



International Medical Corps health staff help a Sudanese refugee in Kufra.

Since April 2023, the conflict in Sudan has led to the displacement of more than 11 million people, with more than 2 million crossing into neighboring countries to find safety. Despite continued challenges with registration and tracking, Libyan authorities have confirmed that they receive hundreds of registration requests from Sudanese every day. Furthermore, informal camps continue to receive a steady influx of new arrivals, with approximately 150 to 200 people arriving each day. The recent decline in daily arrivals this month can be attributed to several factors, including the temporary closure of the border and increased security measures at the Libyan/Sudanese border, which have been tightened to manage the flow of people. Additionally, ongoing conflicts in the border areas have restricted movement, making it more dangerous for people to cross into Libya through the official border.

Kufra continues to face a shortage of the skilled healthcare staff needed to operate multiple health facilities effectively. This shortage at the newly established Refugee Medical Center and Al-Shaheed Attia Hospital is exacerbated by an overwhelming caseload, stretching the capacity of these facilities to adequately respond to the health needs of the populations they serve. Both facilities serve as primary destinations for the host community and Sudanese refugees seeking inpatient care. Al-Shaheed Attia Hospital urgently needs additional specialists to meet growing demands, while the Refugee Medical Center requires a significant increase in staff to ensure efficient operations and quality patient care.

In addition, the Kufra Mental Health Center continues to face challenges due to a shortage of psychiatric specialists. As highlighted by the center's director, the facility has been operating for an extended period without a dedicated psychiatrist, impacting the quality and scope of mental health services provided.

The referral system is dysfunctional, forcing patients to travel more than 1,000 km to Benghazi or Tripoli for specialized treatment. Poor road conditions and high transportation costs significantly limit access, making it challenging for people—especially those with limited financial resources—to seek care. Human resource shortages are critical, with only two trained staff members across district hospitals, primary healthcare centers and basic health units trained in the World Health Organization's Mental Health Gap Action Programme. Psychological distress is widespread among the refugee community, with people experiencing depression, anxiety and behavior-related issues. Stigma also remains a significant barrier, preventing individuals from seeking mental health care.

FAST FACTS

- The ongoing conflict in Sudan has displaced more than 11 million people, with more than 2 million seeking refuge in neighboring countries, including a significant increase of refugees entering Libya through Kufra in the southeast.
- Ensuring that displaced communities receive timely assistance is crucial. There is a need to provide access to healthcare, mental health support, food, shelter and essential household items.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps was the first global humanitarian organization in Libya when its conflict began in 2011, and has since been providing critical health, nutrition, protection, mental health and psychosocial support, and water, sanitation and hygiene services.

OUR RESPONSE

- In Kufra, our medical team has conducted 28,726 consultations and distributed essential medical supplies and consumables in six informal settlements and the city's secondary hospital.

International Medical Corps Response

The International Medical Corps team remains actively engaged in monitoring the evolving humanitarian needs of the Sudanese refugee population. International Medical Corps has been collaborating closely with local authorities since June 2024 to deliver critical humanitarian assistance to both Sudanese migrants and host communities in and around Kufra. We provide key services—including healthcare and mental health support—daily at Alshaheed Atia Hospital, the Refugees Treatment and Admission and Health Center and six informal settlements. Since June 2024, we have conducted 28,726 health consultations, with 14,285 consultations conducted during the first half of 2025 alone. We have also facilitated 220 patient referrals for specialized care at nearby facilities, ensuring that patients in need of specialized care have access to appropriate medical attention.

Our community health workers have conducted 204 health-awareness sessions, reaching 4,169 people in Sudanese settlements and host communities. These sessions focus on hygiene practices, nutrition, maternal health and prevention of chronic disease, equipping communities with essential knowledge to promote healthier lifestyles and reduce preventable health risks.

To address the growing mental health needs of both the host community and the Sudanese in Kufra and help overcome the critical shortage of specialized mental health staff in the region, International Medical Corps has established a dedicated Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team composed of two MHPSS counselors and one MHPSS specialist. The team is expanding outreach to migrant settlements and other key health facilities across the city, ensuring wider access to essential mental health care and psychosocial support. So far, the team has provided 61 mental health consultations, offering counseling and crisis support, including psychological first aid. In addition, we have reached 171 people through community-based psychosocial support activities such as group sessions on stress management and awareness-raising.