



ICRC IN SOUTH SUDAN

WHO WE ARE

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) helps people affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, around the world, to protect their lives and dignity and relieve their suffering. In South Sudan, we do so, often alongside with the National Red Cross Society.

The work carried out in South Sudan is designed to restore and improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people by providing communities with essential household items to help rebuild their livelihoods, and by delivering health care, physical rehabilitation, and psychosocial support. The ICRC also repairs critical infrastructure like water-supply systems,

restores family links, searches for missing persons, and ensures that detainees are treated with dignity.

In addition to providing direct and indirect support in times of emergency, the ICRC also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

As much as possible, the ICRC employs sustainable approaches in its operations, such as working with local communities to come up with environment-friendly and climate-smart solutions to make the best use of the limited natural and other resources.



WHAT WE DO



PROMOTE RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

The ICRC promotes knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) among the political and military authorities, armed opposition groups, civil society and academics. International humanitarian law limits the means and methods of warfare that may be used, in order to protect people who are not or no longer taking part in hostilities.

If this law is not respected, ICRC delegates make confidential representations to the parties involved in the fighting in the aim

of preventing violations from recurring. They also remind them of their obligation to protect civilians.

As part of our efforts to promote IHL, we provide legal advice and technical support to the government of South Sudan regarding the implementation of the treaties and conventions of international humanitarian law.

ASSIST COMMUNITIES

Our work focuses on supporting displaced people from neighbouring Sudan and within the country, returnees who had previously fled South Sudan due to the conflict in the country in the last decade and the communities hosting them in conflict-affected areas. We help

vulnerable communities meet their basic needs, rebuild their livelihoods, and develop resilience. Our support includes:

- food and essential household items such as mosquito nets, kitchen sets, tarpaulins, mats, buckets, water treatment kits, soaps, and blankets to improve their living conditions.
- multipurpose cash grants for the most vulnerable families to meet their basic needs and to restore or improve their livelihoods.
- training on best practices and agricultural inputs to strengthen their farming skills and improve crop yields. We also distribute fishing kits to help families get more self-sufficient and eat nutritious meals.
- livestock health treatment campaigns, in coordination with the local authorities, benefiting communities who rely on their livestock as a source of livelihood. These campaigns include training community animal health workers in preventing animal diseases, which integrates local best practices, as well as providing veterinary medicine and basic equipment.

- targeted community awareness-raising sessions on various topics such as health, nutrition, climate-smart approaches, and other relevant best practices.

We are committed towards putting the affected people and their needs at the centre of all our actions by recognizing them as the primary experts on their own situations.

SUPPORT HEALTH CARE AND PHYSICAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

We assist health authorities with technical, material, and financial support to continue providing accessible health-care services to the various communities in South Sudan, including displaced people and returnees. Our support includes:

- surgical treatment and post-operative care for people wounded by fighting, including sending medical teams to different locations based on needs and available resources.
- medical supplies and other support to local first-aid and medical facilities in conflict-affected areas.
- promoting safe access to health care by raising awareness and supporting actions that uphold respect for health-care workers, patients, facilities, and transport used for medical purposes. These measures ensure access to prompt and appropriate medical care.





We provide technical, material and financial support to three physical rehabilitation centres, run by the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, in Juba, Rumbek and Wau (the only such facilities in the country). The key highlights of our physical rehabilitation services are:

- comprehensive prosthetic-orthotic, wheelchair and physiotherapy services at the three centres.
- ensuring that people with disabilities in other locations in the country are also able to access these services through outreach activities and referrals to these three centres.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

We help improve access to clean water, which is one of the biggest problems in South Sudan, for communities in both rural and urban areas. Our work aims to boost people's sense of well-being and protect their dignity. Some highlights of our activities include:

- repairing and building public water points, in cooperation with local communities and technicians, in rural

- areas affected by armed violence.
- using solar technology to power water-supply systems in remote areas. We guarantee the sustainability of our projects by providing the necessary tools for repair and maintenance work and by training local technicians and community members.
- setting up emergency water distribution systems during times of severe water shortages.

Furthermore, we are currently involved in the process of building a water treatment plant in Juba, which, when completed, will provide safe drinking water to the population of Rajaf Payam.



RESTORE AND MAINTAIN FAMILY LINKS

In cooperation with the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC), we trace family members separated by armed conflict, violence, natural disasters, or migration to find out what happened to them and clarify their whereabouts.



The Restoring Family Links network and services help restore and maintain family contacts through different means such as Red Cross messages (written messages containing brief family news) and free phone calls. When needed, and for the most vulnerable, we also facilitate the reunification of separated family members, in South Sudan and across borders, in coordination with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.

PROTECT PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

In accordance with our humanitarian mandate, we visit detention facilities in South Sudan. Maintaining a confidential and bilateral dialogue with detaining authorities is central to our detention-related activities. This dialogue promotes humane living conditions for detainees and the dignified treatment of people deprived of their liberty. Some highlights of our programme are:

- regular visits to places of detention under different authorities where, through discussions with the authorities and detainees as well

as through our observation, we assess how detainees are held and treated. After each visit, we share, confidentially, our findings and recommendations with the relevant authorities to support them in meeting international standards.

- whenever necessary we help to repair or upgrade the infrastructures including water and electricity supply systems and sanitary facilities to help improve the living conditions of the detainees.
- facilitating training sessions or workshops for prison staff on international standards, and capacity-building sessions for maintenance teams in places of detention to support authorities in ensuring the maintenance of basic facilities (water system, toilets, cells).
- whenever necessary we support detainees through ad hoc assistance such as providing hygiene items and other essential items to help improve their living conditions.
- supporting detainees and their families to maintain or re-establish contact, both in South Sudan and abroad mainly through the provision of phone calls services.



FOCUS ON SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

We aim to prevent, reduce, and respond to sexual and gender-based violence through direct action in South Sudan. Our activities include:

- providing holistic and multidisciplinary care for victims and survivors.
- raising awareness among communities to reduce their exposure to risk, including tackling social stigma.
- engaging with weapon bearers and authorities to prevent incidents of sexual and gender-based violence and addressing harmful policies – such as mandatory reporting – that prevent victims/survivors from seeking lifesaving care.
- providing referrals to other organizations.

While our primary focus is on addressing sexual violence in the context of armed conflict and other violence, we also provide support to the South Sudan Red Cross, whenever necessary, to address other types of sexual and gender-based violence.


COOPERATE WITH THE SOUTH SUDAN RED CROSS


Since being founded in 2011, the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) has been recognized as a leading national humanitarian organization, thanks to its network of volunteers throughout the country. The ICRC works in close partnership with the SSRC to carry out a range of activities to help people affected by conflict and other emergencies, while also supporting the SSRC's capacity-building initiatives. Some of our key cooperation activities include:



- providing technical, financial, and logistical resources to support the SSRC's emergency response capacity and preparedness to meet the arising need for humanitarian aid in the country.
- supporting SSRC branches across the country in setting up teams of volunteers from local communities and training them for emergency action.
- working together with SSRC on tracing missing people, restoring, and maintaining contact between separated family members, distributing essential relief material to vulnerable communities, addressing sexual violence, and providing community first aid.
- supporting SSRC's development and capacity-building efforts for SSRC staff and volunteers.
- coordinating with other components and partners of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to improve coordination mechanisms and develop common approaches and tools for relevant, principled, and effective humanitarian response.

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