CURRENT SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan seceded from Sudan following decades of conflict and a referendum for independence in 2011. Just 18 months later, a power struggle between the new state’s president and vice president erupted into civil war. East African leaders helped mediate a ceasefire and peace agreement signed in August 2015, but the establishment of a transitional government has been slow and fighting has continued. Nearly 4 million South Sudanese face severe food insecurity, and more than 2 million are displaced by the war. International and African human rights groups have documented widespread human rights abuses and reported evidence that they are committed by both government and opposition forces.

USIP’S WORK

The United Institute of Peace (USIP) works to build peace in South Sudan through partnerships with the State Department, nongovernmental organizations, and local stakeholders. USIP’s recent projects include:

Exploring Power-Sharing Options for Peace. USIP, with Princeton University, is exploring arrangements for executive power-sharing governments in post-conflict countries worldwide. This is an effort to offer approaches that could help South Sudan return to peaceful and more effective governance.

Unlearning Violence. The Institute's Unlearning Violence program convenes civil society leaders, men and women, for programs that help develop their skills in resolving community-level conflicts. These include understanding the gender dimensions of those conflicts, including issues of masculinity. The skills also include facilitating intergroup dialogues to help manage such conflicts. The Unlearning Violence community works within the country to identify key stakeholders and areas for reconciliation work.

Sudd Institute. USIP provided start-up funding and capacity building support for the Sudd Institute, an independent policy institute based in the South Sudanese capital, Juba. The Sudd Institute has quickly developed into a leading South Sudanese voice on peace and security issues, including rule of law, justice, security sector reform, and relations with Sudan.

Radio for Peace. USIP and its affiliate, PeaceTech Lab, have worked with Free Voice South Sudan, a local media development organization, to produce Sawa Shabab (“Together Youth”), a dramatic radio series aired by nearly 30 local stations across all states of South Sudan. The program, in its third season, promotes peace and stability by empowering youth to be confident, open-minded and participatory citizens in a diverse society.

Youth Leaders Program. Since 2013, USIP has hosted Sudanese and South Sudanese peacebuilders under the age of 35 for four-month residencies in Washington, DC. They conduct research and work with USIP programs in ways that build their abilities for further work in Sudan or South Sudan. The first alumni of the program have started workshops, women's programs, libraries and literacy courses in support of their peacebuilding efforts. These youth leaders include Silvio Deng, (2015) and Othow Okoti Onger (2014).
USIP PUBLICATIONS

USIP staff and experts publish in-depth reports, as well as short, timely policy briefs, that distill expert research, lessons learned and problem-solving solutions to advance peacebuilding in South Sudan. Recent publications include:

- **South Sudan's Independence Day: No Cause for Celebration** (Olive Branch, July 2015)
- **Radio Days in South Sudan** (Foreign Policy Peace Channel, May 2015)
- **Local Peace Processes in Sudan and South Sudan** (Peaceworks, May 2014)
- **South Sudan's Religious Unity Can Help Heal Wounds of Violence** (Olive Branch, January 2014)
- **Crisis and Opportunity in South Sudan** (Peace Brief, January 2014)

USIP EVENTS

USIP hosts events that bring together thought leaders, scholars, experts, policy makers and elected officials to discuss peacebuilding efforts around the world and analyze current affairs. Recent USIP events on South Sudan or sub-Saharan Africa include:

- **Can South Sudan End Two Years of War?** In December 2015, USIP experts joined officials from the Office of the U.S. Special Envoy on Sudan and South Sudan for an online discussion about strategies for advancing the delayed peace process.
- **Independent South Sudan: A Failure of Leadership.** In December 2015, Ambassador Princeton Lyman, former U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the civil war in the country and the August 2015 peace agreement.
- **Women of Africa: Leadership in Peacebuilding and Development.** In May 2015, the ambassadors to the United States from Rwanda, Mozambique and Uganda marked the annual observance of Africa Day with a discussion highlighting women’s roles in peacebuilding and development.
- **A Year of War in South Sudan: A Facebook Discussion.** In December 2014, a year after violence erupted in South Sudan, USIP organized a Facebook discussion on the conflict. It addressed such topics as the peace process, transitional justice, and steps to achieve a lasting peace in South Sudan.
- **Africa and America: Partners in a Shared Future.** Alongside the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in July 2014, National Security Advisor Susan Rice spoke at USIP, drawing attention to Africa's progress in the past two decades and its possibilities for economic growth, good governance, and long-term stability.
- **U.S. Policy Today for Africa Tomorrow.** In July 2014, the Institute hosted a conversation on U.S.-Africa engagement. Speakers included USIP’s senior advisors, Ambassador Princeton Lyman and former Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson, as well as former Assistant Secretary George Moose, who is vice chairman of USIP’s Board of Directors.

FELLOWS

USIP has hosted scholars, policy analysts, and other experts focusing on Sudan and South Sudan, including:

- **Jok Madut Jok** (Senior Fellow, 2010-2011)
- **Ambassador Princeton Lyman** (Senior Fellow, 1999-2000; Senior Advisor, 2013-present)