

SOUTH SUDAN // Story from the Field

Training women to take up leadership roles in Aburoc IDP settlement, South Sudan



In South Sudan, approximately 1.6 million people still remain internally displaced according to the UN OCHA 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Aburoc Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) settlement emerged four years ago after violence erupted in Upper Nile, during which thousands were displaced. The settlement currently accommodates about 8,452 displaced persons. It is one of hundreds of IDP settlements in South Sudan. DRC is providing several critical services and implementing activities to support the resilience and self-governance of the communities. One of these activities is focused on building the capacity of affected persons to empower settlement governance structures to advocate for service provision, participate in decision-making in the settlement and prepare the community for life outside of the settlement once they return home safely.

In order to enhance women participation and promote inclusive leadership in the settlement, DRC, with support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) facilitated a self-governance training for 18 women committee members in Aburoc. The training focused on improving coordination, community participation, leadership skills, roles and responsibilities of committee members and COVID-19 preventive measures.

Women who participated in the training expressed keen interest in being active within their community leadership structures, as they felt more confident in making decisions that would affect their community. They expressed confidence in representing their fellow women and voice their needs within community meetings.

The capacity building training was only one activity out of many focused on supporting and building the capacity of self-governance structures within the settlement. Building the resilience of communities is critical as humanitarian funding is stretched thin among the 8.3M South Sudanese in need of emergency assistance.

