Aid in transition: South Sudan

South Sudan already has a long relationship with aid – Sudan is ranked as the thirteenth largest recipient of official development assistance (ODA) (excluding debt relief) allocable to countries between 2000 and 2009. A large proportion of that aid – 60.6% between 2005 and 2009 - is humanitarian aid.

Around a third of the humanitarian funds tracked within the United Nations (UN) humanitarian work-plan (consolidated appeal) are channelled to South Sudan each year.

**Humanitarian funding within the UN humanitarian work-plan for Sudan, 2005-2009**

![Graph showing funding flows to South Sudan](image)

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA data. Note that the apparently low figure for South Sudan in 2009 in fact reflects the introduction of a new category for ‘multiple regions’

Aid will continue to be an important resource flow to underwrite the provision of basic services and to meet humanitarian needs in a country where the state, still only six years old, lacks capacity, where the economy is overwhelmingly dependent on a single commodity and where humanitarian crisis thresholds are still frequently exceeded.

But since becoming a nation state in its own right, the way in which the international donor community engages with the new Republic of South Sudan (RoSS) is changing fast. In this briefing paper, we summarise some of the immediate aid data and aid management changes that are underway.

**Tracking funding flows**

Historic data on funding flows to South Sudan prior to independence are extremely scarce. Aid flows reported to the main data aggregators – the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service (FTS) – were not disaggregated by region. These historic data gaps are unlikely to be filled and the counter will likely be set at zero for some of the main aid data aggregators.
For a more detailed analysis of funding to Sudan and summary of what aid data is available for South Sudan please see our factsheet ‘tracking aid flows to South Sudan’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aid data source</th>
<th>OECD DAC</th>
<th>UN OCHA FTS</th>
<th>UN consolidated appeal</th>
<th>Donor internal reporting</th>
<th>Country level aid data management systems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre independence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Data not disaggregated by region. Historic data will not be retrospectively attributed.</td>
<td>Data not disaggregated by region. Not yet known if historic data will be disaggregated.</td>
<td>Separate humanitarian work-plans for the various regions of Sudan were prepared from 2005 onwards and rolled into one overall consolidated appeal for Sudan. Data on funds to the respective regions is available in varying forms in pdf from <a href="http://www.unssudanig.org">www.unssudanig.org</a>. Data pre July 2011 is not disaggregated by region within the OCHA FTS.</td>
<td>Several of the major bilateral donors have historically used planning and reporting regions which do not correspond with the new national boundaries e.g. funding for South Sudan may also have included funding for the 'Three Areas'. Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) allocation data is available from 2006 disaggregated by region.</td>
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<td>Post independence</td>
<td>South Sudan will be added to the DAC list of ODA recipients in 2012 for 2011 contributions and data will be reported to both the DAC and the Creditor Reporting System (CRS). There will be no retrospective data for South Sudan available before 2011.</td>
<td>Funds reported within the 2011 consolidated appeal are being attributed to South Sudan as of 13th July 2011. A major challenge is how to code unearmarked funding to the whole of Sudan during the first half of this year as this data currently comes under the Sudan Workplan for North Sudan.</td>
<td>A separate humanitarian workplan for South Sudan has already been prepared and will be launched on 20 July 2011 for the period July – December 2011.</td>
<td>Many humanitarian donors are already separating their planning and reporting regions but will have difficulty disaggregating historic allocation data.</td>
<td>A prototype Aid Information Management System (AIMS) managed by the RoSS Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP) is due to be launched at the end of 2011 and will include aid data from 2010. Data prior to 2010 exists in annual ‘Donor Books’ compiled by budget sector working groups. The MoFEP plans to make AIMS data IATI compliant.</td>
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Humanitarian donors: change management

Many humanitarian actors working in Sudan and South Sudan had long established management capacities and lines of reporting that were capable of functioning autonomously. NGOs are probably the most advanced in this respect. But many UN agencies will need to re-balance what have been throughout the interim period, Khartoum centred in-country management hierarchies. UN OCHA for example, has included an additional 10 international and 9 national staff in their budget for their post independence RoSS country office.

Several major humanitarian donors to Sudan and South Sudan have already begun to invest in greater capacity in South Sudan – Sweden and the Netherlands have recently deployed Khartoum based staff permanently to Juba. Others, notably the European Commission (EC) and USAID, already maintained a permanent humanitarian presence in Juba. DFID, which channels all of their humanitarian funds via the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), will continue to base their humanitarian staff in Khartoum.

The CHF for Sudan, established in 2006, has typically allocated around 40% of the total funds receive to South Sudan. Funds received in 2011 were allocated in early July, prior to independence. A new CHF for South Sudan, which will be fully administered and managed by UNDP and OCHA in Juba, is expected to be up and running by the end of September 2011.

Channelling humanitarian funds via the newly separated CHF for South Sudan will continue to prove a useful option for donors who do not plan to increase their humanitarian capacity in country. However, where donors formerly had to make only one decision about how much to allocate to the Sudan CHF, they will now have to make two.

Strategies specific to South Sudan will also be developed by donors, many of which will be influenced by the outcome of the government’s ‘2011-13 Development Plan’. The priorities for the Netherlands’ multi annual plan for South Sudan, a four year strategy, will be influenced by a conflict analysis as well as the Netherland’s four key development priorities (food, security, water and sexual reproductive health). DFID will develop different strategies for both North and South Sudan incorporating information from the work-plans and national strategies. The Swedish government’s strategy for Sudan expires by the end of 2011 so they are currently in the process of developing new strategies which will guide their work in both South Sudan and Sudan. The EC will continue with its single Sudan strategy which is made up of various regional priorities and strategies that cover the whole of Sudan. Its 2012 strategy the Sudan Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) will be available by the end of the year.
The future of aid

Sudan poses some particular challenges as an aid recipient and much of its aid, consequently, has flowed outside of the state and in particular as humanitarian aid. The independence of South Sudan however represents a watershed for many donors who are keen to begin scaling up their development engagement.

Obstacles to development partnerships in Sudan

The United States, the largest global donor of ODA, suspended economic assistance to Sudan in 1989 following the coup which brought the current President to power and issued economic, trade and financial sanctions against Sudan in 1997.

The EC has been unable to programme bilateral development funds for Sudan under its tenth European Development Fund decision following Sudan’s non-ratification of the Cotonou Agreement by June 2009. The Cotonou Agreement forms the legal basis for The EC’s development partnerships with recipient countries and also contains provisions in support of the Rome Statute. The Rome Statute is the treaty establishing the International Criminal Court.

Sudan is host to an array of pooled donor funding mechanisms that enable donors to support development activities in the north of the country, without channelling them directly through the government, and to support development activities prioritised by the semi-autonomous GoSS in the very early stages of the government’s development, while its capacities are limited.
On 9 July 2011 at least 15 countries (including Sudan) recognised the new “baby nation” with a number of countries offering to support development. Some donors have already made financial pledges.

Australia has pledged Aus$16 million (US$16.9 million) over two years to support the development of the education, sanitation and maternal health sectors.

The EU has offered €200 million to South Sudan which will partially help support the Government of South Sudan’s (GoSS) ‘2011-13 Development Plan’ (due to be release later this year).

The World Bank has announced it is committing US$75 million to support basic services and job creation and is tabling a new Transition Trust fund through which to channel these funds. South Sudan has submitted an application to become a member of the World Bank, a condition for eligibility for World Bank loans, which is now being processed.

Donors are expected to pledge additional funds at the South Sudan donor conference scheduled for September 2011.

The prospects for tackling some of the root causes of vulnerability in South Sudan are promising. It is uncertain what the role of humanitarian aid will be in this new context, with many donors reluctant to declare their development and humanitarian strategies yet.

Data and statistics will be critical in ensuring an appropriate balance of development investments and financing to address humanitarian needs.

A lack of convincing evidence of the scale and severity of humanitarian needs combined with unclear data on levels of aid investment permitted a situation where humanitarian aid was de-prioritised in the early Interim Period when optimism about the likely pace of reconstruction and development held sway.

OCHA has organised assessments to underpin the humanitarian work-plan since 2010, and statistics on health, nutrition, food availability and access to water and sanitation have improved in many areas. The donor community must continue to invest however in improving systems to routinely monitor key humanitarian indicators to enable early and proportionate response to crises in parallel with investing in transparency of resource flows to enable timely and coherent prioritisation of aid investments.

**International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)**

IATI is an initiative set up to agree a standard for all aid donors and implementers of aid projects to publish information on their activities in a common format that makes it more easily comparable and accessible. It consists of an agreement of data items that should be published and an electronic format for them to be published in.