

NRC's operations in South Sudan

Humanitarian overview

The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan is worsening, driven by multiple crises including years of conflict, food insecurity, mass displacement, the climate crisis, economic turmoil and more. An estimated 9.4 million people need humanitarian assistance and protection services in 2023, some 76 per cent of the population. Two thirds are affected by the precarious food security situation. Many of the 2.3 million South Sudanese living in protracted displacement have been displaced multiple times and cannot return home. Communities lack access to basic services and dependency on humanitarian action remains high.

The conflict in Sudan continues to drive displacement into South Sudan with hundreds of thousands of new arrivals since April 2023. South Sudanese returnees are encouraged to go to their areas of origin, places that are equally vulnerable and lack basic services. Often they find their property has been destroyed by the civil war or is occupied. The impact of climate change is also a major driver of need, with large parts of Jonglei and Unity States vulnerable to flooding. Poor living conditions in flooded areas contribute to malnutrition, waterborne diseases and malaria. South Sudan also remains one of the most severe protection crises in the world, with high levels of gender-based violence and significant human rights violations across the country.

NRC's operation

Through our mobile emergency response capacity, we provide lifesaving multi-sectoral assistance to crisis-affected populations in hard-to-reach areas across South Sudan. In areas where we have established operations, we ensure that displacement-affected people are safe, can exercise their rights, access quality services and protection, and secure durable solutions.

To that end, we contribute to the safe and stable environment needed to allow for return and reintegration or integration of displaced communities. We do this through advocacy, coordination and collaboration, as well as integrated and multi-sectoral long-term interventions. Access constraints, like bureaucratic impediments and insecurity, continue to heavily affect the overall humanitarian operation and the ability to reach people in critical need..

NRC in South Sudan

Established	2004
International staff	29
National staff	259



NRC in South Sudan

Country office

Juba

Areas of operation

Renk (Upper Nile State), Aweil Centre, Aweil South, Aweil East, Aweil West (Northern Bahr el Ghazal State), Alek, Gogrial West, Twic and Tonj North (Warrap State), Wau and Jur River (Western Bahr el Ghazal State), Akobo, Bor, Twic East and Duk (Jonglei State), Mayom/Mankien, Koch, Leer and Panyijar (Unity State), Juba and Kajo Keji (Central Equatoria State)



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Livelihoods and food security

Our programmes improve access to food and boost livelihoods, business entrepreneurship, employment, and markets and financing through savings and load schemes. We:

- provide unconditional multipurpose cash assistance and emergency food supplies to meet immediate humanitarian needs
- support farmers and fisherfolk to boost livelihoods through trainings on agricultural production and fisheries, business skill training, and access to markets and financing
- promote community-led climate-smart agricultural practices such as fuel-efficient cooking stoves, drought-tolerant crop varieties, soil and water conservation practices, and innovative pilots such as lowland rice production in flood-prone areas

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

Our ICLA programmes enhance access to housing, land and property (HLP), legal civil documentation (LCD), and employment law and procedures (ELP):

- HLP activities contribute to improved security of tenure, particularly for women, prevent unlawful eviction, support the amicable resolution of HLP disputes through collaborative dispute resolution methods and work towards the realisation of durable solutions by supporting returnees as well as internally displaced persons to obtain accurate information and take steps to secure their HLP assets in the areas of return
- Through the LCD, obtaining nationality certificates and birth notifications and age assessments, communities have increased access to services such as education, health, and employment/livelihood opportunities
- Through the ELP response, access to employment and/or the labour market is supported through facilitating access to work and supporting business registration/formalisation

Protection from violence

Our programmes strengthen community self-protection and assist individuals at heightened risk of violence, harm, coercion and deprivation, with priority given to people with specific needs such as women,

girls, people with disabilities, and the elderly. We:

- facilitate community-led protection risk assessments and provide capacity strengthening on civilian self-protection
- provide individual protection assistance and psychosocial first aid (people with specific needs will be referred to specialised services)
- support access to community centres, community dialogues and community-based protection mechanisms, including focal points, information dissemination and protection training
- systematic and regular collection and analysis of data to identify trends and patterns of violations of rights and protection risks for populations of concerns for the purpose of informing effective programming and advocacy

Education

Our education programme supports displacement-affected children and youth with access to quality, safe and inclusive learning opportunities relevant to their psychosocial, emotional, and cognitive development and needs. We provide:

- rapid education response in the first phase of an emergency because education is lifesaving and strengthens recovery and resilience
- ongoing support to schools and learners to ensure retention and progression through the formal education system, given the high number of out-of-school children in South Sudan
- non-formal education to support children and youth who missed education due to conflict and displacement, helping them to catch up with their peers and transition into the formal education system
- vocational training and life skills education for youth and linking to job opportunities
- scholastic materials, dignity kits and recreational activities to learners, teachers support, construction and furnishing of classrooms, and clean water, latrines and handwashing stations in schools

Shelter and settlements

Our shelter staff:

- provide emergency shelters and relief items to meet immediate humanitarian needs
- construct temporarily learning spaces (classrooms) under the Education in Emergencies programme

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) promotion

Our WASH projects provide displaced people with:

- emergency safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene to meet immediate humanitarian needs
- water systems and sanitation facilities at schools and communities, supporting communities with maintenance to ensure sustainability
- safe disposal of human waste
- prevention of water- and waste-related diseases through the adoption of safe and hygienic practices

Humanitarian coordination

NRC is recognised for its consistent efforts to strengthen coordination in South Sudan. NRC is a member of the NGO Forum Steering Committee and represents INGOs on the ICCG and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). In addition, NRC co-leads the Protection, WASH and Shelter/NFI clusters. Further, NRC is actively involved in the LFS cluster, Cash Working Group, the Durable Solutions Working Group and the Advisory Group on Solutions. In addition, NRC is the housing, land and property (HLP) rights Area of Responsibility Lead under the Protection cluster.

Emergency response

NRC pools capacities on Emergency Rapid Response Mechanism (ERRM) in South Sudan, through the NRC-led ERRM Consortium and with key stakeholders, for coordinated preparedness and lifesaving multisectoral response to people affected by sudden-onset disasters. This is guided by the ERRM Framework

through which the rapidity, efficiency, and effectiveness of first-line responses is assessed. Through our operational presence in Renk, Upper Nile State, and Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, we continue to address urgent needs at the border areas and transit sites to South Sudanese returnees and refugees, as well as activities that contribute to durable solutions in areas of return or settlement.

Advocacy and policy

NRC provides contextualised holistic analysis of the context and projections as well as scenarios to all humanitarian actors, donors, and diplomatic missions in South Sudan to inform the humanitarian response. With research and advocacy, we influence considerations around durable solutions, needs-based assistance, and implications of returns and refugee flows across the country, with the aim to result in better service delivery and protection of the displacement-affected population. Advocacy is conducted publicly including through media engagement and external position papers, and privately through targeted meetings and briefing to relevant interlocutors.

Cash and markets

NRC selects the most appropriate response modality informed by robust analysis of the context. We promote cash and markets-based interventions,

and mainstream cash, voucher, and market-based approaches, supported by sound market and protection analysis. Where appropriate to the context, cash transfers are used as the default modality to reduce aid dependency and restore dignity of displacement-affected populations while supporting market systems. Such responses will also be coordinated with the Cash Working Group. In cases of undeveloped markets, as is the case in most parts of the country, NRC incorporates activities in its programmes to support market functionality, e.g. seed fairs. In contexts that lack functioning markets, in-kind assistance is provided.

Localisation

NRC leverages partnerships and collaboration with private sector, civil society, and community-based institutions on programme delivery, advocacy and influencing. In 2023, NRC has signed implementation agreements with eight local partners for interventions in emergency response, education and durable solutions. Meaningful collaboration with the government, that embeds knowledge and strengthens service delivery systems, is attained at relevant levels. Since 2020, with financial support from the Education Cannot Wait fund, NRC has seconded staff to the in-country Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) Secretariat housed within the Ministry of Education.

NRC South Sudan is grateful for the generous support from our donors:

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- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (BHA)
- South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) managed by OCHA
- European Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- European Union (EU)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- IKEA Foundation