

ICRC IN SOUTH SUDAN

As the crisis in South Sudan continues well into its second year, the ICRC and the South Sudan Red Cross continue to work hard to provide relief to hundreds of thousands affected by the situation, including:

- ◆ Providing surgery and **treatment for weapon-wounded people**, as well as supplies, logistical and technical support to local medical facilities;
- ◆ Providing **food and essential household items**, as well as livestock vaccinations, for displaced people and others affected by conflict and armed violence;
- ◆ Providing **clean water** and improving water and sanitation systems; and
- ◆ **Restoring contact between family members** separated by the conflict, including helping reunite children with their families.

As the conflict has intensified in the past months, thousands of people have been displaced, creating greater humanitarian needs during the crucial planting season. As the rainy season approaches yet again, Franz Rauchenstein, the Head of the ICRC's delegation in South Sudan, discusses the ICRC's work over the past year and a half and how it has evolved to fit the needs in the country today:

"Before the current conflict, this delegation was focused on livelihood assistance, protection and capacity building. After the outbreak of violence in December 2013, the delegation scaled up in order to bolster its emergency response capacity. We began airdropping food and other relief items to vulnerable populations in remote parts of the country. The ICRC scaled up its emergency medical services; we now have five mobile surgical teams (MSTs) working around the country to treat war wounded.

We also changed our modus operandi; for instance, we now have ten planes and two helicopters that are critical to moving aid and staff around the country.

In short, this delegation has seen a major scale up since 2013, with budget and staff more than doubling in the last two years in response to growing humanitarian needs. Today, the delegation in South Sudan is the second largest operation in the world, and we are seeking further support that will enable us to better respond to ever growing humanitarian needs.

Some of the biggest challenges in South Sudan are logistical. Planes and helicopters are needed to reach many areas where large populations of people in need have fled, and the climate often presents challenges to landing the aircraft. During the dry season, transport is much easier. But, during the rainy season – from April to November – the challenges are enormous as the landing strips are saturated and the soil turns to mud. This means that sometimes planes can't land for weeks.

Airdrops are effective during the rainy season, but many activities require the ability to land aircraft through the year. This requires us to use smaller and more nimble teams that can be transported via helicopter. We have found ways to anchor ourselves in the field with smaller bases which enable the delegation to deploy a multi-sector response, including both emergency assistance and protection."

Around South Sudan, the ICRC continues to address the needs of those affected by conflict and displacement with both emergency response as well as livelihoods support through activities such as livestock vaccination, support to primary healthcare centres, and distribution of seeds and tools.

The ICRC maintains a confidential dialogue with the parties to the conflict, continuously reminding them of their obligation to respect civilians and those no longer taking part in hostilities according to their obligations under International Humanitarian Law.



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The organization is constantly adapting its logistics capacities to deliver food and essential items to respond to the tremendous needs of people in South Sudan in the shortest time possible.

Since the beginning of the current crisis in December 2013, the ICRC has carried out the following:

In the area of **health**, the ICRC has:

- ◆ Performed nearly 5,500 surgeries in 15 local health facilities;
- ◆ Assisted more than 3,000 people with disabilities with various services in three physical rehabilitation centres run or supported by the ICRC;
- ◆ Conducted over 23,600 outpatient consultations and provided antenatal care for more than 1,800 women, safe deliveries for 162 women, and administered more than 3,200 vaccine doses to children under 1 year in 3 primary healthcare facilities.
- ◆ Provided medical materials to 54 first-aid and other health-care facilities.

South Sudan Red Cross teams complemented this work by assisting patients with nearly 19,000 dressings.

To assist **displaced people** and others affected by the conflict, the ICRC, together with the South Sudan Red Cross, has:

- ◆ Provided over 1,100,700 monthly food rations to people in Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Jonglei, Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal, Western and Central Equatoria states, helping on a regular basis over 150,000 people in the most affected areas;
- ◆ Provided household essentials for over 512,000 people throughout the country, with 115,000 assisted more than once.
- ◆ Provided safe drinking water for over 399,000 residents and displaced people through the rehabilitation of 427 water infrastructures such as hand pumps and water yards in conflict-affected areas of Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity States and in the Greater Equatoria and Greater Bahr el Ghazal regions;
- ◆ With construction of sanitation facilities for nearly 22,100 people in Mingkaman and Fashoda County, installation of emergency water treatment units in Torit, Lul, and Kodok to benefit 120,000 people, and additional latrines under construction in Kodok for the benefit of up to 3,200 residents, new projects seek to lower the risk of outbreak of water-borne diseases such as cholera ahead of the upcoming rainy season.

To help **build the resilience of communities** to cope with serious food insecurity, the ICRC has:

- ◆ Provided over 433,500 people with seeds and tools - a majority of them receiving both - for their own farming activities, and more than 178,500 people with fishing kits to enhance food security;
- ◆ Vaccinated 591,000 heads of livestock and treated over 96,000 animals, benefitting more than 257,000 people in several areas of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes, Upper Nile, Unity, Jonglei, and Central Equatoria states;
- ◆ Trained 273 Community Animal Health Workers and equipped 186 of them with kits containing drugs and working tools.



Through **visits to places of detention**, the ICRC has supported the detaining authorities in adhering to international standards and responding to emergencies. Notably, it has:

- ◆ Visited over 9,400 people held in various places of detention;
- ◆ Engaged in renovation works in Juba, Aweil, and Wau Central Prisons which will improve the living conditions of up to 1,000 detainees.

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

- ◆ Arranged for over 21,700 phone calls successfully made between family members and more than 2,800 Red Cross messages containing family news;
- ◆ Registered 113 unaccompanied children within South Sudan;
- ◆ Reunited more than 50 children and vulnerable people with their families.

To promote knowledge and **respect for international humanitarian law** (IHL), the ICRC has:

- ◆ Delivered training or dissemination sessions on IHL to more than 2,300 members of the armed forces, armed groups and other weapon bearers.

MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) 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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