

South Sudan

COUNTRY PROFILE

During the past five years, southern Sudan has been recovering from a 20-year civil war, which destroyed the country's social, political, educational, medical and economic infrastructure. The ongoing guerrilla conflict in Darfur, which began in 2003, has claimed several hundred thousand lives. Violence has forced thousands of others to flee their homes, leaving everything behind. In 2011, the people of South Sudan voted to secede from the north and form their own country. Many people are returning to their native land in the south, but are finding little or no infrastructure and few employment opportunities there.

Who we serve

World Concern works with impoverished families struggling to survive in poor rural villages. As returnees attempt to resettle in their hometowns, we equip them with the tools needed to restart their lives.

How we help

Food security: Recognizing the immediate need for returnees and others to have enough to eat, we provide meals to children who are attending school regularly. As an incentive for more girls to attend school, they are given dry rations to take home as well. We also teach peasant farmers how to increase their crops, providing them with tools and improved techniques.

Vocational training: Opening a vocational training center in Warrap state helps the region improve economically. Students are trained in tailoring, creating jobs as well as providing locally made, affordable clothing—something that was previously unavailable. Others learn auto mechanics, enabling them to help the community with the repair of vehicles that have become inoperable because of minor mechanical problems.

Small business development: Supporting small businesses and empowering business owners improves economic conditions in southern Sudan. We're also establishing village savings and loan associations, training small business owners in business skills and providing basic education for adults.

Child development: The child mortality rate is high — mostly from preventable diseases. We teach children how to stay healthy and prevent the spread of diseases such as malaria, diarrhea and respiratory infections.



The lives of women in Sudan, like this mother, are improved through small business training, support and loans. Many women are participating in village savings groups that enable them to save and borrow money for their business.



Children are able to attend school when their parents work in a profitable industry. This lowers their risk of being forced into fighting as child soldiers, and offers them hope for a better future.



Awal used her loan from World Concern to start a small restaurant in her village. She earned \$30 in profit the first week she was in business.

Meet Awal

Awal always dreamed of opening her own restaurant, but she has five children and her husband abandoned them with no support. Just recently, her dream became a reality, thanks to small business training and funding from World Concern.

Awal built her restaurant from wood poles, plastic tarps and a hard dirt floor. She serves local dishes and fresh bread to customers in a seating area in the back. During her first 12 days in business, she made a \$30 profit. Previously, she could only afford to send one of her children to school.

She now earns enough to care for her family and send her older daughter to school for the first time.

About Sudan

Population: 42,272,000

Life expectancy: 58 years

Infant mortality rate: 81 per 1,000 live births

People living with HIV/AIDS: 320,000

Religions: Sunni Muslim 70% (north), Christian 5% (south), indigenous beliefs 25%

Literacy rate: 61.1%

Population below poverty line: 40%; 17% lives on less than \$1.25 per day

Primary school enrollment: 54%

Average income: \$1,130 per year

Sources: CIA World Factbook, UNICEF



About World Concern

World Concern, part of CRISTA Ministries, is a Christian humanitarian organization that helps lift people out of poverty. World Concern works with the poor in 22 countries, with the goal of transforming the lives of those we touch, leading them on a path to self-sustainability. Worldwide, World Concern offers life, opportunity and hope to nearly six million people. For more information on our work around the world, please visit www.worldconcern.org.