



NOTES BY

THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION (RRC) TO DONORS


A TIME FOR DONORS TO DEEPEN ENGAGEMENTS

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NATIONAL RRC CHAIRPERSON





My Dear donors thank you very much and thank you for the opportunity to brief you today on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan and the existing plans from Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, allow me to first share our sincere gratitude to the international community through you and others not in this meeting for standing in steadfast solidarity with the citizens of this nation amidst successive humanitarian crises since the country attained her independence in 2011.

Humanitarian needs in South Sudan continue to rise inexorably, driven by multiple causes such as the effect of 2013 conflict, widespread climatic crises, the conflict in Sudan, and economic decline which is increasing sufferings and amplifying vulnerabilities and needs in most parts of the country. Key priority list includes:

1. CURRENT HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

In November 2023, UN presented the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024 that projected about 9.4 million South Sudanese would require humanitarian assistance. Due to growing funding gaps, only 6 million people were targeted by humanitarian assistance. As projected in the November 2023 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), more than 7 million people have been depending on food assistance during this lean season from April to July 2024 while the situation may not change to better in the coming days.

2. IMPACT OF SUDAN CONFLICT

The conflict in Sudan that began in mid-April 2023 has triggered unprecedented influx with over 740,000 returnees and refugees fleeing into South Sudan increasing pressure on the population's limited access to food, water and basic health services. The northern part of the country hosting returnees and refugees from Sudan is one of the affected regions by humanitarian crisis with communities grappling with years of flooding, drought, intercommunal conflict and more than one million IDPs in protracted, overcrowded camps and PoCs.

3. REINTEGRATION OF IDPS AND RETURNEES

Data from multi-agencies including government institutions show that an estimated 997,743 'spontaneous' returnees from neighboring countries to South Sudan between 2018 and September 2023; additionally a significant numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) 1,696,633 returned to areas of origin within the country. Much of the reintegration is majorly supported by 'host' communities who themselves are extremely vulnerable, for having experienced a similar recent history of displacement. The host communities are stretched sharing very limited food and existing services with the new arrivals, increasing the burden of already very strained resources. With the delayed resolution to Sudan conflict, refugees stay in South Sudan is likely to be prolonged. The international Community need to start planning with the host government and communities to deliberate on different measures that promote self-sufficiency, economic and environmental resilience for the host and refugee communities, laying the foundations for a sustainable peaceful future.

4. LOOMING FLOODS CRISIS

According to recent report released on July 09, 2024 by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the country is facing one of its worst floods in 60 years from June 2024 until January 2025 which is highly likely to drive parts of the country to the brink of famine directly affecting over 3 million. Floods in South Sudan exacerbate economic hardships including damage to livelihoods, homes, public infrastructure, increase cost of delivering aid, and more, and further wreak havoc to social infrastructure. The population in the areas expected to be worst impacted by looming floods have already been battling years of conflict, hunger, rising food prices, previous floods which they have barely recovered from.

5. ARCSS PROVISION AND SRF

The parties to the Peace Agreement are under obligation to implement Chapter 3 of the ARCSS that include secure access to civilian populations in need of emergency humanitarian assistance, protection and ensuring the right of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to return in safety and dignity. To effectively implement the provisions in Chapter 3, the government is expected to collaborate with international partners and friends of South Sudan in establishing a Special Fund for Reconstruction (SRF). Such a structured funding would be key driver to durable solutions architecture in

the country include supporting humanitarian and reintegration of conflict affected population.

6. GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

The Government has demonstrated commitments in implementing humanitarian-related provisions of the ARCSS. MHADM and RRC are the mandated institutions that take the lead addressing humanitarian challenges including internal displacements. On July 23, 2024, the Government and stakeholders including UN agencies validated ***South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Reintegration and Recovery: Achieving Durable Solutions 2024-2028***. The adoption and implementation of this framework is not only crucial in reintegration of more than 2 million South Sudanese but is a milestone for overall success of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan.

7. HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE NEXUS

RRC through its draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028 is aimed to support people-driven interventions that identify country-specific needs, establishing clear and measurable goals that enhance local capacities towards and resilience building livelihoods. The overall purpose is to adopt a “Whole-of-Government Approach to deliver as one” in strategies development, data collection, programs, and outcomes verification and to respond to humanitarian needs more efficiently, effectively, sustainably and equitably.

8. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS AND RELATED CONSTRAINTS

The impact of Sudan conflict on the oil revenue and general economy of South Sudan has affected and is highly likely to continue affecting the overall service delivery as the government puts effort to address competing priorities. However, the Government of South Sudan is committed to uphold its responsibility by providing basic services and protection of all citizens including IDPs, returnees and refugees. On the other hand, South Sudan is well aware of drastic cuts on donor funding with the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) receiving less than 30% of the projected \$1.8b funding needs.

9. BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATIONS

As humanitarian crisis continues and the situation for millions of families worsens, more support is urgently needed to provide lifesaving and emergency relief to the most

vulnerable. Timely and at-scale funding is required to ensure that the humanitarian response meets people's needs and priorities. Without this support, people's vulnerability risks further deterioration. Through our 100 Days Action Plan, RRC has managed to strengthen collaboration with all partners and donors supporting humanitarian interventions in the country. Through our Open-Door Policy we encourage further strengthening of bilateral and multilateral partnerships in areas of fund raising, institutional capacity building and accountability.

10. Last week, we have just concluded a very highly rewarding workshop. The workshop brought some key actors from the government side- RRC, Labor, Immigration, Revenue Authority and NGO Forum under the theme: enhance policies alignments to support effective service delivery.

In conclusion, RRC and related humanitarian partners are the one contributing to South Sudan's emergency response, resilience and stabilization given the current situation of conflict, economic turmoil, and increasing climate change and environmental degradation, driving thousands of South Sudanese into vulnerabilities each year. It's time to rethink how we engage and find new models of working together in addressing these humanitarian challenges.

Another area that RRC is planning to focus on the strengthening local organizations through localization under the Grand bargain campaign. RRC appreciate your commitment: shifting funding and decision-making power to the people through organizations, and institutions that are driving change in their own countries and communities.

RRC stand ready to work with you to advance locally led development and humanitarian response, in which local responders are empowered to set their own agendas, develop solutions, and mobilize the capacity, and resources to make those solutions a reality through Humanitarian-Development - Peace nexus.

RRC is looking forward to partnering with you all in strengthening the capacity of the Commission from the head office in Juba to the field offices (State and Counties) where numerous projects are implemented. A strong and capacitated Commission is good for everyone ensuring VALUE FOR MONEY!

Once again thank you so much for your invitation and moving forward, we expect more engagement with you all. **Thank you**





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