

## ICRC IN SOUTH SUDAN



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.

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

Since 2008, the South Sudan Red Cross (formerly the Sudanese Red Crescent), together with the ICRC and Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement Partners, has supported the creation, training, and equipping of Emergency Action Teams (EATs). In the face of increasing humanitarian needs as the dry season begins, the SSRC, as South Sudan's largest national humanitarian organization, will be expected to provide humanitarian services such as first aid and emergency response.

The SSRC and Movement partners train EATs to be the first responders in small and medium scale emergencies. Each EAT has at least 20 volunteers, and is headed by a team leader and a deputy team leader. The teams are trained in safer access and first aid, and also attend introductory sessions on Emergency Assessments, Dead Body Management, Stress Management, Field Communication,

and Restoring Family Links, among other subjects. They are equipped with bibs, jackets, first aid kits, stretchers, blankets, tents, sleeping mats, and protective gear such as gum boots, gloves, and raincoats.

First aid and safer access are key skills for all volunteers and essential to all emergency responders. Along with a coherent National Society first aid policy and guidelines, refresher trainings are planned to ensure the volunteers are equipped, in terms of both skills and equipment, to facilitate safe and effective emergency response. Consolidation and strengthening of the existing EATs is the main priority for 2014 and 2015, and in the future the Movement plans to train more teams in priority areas around the country.

In 2014, 12 new EATs in Juba-Gumbo, Terekeka, Kajo Keji, Marobo, Pagari, Awerial, Kodok, Panaygor, Leer, Firka, River Jur and Boma were established and trained, with a 14th planned in November in Awerial. There are 40 EATs in total now. This represents a total of over 800 volunteers. More than 200 volunteers were involved in the SSRC/ICRC activities such as food and non-food item distributions in Leer and Waat, cholera response in Upper Nile and Equatorias, flood response in Bor, dressing wounded in Juba, and RFL activities all over the country.

Elsewhere in South Sudan, the ICRC continues to address the needs of those affected by conflict and displacement.

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.

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



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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 September 2014, the ICRC has carried out the following:

In the area of **health**:

- Performed nearly 3,300 surgeries on patients in 15 local health facilities;
- Assisted nearly 1,500 people with disabilities with various services in three physical rehabilitation centres run or supported by the ICRC;
- Provided medical materials to 43 first-aid and other health-care facilities

South Sudan Red Cross teams complemented this work by assisting patients with over 11,300 dressings.



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

- Provided more than 900,000 monthly food rations in Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile, Warrap, Jonglei, Northern and Western Bahr el Ghazal, and Western and Central Equatoria states;
- Provided household essentials for over 524,000 people throughout the country;

- Provided clean water for more than 255,000 displaced people and host communities across South Sudan with focus on 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 20,000 people in Mingkaman and Lul.

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

- Vaccinated more than 333,600 heads of livestock and treated over 40,000 animals benefitting an estimated 159,000 people in several areas in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes and Upper Nile states;
- Trained some 149 community animal health workers;
- Provided over 346,000 people with seeds - a majority of them also benefitting from distributions of tools - for their own farming and 40,500 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:

- Visited nearly 4,300 people held in various places of detention;
- 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 some 1,700 detainees and staff;
- Provided a two-week food supply for over 350 detainees affected by the emergency

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

- Arranged for over 12,750 phone calls successfully made between family members and nearly 770 Red Cross messages containing family news;
- Registered 90 unaccompanied children within South Sudan.

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

- Delivered training or dissemination sessions on IHL to nearly 1,800 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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