

Sudan



Photo: UNAMID -Olivier Chassot

International Medical Corps has worked throughout Sudan's Darfur Region since 2004, providing health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur has uprooted millions of people, disrupted fragile health care 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 over 400,000 beneficiaries a year in Darfur.





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

Since that time, tribal conflict and inter-communal violence in Darfur continue to severely affect civilians, notably women and children, and prevent the return of displaced people to their areas of origin. Protracted conflict and insecurity has weakened the national health system and compromised people's access to basic health services.

Since 2004, International Medical Corps has worked through challenging conditions to provide essential medical care, implement nutrition programs, restore water delivery and sanitation systems and provide support to the Ministry of Health through health system strengthening activities. In many

HEALTH CARE

International Medical Corps currently operates in more than 45 health facilities across South, Central and West Darfur, delivering essential health services, health systems strengthening and support for the deployment of skilled health workers to those facilities. Essential health services we provide include disease treatment and prevention, reproductive health care, health education, immunization, child health care and surveillance, and referrals to emergency and secondary treatment. Our

KEY FACTS

-  **40 MILLION PEOPLE** live in Sudan
-  **30%** of Sudan's health facilities are nonfunctional
-  **11 OUT OF 18 STATES** have Global Acute Malnutrition Rates at or above the emergency threshold of 15%
-  **3.14 MILLION PEOPLE** are in need of humanitarian assistance in Darfur
-  International Medical Corps provides emergency medical relief to over **400,000 BENEFICIARIES** annually in Darfur

of the sites in which we operate, we are the only provider of primary health care or nutrition services, making us a key partner to the Ministry of Health in the health response in the region. By emphasizing training in health care delivery, we give communities the tools to move from relief towards self-reliance, and to rebuild their futures.

reproductive health services include antenatal care, clean and safe deliveries by skilled birth attendants and postnatal care and family planning. Through our facilities, International Medical Corps sees an average of 35,000 new patients per month. In 2018, International Medical Corps will expand to South Kordofan and Blue Nile to provide health and nutrition services.

NUTRITION

International Medical Corps provides nutritional support to populations in Sudan most vulnerable to hunger, namely children under 5 years old, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. Of the 45 health facilities where we operate, 35 have integrated nutrition activities, including infant and young child feeding practices. Our teams support more than 35 outpatient therapeutic program centers for the management of children with severe acute malnutrition and we run stabilization centers for malnourished children with life-threatening medical complications. We also support nutrition-specific interventions to prevent malnutrition including promotion of proper infant feeding practices and micronutrient supplementation.

To prevent malnutrition in children under 2 and pregnant and breastfeeding women, International Medical Corps is implementing a comprehensive social behavior change approach through Lead Mother Groups. Each group is composed of 10-15 mothers of children under 2 or pregnant and breastfeeding women and one lead mother. Each site also has one female community health worker who is responsible for: (1) providing behavior change communications regarding essential nutrition actions (for example, exclusive breast feeding, supplementary feeding and timing, micronutrients supplementation, and how to prevent malnutrition and waterborne diseases; 2) demonstrating healthy food preparation and cooking; 3) training lead mothers on essential nutrition actions and malnutrition-related diseases. Together, these programs help families avoid the lasting health and developmental impacts of hunger.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Many communities in Darfur 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 Central Darfur, International Medical Corps implements Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) activities, which mobilizes communities to improve sanitation and hygiene by focusing on behavior change. Our activities include:

- ▶ Education and promotion of good hygiene practices
- ▶ The creation of waste disposal facilities and practices
- ▶ Chlorination, rehabilitation and maintenance of water points
- ▶ Construction of drainage canals and latrines

Together, these programs help communities protect an essential resource and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Caretakers and children are among the most vulnerable populations in conflict-affected communities. International Medical Corps provides comprehensive medical care, as well as training and education, to support and empower this key constituency. Our reproductive healthcare services include:

- ▶ Family planning, including child spacing
- ▶ Antenatal care and postnatal care
- ▶ Assisted deliveries and emergency obstetric care
- ▶ Prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases

Immunizations, nutritional screening and treatment, and assistance with newborn care also help mothers give their children a healthy start in life.

In addition, International Medical Corps has piloted a non-cash incentive approach aimed at increasing facility deliveries through traditional birth attendants (TBAs) as referral agents. These TBAs are trained on how to refer pregnant women to health facilities for antenatal and postnatal care, as well as for deliveries. Based on their performance, International Medical Corps provides non-cash incentives for the TBAs, such as soap and sugar.



CAPACITY BUILDING

By emphasizing education, International Medical Corps helps communities move towards sustainability and self-reliance. Since arriving in Darfur in 2004, we have trained hundreds of national medical personnel, Traditional Birth Attendants, and community leaders. These leaders go on to educate their communities on topics that include:

- ▶ Prevention and treatment of common communicable diseases
- ▶ Reproductive health and early childhood care
- ▶ Identification and management of common childhood illnesses
- ▶ Nutritional screening, treatment and prevention

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

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

International Medical Corps is providing support to the Ministry of Health in order to promote a self-sufficient health care delivery system. Health systems strengthening activities include:

- ▶ Construction, establishment of technical assistance for a District Health Office in Um Dukhun
- ▶ Strengthening of Ministry of Health capacity in Mukjar
- ▶ Conducting on-site informal training for local health staff, including on health systems information systems, surveillance, expanded programs on immunization and drug management
- ▶ Training Local Health Officers to provide support to health systems in West Darfur
- ▶ Building Local Health Offices to support LHMT and build local capacity to manage health systems in West Darfur



**International
Medical Corps**

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A preeminent First Responder for more than 30 years, International Medical Corps has provided 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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