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Facts & figures

Population:	Estimated 8.2 million
Number of returnees from the North (since October 2010)	365,000
Number of conflict related IDPs reported in 2011	Over 330,000
Infant mortality (per 1,000):	131
Under-five mortality (per 1,000):	381
Access to clean water	30%
Global Acute Malnutrition	Average of 19%

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

South Sudan is the newest but also one of the poorest states in Africa with an estimated 8.2 million inhabitants. Years of conflict and underdevelopment, combined with seasonal flooding, frequent dry spells, and frequent outbreaks of diseases mean that South Sudan remains a serious concern for the humanitarian community. The country is characterised by a lack of infrastructure and basic services such as safe water sources, sanitation facilities, health services or roads; a weakened economy, low literacy rate; and a profoundly poor population.

These structural problems have humanitarian consequences. Malnutrition levels are beyond emergency thresholds; one out of every seven children dies before reaching the age of five; one out of six women who become pregnant dies; more than 20 percent of the population is undernourished; and deadly epidemic outbreaks are frequent and spread easily. In addition to this, food insecurity is a real threat to over a million people each year.

In such a fragile context any additional shock can have serious humanitarian implications. On top of the environmental hazards, South Sudan is prone to violent conflicts. Inter-tribal conflict has resulted in over 150,000 displaced people, hundreds of deaths, and abductions in 2011.

The humanitarian situation remains grim and unpredictable, especially in the northern states bordering the Republic of Sudan. Fighting in the Transitional Areas has increased the

number of people seeking refuge in South Sudan. Over 110,000 people from Abyei remain displaced. Fighting in the Sudanese States of South Kordofan and Blue Nile have resulted in displacements of more than 185,000 people into South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Since the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, about 2.5 million people displaced during the war have returned to settle in South Sudan. Since October 2010, 365,000 people returned from the North of Sudan with about 30 percent settling in urban centres. Most are not used to the hardships they encounter in their new home and a majority possess urban livelihood skills which are not useful in South Sudan. Many returnees are yet to be fully integrated due to a lack of basic services and infrastructure.

ECHO, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection department, is supporting various life saving programmes in South Sudan. The main priorities include emergency preparedness and response, and provision of basic services to the vulnerable populations living in areas particularly prone to shocks. The Commission also supports programmes that assist the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees; mainly provision of health services, water and sanitation, and food assistance. The Commission is aiming at increasing food security while also supporting common services, such as humanitarian air transport, security assessments, and coordination.

Health and nutrition

South Sudan has some of the worst health and nutrition indicators in the world. Access to quality primary healthcare is problematic due to underdevelopment, conflict and the remoteness of many areas. Poor health care affects the most vulnerable leading to high mortality rates amongst children and women. The European Commission is supporting health centres to provide life saving primary health care to populations in remote villages.

The European Commission also funds disease surveillance systems that help detect outbreaks and supports treatment. For example in 2010 and 2011 the Commission responded to *kala azar* outbreak, a fatal tropical disease transmitted by the sand flies. Given that malnutrition rates in South Sudan are beyond the emergency threshold, the Commission also supports nutrition centres where malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women receive assistance.



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Water and sanitation

The limited access to safe water and poor sanitation is a chronic problem in South Sudan. The low access rate is having a huge impact on health and contributes substantially to children's vulnerability to malnutrition. The European Commission funds programmes that improve access to safe water and sanitation, particularly in areas prone to emergencies and in the context of population displacements. Hygiene promotion is indispensable element of every Commission-funded operation in the water sector.

Food security and livelihoods

It is estimated that close to 12 percent of households in 2011 are severely food insecure and as many as 2.8 million needs some form of food assistance. The high inflation of basic food commodities is making life harder for already vulnerable people. The European Commission is supporting programmes that either provide immediate food assistance or aim at reducing vulnerability to food insecurity.

Coordination, shared services, and access

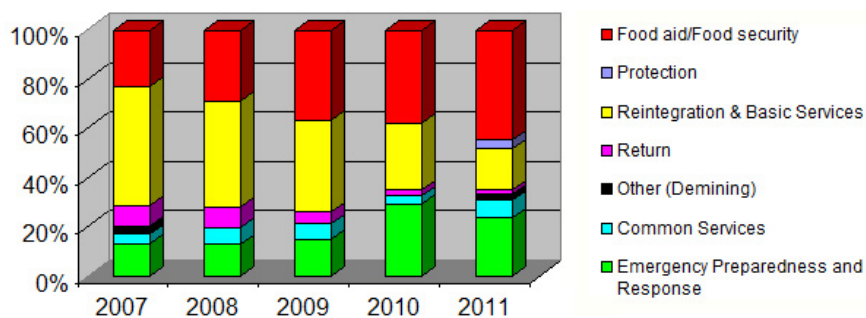
Providing humanitarian relief in South Sudan is a difficult task. The vast size of the country and the lack of infrastructure make physical movement of aid workers and supplies difficult and costly, especially during the rainy season when most roads become impassable for several months. In addition, the number of humanitarian emergencies, especially linked to conflicts is overstressing the existing capacity to respond; and the threats to the safety of humanitarian workers are increasing due to the armed clashes, harassment, mines and common banditry.

In order to facilitate the relief effort, the Commission supports common services such as humanitarian air services, coordination, logistic services, common transport, and security assessments. The European Commission is also supporting pre-positioning of food, nutritional supplies, seeds and tools, medical kits, non-food items, which allows for rapid and coherent response to emergencies across the ten states of South Sudan.

ECHO's Funding to South Sudan

- 2012 €45 million so far
- 2011 €82million
- 2010 €40 million
- 2009 €27 million
- 2008 €31 million
- 2007 €27 million

ECHO's funding in South Sudan per sector (2007– 2011)



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