



Our Mission

South Sudan Voices of Hope is committed to empowering the people of South Sudan to live self-sufficient lives by providing humanitarian support through partnership with local and regional organizations, implementation of sustainable health, and education, agricultural and vocational projects.

Greetings!

Summer 2015

On July 9, 2015, the Republic of South Sudan will celebrate its 4th independent anniversary celebration after it seceded from Sudan in 2011. Although there is much promise for a prosperous future, there are lots of hurdles for this new country to overcome before it can sustain itself.

The Issues: The contested issues between Khartoum and Juba on border demarcations, the contested region of Abyei, the disputes over oil and the accusations of harboring and supporting each other's rebel groups...these are some of the issues that have doggedly undermined the socio-economic and political development of South Sudan. In addition, the infighting that erupted in South Sudan capital Juba on December 15, 2013 triggered South Sudan into internal armed conflict and has drastically challenged the prospects for the newest world country.



Nevertheless, there is hardly any regret among the 98% South Sudanese citizens who overwhelmingly voted for independence in 2011. For many South Sudanese, the independence of the Republic of South Sudan was to be a new era to finally enjoy democratic rights and civil liberties that they had long been deprived.

In addition to the political situation, over 50 years of conflict has left South Sudan devastated and incapacitated without a viable infrastructure to support basic needs, such as agriculture (food security), health care and education. Illiteracy and poverty continue to be high.

The Results: There are approx.. 4.1 million South Sudanese in need of humanitarian assistance and the numbers increase each day. The needs are far greater and living condition for those inside the camps and country are overwhelming even by U.N. standards. As of today there are about 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and over 500,000 fled South Sudan as refugees to Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. The International Crises Group (ICG) estimated that the number of those killed in the fighting is over 50,000 since the conflict began in 2013.



The UN has declared South Sudan a Level 3 emergency, the most serious humanitarian crisis designation, based on criteria such as its scale, urgency, complexity and the global response capacity needed to address it. The main humanitarian needs are food, clean water, healthcare, shelter, sanitation, hygiene and protection, as well as response to epidemics, in particular cholera. For those left in South Sudan capital of Juba, and other unaffected areas, living expenses have skyrocketed since food and other basic necessities are primarily imported from the neighbouring countries.



The daily challenges facing families each day is putting food on the table, sending their children to school (in neighboring countries if they can afford to), finding job to make decent living, getting health services, and having access to clean water.

Current Actions: The European Union (EU) remains strongly committed to supporting regional and international efforts to end the violence, and calls for a negotiated solution that will allow leaders to resolve their differences peacefully and democratically.

However, the EU is not acting alone. Together with the international community, it is engaged in trying to prevent the crisis escalating into a full ethnic-based civil war. The political priority now is to stop violence and avoid further instability in the region. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has, from the outset, been proactive in facilitating peace talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The EU firmly supports the tireless efforts of IGAD and its mediators to bring an end to the suffering in South Sudan. The EU is assisting IGAD both in substantive and financial terms and is contributing staff to the ceasefire monitoring and verification mechanism.



Hope Happens Mission Trip: South Sudan Voices of Hope recently completed a Hope Happens mission trip. Kenneth Elisapana, Executive Director & Founder of South Sudan Hope and Rev. Tony Asta, Chairman, had returned in April, 2015. There were three objectives of the trip. The first was to meet with the national, state, municipal, church and community leaders to listen, learn, and understand the day to day issues they are faced with. Secondly, to support humanitarian aid efforts. And third, to discuss probable sustainable economic development projects now that South Sudan is independent. SSVOH aligns with efforts of the South Sudan government, international community and most importantly the local community in supporting projects that can be management locally, such as tailoring, carpentry, brick making, bee keeping etc.

Spring Hope Happens 2015 mission trip was a success. We are extremely grateful for your prayers and generous financial support without which this trip could not have happened. Over the last eight years, South Sudan Hope provided goats, seeds, medical and medical supplies, equipment's, and other humanitarian assistance to support hundreds of families. However, as part of our strategic long term plan, Hope Happens campus will provide opportunities for economic self-sufficiency projects such tailoring, carpentry, brick making, welding, bee keeping, medical services, educational and sustainable community development projects.

These are long term South Sudan Hope and community projects. These projects are geared towards economic self-reliance and empowerment, skill trainings through vocational training programs. However, every day, as the political situation in South Sudan unfolds, the humanitarian situation worsens. Tens of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDP's) could die from violence, starvation or disease unless we can help them right now. Humanitarian aid continues to be a life line to many.



Your support is important in helping deliver these much needed programs. We thank you for your faithfulness and support over these years. We ask for your continued support and prayers for the people of South Sudan as they continue to work towards a self-sustaining future. *Sincerely, Kenneth Elisapana, Founder & Executive Director of South Sudan Hope*

Humanitarian Aid

SSVOH has a board of elders in Jambo. It is their task to identify the needs of the community, be it widowers, orphans, health impaired. This trip we delivered thousands of Sudanese pounds in humanitarian aid that will support the needs of the community. In addition, we were pleased to form alliances with two other South Sudanese indigenous humanitarian groups: Concern for Women and Children (chaired by the First Lady of South Sudan) and South Sudan Widows, Orphans Relief and Development Agency. Thanks to Mr. Rick Tobiaski, Ameristar donated 3000 blankets for South Sudan



Sustainable Development

To kick off our Hope Happens Campus and launch sustainable community development projects, in this mission trip we delivered sewing machines and materials to serve community in Jambo. This is the first step of our long term participatory community projects in Jambo, South Sudan where we plan to start work on 100 X 100 meters piece of property spring of 2016.

- Inquire about presenting to your group or organization
 - Check our website for more details
- Learn**
- For the people of North, South Sudan and disputed areas
 - For the leaders of North and South Sudan
- Pray**
- For our continued mission to the people of South Sudan
 - Support the work of the Jambo Campus
 - Volunteer to work with us on establishing partnerships, grant writing or communications
- Do**
- Support our Sponsors:
 - Notting Hill Decorative hardware(nottinghill-usa.com)
 - Chazerly Designs (chazerlydesigns.com)
 - Be part of a mission trip (tentatively scheduled for February 2016....*stay tuned*)

For more information, to schedule a speaking engagement, to learn about ways you can be part of the organization, or to make a donation, contact Kenneth Elisapana (773-315-5495, k.elisapana@southsudanhope.org) or Rev. Tony Asta (708-705-8669, soutsudanhope.org).

Visit us at southsudanhope.org

**South Sudan Voices of Hope is a 501c3 organization.
Your donation is tax deductible.
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