

PROFILE: SOUTH SUDAN



The Republic of South Sudan came into existence on 9 July 2011.

Its creation follows a referendum in January 2011 where the majority of southern Sudanese voted to secede from the north.

The referendum was part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in January 2005, which ended 21 years of civil war during which time 2 million people died.

Roughly the size of France, South Sudan is ethnically diverse with the largest ethnic groups being the Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk peoples.

The world's newest state faces widespread poverty with most of the population relying on subsistence agriculture.

There is very little infrastructure in terms of roads, health facilities and schools. The areas in which Tearfund works directly suffered greatly during the civil war and are prone to drought and flooding.

To add to the pressures on the new government of South Sudan, many thousands of people have returned to the country from Sudan.

TEARFUND'S WORK IN SOUTH SUDAN

Tearfund has worked in South Sudan for 40 years, primarily through partners.

We work with seven organisations which are bringing transformation through HIV care and prevention, by providing water and sanitation and offering education, peace building, justice and reconciliation work.

Tearfund teams first became directly operational in South Sudan in 1998 in response to famine in the Bahr el Ghazal region.

Since then the programme has expanded to include four project sites in the states of Upper Nile, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei.

The programme targets remote and neglected areas affected by conflict and chronic vulnerability. Staff work with the Dinka, Chollo and Nuer tribes, including those who have returned because of independence, internally displaced people and the host population.

As a result, Tearfund's operational team specialises in household food security, nutrition, community health education, water, sanitation and hygiene and primary health care.

The approach is one of developmental relief, with a strong emphasis on community participation, reducing the risk and impact of disasters and building the capacity of government structures.

The South Sudan programme employs approximately 400 staff (including expatriate and national) and has an annual turnover of approximately £5 million. The work is funded by a number of institutional donors, including the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), the Basic Services Fund (BSF), the governments of Canada (CIDA), UK (DfID) and USA (USAID), World Relief Canada and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

- **Please pray for the creation of South Sudan to usher in a new era of peace for both Sudan and South Sudan.**
- **Pray for wisdom for South Sudan's rulers in dealing with the challenges they will face.**
- **Pray for the swift integration of those returning to South Sudan.**