



A health facility submerged by floodwater in Payinjiar County.

On September 1, catastrophic flooding struck Payinjiar County, located in Unity state, South Sudan, submerging entire villages and displacing more than 70,000 people. Homes, markets, NGO compounds and public infrastructure throughout the county have been heavily damaged. The floods have cut off key access to roads, destroyed large amounts of livestock and food supplies, and left displaced shelters overcrowded. Access to clean water is critically limited, raising fears of the spread of waterborne disease.

The floods have also severely disrupted International Medical Corps' operations. Three health and nutrition facilities are completely submerged and non-operational, while three others are partially affected and operating at limited capacity. Though 10 sites remain functional, they are at risk of flooding, depending on future rainfall. Sixteen facilities and three sites providing programs to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls (VAWG) have been affected. The scale of these floods requires urgent support to meet immediate needs and sustain relief efforts.

International Medical Corps Response

With support from local authorities and community members, International Medical Corps has implemented immediate emergency flood mitigation measures to protect our compounds, nutrition facilities and critical infrastructure. We constructed temporary dikes around key facilities such as nutrition stabilization centers and sites providing VAWG programming. We have reinforced weak points using sandbags and locally available materials, dug drainage channels to redirect excess water away from essential service areas, and relocated critical supplies, assets and other essential items to safer areas within compounds to safeguard operations. These measures have helped maintain functionality at partially affected sites and reduced the risk of further damage, ensuring continuity of support for affected populations.

Our team also has identified evacuation sites where personnel and supplies will be relocated as needed. We continue to stock essential medical kits for emergency response, deploy medical response teams where necessary in areas of displacement and provide protection monitoring in overcrowded areas to safeguard at-risk populations. Despite these measures, flood-affected populations in Payinjiar County continue to face critical and urgent needs. Priority areas include emergency shelter, clean drinking water, adequate sanitation, medical supplies and mobile health services. Strengthening flood mitigation infrastructure—such as repairing dikes and creating drainage channels—remains essential to protect lives, prevent further outbreaks of disease and reduce the humanitarian impact of this ongoing crisis.

FAST FACTS

- Flooding in South Sudan has created urgent humanitarian need, displacing more than 70,000 people.
- The crisis has led to increases in disease, disproportionately affecting women and children.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps, which has been working in South Sudan since the mid-1990s, operates in five of the country's 10 states, providing healthcare, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support, services related to violence against women and girls, and water, sanitation and hygiene support.

OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps is providing and prepositioning essential supplies at the sites we support.
- We are implementing flood mitigation measures, including construction of temporary dikes around key facilities using sandbags and local materials to reinforce weak points.
- We are stocking essential medical kits, and have emergency teams on standby to deploy as needed.