



When Peace Prevails in Sudan

In the wake of south Sudan's vote for independence, the work of prayer, peacebuilding and advocacy continue

In January 2011 the people of south Sudan voted overwhelmingly to become the world's newest independent nation. More than 97 percent of those registered voted in a week-long referendum that was-against all predictions-orderly, peaceful and fair.

After decades of suffering and violence, the peaceful referendum was nothing short of a miraculous answer to intense prayer and peacebuilding efforts (see sidebar).

An official declaration of south Sudan's independence is expected to be made on July 9, 2011. Meanwhile, the effort to foster a sustainable peace in Sudan must not let up.

Several provisions of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the settlement that brought decades of civil war between north and south Sudan to an end, still must be resolved. These include issues of border demarcation, citizenship, oil revenue sharing, and debt allocation. Concerns persist for the security and rights of minorities remaining in the north; and tensions in the border areas of Abyei, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile must be addressed. Likewise, the people of Darfur's plight and insecurity must be resolved to bring peace and development to the region.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have called upon the Obama Administration to provide significant and sustained humanitarian and development assistance to consolidate the progress toward peace, and provide tangible encouragement that Africa's longest running war is truly over. It is crucial that the United States remain actively engaged in Sudan throughout this post-referendum period.

That means that we, people of faith, are called to persist in our prayer and action toward peace in Sudan. To stay informed about the latest efforts of CRS and the USCCB through our [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](http://CatholicsConfrontGlobalPoverty.org) initiative, to ensure peace in Sudan, visit, peaceinsudan.org.

The Road to the Referendum

South Sudan's historic referendum on independence was a provision of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended more than 45 years of intermittent war in Africa's largest country. The conflict between the north and south had claimed more than 2 million lives.

In the months leading up to the January 2011 referendum, people of faith the world over joined the Catholic Church in Sudan for 101 Days of Prayer for Peace in Sudan through liturgies, daily prayer opportunities and acts of faithful solidarity.

In addition, CRS' peacebuilding work on the ground in Sudan helped educate and mobilize people as they prepared for the referendum. Catholics and others in the United States called upon their representatives in the U.S. government to promote a peaceful transition for Sudan. And the Catholic Church in Sudan, with the assistance of CRS and others, provided emergency aid and conflict mitigation skills to help prevent a return to violence.

Likewise, USCCB continued its long history of supporting the Church and people of Sudan through pastoral visits and advocacy.

CRS has been working in Sudan since the end of the first major civil war in 1972 and is one of the largest nongovernmental humanitarian agencies working in the country, serving more than 1 million people.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 4th St., NE, Washington, DC 20017
globalpoverty@usccb.org

Catholic Relief Services
228 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201
globalpoverty@crs.org

www.peaceinsudan.org • 1-866-608-5978



Building Peace and Fighting Poverty in Sudan

One of the keys to a sustainable peace in Sudan is the ability of people to resist and transform conflicts when they arise. In February 2010, students attending the Yambio Youth Conference were able to put such skills to work when fighting broke out between a local ethnic group and the army just days before their conference was to start. Using skills developed with the help of Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) peacebuilding training, the students determined the source of the conflict and asked their elders and local government to engage in peaceful dialogue to resolve the problems.

As Sudan prepares for southern secession, CRS is helping local partners build skills in conflict resolution and peacebuilding through a \$4 million peace initiative that includes:

- Partnering closely with Catholic dioceses and other groups to increase their ability to effectively carry out relief and development projects, conflict management initiatives, and peacebuilding activities.
- Coordinating peace talks at various levels, from individual communities to national ecumenical forums.
- Funding community-based peace projects, particularly those that create opportunities for youth to engage in peacebuilding and conflict resolution activities.
- Link Sudanese and U.S. advocacy efforts to increase the awareness among Catholics in the United States of Sudanese issues and engagement in addressing them.



CRS has been working in Sudan since the end of the first major civil war in 1972 and is one of the largest non-governmental humanitarian agencies working in the country, serving more than 1 million people. CRS continues to implement extensive relief and development activities across Sudan, which has recently emerged from 45 years of intermittent civil war between the northern government and southern rebels.

In **West Darfur**, CRS has been providing humanitarian aid since May 2004. The program now assists more than 500,000 people affected by the violent conflict there. Activities include food distributions, shelter construction, provision of clean water and sanitation, education support, agricultural and livestock assistance, and health and nutrition training.

In the **Khartoum** area, CRS assists more than 30,000 people in need. The majority of activities are in the Jebel Awlia, Um Dorman, Al Salam and Mayo camps, populated primarily by people displaced by the civil war and more recently by people displaced by the Darfur conflict. Initiatives include shelter assistance, construction and rehabilitation of schools, creation of savings and lending groups, livelihoods development programs, support for a health clinic, water and sanitation initiatives, and emergency preparedness.

In **Southern Sudan**, CRS is helping more than 500,000 people rebuild their lives after civil war. Activities include school and market construction, technical agricultural support, food distributions for the most vulnerable, support for 43 health facilities, creation of savings and lending groups, water and sanitation projects, and civic education initiatives. CRS also helps to strengthen local governments and partners, including Catholic dioceses, through close collaboration and skills training.

Giving Hope to a World of Need

Catholic Relief Services • 228 West Lexington Street • Baltimore, MD 21201
www.crs.org • www.crsespanol.org • 1-866-608-5978 • advocacy@crs.org