REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN (South Sudan)



Reasons for Displacement:

In 2011, despite South Sudan gaining independence from the Republic of Sudan after decades of

conflict with the Republic of Sudan, in 2013, South Sudan descended into its own civil war between government forces and rebel groups. Thus far, the conflict has resulted in over 10,000 deaths; an estimated 500,000 refugees who have fled into neighbouring countries; and the internal displacement of over 1,500,000 people.

In addition, due to other conflicts in the region, including in the Democratic People's Republic of Congo and Republic of Sudan, thousands of refugees continue to enter South Sudan, adding further pressure on the unstable security environment. As a result, competition over scarce resources between refugees and thost community has

exacerbated tensions and violence.

Refugee and IDP communities:

Currently, despite its own civil war, South Sudan hosts around 250,000 refugees (the majority being from Sudan), with most living in camps. Of the refugees, an estimated 70% are children, with many suffering from malnutrition and illnesses such as measles.

In addition to the refugee population, the UN houses over 100,000 IDPs in temporary protection shelters. These shelters, however, only shelter a small portion of the total South Sudanese IDP population.

South Sudanese civilians, who are still located in conflict zones, face killing, abduction, ill treatment and physical and sexual violence. Moreover, an estimated 229,000 children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

Number of refugees:

248,152 Residing in South Sudan

616,210 originating from South Sudan [source: UNHCR]

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

1,516,500

[source: IDMC]

History:

1956—Independence of Sudan

1963—Southern separatist Anyanya rebels step up attacks

1972—Peace agreement between Anyanya rebels and Khartoum; South gains limited autonomy

1983—Sudan People's Liberation Army is formed and sparks the beginning of second civil war

2005—Comprehensive Peace Agreement to end 21 years of war

2011—South Sudan independence referendum; referendum results: 99% vote for separation; Independence

2012—200,000 refugees flee into South Sudan due to the rising conflict between the Sudanese army and rebel groups

2013—South Sudanese civil war begins

2014—The government fails to end the conflict, leading to an increase of over a million IDPs; the country is suffering from severe food crisis

2015—UNICEF negotiates with Sudanese rebel groups, leading to the freeing of 250 child soldiers

Assistance:

- RIJ funded a project that helped 79 returnees implement their own micro-business. Another project raised HIV/AIDS awareness among children and youth through sport and play activities
- Mercy Corps works with the people of South Sudan to improve farming practices, provide vocational training, and create business opportunities to help communities to thrive

