

## MORE THAN 241,000 PEOPLE DISPLACED BY FLOODS ACROSS SOUTH SUDAN



**A**ccording to the report released by the South Sudan Red Cross in collaboration with the IFRC. There were heavy rains since May this year. This had coupled with an overflowing Lake Victoria, have caused the Nile River to burst its banks and threaten unprecedented flooding in South Sudan, submerging villages and farmlands. As of 24th October, the situation has been critical with more than 1 million people affected in 42 out of 78 counties.

"When flooding started in South Sudan, South Sudan Red Cross volunteers evacuated the most vulnerable individuals, particularly in Old Fangak and other areas." Stated by Moro Baba Emmanuel, Disaster Risk Manager for the South Sudan Red Cross. According to Baba volunteers were moving from door to door and public areas to raise awareness about the impending floods and advise the communities to move to higher grounds.

An estimated 893,000 people were affected in ten states and 42 counties out of 241,000 people have been displaced, according to UNOCHA. The SSRC reaches 41800 People (6,966HH) through diverse services in disaster risk management, shelter, cash, and health, wash, and protection services. In Old Fangak and New Fangak, South Sudan Red Cross has intervened to trained volunteers together with the Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT) in dyke rehabilitation.

**41,800  
(6,966 HH)**

Reached by SSRC through diverse services in disaster risk management

"When floods began in South Sudan, the South Sudan Red Cross volunteers evacuated the most vulnerable individuals, particularly in Old Fangak and other areas."

~ Moro Baba Emmanuel

# CHOLERA OUTBREAK: SSRC SCALES UP RESPONSE AMIDST RISING CASES

The South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) is concerned with the rapid increase in the number of cholera cases, especially during the festive season where social gatherings are common in South Sudan. As of 13 December 2024, 3,429 suspected cases have been reported, with 44 deaths in 22 counties across 6 states. There is a risk of further surge in the number of cases.

This has come when South Sudan is grappling with several emergencies including floods and continuous influx of people coming into South Sudan from Sudan due to the ongoing armed violence.

The South Sudan Red Cross is scaling up its response amidst the rising cases across the country. "We have trained more than 300 volunteers and deployed them in Renk, Malakal, Juba, and Bentiu. Response in Magwi county of Easter Equatoria State is underway," said Achuil Manyuat, the SSRC Emergency Operation Manager. The SSRC plans to reach 10 locations with a possibility of expanding further.

The volunteers are now conducting awareness, in schools, public places and in homes. More than 40,000 people reached with control and preventive messages in Renk, Malakal, Juba, Bentiu and Aweil. The SSRC also provide advice to families on how to handle dead bodies of people who died of cholera.

The SSRC Secretary General, John Lobor has asked staff and partners to continue assessing areas in the neighborhoods with the potential of spreading cases so they can be included in the response activities.



“We have trained more than 300 volunteers and deployed them in Renk, Malakal, Juba, and Bentiu. Response in Magwi county of Easter Equatoria State is underway.”

~Achuil Manyuat

# SSRC STAFF RECEIVES GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

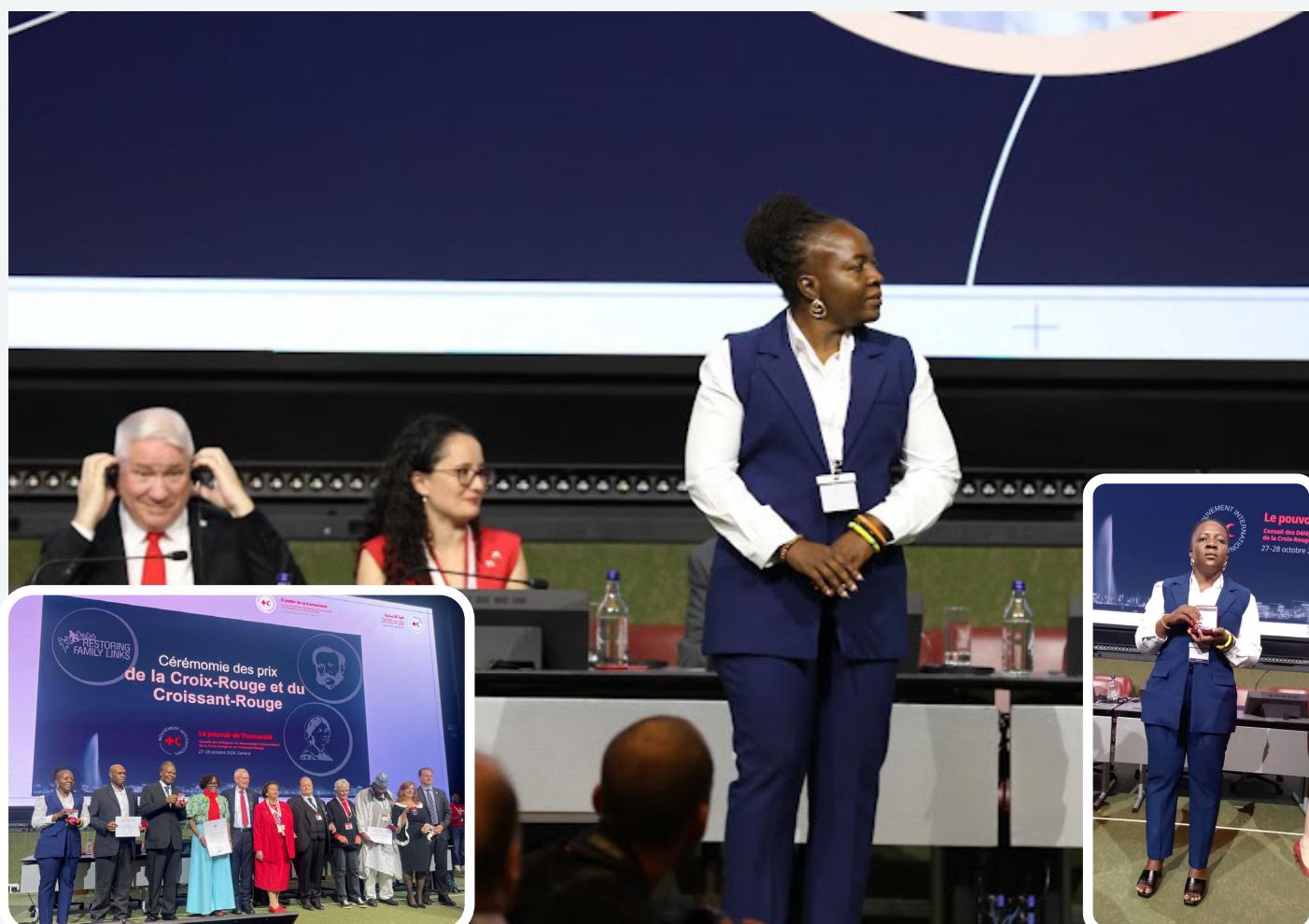
Natalia Mimi Alex was awarded the Red Cross Movement Family Link Medal on 27 October, 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. Natalia, a Restoring Family Links (RFL) officer, works with the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) in Yambio branch.

**N**atalia has been reconnecting and reuniting families separated by conflicts or other situations of violence in Yambio, a region which was affected by conflicts or other situations of violence in Yambio, a region which was affected by conflicts that has led to numerous displacements and hundreds of missing people, her role has been invaluable.

"The RFL work I do fills me with purpose and gratitude. It is more than a job, it's a mission to restore hope to families torn apart by conflict. Reconnecting loved ones not only brings people together but also heals communities and restores a sense of belonging. The profound impact of this work, even in the darkest moments reignites hope and helps rebuild society." Natalia said as she received the medal.

The Family Link Medal was created by the Red Cross Council of Delegates in 2022 to pay special tribute to staff and volunteers who often work under the most difficult circumstances and to maintain or restore contact between separated family members. It searches for their loved ones, or reunite families separated by conflict, disaster, migration, or other humanitarian situations.

This award not only recognizes Natalia's personal contributions but also highlights the Red Cross Movement in South Sudan. Currently, the South Sudan Red Cross and the ICRC are working closely to restore family links for people who have fled to South Sudan from Sudan and other places.



# SSRC JUBA BRANCH WINS 2024 NATIONAL FIRST AID COMPETITION

The South Sudan Red Cross Juba branch emerged as the winner of the 7th National First Aid Competition of this year, recording its second victory after being crowned the inaugural champion in 2016.



“First aid is very important, and therefore we should render these live-saving skills to each one of our volunteers across our 21 branches and units to be able to tackle emergencies of any kind.” ~ **Joseph Dhuor**, President - **South Sudan Red Cross**



**O**n 8th November 2024, South Sudan Red Cross in collaboration with International Committee of the Red Cross, organized the National First Aid Competition in Juba with 10 out of 21 Branches across the country facing off in a fierce competition to showcase their proficient live-saving skills in the simulated emergency scenes: in handling trauma injuries and in performing life-saving techniques. Juba Branch won the competition while Yambio Branch became the second winning team and Kuajok took the third position.

The President of the South Sudan Red Cross, Joseph Dhuor in his speech during the national first Aid Competition emphasized on the need to conduct extensive first aid training across the country in order to equip the volunteers with essential first aid skills. “First aid is very important, and therefore we should render these live-saving skills to each one of our volunteers across our 21 branches and units to be able to tackle emergencies of any kind.

John Lobor, the Secretary General of the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) on the other hand highlighted the fundamental role of the SSRC in emergency response and the need to build the capacity of volunteers. “The National First Aid Competitions is organized to give our Emergency Action Teams across different Branches a platform to enhance their skills and realize their weaknesses and strengths, and how best they can improve their skills.” John said.

The South Sudan Red Cross hosts the National First Aid Competition with an aim to strengthen the capacity of first responders known as Emergency Action Teams (EAT). Nevertheless, the competition also serves as a testament to our dedication in prioritizing safety and emergency preparedness in order to promote well-being within the communities. The event was attended by representatives from various Partners such as; National Societies, IFRC, county health representatives and other non-governmental organizations. Juba branch has now won the competition twice, Torit branch thrice, Wau branch had won once and Tonj branch had won once.

# MITIGATING CLIMATE CRISIS THROUGH TREE PLANTING



**S**outh Sudan Red Cross is dedicated to mitigating the impact of disasters and fostering disaster-resilient communities through comprehensive risk reduction and preparedness initiatives. This commitment is visible across its 21 branches nationwide, where volunteers regularly engaged in activities such as tree planting to enhance environmental sustainability and resilience.

The South Sudan Red Cross volunteers collaborated with students from Wau Day Secondary School to plant 15 fruit trees in Wau Town in commemoration of the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day under the theme "Empowering the Next Generation for a Resilient Future".

The eight schools in Wau namely Wau Day Secondary School, Mbili Secondary School, John Paul Secondary School, Layola Secondary School, Wau Boys Primary School, Mayo Girls Primary School, Mukhatah Primary School and Buluk Primary School have been

supported with fruit trees by the SSRC through the Social Structure Funds (SSF)/Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Project funded by the Germany Red Cross. The first phase was initiated between March 2023 to September, 2024. However, more than 800 fruit trees were planted by the communities in Jur River and Tonj South Counties.



**"Empowering the Next Generation for a Resilient Future."**

# A LIFESAVING LEGACY: THE HERO WHO DONATED BLOOD 25 TIMES

Not all heroes wear capes, some **Donate Blood!** Drichi Abraham Michael, Medical Director at Gulf Medicare, has a unique way of celebrating his birthday: he donates blood. This act of kindness is his way of helping people in need of emergency medical care. To date, Dr. Michael has donated blood an impressive 25 times - 23 times in South Sudan and twice in Uganda.

**H**e recalled his first experience of donating blood at the age of 17 when he escorted his friends to a blood donation centre. "I was told I could donate blood if I fulfilled certain fitness criteria. I was almost disqualified because I weighed only 48 kg, but I insisted on donating blood and managed to convince those at the centre."

Michael's hope is that more people will donate blood to save lives. "I encourage people to donate blood because I know its importance. I regularly see how patients suffer because of insufficient

blood. During my internship in 2018, I had a patient who needed to undergo a surgery. Hee needed two units of blood for the surgery, but we got only one unit, and our patient was blacking out. We rushed to the blood bank to get a unit of O+ blood group but it was not available," said Michael, recounting an experience etched in his memory.

However, I had a confident that w to continue donating blood whenever possible, Michael said he now takes a friend along whenever he goes to donate blood.



**“I encourage people to donate blood because I know its importance.”**



## SEPARATED BY CONFLICT, REUNITED BY THE SSRC

**D**uring the onset of the crisis in Sudan, Aban lost contact with her family members living there. Two months later, Aban approached the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) for help in tracing her loved ones.

The young mother who is a resident of Malakal, received the support and was hoping for and was reconnected with her family through the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme. "I had lost contact with my family when conflict broke out in Sudan. When I came across information about the SSRC, I thought they would be the right people to help me reunite with my family. Thank you so much for your support," she said.

The SSRC in conjunction with the ICRC work to reconnect families that are separated because of the armed conflict or other situations of violence by facilitating phone calls and exchanging Red Cross

messages (containing brief family news). Since the conflict began in Sudan in April 2023, the SSRC has connected 6,585 people through phone calls and 2,565 through Red Cross messages in Renk, Maban, Wadwil, Malakal and Aweil.

“I had lost contact with my family when conflict broke out in Sudan. When I came across information about the SSRC, I knew they would be the right people to help me reunite with my family.”

# Aban

# WESTERN EQUATORIA: 200 PEOPLE GET TRAINED IN FARMING TECHNIQUES TO BOOST THEIR PRODUCTION

The internally displaced people which include, women's groups and youth in Yambio, Maridi, Ibba and Ezo counties are being supported through an agricultural project that was launched in 2022 by South Sudan Red Cross, with funding from the German Red Cross (GRC).

The SSRC in this project supplied tools and seeds to enhance food production in Western Equatoria. "So far, there were over 200 trained people in Kpirabe, Akorogbodi, Saura, James Diko, Burezigbo, Nabiapai, Riirongu and Nanzinga in modern agronomic farming techniques, post-harvest handling, storage, marketing and saving skills," said Elias Bii Rudolf, a food security officer at the SSRC's Yambio branch.

He added that the profit can be invested in village saving group funds or be given as loans at interest for a sustainability plan.

Samuel Baptist, a farmers' representative says this project has transformed many lives. He further added that they are able to support their children's education, acquire basic needs and have saving accounts.

"We are very happy to see how the SSRC is helping to transform the lives of people in the region."



The German Red Cross team led by Food Security and Livelihood delegates, Katie Rodriguez and Deputy Secretary General of the South Sudan Red Cross, Ms. Christine Abina recently visited farmlands in Yambio and Maridi to assess the progress of the project. "We are very happy to see how the National Society is helping to transform the lives of people in the region. Thank you for your dedication and hard work. We promise our unwavering support to help this region become the food basket of South Sudan," said Rodriguez.

# WAU: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND ACCELERATING COMMUNITY GROWTH THROUGH MICROECONOMIC INITIATIVES.



A microeconomic initiative programme in Wau Town and in Western Bahr El-Ghazal State in particular, has benefited a total number of 20 economical, vulnerable women-headed households by enabling them increase their average monthly income by 30 per cent in a span of six months.

These women who were the breadwinners for their families had existing small businesses, and underwent a training supported by the ICRC through the South Sudan Red Cross back in October 2022.

The participants were trained in business and marketing techniques, record keeping, stock control & management and nutrition, and received a grant of 700 US dollars to plowback into their businesses along with close monitoring and supervision.

About 70 per cent of the householders are now able to meet their essential needs and cover their food expenditure, with a profit of 410,166 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) per household that was generated after six months. Most of these participants have expanded their businesses and venture into new investments. Lidia Andrea for instance

one of the beneficiary shared how she had been struggling to take care of her three children since her husband's death.

"I used to collect leaves around streams and gardens in town to feed my children. But with the SSRC's support, However I have now my own business and I earn about SSP 40,000 to SSP 60,000 a day." Tereza Peter, a widow and a mother of five, who owns a restaurant since 2019 also shared her small business struggles and success. "I am 32 years old and a mother of four boys and one girl. My husband was killed during the 2016 conflict in Wau.

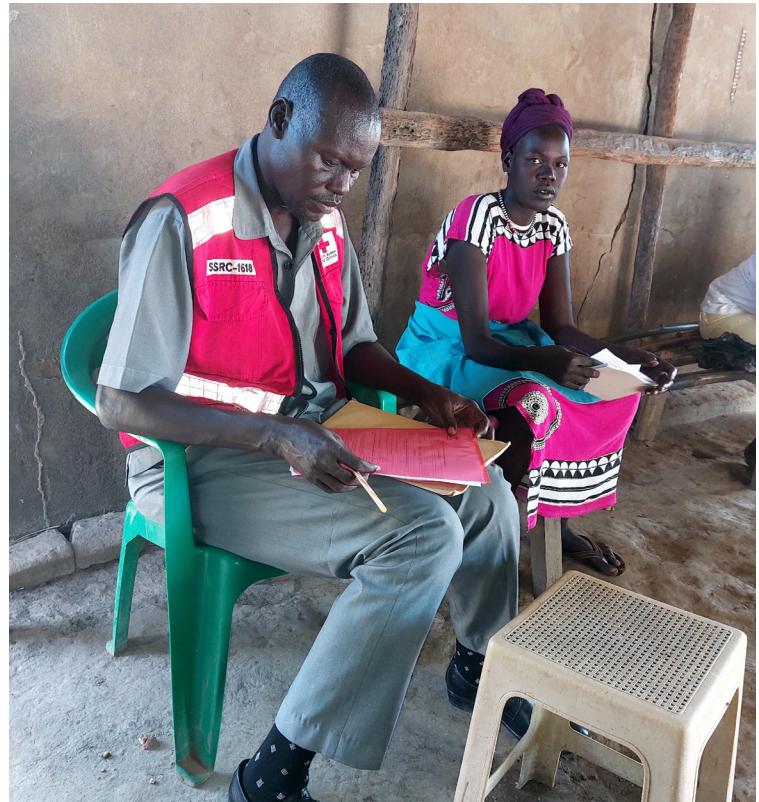
I started my restaurant in 2019 with SSP 30,000 but I could not sustain it because I lacked money. Things were not going well for me because the entire family's expenses were on my shoulders," said Peter, In addition to the business granted by the SSRC had helped in boosting my income.

# LAKES STATE: FROM BEING HELPLESS TO BECOMING THE BREADWINNER

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“We have gone from having one meal a day to two meals a day. This is a great achievement! My daughters can now attend school again because I can afford to pay their school fees.”

**~Elizabeth Awut Makoi**



**E**lizabeth Awut Makoi, a 28-year-old widow living in Cueibet in Lakes State, is one of those who got cash grant offered by the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) to support vulnerable women to start small businesses as part of the microeconomic initiative programme launched in 2022.

“In 2022 when the SSRC team came to Cueibet, I was among the 20 people selected from a team of nine widows and 11 people with disabilities,” said Makoi, a mother of four. With the grants and business skills training she received from the SSRC. Makoi started a retail shop in Cueibet market.

Awut said her monthly income was merely 48,500 SSP, but after receiving the first instalment of the grant from the SSRC, her monthly net profit went up to 150,000 SSP. “We have gone from having one meal a day to two meals in a day. This is a great achievement. My daughters can also attend school again because I’m now able to pay their school fees,” she said.

# WAU: 4,930 PEOPLE SCREENED IN EYE CARE CAMPAIGN



The South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC), in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Diocese of Wau Catholic Church, through the Blood Donor Recruitment and First Aid project funded by the Swiss Red Cross, facilitated eye consultations and screenings of 4,930 people in Warrap State, Northern Bahr El-Ghazal and Western Bahr El-Ghazal states including cataract surgeries for 750 people and treatment for over 3,400 people.

“Reading became a challenge for me, and I could not sit comfortably at school because people were making fun of me. My friends also made fun of me,” said Adriano Dominic, a 16 year old who developed problems with his vision after an injury while playing at school in the year 2013. Adriano who was among the 22 patients under 18 years old retreated. He shared his excitement after a successful surgery. “Now that I have regained my vision, I am so glad to be back in school with clear eyesight.”

**Akon Nyok**, 61, had lost all hope of ever seeing again on account of her age. But after a successful eye surgery, Akon regained her sight. “I can see my son again and the beauty of nature. I am eager to start cooking again for my grandchildren.”



## PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO OVER 63,000 RETURNEES AND REFUGEES

There has been an influx of returnees and refugees from Sudan entering South Sudan since 2023. About 63,980 people fled due to the fierce fight between the rival groups in Sudan, and sought refuge in Aweil, Kuajok, Bentiu, Raja, Maban, Malakal, Wau, Kodok and Renk.

**A**buk Lino Lual, a mother of four expressed in excitement her contentment after the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) delivered relief humanitarian aid to support the returnees and refugees.

“My children and I had been struggling to sleep, especially during heavy rains, in our makeshift shelter made with cartons and torn plastic sheets. The household items distributed by the South Sudan Red Cross brought us great relief.”

In Bentiu, Nyadak Chuol, a returnee and mother of three, narrated her ordeal. “We fled the war in Sudan with nothing because of the situation in Khartoum and other cities. With the items we received from the South Sudan Red Cross Society we will be able to build our own shelters

and stay safe during the rain,” said Chuol. Ali Abakar Muhamed Osman, chief of the refugees in Diem-Ziber, Raja, in Western Bahr El-Ghazal, asserted that they had faced a difficult situation in Central Africa Republic. He said that it had taken them 126 days to reach here from Bambuti area. According to him they faced a lot of problems including fighting along the way. The items they received from the SSRC would help them sleep and eat well for some time at least. The 37-year-old, added that most of those with him are women and children.



“The household items distributed by the South Sudan Red Cross brought us great relief.”

# SSRC BENTIU BRANCH REPAIRS 10 NON-FUNCTIONAL BOREHOLES IN BENTIU AND RUBKONA TOWNS.



Over 30,000 residents have gotten access to clean and safe drinking water in Bentiu and Rubkona with support from the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC).

The South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) has repaired ten hand pumps in Bentiu and Rubkona towns under the Population Movement Project funded by the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC). This rehabilitation has enabled over 30,000 residents get access to clean and safe drinking water.

The water facilities were destroyed during the conflict two years ago, and others were submerged in water by devastating floods in the two towns.

Through the efforts of technically skilled SSRC volunteers on hand pump mechanic, the dysfunctional water facilities are now operational and enables the communities living in both towns to have clean and safe drinking water.

Volunteers are capacitated on hand pumps mechanics to drill and repair broken boreholes under the SSRC Programmatic priorities of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene aimed at

promoting awareness about sanitation and hygiene practices.

Bentiu and Rubkona towns are inhabited by the returnees from Sudan and host communities, separated by the Naam River. Because of economic factors like trade and other activities, these towns are crowded, but the residents do not have access to clean and safe drinking water. The Norwegian Red Cross through the South Sudan Red Cross rolled out a four-year Project to repair 100 water facilities and improve access to affordable and clean water in areas of Adok, Padeah, Nhialdiu and Wangkei.

The rehabilitation of these boreholes in Bentiu and Rubkona towns will not only increase the communities' access to clean and safe drinking water but also reduce the spread of waterborne diseases among the populations.

# SOUTH SUDAN RED CROSS ADVOCATES FOR PROTECTION OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND HEALTH WORKERS THROUGH DRAMA IN LEER.

Leer County, Unity State, initially home to over 80,000 people is one of the areas adversely affected by conflict that resulted to the destruction of schools and hospitals. Population has been displaced and livelihoods disrupted since the year 2013.

**T**he South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) has given hope to people of Leer County by using art of drama on Health Care in Danger to advocate for the protection of medical facilities and personnel. Raising community awareness about the importance of respecting medical personnel, medical facilities, equipment and informing the local populace about the importance of health care.

The objective of the drama is to train volunteers on issues that are affecting communities, and to perform in public places and other target areas to help disseminate health care in danger messages to arm bearers to desist acts of violence and attacks on health workers and their facilities during conflict.

Different themes such as “do not enter health facilities with weapons”, “health facilities must not be looted”, “health workers do not take sides in conflict”,

“health facilities are for communities,” among other key messages were displayed during one of the shows in Leer Hospital.

The County Health Director, Elizabeth Nyalandia Bading at the show stated that the drama presented by the volunteers resonates with the health care workers and their experiences, and urged for respect in their line of operation.

The SSRC in collaboration with the ICRC has implemented training of 25 volunteers under the Framework of the Health Care in Danger (HCID) in the year 2023 to counter range of issues affecting safe delivery of healthcare in armed conflict and other situations of violence.



- “Do not enter health facilities with weapons.”
- “Health workers do not take sides in conflict.”
- “Health facilities are for communities.”

# MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT PROJECT BOOSTS GIRLS' SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



**G**loria Achan Watmon, a Senior Teacher at Kuleu Light Primary School narrates her experience with girls in her line of duty. "Girls used to miss schools and I could do nothing because we have nothing to help them out. You will find that when a girl goes through the menstruation period, we shall just have to send the girl home because we have nothing to help such a girl. So, most times the enrolment of girls was very scarce."

When the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) implemented the Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Project with support from the Swedish Red Cross, more girls have been able to go to school without fear of their menstrual circle disrupting their learning.

Through the MHM project, the SSRC installed solar-powered water yards, upgraded institutional latrines, built incinerators, washrooms, and distributed dignity kits to girls in six schools. Little Lamb Academy, Brainstorm Primary School and St. Bakhita Girls Primary School in Kapoeta East County, Kuleu Lights Primary School, Singaita Primary School and Bishop Majoldit Primary School in Kapoeta South County have benefited from this Project.

"We now sit in class comfortably because we have sanitary pads. And if you don't have money for buying, they have introduced for us reusable sanitary pads," said Sharon Itang, a pupil at St. Bakhita Girls Primary School.

The teachers and girls in the supported schools have been trained by the volunteer Trainers of Trainees (ToTs) and Staffs to have an in-depth understanding of proper hygiene practices and refrain from negative beliefs towards menstrual period. South Sudan Red Cross Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support Coordinator, Tabule Marcos emphasized the importance of menstrual hygiene management program in schools. "Everybody has right to go to school. Now it is a time to say no girl should be left at home, every girl should go to school."

# The work of the South Sudan Red Cross (SSRC) is guided by the Seven (7) Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement



Humanity



Impartiality



Neutrality



Independence



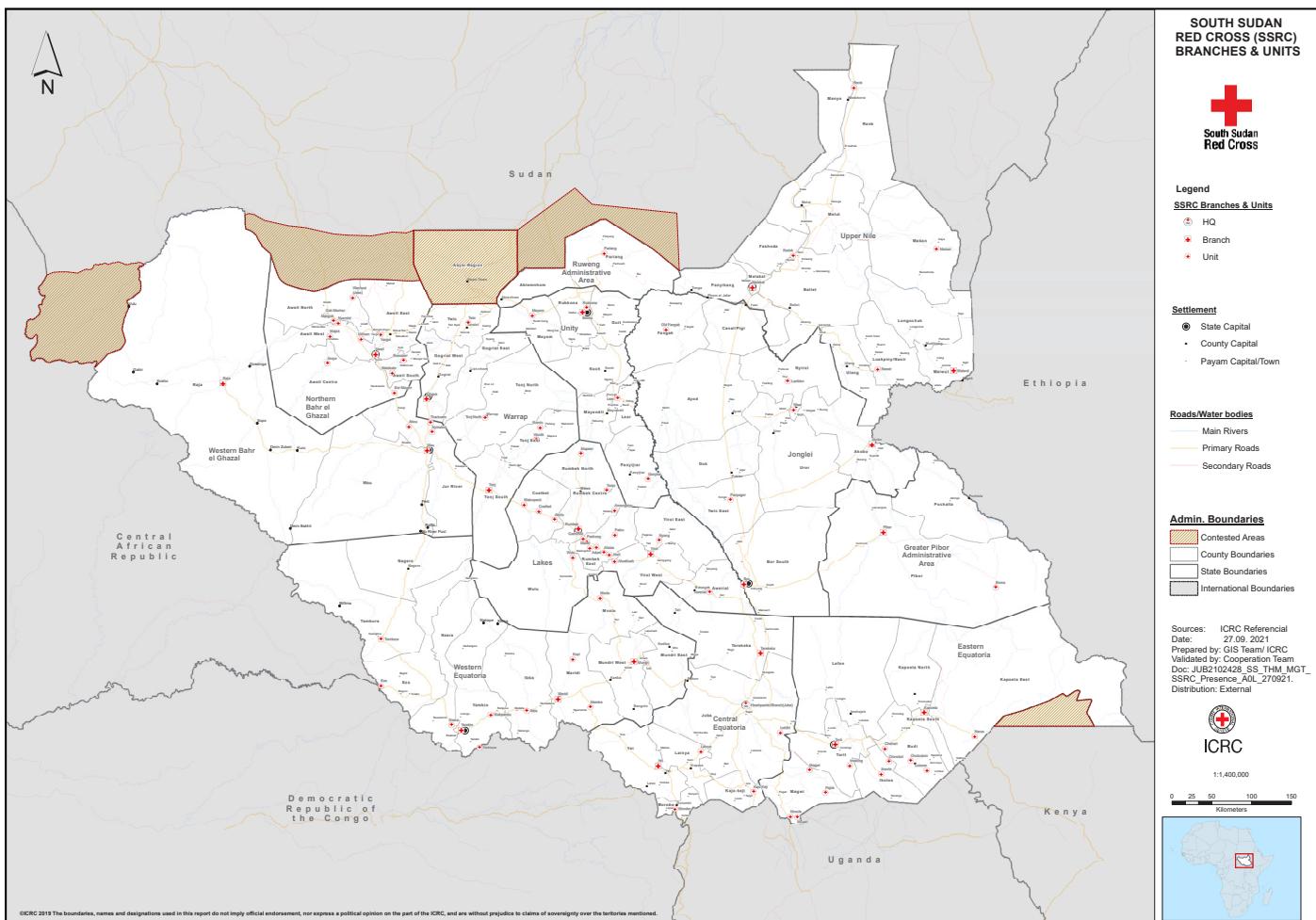
Voluntary Service



Unity



Universality



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## MISSION

Reduce suffering, build resilient communities, foster human dignity and social cohesion.

## VISION

A healthy and resilient population of the most vulnerable affected by conflict, crises and climate change.