# International Medical Corps

Sudan Conflict Situation Report #12 September 5, 2023



International Medical Corps is coordinating with the Sudan MoH on distribution of ready-to-eat therapeutic food and middle-upper arm circumference tape for malnutrition assessments.

Almost 5 million people have been displaced inside and outside Sudan due to the ongoing violence between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that began in mid-April. This includes the 3.8 million people who have been internally displaced and more than 992,000 who have fled to neighboring countries—namely the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The conflict has escalated into a regional humanitarian crisis. Climate change has left the Northern state vulnerable to torrential rains and flash floods, affecting some 33,400 people. There have been reports of measles outbreaks, pertussis, acute watery diarrhea (AWD), dengue fever, malaria and heat stroke. With the closing of nutrition facilities and shortages of therapeutic food stocks, 31,000 children have been left without treatment for malnutrition and associated illnesses.

Reports of gender-based violence (GBV) have also drastically increased against internally displaced and refugee women and girls since the fighting began. Sudan has become one of the world's most dangerous and challenging locations for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, but

### **FAST FACTS**

- On April 15, clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted in Khartoum. Since then, thousands of deaths and injuries have been confirmed nationwide.
- Almost 1 million people have fled Sudan to neighboring countries, while 3.8 million have been displaced inside the country. These numbers are expected to increase as the violence continues.

#### **OUR FOOTPRINT**

 International Medical Corps has been providing critical health, nutrition, protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in Sudan since 2004.

#### **OUR RESPONSE**

- International Medical Corps has launched a regional response focused on expanding existing services and activities to meet the increased needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan and refugees seeking safety in the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan.
- In Sudan, we have provided 87,723 medical consultations.
- We have handed over operations to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Ethiopia and have registered to resume our programming in Chad.
- In CAR, our teams screened 111 children for malnutrition over the past two weeks at the Korsi refugee site.
- In South Sudan, we reached 2,385 women and girls with gender-based violence (GBV) response services.

International Medical Corps is continuing to provide healthcare support to those left most vulnerable in Sudan and surrounding countries.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/sudan/</u>

## **International Medical Corps Response**

To meet the increasing humanitarian needs in Sudan and surrounding countries, our teams are expanding existing programs in Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad and South Sudan.

In **Sudan**, 48 out of the 71 health facilities that we support are currently maintaining functionality, with minimal capacities due to stock-outs and displacement of our staff, as well as staff from the MoH. Within this subset of 48 functional health facilities, our ability to receive reporting on our services and programs is constrained by internet connectivity issues, with reports available from only 18 of them.

International Medical Corps is committed to providing essential healthcare service support in Sudan. We are continuing to operate mobile medical health and nutrition teams (MHNTs) in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sougatra North, Sougatra South, Shegidi in Madani and the Sinja IDP camp in Sennar. Our teams have so far provided 87,723 medical consultations, primarily addressing concerns related to diarrhea, malaria, gastritis and malnutrition. Our MHNTs have been able to reach 697 women with antenatal care services (ANC) and 15,124 people through awareness-raising sessions. We also are coordinating with the MoH to mobilize two teams to respond to a measles outbreak in the region.

The MHNTs in Madani and Sennar are working alongside MoH psychologists to deliver integrated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services encompassing group and individual-based PSS services such as basic emotional assistance, psychological first aid (PFA) and stress management interventions. So far, our teams have provided 1,066 MHPSS consultations to IDPs suffering from common mental health concerns such as acute stress, grief, anxiety and depression.

International Medical Corps is continuing to conduct routine nutrition activities across multiple regions, including Blue Nile, East Jabal Mara, Madani, Sennar and South Kordofan. We have received 780 donated cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF)—a lifesaving essential supply that treats severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in children under 5 years old—through the MoH, which we have sent to health facilities in the Blue Nile region. This distribution will ensure that these facilities are adequately equipped to provide RUTF to patients throughout the rainy season. Next week we will deliver an additional 206 cartons of RUTF to six health facilities in Abujebiha, South Kordofan. Our teams also have received 500 pieces of middle-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tape, which enables healthcare providers to assess malnutrition risk by measuring muscle and fat mass in children aged two months to 18 years. We will deliver these supplies to nutrition centers in the Blue Nile region.

Access continues to be a challenge in Sudan given the congestion in Port Sudan, security constraints and the ongoing rainy season. In response, International Medical Corps is working to re-establish our registration status within Chad, as this supply route seems the most promising for the continuation of our operations. This initiative will facilitate more efficient delivery supplies, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and commodities to our teams and supported health facilities in Sudan.

International Medical Corps have been working in Sudan since 2004, providing critically needed health, nutrition, MHPSS, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. We have also supported efforts by the country's MoH to strengthen health systems and build capacity for providers.

In **CAR**, our mission has confronted a series of challenges in providing essential services to refugees and returnees, including a deteriorating security situation along the border, primarily attributed to RSF incursions. Armed groups have also erected two checkpoints, impeding the movement of people from Am Dafok to Birao, although a bypass is currently being used by asylum seekers to reach Birao via Chad and Umm Dukhum, Sudan. The region is also still contending with the adverse effects of severe inflation in Birao and Am Dafok, which has been compounded by communication issues stemming from unreliable telephone and internet connectivity. The movement of people and goods also has been substantially hindered by widespread flooding.



We deployed Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) and program teams this week to Am Dafok, CAR, to address ongoing issues with data collection.

It is estimated that 17,820 people have traveled to CAR from Sudan, including 13,119 Sudanese refugees and 4,701 Central African returnees.<sup>2</sup> Despite the obstacles, International Medical Corps continues to provide critical support to refugees, returnees and host communities within the Am Dafok area and the Korsi refugee site. In Am Dafok, we currently have four staff members—a nurse, a midwife, a mental health nurse and a case manager—to support the delivery of quality health, nutrition and GBV/protection services.

In the past two weeks, our mobile team has been traveling daily to the Korsi refugee camp, providing 234 new medical consultations and 10 antenatal care consultations. The medical consultations have primarily involved cases of malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhea. During this same period, we have also screened 111 children for malnutrition and started treatment for 16 children with SAM.

Our teams have worked in CAR since 2007, providing support in primary healthcare, nutrition, GBV treatment and prevention, and reproductive, maternal and child health. International Medical Corps has also provided training for healthcare providers, midwives and protection assistants to help build the capacity and awareness of community groups.

We are currently finalizing our request to resume operations in **Chad**. Though the mission went dormant in 2020, with the increasing needs across the border in Sudan as well as unmet humanitarian needs in Chad, International Medical Corps has finalized its memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the government of Chad and is awaiting confirmation of the application. Our teams have worked in intermittently in Chad since 2003, providing services in nutrition, healthcare, capacity building, food security and livelihoods, maternal and child health, and MHPSS.

International Medical Corps has been delivering comprehensive healthcare services to refugees and returnees encompassing health, GBV, nutrition and MHPSS—in **South Sudan** since May. This region continues to experience an influx of people coming from Sudan into South Sudan, with many of them facing heightened vulnerability due to their exposure to injuries and illnesses during their journeys. Other challenges include inadequate shelter during travel, compromised water, sanitation and hygiene, and a rainy season that has increased cases of malaria, diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory tract infections and malnutrition. The notable increases in patients with varied health challenges has proved to be overwhelming, but our teams are continuing to coordinate with relevant local authorities and other aid organizations to ensure continuity of care in the Renk Transit Center and the Bulukat Refugee Center in South Sudan.

Over the course of the past month, we have reached 5,243 people with outpatient consultations. The prevailing health concerns documented primarily include malaria, acute watery diarrhea, upper respiratory tract infections and acute malnutrition. In addition, our teams have provided 1,028 children with vaccinations, conducted awareness-raising sessions on health, mental health, GBV and nutrition for 17,836 people, and reached 286 women with antenatal care services at the Renk Transit Center and the Bulukat Refugee Center throughout the past month. We have also reached 2,385 women and girls with GBV response services and screened 2,859 children and pregnant and lactating women for malnutrition.

International Medical Corps has worked in South Sudan since the mid-1990s, offering primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare, maternal and child health, nutrition, GBV prevention and response, and MHPSS services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/102980</u>