



What we do in Southern Sudan

- We're helping 55,146 children get a better education
- We're protecting 3,674 children from violence and exploitation
- We're helping 124,862 children stay free from hunger through rebuilding family livelihoods
- We're saving children's lives by supplying clean water



Southern Sudan gained the right to govern itself in 2005. It is estimated that 2 million people died and 4 million were displaced during the 20-year war with the north. In the last five years, around 2 million people have returned to their homes in Southern Sudan, many of them spontaneously. They are going home to areas that were completely destroyed during the fighting, with no basic services and limited opportunities to earn a living. The global economic recession has pushed up the prices of basic goods, and falling oil prices mean that state revenues are likely to be much diminished.

There are ongoing problems with implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, agreed in 2005. In March 2009, Sudan's President, Omer Bashir, was indicted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur, where a six-year brutal conflict has killed more than 300,000 people and displaced millions. Following the indictment, 13 international aid agencies were immediately expelled from Darfur and North Sudan.

In Southern Sudan, the security situation remains fragile in many areas. Abduction of children and women, cattle raids, and inter-tribal rivalries are regular occurrences and pose a serious threat to communities who are already vulnerable. In May 2008, renewed fighting in Abyei and other border areas resulted in mass displacement of people. Since the beginning of 2009, more than 200,000 people have already been displaced by inter-tribal fighting and LRA incursions (the Lord's Resistance Army, a Ugandan rebel group known for its brutal

attacks on civilians, and who regularly capture children and use them as soldiers). And heavy flooding in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei states made thousands more people vulnerable to hunger and disease.

Children and young people make up more than half the 10 million population of Southern Sudan. Child and infant mortality rates are high (out of every 1,000 live births, 135 children die before their fifth birthday). Most children don't go to school and can't get medical treatment when they are ill. Many do not have enough to eat.

Save the Children in Southern Sudan

We began working in the northern parts of Southern Sudan in 1991. We work mainly in the states of Western Bahr el Ghazal, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Unity and Jonglei. We've saved lives by providing emergency aid such as food and clean water. We've also helped children get a better education by increasing access to schools, training teachers and supplying teaching and learning materials. We're protecting children by reuniting separated children with their families, and setting up community-based child protection networks. And we're working with other agencies to stockpile and provide vital supplies for rapid distribution in the event of an emergency. Last year, 183,772 children (including 86,586 girls) benefited from our activities in Southern Sudan.

We're combining the programmes of Save the Children USA and Sweden, our partners in the International Save the Children Alliance. As of October 2009, we will operate as a unified presence in Southern Sudan, enabling us to achieve even greater changes in children's lives.

We're helping children get a better education

Less than 25% of an estimated 2.2 million primary school-aged children are enrolled in school. There remains a severe shortage of qualified teachers, especially women. There is no water supply or latrines, and most children are too poor to have books, paper or pens. In the areas where we work, classes are nearly always held in the shade of a tree or in a grass-thatched hut, resulting in frequent disruptions to learning. Three times more boys than girls attend school, and drop-out rates for girls are the highest in the world. Government spending on education has fallen from 10% in 2006 to 6.2% in 2008.

Through our Rewrite the Future programme, we're providing good quality education for 55,146 children in Jonglei and Bahr el Ghazal. We're helping children go to primary school, and helping those who've missed out on years of schooling catch up through our accelerated learning programme (ALP) classes. Through social advocacy teams (SATs), we get children involved in promoting the importance of education, particularly for girls, orphans, demobilised soldiers or other vulnerable children. We're now seeing increased enrolment and retention rates in the areas where we work.

We've built four new primary schools in the last year and distributed more than 22,000 textbooks for primary school children and ALP students in 21 schools. Working with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), we've trained 527 teachers on school management and administration, child protection, gender issues, and codes of conduct. We're supporting parent-teacher associations (PTAs) to get parents more involved in how local schools are run. We're also running a 'Women into Teaching' programme to address the shortage of female teachers who can act as positive role models for young girls.

We're also working to influence policies that will improve the education system for all children, including those who have missed out on school because they were associated with armed forces. We're continuing to support the Ministry to finalise the Alternative Education Systems curriculum, which will be rolled out by the government. And we've helped develop a code of conduct for teachers to reduce abusive behaviour towards children and promote positive forms of classroom discipline. We're supporting the Ministry's teachers' headcount exercise, to make sure that qualified teachers are properly paid. And we've developed a child protection training manual that will be used as part of a programme to address child protection issues in schools throughout Southern Sudan.

In 2009, we aim to enrol another 15,000 children (of whom at least 6,000 are girls) in basic education programmes, so they can get a good quality education in a safe learning environment.

We're protecting children from violence and abuse

Children and women are most vulnerable in an emergency. During the war, many children became separated from their families or became orphaned, and communities struggling to survive lost their ability to protect children. Hundreds of thousands of children were exposed to violence and abuse, and many are still at risk of being re-recruited by armed groups. Young girls are very vulnerable to early marriage or other harmful cultural practices. The Child Act, passed in 2008, provides a much-needed legal framework for protection of children's rights. But in practice, many children have no protection from physical or sexual violence, abuse, neglect, abduction, or recruitment into armed forces.

We're protecting 3,764 children through our work to strengthen communities' capacity to look after their children, and to reunite children with their families. We support a network of community-based child protection networks (CBCPNs) in Jonglei and Unity states. Through talking to children about their rights, we're helping to reduce the number of children who are abducted, separated or re-recruited. And we're training children (especially girls) to understand their rights to education and play. We've provided training in child protection issues for 45 members of these networks.

We help to run 16 children's clubs across Southern Sudan. They were set up to help children who had been displaced by the fighting to settle back into their communities. Now, children come along to discuss problems they face and issues that are important to them. They try to

come up with practical solutions. The children have identified early or forced marriage for girls as a particular problem and are working hard to educate other children and their communities to change these practices. Last year we also built children's centres in Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei and Unity states, where children can play safely and meet other children. Taking part in play activities helps returnee and other children reintegrate more quickly into their communities. We've also helped 544 members of the children's clubs learn basic literacy and numeracy, so that they can join mainstream schools.

We've developed an inter-agency child protection database, which is an important part of our work. We use it to track separated and demobilised children and provide the necessary referrals to support services. In 2008, we successfully traced 95 separated and/or unaccompanied children, of whom 64 have so far been reunited with their families. And we worked with other agencies to trace and identify 25 women and 31 children who had been abducted, eventually reuniting them with their families and helping them re-settle in their home area.

We know that children and young people who were child soldiers or living on the street still need to earn a living and help their families pay for food and other essentials such as healthcare. So we're training 385 vulnerable children in carpentry, bicycle repairs, or other small business activities. At the end of the training, 25 of these young people received small start-up grants to get their business going. They are now able to buy food for their families, pay for school fees and uniforms, and improve their housing.

In 2009, our protection activities will benefit 7,600 children at risk, including 4,200 girls, 600 children with disabilities, and children associated with armed forces or who became separated from their families. We'll focus our efforts on helping the government to implement the new Child Bill, which should make a significant contribution to the protection and welfare of all children in Southern Sudan.

We're saving children's lives

Global acute malnutrition (GAM) in Southern Sudan continues to be above the emergency threshold. Recent surveys indicate that rates range from 17% to 23% in most of the areas where we work. People are beginning to rebuild their livelihoods after the destruction caused during the fighting. But they're often starting with little or nothing in terms of assets like land or animals. Many children die every day from preventable diseases such as malaria, measles and diarrhoea. Most people don't have access to clean drinking water or basic sanitation and there's little information about the link between hygiene and health.

We're saving children's lives through a range of activities, including reducing child malnutrition, providing clean water and sanitation, and helping families earn more so they can afford a more nutritious diet. In 2008, these activities benefited 280,000 people, around half of whom were children.

In 2009 we'll be developing a comprehensive, three-year newborn and child survival plan as part of Save the Children's global campaign to stop children dying from easily preventable and treatable causes. We'll work closely with Sudanese NGOs and local authorities to draw up and implement this plan. We want to reduce malnutrition and improve children's diet, provide greater access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and get across vital public health and hygiene messages to 7,350 mothers. Our activities will benefit 29,000 children, including 12,000 children under five, 6,000 of whom will be girls.

We're helping poor people increase their income

We're providing seeds and agricultural tools to 310 households, enabling them to grow more crops. We've trained women to set up vegetable gardens so that they can produce enough to eat and also have some left over to sell.

We're also training people from 1,300 households in modern fishing techniques. To encourage sustainability of these activities in the longer term, we've helped set up a shop selling fishing gear, run by a local committee. Through good management and sales, during the course of the year they raised enough to re-stock the shop. The increased fish catch has meant that the price of fish on local markets went down, so more people could afford to have fish as part of their diet.

In Awada and Achana, in Aweil County and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, we're running a loan scheme for 26 women's groups (each comprising 20 members). Each group received 5 female goats and 1 male (buck), which in turn produced 135 female goats and 26 bucks, benefiting 250 families. This scheme has enabled women not only to own animals – traditionally a man's domain – but it also means they can use the nutritious goat milk to improve their children's diet.

As livestock are such a key asset in many areas, we're training 15 community animal health workers. As well as general animal health checks, last year they vaccinated 91,000 head of cattle and 25,000 goats and sheep against anthrax and pneumonia, benefiting 1,500 households in Awada and Achana. This means people are much less vulnerable to losing their livestock assets.

We're providing clean water

We're providing clean water and improving sanitation and people's basic hygiene practices. Access to clean water has now increased by more than 50% among the 1,200 households within our project areas in Western Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei states. We're helping people drill 9 new boreholes in Aweil County, making a total of 15, benefiting thousands of families. We're training 23 water pump mechanics to repair hand pumps, and training village water committees to maintain water points. We're also providing safe water points in primary schools. As well as keeping people healthy, the boreholes mean that young girls and women don't have to spend so much time collecting water (for example, in Aroyo, the nearest water

point is now 2.5km away rather than 8km away). This means they are more likely to go to school rather than stay at home to help with domestic chores.

We're meeting basic needs

Together with UN agencies and other NGOs, we've stockpiled non-food relief items (NFIs) for 2,500 families in Leer, Unity state and 1,404 families in Waat, Jonglei state, so that we can quickly get aid to people who are displaced or caught up in an emergency. We've already distributed 1,830 NFI kits, kitchen sets and mosquito nets to 10,850 vulnerable households (returnees and people displaced by inter-tribal conflicts) in Jonglei state. And we've distributed NFI kits with kitchen sets to 326 families of 1,414 returnees in Koch, Leer and Payendit counties in Unity state.



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