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South Sudan, Factor 14: Conflict Resolution

### **South Sudan: Resolving Government Tension**

America, a place where no violence has taken place on our soil. South Sudan, a place where violence and government raids happen on an everyday basis on their own citizen's land. Every day we go on with our daily lives-eating, drinking, and socializing. People in South Sudan have to fight for everything they have every day. South Sudan is a place with no national identity, no national anthem, no flag, and the list goes on and on. It's a nightmare to them that they originally hoped was a dream. These things are "materialistic" issues. An issue that hurts this new country is how they get fed and the conflict with the country they left two years prior. The average family in South Sudan consists of the extended family that they have come in contact with since their separation during the war. Yame is a woman that was relocated due to the fighting that has been going on since 2004. She has a husband whose whereabouts remain unknown. Together they have six children of which she is attempting to raise with the help of her aunt. The family has fallen into the statistics like every other family in South Sudan. As of 2010 the poverty rate for South Sudan was 51% which affects the way the people are fed. With one in four children underweight, nearly one and three children are stunted because of chronic malnutrition, and one in four children is wasted do to the lack of food and water. These families have to struggle every day to get food to feed themselves. After two years of becoming a new state the people still suffer. They have to live every day in fear.

South Sudan has the potential of expanding and developing the agriculture sector. South Sudan's land is 90% suitable for agriculture; which 50% is suitable for prime agriculture land. Right now the South Sudan people are only using 5%.

**What is food security?** Food security exists when people have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food at all times. It is based on three pillars:

- **Availability** means that food is consistently available.
- **Access** means that people have the resources to obtain food.
- **Use** refers to basic knowledge about nutrition and care.

**Inter-communal violence** = fighting between communities and ethnicities within a country

### **Crop production and Horticulture**

South Sudan has various ecological zones that have a great capacity for crop production. There is a particular place in South Sudan that has two cropping seasons, which is known as the greenbelt zone. The main crops in South Sudan include maize, sorghum, sweet potato, and groundnuts. They also have a variety of fruits that include: banana, plantain, pineapple, and mango. The main vegetables in South Sudan are onion, okra, eggplant, and cucumber. Seeing how much South Sudan contributes to the world is outstanding and it's a shame that the potential land that has a great chance for a successful crop production rate is going to waste. Now it may be because they have to fight every battle on their land every day that they don't have the way to productively engage in agricultural practices. I kind of wonder if they actually know how to sustain the agriculture practices. We need to determine if the reasoning for not practicing crop production is because of the everyday battles on their soil or because they don't have the ability to expand their crop production into that big of an area. A solution to the problem of battle is they have to try and set up a boundary that will protect the areas that they want to and try and expand their crop production. As for their abilities of being able to actually expand there are many programs that will

aid the people of South Sudan so that they can go out on their own and expand their production. There is a degree that anyone that wants to be involved in agriculture and aiding people then they need to agriculture missionary. This type of degree will educate people to go to a country like South Sudan so that they can now productively expand their crop production. Since the South Sudan only people primarily depend on the agriculture practices of livestock they need to be taught how to broaden their practices on to more crop production. They already have practices that teach them that but with the dry land and they do not know the proper way to cultivate it. Something that will help with this process is they need better connectivity. Any roots like carrots would be suitable for the land that they have.

### **Livestock:**

The livestock in South Sudan is very important. The meat that they produce is exported from South Sudan to the Middle East, but this is excluding Sudan, the country that they seceded from in 2011. By the South Sudan government reports there is an estimated eleven million cattle. The cattle of South Sudan are over  $\frac{2}{3}$  rds. of their population. They have a big majority of the cattle livelihoods is that they are on the floodplains. With the cattle being such a large number there is risk with the conflict of the two violence ridden countries. The cattle don't have a stable enclosing so some of them escape. In a country like America it's normal and not a big deal because they can easily be brought back. In South Sudan the escape of cattle can pose an issue because of the boundaries that is set up. Once the cattle cross the boundary they are no longer part of the South Sudan cattle production. The conflict with South Sudan and Sudan affects the cattle production in a small but major way.

### **Aquaculture:**

South Sudan has the world's longest river, the Nile that provides a large potential for fisheries. **Fishery: a place where fish are reared for commercial purposes.** The estimated production in the Sudd area is roughly 100,000 to 300,000 MT of fish per year. This potential production would also open up aquaculture in Central, Eastern, Western Equatoria, Northern, Western Bahr Ghazal, and Warrap States.

**Forestry:** The land of South Sudan is a place of high biodiversity with diverse populations of flora and fauna. The forest is 29% of the land which is 191,667km<sup>2</sup>. The forests produce high grade timber that includes: teak, mahogany, and ebony. South Sudan has the largest teak plantation in the world. This land also provides a high quality oils like Shea and Gum Arabic.

### **Land Tenure:**

The 2009 land act classified land ownership into three categories, Communal Land, Public Land, and Private Land. **Communal land: a territory in possession of a community, rather than an individual or company. Public land: land owned by the government. Private land: land that is owned by a person or a group that is kept for their exclusive use.** All of the people in South Sudan fall under one of the three categories, with the majority being in the Communal land territory. Land that belongs to the community is owned collectively in perpetuity. Non-citizen Private Investors can acquire leaseholds up to 99 years. It is also possible for them to access communal land by making an official agreement with the community, including the promotion of alternate business models that cater to the needs of the local populations such as giving communities an equity stake in the venture. These agreements must be sanctioned by the land authorities and must follow certain rules. The land that the south Sudan has needs to be protected because they are in the middle of a war. Assistance would be needed to help build a barrier for that land an assistance to make sure it's secure. The barrier would need to be a tall structure that would still allow the growth of the crops.

### **Farmer Base:**

Most farmers in this country are subsistence farmers. **Subsistence agriculture: self-sufficiency farming in which the focus on growing enough food to feed themselves and their families.** The typical subsistence farmer has a range of ropes and animals needed by the family to feed and clothe themselves for the year. There are a good number of farmer organizations such as associations, cooperatives, and unions. The farmers group and individual farmers are always willing to explore business opportunities with their full participation.

### **Business Opportunities in Agriculture:**

As indicated previously, South Sudan has a huge agricultural potential worth exploring. The most immediate opportunities are in cereals, oilseeds, sugar, and cash crops. Most of the cash crops that South Sudan has are what they mainly grow to ship out and not to keep for themselves. The people of South Sudan will grow what they need to on the land that is safe and efficient. The people have many ways that they can begin an operation to make the cash value of any product that they produce. Perhaps the best business model to follow for an agricultural investor or entrepreneur willing to tap this potential is through Joint Ventures (JV's). These JV's can vary somewhat in their makeup. They could be with farmer organizations, with local private sector business men, with local and/or foreign companies already established in South Sudan and with Government owned corporations. Contract growing is also a good possibility.

As a new nation without a history of formal institutions, rules or administration accepted as legitimate by its society, South Sudan must build its institutions from scratch. Core administrative structures and mechanisms of political representation are only beginning to emerge, and the government still struggles to provide basic services to the population. Outside a few oil enclaves, South Sudan remains a relatively undeveloped, subsistence economy. South Sudan has vast and largely untapped natural resources and opportunities abound for visible improvements in the quality of peoples' lives, but there are also many challenges. Geographically large (about the size of France), South Sudan is sparsely populated with more than 200 ethnic groups and little sense of shared nationhood. South Sudan is the most oil dependent country in the world, with oil exports accounting for almost the totality of exports, and for around 80% of gross domestic product (GDP), directly and indirectly. GDP per capita of South Sudan in 2010 was equivalent to US\$1,505, while the preliminary estimates for 2011 indicate a GDP per capita of US\$1,858, which is much higher than its East African neighbors, mainly due to oil production. Sudden suspension of oil production in January 2012 is expected to reduce a GDP per capita at US\$785.

Gross National Income (GNI) per capita was much lower at US\$984 in 2010, reflecting the large income outflows to oil companies. On current reserve estimates, production is expected to reduce steadily in future years and to become negligible by 2035. Prior to the oil shutdown in January, 98% of fiscal revenue came from oil. The budget for 2012-2013 was SSP 9bn (around \$3bn), supplemented by \$1bn of development assistance, and another US\$ 300 million of humanitarian assistance. Outside the oil sector, livelihoods are concentrated in low-productivity, unpaid agriculture and pastoralists work, which accounts for around 15% of GDP. Eighty-five percent of the working population is engaged in non-wage work, chiefly in agriculture (78%).

The South Sudanese economy has been plagued with high inflation in the 12 months following independence, reaching 80% during the year, but price increases are expected to be moderate in the end of 2012 at 17%. Over the past year, inflation has been driven mostly by increases in food prices. Limited local food production and a high reliance on imported foods, in combination with depreciation of the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) and the border closure in the North, have driven price increases in the past year. All economic issues now focused on the decision by the Government of South Sudan (Goss), on

January 20, 2012, to shut down all its oil fields as part of its dispute with Sudan over a range of post-secession issues. The Goss has adopted 'austerity measures' in response, involving cut of around 30%, mainly to government consumption, transfers to the states, development budget and 50% cut to housing allowance but without touching the wages and salaries. In Addis Ababa on September 27, 2012, an agreement was reached between Juba and Khartoum on the mechanism to market oil, which had raised the hope that the oil production may resume early 2013. However, a disagreement on the manner of implementation of the agreement stalled the agreement until mid-March 2013, when the two countries agreed on the matrix of implementing the agreement. This matrix has renewed the hope that oil from South Sudan may flow again by mid-2013.

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