



SOUTH SUDAN

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



27 January 2026

In support of the South Sudan Red Cross



21

National Society branches



120

National Society local units



265

National Society staff



20,095

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



32.3M

Ongoing emergency operations



306,000

Climate and environment



151,000

Disasters and crises



2.8M

Health and wellbeing



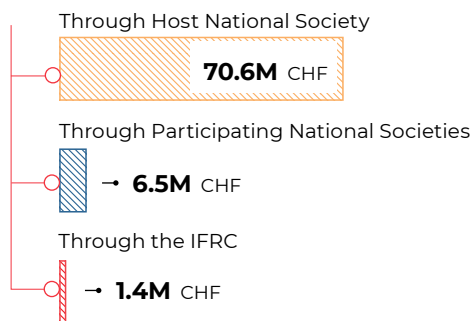
43,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 79M CHF



2027

Total 3.5M CHF

2028

Total 3.7M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

Australian Red Cross*

Austrian Red Cross*

Canadian Red Cross*

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross*

The Netherlands Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Authority*

Swedish Red Cross

Swiss Red Cross

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MDRS1001 (MDRSS013)

Sudan Crisis: Regional Population Movement

MDRSS014

South Sudan floods

MDRS1003 (MDRSS015)

South Sudan - Mpox Epidemic

Longer-term needs:

MAASS001

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.

Hazards



Floods



Population Movement



Food insecurity



Economic hardship



Droughts



Conflict

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population movement
 - Floods
 - Epidemic

Longer term needs

- Multi-layered protracted crisis

Capacity development

- Digital transformation
- Internal systems strengthening
 - Risk management
 - Resource mobilization
 - Branch development

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

Very High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Very High

Human Development Index rank

193

World Bank Population figure

11.9M



South Sudan Red Cross volunteers assist conflict-affected families from Sudan with essential items, including blankets, cooking sets, soaps, plastic sheets, mats, buckets, mosquito nets and jerry cans (Photo: South Sudan Red Cross)

Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
Ongoing emergencies		NA <i>Regional Population Movement MDRSS013 (Not available)</i> <i>South Sudan Floods MDRSS014 (Not available)</i> <i>Regional Mpox Epidemic MDRSS015 (Not available)</i>
Longer-term needs		
Climate and environment	3.3M	
Disasters & crises	8.5M	600,000
Health & wellbeing	2.2M	250,000
Migration & displacement		300,000
Values, power & inclusion	1.7M	100,000
Enabling local actors	30M	100,000
Total	70.6M	1.4M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Danish Red Cross	2026	1.7M	1.5M	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finnish Red Cross	2026	650,000		-	-	650,000	-	-	-
	2027	1.3M			600,000	650,000			
	2028	1.6M			900,000	700,000			
German Red Cross	2026	1.7M		-	1.7M	-	-	-	-
Netherlands Red Cross	2026	1.4M		560,000	-	-	-	-	857,000
	2027	560,000		560,000					
	2028	326,000		326,000					
Norwegian Red Cross	2026	490,000	490,000			-			-
Swedish Red Cross	2026	1.1M	396,000	150,000	285,000	159,000	-	254,000	221,000
	2027	1.7M	47,000						
	2028	1.7M	47,000						
Swiss Red Cross	2026					-	-	-	-

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

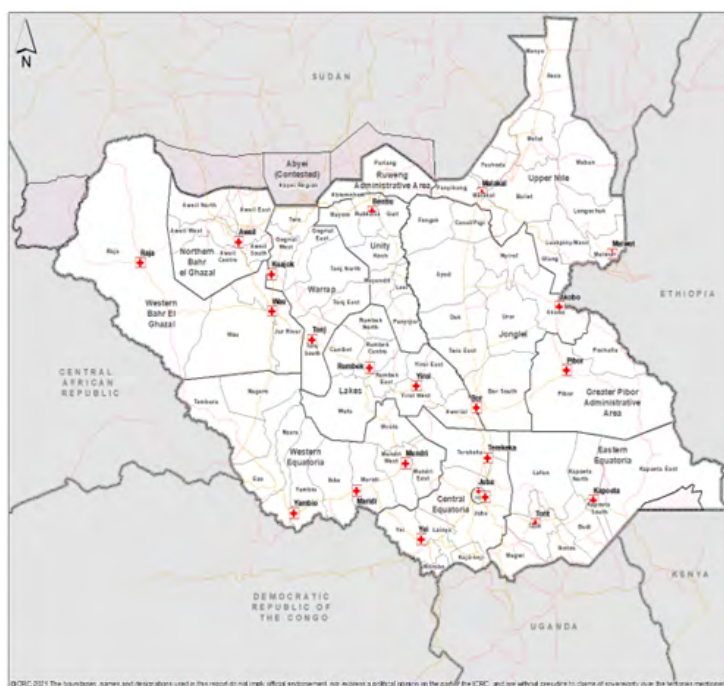
The **South Sudan Red Cross** was established by an act of Parliament in March 2012 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2013. Formerly a part of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society, its staff and volunteers have decades of experience responding to emergencies, providing health services and promoting social inclusion. In its auxiliary role to public authorities during emergencies, the South Sudan Red Cross works closely with relevant government ministries, including the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Humanitarian and Disaster Management Affairs. This engagement is at both at national and state levels. The National Society maintains autonomy and acts in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The South Sudan Red Cross has a wide network of 20,095 volunteers, 21 branches and 120 local units, which enables it to reach people in need across the country. There are teams in all the branches that are trained and equipped for emergencies and are capable of mobilizing volunteers to respond to both low and medium-level emergencies. The National Society works to improve public awareness on health and to provide community-based services, empowering people to manage their own health. It also advocates for a wider understanding and fuller application of the Fundamental Principles, by promoting social inclusion through all its activities and services.

In its Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the South Sudan Red Cross focuses on three strategic and two transformative goals:

- People reduce climate risks, protect the environment and maintain food security and livelihoods through preparedness and response capacities for disasters, conflicts and emergencies
- People live healthy lives with access to healthcare and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and practice health promotion based on knowledge and changed attitudes
- Marginalized and vulnerable people are included, protected, empowered and actively engaged in their communities
- Build a trusted and accountable National Society with strong, self-reliant structures nationwide
- Position itself as a preferred partner recognized for strong coordination and evidence-based communication and advocacy for vulnerable populations

In 2024, the South Sudan Red Cross reached about 21,000 people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of South Sudan Red Cross branches

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

South Sudan is a [landlocked country in East-Central Africa](#). It is bordered by Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic. The White Nile and the Sudd wetlands dominate its geography. The country has an estimated population of approximately [12 million](#), with a very young demographic profile. Displacement remains significant, with [over 1.1 million arrivals](#) from Sudan since 2023 and millions internally displaced due to conflicts, floods and hunger.

South Sudan is faced with [multidimensional challenges](#) across continuous conflicts and political instability, economic, persistent poverty, chronic food insecurity, social, technological, infrastructure gaps and exposure to climate and environmental shocks. Weak governance and institutional incapacity exacerbate vulnerability. Its [Human Development Index \(HDI\) of 0.388](#) as of 2023 is the lowest globally, reflecting severe deficits in life expectancy, education and income. Despite the [2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement](#), political instability and postponed elections continue to fuel fragility.

The economy remains almost entirely dependent on oil revenues. With the advent of the conflict in Sudan revenue from [oil was disrupted](#) due to the breakdown of pipeline in 2024 and non-oil revenues are less exploited causing a severe fiscal shock, weakening the currency and fuelling inflation. The influx of returnees and refugees from Sudan has impacted on the infrastructure and competition on the existing limited resources. Nearly 80 per cent of the population lives below the national poverty line and over 7 million people faced food insecurity through 2025.

South Sudan has a life expectancy of approximately [58 years](#) (WHO, 2021) and faces alarmingly high maternal and infant mortality rates, with the maternal mortality rate reaching [1,223 deaths per 100,000 live births](#) (WHO, 2025). Education completion rates remain low and there are significant gender disparities in educational attainment.

Access to electricity is extremely limited, with only [5.4 per cent of the population having connectivity](#), the lowest in the world. Outside major towns, grid coverage is minimal. In terms of communications, mobile penetration is around 47 subscriptions per 100 people, while internet access stands at roughly 12 per cent. Although digital services are gradually expanding, progress is constrained by frequent power outages, affordability challenges and substantial infrastructure gaps. Furthermore, limited access to radios and television in remote areas hampers the dissemination of timely information.

South Sudan faces severe environmental challenges, including widespread environmental degradation from oil pollution, deforestation and poor waste management. [Multi-year flooding](#) has displaced hundreds of thousands annually, destroyed cropland and damaged infrastructure. Climate change exacerbates flood risks and increases humanitarian needs. The Sudd wetlands are ecologically critical but face pressure from infrastructure projects such as dredging proposals.

South Sudan's regulatory environment is delicate marked by ineffective enforcement of laws, particularly regarding labour, human rights and business practices including challenges in institutional governance and policy foresight. The Public Financial Management Act (2011) and Financial Act 2023/24 provide the fiscal framework, but enforcement and transparency remain weak. Corruption and limited rule of law deter investment.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page: [South Sudan](#)

1.

Emergency Appeal name	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRS1003 (MGRSS015)
People affected	People affected/at risk: 300 million people
People to be assisted	30 million people
Duration	16 months (20 August 2024 to 31 March 2026)
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 30 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 40 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Africa – Regional Mpox Epidemic
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Link to Operational update	Operational Update No. 4

In 2024, Mpox cases and deaths surged significantly in Africa, with over 17,000 cases and 500 deaths reported across 12 countries, marking a sharp increase from 2023. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains the epicentre, contributing 92 per cent of cases, with transmission spreading across all its provinces and into neighbouring Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Non-endemic countries such as South Africa have also reported cases, while endemic regions, including Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, continue to see expanding outbreaks. The emergence of Clades 1a, 1b and 2 in disparate areas highlights the heightened risk, prompting organizations such as the Africa CDC, WHO and the IFRC to declare the outbreak a public emergency. Red Cross Red Crescent Societies are working closely with governments to provide community-based surveillance, risk communication and community engagement and vaccination support to mitigate the spread and reduce mortality.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The regional Mpox emergency appeal aims to assist National Societies in preparing for and responding to the Mpox epidemic. The strategy includes scaling up health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, community engagement and accountability (CEA) and addressing socio-economic impacts. The operation will be guided by a risk-based approach and regional coordination, prioritizing preparedness, readiness and response. The South Sudan Red Cross will receive support to develop country-specific response plan, enhance community-based advocacy and mitigate the spread of the virus, particularly in areas with imported cases or established transmission. The operation will also target vulnerable populations, including marginalized and immunocompromised

groups, with a focus on Protection, Gender and Inclusion. The highlights of the assistance are:

Integrated assistance

Affected people and families are provided with a safety net scheme, including multipurpose cash to meet immediate needs and cover basic necessities while recovering from Mpox infections. Affected people who have lost their livelihoods due to Mpox are aided in reintegrating into the labour market through skills enhancement and diversification.

Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Affected people are provided with community-based surveillance to detect and actively find suspected Mpox cases, feeding into existing surveillance systems. Clinical care pathways for screening, triage, isolation, testing and assessment are identified through national plans and guidelines, ensuring awareness among clinical facilities. Communities are engaged on Mpox transmission, symptoms and preventive actions. Health services ensure individuals with Mpox symptoms seek care, with support for isolation and referral. Vaccination efforts are supported through community engagement. WASH facilities are improved in health centres, with ongoing hygiene promotion to reduce transmission.

Cross-cutting approaches: the operational strategy integrates **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)** and **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)** as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities include the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.

For the period [22 August 2024](#) to [21 August 2025](#), the following assistance was provided by the South Sudan Red Cross:

The South Sudan Red Cross made significant strides in strengthening community awareness, preparedness and response. Through targeted outreach, a total of 85,701 people were reached with Mpox awareness messages. These efforts ensured that both urban and border communities were informed about prevention, symptoms and available support services. Community engagement was further strengthened through 34 awareness sessions conducted in high-traffic social spaces, allowing for face-to-face interaction, dialogue and clarification of myths and misconceptions. Complementing these sessions, 12

radio talk shows were aired, vastly extending the reach of Mpox information to rural and hard-to-reach populations and ensuring consistent messaging across multiple platforms. Information, education and communication materials were developed and distributed to households and communities, serving as practical references on Mpox prevention and management. To enhance community preparedness and resilience, the South Sudan Red Cross procured and distributed boxes of oral rehydration salts (ORS), critical for managing dehydration during illness and large containers of sanitizers, promoting hygiene practices in public and communal spaces. Additionally, protective masks were distributed, reinforcing preventive measures in targeted areas.

2.

Emergency Appeal name	Sudan Regional Population Movement
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRS1001 (MDRUG051)
People affected	People affected/at risk: 5.4 million people
People to be assisted	1.3 million people
Duration	31 months (30 May 2023 to 31 December 2026)
Funding requirements	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 38 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 47.5 million
Link to Revised Emergency Appeal	Sudan Crisis Regional Population Movement
Link to Revised Operational Strategy	Revised Operational Strategy
Link to Operational update	Operational Update No. 5

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, over 11 million people have been displaced, triggering the world's largest displacement crisis. Many have endured repeated displacements, limited access to basic services and heightened protection risks before crossing into neighbouring countries. South Sudan received over 1.2 million, including both Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese returnees. The influx primarily affected border regions such as Upper Nile and Unity states, as well as the Abyei Area. It placed immense pressure on an already fragile infrastructure and overstretched basic services. Transit centres such as Renk were overwhelmed, with limited access to clean water, shelter, healthcare and sanitation. The strain disrupted local economies, increased protection risks and heightened tensions in host communities. Humanitarian agencies are struggling to meet growing needs amid funding shortfalls and logistical challenges, accelerating vulnerabilities among displaced populations and host communities.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Due to the worsening humanitarian crisis in Sudan with more than 124 million forcibly displaced, out of which 3.4 million fled into neighbouring countries, the Federation-wide Emergency

Appeal was revised, increasing the total funding ask from the initial CHF 42 million to CHF 47.5 million and extending the operation end date to December 2026. This adjustment aimed to address the growing needs more effectively in all the countries receiving Sudanese refugees, to respond to the population movement, to adapt to the evolving context and to prepare for future developments as well as recovery actions. South Sudan has received large influxes of returnees and refugees from Sudan, especially through Renk and Malakal, where local infrastructure and services are overstretched. New arrivals include many women, children and older persons, often in poor health and requiring urgent medical and psychosocial support. Access to clean water and adequate shelter is limited, while food insecurity is rising amid the country's broader crisis. Protection concerns are high, particularly family separation and exposure to sexual and gender-based violence. Priority interventions include health, water, sanitation and hygiene, non-food items and shelter, psychosocial support and protection services. The revised Emergency Appeal and its operational strategy will continue to support response interventions of the South Sudan Red Cross. The highlights of the assistance are:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Installation of sleeping tents in affected areas and distribution of shelter kits, including tarpaulins, rope, spade, hand hoe, Panga, saw axe, nails, hammer and poles, to targeted communities.

Livelihoods

Food parcel containing essential items, including cooking oil, dates, wheat flour, rice, sugar and salt are delivered to affected communities.

Multi-purpose cash

Cash transfers were made to impacted households with children at risk, women at risk, chronically ill individuals and people whose shelters were damaged by rain.

Health and care

An ambulance for emergency referrals is deployed and on-site first aid is provided, addressing acute injuries and medical emergencies. Outpatient services are delivered through mobile disaster clinics and aqua tabs are provided in identified cholera hotspot areas.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Affected people are provided with hygiene supplies such as latrine digging kits and plastic waste bins, alongside menstrual hygiene management kits. Water sources are rehabilitated and sanitation facilities are constructed.

3.

Emergency Appeal name	South Sudan Floods
IFRC Emergency Appeal code	MDRSS014
People to be assisted	1 million people
Duration	14 months (17 October 2024 to 30 June 2026)
Funding requirements	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirement: 5 Million CHF Federation-wide funding requirement: 9 Million CHF
Link to Emergency Appeal	South Sudan Floods
Link to Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Link to Operational update	Operational Update No. 4

Heavy rains since May 2024, combined with an overflowing Lake Victoria, have caused the Nile River to burst its banks, leading to unprecedented flooding in Sudan. By 10 October, over 893,000 people across 42 counties were affected, with more than 241,000 displaced. The floods have devastated homes, livestock, crops and critical infrastructure, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks such as cholera and malaria. Displaced populations are sheltering in public buildings, churches and open areas, with reports of rising cases of malaria, respiratory infections and acute watery diarrhoea. The situation is exacerbated by ongoing conflict, limited access to basic services and high food

Cross-cutting approaches

The operational strategy integrates Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities include the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.

For the period from [30 May 2023 to 30 June 2025](#), the South Sudan Red Cross focused its response on border entry points and transit centres, particularly in Renk and Unity states reaching 464,925 people. It provided emergency health services, psychosocial support, shelter and cash assistance. The National Society also transitioned from emergency relief to early recovery, investing in sustainable water systems and resilience-building. The response was shaped by targeted interventions such as shelter support, the provision of food kits and non-food items as well as cash transfers. Protection, Gender and Inclusion training was provided to all volunteers and connectivity centres helped displaced individuals reconnect with family. Health services included emergency care, mobile clinics, mental health support and disease outbreak response (cholera, Mpox, measles), supported by trained community health workers and volunteers.

insecurity, particularly in flood-prone areas such as Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The South Sudan Red Cross has been responding to the floods since May 2024, focusing on community preparedness, early action and evacuation support. With the allocation of DREF funds on 1 August 2024, the National Society aims to scale up its response to provide lifesaving assistance and early

recovery support. The operational strategy includes integrated assistance through shelter, livelihoods and multi-purpose cash support; health and WASH interventions; Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI); Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA); and risk reduction and climate adaptation to strengthen community resilience. The highlights are as follows:

Shelter, housing and settlements

The objective is to restore and strengthen the safety and well-being of disaster-affected communities through emergency shelter and early recovery solutions. The South Sudan Red Cross provided households with emergency shelter items such as tarpaulins, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, blankets and solar lamps. Additionally, 10,000 households receive conditional cash and voucher assistance to rebuild and repair their homes, prioritizing vulnerable groups such as single mothers, households with separated children and those headed by the elderly or people with disabilities.

Livelihoods and food security

The focus is on improving income sources and food security for affected communities. The South Sudan Red Cross distributed food parcels to 2,000 households as immediate relief and provide seed and tool kits to 2,000 households to support replanting crops after floodwaters recede.

Multi-purpose cash assistance

To improve access to essential food and non-food commodities and services, the South Sudan Red Cross provided cash

grants to 15,000 households based on the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).

Health and care

Immediate health risks reduced and psychosocial impacts of the emergency lessened by strengthening community-based surveillance for early disease detection, distribution of mosquito nets and Mama kits for pregnant and lactating women and provision of first aid services. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) was offered through Psychological First Aid (PFA), child-friendly spaces and awareness sessions.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

The South Sudan Red Cross improved access to clean water by rehabilitating boreholes, installing surface water treatment systems and distributing household water treatment items. Hygiene promotion sessions were conducted and emergency latrines constructed to improve sanitation facilities.

Cross-cutting approaches

The operational strategy integrates **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)** and **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)** as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response. Activities include the provision of dignity kits and establishment of two-way feedback mechanisms.



Climate and environment

South Sudan faces significant climate risks, including rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and increased frequency of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. These climate-related challenges exacerbate existing socio-economic, access to clean water, infrastructure, health vulnerabilities and have serious implications for peace and security in the region.

Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns have led to both drought and flooding, impacting river flows and the groundwater availability and livelihoods of a population highly reliant on agriculture and pastoralism. South Sudan has a tropical savannah climate, with arid regions in the far north and the south-east. The rainy season is generally from April to November, with seasonal flooding along the tributaries of the White Nile River. Rising precipitation and water levels in Uganda's Lake Victoria have exacerbated the flood risks in South Sudan's floodplains and along the swamps and grazing.

Climate change poses a great threat to the people in varied ways. South Sudan is projected to experience a marked rise in mean temperatures. Since 2024, the country has recorded two heatwaves which is likely to continue with the projected climate scenario. Rainfall patterns are becoming more erratic: while some regions have varied impact, the general future scenario is likelihood of an increase in both total precipitation and extreme rainfall events, particularly during the core rainy season. By 2039, projections estimate average temperatures rising to 28.8 degrees Celsius alongside increased precipitation up to about 1273 millimetres, with a higher likelihood of intense rain between [July and November](#). On the other hand, climate projections for South Sudan suggest an increase of one degree in average temperature by 2060, increased unpredictability and intensity of seasonal rainfall as well as increased occurrence of drought.

Agriculture, ecosystems and water resources will be among the most affected. These shifts threaten to destabilize traditional livelihoods: over 95 per cent of the population depends on climate-sensitive sectors, such as [rainfed agriculture, livestock and fisheries](#). Water resources sector is also affected owing to reduced river flows, reduced water quality and increased conflict over rights and access to water. On account of all these factors, there is high likelihood of persistent and emergence of new and complex humanitarian needs driven by climate shocks which affect the most vulnerable people and underserved communities in the country. Key impacts in the water resources sector are related to reduced river flows, reduced

water quality and increased conflict over rights and access to water.

In order to combat the problems posed by climate change, the government of South Sudan has acted by joining multilateral environmental accords and international environmental initiatives such as the [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity \(UNCBD\)](#), [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#) and [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#).

South Sudan's [National Environmental Policy](#) aims to develop a national strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation, formulate a climate change policy and strengthen efforts to reduce communities' vulnerability to climate variability and change. Efforts to incorporate adaptation in development planning processes are underway as adaptation is being integrated in the National Policy on Food Security and the [Disaster Risk Management Policy \(DRMP\)](#), each of which are presently under development. The National Policy on Food Security identifies the adoption of drought- and flood-resistant seed varieties as a promising way forward to strengthen adaptive capacity in the country. The draft DRMP includes measures to address flood risks.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South Sudan Red Cross is part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100

of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational

pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, [anticipatory action](#) and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society is also engaged in the [Water at the Heart of Climate Action \(W@H\)](#), an ambitious partnership between the IFRC, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, the United Nations Office for Disaster

Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological Organization and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility, which combines local knowledge and global technology to help communities understand and reduce the water-related risks they face - before they become disasters. The five-year partnership is supported by financial contributions from the Government of the Netherlands.

This initiative promotes a combination of early warning and early action measures that support integrated water management in vulnerable communities through five technical areas:

- Water-related risk knowledge and governance
- Observations, monitoring and forecasting of weather and water-related events
- Water specific early warning systems dissemination and communication
- Anticipatory action and locally led adaptation
- Crosscutting activities

In alignment with the Pan-African Zero Hunger Campaign the South Sudan Red Cross will focus on the African Union Food and Nutrition Resilience Programme, with the aim of transforming agricultural systems through climate-resilient agriculture, the empowerment of women and youth and the strengthening of agro-industrial value chains.

The South Sudan Red Cross aims to deepen community engagement in nature-based and climate smart solutions that protect ecosystems, restore degraded environments and strengthen long-term resilience to climate risks. It seeks to support communities in disaster-prone areas to safeguard natural resources, adapt to shifting climatic conditions and reduce the impact of environmental hazards on their lives and livelihoods.

The National Society will focus on enhancing community capacity to anticipate, prepare for and withstand shocks triggered by conflict, environmental pressures and climate change. It also plans to reinforce institutional systems that enable effective preparedness, climate governance and humanitarian action. In addition, the South Sudan Red Cross intends to promote public awareness, influence policy processes and encourage sustainable practices that contribute to climate adaptation, environmental stewardship and more resilient livelihoods.

Planned activities in 2026

- Promote climate smart agriculture and water conservation, with tools and training for women and youth
- Support community led tree planting, reforestation and biodiversity protection
- Strengthen integration of climate risks into disaster preparedness and early warning systems

- Expand anticipatory action to lessen the impact of floods and other hazards
- Help communities shift from subsistence farming to resilient, market oriented livelihoods
- Collaborate with government and regional bodies to influence climate legislation and strengthen climate governance
- Raise public awareness on climate change, sustainable practices and disaster risk mitigation through training of volunteers and communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the South Sudan Red Cross in strengthening long-term health and climate resilience strategies through expanded access to the Green Climate Fund. This support will align with the two core pathways of the Green Climate Fund by promoting climate-resilient health systems and services capable of anticipating and adapting to climate-induced shocks such as heatwaves, floods and drought, as well as the indirect impacts that worsen food and water insecurity, drive disease outbreaks and cause physical and psychological strain. The IFRC will also facilitate climate-informed advisory and risk management services that enable communities to take proactive action to address emerging climate risks.

The IFRC will also provide support to the National Society through the CHANGE programme, which advances the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions by increasing public financial flows toward climate adaptation in the health sector. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society by promoting intra-African trade in food commodities and reinforce innovation, infrastructure, policy reform and community resilience as central pillars for reducing hunger and safeguarding livelihoods against climate and economic shocks.

Recognizing the importance of environmental protection, the IFRC will support the South Sudan Red Cross in advancing Nature-based Solutions and disaster risk reduction through initiatives such as the Pan-African Tree Planting Initiative, which aims to plant five billion trees by 2030. It will encourage sustainable land management, deforestation prevention and environmental education while backing community-led high-value tree planting and care. This includes piloting activities in ten selected branches through the Disaster Risk Management Capacity Strengthening Project supported by partners including the Government of Germany.

The IFRC will help the South Sudan Red Cross expand anticipatory action for pastoralist communities in the Greater Horn of Africa through the PASSAGE Project, working with UN agencies and research partners to enhance proactive disaster management. This includes implementing a Simplified Early Action Protocol for Floods to ensure timely interventions for vulnerable groups. Additionally, as a long-term focus, IFRC

will strengthen disaster risk management through the RISE Project and other community initiatives, supporting resilience by improving risk awareness, coping skills, preparedness and mitigation at the community level.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will provide technical support to the National Society for the [Water at the Heart of Climate Action](#) and Chronic Crisis projects and contributing to broader multisectoral work.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page: [South Sudan](#)

South Sudan faces protracted humanitarian crisis driven by conflict, climatic shocks (flooding and drought), economic instability and large-scale displacement. Over [9 million people \(more than 70 per cent of the population\)](#) need humanitarian assistance with acute food insecurity, poor access to basic health services, protection risks and disrupted livelihoods compounding the suffering of vulnerable communities.

UNICEF estimates about 9 million people will continue to need humanitarian assistance in 2026, including [4.9 million children and 2.2 million women](#), with needs driven by flooding, conflict, disease outbreaks, displacement and economic deterioration. Access remains a major operational challenge with insecurity, poor infrastructure and seasonal flooding frequently impeding humanitarian reach, especially in conflict-affected areas such as [Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity states](#). [Bureaucratic impediments](#), including delays in approvals and movement restrictions, further complicate aid delivery

The country is currently facing [active disasters and emergencies](#) including floods, disease outbreaks such as cholera and mpox, food insecurity and conflict. Severe flooding increasingly threaten South Sudan population particularly vulnerable to seasonal riverine inundation. Whereas flood waters have historically receded during the November–January dry season, years of consecutive and record-breaking flooding have permanently changed the landscape. As of [November 2024](#), about 1.4 people were affected by flooding and over half of the flood-affected population was in the states of Jonglei (capital Bor) and Northern Bahr el Ghazal (capital Aweil). Based on 2024 trends, projections suggest approximately 1.4 million people could be impacted, with between 300,000 and 400,000 potentially displaced. The [heightened flood risk in 2025](#) was driven by high water levels in upstream lakes and rivers and above-average rainfall forecast between June and September. According to Floods Snapshot (As of 26 September 2025), 593,000 people are affected flood in 25 Counties and over 170,000 people were displaced by floods.

Food insecurity continues to be a major concern. IPC projections for April–July 2025 estimated that more than 7.7 million people faced acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+), with 2.3 million children under the age at risk of acute malnutrition. Inadequate access to food, clean water and sanitation further

compounds vulnerability, heightening the risk of malnutrition and waterborne disease outbreaks.

Since the conflict erupted in Sudan in April 2023, over 1.2 million people have fled into South Sudan, comprising both South Sudanese returnees and Sudanese refugees, further straining the humanitarian situation. Displaced populations, returnees and host communities urgently require shelter, basic items and fuel, with access challenges and limited aid particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as women-headed households, persons with disabilities, children and the elderly..

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South Sudan Red Cross aims to provide timely and adequate humanitarian assistance and protection to people affected by population movements in both home and host communities. It seeks to expand [food security and livelihood opportunities](#) with particular attention to the needs of youth and women, ensuring that vulnerable communities have sustainable pathways to improved well-being.

The National Society will focus on strengthening [anticipatory action](#) and early warning systems as part of its wider commitment to resilience building and disaster response. It also plans to reinforce coordinated and integrated humanitarian action through close collaboration with government ministries, statutory bodies and humanitarian partners.

In addition, the South Sudan Red Cross intends to strengthen disaster risk management frameworks by contributing to national policy processes, supporting community-based planning and promoting inclusive approaches that reduce exposure to hazards and improve preparedness across all levels.

Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen early warning systems and [anticipatory action](#) to identify and assist those most at risk
- Deliver multi-sectoral support including shelter, emergency household items, [cash assistance](#) and health services

- Update contingency plans for conflict and floods in coordination with government ministries, statutory commissions and humanitarian partners
- Engage in humanitarian diplomacy to strengthen recognition of auxiliary status, promote inclusive disaster risk reduction policies and reinforce coordination with national and international actors
- Support community-based disaster risk reduction through local risk mapping, early warning dissemination and community-led mitigation initiatives
- Facilitate post-disaster recovery by restoring essential services and helping affected people regain livelihoods and self-reliance
- Train personnel in emergency response protocols, establish rapid response teams and pre-position relief supplies

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(IFRC-DREF\)](#) and [Emergency Appeals](#) will continue to be

drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.

The IFRC will continue to support the South Sudan Red Cross in strengthening [disaster risk management](#) and community resilience through long-term programmes that prioritize capacity development, digital transformation and internal systems strengthening. This support aligns with national priorities by enhancing the National Society's ability to respond to protracted crises such as food insecurity, climate-induced disasters and health emergencies. The IFRC will also focus on reinforcing branch development and resource mobilization, enabling the National Society to operate effectively across its twenty-one branches and fully utilise its extensive volunteer network.

The IFRC will also support the National Society in the establishment and operationalization of national and local disaster risk management committees, technical working groups and early warning systems, contributing to a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach that aligns with the Sendai Framework. Additionally, it will facilitate collaboration between the South Sudan Red Cross and the government and provide support in integrating disaster risk reduction into national development planning.



Women and children collecting water from a borehole newly constructed in Panthou by the South Sudan Red Cross (Photo: IFRC)



South Sudan faces a heavy burden of infectious and non-communicable diseases with malaria accounting for 47 per cent of morbidity nationally. Leading causes of morbidity and mortality include HIV/AIDS, lower respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, maternal conditions and stroke. Life expectancy remains low, reflecting ongoing health system characterized by limited access to health services and social challenges. The government's health priorities aligned to the 2016-2026 National Health Policy and the 2023-2027 Health Sector Strategic Plan, emphasize primary healthcare expansion, immunization improvement, sexual and reproductive health, emergency preparedness and integration of mental health and gender-based violence services.

A WHO report from 2024 indicates a 70 per cent gap in healthcare system funding. As a result, out-of-pocket spending constitutes approximately 54 per cent of the total health expenditure, placing a heavy financial burden on individuals. The country faces a severe shortage of healthcare workers, inadequate health infrastructure and low utilization of available health services, further exacerbating the public health crisis.

Access to health care remains severely constrained, compounded by extended conflict, displacement and insufficient infrastructure. About 44 per cent of the population live within reach of consistent primary health care, with many health facilities non-functional or destroyed, particularly during crises such as recent floods which wiped out 121 facilities affecting over 300,000 children. Spatial access studies indicated that only 26 per cent of people live within one hour walking distance to access a health facility, with wide disparities across counties; rural, flood-prone and conflict-affected areas experience the poorest access. Healthcare delivery relies heavily on mobile teams and Boma Health Workers, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

Cholera, malaria and measles outbreaks remain persistent and severe, fuelled by poor sanitation, population movement, displacement and flooding. The cholera outbreak now totals 90,307 cases and 1,552 deaths reported in 55 counties across 9 states and 3 administrative areas (Ruweng, Greater Pibor and Abyei). Malaria cases remain very high with millions affected annually. Measles outbreaks are reported due to suboptimal vaccination coverage and disruptions in routine immunizations. South Sudan has one of the world's lowest immunization rates, with an estimated 145,590 zero-dose children predominantly in conflict-affected, remote and border areas, mostly in western and northern regions.

Dropout rates between vaccine doses exceed 10 per cent in many counties. Immunization campaigns depend on community health workers and mobile teams, who deliver vaccines door-to-door to overcome access barriers. Recent floods and insecurity have further reduced immunization services

outreach, increasing risks of vaccine-preventable disease resurgence.

Malnutrition remains at crisis levels, driven by food insecurity, conflict, poverty and climatic shocks. Approximately 7.7 million people (57 per cent of the population) face acute food insecurity in 2025, including 2.3 million children under five at risk of acute malnutrition (IPC Phase 3 and above), with an increase of malnourished children by 10.5 per cent recently due to aid cuts and worsening conditions. Treatment programme face underfunding and access challenges, jeopardizing child survival and development.

Though limited data is available, stroke and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) contribute significantly to the disease burden. Stroke accounts for 41.5 deaths per 100,000 population. The health system prioritizes primary care strengthening to better address NCDs alongside infectious diseases. However, resource constraints and focus on immediate humanitarian needs curtail comprehensive NCD management.

Water and sanitation infrastructure is inadequate, exacerbating health risks. Flooding has damaged sanitation facilities, leading to increased incidence of diarrheal diseases and cholera outbreaks. Stagnant floodwaters foster disease vectors, increasing malaria and other infections. Poor WASH conditions remain a major barrier to improving public health.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South Sudan Red Cross aims to improve access to sustainable, appropriate and affordable health services so that people can live healthy lives supported by effective health promotion and behavioural change. It seeks to maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies by ensuring that epidemic and pandemic preparedness is strengthened across all levels. The South Sudan Red Cross will focus on expanding preventive health behaviours, promoting disease awareness and increasing access to timely care among target groups. It also plans to broaden the availability of high-quality first aid services across vulnerable communities, public institutions and workplaces through expanded Commercial First Aid education. In addition, the South Sudan Red Cross intends to enhance voluntary blood donation services in key locations to support lifesaving care.

Alongside these priorities, the South Sudan Red Cross aims to increase access to safe, affordable water and improved sanitation within communities and institutions. It seeks to promote sustained hygiene practices, especially in schools and other public settings, while strengthening the capacity of branches to deliver effective water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services during disasters and emergencies. In 2026, the South Sudan Red Cross will focus on advancing integrated health and water, sanitation and hygiene interventions aligned with its Strategic

Plan 2022–2026, supporting communities to prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks. It also plans to strengthen engagement and advocacy with authorities and partners to close gaps in service delivery and to link national priorities with broader continental initiatives such as Africa Red Ready, contributing to the IFRC Global Strategy 2030 and the IFRC Water Security Strategy 2024–2030.

Planned activities in 2026

- Expand access to sustainable and quality health services,
- Support behaviour change through disease prevention, health promotion and increased care seeking
- Broaden the provision of high-quality first aid and Commercial First Aid education across sectors
- Strengthen voluntary blood donation systems in Juba, Torit and Wau
- Increase access to safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene promotion in communities and institutions
- Reinforce water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) preparedness and branch capacity for effective response during disasters
- Deliver integrated health and WASH interventions that prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the South Sudan Red Cross to implement the Preparedness for Pandemic Response project. This includes reinforcing One Health cross border surveillance, laboratory systems, workforce readiness and multi-sectoral coordination across the Intergovernmental Authority on Development region. The support will enhance cross border pandemic control and enable shared learning among the National Societies of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda alongside the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the WHO.

The IFRC's access to the Green Climate Fund will further support the National Society in strengthening long-term climate-resilient health systems that can anticipate, respond to and adapt to climate-related shocks. Additional support will

contribute to the scaling of the Boma Health Initiative, volunteer health system strengthening and rehabilitation of health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, including supply chains and essential medicines. This will complement the South Sudan Red Cross's nutrition, community health and WASH efforts.

The IFRC will also contribute to the 'Transboundary Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Capacities Enhancement' project funded through **Austrian Red Cross** to strengthen preparedness and resilience across the wider Nile River Basin.

Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society to apply revised guidance that promotes a collaborative, country-led model for maximizing collective impact, ensuring coordinated planning, resource mobilization, risk management and monitoring across health and water, sanitation and hygiene priorities. It will continue facilitating multisectoral projects that expand safe, reliable and clean water and sanitation services and complement government efforts to advance the WASH Compact and achieve the national Open Defecation Free road map by 2030.

The **Austrian Red Cross** will provide the National Society with financial support for the Transboundary Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Capacities Enhancement project.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the South Sudan Red Cross in multisectoral community health and hygiene interventions that strengthen behaviour change and resilience.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will support the National Society in conducting capacity-building activities aimed at reinforcing health and hygiene promotion.

The **German Red Cross** will support the National Society in health system strengthening, hygiene promotion and water, sanitation and hygiene capacity development.

The **Swedish Red Cross** will support the South Sudan Red Cross in the implementation of integrated health and hygiene initiatives that strengthen community-led practices.

The **Swiss Red Cross** will provide support to the National Society in enhancing hygiene promotion. It will also support staff and volunteer capacity development.



Since the outbreak of fighting in Sudan on 15 April 2023, the influx of people fleeing the country has increased exponentially. As of August 2025, more than 1.2 million individuals had crossed the border into South Sudan, 829,771 (68 per cent) being South Sudanese nationals or returnees and 384,936 people being refugees from Sudan. In addition, about 2 million people are currently internally displaced (IDPs), according to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) further worsening the humanitarian situation. Additionally, in 2024, South Sudan experienced its worst flooding since gaining independence, affecting over a million people and displacing over a third of those affected.

Prolonged conflicts in South Sudan have subjected displaced populations to atrocities such as rape, abduction, killings and destruction of livelihoods. Famine conditions have occurred in parts of South Sudan, leaving millions struggling to find enough food and leading to critical nutritional deficits. Additionally, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees often live in overcrowded, unsanitary conditions with inadequate shelter. This fosters rapid spread of infectious diseases due to poor sanitation, limited access to clean water and exposure to disease vectors such as mosquitoes. Open defecation and poor waste disposal are common, compounding health risks.

Conflict, floods and displacement have severely damaged education and health infrastructure in South Sudan, restricting access to schooling and essential medical care. Many health facilities are non-operational, leaving displaced communities to struggle with barriers such as cost, distance and a shortage of healthcare professionals. This has resulted in untreated chronic and infectious diseases and disrupted vaccination efforts, especially affecting children. Additionally, high rates of chronic illnesses and psychological distress persist, with limited support available. Marginalization, resource inequities and weak social support systems compound these challenges, perpetuating poor health outcomes for displaced populations.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South Sudan Red Cross aims to ensure that people on the move, including migrants and displaced persons, have access to timely humanitarian assistance, protection and durable solutions that strengthen their long-term wellbeing. It seeks to enhance the understanding of migration dynamics among its staff and volunteers to enable them to deliver context-appropriate support to migrants, displaced communities, host populations and families left behind without discrimination.

The National Society will focus on reaching marginalized and excluded groups living in undignified conditions, especially those without identity documents or reliable access to basic

services. It plans to reinforce its internal capacity so that humanitarian interventions remain principled, inclusive and responsive to the needs of people navigating complex mobility challenges across the country.

Additionally, the National Society plans to improve access to Restoring Family Links services for communities, returnees, internally displaced persons and refugees. It aims to reduce the separation and uncertainty caused by conflict and displacement by facilitating communication, tracing and reunification processes.

Planned activities in 2026

- Expand humanitarian service points dedicated to migrants and displaced persons
- Provide targeted assistance packages that meet immediate needs in displacement and transit locations
- Train staff and volunteers in protection, rights awareness and community engagement tailored to migration contexts
- Coordinate with local authorities and partners to support individuals without identity documents
- Prioritize outreach missions to informal sites where people are living in undignified conditions
- Integrate host communities into service delivery to reduce tensions and support social cohesion
- Facilitate linkages to longer term pathways such as family tracing, livelihoods support or reintegration mechanisms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the South Sudan Red Cross in the protection of migrants and displaced people through mainstreaming Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) activities in Disaster Risk Management and health and wellbeing.

Under wider Movement support, **the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** will also support the South Sudan Red Cross in mainstreaming Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across its operations to support displaced people and migrants.



Values, power and inclusion

South Sudan faces multiple protection challenges, as detailed in the “Conflict and Food Insecurity” report by the [Protection Cluster South Sudan](#). These encompass conflict, violence, systematic breaches of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law, cattle raiding and notably, gender-based violence. The [UNMISS Human Rights Division \(HRD\)](#) documented 194 incidents of violence affecting 920 civilians between January and March 2023. The states of Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administration Area bore the brunt of this violence, accounting for half of the recorded victims. Women and girls, in their pursuit of sustenance, are increasingly susceptible to gender-based violence, including sexual violence. Domestic tensions are escalating, intensifying the threat of intimate partner violence. Child marriage remains a significant concern, with 51.5 per cent of women aged 20 to 24 years having been married or in a union before the age of 18, as highlighted by the [UN Women’s Global Database on Violence Against Women](#).

South Sudan’s position at 150th in the [UNDP’s Gender Inequality Index](#) underscores the country’s gender inequality. Beyond the immediate threats of conflict and violence, gender discrimination intensifies poverty and hunger. The destruction of infrastructure due to intercommunity conflicts further heightens gender-based violence risks. Additionally, discrimination and stigmatization, denial of resources, forced displacement, theft, extortion and child exploitation are prevalent, disproportionately affecting women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

With the rise in food insecurity, [3.1 million](#) children urgently require protection and humanitarian relief. Alarming, 70 per cent of children, equating to over 2.8 million, are not attending school. Many of these children belong to pastoral communities, where their nomadic lifestyle hinders regular schooling. Girls, especially, confront barriers to education due to factors such as poverty, early marriage and cultural norms. Moreover, children are at risk of forced recruitment into armed groups, especially during heightened food insecurity periods. The ongoing Sudan crisis, widespread flooding and soaring food prices are exacerbating these risks, pushing families to the brink and increasing vulnerabilities.

South Sudan is home to 1.2 million individuals with disabilities, with a significant portion having impairments due to violence. A [survey by IOM](#) in Tonj South revealed that nearly one-third of the population experiences some form of disability. On 24 February 2023, South Sudan took a significant step towards disability inclusion by endorsing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as reported by [Disability Rights](#). People with disabilities often face stigmatization, marginalization, exclusion and are left unable to access the support needed to live in dignity as equal members of society.

According to [Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\) 2025](#), in 2025, over 5.5 million people will require urgent

protection support due to conflict, displacement and climate crises. Economic hardship and cultural stigmas further marginalize survivors, limiting available support. Women and children are at increased risk of GBV, including sexual assault and intimate partner abuse. Conflict and displacement expose over 2.3 million people to heightened risks of theft, eviction and property destruction. Minority groups, people with disabilities and displaced individuals often face discrimination and lack essential resources and documentation. Armed checkpoints and roadblocks along key routes severely hinder freedom of movement, restricting access to services. Nearly 20,000 children remain separated, unaccompanied or missing, jeopardizing their safety. Arrivals from Sudan strain local services, raise tensions with resident communities and increase humanitarian needs.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The South Sudan Red Cross aims to strengthen inclusion, participation and social cohesion by supporting communities to build knowledge, skills and opportunities for young people. It seeks to promote positive behaviour change and cultivate environments where diversity is valued and community members feel enabled to contribute meaningfully to local development.

The National Society plans to reinforce protection mechanisms so that individuals, communities and volunteers feel supported and safe in their engagement with humanitarian services. It will focus on identifying and reducing risks that undermine personal and collective wellbeing, particularly in fragile or displacement-affected areas.

The South Sudan Red Cross seeks to expand access to [mental health and psychosocial support](#) for people at risk of psychological distress. It aims to ensure that those experiencing emotional, social or environmental pressures are connected to timely and appropriate services that strengthen resilience and promote psychosocial wellbeing.

The South Sudan Red Cross will focus on enhancing Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) throughout the programme cycle by strengthening local capacities, improving access to timely information and ensuring safe channels for feedback and dialogue.

Planned activities in 2026

- Support gender-responsive community-based sexual and gender-based violence and child protection safeguarding and ensure response mechanisms are established and maintained at the community level
- Strengthen the awareness of referral pathways and service delivery through constant coordination and collaboration with other stakeholders

- Prioritize initiatives such as life skills and livelihood training for equal opportunities among youth (girls, boys), women, men and people at risk
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Education, the education community and young people to ensure continuous access to education promoting non-violence and peaceful coexistence
- Mainstream Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across all programming, response activities and for staff and volunteers
- Conduct a PGI organization assessment

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical guidance, coordination support and targeted capacity strengthening to the South Sudan Red Cross to ensure that planned interventions advance inclusion, protection and community engagement across all programme areas. The IFRC aims to reinforce the ability of the South Sudan Red Cross to design and deliver activities that enhance young people's skills, participation and opportunities while contributing to social cohesion and behaviour change efforts in diverse community settings.

The IFRC will assist the National Society in improving access to mental health and psychosocial support by offering specialized technical inputs, facilitating training and promoting integrated approaches across programmes. It will focus on ensuring that staff and volunteers have the competencies required to identify psychological distress and provide appropriate referral and support pathways.

Additionally, the IFRC will provide support to the National Society to strengthen [Community Engagement and Accountability \(CEA\)](#) through the integration of participatory approaches throughout the programme management cycle. It will focus on improving mechanisms for timely information sharing, safe feedback collection and context appropriate adaptation of interventions, ensuring that community perspectives shape decision making and programme delivery. The IFRC will also continue to assist the South Sudan Red Cross in building local capacities so that community structures are empowered to contribute meaningfully to planning, implementation and monitoring.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The South Sudan is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the [Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification \(OCAC\)](#) process in 2022. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan
- Digital transformation roadmap
- Data management system



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen coordination with authorities, civil society, the private sector and research institutions at national and branch levels
- Increase participation in interagency coordination platforms
- Maintain strong Movement coordination for all in country partners

- Ensure all support aligns with the strategic and development priorities of the National Society

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in engaging with multiple stakeholders and developing strategic and operational partnerships. It will also support coordination of IFRC network and Movement partners.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen volunteer management through expanded use of the digital recruitment and management platform and improved branch capacity and data systems
- Improve organizational processes and systems through comprehensive training for governance bodies, staff and volunteers
- Engage in peer learning with other National Societies to adopt best practices and refine internal processes
- Strengthen financial sustainability by expanding income generating initiatives and continuing implementation of the core cost recovery policy
- Advance branch development through targeted training in resource mobilization, financial management and volunteer engagement
- Maintain strong statutory, legal and policy frameworks through regular dissemination and induction for board members and staff and finalize the membership policy

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide technical and financial support to strengthen the core development priorities of the South Sudan Red Cross through initiatives such as the Financial Sustainability project, branch development, the localization agenda and alliance, the [IFRC/ICRC National Society Investment Alliance](#), the Empress Shōken Fund and the ECHO Humanitarian Implementation Plan National Society Capacity Strengthening Initiative for 2025–2027.

The IFRC will focus on supporting growth in staff, volunteer and governance capacities, enhancing financial management and strengthening communication systems, alongside advancing financial sustainability across all branches to reinforce effective humanitarian service delivery.

The IFRC will also assist in strengthening leadership and branch development in relation to financial sustainability, resource mobilization and private sector fundraising, while supporting key enablers such as business skill development, operational capacity for preparedness and response and the delivery of longer-term programmes. In addition, the IFRC will work with the South Sudan Red Cross to advance youth and volunteer management and development efforts that contribute to the implementation of the new National Society Development Framework.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase awareness on Fundamental Principles, International Humanitarian Law, the mandate, activities, the auxiliary role and emblem protection
- Advocate for enforcement of the Geneva Conventions, additional protocols, the Act of 2012 and emblem regulations
- Tackle national policy and legal gaps, including those related to Disaster Risk Management and other thematic areas
- Counter misinformation and disinformation affecting public understanding of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Strengthen media engagement and crisis communication
- Update and roll out branding guidelines
- Support review of the constitution and amendments to the Act of 2012

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will work closely with the South Sudan Red Cross to coordinate, plan and provide financial and technical support in line with the Movement Cooperation and Partnership Agreement. This support will guide the work of the communications and Humanitarian Diplomacy. The IFRC will help strengthen the capacity of communication and legal teams to address emblem misuse, improve understanding of International Humanitarian Law and reinforce awareness of the auxiliary role. It will also assist in enhancing the South Sudan Red Cross public profile and improving the way it engages with authorities, communities and partners.

Additionally, the IFRC support will further focus on strengthening advocacy efforts, building evidence to inform humanitarian diplomacy and countering misinformation that affects trust and understanding of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Assistance will also help address existing policy and legal gaps that limit effective humanitarian action.



Women from Gakrol village in Aweil South, dressed in vibrant traditional attire, join South Sudan Red Cross staff and volunteers in a lively display of singing and dancing (Photo: IFRC)



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen systems through fraud and corruption prevention measures and ongoing improvements to organizational processes
- Implement a finance development plan that strengthens financial systems and procedures and ensures annual external and project audits
- Expand safeguarding through new policies, stronger investigation procedures, an [integrity line](#) and a whistle blower policy
- Conduct a comprehensive human resources review including salary structures, benefits and staff development

- Develop a risk management policy and framework for headquarters and branches
- Use an information and communications technology assessment and roadmap to guide upgrades to [digital infrastructure](#)
- Carry out a digital maturity assessment to identify needs and priorities for organization-wide digital strengthening

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the South Sudan Red Cross across its accountability efforts, as part of its National Society development priorities.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has been present in South Sudan since 2011 and it signed a status agreement with the Government in September 2013. In June 2021, the IFRC country delegation in South Sudan was adjusted to become a country cluster delegation, which now covers South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The IFRC supports the South Sudan Red Cross on strategic and operational coordination and humanitarian diplomacy, reinforcing its auxiliary role to the authorities in South Sudan. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. In recent years, the IFRC has supported the National Society through of a number

of Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) in relation to [floods](#), [disease outbreaks](#) and [population movement](#).

The IFRC also works closely with the National Society to support it on delivering a wide range of services and has also supported the development of the South Sudan Red Cross Strategic Plan 2022–2026. National Society development is a key priority for the IFRC and it works to strengthen the capacity of the South Sudan Red Cross through preparedness and response.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The following nine participating National Societies provide long-term support to the South Sudan Red Cross:

The **Canadian Red Cross** provides support to the South Sudan Red Cross in National Society development.

The **Danish Red Cross** provides support in psychosocial support, disaster management, forecast-based action and [anticipatory action](#), in Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria State and Northern Bahr.

The **Finnish Red Cross** supports the South Sudan Red Cross in community-based health and first aid, WASH, disaster risk reduction, organizational development, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and psychosocial support.

The **German Red Cross** supports the South Sudan Red Cross in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and disaster preparedness

The **Netherlands Red Cross** has been providing support to the National Society in WASH, protection, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience building in Jonglei and Central Equatoria State.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supports the South Sudan Red Cross in health and WASH, organizational development, financial development and National Society development.

The **Swedish Red Cross** supports the South Sudan Red Cross in protection, WASH and health.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provides support in health, blood safety and availability, WASH, psychosocial support, nutrition and National Society development in Eastern Equatorial State, Central Equatoria State, Western Equatoria State and Western Bahr.

Movement coordination

The South Sudan Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles and the newly-adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC, present in Juba since 1980, opened a delegation in South Sudan in mid-2011. It works to respond to the needs of people affected by armed conflict and violence. The ICRC supports South Sudan Red Cross in national emergency management forums together with other partners. ICRC provides situational analysis of the conflict areas to ensure Red Cross Red Crescent principled action. The ICRC also supports South Sudan Red Cross with logistics support and helps conflict-affected communities in South Sudan become self-sufficient. Additionally, the ICRC visits places of detention, supports health care facilities and promotes respect for International Humanitarian Law.

Coordination with other actors

In its auxiliary role to public authorities on emergency response, the South Sudan Red Cross maintains strong relations with a number of key governmental bodies, at ministerial and department levels. It contributes to national government campaigns, as well as the implementation of national plans.

IFRC and ICRC represent the Movement in meetings of the national Humanitarian Country Team as observers, with key outcomes shared through the National Non Governmental Organization Forum of which the South Sudan Red Cross is a member. The National Society plays an active role in the Humanitarian Coordination Forum, the Anticipatory Action Working Group, the National Early Warning Working Group and the Floods Task Force led by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to strengthen preparedness, mobilize resources and mitigate the impacts of climate, environmental and human made hazards.

The South Sudan Red Cross works with the Ministry of Health through task forces and steering committees such as the

Cholera and Mpox Steering Committee to share updates and plan preventive and curative measures for epidemic prone diseases. Engagement with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation supports efforts to expand access to safe water, address excess riverine water risks and promote sanitation, hygiene and compliance with national water resource policies. Coordination with the Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare focuses on preventing sexual and gender based violence, strengthening child protection and promoting gender equality and inclusion in education, health and economic empowerment. The National Society also participates in major clusters and working groups including Food Security and Livelihoods, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Protection, Shelter and Non Food Items, Logistics and their technical working groups.

The South Sudan Red Cross coordinates with a number of other actors, including international and national humanitarian NGOs and UN agencies at both branch and headquarters level.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

Contact information

South Sudan Red Cross [south-sudan-red-cross](#)

Mohamed Babiker

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation
for South Sudan,
Uganda & Tanzania,
Juba
mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org

Louise Daintrey

Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilizations
IFRC Regional Office for Africa,
Nairobi
T +254 110 843978
louise.daintrey@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning
& Reporting Centre
New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org