

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps' Acting Medical Director in South Sudan meets with the WHO and County Health Department team at the Joda Cholera Treatment Unit.

Sixteen months have passed since armed conflict erupted on April 15, 2023, in Khartoum between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, leading to the displacement of more than 11 million people. More than 650,000 people—including South Sudan returnees, Sudan refugees and people of other nationalities—have crossed into South Sudan via the Joda border point, prompting the establishment of two transit centers in the town of Renk.

The continued fighting has exacerbated the humanitarian situation, resulting in a cholera outbreak declared in Sudan on August 12, 2024. In early October, suspected cholera cases were reported in South Sudan near the border, prompting International Medical Corps to deploy a medical mobile team to provide case management services.

International Medical Corps Response

With technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and partner organizations, the Ministry of Health has raised the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre to alert status. The Ministry of Health officially declared an outbreak of cholera in Renk County on October 28.

International Medical Corps deployed supplies, including IV fluids, gloves, and personal protection equipment, to our Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) in Joda. From October 12–25, 20 suspected cholera cases were reported in Renk County; 16 tested positive on rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), while four were found negative.

Of these cases, 14 patients have fully recovered and been discharged, while six remain admitted and are receiving medical care at the CTC. No deaths have been recorded.

We have collected 21 samples, which WHO has transported to Juba for further analysis at the national public health laboratory to confirm the RDT-positive samples.

FAST FACTS

- 20 suspected cholera cases were reported in Renk County from October 12–25, with 16 confirmed as positive.
- 14 patients have recovered and been discharged, and six remain under care at International Medical Corps' Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) in Joda.
- No cholera-related deaths have been recorded.
- 21 samples were sent to Juba for analysis; all were negative. Three samples are pending confirmation, with new samples scheduled for submission.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been working in South Sudan since the mid-1990s, operates in five of the country's 10 states, and provides healthcare, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support gender-based violence prevention and response services, and water, sanitation and hygiene support.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is providing cholera case management at the Joda CTC, working with international and national partners.
- We are collecting and providing rapid diagnostic tests of cholera-suspected cases.
- We are collecting and submitting samples to WHO for advanced testing.
- We are providing and prepositioning essential supplies at the response site.