

International Rescue Committee South Sudan: Strategy Action Plan



P. Biro/IRRC



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IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of the IRC's global strategy, IRC2020 (see right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC has made investments to design more effective programs, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and better respond to beneficiaries' needs.



SOUTH SUDAN OVERVIEW

South Sudan is presently confronting multiple humanitarian crises. Decades of marginalization, natural disaster, and conflict have undermined basic services, like health and education, and severely compromised livelihoods.

South Sudan faces some of the steepest healthcare challenges globally as most of the population is affected by a persistent health crisis. Facilities are run by under-resourced paraprofessionals with limited capacities due to shortages of trained health professionals.

Furthermore, healthcare facilities have limited support and resources for infrastructure rehabilitation and repair.

Safety is also a major concern. In South Sudan, the vast majority of women and girls experience at least one form of gender-based violence in their lifetime. At school, children face abuse such as corporal punishment, forced labor, fighting, and bullying.

Compounding many of South Sudan's challenges is continued economic decline and

hyperinflation. Conflict has chipped away at development gains achieved since the nation's independence in 2011, leading to widespread poverty, poor market development and infrastructure, and inadequate social services. As a result, people struggle to meet their basic needs.

Continuing support to communities in crisis, the IRC's 2015-2020 strategy for South Sudan illustrates its commitment to improving the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of crisis-affected people in South Sudan.

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

The IRC has been one of the largest providers of aid in South Sudan for more than 20 years. Today, the IRC continues to support communities with emergency relief and reconstruction assistance.

From 2015-2020, the IRC's new strategy in South Sudan will prioritize improving health, safety, and economic wellbeing (see Figure 1). The IRC will specifically target women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

The IRC will focus on improving health by strengthening and expanding local health systems. Support for maternal and reproductive health services will enable more women and girls to access the specialized care they need. By promoting methods to prevent and address communicable and water and sanitation-related illness, instances of preventable disease will be reduced. Through awareness and community mobilization efforts, the IRC will strive to develop health seeking behaviors, reduce harmful

traditional practices like child marriage, and enhance referrals from communities to facilities.

To advance safety in communities, the IRC will scale up and invest in innovative approaches to deliver case management and psychosocial support services to serve more communities. The IRC will also test and refine new, more sustainable models of service delivery and prevention to address violence in communities.

Future programs will advance emergency response to secure people's basic needs, while also providing a clear path to self-sufficiency.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will ensure that programming across all sectors is tailored to meet the unique needs of women and girls.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in South Sudan	Future Programs
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Women and adolescent girls are protected from and treated for complications of pregnancy and childbirth > Children are protected from and treated for communicable diseases. > People are protected from water, sanitation, and hygiene-related diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Promote effective referral systems for women from communities to health facilities > Increase the availability of skilled local healthcare workers and health services > Enhance the capacity of host governments, communities and other partners to offer quality healthcare for children
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Deliver innovations in case management and psychosocial support to support survivors of violence
ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People meet basic needs and avoid negative coping strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide basic inputs for income generation, such as hand tools and equipment for farming and fishing > Distribute cash vouchers for essential items to promote livelihood diversification and market growth > Protect livestock assets from disease

COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve the priority outcomes, the IRC in South Sudan is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, react more quickly when crisis strikes and be more responsive to beneficiaries and partners. The IRC made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people it serves in South Sudan.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact



Effectiveness

- > Restructure and reinforce monitoring and evaluation capacity by investing in monitoring staff and establishing M&E focal points for each project
- > Generate evidence through targeted research to discover the most effective programming models



Best Use of Resources

- > Mitigate exchange rate risks through contingency planning, while continuing to procure quality equipment and services



Scale and Reach

- > Expand partnerships with and build the capacity of local civil society actors to increase the scale of IRC activities and reach more people



Speed and Timeliness

- > Establish a Country Emergency Team, comprised of existing staff across all sectors, and maintain an Emergency Preparedness Plan to respond quickly to any crisis
- > Upgrade the IRC's capacity to quickly procure and ship supplies as soon as crisis strikes



Responsiveness

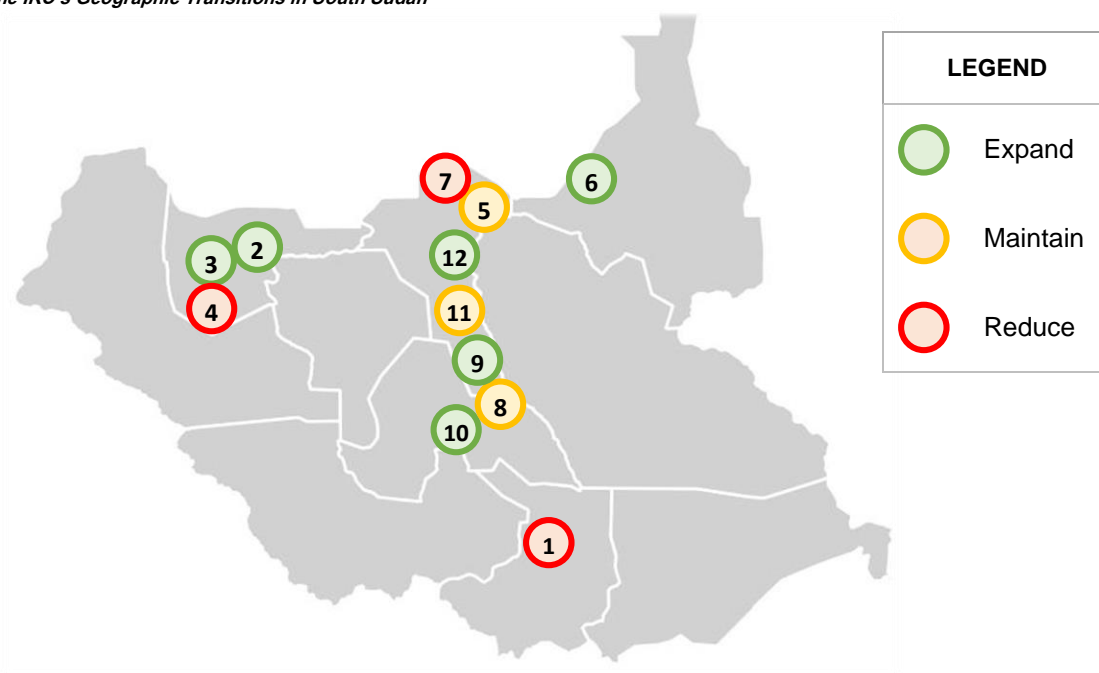
- > Increase accountability to beneficiaries by strengthening and expanding client feedback mechanisms in programming locations



IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

From 2015- 2020, the IRC will maintain, expand, and reduce its presence in sites across South Sudan based on an analysis of where the greatest need is and where the IRC can create the biggest impact.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographic Transitions in South Sudan



Geographic Transition	
Juba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reduce programming in urban areas, while maintaining coordination efforts with government and other stakeholders (1).
N BeG State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Expand footprint in Maluaklon (2) and Aweil Center (3) by strengthening partnerships with government and local organizations. Continue health, nutrition, and case management services, and integrate programs to improve economic wellbeing and safety. > Reduce footprint in Panthou (4) and handover activities to local partners as outcomes improve.
Unity State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Maintain presence in Ajuong Thok (5), which will also support the new site in Pamir (6). > Reduce presence in Yida (7) and transfer activities to the new camp in Pamir. > Maintain current geographical coverage in Greater Ganyliel (8). > Expand to four additional payams in Nyal (9). > Return to Koch (11), where activities ceased in May 2015 due to security concerns. > Expand in Bentiu (12), including Nhialdu payam, while continuing activities in Protection of Civilians sites and Rubkona county.
Lakes State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Explore expansion opportunities through reinforced partnerships with local organizations (10).



P Biro / IRC

The IRC in South Sudan



Ronald Paul Veilleux, Country Director
Ronald.PaulVeilleux@rescue.org



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