

# SOUTH SUDAN

JUNE - AUGUST BRIEFING 2018



## Humanitarian Figures

### 1.91 million

Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in South Sudan need humanitarian assistance, according to August reports by

[OCHA](#)

### 7.1 million

people are severely food insecure. South Sudan is facing crisis levels of food shortages

[\(Report by OCHA\)](#)

### 297,150

people are seeking asylum in South Sudan. Refugee crises in North-East and Eastern Africa pose a humanitarian emergency [\(OCHA\)](#)

### 2.47 million

South Sudanese refugees are being hosted in neighbouring countries. Refugees in Uganda exceed the 1 million mark

[\(OCHA\)](#)

### 198,444

IDPs are seeking refuge in Protection of Civilian (POC) sites, which shelters just 10 per cent of Sudan's internally displaced population [\(OCHA\)](#)

## Highlights

- > UN calls for scale-up of humanitarian operations in Western Equatoria due to an increase in localised violence
- > Africa's largest refugee crisis worsens as insecurity in South Sudan continues to escalate
- > Authorities make progress on Ebola Virus Disease outbreak preparedness as Democratic Republic of Congo presents a threat to the region
- > South Sudan suffers one of the world's worst famines as more than half the population is facing severe food shortages

## Key Developments

- > The latest push for resolution between South Sudan's warring factions saw rebel forces agree to a permanent ceasefire with the government on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. Concerns for lasting peace have been expressed as the agreement marks the [twelfth ceasefire](#) and second power sharing deal made throughout the five-year civil war.
- > The Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) reported clashes between the government and rebel pro-Machar forces in Unity and Bringi in mid-August. Despite accusations of ceasefire violations, incidents of armed conflict have reduced significantly, according to UNICEF investigations.
- > In August, the production of crude oil resumed in one of South Sudan's key oil regions for the first time since civil war forced its closure. Efforts to rebuild the oil-dependent economy of South Sudan, which holds [third-largest reserves](#) in Sub-Saharan Africa, are underway as production at Toma South is estimated to export [45,000 barrels](#) of oil each day from Heglig in Sudan.

## Key Individuals, Places and Groups

- › Juba: South Sudan's capital city. Also serves as the capital of Jubek State
- › Salva Kiir: President of South Sudan (2011-Present)
- › Riek Machar: Former Vice President (2011-2013)
- › CTSAMM: The Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism

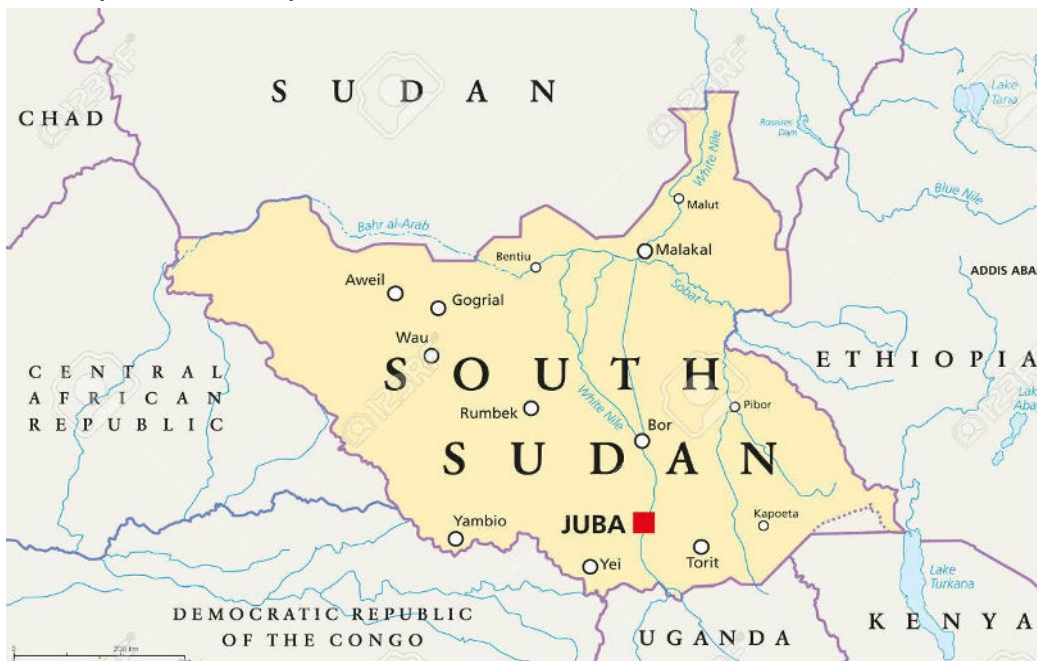
## Context

South Sudan gained independence from the Republic of Sudan following the Referendum of 2011, which saw [99 per cent](#) of those in the south voting to break away from the north. Political unrest erupted in 2013 after President Salva Kiir accused Vice-President Riek Machar of conspiring against his government. The dispute between Kiir's government, and rebel forces allied to Machar, evolved into a devastating civil war that continues to be fought on political allegiances.

A recent report estimates [383,000](#) people have been killed as a result of civil war in South Sudan: twelve ceasefires have been signed since the humanitarian crisis began in 2013, and none have brought resolution or peace to the nation. Ethnic minorities have been persecuted by inter-communal violence, while other indiscriminate attacks have contributed to the mass-murder, rape and systematic torture of South-Sudanese civilians unwittingly caught up in conflict.

South Sudan is the largest contributor to the refugee crisis in East and North-East Africa: insecurity in the region displaces [1.9 million people](#) and forces [2.4 million](#) into other countries as refugees. Atrocity, acts of violence and political instability have given rise to one of the world's worst situations of famine, displacement and deepening poverty. Despite these humanitarian emergencies, South Sudanese authorities have obstructed international peacekeeping operations.

## A Map of the Republic of South Sudan



## Demographics

Based on the latest United Nations estimates, the population exceeds [13 million](#). The populace is made up of many ethnic groups, the majority being Dinka who represent [35%](#) of South Sudanese peoples. [80%](#) live in rural areas, and half of the population live [below the poverty line](#). Population estimates of Wau, the region in which HART is active, is estimated at [118,330](#).

# Latest Developments

## South Sudan Faces Threats of Famine

According to June-July updates published by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and UNICEF, economic crisis, active conflict, and [challenges faced in the delivery](#) of humanitarian relief have forced a total of [60 per cent](#) of South Sudan's population into a food-shortage emergency.

Acute Food Insecurity is exacerbated by South Sudan's status as the most [deadly place](#) in the world to deliver aid. Reconciliation between warring factions is needed to provide access to humanitarian assistance, but continuing conflict is expected to obstruct aid operations, as well as impeding access to harvest, especially in areas of the Great Upper Nile, Greater Equatoria, and Western Bahr el-Ghazal.

## Calls for Humanitarian Assistance in Western Equatoria

On the 13<sup>th</sup> July, the Humanitarian Coordinator in South Sudan to the UN appealed for the [urgent scale-up](#) of humanitarian operations in Tamburu in Western Equatoria. The arrival of [18,000](#) Internally displaced People [IDPs] has been reported as a result of escalating violence and fighting in surrounding areas.

Alain Noudehou stressed that the needs of displaced communities cannot be neglected in accordance with [International Humanitarian Law](#). The Humanitarian Coordinator has commented that his concern lies with the obstruction of aid to the area: "we are calling on all sides to facilitate safe access to humanitarian assistance in order that we can provide crucial assistance to displaced populations."

## UN Warns of Suffering on 'Unimaginable' Scale

The UN Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock claims humanitarian situations in South Sudan are worsening, sharing reports of "suffering on an almost unimaginable scale". Lowcock dismissed declarations of ceasefires as "a fiction because the fighting continues" while claiming many areas have passed into [severe vulnerability](#).

The UN welcomes the announcement that the U.S. plans to reassess the amount of [assistance it provides to the war-torn country](#). Despite South Sudan's status as "the most dangerous place to be an aid worker", having taken the [lives of 100 aid workers](#) since the outbreak of war in 2013, 2 million people have recently been reached. Lowcock claims that without this assistance, the situation in South Sudan would be much worse and calls for more support to the region.

## First Phase of Refugee Relocation

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, [27,000](#) South Sudanese people were reported to be living as refugees in Sudan. The first phase of relocation for refugee communities in White Nile State began on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, which saw [5,149](#) people transferred to the new Al Jameya camp, following plans to complete the relocation of [25,000](#) in the near future.

The relocation of refugees will [support decongestion of Al Waral camp](#), which is home to [50,000](#) people in spite of an original planned capacity of [20,000](#). Designs of the new camp have been celebrated as more sustainable, with plans in place to build more durable shelters and household latrines. The relocation of additional refugees is dependent on availability of funds to construct these facilities.

## Crisis Escalates in Wau County

The number of South Sudanese IDPs has exceeded 1.9 million: August saw an increase of [70,000](#) newly displaced people as intercommunal violence persists in many regions across the country. In the same month, severe flooding in Aweil and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal displaced [20,500 households](#).

Situations of insecurity in Wau County are being compounded as the region is host to new and protracted displaced communities. Crisis levels of food insecurity, lack of shelter, and restricted access to health services are threatening the safety and lives of many displaced people, as well increasing risk to nomadic communities of Wau.

## Timeline

4<sup>th</sup> June: [UN calls for funding and aid as humanitarian situations in South Sudan worsen](#)

June-July: [Reports suggest 60 per cent of South Sudan's population faces a crisis of food insecurity](#)

13<sup>th</sup> July: [UN appeals for an increase in humanitarian assistance to reach crisis areas in Western Equatoria](#)

31<sup>st</sup> July: [Records show 27,000 people from South Sudan are living as refugees across the border in Sudan](#)

5<sup>th</sup> August: [Rebel forces agree to a ceasefire with the government in an attempt to resolve the five-year conflict](#)

August: [Reports of conflict between rebel forces and government troops break the ceasefire agreement](#)

August: [Crisis escalates in Wau County as it deals with the pressure of hosting displaced communities](#)

25<sup>th</sup> August: [South Sudan restarts crude oil production from a key region shut down by five years of civil war](#)