



## CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan, which became independent from Sudan after a referendum in 2011, has since experienced conflict in multiple locations, including between different ethnic groups in Jonglei state. On December 15, 2013, civil war broke out in South Sudan. Despite multiple cease fire attempts and ongoing peace negotiations, violence continues to consume much of South Sudan. Insecurity throughout the country has disrupted agricultural activities and exacerbated food insecurity, bringing South Sudan to the brink of famine and a humanitarian crisis.

## USIP'S WORK

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has been helping to build peace and stability in South Sudan since it became a nation in 2011, as well as when the state was southern Sudan, through partnerships with the U.S. Department of State, nongovernmental organizations and key stakeholders. USIP's recent work includes:

**Sudd Institute:** USIP provided start-up funding and capacity building support for the Sudd Institute, a new, independent policy institute based in the South Sudanese capital of Juba. The Sudd Institute has quickly developed into a leading South Sudanese voice on peace and security issues, including rule of law, justice, security sector reform and relations with Sudan.

**Police-Community Dialogues:** USIP is providing facilitation training and funding for regular dialogues between South Sudanese civil society organizations and police, with the aim of building trust and preventing violence.

**Radio for Peace:** Through an "edutainment" radio drama called Sawa Shabab (Together Youth), USIP and its partners are targeting South Sudanese youth in a way that aims to change the attitudes, and ultimately the behaviors, of listeners to become more peaceful.

**Youth Leaders Program:** Bringing Sudanese and South Sudanese youth leaders to Washington D.C., USIP's Youth Leaders Program helps youth gain knowledge, skills and confidence that they can put to good use upon their return to Sudan or South Sudan.

## GRANTS

USIP provides grants to projects aiming to promote peacebuilding, nonviolence strategies and conflict resolution in South Sudan, including:

**Implementing Durable Solutions for Peaceful Dry Season Cattle Migration in Northern Bahr Ghazal in South Sudan:** This project aims to increase the safety and security of civilians affected by dry season migration violence in Northern Bahr el Ghazal state through the implementation of inter-communal peace agreements and migration Codes of Conduct.

**Using Dialogue to Empower Peace in South Sudan:** Recognizing the destructive potential of conflict over land, the Organization for Nonviolence and Development (ONAD) is using a USIP grant to facilitate dialogues between members of the Dinka and Jur tribes to identify latent conflict triggers and develop mechanisms to institutionalize local conflict resolution practices.

**Building Sustainable Peace in Jonglei State:** This project works to identify methods by which local and national governance arrangements can better accommodate people's different interests, find common priorities related to how these arrangements can work and develop an essential linkage between institutions of governance and those to whom they ought to be accountable.

## USIP PUBLICATIONS

USIP staff and experts regularly publish in-depth reports as well as short, timely policy briefs that offer policymakers, practitioners and scholars a distillation of expert research, lessons learned and problem solving solutions from USIP's work around the world. Recent publications focusing on South Sudan include:

**USIP Peaceworks: Local Peace Processes in Sudan and South Sudan (2014):** Sudan and South Sudan have seen numerous local peacebuilding efforts in recent years, yet violence continues largely unabated. Using the Western Corridor as a case study, this report outlines the importance of understanding and improving local peace processes through an architecture that begins with conflict analysis, entails a common vision, and focuses on achieving specific objectives.

**USIP Peace Brief: Crisis and Opportunity in South Sudan (2014):** South Sudan is in crisis. But, horrific as the violence since mid-December 2013 has been, the crisis also presents an opportunity to put South Sudan back on the path of democratization, good governance, and peace. USIP's Princeton N. Lyman, Jon Temin and Susan Stigant examine what needs to happen to create a foundation for lasting peace and stability.

## USIP EVENTS

USIP frequently hosts events bringing together thought leaders, scholars, experts, policy makers and elected officials to discuss peacebuilding efforts around the world and analyze current affairs. Recently, USIP hosted several events focusing on South Sudan and sub-Saharan Africa:

**Africa and America: Partners in a Shared Future:** In July 2014, National Security Advisor Susan Rice drew attention to Africa's progress in the past two decades and its possibilities for economic growth, good governance and long-term stability in a speech at the U.S. Institute of Peace on the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit.

**U.S. Policy Today for Africa Tomorrow:** In July 2014, USIP hosted a conversation on U.S.-Africa Engagement with Amb. Johnnie Carson, senior advisor, U.S. Institute of Peace; Amb. Princeton Lyman, senior advisor, U.S. Institute of Peace; and Amb. George Moose, vice chairman, Board of Directors, U.S. Institute of Peace.

**Voices of South Sudanese Civil Society:** In May 2014, USIP hosted a conversation with three of South Sudan's leading civil society representatives, who shared their visions for how the country can move forward and recover from the recent turmoil and devastation.

**Crisis in South Sudan:** In January 2014, USIP and the Wilson Center hosted a discussion on the current crisis in South Sudan, focusing on the root causes of the crisis, strategies for ending the violence and ideas for building a more stable South Sudan.

## FELLOWS

USIP has hosted scholars, policy analysts, policymakers and other experts focusing on Sudan and South Sudan as part of its Jennings Randolph fellowship program, including:

- Arif Omer (Youth Leader, 2014)
- Jok Madut Jok (Senior Fellow, 2010-11)
- Ambassador Princeton Lyman (Senior Fellow, 1999-00; Senior Advisor, 2013-present)
- Francis Deng (Fellow, 1987-88, 2002-03)