

# 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 five health facilities, two mobile clinics, 60 nutrition centers and 18 service points.

International Medical Corps runs programs that provide nutrition services, services to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), ensure modern water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, and support training programs—such as our highly successful midwifery schools, which have graduated a majority of the midwives working in South Sudan today.



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

South Sudan continues to face a severe humanitarian crisis driven by conflict, food insecurity, health challenges and extreme weather. In 2024, the situation worsened due to economic decline, flooding and the Sudan conflict—factors that have disrupted livelihoods and limited access to essential services.

In 2025, an estimated 9.3 million people—approximately three-quarters of South Sudan's population—will require urgent humanitarian assistance, while 7.7 million people will experience severe levels of food insecurity, with thousands living in famine-like conditions. In 2025, 2 million people will likely remain displaced due to conflict, intercommunal violence and extreme weather.

## WHERE WE WORK



## 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. 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:

- ▶ providing outpatient consultations for common communicable and noncommunicable diseases;
- ▶ providing integrated services in displacement settlements and remote areas, including facilities supported by the Ministry of Health (MoH);
- ▶ treating complications related to HIV/TB, including clinical management of rape;
- ▶ ensuring epidemic preparedness and response through established surveillance systems in supported health facilities;
- ▶ training healthcare workers 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
- ▶ promoting health education and services through community outreach workers and the Boma Health Initiative.



In 2024, 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 4.3 million women and children in South Sudan are at risk of acute malnutrition. International Medical Corps operates 60 treatment centers for internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities and returnees in Canal Pigi, Fashoda, Malakal, Manyo, Panyijiar and Panyikang counties.

Our activities include:

- ▶ treatment and management of wasting;
- ▶ prevention of malnutrition through maternal, infant and young-child 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 that decreases their recovery time.



**7**

country  
program sites



**115,578**

people reached  
in 2024



**262**

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 a limited number of qualified health workers, poor infrastructure, a dysfunctional referral system and negative cultural norms. One-quarter of all South Sudanese children die from common—often preventable—childhood illnesses before they turn 5.

International Medical Corps supports health facilities with services that include:

- ▶ maternal and child health, including antenatal and postnatal care, immunization, emergency obstetric care and referral support;
- ▶ specialized services for high-risk pregnancies and mental health needs;
- ▶ 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 faces a critical shortage of healthcare workers, with approximately 560 doctors serving more than 12 million people. Similar deficits exist among nurses, midwives and other paramedical staff, limiting access to essential services.

To address this, we strengthen the health system through training programs for health workers. From 2008 to 2022, we co-managed and supported three midwifery schools, which offered certificate programs aligned with International Confederation of Midwives standards. Currently, we support the Malakal Health Sciences Institute in Upper Nile state and Wau Health Sciences Institute in Western Bahr el Ghazal state. We also provide on-the-job training for health staff, including electronic training to improve data collection and analysis in Health Management Information Systems. We also partner with national and state-level ministries of health and county health departments to ensure that our work is effective and sustainable.



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

VAWG 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 risks during and after armed conflict and natural disasters.

We strengthen core services for women and girls in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Western Bahr el Ghazal states, including survivor-centered case management, counseling and psychosocial support to enhance healing and recovery, as well as emergency cash to survivors to facilitate the case management process.

In addition, we run service points 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 VAWG prevention and response training to local leaders. We establish women's management committees in each location where we maintain service points, to promote engagement and sustainability.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

In 2024, an estimated 5 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 easy access to safe water sources, and less than 40% of the population has access to safe, functioning toilets. International Medical Corps operates 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.



## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Depression, anxiety and substance abuse are growing issues in South Sudan. Mental health services remain limited due to a lack of mental health professionals, an insufficient supply of psychotropic medication and the absence of legislation, leading to the incarceration of many patients, despite not committing a crime. 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 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 in various technical working groups and have proven our ability to work strategically and in collaboration with diverse stakeholders.



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.

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