



# South Sudan

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## Country Snapshot\*

<b>Population:</b>	8.26 million
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	42 years
<b>Adult literacy rate:</b>	27%
<b>Access to improved water source:</b>	55%
<b>GDP per capita (PPP)**:</b>	US\$2,086
<b>Infant mortality rate:</b>	102 per 1,000 live births
<b>Maternal mortality rate:</b>	2,054 per 100,000 live births

South Sudan is set to become an independent country July 9, 2011. All of these statistics (excluding GDP per capita) refer to South Sudan. Sources: UNICEF; Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCSE), \*\*UNDP Human Development Report 2009

**Program Overview** CARE has been operating in Southern Sudan since 1993, initially providing humanitarian relief to internally displaced people in Western Equatoria. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 allowed CARE to expand into Jonglei State and Upper Nile to target the returnees from the refugee camps. CARE's main office is in Juba but now works in the Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity States, with rehabilitation and development activities in water and sanitation, health, and livelihoods. In Jonglei State, CARE runs a project to provide primary healthcare services to 136,000 people by building the capacity of County Health Departments to oversee and manage health facilities. The Upper Nile is one of the areas most affected by the civil war with many displaced people and disrupted livelihoods. CARE's livelihood project in Twic East aims to improve livelihood security of the displaced, returnees, and their host communities. Another CARE program with three donors in Twic East addresses the need for water and sanitation facilities in the region. Two additional flagship CARE projects are critical in rebuilding southern Sudan: Pamoja, an initiative that supports peace and conflict activities; and the Unity State Community Health Project that seeks to reduce morbidity among returnees, internally displaced people, and vulnerable residents through quality healthcare.

## Health

The goal of CARE's health programs is to improve access to essential health services and a key component of this is to work closely with the state and county health departments and to build capacity of local, seconded technical health staff. The Unity State Community Health Project aims to provide over 164,000 people in four underserved counties with sustainable access to integrated primary healthcare and reproductive-health services. This will reduce morbidity among returnees, internally displaced people, and the most vulnerable in the local population. The integrated primary healthcare service includes provision of basic curative services and routine immunization. These activities will be conducted simultaneously with nutritional health education as well as nutritional assessment or screening of children younger than five years old. Other preventative reproductive health activities planned in the project are provision of treated mosquito nets, iron supplements, anti-malaria prophylaxis, and promotion of iodine salts intake by pregnant women. A nutrition

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component has recently been added and a mobile clinic operates as part of the continuation of activities from emergency support to returnees that was carried out during the early months of the year. CARE is designated the lead agency for health in Unity State. The Sudan Health Transformation Project aims to improve the quality and scope of health services available, while embarking on an aggressive campaign to encourage residents of Twic East County to adopt good basic hygiene and sanitation practices as well as promoting healthy and preventive behaviors. Both projects in Unity and Twic East receive reproductive health kits and training from UNFPA.

### Water and Sanitation

The lack of clean water in southern Sudan is discouraging the return of people displaced by the north-south conflict, fuelling sporadic local violence, and contributing to the overall health crisis. In both states of Jonglei and Upper Nile, women spend several hours per day fetching water and end up using unclean water to meet household needs. CARE fills a critical gap in these states by drilling boreholes and building latrines. The Upper Nile Region Water & Sanitation program will drill 120 boreholes and build at least 2,000 latrines, while building community capacity to maintain water points and increasing awareness of the importance of good hygiene. Next year's plans for the Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (IWASH) will have a greater focus on hygiene promotion and sanitation.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project in Twic East and Duk Counties has been improving the health and livelihood status of 200,000 people by improving access to water sanitation facilities and improving knowledge of hygiene practices. Activities will expand over the next two years, coupled with complementary initiatives in other sectors. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities will begin in Unity State, allowing for an integrated program that is now incorporating health, nutrition and WASH interventions. UNICEF is also supplying emergency WASH supplies to CARE in all three states.

### Livelihoods

CARE plans to continue livelihood activities in Twic East County with an emphasis on off-season vegetable agriculture, coupled with seed and tool inputs. This is complemented by a small grant for fishing equipment for youth to provide them gainful employment and extra nutrition for their families. The Jonglei Transitional

Livelihoods Support Project also focuses on food security and livelihoods, along with direct health facility support and peacebuilding in three counties using a local partner.

### Shelter

In Unity State there is a shelter project as a continuation of the emergency response to returnees program from early in the year. This project aims to assist returnees construct slightly improved houses using local material in their home areas to help them settle and reintegrate into their communities.

### Peacebuilding for Poverty Reduction

CARE aims to reduce poverty in Sudan by supporting peacebuilding and safety initiatives. A program implemented in collaboration with civil society and local government intends to empower conflict-affected and marginalized households by improving access to basic services, increasing their capacity to mitigate conflict and their involvement in implementing local development initiatives. The program aims to improve the livelihood capacity of conflict-affected communities through village savings and loans groups and vocational skills training.

The Promoting the Reintegration of Returnees, IDPs and Host Communities in Upper Nile State program aims to improve social, political, and economic conditions by addressing vulnerability and promoting stability for returnees, internally displaced people, and host communities in up to four counties surrounding Malakal. The project will work to improve governance and will build capacities of local organizations and local government to promote peaceful transition and conflict resolution. By focusing on gender equality and environmental mainstreaming, there will be inclusion, participation and empowerment of women to ensure they are central to reintegration and they contribute fully to the peacebuilding process. The Pamoja program, implemented in partnership with local aid groups, has similar aims.

### Major Donors

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### CARE South Sudan

*Claudia Futterknecht, Country Director, [Fclaudia@csss.care.org](mailto:Fclaudia@csss.care.org)*  
*Peter Avenell, Assistant Country Director for Program, [pavenell@csss.care.org](mailto:pavenell@csss.care.org)*  
T: +254.20.280.7000/272.6255/271.5092  
F: +254.20.280.7222

East Africa Regional Management  
Nairobi, Kenya  
T: +254.20.272.6255/271.5092  
F: +254.20.280.7136  
[info@care.or.ke](mailto:info@care.or.ke)



[www.care-international.org](http://www.care-international.org)