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# news release

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## CANADA AIRLIFTS EMERGENCY RELIEF TO SUDAN

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall and the Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Kim Campbell, announced today that Canada is airlifting emergency humanitarian aid to the people of southern Sudan, in response to a request from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Canada has provided a Canadian Forces Hercules C-130 plane for a 10-day period to assist UNICEF's "Operation Lifeline Sudan" in transporting medical, supplemental food and shelter materials from Lokichokio, Kenya, to famine- and conflict-affected areas in southern Sudan. Operation Lifeline Sudan was established by UNICEF in 1989 to co-ordinate the efforts of UN agencies and non-governmental organizations in responding to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan.

An agreement reached in December 1992 between the United Nations, the Sudanese government and opposition forces has allowed relief agencies expanded access to the most severely affected regions of southern Sudan. UNICEF is accelerating its relief activities to respond to this increased need, and to do so before the fast-approaching rainy season makes available airstrips unusable. UNICEF requested assistance from the Canadian government who, with aircraft and experienced personnel in the area, were capable of responding quickly to this limited "window of opportunity."

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