

South Sudan

International Medical Corps began working in the conflict-ridden region of southern Sudan in 1994, years before a 2011 national referendum led to Sudan's southernmost states becoming the independent country of South Sudan.

Today, amid ongoing violence, we work with the government of South Sudan to strengthen local healthcare capacity in five of the country's 10 states,

where we help deliver health services through 70 health facilities in urban and rural areas.

International Medical Corps provides emergency preparedness, intervention and response assistance, as well as primary healthcare and integrated services that range from preventative care to emergency surgery. We run programs that provide nutrition services, battle gender-based violence (GBV), provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), ensure modern water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, and support training programs that include our highly successful Health Sciences Institute, which has graduated a majority of the midwives working in South Sudan today.

WHERE WE WORK



Following decades of war, in 2011, South Sudan became independent. It remains the world's youngest country.

Armed conflict broke out again in December 2013, claiming tens of thousands of lives before a fragile peace agreement took hold in the summer of 2015. In February 2020, a coalition government was created to end the violence and address South Sudan's immense poverty, massive displacement, chronic food and nutrition insecurity, and ongoing human rights violations.

Progress on these issues has been painfully slow. Independence has left the people of South Sudan facing deteriorating humanitarian conditions in an environment poisoned by endemic violence, constraints on mobility and an array of public health challenges. Climate-related shocks include major flooding and localized droughts that affect people's livelihoods while hampering access to education, health services, and WASH services. Protection concerns remain high, as people affected by violence have limited access to justice and the rule of law.

In 2024, an estimated 9 million people—approximately three-quarters of South Sudan's population—will require urgent humanitarian assistance, while 7.1 million people will continue to experience high levels of food insecurity, with thousands living in famine-like conditions.

HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

International Medical Corps works with the government and other partners to provide integrated health services and strengthen local healthcare systems across five states. The number of health facilities we support has increased from 27 health facilities in 2021 to 70 in 2024. However, due to funding constraints, this number may decrease in the coming year.

To reach remote communities or populations isolated by natural disasters, we implement mobile healthcare services either as part of ongoing programs or in response to emergencies.

Our activities include:

- ▶ outpatient consultations for common communicable and noncommunicable diseases;
- ▶ integrated services in displacement settlements, including facilities supported by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and hard-to-reach areas;
- ▶ treatment of complications related to HIV/TB, including clinical management of rape;
- ▶ community outreach and awareness in the displacement settlements;
- ▶ epidemic preparedness and response through established surveillance systems in supported health facilities;
- ▶ capacity building of healthcare workers through training in reproductive health, the WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (MhGAP), integrated disease surveillance and response, HIV/TB, and infection prevention and control; and
- ▶ community engagement for health education and promotion services through community outreach workers and the Boma Health Initiative.



In 2023, International Medical Corps supported **70 HEALTH FACILITIES** in South Sudan, where we provided **735,981 OUTPATIENT CONSULTATIONS** and trained **668 MIDWIVES** and **2,800 HEALTH WORKERS**.



NUTRITION

An estimated 2.5 million women and children are at risk of acute malnutrition in South Sudan. International Medical Corps operates 64 treatment centers for internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities and returnees in Canal Pigi, Fashoda, Juba, Malakal, Manyo, Panyikang and Panyjar counties.

Our activities include:

- ▶ treatment and management of wasting;
- ▶ prevention of malnutrition through maternal, infant and young-child feeding nutrition (MIYCN) programs;
- ▶ infection prevention and control;
- ▶ information management and learning, through support of population-based SMART surveys; and
- ▶ coordination and system strengthening, through support of cluster and sub-cluster groups.

We work closely with the MoH and other partners to provide comprehensive treatment, incorporating a community-based model for the management of acute malnutrition, including MIYCN. This combination includes inpatient care for severely malnourished children with complications—to reduce their exposure to other diseases—combined with outpatient care through targeted supplementary feeding programs to decrease their recovery time.



7

country
program sites



94,570

people reached
in 2023



220

national staff
employed

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

South Sudan has one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates, with 1,223 deaths per 100,000 live births. The health system is rudimentary due to an inadequate number of qualified health workers, poor infrastructure due to armed conflicts, poor access to health facilities, a dysfunctional referral system and negative cultural norms. One-quarter of all South Sudanese children die from common—often preventable—childhood illnesses before they reach their fifth birthday. The high-impact services that International Medical Corps implements in primary health clinics focus on improving the health of women and their children.

International Medical Corps supports health facilities with services that include:

- ▶ maternal and child health, including antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, immunization and emergency obstetric care, and referral support;
- ▶ specialized services for high-risk pregnancies and mental health needs;
- ▶ sexual and reproductive health services, including disease prevention and treatment, clinical management of rape and integrated case management for HIV/AIDS; and

- ▶ capacity building, to reduce the gap in qualified health personnel.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY

South Sudan has fewer than 200 doctors to serve its population of more than 12 million. Similar deficits are seen in the number of nurses, midwives and other paramedical staff. To increase access to care, we build the capacity of the country's healthcare system through training programs that target health professionals and community leaders. We provide on-the-job training to midwives and other healthcare workers at Malakal Teaching Hospital and at more than 20 International Medical Corps-supported health facilities across Malakal.

International Medical Corps provides modern, computer-based data collection and analysis training for staff working on health management information systems. We also partner with state-level ministries of health to ensure that technical support continues through the coaching and mentoring of frontline health workers.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Violence against women and girls is an endemic problem in South Sudan, exacerbated by ongoing conflict and chronic displacement. Our programs are tailored to support and empower women and girls, as they are most affected by abuse and violence and face particular risks during and after armed conflict and natural disasters.

Our priority is to strengthen the core services we provide to survivors of GBV and other vulnerable women and girls in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Western Bahr el Ghazal states. These services include survivor-centered case management, counseling and psychosocial support to enhance healing and recovery, as well as emergency cash to GBV survivors to facilitate the case management process.

In addition, we run women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) in displacement camps and communities where women and girls can socialize, make handicrafts and receive psychosocial support to help them recover from traumatic experiences. We provide gender-based violence prevention and response training to local leaders. We establish women's management committees in each location where we maintain WGSS, for empowerment and sustainability.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Depression, anxiety and substance abuse are growing issues in South Sudan. Mental health services remain practically non-existent due to a limited number of mental health professionals, insufficient supply of psychotropic medication and the absence of legislation, leading to many mental health patients becoming incarcerated despite not committing a crime. As a key provider of MHPSS services in South Sudan, International Medical Corps delivers evidence-based pharmacological and psychosocial support services to clients with mental, neurological and substance-use conditions in Jonglei and Upper Nile states. We also co-chair the national MHPSS Technical Working Group and contribute to national policy development. Our teams provide integrated MHPSS in all facilities, including awareness-raising, psychoeducation, screening, case management and referrals.

PARTNERSHIPS

International Medical Corps works in close collaboration with relevant national and international NGOs, community groups, donor agencies and host-country governments, cultivating strong relationships with them to maximize the impact of our programs. We also help strengthen local partner organizations to ensure the sustainability of interventions. We have been a lead or co-lead agency in various technical working groups in the country and have proven our ability to work strategically and in collaboration with diverse stakeholders.

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED

WITH GBV INTERVENTIONS IN 2023

79,658

Females



52,285

Males

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

In 2023, an estimated 6.1 million people in South Sudan were adversely affected by poor hygiene practices and inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Only 36% of households have access to nearby, safe water sources, and less than 40% of the population has access to safe, functioning toilets. International Medical Corps operates 14 health and nutrition facilities for IDPs, host communities and returnees in Canal Pigi, Malakal and Renk, where we implement WASH programming.

Our activities include:

- ▶ implementing waste management in targeted health facilities, including handwashing stations, handwashing buckets and soap;
- ▶ adhering to infection prevention and control protocols;
- ▶ providing hygiene and sanitation messages; and
- ▶ constructing and rehabilitating gender-segregated latrines.



www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org

A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

June 2024

COUNTRY CONTACT: Zain ul Abedin, Country Director
zulabedin@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

HEADQUARTERS CONTACT: Megan Greenhalgh,
Director of International Programs
mgreenhalgh@InternationalMedicalCorps.org.uk

International Medical Corps is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA, and has offices in Washington, DC; London, UK; and Split, Croatia.

For contact information, visit InternationalMedicalCorps.org/contact.