

Emergency Response to Famine in South Sudan

Press release by the Board of the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation

At the recent G20 Meeting in Hamburg the German Chancellor Angela Merkel presented the new G20 Africa Partnership "Accepting responsibility". But while the G20 correctly declared that education is considered a "central factor" and "the key to sustainable growth", the world community yet needs to take immediate action against a crisis of unprecedented magnitude: South Sudan is the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency's Global Trends report which was released on June 19, 2017. Since the civil war broke out in 2013, more than 2 million have fled to neighbouring countries, with another 2 million domestically displaced. Even though the U.N.'s High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi has called on the global community to exert its influence and to take charge of its responsibility to save the future of the country and its people, little has been achieved so far to stop the blood shedding. The crisis has left 6.1 million people in distress and in need for humanitarian assistance. Diseases, protracted instability and widespread destruction have triggered unprecedented levels of food insecurity and calls for immediate emergency aid. It is for that very reason that the legendary jewelry designer Ms. Elsa Peretti and her Foundation, the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation, calls on other leading private foundations across the world, to join the Foundation's endeavour in saving the millions of refugees and displaced people from famine. In light of the complexities and scale of this humanitarian emergency, the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation has conceived a comprehensive plan that foresees both, an immediate and a long-term financial commitment of EUR 2 million to reach and intervene on the lives of about 980,000 people. In order to achieve a sustainable impact, the

Foundation has entered into various collaborations with other organizations, i.e. UNHCR, World Food Programme, AMREF Health Africa, Light for the World, MEF Médecins Sans Frontières, CUAMM Doctors with African Children and INTERSOS. In close collaboration with these organizations, the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation will work towards the mitigation of predominant risks in the region, by addressing the imminent food and nutrition crisis, protecting refugees and displaced people of violence and providing more than 55'000 children access to education. The Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation has pledged to promote and protect the human rights and the right to live, way beyond any governmental program.