



NEWSLETTER

ICRC SOUTH SUDAN - APRIL 2017

Seeds and tools to fight food insecurity

Agriculture is essential for survival of people in South Sudan. Tending to crops is a long term process that takes time and dedication.

When fighting erupts forcing people to flee agricultural cycles get disrupted and farmers can no longer produce food. The result of this is severe food insecurity that some parts of the country are facing.

When fighting erupts agricultural cycles get disrupted

People in Leer and the surrounding areas have been living on the run for several years now. With each new cycle of violence they have to abandon their fields and crops and hide in the swamps, where they survive on wild fruit and fishing.

«Several years ago we harvested our own food» says Nyawech a farmer from the Leer region. «But we lost everything because of the fighting».

Equatoria's region used to be relatively stable compared to the other parts of the war-torn country. But after the latest round of fighting broke out in Juba in July 2016, the conflict spread here as well. Trade routes were cut off by frontlines and thousands were displaced.

Agricultural activities, the main source of income for people who live here, were disrupted. «Last year we ran from the fighting and spent four months hiding in the forest while our crops were rotting uncollected» says Reverend Monasseh Wajo, one of the community leaders of the Bangolo village in the Equatoria's region.

Severe economic crisis and soaring prices for food and other essential commodities further aggravate the situation turning people's lives into a daily struggle for survival.

To help South Sudanese farmers resume their food production and build resilience the ICRC distributes seeds and tools.

Throughout March and April 2017, some 170,000 people in different regions of South Sudan received seeds and tools for the upcoming planting season.

Sorghum seed, maize seed and various types of vegetable seed, including pumpkin and okra, and in some areas groundnut seed, were distributed to farmers.

Throughout March and April 2017, some 170,000 people received seeds and tools

«We have so much fertile land,» says Otilia, a farmer from the Equatoria's region, «all we need is peace to be able to cultivate it.»



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FACTS & FIGURES January - March 2017

To respond to people's most urgent needs and to help them build resilience, the ICRC together with the SSRC have:



Distributed over **22,000** monthly household food rations, equivalent to more than **2,100** metric tons of food, to almost **200,000** people in need;



Provided essential household items to over **31,000** people;

Provided over **50,000** people with seeds and tools for farming, and some **31,000** people with fishing kits;

Vaccinated more than **106,000** heads of livestock and treated **3,000** animals, benefitting over **19,000** people.



Improved access to safe drinking water for some **8,000** people through the rehabilitation of **3** water facilities and **5** hand pumps;

Maintained an emergency water unit benefitting more than **40,000** people in Juba;

Donated spare parts and tools to Juba Urban Water Corporation.



To help improve access to health and provision of surgical care the ICRC has:

Performed nearly **1,300** surgical interventions;

Provided more than **32,000** outpatient consultations and treated **760** in-patients;

Evacuated **253** weapon wounded people and treated **420**;

Carried out renovation and extension works in **2** health facilities;

Provided antenatal consultations for **3,500** women, safe deliveries for **420** women and vaccinated **5,500** women and children;

Assisted **808** people with disabilities with mobility devices and physiotherapy.



To help improve conditions for detainees the ICRC has:

Visited some **3,400** detainees throughout the country;

Improved living conditions and implemented preventive measures against malnutrition for more than **2,000** detainees;

Facilitated repatriation of **125** released people.



To help reconnect family members separated by the conflict the ICRC and SSRC have:

Facilitated almost **17,000** phone calls between family members separated by the conflict;

Helped exchange more than **1000** Red Cross messages with family news;

Reunited **37** vulnerable people, including children, with their families.



To promote knowledge and respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the International Human Rights Law (IHRL) the ICRC has:



Trained almost **500** weapon bearers on IHL and IHRL and raised awareness among almost **650** weapon bearers, health staff and community members on safe access to health care.

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