

## ICRC IN SOUTH SUDAN

**150** years  
of humanitarian action

Pawel Krzysiek / ICRC



Since the outbreak of the conflict in December 2013, the ICRC and the South Sudan Red Cross have been working hard to provide relief to hundreds of thousands affected by the situation, including:

- Providing surgeries and **treatment for weapon-wounded people**, as well as supplies, logistical and technical support to local medical facilities;
- Providing **food and essential household items**, including tents and tarpaulins, 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.

With the onset of the rainy season, which made many parts of the country difficult to access, the ICRC has continued to work across all 10 states of South Sudan to meet urgent needs in places such as Lakes, communities in northern Jonglei, Twic county (Jonglei), Bor, Malakal, Kodok, Warrap and Leer.

A highlight of the month was the response to cholera that affected several areas of the country starting from mid-June. Hand-in-hand with the South Sudan Red Cross, the ICRC is working to combat the spread of disease in key locations, in particular these affected by recent violence.

In Fashoda county of the Upper Nile state - which is hosting a significant number of people displaced by the internal armed conflict - the ICRC with the support of the South Sudan Red Cross has set up cholera treatment centres, distributed basic hygiene items for over 50,000 people, built latrines and improved water supply system in support to local health facilities that

benefitted some 120,000 people. Hand washing stations and footbaths were also set up by the riversides in Kodok, Lul and Wau Shiluk to prevent cholera to spread. In these areas, the two organisations have intensified their awareness campaign, conducting sensitisation sessions with the communities.

In the locations most at risk of cholera outbreaks, the South Sudan Red Cross - supported by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners - have also engaged people in their communities through radio spots, talk shows and presentations at markets and other public places to pass potentially life-saving information.

Finally, in Torit the ICRC has set up an emergency water treatment system to provide up to 40,000 people with safe drinking water in coordination with other humanitarian partners and local authorities.

Elsewhere in the country, the ICRC continues to address the needs of those affected by violence and displacement. The organisation is facilitating telephone calls between separated family members and regularly carries out its visits to places of detention.

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.

Furthermore, the ICRC is constantly adapting and increasing its logistics capacities to deliver food and essential items to respond to growing needs of people in South Sudan in the shortest time possible.



Cynthia Lee / ICRC

The ICRC has been working in partnership with the South Sudan Red Cross. Its response is complemented by the activities of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and a number of partner national Red Cross Societies.

Between the beginning of the emergency in December 2013 and the end of July 2014, the ICRC has undertaken the following:

#### In the area of **health**:

- Performed over 2,400 surgeries on patients in 13 local health facilities;
- Assisted nearly 800 people with disabilities in three physical rehabilitation centres run or supported by the ICRC;
- Provided medical materials to 34 first-aid and other health-care facilities.

South Sudan Red Cross teams complemented this work by assisting patients with nearly 7,000 dressings.

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

- Provided food for more than 511,000 people in Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Jonglei, Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Western and Central Equatoria states;
- Provided household essentials for over 500,000 people throughout the country;
- Provided clean water for more than 164,000 displaced people and others in conflict-affected areas as well as in health and detention facilities in various parts of the country;
- Provided access to adequate sanitation facilities for over 15,000 people in Mingkaman and Lul.

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

- Vaccinated more than 132,000 heads of livestock, and treated nearly 40,000 animals benefitting an estimated 115,000 people in several areas in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes and Upper Nile states;
- Trained nearly 129 community animal health workers;
- Provided nearly 200,000 people with seeds - and a majority of them also benefitting from distributions of tools - for their own farming and

over 121,000 people with fishing kits to enhance food security;

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:

- Supported cholera prevention measures and delivered clean water in Juba and Torit prisons, including a donation of cleaning and hygiene products and three hygiene promotion sessions with nearly 1,700 detainees and staff;
- Provided a two-week food supply for over 350 detainees affected by the emergency;
- Visited nearly 3,000 people held in various places of detention.

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

- Arranged for over 6,400 phone calls successfully made between family members and nearly 400 Red Cross messages containing family news;
- Registered 68 unaccompanied children within South Sudan.



Pawel Krzysiek / ICRC

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

- Delivered training or dissemination sessions on IHL to nearly 950 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 endeavors 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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