

South Sudan Refugee Crisis

Imagine this: You're a small child, stumbling across the bare terrain with your brothers and sisters. It's very dry and hot. You're thirsty and hungry and tired. But you keep pushing. It's also very quiet. *Too* quiet... Suddenly, you hear gunshots. Screams. They found you. You run for your life, not knowing if your family is safe. You hide, heart pounding. You're alone. Believe it or not, there are many things happening like this- all over the world. Take South Sudan, for instance. South Sudan is a country in Africa. It was a part of Sudan until 2011, when South Sudan voted to be a separate country. It shares a border with six other countries, including Sudan. The landscape features plains, mountains, and plateau's. At the heart of South Sudan is a swampy region most commonly known as Al-Sudd. South Sudan's capital is the city of Juba, which is also the largest city in South Sudan. Most of the population consists of Americans, with a small group of Arab people, according to NewELA. The people there also export many resources, such as oil, cotton, and sugar. South Sudan has made it through other battles as well, such as 1874, when Egypt conquered all of Sudan.

Violent conflict in 2013 has left South Sudan scarred. According to Britannica School, this has killed nearly 400,000 people. But how was it started? Well, the organization Mercy Corp describes that in 2013, South Sudan's president accused his vice president of attempted coup. (Taking over.) The effect is that the Sudan People's Liberation Movement is now divided and fighting for power. 2.2 million people have fled to neighboring countries, and 60% are children. In South Sudan, 72% of children were not in school. In early 2017, a famine was declared on parts of South Sudan, leaving 100,000 people on the verge of starvation.

Many people in South Sudan have been forced to flee their homes. As refugees, they do not have much. Water is the biggest problem. Many refugees do not have access to water, thus they become very dry and dehydrated. Refugees escape to refugee camps-but not all of them. Some refugees, even children, have to walk miles and miles to escape. The impact is hard on host countries too. As many refugees come into host countries, it gets overcrowded and they start to run out of food and supplies to give to refugees. Host countries need to supply money as well. Many refugees need jobs, but there are not enough to go around. (newsELA)

Though the crisis in South Sudan is dangerous and life threatening, there are still ways we can help. One big problem for refugees is finding education for children. The option in refugee camps for schools is poor and the option in other countries isn't great, either, because they have a hard time adapting to a new language, and that can be hard. A way we can improve that is maybe bringing in Sudanese teachers, who would help the Sudanese children understand. Another way we can help refugees is to become part of a sponsor circle, which is where you team up with others to provide money, supplies, food, housing, and jobs for refugees who have immigrated to America. Other things you can supply for refugees are health center support, money for food security, and special nutrition treatment for malnourished children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. These are some ways you can help refugees.

Many refugees escaping from South Sudan have hard struggles, and as I begin to realize this, I have started to think of ways I can welcome refugees coming to America. They would have challenges like educational access, loss of their culture and language, and physical/mental health. This could make living in a new country hard and unfriendly. I would fix that with these strategies. I would start by getting welcome gifts for the refugees. It would be something native to their homeland, like some sort of fruit. I would also get supplies for refugees, and get housing,

jobs, furniture, network coverage, and more. If there are any small children, I would get them a stuffed animal, maybe an animal that they see frequently in South Sudan. I would also provide them with, food, clothes, and kitchen supplies. The refugees would need medical insurance too. These steps ensure I can help refugee family's adjust to a new country, and to help them to become a full citizen. These are some of the ways I would help refugees who have immigrated to America.

Resources

Britannica School: school.eb.com

The UN Refugee Agency: unhcr.org

worldvision.org

Class Interview with GK – immigration lawyer

NewsELA: "The Plight of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and IDPs Around the Globe"

