



Sudan Recovery Fund – Southern Sudan (SRF-SS)

Technical Secretariat, UN OCHA Compound, Juba



SRF aims to accelerate recovery in Southern Sudan through high-impact, quickly disbursed projects

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Message from the Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the United Nations in Southern Sudan, Ms. Lise Grande

The SRF, established in 2008, has succeeded in attracting considerable donor resources (USD 112 million to date) to aid stabilization and recovery in Southern Sudan. Since mid 2009, the Fund has sharpened its focus on the provision of crucial assistance to the regions of Southern Sudan that face high levels of insecurity and vulnerability. The Fund now has specific programmes aiding stabilization in Jonglei and Lakes States, and similar programmes are being developed for Warrap and Eastern Equatoria States.

This focus on stabilisation has also enabled the Fund to attract wider collaboration from other donors and I am pleased to confirm that we have now agreed to meet regularly with Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS), USAID, UNDP, and DFID to ensure that the SRF programmes are well coordinated with the programmes funded by other donors. Together, we are addressing some of the most pressing issues during the pre-referendum period.

The success of the SRF is linked to the leadership of GoSS. All the programmes of the SRF are carefully reviewed and need to be approved by a Steering Committee that is chaired by His Excellency David Deng Athorbei, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) in GoSS. The programmes to assist the states on security and stabilisation issues are similarly reviewed and coordinated with the state governments to ensure that resources available to the State of Jonglei, for instance, are applied in such a way that we aid and accelerate what the state governments are already doing through their respective development plans and what other donors are doing.

The Fund also collaborates closely with other partners in Southern Sudan, such as the South Sudan Reconstruction and Development Fund (SSRDF), the Ministry of Regional Cooperation (MRC) and the Local Government Board (LGB) who all bring their unique mandates, experience, and wisdom to the programmes of the SRF. The SRF also draws on the support and advice of the 21 agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations. Furthermore, we have established coordination arrangements with both the National and International NGO community.

The SRF can only bring tangible benefits and can only impact on people's lives through these strong partnerships and I wish to give you, by way of this message, my personal assurance

that I will marshal all the resources of the United Nations system behind the SRF in the interest of stability and prosperity for Southern Sudan.

Lise Grande
Deputy Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

Displaced Southern Sudanese return home

Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 many displaced persons from Southern Sudan have returned home. Some of the return movements are assisted by agencies like the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), but the overwhelming majority of the displaced return spontaneously. There is thus a huge challenge for GoSS and the agencies assisting the return migration to understand the patterns of return and the conditions in the areas of return.

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Photo: Andreea Campeanu, IOM

One of the returnees with her sewing machine

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Significant returns are taking place to Jonglei State and Lakes State, two states currently in receipt of USD 17 million each of stabilisation assistance from the SRF. Stabilisation assistance programmes, to be financed by the SRF, are also being developed for Warrap State and Eastern Equatoria State, which takes into account that Warrap State is among the states with the highest numbers of returnees (people returning from exile in the North of Sudan back to their regions of origin in the South).

IOM estimates that since the signing of the CPA until December 2009, just over two million people spontaneously returned to Southern Sudan. Returns peaked in 2007-2008, widely attributed to the Sudan 2008 Census. Returns again increased significantly in November 2009 because of the April 2010 presidential and parliamentary elections. IOM expects that the increased levels of returns will persist throughout 2010 due to the referendum planned for January 2011. To cope with the significant further returnee movements expected before and after the referendum, IOM is preparing contingency plans in collaboration with GoSS, UNHCR, other UN Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

During April and May of 2010, IOM tracked 42,609 returnees to their areas of return in Southern Sudan. The majority of the returnees originated from the region of Khartoum. A quarter of the returnees that were tracked went to Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. Jonglei State absorbed 23% of the tracked returnees and 18% of the tracked returnees settled in Lakes State. Two thirds of the returnees belong to female-headed households and 61% of the returnees are under 18 years old. Post-settlement assessments also reveal that many of the heads of the minority of male-headed households subsequently leave their families behind in the place of return to seek employment in other areas (Sudan spontaneous return tracking report-IOM, March 2010).

Return migration is often dictated by personal choice and is somewhat influenced by the area of origin of the returnees. However, actual patterns are significantly influenced by perceptions of the conditions in the area of return, such as security and the availability of basic services. These perceptions also influence overall levels of return migration.

The SRF, through its Livelihoods and Small Grants Programme, has provided support to the returnees and aims to address some of the issues they face.

GoSS and United Nations agree on pre-referendum priorities

Five years after the signing of the CPA and four months ahead of the possibly decisive referendums in Southern Sudan and Abeyi, GoSS and the United Nations are jointly focusing on specific priorities and crucial challenges to be addressed before, during and after the referendum. This joint

focus is based on a careful assessment of conditions and trends, a deep awareness that cooperation among all partners is imperative, and a conviction that available resources should be deployed efficiently and effectively.

GoSS, for its part, has resolved to focus on five paramount issues:

1. To ensure that a **credible referendum** takes place as agreed in the CPA during early January of 2011;
2. To accelerate cementing and enhancing the **capacity of state institutions** and to reinforce good governance at all levels of government;
3. To **diversify the economy** away from the near exclusive reliance on oil receipts and to enhance food security throughout the South;
4. To continue to improve physical and human **security** and increase the capacity of the Southern Sudan law enforcement agencies;
5. To expand the **access to basic social services**, including education, health care, availability of clean water, and to reduce levels of maternal mortality.

The 21 UN agencies, funds and programmes in Southern Sudan support the above issues by focusing jointly on four key areas that matter most in the final year of the transition period between the signing of the CPA (2005) and the referendum (2011). These areas are respectively:

1. **Humanitarian Action:** the UN will continue all efforts to meet humanitarian needs where they exist in Southern Sudan. These needs flow from precarious food security with nearly half the population requiring some form of food aid and malnutrition remaining a major concern. The situation will deteriorate further if the next harvest fails and if security conditions worsen.
2. **Stabilization:** UN Agencies are helping to stabilize the states faced with insecurity and those counties that are receiving or producing the largest number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees. The aim is to “flip” the worst-affected counties before the referendum. The SRF has recently expanded its state stabilisation assistance to include the states of Warrap and Eastern Equatoria, in addition to the stabilisation assistance to Jonglei and Lakes States, which started in 2009.
3. **Protection of Civilians:** UN partners work together with the authorities at all levels to reduce violence, particularly during forced disarmament and in areas with significant political opposition. In 2010 alone so far, 175 incidents of tribal fighting or other forms of insecurity with humanitarian impact have been reported, particularly in Jonglei, Warrap, Unity, and Lakes States. In these incidents, over 800 civilians have been reported killed and more than 167,500 persons have been newly displaced. In response, a protection cluster has been established under the leadership of UNHCR and new liaison arrangements with the SPLA have been agreed.

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4. State Support: the UN is helping the ten states of Southern Sudan to increase the capacities of the state governments to care for their populations and to execute their core functions such as the maintenance of law and order, and the provision of basic social services. The UN and GoSS have agreed that investing in stabilization initiatives is the most efficient and effective exit strategy from emergency programmes and a necessary condition for reaching GoSS five big goals.

The integrated support to the four broad areas forms the response by the UN Agencies in Southern Sudan to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1919 of 29 April 2010, which, among other things, encourages “comprehensive preparedness efforts by the United Nations in view of the upcoming referendum including the need for increased humanitarian and development assistance”.

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) supports women and agricultural development

In Torit, Eastern Equatoria, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is currently engaged in the last phase of the construction of a big modern market for the capital city of the state. NCA also runs ten agricultural demonstration plots that assist 400 women beneficiaries in the acquisition of skills needed for improved care for the cultivation of greens and vegetables. These beneficiaries are expected to use the model market to sell their goods in the market.

A further six locations, also selected in collaboration with the Eastern Equatoria Ministry of Agriculture, have been selected for growing vegetables under irrigation. Seven other locations are under development for the construction of stores to preserve agricultural produce.

For the project in Eastern Equatoria, NCA received USD 1.5 million in assistance from the SRF Round I of financing, which focuses on promoting agriculture and income generating activities. The project started in January of 2009 and NCA hopes to complete the project in December 2010.

In June 2010, the SRF monitoring staff (together with UNDP and the SSRDF) visited the project to assess progress. The team found that the building of the model market in Torit town was progressing well. Follow up conducted in August 2010 revealed that the model market including storage facilities, toilets and a perimeter fence, had been successfully completed. NCA will hand the market over to the Government of Eastern Equatoria State in the first week of October, 2010.

The state government and the county authorities are currently working out overall arrangements for the management of the market. The market is expected to yield significant revenue from the taxes that the traders are expected to pay once the market opens. Traders, in turn, will have a comfortable place to work with protection from sun and rain and an ample supply of water and good sanitation. Markets can also serve as effective venues for disseminating information on issues like HIV/AIDS, reproductive health care, education, and child rights. While the SRF can finance the bricks, mortar, doors, wires and switches of a market, the ultimate success of projects like these will be the sustainable management with benefits to participants and the wider community alike. The project, like all the SRF projects, is monitored regularly by the state’s Planning and Development Committee. The Ministry of Physical Infrastructure of Eastern Equatoria has also been involved from the outset in the design of the market, tender, and monitoring of the construction and compliance with the state’s building code. The partnership between NCA and the Committee has been effective and augers well for continued local ownership and commitment.



Torit model market, Eastern Equatoria state

The monitoring team reviewed with the Planning and Development Committee some of the remaining challenges, such as the transparent allocation of market space with criteria that are clearly understood by the community and by the traders hopeful of securing an outlet for their goods. Traders also need to understand how the taxes will be managed and how arrangements like daily cleaning, hygiene inspection, water quality inspection, and maintenance will be financed, and how they will be involved in the management of the market.



SRF supports Juba's Street Children

A Juba-based NGO, *Confident Children out of Conflict* (CCC), recently received a grant of 75,000 SDG (about USD 30,000) through the Small Grants Programme of the SRF. CCC addresses homelessness and the many needs of street children, particularly girls, in Juba. A recent estimate puts the number of street children in the capital of Southern Sudan at over 1,200, but this is probably a conservative estimate. Street children in Juba survive by collecting empty plastic bottles, polishing shoes, washing cars, prostitution and begging. The majority are between 8 and 12 years of age, but at least one of every six children found on the streets of Juba is younger than 8 years of age. Two thirds of the street children do not attend school. Push and pull factors are at work, including domestic violence, loss of parents, poverty, and the lure of at least a meagre income. (Enfants du Monde – Droits de l'Homme, EMDH, Children of the World – Human Rights, October 2009).

A group of Juba-based concerned individuals founded CCC in 2007 to assist the many street children in areas like *Konyo-Konyo* market, *Juba Town* market, and *Malakia*. The children often sleep under the stalls in the markets and are vulnerable to exploitation and prostitution. CCC collaborates with government agencies, particularly the Ministry of Social Development of Central Equatoria State, which addresses the issue of street children, and their rehabilitation in caring community-based structures. CCC also receives support from private companies and the Joint Donor Office.

The mission of CCC is to create a safe environment for children, where orphans and other vulnerable children enjoy protection and assistance to develop for a future away from the street.

"I dream of becoming President one day, if not I would like to become a doctor" says Josephine*, who is 12 years old and who now lives in the CCC centre. She lost her father two years ago and her mother one year later. Well before that, however, she was living in the streets and sleeping at night under the stalls in *Konyo-Konyo* market. CCC ensures that she now has an opportunity to bathe regularly, have proper meals, wash her clothes, and go for medical assistance. The centre has found a place for Josephine at the Church Missionary Society Primary School in Juba where she is currently in her second year. If she cannot become president or doctor, says Josephine, she hopes in any event to be able to work in an office one day and support herself and her family.

The SRF Small Grants Programme is coordinated by the SSRDF. Since March 2010, SSRDF has been overseeing the equitable distribution of small grants in all ten states and 55 indigenous organisations have already received funding. These organisations typically implement projects in their communities in the SRF key sectors of health, education, water and sanitation and agriculture. SSRDF works in partnership with BRAC (Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee, www.brac.net), which serves as Grants Coordinator for the Small Grants Programme.

SRF monitoring teams regularly visit all SRF-funded projects. In a recent visit, CCC was seen to be using the proceeds from the grant for the construction of a classroom, a day room, toilets, bathrooms, and a kitchen. The work is progressing well. CCC also wishes to build a perimeter wall around its compound to further aid the safety of the environment for the children. While the SRF grant helps rehabilitation of the children in the short term, CCC realizes that sustainable solutions require at least permanent accommodation for the children to ensure they have a safe place to sleep. That, as well as adult guidance, affection, and counselling, are some of the ingredients for the long-term solutions that will effectively remove children from the street and give them a real chance of succeeding in school and protect them from further abuse. Says Cathy Groeneveld, the CCC director: *"girls are especially vulnerable as they are often sexually and physically abused. We try to help, but their search for income often lures these children back to the streets with girls falling into prostitution again."* CCC, its donors, and the Ministry of Social Development are also engaged in finding long-term solutions, concurrent with the short-term assistance, as financed by the SRF that currently offers immediate protection and help for some of the all too many children living in the streets of Juba.

*For reasons of privacy, we are not using Josephine's real name



A child working on her drawing

Photo- CCC