

Facts and Figures

Context

Total population of 11.37 million

8 million people considered severely food insecure; 483'000 malnourished women and 1.4 million malnourished children.

8.3 million in need of protection and assistance across South Sudan (OCHA)

2 million remains Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) since December 2013 (OCHA)

125,000 IDPs seeking safety in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites (UNMISS)

2.3 million South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR)

More than 301,000 refugees coming from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and the Central African Republic in South Sudan (UNHCR)

Over 135 aid workers killed in South Sudan since December 2013

Switzerland's activities

Switzerland's Cooperation Strategy 2022-2025 for South Sudan focuses on food security and livelihoods, protection of civilians, promotion of human rights and peace- and conflict resolution

Budget

Total budget in 2022 (estimated): CHF 16 million



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

HUMANITARIAN

- The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2020 estimates that 8.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in South Sudan. The country faces multiple shocks resulting from conflict, natural disaster, including currently floods and the Covid-19 pandemic. This has negatively impacted the livelihoods and safety of over 7 million already vulnerable people. The humanitarian response to affected populations is challenged by access restrictions, which have even worsened with Covid-19 regulations
- The protection of civilians remains an urgent need. Inter-communal conflicts in various states has left thousands of civilians displaced from their homes. This has been exacerbated by the recent floods as South Sudan also experienced its second consecutive year of devastating flooding that has affected 1 million person each year. Moreover, the country has seen increasing cases of Domestic and Sexual and Gender based Violence. Switzerland and its partners remained flexible and continues to provide much needed support in the country despite existing security and access challenges.

- Food insecurity continues to be dire and widespread, driven by the loss of productive assets linked to political and intercommunal conflict, poor macroeconomic conditions, large-scale crop and livestock losses during floods since 2019, crops pests and diseases, economic shocks associated with COVID-19 outbreak and lower oil revenue. Food insecurity is most severe in conflict-affected areas of Jonglei, Lakes, and Warrap, as well as in parts of Upper Nile, Unity, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, and Central Equatoria. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification for July 2021, 7.24 million people (more than 60% of the population) are facing severe acute food insecurity with about 108,000 experiencing family-like conditions (IPC 5). The situation is expected to worsen with the current ongoing floods and COVID-19 effect and ongoing insecurity in various State.

POLITICAL

- In September 2018, the parties to the South Sudan conflict signed yet another peace agreement (the so-called Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, R-ARCSS) after the collapse of August 2015 agreement. The agreement of September 2018 was however not signed by all the parties that engaged in its negotiations, due to concerns about it not addressing the root causes.
- Comunità Sant Egidio together with international community observers, as for instance the IGAD, have continuously engaged three non-signatory groups to R-ARCSS through dialogue. A re-commitment to the 2017 Cessation of Hostilities, as well as a declaration of principles was agreed upon in January 2020 (widely known as the Rome Declaration).
- Whereas the ceasefire is holding in most parts of the country fighting and displacement still continues in other parts, inter-communal violence and cattle raiding contributes to insecurity, for instance in Jonglei and Lakes states and the progress in the security sector reform is slow.

- R-ARCSS implementation remains very slow. 3 years after the signature, most of the benchmarks on the agreement's implementation matrix are yet to be achieved. With the decision to return to 10 States and with the revitalization of the Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) in February 2020, a number of steps were however taken in 2021 that point towards increased readiness for implementation of the agreement, in particular the inauguration of the Revitalized Transitional National Assembly (RTNLA), as well as the drafting of the legislation as the basis for the constitution making process. However, there was no progress in implementing Chapter II of R-ARCSS: the unification of high command and of the forces are still pending progress.
- There is a growing frustration regarding the slow implementation of the R-ARCSS among different stakeholders. Such frustration is evident with the emergence of groups such as the people's coalition for Civil Action (PCCA) calling for the resignation of top political leaders in the R-TGoNU for their failure to implement the R-ARCSS and to bring peace and stability in the country.
- Political fragmentations among parties to the R-ARCSS continues and has led to violent conflict in other parts of the country. The recent defection of the SPLM-IO senior military commanders in Upper Nile has led to clashes between factions of the SPLM-IO under Dr. Riak and the group Under Gen. Gatwech.

ECONOMIC

- In July 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a Resource Envelope of US\$ 1,506m and total Expenditure of US\$ 2,005m for the FY21/22 budget (contemplating a gross budget deficit of about US\$ 499m – or about 37% of the FY21/22 budget).

Context

In 2022, like in previous years, South Sudan remains a fragmented and polarized context. Whilst the ceasefire between the main warring parties largely held since the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, other forms of violence and severe humanitarian consequences continue to affect the vast majority of the population in the country.

In May 2021 the long-awaited workshop on the constitution making process was held and in July 2021, the RTNLA was sworn-in.

Several challenges relating to Chapter II of R-ARCSS still need to be resolved, including the unification of the national army and a resolution to political conflict between the revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGoNU) and non-signatory groups to R-ARCSS in the South of the country.

Meanwhile, intercommunal conflict – which has been driven by cattle raids, access to grazing land and water, and retaliation for earlier attacks and enabled by the recent absence of state governors – continues unabated in many parts of the country.

Given the ongoing conflicts and poor economic state, the social and humanitarian situation of SSD has not evolved and the country is still listed as among the world's most fragile states, remaining at the bottom of human development indicators, with most households facing poverty, constraining gender roles and all too often threat of physical violence. Over 80% of the population lives below the absolute poverty line. Nearly 3.925 million people have been displaced (1.6 Mio IDPs, 2.2 Mio refugees and 125'000 in POCs), fluid population movements is a significant feature in SSD, and today, more than 7.24 million people (representing more than the 60% of the total population) are in dire need of humanitarian assistance & protection.

Response by the Humanitarian Community

The South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2021 (2022 under preparation) requests US\$1.68 billion to respond to the most life-threatening needs of 7.24 million people in need of protection and assistance across South Sudan.

In 2022, the humanitarian operation in South Sudan is focusing on three overarching strategic objectives aimed at responding to the needs of the vulnerable populations as a result of the crisis: (1) Reduce morbidity and mortality, protection threats and incidents for the most vulnerable population in severity levels 4 and 5; (2) Ensure safe, equitable and dignified access to critical cross-sectoral basic services to enable populations meet their basic needs in locations of severity level 4 and 5; and (3) Enable vulnerable people to recover from crisis, seek solutions to displacement in the respect of their rights, and build resilience to shocks and stresses.

Switzerland's presence and response in South Sudan

Switzerland has supported aid operations to war-affected persons in the region since 1994. In South Sudan, Switzerland maintains a Cooperation Office and Consular Office in the capital Juba.

For the period 2017 to 2021, Switzerland has committed a budget above 90 million for South Sudan, for programmes implemented by multilateral UN Organizations, the ICRC, as well as national and international NGOs and CSOs.

The new Switzerland's Cooperation Strategy (called Country Program) 2022-2025 (to be approved soon) for South Sudan focuses on i) food security and livelihoods, ii) protection of civilians and human rights and iii) peace and conflict resolution.

The country program combines various aid instruments such as emergency and recovery aid, development assistance and support to peace- and reconciliation efforts.

Complementary to humanitarian efforts, Switzerland promotes peaceful conflict resolution through fostering spaces for South Sudanese stakeholders to discuss issues and find their own solutions to their conflicts. Switzerland supports these efforts through the provision of neutral spaces and technical expertise, for example to faith-based actors, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

Further Information

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National Level

Bilateral Funding

INSO
01.07.2021 – 30.06.2022
CHF 195'000

SSHf
01.01.2021 – 31.12.2024
2'000'000 in 2021, then 1 M each Y

CSRF
Multidonor Conflict Sensitivity Programme – Phase II
01.10.2019 – 31.12.2021 / CHF 530'000

RSRTF
Multidonor Conflict Sensitivity Programme – Phase II
01.10.2019 – 31.12.2021 / CHF 530'000

Geographical Distribution

Warrap: 2
N BeG: 2
W BeG: 1
Upper Nile: 2
Jonglei: 2
Unity: 3
WE: 2
CE: 5
EE: 6

PCM Management
No of contracts H-CASH: 17
Intended: 15
No. of locations: ca 20
No. of focus areas: 6
Contracts renewals 2022: 14

Multilateral Funding

ICRC, South Sudan 2022
CHF 3'500'000

WFP South Sudan 2022
CHF 2'000'000

OCHA, South Sudan 2022
CHF 300'000

UNHCR, South Sudan 2022:
CHF 1'000'000

2022

6.8 M Multi
7.8 M H-CASH
SUM 14.6 M

FS: 7 ongoing, planned reduction to 5

P: 3 ongoing, 1 planned = 4

H&P Nexus: 2 ongoing, planned to keep 2

FSL&Prot: 1 ongoing, planned to increase

Security or multi-sector: 4

Small Action: 100k

Multilateral: 4

