

BUFF/17/13

March 9, 2017

**Statement by the Staff Representative on the Republic of South Sudan
Executive Board Meeting
March 15, 2017**

This statement contains information that has become available since the staff report was circulated to the Executive Board. This information does not alter the thrust of the staff appraisal.

1. **The food security situation in South Sudan continues to deteriorate.** The South Sudanese government and UN agencies declared recently a famine in two counties in northern South Sudan. The famine is currently affecting an estimated 100,000 people, while famine could be declared in other areas at the height of the 2017 lean season in July unless additional assistance becomes available. The famine is a result of prolonged civil war and entrenched economic crisis. While humanitarian access to the affected areas is a major challenge, aid agencies have recently been able to deliver assistance, but reportedly only for a short period of time.
2. **The South Sudanese refugee crisis worsens.** Since the escalation of violence in July 2016, the number of South Sudanese refugees into neighboring countries has accelerated, particularly from the southern parts of the country where fighting had been less intensive in the past. The UN estimates that about 1.5 million South Sudanese have left the country for refuge in neighboring countries since late 2013. This refugee displacement is currently the third largest in the world.