

# Southern Sudan: Food crisis and violence on the rise in 2009



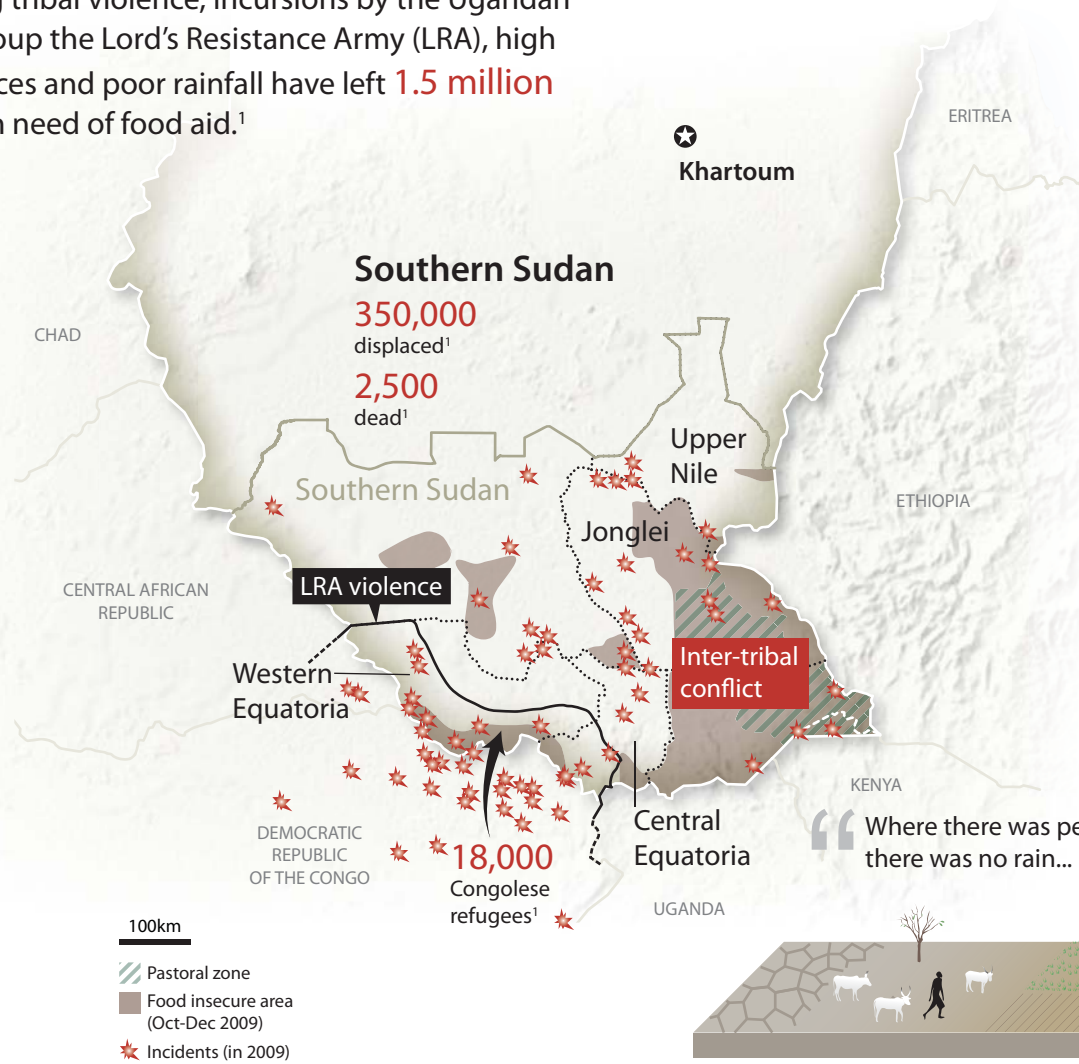
Escalating tribal violence, incursions by the Ugandan rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), high food prices and poor rainfall have left **1.5 million** people in need of food aid.<sup>1</sup>

## LRA violence

The LRA is a rebel movement formed in the late 1980s against the Government of Uganda. Its fighters crossed the borders into Southern Sudan in 2005, then into the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and now are making incursions into the Central African Republic.

The LRA increased their attacks following a joint military operation by the DRC, Uganda and Sudan against the LRA in December 2008. Civilians are being killed, injured, abducted and raped; villages are pillaged and burned.

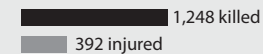
The humanitarian crisis is exacerbated by the influx of Congolese fleeing the LRA attacks in DRC.<sup>2</sup>



## Inter-tribal conflict

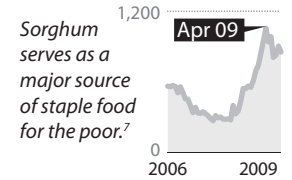
Inter-tribal violence is far more intense and of a very different nature than in previous years. The massacres in 2009 in civilian settlements – and not just raids on cattle camps – surpassed traditional skirmishes, with women and children intentionally targeted.<sup>1</sup>

*In the attacks to which MSF responded in 2009, the number of reported deaths was three times higher than the number wounded.<sup>5</sup>*

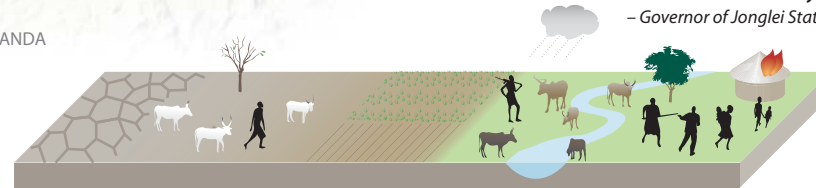


## High food prices

**Sorghum wholesale prices** (Sudanese pounds per MT)<sup>7</sup>



“Where there was peace, there was no rain...  
... where there were good rains, there was insecurity.”  
– Governor of Jonglei State<sup>4</sup>



Pastoralism is a tradition: herders migrate their animals in search of water and pasture during the dry season<sup>3</sup>, creating tension with rival ethnic groups over grazing lands.<sup>4</sup>

## Typical season in Southern Sudan<sup>8</sup>



**Disclaimer:**  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on all maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**Creation date:** 30 Dec 2009

**Data sources:** UNCS (international boundary), OCHA (admin boundary), FEWS (livelihood & food security zones<sup>9</sup>), ACLED (incidents), OCHA (incidents in Sudan), IRIN (incidents<sup>5</sup>)

**References:**  
<sup>1</sup>OCHA. 2010 Humanitarian Work Plan. Dec 2009.  
<sup>2</sup>OHCHR. Twelfth periodic report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. Dec 2009.  
<sup>3</sup>UNDP. Reduction of Resource Based Conflicts among Pastoralists and Farmers. 28 Dec 2003.  
<sup>4</sup>IRIN. Sudan: Increasing hunger could fuel conflict in south. 16 Nov 2009.  
<sup>5</sup>MSF. Facing up to reality – Health crisis deepens as violence escalates in Southern Sudan. Dec 2009.  
<sup>6</sup>FEWS NET. South Sudan Food Security Update – November 2009. 24 Nov 2009.  
<sup>7</sup>FAO. Sudan Monthly Market Update - Bulletin # 23. Nov 2009.  
<sup>8</sup>FAO/WFP. Mid-Season Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to Southern Sudan Report. Sep 2009.  
<sup>9</sup>IRIN. Central African Republic: The LRA – not finished yet. 1 Oct 2009.