



*International Medical Corps staff members support an immunization campaign in Umdukhun locality.*

Sudan's conflict, which began in April 2023, has created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. According to the United Nations, more than 11.7 million people have been displaced, including 4.2 million who have fled to neighboring countries.

Central Darfur state is experiencing an active outbreak of measles that was officially confirmed by the State Ministry of Health (SMoH) in October 2025 following laboratory verification by the National Public Health Laboratory. Transmission was initially reported in Umdukhun locality in late December and has since expanded, with Golo locality reporting suspected measles cases since January 20. The outbreak has been driven by low routine-immunization coverage, population displacement, overcrowding and limited access to preventive services.

Cumulative surveillance data from our supported sites in Central Darfur show continued measles transmission in Golo and Umdukhun, with a current combined total of 303 suspected cases (197 in Umdukhun and 106 in Golo) and three reported deaths overall, according to the most recent data. Recovery rates remain high, with 227 recoveries (58 in Golo and 169 in Umdukhun). Many cases are among children under 5, particularly those aged 1 to 4 years, with many reported as unvaccinated or with unknown vaccination status—highlighting persistent immunity gaps and limitations in disease surveillance.

Across both Golo and Umdukhun, persistent challenges include limited vaccine availability, shortages of key supplies, inadequate isolation-bed capacity, continued population movement and overcrowding due to an influx of internally displaced people, and community misconceptions affecting care-seeking behavior. Epidemiological trends indicate that sustained and expanded vaccination campaigns, strengthened surveillance and laboratory capacity, and continued community mobilization are critical to interrupt transmission and prevent further morbidity and mortality in Central Darfur.

## International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is actively supporting the measles outbreak response in Golo and Umdukhun localities and the surrounding areas, working closely with SMoH. We are providing clinical management and referrals for suspected

### FAST FACTS

- Suspected measles cases in health facilities in Central Darfur supported by International Medical Corps have risen sharply, peaking at 317 cases in January, with continued transmission into early February.
- According to the most recent data, there are 303 suspected cases in Golo and Umdukhun.

### OUR FOOTPRINT

- Since 2004, International Medical Corps has been providing health, nutrition, protection, mental health and psychosocial support, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services in Sudan.

### OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps has a longstanding operational presence in Central Darfur, working closely with the state Ministry of Health to deliver lifesaving health services and support vaccinations, disease surveillance and outbreak response.
- We are supporting the treatment of measles at Golo and Umdukhun hospitals and strengthening surveillance through community-based case finding.
- We are supporting primary and secondary care health services and community-level interventions targeting vulnerable and displaced populations.

measles cases to Golo and Umdukhun hospitals, ensuring timely diagnosis, treatment, referral and follow-up care. We have reached 21 health facilities and their catchment communities through local partners in Central Darfur through information and awareness sessions and risk communication messaging. We also are reinforcing surveillance and coordination mechanisms through daily meetings with Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) teams, mother-support groups, medical teams, state-level authorities, activation of community-based case finding, dissemination of standard case definitions and mapping of affected villages to identify transmission hotspots.

In January and early February, our teams implemented a coordinated measles outbreak response as suspected cases rapidly increased. Initial response efforts in January prioritized health system readiness. Our teams provided extensive on-the-job training to more than 200 healthcare workers across six health facilities and outreach sites on measles case management, infection prevention and control, isolation procedures and surveillance. We strengthened isolation capacity by preparing isolation rooms; establishing duty rosters and dedicated teams; disseminating standardized measles protocols; deploying health educators; and providing essential medicines, infection prevention control materials, clean water and cleaning supplies. Community engagement remains a core pillar of our response. We have conducted large-scale risk-communication and social-mobilization activities through household visits, health facility sessions and public gatherings, supported by trained community volunteers.

Our Golo response component focuses on facility-based containment and operational support. Our teams have conducted health education sessions at Golo Hospital, seconded additional nurses, guards and cleaners, and provided rental vehicles to support referral and patient transportation.

We have also coordinated and mobilized additional support with our sites and partners to support the response for the measles/rubella vaccination campaign for Central Darfur, led by SMOH with the support of federal EPI program and UN partners. The campaign launched the first week of February and so far has successfully vaccinated more than 720 children while implementing active case-finding and awareness activities. International Medical Corps is supporting this campaign through community mobilization and operational engagement services in Umdukhun and West Jabel Marah localities.