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## FACT SHEET

### The EU and South Sudan

South Sudan is on the brink of a full-blown civil war. Famine and the prospects of a major humanitarian disaster are looming. Beyond the suffering of the South Sudanese people, this crisis risks affecting a much wider region that is already prone to instability (Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Horn of Africa region). 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 South Sudan's leaders to resolve their differences peacefully and democratically.

#### EU response to the crisis

Together with the international community, the EU is engaged in trying to prevent the crisis escalating into an ethnic-based civil war. The political priority now is to stop violence and avoid further instability in the region.

The EU is not acting alone. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has from the outset been proactive in facilitating peace talks in Addis Ababa. The African Union (AU) has appointed a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the human rights atrocities that have been widely reported. Moreover, the United Nations have been working constantly to protect civilians and provide humanitarian relief wherever possible. The EU's efforts, including those of its Special Representative for the Horn of Africa Alexander Rondos, are coordinated with, and complementary to this united international effort.

As a matter of urgency, the EU and the international community are encouraging South Sudan's leaders to act to prevent a further escalation and the threat of genocide. In this

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context, High Representative / Vice-President Catherine Ashton welcomed the agreement reached between President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar on 9 May 2014 in Addis Ababa to respect the previously-agreed ceasefire and begin political negotiations for a national unity government. She called for the rapid implementation of this agreement as *"the only way large numbers of South Sudanese can be spared from violence and famine and the country can slowly begin to bind itself together after such a violent five months"*.

The EU is taking a number of specific steps to support the restoration of peace in South Sudan:

- 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.
- The EU considers that enhanced security is needed to create space for political solutions. The EU thus welcomes the rapid deployment of a regional force, under a UN mandate and with the support of its member states, and calls for the swift revision of the UNMISS mandate.
- On several occasions the EU has called on the responsibility of all of the country's leaders to protect the population and act in the interest of the South Sudanese people as a whole. In support of the African Union (AU) and IGAD's efforts and in close coordination with international partners, the Council of the EU has reinforced this message by announcing that it is considering targeted restrictive measures against individuals obstructing the political process.
- The EU stands ready to provide the necessary assistance to the UN and the African Union Commission of Inquiry as they carry out their investigations and encourages both bodies to work closely together. The UN Human Rights report early May made clear the horrific scale and nature of atrocities that both sides have committed. As the UN report states *"deliberate and persistent targeting of civilians and attacks on individuals because of their ethnicity may constitute crimes against humanity"*. All those responsible for human rights violations must be held accountable.
- Finally, the EU has mobilised financial resources to be able to respond adequately to the worsening humanitarian crisis and adjusted development programmes to the new context (see below).

South Sudan is in a race against time. The next three months are critical and it will be essential to maintain the political pressure on the parties to implement the agreement reached.

### **EU Humanitarian Aid**

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan is critical with around 960,000 internally displaced people and around 285,000 South Sudanese seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. There are 4.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

The main humanitarian needs are food, clean water, healthcare, shelter, sanitation, hygiene and protection. The current humanitarian response capacity is insufficient and access to people in need has been hampered by hostilities, violence – also against aid workers and

assets –, movement restrictions, as well as the early start of the rainy season which makes access to many parts of the country even more difficult. 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 European Commission is making available €80 million in 2014 to respond to the unfolding and intensifying humanitarian crisis in the country and additional €15 million to address the urgent needs of South Sudanese refugees in the region.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the people of South Sudan, the EU (including the Member States) has so far provided more than €176 million in humanitarian assistance in 2014. The European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, Kristalina Georgieva, warned that a humanitarian tragedy must be avoided at all cost. The announcement, at the peace negotiations in Addis Ababa, by the parties of the conflict in South Sudan to re-commit to facilitating humanitarian action and access, as outlined in the January Cessation of Hostilities agreement, is a positive development. Government and opposition agreed to observe 30 "days of tranquillity", starting on 7 May, to allow the prepositioning of humanitarian supplies and to enable people to plant their food crops, care for their livestock and move to areas of safety.

### **EU Development Assistance**

Since South Sudan's independence, the EU has invested heavily in the country's state and nation building efforts, and became a major development partner of South Sudan. In 2011 and 2013, the EU adopted a number of projects worth €85 and €185 million respectively in the sectors of agriculture, education, health and the rule of law. Since the outbreak of the conflict, the EU has used development cooperation to strengthen a comprehensive EU response to the crisis by:

1. Supporting IGAD in its efforts to mediate between the warring parties and broker a peaceful solution to the conflict. €1.1 million have been mobilised from the EU's African Peace Facility to allow IGAD to set up a platform for peace talks and provide initial funding to a monitoring and verification mechanism. The EU is considering extending this support.
2. Mobilising additional €45 million from the European Development Fund (EDF) to strengthen the EU response to the humanitarian crisis.
3. Adjusting development programmes to the new context following a set of agreed principles, including:
  - The focus should be on the immediate term to strengthen resilience while ensuring the sustainability of the EU's action.
  - Aiming for equitable access (i.e. donors must have access to all areas, regardless of whether they are controlled by the government or the opposition).
  - Aiming for ethnic non-discrimination (i.e. to counter the ethnic connotations of the conflict, donors should be in a position to reach the whole of the population regardless of their ethnicity, gender or political affiliation, and the Government and opposition forces should facilitate such access);

- Ensuring that basic services and food assistance are not diverted to armed groups.

As a result of this approach, the EU has so far:

- (a) suspended a 'State Building Contract' initially foreseen as budget support (€80 million);
- (b) started re-programming this budget support envelope to address education and health needs in partnership with NGOs and international organisations;
- (c) provided the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with a €18.5 million contribution (part of the existing allocation of €185 million) to FAO's emergency appeal;
- (d) disbursed a total of €13 million (part of the existing allocation of €185 million) to support small scale farmers in both conflict and non-conflict affected areas.

**For further information:**

[Council conclusions on South Sudan](#)

[Statement by the High Representative on the agreement reached on South Sudan](#)

[EU Relations with the Republic of South Sudan](#)

[Development and cooperation](#)

[Humanitarian Aid – ECHO \(Factsheet on South Sudan\)](#)