

SITUATION UPDATE



International Medical Corps' medical team at International Medical Corps' Cholera Treatment Unit at the Joda border point.

Armed conflict broke out in Khartoum on April 15, 2023, between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, forcing more than 11 million people to flee their homes. Among them, more than 650,000 people—including Sudanese refugees, South Sudanese returnees and refugees of other nationalities—have crossed into South Sudan through the Joda border point. This mass influx has led to the establishment of two transit centers in the town of Renk.

The ongoing violence in Sudan has severely worsened the humanitarian crisis in the region, culminating in a cholera outbreak declared in Sudan on August 12. By early October, suspected cholera cases emerged in South Sudan near the border, prompting International Medical Corps to deploy a mobile medical team to provide critical case management services.

International Medical Corps Response

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

International Medical Corps immediately deployed supplies, including IV fluids, gloves, and personal protection equipment, to our Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) in Wunthou, at the Joda border point.

To address the growing cholera crisis in Renk, International Medical Corps deployed an additional nurse and doctor dedicated to cholera response activities, which has enhanced the ability to provide timely and efficient care for affected populations.

Patients in cholera treatment units are being treated using critical medical interventions such as rehydration and bacterial infection management, which have been essential in stabilizing and saving lives.

From October 12 through November 5, 79 suspected cholera cases were reported in Renk County; 53 tested positive on rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), and two deaths were reported.

International Medical Corps facilitated the collection and testing of cholera samples using RDTs, which has enabled quick identification of cases, supported timely interventions and reduced the potential for further spread of the disease. We collect and share all suspected samples with the World Health Organization (WHO) for transportation to the national lab in Juba for further analysis at the national public health laboratory.

FAST FACTS

- 79 suspected cholera cases were reported in Juba, Renk County and Unity state from October 12 to November 5, with 53 cases confirmed as positive.
- 45 patients have recovered and been discharged, and seven remain under care at our Cholera Treatment Center (CTC) in Joda.
- Two cholera-related deaths have been reported.

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 collaborating with international and national partners to deliver cholera case management and distribute supplies at the Joda CTC, and is expanding our emergency response team's support to the Malakal CTC.
- Our team conducts rapid diagnostic tests of cholera-suspected cases.
- We are collecting and submitting samples to WHO for advanced testing.

In response to the surge in patient numbers, International Medical Corps has established two additional tents at the Wunthou CTC. This expansion has significantly increased bed capacity and improved patient flow, ensuring that more patients can receive care in a timely and organized manner.

On November 15, International Medical Corps started a response in Malakal, where the number of suspected cholera cases has been rising, with five suspected cases identified in protection-of-civilian sites on November 13, increasing the total number of cases testing positive for cholera using RDT to 26. International Medical Corps is continuing to coordinate with WHO to provide cholera testing kits and is attending coordination meetings with partners to address the increasing cases.