

Sudan



International Medical Corps has worked throughout Sudan's Darfur region since 2004, providing healthcare, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in five states.

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur has uprooted millions of people, disrupted fragile healthcare systems and prevented families from returning to their homes. Despite limited humanitarian access and chronic instability, International Medical Corps is providing emergency medical relief to more than 2 million people per year in Darfur.

Sudan, once the largest and one of the most geographically diverse nations in Africa, split into two separate countries in July 2011, after the people of the south voted for independence.

Today, tribal conflict and intercommunal violence in Darfur continue to severely affect civilians, especially women and children. Millions remain in displacement camps, relying almost entirely on humanitarian aid for basic services, while funding constraints continue to affect the ongoing humanitarian response in the country. In 2019, Sudan's regime of nearly three decades was removed, leaving the country with a transitional government that is supposed to last for three years.

Meantime, Sudan faces recurrent outbreaks of measles, acute watery diarrhea, malaria and many other infectious diseases. Its health system has remained extremely underfunded and weakened, compromising the nation's ability to control disease epidemics and provide quality health services. Amidst these challenges, International Medical Corps provides emergency medical relief to more than 2 million people per year in Sudan in five states: South Darfur, Central Darfur, West Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile State.



43.7 MILLION PEOPLE
live in Sudan



8.8 MILLION PEOPLE
are in need of humanitarian
assistance



25%
of Sudan's health facilities
are nonfunctional



8 OUT OF 18 STATES
have malnutrition rates above the
emergency threshold of 15%



2.4 MILLION
children under five years old
suffer from wasting; approximately
700,000 of them have severe
acute malnutrition

HEALTH

International Medical Corps currently supports and operates in 88 health facilities across Sudan, delivering essential health services, strengthening health systems and providing resources for the deployment of skilled health workers to those facilities. Essential health services include disease treatment and prevention, reproductive healthcare, health education, immunization, child healthcare and surveillance, and referrals to emergency- and secondary-level health services, including surgery and obstetric care. Reproductive health services include prenatal care, clean and safe deliveries by skilled birth attendants, postnatal care and family planning. For children, we provide integrated management of childhood illnesses, immunizations, nutrition screening and assistance with newborn care. Through our facilities, International Medical Corps sees an average of 75,000 patients per month.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Many communities in Sudan experience shortages in water quality and quantity. Influxes in refugee populations frequently strain already fragile water-collection and sanitation systems in host communities and camps. By expanding access to clean water, creating proper waste-disposal systems and providing safe sanitation facilities, International Medical Corps restores healthy living conditions.

In Sudan, International Medical Corps implements community-led total sanitation activities, mobilizing communities to improve sanitation and hygiene by focusing on behavior change. Activities include:

- ▶ Education about and promotion of good hygiene practices
- ▶ Creation of waste disposal facilities and practices
- ▶ Chlorination, rehabilitation and maintenance of water points
- ▶ Construction and rehabilitation of drainage canals and latrines
- ▶ Improvement of WASH and infection control in health facilities



NUTRITION

International Medical Corps provides nutrition services to populations in Sudan most vulnerable to hunger, including children under five years old, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. Of the 88 health facilities in which we operate, 73 have integrated nutrition activities, including infant and young-child feeding practices. We also run nine stabilization centers for malnourished children with life-threatening medical complications.

On average, per month we treat 1,586 patients with moderate acute malnutrition and 832 patients with severe acute malnutrition. In addition, our mother support groups work to prevent malnutrition by promoting proper infant-feeding practices at health facilities and within communities.

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

International Medical Corps provides support to Sudan's Ministry of Health (MoH), helping to promote a self-sufficient healthcare delivery system. Our activities to strengthen health system include supporting service delivery, information management and health facility rehabilitation, deploying healthcare workers, and providing medical supplies and drugs. In addition, we support the MoH with disease control and response as well as disease surveillance and immunization, and provide training for MoH staff on emergency preparedness.





CAPACITY BUILDING

By emphasizing education, International Medical Corps helps communities move toward sustainability and self-reliance. Since arriving in Sudan in 2004, we have trained thousands of national medical personnel, traditional birth attendants and community leaders. These leaders then go on to educate their communities on topics that include:

- ▶ Prevention and treatment of common communicable and non-communicable diseases
- ▶ Reproductive health and early childhood care

- ▶ Identification and management of common childhood illnesses
- ▶ Nutritional screening, treatment and prevention
- ▶ Outbreak preparedness and response management

The expertise of these providers is crucial to integrating healthcare services into the community. Additionally, their skills provide the continuity of care needed to stabilize fragile health systems and foster long-term recovery.



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Since its inception 35 years ago, International Medical Corps' mission has been consistent: ease the suffering of those affected by war, natural disaster and disease by delivering vital healthcare services and focusing on training that provides the skills and tools required to foster self-reliance. This approach of helping people to help themselves is critical to returning devastated populations to self-reliance.

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COUNTRY CONTACT: Dr. Betemariam Gebre Zewde, Country Director
bwzede@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

HEADQUARTERS CONTACT: Claire Taylor, Program Officer
ctaylor@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

HEADQUARTERS: 12400 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1500 | Los Angeles, CA 90025
PHONE: 310-826-7800 | **Fax:** 310-442-6622

DC OFFICE: 1313 L St. NW, Suite 110 | Washington, DC 20005
PHONE: 202-828-5155 | **Fax:** 202-828-5156

UK OFFICE: Ground Floor 161 Marsh Wall | London E14 9SJ
PHONE: +44 (0) 207-253-0001