

SOUTH SUDAN

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2019



SOUTH SUDAN: ONCE A SOLDIER NOW A GARDENER, DANIEL ROOTS FOR RESILIENCE

Daniel is a hardworking man. While most people avoid stepping out under the burning sun, he chooses to work tirelessly on the land surrounding the physical rehabilitation centre supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Juba, South Sudan. For more than two years now, Daniel's routine has revolved around this stretch of earth. He uproots weeds, plants fruits and vegetables and waters them faithfully every day.

The first time Daniel pushed through the ICRC centre's door was as a patient. A soldier then, an injury had changed the course of his life. Part of his left leg was amputated and he was fitted with a prosthetic limb and given physiotherapy.

Though life was no longer what it used to be, Daniel refused to be stopped. Getting back on his feet, he participated in a project aimed at training former patients to grow vegetable gardens. The man who was once a soldier traded his rifle for a spade and soon became one of the most motivated trainees.

When the project ended, he volunteered to take care of the vast space surrounding the rehabilitation centre. Starting with one small patch of land, he has kept expanding month after month and makes no attempt to hide his ambition.

"I want to cultivate as much space as possible," he says. Most of what Daniel grows is sold among employees of the rehabilitation centre and the remaining produce makes its way to the local market.

But food isn't the only thing the gardener provides. Other patients like him who have lost the use of one or more limbs join Daniel in the garden as part of a new project that allows them to volunteer and learn how to deal with their disability. Between sharing gardening tips, Daniel also talks about his life and what keeps him going.

While some stories and situations are more complicated than others, through Daniel's support those who were recently amputated are able to believe that their lives aren't over and they can continue to dream.

Christine Lund, ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Programme Manager says, "Functional training is an important element of the rehabilitation process, physically as well as in terms of confidence building and motivation. Daniel is a strong role model for the other patients."

The ICRC gave Daniel the care and support he needed to resume as normal a life as possible. In turn, he strives to pass on these tools onto others, helping them build their resilience.

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THE ICRC PHYSICAL REHABILITATION SERVICES IN SOUTH SUDAN

Access to physical rehabilitation services is a major challenge in South Sudan. Insecurity, lack of infrastructures and financial constraints have severely limited the local capacity. The objective of the ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Program is to improve access, quality and sustainability of physical rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and to promote their social inclusion.

The services include the provision of prosthetic and orthotic devices (artificial limbs, braces, etc.), physiotherapy, wheelchair services and walking aids. The program also includes promotion of social inclusion of persons with disabilities, a major challenge in a context where people struggle to cover their most basic needs. The program also offers several income-generating activities for persons with disabilities, including an agriculture program in Juba that gives beneficiaries the opportunity to take part in gardening activities and sell the product of their work.

In South Sudan, the ICRC supports physical rehabilitation services which are under the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare. Currently there are three Physical Rehabilitation Centres in Juba, Rumbek and Wau. In 2018, **3,224** people with disabilities have been assisted with mobility devices and physiotherapy.

FACTS & FIGURES: JANUARY – MARCH 2019



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

Helped **143,578** people with food rations amounting to more than **2,350** metric tonnes.
Provided essential household items to over **32,700** people.
Provided over **71,000** people with seed and tools and about **12,060** people with fishing tools.
Vaccinated more than **290,000** heads of livestock against four diseases and treated over **6,000** animals, benefiting over **46,000** people. **35** community animal health workers were also trained.
Two nutrition sensitive projects are currently being implemented at Juba Military Hospital and National Prison Services, benefiting more than **3,000** people. Over **60,200** people now have access to safe drinking water due to **seven** facilities that have either been built or renovated.
Maintained **one** emergency surface water treatment unit, benefiting more than **10,000** people in Aburoch and carried out other emergency supply initiatives for over **14,500** people.
Carried out renovation and extension work in **four** primary health-care facilities and **one** hospital.
Improved living conditions for **1,300** detainees in **two** places of detention.



TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, THE ICRC:

Performed **511** surgeries and medical procedures.
Provided more than **83,516** outpatient consultations and treated **3,325** in-patients.
Evacuated **219** people wounded in armed confrontations.
Provided antenatal consultations for **9,325** women and vaccinated **15,583** women and children.
Helped **1,377** women with safe deliveries.
Helped **887** disabled people with mobility devices and physiotherapy.



TO HELP IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR DETAINEES THE ICRC HAS:

Visited close to **2385** 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 **2,212** detainees in **6** Central Prisons.



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

Facilitated **4,734** phone calls between family members separated by the conflict
Helped exchange **683** Red Cross messages with family news.
Reunited **10** vulnerable persons, including children, with their families.



TO PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, THE ICRC:

Trained over **1,100** military personnel in IHL and more than **450** police personnel in IHRL.
Raised awareness among over **7,320** people affected by armed conflict, community members and health-care staff on life-saving information about the ICRC and its humanitarian services.



PARTNERSHIPS AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE SSRC

Enhanced SSRC operational capacity to respond to emergencies by training and re-training **104** Emergency Action Teams at **4** Branches. **255** EAT members were deployed around the country for First Aid response.
Facilitated the Movement support to SSRC preparedness for Ebola response resulting in establishing social mobilization and Safe and Dignified Burials in **4** Branches through training **180** volunteers



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