

SOUTH SUDAN

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: COVID-19 RESPONSE

APRIL 2020



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in South Sudan has adapted its ongoing humanitarian activities for communities affected by conflict and violence to limit the spread of COVID-19. To prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are working with South Sudan Red Cross and International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent mainly in communities affected by conflict and violence.

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN SOUTH SUDAN

- **Sensitizing and Engaging Communities**
 - Supported **1,700** volunteers of South Sudan Red Cross across **17** branches to reach over **one** million people with health education and hygiene promotion messages in communities across South Sudan.
 - Supported filming of drama with COVID-19 prevention messages for South Sudan Red Cross.
 - Donated soap and handwashing material to **1,240** children at **two** primary schools in Upper Nile State.
- **Protecting Health Care Workers, Patients and Facilities**
 - Prepositioned personal protective equipment to health workers at the **36** health facilities (**23** primary health care centres, **three** hospitals, **three** physical rehabilitation centres and **seven** places of detention).
 - Carried out COVID-19 trainings and awareness sessions with health care workers at the **36** health facilities.

- **Promoting Hygiene and Increasing Access to Safe Water**
 - Installed handwashing points and donated soap to **14** places of detention, **11** primary health care centres and **two** hospitals.
 - Began rehabilitation of **150** hand pumps together with South Sudan Red Cross Society to improve access to water for **75,000** people in Juba.
 - Donated **24,000** litres of fuel and **100** bags of water treatment chemicals to the South Sudan Urban Water Corporation.
- **Helping Separated Families Maintain Contact**
 - Providing mobile telephones with credit to detaining authorities at **seven** places of detention to enabling over **4,000** detainees to maintain contact with their loved ones through phone calls.
 - Provided telephones with credit to patients at a COVID-19 treatment centre to enable them to maintain contact with their loved ones.
- **Improving Living Conditions for Detainees**
 - Provided supplementary food assistance to detainees at **seven** prisons to help improve their nutrition.
 - Providing personal protective equipment to prison health workers and improving awareness of detainees and prison staff of the risks of COVID-19 at **seven** prisons.
- **Building Forensic Capacity**
 - Donated personal protective equipment, body bags and disinfectant to forensic authorities in Central Equatoria State to enhance emergency preparedness capacity and enable dignified management of human remains.
- **Dialogue and Coordination with Authorities, Red Cross / Red Crescent and Humanitarian Community**
 - Engaged national, state and county authorities to raise awareness about the possible impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable individuals and communities affected by conflict and violence and shared recommendations on steps the authorities can take protect and assist them.
 - Maintained a dialogue with national, state and county authorities on the ICRC's ongoing steps to integrate COVID-19 prevention measures into its humanitarian action, and how the authorities can continue to facilitate humanitarian action.
 - Coordinated COVID-19 response with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, and exchanged information with humanitarian agencies and NGOs to avoid duplication of humanitarian activities.





SSRC

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

Together with the South Sudan Red Cross, we continue to carry out activities to protect and assist communities affected by conflict and violence, and helping them to rebuild their lives. To enable these key humanitarian services to continue we implemented COVID-19 preventive measures in these activities especially: physical distancing, handwashing and sharing hygiene promotion messages. During April 2020, our impact includes:

- Distributed agricultural seed and tools as well to **31,650 families (189,900 people)**, and fishing kits to **10,500 families (63,000 people)** to help them to rebuild their livelihoods.
- Helped **309** separated families to maintain contact with loved ones through free telephone calls provided by South Sudan Red Cross volunteers with ICRC support.
- Carried out medevacs for **17** patients with gunshot injuries to ICRC supported surgical units for treatment.
- **33,659** consultations were carried out at **23** primary health care centres supported by ICRC.
- Drilled **five** boreholes to provide access to safe water for over **17,000** people.
- **322** weapon wounded patients were admitted and treated at ICRC supported hospitals from January to April 2020.

PREPARING AND PROTECTING OUR TEAMS FROM COVID-19

The protection of the health of our teams is an ongoing priority for the ICRC in South Sudan. Guided by ICRC global policies and national guidelines in South Sudan, we have implemented strict measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our offices across South Sudan including increasing handwashing points; checking temperature on entry; implementing physical distancing in our offices and meetings; providing personal protective equipment to our teams; as well as ensuring that our colleagues have access to medical care when they need it.



A. Yousef/ICRC



M.S. McAllister/ICRC



M.S. McAllister/ICRC

IN BRIEF: ICRC IN SOUTH SUDAN – APRIL 2020



TO PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WE

Supported **1,700** volunteers of South Sudan Red Cross to reach over **one** million people with health education and hygiene promotion messages in communities across South Sudan.



Prepositioned personal protective equipment to health workers at the **36** health facilities (**23** primary health care centres, **three** hospitals, **three** physical rehabilitation centres and **seven** places of detention).



Increased handwashing points and donated soap to **14** places of detention, **11** primary health care centres and **two** hospitals.



Began rehabilitating of **150** hand pumps together with South Sudan Red Cross Society to improve access to water for **75,000** people in Juba.



Donated **24,000** litres of fuel and **100** bags of water treatment chemicals to the South Sudan Urban Water Corporation.

Provided mobile telephones with credit to detaining authorities at **seven** places of detention enabling over **4,000** detainees to maintain contact with their loved ones through phone calls.



FOR COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND ARMED VIOLENCE, WE

Distributed agricultural seed and tools to **31,650** families (**189,900** people), as well as fishing kits to **10,500** families (**63,000** people) to help them to rebuild their livelihoods.



Distributed essential household items to **4,300** families (**21,500** people) to help them rebuild their lives.



Helped **309** separated families to maintain contact with loved ones through free telephone calls provided by South Sudan Red Cross volunteers with ICRC support.



Carried out medavacs for **17** patients with gunshot injuries to ICRC supported surgical units for treatment.

Provided **33,659** consultations at **22** primary health care centres supported by ICRC.

Drilled **five** boreholes to provide access to safe water for over **17,000** people.



B.M. Guitguit/ICRC

Cover Photo:

The ICRC and IFRC are supporting the health education and hygiene promotion sensitization campaigns of the South Sudan Red Cross during COVID-19. 1,700 volunteers have reached more than 1 million people since the beginning of April 2020.



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