



## FIRST OFF, JUST A QUICK NOTE FROM US: YOU ARE AWESOME!

Each year since 1975, thousands of young people from around New Zealand have come together and raised more than \$79 million through the 40 Hour Famine, making an incredible impact to thousands of children living in poverty in over 40 countries.

In 2018, you did it again! Nearly 100,000 young Kiwis across the country stood united and took up a 40 Hour Famine fundraising challenge to support children from South Sudan who have been forced to flee conflict and famine. Your passion and drive means that thousands of children will have access to life-saving essentials like food and water, as well as shelter, education and hope for a better future. So, thank you so much for all of your time and hard work put into this **year's** 40 Hour Famine - whether you helped organise events, gave up your lunch times or helped collect sponsorship books, your efforts are really appreciated.

### What is this all about?

Kiwis have a proud history of standing up to injustice and advocating to do our part for the world. This year, we are asking you to continue standing united with the children of South Sudan by using your voice and passion for justice.

New Zealand is one of just 30 countries in the world that have an annual quota intake of refugees. The refugee quota is an important tool to protect some of the **world's** most vulnerable people. It is one of three main ways for a refugee to find protection in New Zealand, alongside making a successful claim for asylum or being welcomed as part of a family reunification programme. Quotas are used by countries that are a long way from conflict zones but still want to grant protection to a minimum number of people.



Right now, there are restrictions in place that make it very difficult for refugees from Africa and the Middle East to start a new life in New Zealand. Because of current government policies, like the pre-existing family links policy, refugees from countries like South Sudan will not be accepted for resettlement unless they already have family here. This means kids like Victor, above left in green, who fled South Sudan to escape war, would never be able to call New Zealand home even if they wanted to.

Refugees are the global **community's** collective responsibility, and we must stand united and call on the New Zealand government to do more. So, are you in?!

We've broken it down into three easy steps! If **you're** short on time, or you already know your stuff from this **year's** 40 Hour Famine, then you can jump straight to step three below and encourage the New Zealand government to do more for refugees from South Sudan.



# STANDING UNITED WITH THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH SUDAN

## Step One: Educate

In this toolkit **you'll** find plenty of facts, figures and information **that'll** help you to understand the causes of the crisis in South Sudan, the effect that **it's** having on children and families, and what the world is doing to help. For further education resources check out [famine.org.nz/resources](http://famine.org.nz/resources).

Share this information with your family and friends, and with your school so that they can understand more about **what's** going on. Awareness is the first step to change.

## Step Two: Inspire

**You've** already done an amazing job getting your friends involved in the 40 Hour Famine and inspiring your family to donate. **They'll** already know you care about these issues - and they care too! This time **we're** not asking them to give their time or make a donation, but to use their voice.

Your voices are powerful, and the government needs to hear from you. Your voices are integral to both the present and future of Aotearoa New Zealand, and the wider world. They can shape how our government responds to the global refugee crisis. We know that when **we're** a generation united, we are powerful! So, get your friends on board and let's multiply those voices!

## Step Three: Advocate

Now that you and your friends know your stuff, and are motivated to continue helping refugees

from South Sudan, **it's** time to advocate on their behalf, and tell the New Zealand government to make the refugee quota fair, by lifting all restrictions on refugees from Africa and the Middle East.

Jump onto [wvnz.org.nz/FairForAll](http://wvnz.org.nz/FairForAll) and using the letter template write a note to our Minister of Immigration, Iain Lees-Galloway, to let him know why you think we should make the refugee quota fair for people from South Sudan and other conflict zones in Africa.

### Letters can also be sent to us by:

- Emailing [Schools@worldvision.org.nz](mailto:Schools@worldvision.org.nz) OR
- writing a letter and mailing to **World Vision New Zealand, Private Bag 92078, Auckland, New Zealand, 1142**

Please include your name, age, school/ location and email address.

Make sure your letter is in by **9 September 2018** as we will be gathering **everyone's** letters and hand-delivering them to Parliament. Join World Vision New Zealand and young people around the country in advocating for refugees.



Step three is the most important - this is how you make your voice heard!



# STANDING UNITED WITH THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH SUDAN

## Step One: Educate

### The situation in South Sudan

#### Causes of the crisis in South Sudan

Children danced and celebrated in the streets of South Sudan when the country gained independence in 2011. But seven years on, these **children's** hopes and dreams have turned to despair as famine, drought and civil war robs them of the future **they'd** dreamed of. Conflict broke out between the President and Vice President, who represented different political and ethnic groups, but over time, the conflict has become even more complex. Fighting between ethnic lines has led to various factions and armed groups, endangering the population. It is being fought in a particularly brutal manner, with all sides committing crimes against innocent women, men and children. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict, with countless lives lost, disrupted and torn apart. South Sudan is now the most fragile state in the world, with no sign of real peace in sight.

#### Effects the crisis has had on families and children from South Sudan

Children and families caught in conflict face many dangers, including violence, exploitation, being forced to become soldiers, or forced to flee their homes in search of safety. Four million people, or one third of South **Sudan's** population have fled for their lives, and more than 2.1 million people have crossed borders to seek safety in neighbouring countries: Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Central Africa Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. More than half of all South Sudanese refugees are in Uganda.

This conflict is especially difficult for the youngest generation; 61% of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda are children. They have travelled long distances, many without their parents or families. The things **they've** seen and experienced are hard to image and even harder to forget. Children under five-years-old are particularly vulnerable. Hunger and malnutrition

slow physical and mental development, which can cause learning difficulties and health issues. Lack of healthcare, immunisations and proper sanitation, contribute to the spread of preventable disease. Schools have been destroyed and teachers have left to seek safety. According to the United Nations, two million children are out of school in South Sudan. This robs them of their childhood today and affects their future hopes and dreams for tomorrow.

More than half (seven million) of the population in South Sudan need humanitarian assistance, with more than five million people facing severe lack of food. Deliveries of food cannot get through because it is too dangerous, causing food prices to increase rapidly, and leading to inflation of more than 180% a year.

People lack basic human rights such as water, sanitation and shelter. Many violations of human rights and international law have been reported to the United Nations, including deliberate violence against and exploitation of children. Boys and girls are facing challenges no child should ever endure, including going hungry, violence, missing school, losing family members and friends.

#### Attempts at Peace Agreements and Ceasefires

South Sudan is the most fragile state in the world. Armed conflict has been ongoing since 2013, despite the signing of a peace agreement in 2015.

In late 2017, there was an attempt to broker a ceasefire and peace agreement. Ceasefires are important as they allow civilians safe passage and allow humanitarian aid organisations to provide assistance where it is needed most. It stops the further destruction of livelihoods and lessens the death toll. Ceasefires often serve as the basis for lasting peace agreements.



## STANDING UNITED WITH THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH SUDAN

### How has the world responded to the refugee crisis?

#### Global Refugee Protection

We are living in a world where there are more refugees than at any time in recorded history – nearly 25.4 million. More than half of these refugees are children. There are now 2.6 million South Sudanese refugees registered by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) that have fled to neighbouring countries.

Uganda hosts more than one million refugees from South Sudan. The country has an open border policy for refugees, and on average 650 people cross the border from South Sudan every day. No country has taken in so many refugees within such a short timeline in relation to geographic size and host population numbers, offering the displaced an opportunity to stay, cultivate land and work without major restrictions.

Between 2014 and 2018, 367,717 refugees have been resettled globally. Between 2013 and 2018, 4,419 refugees were resettled in New Zealand. More than half of the refugees resettled in New Zealand come from the Asia-Pacific region. Resettlement involves refugees travelling to high-income countries that have agreed to admit them with permanent residence status. Their new host country provides them and their family with access to civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights similar to those enjoyed by citizens.

### How is World Vision responding?

Every day hundreds of refugees fleeing terrible violence and drought in South Sudan arrive in Uganda. One million people are in desperate need of food assistance, clean water, healthcare and education. World Vision is providing vital assistance to vulnerable children and families whose lives have been affected by this crisis.

**World Vision is providing emergency assistance.** We have more than 500 staff supporting South Sudanese refugees in Northern Uganda and through our partnership with the World Food Programme, we are providing more than 690,000 people with food each month. World Vision is providing clean water, and distributing core relief items like blankets and mosquito nets.

**World Vision is protecting children.** We help to identify, protect and find caring guardians for unaccompanied and separated children (children who arrive without their parents or families). World Vision operate 29 child-friendly spaces, where refugee and host community children come to play, learn, sing, interact and receive psycho-social assistance.

**World Vision also advocates to governments** around the world to ensure the funding needs for this crisis response are met and responsibility for South Sudanese refugees is shared fairly.



## STANDING UNITED WITH THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH SUDAN

### Why is World Vision New Zealand advocating for change?

**New Zealand is one of just 30 countries in the world with an annual quota intake of refugees.**

The number of refugees, and who exactly is selected to start a new life in New Zealand, is decided by the government together with UNHCR (the UN refugee agency). Each year, New Zealand accepts 1000 refugees; more than half of the refugees resettled in New Zealand come from the Asia-Pacific region.

**Current New Zealand Government policies mean there are restrictions in place that make it extremely difficult for refugees from Africa and the Middle East to find protection here.**

Refugees from these regions can only be accepted for resettlement in New Zealand if they already have family in the country. This makes it nearly impossible for them to start a new life here.

Further, only a mere 17% of the 1000 people we resettle each year can come from Africa; for Middle Eastern refugees the number is 15%. This is despite the greatest number of refugees worldwide being from countries in Africa and the Middle East, including South Sudan and Syria.

## Step Two: Inspire

### Get inspired

First of all, take inspiration from the efforts of people just like you that have taken action through the 40 Hour Famine. Almost 100,000 young people across New Zealand took up a fundraising challenge and stood united to make a difference in the lives of thousands of children and families from South Sudan. You should be super proud of the part **you've** played, and the lives **we've** changed together.

### Inspire others

Tackle this the same way you did for the 40 Hour Famine: whether **that's** setting up a stall at lunchtime, putting up posters, putting

**New Zealand has only resettled 12 refugees from South Sudan in New Zealand since 2011 due to this policy.**

Our annual intakes from Africa have occasionally gone down to single figures because of very few possible family links, for example in 2014/15 when only 1% of our intake came from Africa.

Kids like Victor who fled South Sudan to escape the war could never find protection in New Zealand, as they have no relatives in our country.

**Refugees are the global community's collective responsibility.**

New Zealand cannot stand by as Uganda continues to host the largest refugee population in Africa. We must stand united with the people of South Sudan and do more to help refugees.

We will continue standing united with the children of South Sudan, by speaking up and asking the New Zealand government to make the refugee quota fair for all, and lift all restrictions on refugees from Africa and the Middle East.

information in the school newsletter, speaking at an assembly, or going around classes.

Use your knowledge and passion for justice to inspire others to take action, and to support children and families in the midst of the South Sudan refugee crisis. This is an extension of the 40 Hour Famine fundraising challenge, so if you have a list of the people that signed up, that could be a really great starting point.

Tell them **what's** going on in South Sudan and how New Zealand has restrictions for refugees from South Sudan in place. Share some of the stories of those affected, and let them know that their voice is powerful, and they can make a difference. Our government needs to hear from everyone who wants to help!



## STANDING UNITED WITH THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH SUDAN

# Step Three: Advocate

As with the 40 Hour Famine, this is another way that you can take action and continue to stand united with the children of South Sudan. Now that you and your friends know your stuff and are motivated to continue helping vulnerable children and families, use your voice to influence New Zealand government policy on how we, as a country, help refugees from South Sudan.

Head to [wvnz.org.nz/FairForAll](http://wvnz.org.nz/FairForAll) and fill in the letter template to our Minister of Immigration, Iain Lees-Galloway, asking him to make New Zealand's refugee quota fair for all refugees. Letters can be sent as a group or as an individual, and can be as long or short as you want! Add your thoughts and let him know why you think we should lift restrictions like the family-link requirement and make it easier for refugees from Africa and the Middle East to start a new life here.

If you did the 40 Hour Famine this year, include what you did and why you chose to stand united. Including this info is a great way to show that **you're** doing something yourself and are committed to making a difference for children and families from South Sudan.

### Letters can also be sent to us by:

- emailing to [Schools@worldvision.org.nz](mailto:Schools@worldvision.org.nz) OR
- writing a letter and mailing to **World Vision New Zealand, Private Bag 92078, Auckland, New Zealand, 1142**

Please include your name, age, school/ location and email address.

Make sure your letter is in by **9 September 2018** as we will be gathering **everyone's** letters and hand-delivering them to Parliament.

**Remember, never underestimate your voice - your views matter to politicians** so **don't** be afraid to let them know what matters to you! Your voice can move mountains and make a real difference to the lives of people who have been forced to flee their homes.

## What now?

Once **you've** submitted your letter, give yourself a pat on the back! What **you've** done is awesome, **you've** given refugees a voice and sent it straight to our government. You have spoken truth to power. Thank you for being so awesome and continuing to speak up and standing united with us and the children of South Sudan!

Encourage your friends to get involved and write their own letter or help others with their ideas.

# Thank you!



Check out 14-year-old **Victor's** story to see how the situation in South Sudan is affecting children and families. Head to [WVNZ's YouTube Channel](#)