

SOUTH SUDAN

NEWSLETTER

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PROTECTING LIVESTOCK IN SOUTH SUDAN

Keeping livestock alive and healthy is vital in a country where most of the population heavily depends on cattle, sheep and goats for their livelihood. But it's also a very real challenge.

Decades of armed conflict continue to undermine veterinary services in South Sudan. It increases the risk of epidemics, parasites, wounds and health issues that hamper the production and reproduction of livestock. For the past **30** years, the ICRC has implemented Livestock projects to mitigate these risks.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) helps to protect animals from diseases and strengthen the resilience of communities affected by the armed conflict. The ICRC is working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and Fishing (MAARF) to provide training to "Community Animal Health Workers" (CAHWs) who work with communities to treat sick animals and carry out preventive vaccination campaigns. The CAHWs receive refresher training from ICRC veterinarians to improve their knowledge and practices. They are also supported with transportation and logistics to keep the vaccines cold.

One of the CAHWs is Issa Usman, who says, "I have learned about all the different drugs and I receive a small fee from cattle owners when we give the vaccines and the drugs. I am 100% satisfied with the

ICRC because since we started the vaccinations, the cattle has been very healthy", he says.

The ICRC vaccinates and treats livestock based on three main pillars. The first one concerns income generation as cattle can be seen as a stable financial asset and "mobile bank account". Most people keep cattle and sell animals to pay for things they need, like school fees or food. The second pillar is about social life, as throughout South Sudan getting married implies paying dowry ranging from ten to 100 head of cattle. The third pillar is food production as many children are fed on goat milk.

"We have learned about the different diseases since we were young, because we have always moved with the animals. When the ICRC came, we were very interested because they were presenting a treatment for the same diseases that we already know. When the animals are healthy, they produce more milk", Osman Bello, a Falatta nomad says.

Keeping livestock healthy allows communities to continue to sustain themselves. "In a country with so many conflict dynamics, you can preventively move with your livestock. You cannot do this with your crops", says Ada Jacobsen, ICRC Livestock specialist. It can also help reduce tensions between tribes when, for example, one flock of livestock become sick, imperiling that community's health and welfare.

FACTS & FIGURES, JANUARY – MARCH 2018



TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE'S MOST URGENT NEEDS AND TO HELP THEM BUILD RESILIENCE, THE ICRC TOGETHER WITH THE SOUTH SUDAN RED CROSS (SSRC) HAVE:



Distributed over **13,300** monthly household food rations, equivalent to more than **1,675** metric tons of food, to almost **62,000** people in need;



Provided essential household kits items to over **55,250** people;



Provided over **64,600** people with seeds and tools for farming, and some **76,450** people with fishing kits;



Vaccinated more than **90,000** heads of livestock, treated another **19,000** benefitting over **17,500** people.

Improved access to safe drinking water for some **267,000** people through the implementation of **6** new water points and rehabilitation of **6** water facilities and **11** hand pumps.

Maintained **2** emergency surface water treatment units benefitting more than **14,500** people in Juba and Aburoc..



TO HELP IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH AND PROVISION OF SURGICAL CARE THE ICRC HAS:



Performed **851** surgical interventions;

Provided more than **34,843** outpatient consultations and treated **765** in-patients;

Evacuated **180** weapon wounded people;

Carried out renovation and extension work in **4** health facilities.



Provided antenatal consultations for **2,541** women, safe deliveries for **414** women and vaccinated **5,448** women and children;

Assisted **893** people with disabilities with mobility devices and physiotherapy.



TO HELP IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR DETAINEES THE ICRC HAS:

Visited close to **3,000** detainees throughout the country;

Improved living conditions as well as access to health care, and implemented preventive and curative measures against malnutrition for more than **2,000** detainees in **6** Central Prisons;



TO HELP RECONNECT FAMILY MEMBERS SEPARATED BY THE CONFLICT THE ICRC AND SSRC HAVE:



Facilitated **15,707** phone calls between family members separated by the conflict;

Helped exchange **1,467** Red Cross messages with family news;

Reunited **28** vulnerable persons, including children, with their families.

Facilitated the dignified recovery and burial of **49** human remains.



TO PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) AND THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (IHRL) THE ICRC HAS



Trained over **900** military on IHL and nearly **250** police personnel on IHRL

Raised awareness among almost **670** weapon bearers and health staff on safe access to health care, over **1050** beneficiaries and community members had access to life-saving, useful and actionable information about the ICRC and its humanitarian services.



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