



Presentation

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Health in Fragile Contexts: An Example from South Sudan

Health care is one of the most important activities of the Swiss Red Cross programmes in terms of international cooperation. Recent experiences in South Sudan, Mali, Haiti, Honduras, Bangladesh and Nepal taught the SRC that its programmes are increasingly challenged by latent or open conflicts and that the contexts in which it works are becoming increasingly fragile. To understand the challenges of working in such contexts, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the SRC defined a joint learning process on 'Health in Fragile Contexts'. The initiative was guided by key questions designed to explore the effects of fragile contexts on SRC's programmes, the effects of SRC interventions on fragility, and how programmes can stay engaged in these environments. The cases of Haiti and South Sudan were chosen to understand the interaction between key elements of fragility and SRC programmes. The South Sudan case study on community based health care yielded interesting insights into what drives or mitigates fragility. By analysing the requirements for health programmes to positively influence key drivers of fragility, the study highlighted elements for successful programmes as well as its limitations in such contexts. The findings will shape the design of future Red Cross programmes in fragile contexts and will be shared with other stakeholders.