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COMBONI JPIC NETWORK NEWS

Justice and peace-related news, actions, and resources from the Comboni Missionaries, North American Province

MAY 2023



SELECTED GLOBAL TOPICS



Fighting in Sudan Continues into Third Week

Since it began on April 15, fighting in Sudan has continued for more than two weeks between the country's army and a paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces.

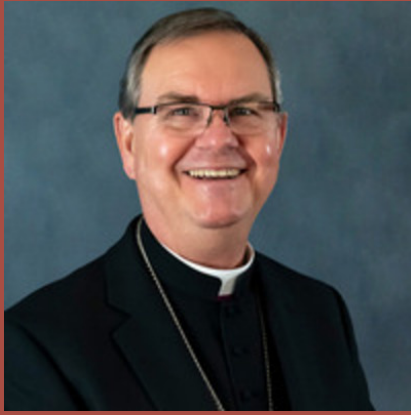
Things have been tenuous in this Central African country since 2019, when the people of Sudan overthrew longtime Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir. A promised transition to democracy never fully materialized.

As fighting continues, a humanitarian crisis is unfolding. People are largely unable to leave their homes, only occasionally leaving for essentials such as food and water. Tens of thousands of people are fleeing their homes for other countries in search of refuge.

Despite international calls for an end to hostilities, multiple cease-fires have failed.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

'Thoughts and Prayers' not Enough Bishops Say



Story from [Crux Now](#). After a spate of shootings across the country, a U.S. bishop has said that offering thoughts and prayers after a tragedy, though necessary, is not a sufficient response to address the issue of gun violence that plagues the nation.

"I don't think we can allow ourselves to be passive," said Bishop Timothy Doherty of Lafayette, Indiana.

"Without some serious adjustment in personal and social priorities, we will continue to expect health care professionals to spend more time attending to survivors of gunshots, or first responders training to offset avoidable threats, rather than spending energy on maintaining good order," he said.

Read more [here](#).

What is May Day?



Today is International Labor Day, a day most Americans are rather unfamiliar with. It is an important day to remember and fight for workers' rights around the world.

May 1st is a day to champion workers. Learn more about the history of May Day and International Labor Day here:

<https://www.npr.org/2022/04/30/1095729592/what-is-may-day-history>

MORE TOPICS TO EXPLORE

[Land conflicts continue to rise in Brazil according to Church report](#)

[Ethiopia: Companies Long Ignored Gold Mine Pollution](#)

['Everything is connected': How sisters are responding to the climate crisis](#)

TAKE ACTION

Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals to Children



"Storytelling is a powerful communications tool and helps children remember lessons and virtues that they will use in everyday life. The idea behind the production of the story of *Frieda* was to simplify the lessons of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) so young children can relate to – and better understand – the SDGs. Follow Frieda's journey through her home in Windhoek, Namibia – read and download the book [here](#) to learn about protecting life on

Global Goals for Sustainable Development Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

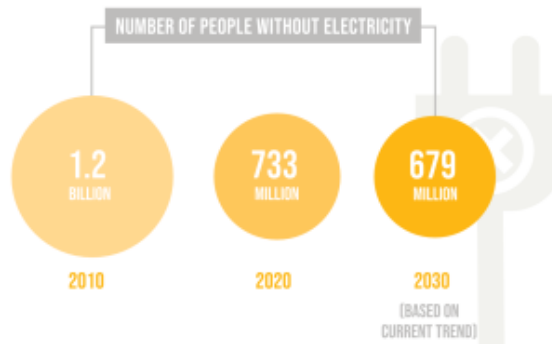


**ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE,
SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL**

IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS IN ELECTRIFICATION

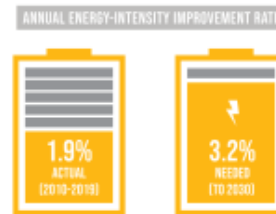
HAS SLOWED

**DUE TO THE CHALLENGE OF REACHING
THOSE HARDEST TO REACH**



PROGRESS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

**NEEDS TO SPEED UP
TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL CLIMATE GOALS**

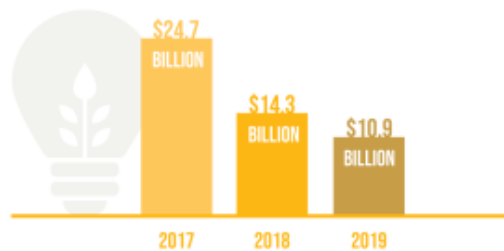


2.4 BILLION PEOPLE

**STILL USE INEFFICIENT AND
POLLUTING COOKING SYSTEMS**
(2020)

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FLOWS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR RENEWABLES

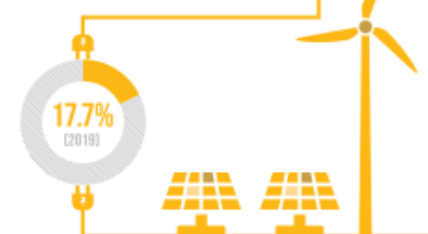
DECLINED FOR A SECOND YEAR IN A ROW



TOTAL RENEWABLE ENERGY

CONSUMPTION INCREASED BY
A QUARTER BETWEEN 2010 AND 2019,

**BUT THE SHARE OF RENEWABLES IN TOTAL
FINAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION IS ONLY**



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2022: [UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2022/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/)

789 million people worldwide – predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa – lack access to electricity. Hundreds of millions more only have access to very limited or unreliable electricity. It is estimated that only 28 percent of health facilities have access to reliable electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, yet energy is critically

needed to keep people connected at home and to run life-saving equipment in hospitals.

Read more about SDG 7 [here](#).

U.N. International Days

2023

May 3

World Press Freedom Day

2023 year marks the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day. Three decades have passed since it was proclaimed in 1993, in which we have seen substantial progress towards achieving a free press and freedom of expression around the world. [Learn more](#).

April 4

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

In 2022 the United Nations Mine Action Service marks the Day under the theme "Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home." The focus of the observance is on the impressive achievements of the global mine action community, starting with the work of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) – founded in 1992 and awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 - as well as on the achievements of UN Member States in the period since the Mine Ban Convention came into force in 1999, and on highlighting the work that remains to be completed. [Learn more](#).

May 10

International Day of Argania

The argan tree (*Argania spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco, in the southwest of the country, which grows in arid and semiarid areas. It's the defining species of a woodland ecosystem, also known as Arganeraie, which is rich in endemic flora. It is resilient to a harsh environment under water scarcity, risk of erosion and poor soils. [Learn more](#).

May 12

International Day of Plant Health

Both our health and the health of our planet depend on plants. Plants make up 80% of the food we eat and 98% of the oxygen we breathe and yet they are under threat. Up to 40% of food crops are lost due to plant pests and diseases every year. This is affecting both food security and agriculture, the main source of income for vulnerable rural communities. [Learn more](#).

May 15

International Day of Families

In late 2022, the world's population has reached eight billion people. Characterized by the United Nations Secretary-General as a 'milestone in human development' this landmark event illustrates major advancements in health extending human lifespans. Population growth is to continue albeit at a decreasing rate. It is projected to reach 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 in 2100 rising concerns about the prospects of sustainable urbanization and management of climate change. [Learn more](#).

May 16

International Day of Light

The International Day of Light celebrates the role light plays in science, culture and art, education, and sustainable development, and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications, and energy. The celebration will allow many different sectors of society worldwide to participate in activities that demonstrates how science, technology, art and culture can help achieve the goals of UNESCO – building the foundation for peaceful societies. [Learn more.](#)

May 20

World Bee Day

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities. Pollination is, however, a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend, entirely, or at least in part, on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity. [Learn more.](#)

May 22

International Day for Biological Diversity

As the global community is called to re-examine our relationship to the natural world, one thing is certain: despite all our technological advances we are completely dependent on healthy and vibrant ecosystems for our water, food, medicines, clothes, fuel, shelter and energy, just to name a few. [Learn more.](#)



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