through both prayer and financial support. I know most of you will be aware that the Sudan Medical Link (SML) is a sub-division of the Salisbury Sudan Link which is part of the mission and outreach of the Salisbury Diocese.

The aim of the SML is to **provide medicines** to the Episcopal Church of South Sudan clinics and to **fund training** for suitably qualified Christian students (identified by the Bishop in that Diocese) to become clinical officer, nurses, midwives and laboratory assistants.

A core part of the work of the SML is to facilitate the flow of basic medicines to treat conditions such as pneumonia, malaria, arthritis, and tropical infections. Without these essential drugs, the work of nurses, midwives and clinical officers would be extremely limited. Under normal circumstances, core deliveries of medical supplies and drugs are flown in 3 times a year.

Current Situation



The needs of South Sudan have inevitably become more intense with the global Covid-19 pandemic. With an underfunded healthcare system and a limited number of doctors and nurses, South Sudan was already threatened by malaria and cholera. The closure of borders has led to hardship and the lack of basic essential foodstuffs and medicines, as most of these are imported. 55% of the population are facing severe food shortages. The local population call 2021 “the year of starvation” after widespread floods in 2019 and 2020. UN peacekeepers remain in situ, protecting civilians and supporting the peace process.

Whilst the numbers of coronavirus cases have been limited (testing is not yet universally available), the health authorities in South Sudan have said that they have vaccinated more than 16,000 people against Covid-19 (June 2021). South Sudan has a population of 13 million. Currently South Sudan has 52,000 vaccine doses from Covax to use before they expire on 18 July. There is a threat that some schools may close as they have been found not to have hand washing facilities and class sizes do not easily support social distancing.

Sudan Medical Link update

We are more optimistic about the opportunities for developing primary care in South Sudan than before because of your support and for the additional reasons:

- 3 year funding to take on additional new students for training has been allocated by Bishop Holtam. Currently we have 7 students in training at Maridi Health Training Institute and 6 at Mary Help College in Wau.
- Individuals have generously donated personal funding to support training of specific students.
- Fees have reduced meaningfully in two of the colleges we commission places from.





- We have managed to continue to supply drugs and medical supplies to 11 clinics that we support using a competitive tendering process. The second consignment for 2021 has recently been delivered.
- Fundraising activity is now supported by a small team.
- Leadership and medical support for SML has been strengthened.

How can we work together to increase our reach and support in South Sudan?

Sadly, the Covid crisis makes the possibility of visits from the SML Team this year seem remote. These visits help generate a true sense of partnership and provide opportunities for mutual prayer support as well as a recognised quality assurance element in terms of student training and drug provision. We are using technology to link more and are hopeful that visits will resume in 2022. (These visits are self-funded).

1. Become Involved

Would you be interested in being more involved? For example - it would be really helpful to have a practicing midwife join the SML Team. Please feel free to contact Anne Salter on info.sudanmedicallink@gmail.com if you are interested and would like to discuss further.



2. Support Events

Meanwhile we have two events planned for 2021:



1. Garden Party on Sunday afternoon 5th September in the South Canonry. Bishop Anthony Poggo from Lambeth Palace has agreed to be present.

2. A Soiree at Cranborne Manor on Wednesday 8th September supported by Lord Cranborne. **You are especially invited to join this evening in the gardens of Cranborne Manor.** *Please see link to Just Giving Page [here](#).*

3. Share what you are doing

We would love to hear from you so that we are able to share with others about your fundraising activities in support of the SML. Please email: info.sudanmedicallink@gmail.com

Any funding should be sent to the Board of Finance using the attached Gift Aid form.

Prayer

Here is part of a letter from Rev Tito Maridi who as many of you know is also an excellent clinical officer and runs a very efficient Primary Care Clinic:

"We are very grateful for you all and the beloved brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Salisbury. And are doing very well in the Bethsaida Clinic. So let's continue to be in touch and above all in PRAYERS."



Salisbury Sudan Medical Link

Prayer for the Link between the Diocese of Salisbury and the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Father of all, before the Throne of Grace we remember the people of the Sudan

Give us the heart to feel
for those who wander the World
seeking a home
to call their own.

Give us the mind to strengthen
those who feed the hungry
clothe the naked
welcome the stranger.

Give us the spirit to pray
for those who walk
in the valley
of the shadow of death.

May all the nations obey you
all the peoples who love you
and the whole earth rejoice in you.
Father, Son and Spirit.
Amen.

If you can help, please make out any cheques or bank transfers with gift aid declaration as per the attached form in favour of: **“Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance (Medical Link)”**

We look forward prayerfully to hearing from you.
John Simmons Chair of the SML Committee

Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance, Salisbury-Sudan Medical Link Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK taxpayer and eligible to Gift Aid your donation, please complete the declaration below. This will increase your gift by 25p for every £1 given at no extra cost to you or us. Thank you.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTES

1. Please notify Salisbury DBF if you

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax. Basic rate tax is currently 20%, which currently allows charities to reclaim 25 pence on the pound.

2. Higher rate taxpayers can claim back the difference between basic rate and higher rate or additional rate tax. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

When completed please

- *send this declaration to:*

*Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance,
Church House,
Crane Street,
Salisbury,
Wilts. SP1 2QB, and*

- *make out any cheque in favour of 'Salisbury Diocesan Board of Finance (Medical Link)'.*

- *Or by BACS to:*

- *Sort code: 30-97-41. Account number: 00007237 Under reference put Medical Link. Your name will be on the bank statement received by the finance department. BUT FOR US to claim gift aid you MUST PRINT OFF, FILL IN THIS FORM and SEND TO ABOVE ADDRESS.*