

# South Sudan



**International Medical Corps began working in the conflict-ridden region of South Sudan in 1994, nearly 20 years before a 2011 national referendum led to the southern-most states of Sudan becoming an independent nation.**

Today, amidst ongoing violence, we work with the government of South Sudan to strengthen local healthcare capacity in five of the country's 10 states and deliver health services to nearly half a million South Sudanese. Through 31 health facilities in urban and rural areas, International Medical Corps provides basic healthcare and integrated services, from preventative care to emergency surgery. We also run programs to provide nutrition services, battle gender-based violence and support mental health.

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

Armed conflict broke out again in December 2013, claiming tens of thousands of lives before a fragile peace agreement took hold in the summer of 2015. In February 2020, a coalition government was created to attempt again to end the deadly conflict and address South Sudan's immense poverty, massive displacement, chronic food and nutrition insecurity, and ongoing human rights violations. Today, 7.5 million South Sudanese are still in dire need of support, including 1.67 million internally displaced people and about 2.23 million refugees. Some 6 million people—half of the population—remain severely food-insecure, increasing their vulnerability to disease.

## WHERE WE WORK



## HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

International Medical Corps provides basic primary healthcare across Central Equatoria, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile states. In displacement camps—known as Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites—in Juba, Wau and Malakal, International Medical Corps runs comprehensive health facilities that offer higher-level care, including surgery. Our primary health services in South Sudan include:

- ▶ Maternal and child health, including antenatal and postnatal care, family planning and emergency obstetric care
- ▶ Specialized services for high-risk pregnancies and mental health needs
- ▶ Disease prevention and treatment, including integrated case management for HIV/AIDS, bed-net distribution and malaria treatment, and community-based management of acute malnutrition
- ▶ Training and support for hospitals to increase healthcare capacity



**84,573**  
Women of Child-Bearing Age



Life Expectancy  
**MALE: 56**  
**FEMALE: 59**



**70,287**  
Children Under 5



## MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

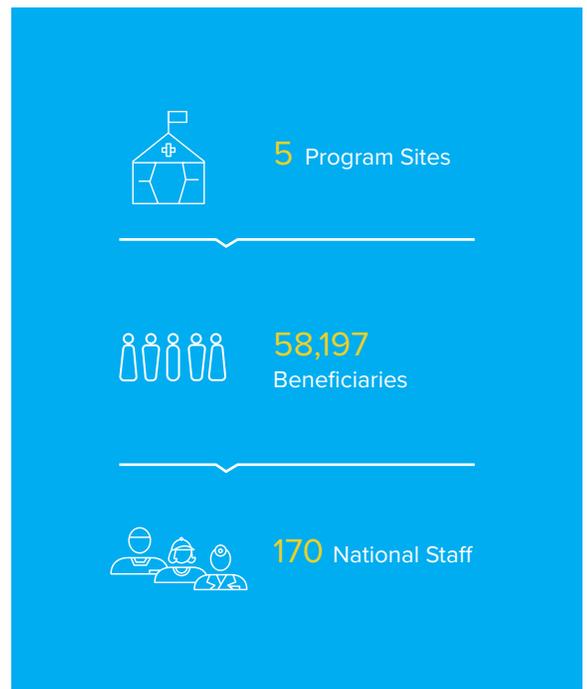
South Sudan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. One in every 50 live births results in the death of the mother; with the high fertility rate, this means that each mother has a one-in-seven chance of dying in childbirth in her lifetime. One-quarter of South Sudanese children die from common, often preventable childhood illnesses before they reach their fifth birthday. In an effort to improve the health of women and children, International Medical Corps has constructed facilities to support the following services:

- ▶ Antenatal and postnatal care
- ▶ Assisted deliveries
- ▶ Family planning (including proper birth spacing)
- ▶ Emergency obstetric care
- ▶ Prevention of mother-to-child transmission
- ▶ Midwifery schools to train and certify midwives and nurses for safer childbirth

## NUTRITION

In some of the areas where we work in South Sudan, more than one-third of children under five are affected by chronic or acute malnutrition, which can cause moderate or severe stunting. As agro-pastoralists, the population experiences a hunger gap during the dry season, which especially affects women and children. Through 13 program sites, International Medical Corps has implemented a successful program using the community-based management of acute malnutrition model, along with a maternal, infant and young-child feeding approach, as curative and preventive measures respectively. These approaches include only minimal inpatient care for severely malnourished children with complications (decreasing their exposure to other diseases) and outpatient care for severely malnourished children without complications (to decrease their recovery time).

As of February 2020, we have reached more than 40,000 malnourished children and almost 18,100 pregnant and lactating women with nutrition services. We have also supported more than 400 mother support groups who implement and advocate for nutrition and dietary behavior change at the community level. Finally, we work with the Ministry of Health and community health workers to build capacity on nutrition education, disease prevention and health systems strengthening.



## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LOCAL HEALTH CAPACITY

South Sudan has fewer than 200 doctors to serve its population of more than 12 million. To increase access to care, International Medical Corps works to build the capacity of South Sudan's health system through training programs that target health professionals and key community members. These include:

- ▶ Midwifery training for students at National Training Institute at Kajo Keji, the National Midwifery School in Wau and the Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery
- ▶ Computer and data collection training for health management information systems
- ▶ Training for community health management committees
- ▶ Refresher training for laboratory and clinical health professionals
- ▶ Advanced training for operating theater staff and radiological services



## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders and substance abuse are growing issues among conflict-affected populations in South Sudan. As a key provider of MHPSS in South Sudan, International Medical Corps delivers pharmacological and psychosocial support services to those in need in three conflict-affected states—Upper Nile, Northern Bahrel Ghazal and Central Equatoria. We co-chair the MHPSS Technical Working Group, contribute to national policy development and work to build the capacity of various key health actors to accommodate the growing demand for mental health services in the country.



### MORE THAN 459

nurses and midwives have graduated from International Medical Corps' midwifery training in South Sudan.

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Violence against women and girls is an endemic problem in South Sudan, exacerbated by ongoing conflict and chronic displacement. International Medical Corps puts gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response at the core of its lifesaving interventions. Our programs are tailored to support and empower women and girls who are most affected by abuse and violence, and who face particular risks during and after armed conflict and natural disaster.

International Medical Corps' priority is to strengthen core services to survivors of GBV in Western Bahr el Ghazal, Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei. Our services include quality case management using a survivor-centered approach, along with counseling and psychosocial support that includes referral to health centers for clinical management of rape and legal justice services based on the needs and wishes of survivors.

In addition, we run women- and girl-friendly spaces in the PoCs in Wau and Malakal, as well as within communities in Nyal, Aburoc, Malakal Town, Wau and Akobo counties. In these spaces, women and girls can socialize, make handicrafts and receive psychosocial

## TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED WITH GBV INTERVENTIONS



191,226 Females

218,912 Males

support activities, including discussions on various topics to empower them. We also offer livelihoods activities to vulnerable women and implement GBV-prevention activities through gender discussions. Further, we empower members of the wider community to promote women's equality, combatting beliefs and practices that perpetuate different forms of GBV through community sensitizations, house-to-house outreach and education sessions on how to identify and support survivors of GBV.



[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

A pre-eminent first responder for 35 years, International Medical Corps provides emergency relief to those struck by disaster, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions, working with them to recover, rebuild and, through training, gain the skills and tools required to achieve self-reliance.

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