Throughout the first half of 2020, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), together with the South Sudan Red Cross Society (SSRCS), remained active and committed to reaching families and communities affected by conflict and armed violence across South Sudan. We met their urgent humanitarian needs, helped protect their lives and dignity, and build their resilience to recurrent conflict, armed violence as well as the growing impact of climatic shocks.

The emergence and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed our work across South Sudan. It has challenged us to reset our priorities, strengthen our duty of care to our staff, and renew the bonds of partnership that drive our integrated humanitarian response with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement across the South Sudan.

As we emerge into this new phase of our lives with COVID-19, the continuing legacy and impact of decades of conflict and armed violence must remain a priority for the South Sudanese authorities and armed groups, humanitarian organizations and the international community if we are to make decisive steps to alleviate human suffering.

This document provides a summary of the impact of the ICRC’s humanitarian response in South Sudan from January to June 2020.
TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND ARMED VIOLENCE AND BUILD THEIR RESILIENCE, WE:

Distributed seeds (cereals and vegetables) and agricultural tools to 389,404 people across the 10 states of South Sudan to help families grow their own food and restart their livelihoods.

Vaccinated 235,291 heads of livestock benefiting 45,984 people, donated 28 veterinary kits to community animal health workers and provided fishing kits to 107,964 people to help them rebuild and maintain their livelihoods.

Provided 200,159 consultations to improve access to health care in communities at 22 primary health care centers and 1 hospital supported by ICRC.

Treated 324 patients with gunshot injuries at ICRC supported surgical units and carried out medevacs for 201 wounded patients.

Improved access to water for over 200,000 people in communities by constructing water points, enhancing water supply, training water management committees and community-based mechanics.

Facilitated 55,437 phone calls between family members separated by the conflict to help them exchange family news.

Reunited 76 vulnerable persons separated by the conflict and armed violence, including children, with their families.

Visited over 5,000 detainees and engaged authorities in a dialogue on their treatment and living conditions. Assisted the detaining authorities to improve access to health care, water and living conditions through donation and distribution of food and essential non-food items as well as the provision of training.

Launched community projects for 350 vulnerable families to help them meet daily nutritional requirements and improve their income.

Assisted 5 communities to reduce their exposure risks to their lives and dignity and developing community-based solutions to strengthen their resilience through community-based protection workshops and engagements.
TO PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WE:

Supported 900 volunteers of South Sudan Red Cross Society at 16 branches to reach over 2.8 million people with health education and hygiene promotion messages in communities across South Sudan.

Donated hand pump spare parts to nine South Sudan Red Cross Society branches, to enable them to repair 150 hand pumps to improve access to safe water for 75,000 people.

Prepositioned personal protective equipment for health workers at 22 primary health care centers, 3 hospitals, 3 physical rehabilitation centers and 7 places of detention.

Installed handwashing points and donated soap to 24 places of detention, 22 primary health care centers and 3 hospitals.

Donated 480 dead body bags, 1,400 pairs of gloves and 850 masks to ensure safe and efficient management of the dead by mortuaries and forensic facilities in Juba.

Donated three months’ supply of fuel and water treatment chemicals, as well as lab equipment, to the South Sudan Urban Water Corporation, to enable them to continue supplying water to over 200,000 people in Juba.

Provided mobile telephones with credit to detaining authorities at seven places of detention enabling over 2,912 detainees to maintain contact with their loved ones through phone calls.

Provide mobile telephones with credit to 2 health facilities enabling COVID-19 patients and persons in quarantine to maintain contact with their loved ones through phone calls.