**Existing Situation**

Humanitarian operations in Southern Sudan are primarily served by two separate humanitarian air operations. Both services are operated by WFP HAS. Government of Sudan (GoS) locations are served from Khartoum and SPLM locations from Lokichoggio. The service from the north is free, whilst the service from the south is on a full cost recovery basis. The north supports all passenger movements and a parcel service (up to 25kg) for humanitarian agencies and government staff, whilst the south only supports those Agencies affiliated to Operation Life Line Sudan (OLS). This service includes passenger, food and non-food item movements. The north facilitates approximately 7,000 passengers per annum and the south approximately 20,000. The two systems are essentially run independently from each other.

Limited commercial passenger and cargo services are available inside Sudan from the north (GoS locations only). The safety and reliability of the available services are questionable. Commercial flights from Lokichoggio to SPLM locations are available, and generally reliable but the capacity to move medium to heavy lift cargo is restricted. Additional commercial air services to SPLM locations exist from Uganda.

At present more than 300 airstrips are in use in Southern Sudan. The majority of these strips are not certified or licensed. Some airstrips such as Rumbek are being upgraded to accommodate aircraft up to C 130 standard. Fuel availability in the south is also rather restricted. Also see [Fuel in Southern Sudan](http://www.unjlc.org/content/index.phtml/itemId/20700).

Limited aviation control and airspace management is enforced in Southern Sudan. Humanitarian and commercial aircraft originating from or landing in GoS controlled locations are controlled by the Sudanese Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). OLS flights originating from or landing in SPLM controlled locations comply with regulations described in OLS tripartite agreements. Commercial flights originating from or landing in SPLM controlled locations fall outside both Sudanese CAA and OLS control.

**Issues**

1. High passenger and cargo costs (from the south)
2. Limited air space control.
3. Airstrip safety and crowd control.
4. Post – peace air safety due to increased air traffic (commercial, humanitarian and DPKO) within Sudanese airspace. Increased Airspace control required.
5. Post – peace coordination of north and Southern humanitarian air operations as well as other air operations. (DPKO, JMC, AU, etc)
6. Encouragement of commercial sector to enhance air operation capacity within Sudan.

**Options/Recommendations:**

- User Group Committees to promote more client oriented humanitarian air services.
- A single common humanitarian air service to emerge for all of Sudan.
- A single and standard cost recovery system developed for humanitarian air operations.
- Post – peace air service requirements planned by humanitarian community, north and south.
- Increased hub and spoke air operations.
- Hub airfields upgraded to meet minimum operational and safety requirements.
- Minimum standards for operations and safety standards implemented for all airstrips used in humanitarian operations.
- Increased flight following in north and south for all flights.
- Investment in improved equipment to manage command and control over Southern Sudanese airspace.
- Humanitarian air operations liaison with DPKO and other stakeholders to coordinate priorities, de-conflicting, operational bases and services, as well as operational protocols.

This Snapshot has drawn from the following report that is publicly available online or from UNJLC Nairobi or Khartoum:

- UNJLC, Overview of Humanitarian Air Services, Nairobi/Khartoum, 2004
  [http://www.unjlc.org/content/index.phtml/itemId/20700](http://www.unjlc.org/content/index.phtml/itemId/20700)

Also of interest may be the UNJLC publication:

- UNJLC, Jungle Handbook: Airfields South Sudan, Nairobi, 2004
  Email: sudan@unjlc.org

**The UNJLC Sudan Snapshot Series:**

1. Fuel in Southern Sudan
2. Southern Sudan Air Operations
3. Government Controlled Towns in South Sudan