

SOUTHERN SUDAN REFERENDUM

Fact Sheet

5 January 2011



BACKGROUND

- Established under the provisions in the Southern Sudan Referendum Act of 2009, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) registered 3.9 million voters for the Southern Sudan Referendum between 15 November and 8 December 2010. This has been accepted by the SSRC and the International Community as a credible exercise laying necessary groundwork for the remainder of the process.
- Between 9 and 15 January 2011, registered voters in Sudan and eight OCV (out of country voting) countries (Australia, Canada, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States) will have the opportunity to cast their ballots in favour of unity or secession. Under the law, the referendum is deemed legally binding if at least 60% of registered voters turn out to vote. If the threshold is not met, the referendum is repeated within 60 days from the declaration of final results.
- Provided the turnout threshold is met, the winning ballot option (unity or secession) will be secured by a vote of 50% +1.

Voter Registration Figures & Threshold

The Final Referendum Register and the threshold of voters needed for the process to be deemed legally binding will be announced by the SSRC on 8 January 2011.

<u>Unofficial Registration Figures:</u> Northern Sudan: 116,860 (women 52%; male 48%) Southern Sudan: 3,753,815 (women 39%; male 61%) OCV: 60,241	<u>Referendum Centers: 2812 (in country)</u> Northern Sudan: 174 Southern Sudan: 2638 OCV: 80 polling stations
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Polling and Counting

- Polling is scheduled to start on 9 January 2011 and will take place over seven days, ending on 15 January. Referendum Centers are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Upon conclusion of the final polling day, ballots will be counted at each Referendum Center. Referendum Centers consist of five staff, except in special circumstances where additional staff is provided for centers with more than 2,000 registered voters.

Announcement of Results: A Multi-Step Process

- Results are announced at several levels, beginning with the Referendum Center at the end of polling and ending with the **Declaration of Final Results** by the SSRC Board of Commissioners. Barring any legal appeals of the results, SSRC is expected to declare the Final Results on or about **6 February**. If appeals are filed, the Final Results would be declared on **14 February**.
- Prior to the official declaration, unofficial results are also announced at the county level in Southern Sudan, the state level, and the country level (OCV).
- Official results are released only after the SSRC or its Juba-based Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau (SSRB) has entered into a database, verified and approved the results from each Referendum Center (or polling station in the case of OCV). SSRC/SSRC releases progressive results and posts them on the SSRC/SSRB websites.
- Official results for Southern Sudan are declared by the SSRB, while the SSRC Headquarters in Khartoum announces official results from "Other Locations" (Northern Sudan and OCV). SSRC adds

the Results for Southern Sudan to the Results for Other Locations and announces the “Preliminary Results for the Referendum.”

Appeals to the Results & Final Declaration:

- Voters have three days from the SSRC’s Declaration of Preliminary Results to appeal the results of the Referendum Center where they voted to either the Supreme Court of Sudan or the Supreme Court of Southern Sudan. The Court has seven days to hear the appeal, take a decision, and inform the SSRC of its decision.
- SSRC takes into consideration any decisions issued by the Court.
- 48 hours after the close of the appeals period, SSRC issues its Declaration of “Final Referendum Results”

Observers & Monitors

- Approximately 17,185 domestic observers (which include political party representatives) have been accredited by the SSRC. Approximately 1,200 international observers will observe the process in Sudan and in the OCV countries. Among the international observer organizations are The Carter Center, the European Union, the African Union, the League of Arab States, and Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD).
- At the request of the CPA parties, a special panel was appointed by the UN Secretary General to report on the conduct of the referendum and encourage the parties and relevant authorities to take corrective measures to resolve any significant problems or disputes that may arise.

Security & Anti-Fraud Measures during Voting

- All voters must present their registration card when voting;
- Each registration card has a unique serial number that matches the registration form. Each card is laminated to prevent subsequent alterations;
- The registration card will be hole-punched during voting and returned to the voter in the event a second-round of voting is required. Punching of the card is an additional safeguard against multiple voting.
- Voters will also place their thumbprint against the original registration record and have their finger inked at the time of voting.

UN Support to the SSRC & the Referendum Process

UNIRED provides technical advice and assistance to the SSRC and its subsidiary bodies. Nearly 340 UNIRED staff (two-thirds of them are UN Volunteers) work to support the SSRC at the headquarters and Juba levels, as well as at the state and county levels in Southern Sudan, and in five areas in the North where there are concentrations of Southern Sudanese—Khartoum, Kassala, El Fasher, Kadugli, and Ed Damazin.

The UN, in cooperation with its international partners, has also provided financial and logistical support to the referendum process. This support includes procurement and transportation of registration and polling kits, registration books and cards, training materials, voter education material, office furniture and equipment, and vehicles (including cars and motorbikes) throughout Sudan. UN air assets transport materials to and from remote and isolated Referendum Centers.

- Distribution of materials is a key challenge that faces the SSRC, given the size of the country and the lack of infrastructure in some areas. UNIRED provides assistance by distributing referendum materials from Khartoum and Juba to the state capitals and onwards to the county level in Southern Sudan. From the county, the SSRC transports materials to the Referendum Centers by various means, including but not limited to 4x 4 vehicles, motorcycles, boats, canoes, and animals (e.g., donkeys and camels).

- In Southern Sudan 1,232,233 kilograms of materials has been delivered via domestic flights funded by the UNDP Basket Fund (materials include voter education posters, stationary, IT equipment, manuals, training kits and polling materials).
- Between 30 December 2010 and 3 January 2011, UNMIS flights delivered 29,288 kilograms of material to 50 remote drop off points serving 473 Referendum Centers in Southern Sudan.
- **Security training:** UN Police have trained thousands of Sudanese police throughout the country on referendum security. Some 17,600 officers in Southern Sudan and 4,500 in Northern Sudan have been trained. UN Police are also serving on Referendum Security Committees to provide advice and support to the Sudanese police.
- **UNDP Basket Fund:** A total of \$69,456,016 has been committed, and \$56,035,522 received. The UNDP Basket Fund donors include Australia, Canada, Denmark, DFID, EU, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.

Other International Partners

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), in coordination with Southern Sudanese organizations, is assisting SSRC in the organization and supervision of the out-of-country process.

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), funded by USAID, is supporting the referendum process with technical advisory assistance and material support (procurement of registration and polling materials, staff training, office furniture and equipment).

Additional Sources of Information:

UNMIS Website: <http://unmis.unmissions.org/> **UNDP Website:** <http://www.sd.undp.org>

OCV Registration & Voting: <http://www.southern Sudanocv.org>

SSRC Website: <http://www.ssrc.sd> **SSRB Website:** <http://ssrbureau.org>