

SOUTH SUDAN



The world's youngest nation, South Sudan is crippled by an intense conflict between the government and various rebel forces, which has intensified an already massive humanitarian crisis.

Country Context

The conflict in South Sudan has led to nearly 400,000 excess deaths and displaced 4.2 million people since it erupted in 2013, rendering millions vulnerable to food shortages, insecurity, and disease outbreaks. The struggle left a majority of the population acutely food insecure, with more than 20,000 South Sudanese on the brink of starvation and in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Complicating these issues, the Ebola outbreak in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) threatens to leap the border into South Sudan, which is not sufficiently equipped to handle an epidemic.

How is the U.S. Involved?

From FY 2014 to FY 2019, U.S. humanitarian spending on South Sudan totaled over \$4 billion. The U.S. dedicates virtually all aid to emergency relief, through in-kind food assistance, local and regional procurement of goods, and cash transfers or vouchers.

Key Figures



7.5 million

in need of humanitarian assistance



1.5 million

are internally displaced



2.2 million

have sought refuge in neighboring countries



Nearly 6,800

faced crisis-level food insecurity in August 2019



\$1.54 billion

requested for humanitarian response for 2019

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Seasonal weather events impede humanitarian access and reduce the impact of programs. In 2019, rainfall exceeded the seasonal average, resulting in unusually severe flooding that impacted nearly 1 million people, making many roads impassable for food assistance and endangering aid workers.
- Many towns and essential civilian infrastructure, such as clinics, hospitals, and schools, have been looted, destroyed, and abandoned in the conflict. This damage is especially concerning as health actors attempt to scale up Ebola preparedness in the area bordering the DRC.

Responses and Actions

- As of June 2019, there are 154 organizations providing emergency assistance programs in South Sudan, 40% of which are local.
- In the first half of 2019, humanitarian partners assisted 4.1 million people. Of this total, 3.1 million benefited from food assistance and livelihood support.

InterAction has a Sudan and South Sudan working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

