

Summary of DFID's work in South Sudan 2011-2015

Updated July 2012

Why we work in South Sudan

South Sudan became an independent country in July 2011, following a referendum in January 2011. The Government of Southern Sudan inherited none of the institutions of a state and possessed virtually no infrastructure and very limited human resources. Decades of war had left South Sudan highly militarised with a legacy of chronic poverty, inequality and continuing insecurity.

This Operational Plan does not represent business as usual. The decision by South Sudan in January 2012 to shut down oil production, which accounts for 98% of government revenues, has put at risk the development gains made since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The challenges faced by South Sudan are huge. Over half of the 8.3 million population of South Sudan live below the national poverty line. South Sudan has some of the worst development indicators in the world for health and education and will face huge challenges in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.



A voter in Terekeka town in Central Equatoria takes part in the historic referendum on Independence for South Sudan in January 2011. UK aid helped almost 4 million people to vote in the referendum and helped to make sure it was a fair and transparent process.



Children being taught in one of the few functioning primary schools in South Sudan - in the village of Munuki. DFID's new education programmes will support 2 million children in primary education.

What we will achieve

This Operational Plan sets out our response to the imminent crisis facing South Sudan. The government of South Sudan's decision to halt oil production will have serious economic and social impacts. We have been clear that we will not fill the funding gap. But the UK remains committed to supporting the people of South Sudan and has started to refocus its development programmes towards ensuring basic services for the most vulnerable and addressing lifesaving needs. We will move back to a more development driven approach when the situation stabilises.

We will continue to put work to tackle corruption and strengthen accountability at the heart of our approach. In order to help build the foundations for peace and development over the next four years the UK plans to:

- Support 2 million children in primary education by providing textbooks, building classrooms and providing education to children who drop out or start school late
- Reach 760,000 people for treatment or malaria prevention
- Support 250,000 people to have enough food throughout the year
- Support 250,000 women to access improved security and justice services
- Support 2 million people to receive life-saving healthcare and nutrition

The UK focus will be on helping South Sudan to develop in ways which allow poor people, particularly girls and women, to benefit. The UK's long term vision is a viable and stable South Sudan, at peace with itself and its neighbours, democratic and respectful of human rights, using its own resources to increase the economic security of its citizens and deliver services to improve human development indicators. We believe that a negotiated settlement between Sudan and South Sudan on the issues left unresolved at the time of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including oil and border demarcation, will be critical for peace and development in South Sudan.

Who we will work with

The UK is the second largest Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development bilateral donor in South Sudan after the USA. DFID does not currently channel any money through the government in South Sudan, instead routing funds through non-governmental organisations, private sector firms and multilateral agencies that have robust financial management systems. We will continue to work closely with other donors, including through joint programming and shared advisory technical resources.

How we will work

DFID is determined to ensure that UK aid reaches the people who need it the most. South Sudan remains an expensive and high risk environment for development programming, but the potential return on investments is very high: the human and economic costs of a return to a full scale war would be enormous. We have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money for every hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development.

For all our new programmes, we will test the value for money of different approaches to delivering the results we are committed to. We will also rigorously review existing programmes and current partnership agreements to make sure we are working with those who can deliver the best value for money and strongest results.

As part of the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, we will publish detailed information about new projects and policies in a way that is comprehensive, accessible, comparable, and accurate.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of South Sudan's Operational Plan, please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/south-sudan.

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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