

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011, according to the peace deal ending Africa's longest-running civil war. Independence, however, has not brought conflict and its consequences to an end. The country was soon again plunged into conflict, causing critical food shortages and massive displacement. South Sudan continues to face multiple humanitarian challenges, including ongoing conflict and displacement, food insecurity and malnutrition, poor access to basic services including health care, education and protection, as well as natural disasters and disease. Over half the population are now facing emergency levels of hunger – a crisis directly linked to the country's conflict. As a result, many children in the world's youngest nation now lack the very basics they need to survive.

Our Work for Children in South Sudan

Save the Children worked in South Sudan prior to its independence in 2011, and we remain a leading charity for children's humanitarian relief and development. In fact, we are the national focal point for family tracing and reunification, launching innovative approaches, as well as the lead health and nutrition provider in several South Sudanese states. We provide South Sudan's children with access to education, health care and nutrition support, as well as families with food security and livelihoods assistance. Our child protection programs support vulnerable children including former child soldiers and those affected by violence and displacement. We advocate for children's rights at national, state and community levels. In a country affected by regular outbreaks of conflict, food shortages and natural disasters such as floods, we are ready to respond to the needs of children and their families. Here are some recent examples of our work:

A healthy start in life

We're ensuring children in remote, low-resource settings get access to health care by training, supplying and supporting community health workers who can diagnose, treat and refer children for care before it's too late We're supporting maternal health through prenatal care, labor and delivery services and postnatal care services We're running health centers and feeding program sites for infants and young children suffering from malnutrition We're treating children for deadly diseases, like malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia, and delivering vaccinations We're helping build the capacity of the government health ministry to prevent and address malnutrition.



The opportunity to learn

To make schools function for the future of children, Save the Children is stepping up to train and support teachers and distribute learning supplies so children can stay in school We're supporting curriculum development at the national level, constructing

classrooms, providing temporary learning spaces, implementing water, sanitation and hygiene programs, supporting early learning centers, training teachers and promoting community engagement – this includes early childhood care and development, basic education, pastoralist education and accelerated learning programs In 2019, we expanded our Healing and Education through the ARTS (HEART) program, supporting children affected by conflict, displacement and poverty We're offering young people who dropped out of school, including girls who left education early to get married and former child soldiers, with access to practical courses in a variety of disciplines, including carpentry, masonry, hairdressing, agriculture and tailoring We're providing vulnerable families with skills training, equipment and support to set up small businesses, including empowering farmers to increase what they grow and can sell at market by teaching agricultural techniques, as well as providing livestock and improving access to markets.



Protection from harm

Our work is focused on strengthening national systems to be able to address four key child protection issues: separated and unaccompanied children, children without appropriate care, economic and sexual exploitation of children and violence against children, including violence against children in armed conflict We are the national focal point for family tracing and reunification, working with community leaders, local authorities, armed forces, police, judiciary, teachers and children themselves to build the long-term child protection capacity of communities We're advocating for a national minimum age for marriage.



Innovation

We worked with partners to develop, publish and pilot the Newborn Health in Humanitarian Settings: A Field Guide We're launching a new app to help trace and reunify children and families, involving a database that frontline protection workers can

update and monitor in real time, along with a first-ever case management handbook
Emergency response We preposition non-food items including shelter kits in areas that
are vulnerable to conflict or natural disaster, and train partners and local government
representatives in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response
We're providing refugee children with safe places to play and access to psychosocial
support, have set up and conducted training on community-based child protection
mechanisms, and are supporting the reunification of children who have been separated
from their families Responding to the current hunger crisis, we're assisting families
through cash and food distributions, empowering them to meet their own needs and
feed their families using available local resources We're distributing emergency
livelihood services to support pastoralists, including seeds, tools and livestock, plus
veterinary services We responded to recent floods in areas without access to essential
services, working with the government and local partners, to provide lifesaving food,
water, medicine and other critical relief for children and their families