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ICRC IN SOUTH SUDAN

NEWSLETTER

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Helping communities stand on their feet again

For the past two and a half years, the South Sudanese have lived through distressing times.

In the many areas hard-hit by the conflict, millions were uprooted as they found themselves either caught in the crossfire or worse, direct victims of intense fighting. Crops were destroyed, entire villages burned to ashes, millions separated from loved ones and massive cattle raids conducted.

Tens of thousands were forced to seek refuge in swamps, relying on wild resources to survive, while others found themselves in makeshift camps rid of their means for survival and entirely dependent on aid.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has rapidly assisted those affected by warfare through an exceptional mechanism: the dropping of food assistance from planes. South Sudan is the only country in the world where the ICRC currently airdrops food, a true lifeline in times of need. Extreme circumstances called for these types of exceptional measures.

Following the hunger gap, and in areas where fighting has come to a halt and as other organizations in South Sudan gradually step in to provide food aid in areas previously covered by the ICRC, the organization will begin scaling down its airdrop operations and focus on activities in line with the organization's core mandate: resilience building and protection.

Complementary to this shift in focus, the ICRC will maintain its capacity to respond to emergencies. With teams present in 14 bases across the country, the ICRC's proximity to communities remains at the heart of its ability to respond to emerging urgent needs.

The latest events in Raja and Wau called precisely on this type of response. Within 48 hours, the ICRC delivered food, tarpaulins, and mosquito nets and provided safe drinking water to tens of thousands of people displaced.

As people begin to rebuild their coping mechanisms and income-generating abilities, we will continue to distribute seeds and tools as we have this year, so that families may restart their farming activities and become increasingly self-reliant.

Together with the Ministry of Agriculture we will continue to provide technical follow-up on crop production to farmers we delivered seeds and tools to.

The ICRC will also maintain its cattle vaccination programs, and we will continue to provide services to help separated families find one another again.

The ICRC remains committed to maintaining a presence in South Sudan for the foreseeable future be it for emergencies as they arise or for resilience building programs adapted to local communities.

Together with the South Sudan Red Cross, the ICRC responds to the urgent needs of communities most severely affected by consequences of armed conflict and situations of violence. With 14 field bases covering the Equatorias, Greater Bahr El-Ghazal and Greater Upper Nile, South Sudan remains the ICRC's largest operation on the African continent.

In response to people's most **urgent needs** and to help build the **resilience** of the displaced, the ICRC and the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) have:



Distributed over **6,900 metric tons** of food (360,000 people assisted)
 Provided household essentials for **85,000** people
 Provided nearly **185,000** people with seeds and tools for farming, over **65,000** with fishing kits



Vaccinated more than **360,000** heads of livestock
 Treated **117,000** animals, benefitting nearly **116,000** people
 Trained over **160** community animal health workers and provided them with drugs



Ensured access to safe drinking water for over **64,800** resident and displaced people through the rehabilitation of **44** water infrastructures
 Installed emergency water units benefitting more than **50,000** people

To support the access to **health** and in the provision of surgical care the ICRC has:



Performed nearly **1,900** surgeries
 Conducted more than **55,000** outpatient consultations
 Provided medical materials to **8** first-aid and other healthcare facilities
 Trained **275** weapon bearers in First Aid



Provided antenatal care for **1,700** women, safe deliveries for over **330** and more than **6,000** vaccine doses for children under one year old



Assisted nearly **1,450** people with disabilities
 Evacuated **187** war wounded

Through visits to places of **detention**, the ICRC supports authorities to adhere to international standards:



Visited more than **4,815** detainees throughout the country
 Improved living conditions for **2,454** and implemented preventive measures against malnutrition

To help **reconnect family members** separated by the conflict the ICRC and SSRC have:



Facilitated nearly **17,000** phone calls between family members separated by the conflict
 Distributed more than **850** Red Cross messages



Reunited **9** children and vulnerable people with their families

To promote knowledge and respect for **International Humanitarian Law**, the ICRC has:



Trained over **1,900** weapon bearers, from both sides of the conflict

MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



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