

Country Assistance Policy for the Republic of South Sudan

September 2021

1. Purpose of Assistance in South Sudan

The Republic of South Sudan is located in the eastern part of sub-Saharan Africa, bordered by politically unstable neighbours such as Ethiopia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic. South Sudan is the world's newest country, having gained its independence in 2011 after a long period of conflict in Sudan to which South Sudan belonged from 1956 to 2011. Even after the independence, the country experienced two clashes between factions within the government. It is only in February 2020 that Revitalised Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) was established under the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict (R-ARCSS) led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), a regional body for East Africa. Since then the RTGoNU has been implementing the peace agreement towards national elections in 2023.¹

In addition to the difficult political situation, South Sudan faces a serious lack of social and economic infrastructure, basic services, and non-petroleum industries. Stabilization of security and improvement of governance, especially in rural areas, is a challenge. According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Human Development Index (HDI) in 2020, South Sudan is at an extremely low level with a rank of 185 out of 189 countries. In addition to a large number of internally displaced persons and the exodus of 2.2 million refugees to neighbouring countries, 8.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The recent increase in intercommunal clashes, massive flooding, and attacks by desert locusts have seriously endangered the country's food security.

In response to these challenges, the RTGoNU has been making efforts to consolidate peace and stabilize the economy under the National Development Strategy (2018-2021). IGAD and neighbouring countries are supporting the peace process in South Sudan, while various donors and international organizations are providing large-scale humanitarian and development assistance.

Japan's support to South Sudan in both humanitarian and development aspects not only contributes to consolidating peace and stabilizing the economy in South Sudan, but also is important for stabilizing the entire East Africa. Furthermore, it is meaningful for Japan to support South Sudan's economic and social development from the perspective of human security, peace, and stability, which Japan prioritises in the Development Cooperation Charter and the TICAD process, in addition to strengthening relations and expanding exchanges between Japan and South Sudan.

¹ In September 2022, the end of the term of the RTGoNU was extended from Feb 2023 to Feb 2025. Accordingly, national elections are expected to be held in December 2024.

2. Basic Policy of Japan's ODA (Major Target): To support for nation-building towards the consolidation of peace and economic stability

In order to promote the consolidation of peace and economic stability in South Sudan, Japan will support the development of a democratic and inclusive country, deepen the friendly relations between the two countries, and promote the stabilization of the region. On such support, the focus will be on the promotion of the peace process, the development of social and economic infrastructure, and the improvement of inclusive social services. It should be staying in line with the National Development Strategy of South Sudan as well as the perspective of human security and humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

In addition, in view of such support contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Japan will give consideration to the consistency with the goals on implementation.

3. Priority Areas (Medium Targets)

(1) Promotion of the peace process

Building trust between the government and the people as well as gender mainstreaming in peace and security are essential for the consolidation of stable and long-lasting peace. Japan will support the promotion of the peace process to build institutions and strengthen governance based on transparency, the rule of law, Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and human security, and therefore, be trusted by the people.

(2) Development of social and economic infrastructure

Strengthening the foundation for economic development and developing potential business environments in South Sudan are essential to promote trade and investment. Japan will support the development of social and economic infrastructure that contributes to sustainable development.

(3) Improvement of inclusive social services

Japan will support the inclusive and sustainable provision of social services such as WASH and healthcare. The focus will be on establishing and strengthening of the inclusive society and economy for refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, women and young people who are vulnerable to social and economic imbalances. More concretely, Japan will support the improvement of social services that tackle challenges such as lack of livelihoods, schooling and employment opportunities, social fragmentation and transitional justice, and promote the integration of these people into the society and economy.

4. Points to be considered

(1) "The New Approach to Peace and Stability in Africa (NAPSA)" should be referred to on the planning and implementation of support for institution-building and African-led peace support activities, as well as human resources development for conflict prevention

and peace consolidation;

- (2) Close monitor is needed not only on the development of the peace process in South Sudan but also on those in neighbouring Sudan and its impact of the bilateral relations on the domestic situation and South Sudan's development strategy;
- (3) The highest priority should be put on the safety of the people involved in the project. Paying attention to changes in the situation of the COVID-19 infection and the security situation is also critically important;
- (4) Careful attention should be paid to conflict prevention and the promotion of reconciliation, taking into account the relationship between refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and their host communities as well as tribal relations;
- (5) Proper attention should be paid to South Sudan's connectivity with neighbouring countries and the East African Community (EAC) as well as the potential for strengthening unity and development of regional economies (e.g. free trade agreements).

Annex: Rolling Plan