

Tull-Waters, Tamia
Parkside CTE
Salisbury MD, USA
South Sudan, Conflict

Conflict Continues in South Sudan

The beautiful country of South Sudan is struggling with a lot of conflict. There was a war that lasted seven years and ended February 22nd, 2020. The country descended into a civil war due to a feud between the president and his vice president. The aftermath of this war caused a lot of conflict during and years later after the war. Their poverty rate has gone up, they still struggle with economic, political upheaval, violence, and armed conflict. South Sudan has been trying to get their country back into a better state. There are many types of conflict within South Sudan. Their economic state has caused stagnation, instability, poverty, and displacement for millions of their people. There has been many cases of human trafficking, abductions and sexual violence waiting to be solved. The government has yet to help their people resolve the conflict that needs to be solved. "Their poverty rate is 82% and their GDP went from 14% in 2006 to 6% in 2017." (how Conflict and Economic Crisis, 2019) They are being corrupted by the government, ongoing fights, famine, and foreign debt. Many women must live in due to the amount of violence and abductions within their country. Many of their people have been displaced due to the amount of conflict.

South Sudan is a country in north Africa. Founded on July 9th, 2011, it is in East Africa bordered by Ethiopia, The Central African Republic, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Kenya. "Their capital is Juba, and they have a population of 10.75 million. They have 7 national parks and natural forest and woodlands that cover 29% of their total area. They have several national parks that cover 11% of their land." (Keith Somersville, 2022) South Sudan is a home to many mammals. South Sudan consists of grasslands, savannas, and shrublands. They get lots of rain but also have dry seasons.

South Sudan has a Presidential Republic, and the name of their government is called the Republic of South Sudan. Their constitution was established in 2011. Their current president is Salva Kiir Mayardit. The president is elected through the voting of the people. Most Sudanese families are patriarchal. Meaning the father or male elder has absolute authority over their family. The men mostly inherited their father's money. The women are often set in arranged marriages at a young age. The children tend to live with their parents until marriage. Like most African countries the women oversee the household duties, taking care of the children, the elderly, and the sick. The men are responsible for being the prime providers for their families. Many families own cattle and grow food to provide for their family.

The Sudanese people play many types of sports to occupy their time. Basketball, wrestling, and volleyball are the most popular sports in South Sudan. The children spend a lot of time fishing and being at rivers. They like to dance and make music as that is a very important part of their culture. Their official language is English, but some do still speak Arabic. Most of the people live in small villages and do not have electricity. They grow grains, fruits, and vegetables seasonally. Even though South Sudan's currency is the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) many do not use money, they use the goods they make and provide to trade with other people. Their religion is mostly Christians but consists of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Judaism. Their cuisine consists of meat such as goat, chicken, fish, and mutton, they eat a lot of grains like maize and sorghum, they also eat a lot of yams, potatoes, vegetables, okra, fruits, and legumes. Since many Sudanese do not have electricity, they aren't able to refrigerate food, so they eat a lot of fresh food, and all their food is organic. They do not have a good education system. Girls have a higher Agriculture as many depend on that as their livelihood.

South Sudan has many problems when it comes to conflict. The conflict has affected all these factors, economic, violence and armed conflict. Starting on December 15th, 2013, through February 22, 2020, South Sudan went through a war.

There was a political struggle between their president Kiir and their vice president Machar. Machar was eventually removed as vice president. With that South Sudan began to fight. Some Soldiers aligned with Kiir, and other soldiers aligned with Machar. They were fighting until 2015, that is when Kiir signed a peace agreement with Machar. In 2016 Machar was sworn in back as vice president and conflict started to break out again. In 2018 they both signed a peace agreement signaling that that will be the end of the civil war. In that time nearly four hundred thousand people died and nearly four million people were displaced or fled the country. South Sudan has always struggled with conflict related issues but ever since the civil war their country has been going downhill. Economically South Sudan is not in a great place. With stagnation, instability, poverty, displacement, and famine South Sudan is not doing very well. Just in 2017 1.96 million were displaced. Many of the refugees went to Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia. "South Sudan is very underdeveloped and 82% of the people are in poverty." (Philipp, J, 2022) Due to the recent civil war, poverty and food insecurity have risen. There are also several humanitarian crises. " In 2022 about half of the population, 6.6 million people, was severely starving. Currently the number of people who are starving is the highest it has ever been. Their GDP (gross domestic product) has gone from 14% in 2006 to 4% in 2022." (Philipp, J, 2022) South Sudan does not have a stable government, they lack education and infrastructure. With those problems South Sudan has become very unstable. Having high poverty and low income can increase the likelihood of a civil war. People will want to revolt and try to get things to change. Poverty is a consequence of conflict and is a cause of conflict on its own. Violence conflict is very common within South Sudan.

In South Sudan, there have been high cases of human trafficking and abductions. Millions of people suffer from human trafficking and the traffickers make at least 150 billion globally. Due to the amount of conflict, there has been an increase in human trafficking. Also known as modern slavery 40.3 million people are trafficked globally. Human trafficking is one of the most profitable crimes. When people are trafficked, they are victims of forced labor and sexual abuse. There have also been problems of looting and attacks on aid workers. As humanitarian and aid workers are trying to give supplies and food to help people, they are getting raided. The government is not providing enough security for the workers, and they are not giving enough supplies and food to help their people overall.

This conflict is causing people to lose their homes, cattle, crops, and land. The lack of food is causing prices to go high. The war has affected their trade. There has been violence near their trade ports. The government has also not been providing security for their trade ports and centers. The conflict on the ports have caused blockades and is affecting their country getting food and supplies. Due to the political conflict in October of 2021 at Port Sudan, 900 containers were stuck at the port, and caused a blockade of 3,000 trucks not being able to deliver supplies to their people. They were losing up to 2 million daily. Port Sudan is a very important trade source. The Red Sea port is also important to South Sudan trade. All these sources of conflict have left 6.8 million in need of life saving aid. The conflict has gotten so bad that civilians are being attacked. Women and children have fled to helping countries to escape the chaos and attacks. While some are not able to escape the attacks, they hide in bushes to stay away from danger. This conflict is reacting in displacement, death and injuries, abductions, destructions of properties and gender bases attacks. All because the government does not want to help and do their part in keeping their people and country safe. The government is not doing their job and is very corrupt. They have committed many crimes over the years of being in charge. They have been abusing their power. They have not been giving opportunities to their people to help with human rights and improve the rights of their people.

The government has not been held accountable for the crimes they have committed during armed conflict. Overall, the problem of conflict has affected the people and their livelihood. They are continuously starving, and the majority of the country is in poverty. The children suffer the most compared to adults. They suffer from famine, food insecurity, lack of education, and health problems. Children are more likely to get diseases and don't have access to clean water.

South Sudan has been using children as soldiers for their civil war and using them for child labor. The government claimed they did not force the children to join the army and they had nothing to do with the children being used as soldiers. The South Sudan government is refusing to help their people instead they use their people and commit crimes that are never brought to justice. Conflict is a cause of hunger. Due to the displacement of the South Sudanese people some farmers have been displaced causing the food source to go down drastically. Same thing goes for food insecurity, there becomes food shortages due to the lack of farmers and the amount of land that is being destroyed. When aid workers are getting attacked due to conflict, they can't help the people with sanitation, this spreads disease making it more common for people to get sick. All those factors also cause poor health for the people. Having no food, lack of water, and diseases start to affect the people. All those problems start with conflict.

Within South Sudan there are some current solutions the country is doing to help their people. They are first helping by upping on their security. They have been providing security to aid and humanitarian workers, and at their trade ports. Having more security, they can stop conflict from happening before it goes too far. South Sudan has issued a Penal Code. A penal code also known as a criminal code is a document that complies with a significant amount of jurisdiction for criminal law. The Penal Code for South Sudan in Act 9 has 28 chapters and 397 sections. The Penal Code has a lot of laws that criminalize people for the crimes they have committed within the country. The purpose of the act is to provide penalties for the criminal acts that have been committed. Having these laws enables people to commit crimes that will cause conflict and further make problems worse for the country.

The government has taken some steps to help with human trafficking within their country. They finalized the 2021-2023 National Action Plan (NAP) to help with trafficking and started to spread awareness on the issue. The government has also been working with aid and humanitarian organizations to get supplies to and help to their people. They have been providing food and livelihood support, help with health and nutrition, providing clean water, education to many women and children, and protection. "The World Bank has been working with the South Sudan Safety Net Project(SSSNP). They provide temporary income opportunities to the poor and vulnerable households." (World Bank Group, 2023)

Canada has also been a huge help for South Sudan. They have provided over 900 million dollars since 2011. Their humanitarian help provides help with peace and the development of South Sudan. Canada has helped women and girls a lot. They provide health services, help reduce their food insecurity, and help with access to education. They also provide emergency food, water, sanitation, healthcare, and shelter. With the help from Canada South Sudan has become more stabilized. There has been some peace building and some conflict has been resolved. They provide refugee camps for the displaced people. UNICEF(United Nations International Children's Fund) has been working with South Sudan to help women and children. They do lifesaving interventions to help children and adolescents in vulnerable situations and help protect their environment. They invest in women and children to help break the cycles of poverty, health issues, and lack of education.

The IRC (International Rescue Committee) is an organization that helps with the world's worst humanitarian crisis. They help to restore health, education, power, well-being to all the countries they have

helped. The IRC has been one of the top helpers when it comes to South Sudan. They have been providing emergency humanitarian aid to hard-to-reach places. Due to disease issues IRC has provided clinics, local health workers, nutrition, and sanitation programs. They work with community leaders and the south sudan government to get to their country. The IRC provides many ways people can help and donate money. People can choose to sponsor a refugee, they can make gifts for people, donate monthly, and start fundraising campaigns. “In 2019 the IRC helped 1.1 million citizens in South Sudan. 87% percent of the IRC is doing program services.” (IRC lauches,2023)

Sudan with food, protection, clean and emergency water, sanitation, nutrition programs, etc. The United States has provided 1 billion dollars annually to help South Sudan with humanitarian aid. They support South Sudan when it comes to civil rights, trauma awareness, reconciliation, and conflict. They have helped with restoring stability, famine, ending conflict and corruption. The United States has worked with multiple donors, agencies, and non-government organizations.

When it comes to human and trafficking and abductions South Sudan should thoroughly investigate the suspected traffickers. Whether they are government officials or citizens of South Sudan. South Sudan needs to have more laws to help reduce trafficking. Like train laws to have trained professionals to help identify if there have been victims of trafficking. There also needs to be more trained professionals to follow up on the Penal Code. Having trained professionals who are familiar with the laws can help reduce their crime by a lot and have those who are committing those crimes be punished. The government should also be spending more money to help reduce human trafficking. There needs to be more resources for those who have been victims of human trafficking so they can get back on their feet. There needs to be more security for their citizens to help prevent the conflict and stop it before it goes too far and makes matters worse.

It is very important that the government and communities make sure that all places get the humanitarian aid they need and not just select places. There needs to be more urgency when it comes to children and malnutrition. The government needs to take better care of the health issues within their country. They need to provide better sanitation, have better water treatment, and have programs on how to prevent and control diseases so they do not spread as much. The government needs to address the conflict that is due to the current food crisis that is going on. They need to provide better food security. The government needs to work with helping women and children the most. They suffer the most, so they need to take in account how to help feed and provide better education to those groups of people to help better their citizens.

Donors and agencies can provide peace building programs. They can support and have better approaches when it comes to helping the livelihood of the citizens. These donors could focus on both short- and long-term needs. Supporting agencies can try and be more knowledgeable about the different of conflict in South Sudan. . This knowledge can then support the citizens and the country’s long-term prospects.

In conclusion the conflict in South Sudan is a big issue that has resulted in widespread violence, displacement, and human rights issues. The root of the cause includes political, economic and violence factors that must be addressed to provide stability. The government of South Sudan and their community must work together to establish effective governance among the people and the different ethnic groups. That will require sustained efforts and resources to bring about positive change and improve the lives of the South Sudan people.

References:

How conflict and economic crises exacerbate poverty in South Sudan. World Bank Blogs. (n.d.). Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/african/how-conflict-and-economic-crises-exacerbate-poverty-in-south-sudan>

IRC launches emergency response for over half a million people affected by conflict, hepatitis E and severe flooding in South Sudan. The IRC. (n.d.). Retrieved March 2, 2023, from <https://www.rescue.org/press-release/irc-launches-emergency-response-over-half-million-people-affected-conflict-hepatitis>

Keith Somerville Visiting Professor. (2022, September 13). *South Sudan's humanitarian crisis: Wildlife is also in the firing line.* The Conversation. Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://theconversation.com/south-sudans-humanitarian-crisis-wildlife-is-also-in-the-firing-line-63064>

Philipp, J. (2022, January 18). *9 facts about South Sudan.* The Borgen Project. Retrieved February 12, 2023, from <https://borgenproject.org/facts-about-south-sudan/#:~:text=High%20Poverty%20Rate,less%20than%20%241.90%20per%20day>.

World Bank Group. (2023, February 22). *Enhancing the resilience of poor households in South Sudan.* World Bank. Retrieved March 2, 2023, from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2023/02/22/enhancing-the-resilience-of-poor-households-in-af-south-sudan>