



South Sudan

BACKGROUND

In 2011, great joy and relief surrounded the birth of the world's newest country and its independence from Sudan. Sadly, less than three years later, South Sudan plunged into an internal bloody conflict. From 2013 to 2018, the horrific conflict resulted in the deaths of over 300,000 people and the displacement of nearly four million people.

In 2018, the parties signed a peace agreement; however, the elements of the deal have been slow moving and elusive. The continued corruption of ruling elites combined with atrocities committed against innocent civilians have deeply marred and inhibited the process.

Catholic Relief Services has worked in South Sudan for over 30 years, collaborating actively with implementing partners, beneficiary communities, local government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout the country.

BASED ON THIS EXPERIENCE, OUR POLICY PRIORITIES FOR SOUTH SUDAN ARE:

- Ensuring the US government leverages its diplomatic capacity to promote peace, governance, and rule of law in South Sudan.
- Addressing issues of food insecurity and contributing factors.
- Investing in trauma healing and peacebuilding.
- Strengthening basic health and primary education programs for the most vulnerable.
- Empowering local actors.