

Sudan: The Refugee and IDP Situation

The civil war in Sudan has created nearly four million internally displaced persons (IDPs) within its borders, and some 480,000 refugees. The current situation facing many of those refugees is serious, as many refugees living in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DROC) have been caught in the cross-fire of local conflicts, or have been troubled by internal ethnic disputes or violence between refugees and local populations.

Peace and Repatriation

In anticipation of a possible peace settlement between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), the United States and the international community are drafting contingency plans to prepare for the voluntary repatriation of Sudan's refugees and IDPs. A number of logistical hurdles stand in the way of repatriation, including:

- A weakened infrastructure throughout southern Sudan, particularly in regards to transportation and basic services;
- The inherently unpredictable timetable of spontaneous returns;
- Chronic food insecurity;
- Fear of violence caused by the presence in southern Sudan of the Ugandan insurgent Lord's Resistance Army and other Sudanese militia groups.

U.S. Refugee Policy

The United States supports the ongoing peace negotiations between the GOS and SPLM/A, and will support the voluntary repatriation of refugees and IDPs when peace is firmly established in Sudan. The U.S. believes that an orderly and successful repatriation of Sudan's refugees and IDPs is a necessary ingredient for successful reconstruction of southern Sudan. U.S. refugee policy is based further on the

premise that the care of refugees and other conflict victims and the pursuit of permanent solutions for refugee crises are shared international responsibilities.

Donors and Funding

Most U.S. overseas assistance funds for IDPs and refugees in Sudan are administered by international organizations and non-governmental organizations, including:

- Economic Support Funds;
- USAID funding for infrastructure rehabilitation and assistance to returning IDPs;
- Migration and Refugee Assistance.

The Largest Sudanese Refugee Groups

Uganda	172,000
Ethiopia	90,000
DROC	70,000
Kenya	80,000
Central African Republic	36,000

Links

USAID Sudan Home Page -

http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/sudan/

UNHCR Home Page -

<http://www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration Home Page -

<http://www.state.gov/g/prm/>

ReliefWeb -

<http://www.reliefweb.int>