



Brussels, 10 July 2014
140710/01

FACT SHEET

The EU and South Sudan

The events of 15 December 2013 and beyond which precipitated South Sudan into armed conflict only two and a half years after independence have drastically changed the prospects for the newest world country. The conflict is causing immense human suffering, led to grave human rights violations. It is estimated that thousands have died and approximately one and a half million people have been displaced. Famine and the prospects of a major humanitarian disaster are looming.

Beyond the suffering of the South Sudanese people, this crisis risks affecting a much wider region already prone to instability. The European Union (EU) remains strongly committed to supporting regional and international efforts to end the violence, and calls for a negotiated solution that will allow South Sudan's leaders to resolve their differences peacefully and democratically.

EU response to the crisis

The EU is not acting alone. Together with the international community, it is engaged in trying to prevent the crisis escalating into a full ethnic-based civil war. The political priority now is to stop violence and avoid further instability in the region.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has from the outset been proactive in facilitating peace talks in Addis Ababa. The African Union (AU) has appointed a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the human rights atrocities that have been widely reported. Moreover, the United Nations have been working constantly to protect civilians and provide humanitarian relief wherever possible. The EU's efforts, including those of its Special Representative for the Horn of Africa Alexander Rondos, are coordinated with, and complementary to this united international effort.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780 - Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu @EUHighRepSpox
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu @AshtonSpox Maja

Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu

Iulia Costea +32 460 75 07 17 - Iulia.Costea@ec.europa.eu

Follow us on Twitter @eu_eeas

www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService

www.eeas.europa.eu

As a matter of urgency, the EU and the international community are urging South Sudan's leaders to rise to the challenge and start negotiating in good faith towards a peaceful, equitable and sustainable solution. In this context, the European Union is determined to do everything possible to avoid a further escalation of the conflict and the risk of regional spill over. Unfortunately, the parties to the conflict do not seem to fully cooperate in the peace talks; the ceasefire agreement signed in 2014 on 23 January and reconfirmed on 9 May continues to be breached and the perpetrators of gross human rights violations are enjoying impunity.

The EU can no longer tolerate this state of affairs. On 10 July 2014, the EU announced a first round of targeted measures against individuals responsible for obstructing the peace process, breaching the ceasefire agreement and having committed egregious human rights violations. At the same time, an existing arms embargo against South Sudan will remain in place.

The EU considers that *"full implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the rapid resumption of talks leading to the formation of a transitional Government of national unity is the only way the South Sudanese people can be spared further violence and famine and begin to recover from the violence and desperation of recent months"*.

The imposition of sanctions is part of a more comprehensive strategy of the EU to support the restoration of peace in South Sudan. The EU is taking a number of specific steps to this end:

- The EU firmly supports the tireless efforts of IGAD and its mediators to bring an end to the suffering in South Sudan. The EU is assisting IGAD both in substantive and financial terms and is contributing staff to the ceasefire monitoring and verification mechanism.
- The EU considers that enhanced security is needed to create space for political solutions. With the support of its member states, the EU has supported a reinforced UNMISS including the deployment of a regional force under a UN mandate that can help contain the violence until both protagonists are forced to negotiate seriously.
- The EU stands ready to provide the necessary assistance to the UN and the African Union Commission of Inquiry as they carry out their investigations and encourages both bodies to work closely together. In light of the gravity and massive scale of the human rights violations and abuses committed by all sides the EU has continuously advocated for a firm action by the UN Human Rights Council, in a way which would be complementary to the regional efforts such as the establishment of a UN Special procedures mandate.
- Finally, the EU has re-programmed its development assistance to meet the most urgent needs of South Sudan's people while scaling up our humanitarian support through ECHO wherever it is most needed. The EU has also mobilised funds to help stabilise the situation and encourage dialogue and confidence building among the population (see below).

South Sudan is in a race against time. Only continued and concerted international pressure on all parties will prevent a resumption of hostilities. Through the variety of its tools and instruments, the EU will remain engaged in South Sudan and will continue to support a transition towards peace and stability and offer support to ensure the swift implementation of any agreements and/or monitoring mechanisms.

EU Humanitarian Aid

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan is critical with 1.1 million internally displaced people and over 400 000 South Sudanese seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. An estimated 3.8 million people need humanitarian assistance this year. The UN has declared South Sudan a Level 3 emergency, the most serious humanitarian crisis designation based on criteria such as its scale, urgency, complexity and the global response capacity needed to address it.

The main humanitarian needs are food, clean water, healthcare, shelter, sanitation, hygiene and protection, as well as response to epidemics, in particular cholera. The current humanitarian response

capacity is insufficient and access to people in need continues to be hampered by hostilities and violence – which also target aid workers and supplies. Movement restrictions, as well as the rainy season, make access to many parts of the country even more difficult and add to the humanitarian challenges.

The European Commission is making available more than €80 million in 2014 to respond to the unfolding and intensifying humanitarian crisis in the country and additional €15 million to address the urgent needs of South Sudanese refugees in the region.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the people of South Sudan, the EU (including the Member States) has so far provided more than €197 million in humanitarian assistance in 2014. The European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, has called that a humanitarian tragedy must be avoided at all cost. The announcement, at the peace negotiations in Addis Ababa, by the parties of the conflict in South Sudan to re-commit to facilitating humanitarian action and access, as outlined in the January Cessation of Hostilities agreement, was a positive development. However, not much progress has been seen on the ground so far, as violence, clashes and fighting continue.

EU Development Assistance

Since South Sudan's independence, the EU has invested heavily in the country's state and nation building efforts, and became a major development partner of South Sudan. In 2011 and 2013, the EU adopted a number of projects worth €85 and €185 million respectively in the sectors of agriculture, education, health and the rule of law. Since the outbreak of the conflict, the EU has used development cooperation to strengthen a comprehensive EU response to the crisis by:

1. Supporting IGAD in its efforts to mediate between the warring parties and broker a peaceful solution to the conflict. €1.1 million have been mobilised from the EU's African Peace Facility to allow IGAD to set up a platform for peace talks and provide initial funding to a monitoring and verification mechanism. The EU is considering extending this support.
2. Mobilising additional €45 million from the European Development Fund (EDF) to strengthen the EU response to the humanitarian crisis.
3. Adjusting development programmes to the new context following a set of agreed principles, including:
 - The focus should be on the immediate term to strengthen resilience while ensuring the sustainability of the EU's action.
 - Aiming for equitable access (i.e. donors must have access to all areas, regardless of whether they are controlled by the government or the opposition).
 - Aiming for ethnic non-discrimination (i.e. to counter the ethnic connotations of the conflict, donors should be in a position to reach the whole of the population regardless of their ethnicity, gender or political affiliation, and the Government and opposition forces should facilitate such access);
 - Ensuring that basic services and food assistance are not diverted to armed groups.

As a result of this approach, the EU has so far:

- (a) suspended a 'State Building Contract' initially foreseen as budget support (€80 million);
- (b) started re-programming this budget support envelope to address education and health needs in partnership with NGOs and international organisations;

(c) provided the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with a €18.5 million contribution (part of the existing allocation of €185 million) to FAO's emergency appeal;

(d) disbursed a total of €13 million (part of the existing allocation of €185 million) to support small scale farmers in both conflict and non-conflict affected areas.

(e) Starting support to local authorities country-wide, helping them deliver services by strengthening their capacity to implement their budgets in an efficient and effective manner.

For further information:

[Council conclusions on South Sudan](#)

[Statement by the High Representative on the agreement reached on South Sudan](#)

[EU Relations with the Republic of South Sudan](#)

[Development and cooperation](#)

[Humanitarian Aid – ECHO \(Factsheet on South Sudan\)](#)