

Context

Despite the signing of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, South Sudan continues to suffer from intra and inter communal violence. This combined with extreme flooding, families have been displaced multiple times in the past few years. Compounded with the 2023 development of political uncertainty in the neighbouring Sudan, the country continues to witness a huge inflow of refugees and returnees fleeing conflict in search of safety.

The BHA Multisector Project: To restore hope amongst youth, men and women displaced by multiple devastations in South Sudan, **the Multisector Emergency Response project funded by USAID**, contributes to a reduction in protection risks and any life-threatening conditions for displaced and vulnerable populations. DRC is well positioned through its static program footprints in Upper Nile, Unity State and through the Mobile Response Teams (MRT) that respond to emergencies across the country.



Our Response

Support to Returnees: The project provides life-saving assistance, including basic decent housing (emergency shelter support) in Upper Nile (Kodok and Malakal town), and Bentiu town in Unity State, targeting the most vulnerable persons (Persons with Specific Needs). It also offers GBV prevention, livelihood support, and coordination with partners and local authorities in both Upper Nile and Unity states for returnees fleeing the Sudan conflict. In 2023, advocacy efforts secured land for temporary settlement for returnees.

Support to Internally Displaced Persons: In Unity's Rubkona, Guit, Koch, and Mayom counties, IDP camps still house persons displaced by floods and conflict. The humanitarian situation is critical, worsened by shrinking funding for South Sudan. However, DRC's Multi-sectoral Emergency Response project implements interventions to support government and humanitarian efforts. These include providing emergency shelters, GBV prevention for young women and adolescents, training women in sanitary material production, supplying emergency clothing, mobility devices for people with disabilities, and other IDP benefits.

Support to Host Communities: The project aligns with the 2015 peace agreement, focusing on conflict sensitivity to overcome barriers to social cohesion. Through this project, DRC enhances local capacity through women's networks and community-based protection, engages adolescent girls in GBV initiatives, restores livelihoods, and collaborates with local authorities in camp management.

Approach

Mobile Response Team (MRT): DRC operates in hard-to-reach areas across South Sudan, filling humanitarian gaps through the DRC MRT and static programs by providing life-saving assistance. The MRT effectively delivers timely aid in these areas, working closely with local authorities for community acceptance and access. Our Coordination with clusters and partners ensures consultation and delivery of humanitarian assistance to agreed standards. The recent upsurge in intercommunal violence in the Abyei Administrative Area, along with fire outbreaks in Eastern and Western Equatoria, has led to significant population displacement to Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State, particularly in Aweil East County, prompting the response of DRC's Mobile Response Team in the area.



Objective

The objective of this project is to mitigate protection risks such as Gender-based violence, Psychological and emotional abuse or inflicted distress, child or forced marriage faced by displacement-affected communities in South Sudan, enabling them to live safely and with dignity. The project **targets 212,799 internally displaced persons**, returnees, and members of host communities, both female and male.



Project Interventions

Protection: The project aims to address protection concerns for 2.3 million individuals at risk of human rights violations in South Sudan. Common violations include sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, early marriages leading to school dropout, gender-based violence, and sexual exploitation in schools. DRC's interventions include empowering young women through the Girl Shine initiative, providing GBV case management services, offering psychosocial support and Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), providing mobility devices for people with disabilities, establishing and strengthening community-based protection networks, conducting protection monitoring and assessments, and facilitating service mapping, information sharing, and case referrals. Shelter and Non-food Items (S/NFI) sector.

Economic Recovery Sector: DRC provides a comprehensive economic recovery package to restore livelihoods and promote self-sufficiency among women, men, and youth. Initiatives include supporting business groups with grants, capacity building for sanitary kit production, and digitalized village savings support. Activities include input support and skill training for women's groups, commodity voucher distribution for adolescent girls, monitoring of start-up capital and voucher distribution, stakeholder meetings for market system mapping, and enhancing financial inclusion through village savings and loans and linkages to formal microfinance institutions.

Shelter and Settlement: DRC leads the shelter and settlement cluster in Upper Nile, ensuring project alignment with cluster standards. The design of emergency shelters is reviewed and agreed upon by the cluster. DRC engages local communities through cash-for-work programs for their labor in roofing and walling shelters, providing a form of compensation and contributing to capacity building and long-term solutions. Through the Multi-sectoral Emergency Response project DRC provides emergency and transitional shelters, site maintenance through cash-for-work, mitigating flooding impacts, and providing emergency non-food items.

Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessment (HCIMA) Sector: DRC leads in coordinating assistance, capacity development, and investing in evidence for durable solutions, aiming to transition away from emergency response modalities. They coordinate humanitarian response at the site level through meetings, develop and share information products with actors, support community governance structures and establish complaint mechanisms. They also monitor returnees, conduct needs assessments for new displacements, and facilitate conflict-sensitive decision-making between agencies to improve service delivery efficiency and sensitivity.

