

SOUTH SUDAN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - JUNE 2019



“I WANTED TO SERVE MY PEOPLE”

South Sudanese nurse awarded Florence Nightingale Medal for 30 years of service to victims of war and violence.

Rosemary is busy.

From dawn to dusk she repeats the same moves, carefully, gently. She looks at her patients with compassion, speaks with a low and kind voice and takes care of them. She has been a nurse for almost 30 years.

“I started in 1991 in Kapoeta and joined the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Juba Military Hospital in 2013,” Rosemary says. “I remember when the ICRC moved here, the ward was full of grass and soil. We had to dig to remove everything and clean the place up.”

Today, the ward is clean and calm, but if it could talk, it would probably remember some of the worse moments of the war and the countless patients it hosted. “In 2016, when the conflict escalated, we were not enough nurses to cover the day and night shifts;” Rosemary says. “I committed myself because there was no one to take care of the patients at night, so I would work day and night.”

On July 30, 2019, Rosemary received the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest honour in nursing that is awarded to nurses or nursing aids for exceptional courage and devotion to victims of conflict or disaster. The medal was given to her by Salva Kiir, the President of South Sudan, in a ceremony in the capital Juba. It is a tribute not only to Rosemary, but to the more than 860 South Sudanese staff who are dedicating themselves to serving others.

Back in the ward, Rosemary cleans the leg of a patient as two interns follow her every move, as she explains to them how to keep a wound clean. “I wanted to become a nurse to serve my people,” she says.

It is impossible to quantify the impact that Rosemary has had on lives across South Sudan, a country plagued by violence and war for decades. When asked to estimate how many people she has treated in her career, she answers with a smile, “I don’t know—thousands. Only God knows.”

FACTS & FIGURES, JANUARY- JUNE 2019



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

Distributed more than **4,744** metric tonnes of food rations to **313,384** people.
Provided essential household items to **107,022** people, seeds and tools including community project to **59,710** and fishing tools to **66,660** people.
Vaccinated **415,472** heads of livestock and treated **153,654** animals, assisting **30,063** livestock keepers.
Granted access to safe drinking water to more than **176,000** people.
Maintained **two** emergency surface water treatment unit, benefiting around **20,000** people and carried out other emergency supply initiatives for over **57,000** people.
Carried out renovation and extension work in **six** primary health-care facilities and **three** hospitals.
Improved living conditions for more than **1,300** detainees.



TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, THE ICRC:

Performed **1,667** surgeries and medical procedures.
Provided more than **189,603** outpatient consultations and treated **8,788** in-patients.
Evacuated **251** people wounded in armed confrontations.
Provided antenatal consultations for **21,897** women and vaccinated **39,531** women and children.
Helped **3,241** women with safe deliveries.
Helped **1,350** disabled people with mobility devices and physiotherapy.
Conducted First Aid training for communities and weapon-bearers to **1,860** individuals.
Conducted First Aid training and training of trainers courses to **820** South Sudan Red Cross volunteers who assisted, stabilized or treated up to **2,316** wounded and sick in South Sudan.



TO HELP IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR DETAINEES, THE ICRC:

Visited **4,391** 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 **3,892** detainees.



TO HELP RECONNECT FAMILY MEMBERS SEPARATED BY THE CONFLICT, THE ICRC, TOGETHER WITH THE SOUTH SUDAN RED CROSS SOCIETY:

Facilitated **7,458** phone calls between family members separated by the conflict;
Helped exchange **1,450** Red Cross messages with family news;
Reunited **25** vulnerable persons, including children, with their families.



TO PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) AND THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW (IHRL), THE ICRC:

Trained over **2,200** military personnel in IHL and nearly **700** police personnel in IHRL.
Raised awareness among over **6,950** people affected by armed conflict, community members and health-care staff on life-saving, useful and actionable information about the ICRC and its humanitarian services.



TO SUPPORT THE SOUTH SUDAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, THE ICRC:

Supported SSRC to train and re-train **329** volunteers of Emergency Action Team at **13** branches, and **12** branches deployed volunteers across the country for emergency response for **2,316** affected people.
Facilitated the Movement support to SSRC preparedness for Ebola response resulting in establishing capacity for social mobilization and safe & dignified burials in **four** branches through training **300** volunteers.

Cover Photo:

On July 30, 2019, Rosemary Kadi Giryang received the Florence Nightingale Medal, the highest honour in nursing that is awarded to nurses or nursing aids for exceptional courage and devotion to victims of conflict or disaster. Rosemary has been working with the ICRC at the Juba Military Hospital since 2013.

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