



Despite the conflict, International Medical Corps staff is still providing services in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, as well as at sites throughout the Darfur region.

FAST FACTS

- The conflict has led to more than 400 deaths and 3,500 injuries
- International Medical Corps is adapting to the rapidly evolving security situation and continuing to provide services in conflict-affected areas where possible
- International Medical Corps is preparing to provide emergency services for refugees crossing into South Sudan and the Central African Republic

On April 15, clashes commenced between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Hostilities have continued across the capital of Khartoum and other cities, with air strikes and street fighting involving light and heavy weaponry. Incidences of violence have been reported across Darfur states, significantly impacting the delivery of humanitarian activities. After the death of three staff members, the World Food Programme decided to suspend national operations on April 16.

Before these events, the United Nations estimated that 15.8 million people in Sudan required humanitarian aid. Now, most hospitals in Khartoum have run out of vital medical supplies and at least nine have closed due to insecurity. Clashes are affecting the supply of food, and disrupting access to water and electricity. Across Sudan, community members are relocating internally or across borders into neighboring countries. As of April 21, the World Health Organization reported that the death toll had surpassed 400, with approximately 3,500 injured.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is extremely concerned with the deteriorating situation. Large segments of the population are cut off from services, supply chains are disrupted, damage to critical infrastructure is growing every day, frontline health facilities are strained and overburdened due to mass casualties, and health facilities are running out of supplies and personnel. In response to the situation, International Medical Corps is rolling out a multi-pronged strategy to act immediately and save lives.

International Medical Corps' first priorities are to maintain the safety and security of our staff, and is to maintain essential services across locations where operations are feasible, given the rapidly evolving security context. Before this week's conflict started, International Medical Corps supported Ministry of Health services in five states. Thanks to our strong community network, since the conflict started International Medical Corps has been able to maintain health and nutrition services in all health facilities in two states (Blue Nile and South Kordofan) and sustain humanitarian services in various sites around Central, West and South Darfur. These facilities offer integrated health and allied services that will help to reduce morbidity and mortality due to the direct and indirect consequences of this conflict. We will further strengthen specific activities around the management of trauma, protection and mental health services in these sites to meet additional needs created by the armed conflict.

To support to frontline facilities that are overwhelmed, International Medical Corps will provide hospitals and trauma centers with essential items such as pharmaceuticals, trauma kits and consumables to sustain patient care. We are coordinating with country, regional and global actors to support facilities with required commodities and, if possible, staffing, so that they can continue to provide lifesaving services.

Finally, International Medical Corps is preparing to scale up operations to provide essential services to populations in need. The country team is assessing the security situation and, soon as the feasibility of operations improves in the conflict affected areas, International Medical Corps will expand specific services to crisis-affected populations, including providing integrated lifesaving services through fixed or mobile units, training frontline staff on trauma and mass-casualty management, providing water, sanitation and hygiene services, and other context specific and needs-driven interventions.

The crisis is expected to have major consequences in the region due to an anticipated refugee crisis, possible expansion of the conflict to neighboring countries and the impact of war in a region that is already prone to disasters. In neighboring countries, International Medical Corps is preparing rapid emergency services for refugees entering South Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR), working with the United Nations and other partners. For example, International Medical Corps' team in South Sudan is coordinating with UNHCR to prepare to provide lifesaving primary healthcare services through a mobile clinic, while working to prevent disease outbreaks, implement clinical management of rape services for survivors and give dignity kits to women and girl refugees.

In addition, International Medical Corps' program in CAR is coordinating with our Sudan team and the World Health Organization on preparations to treat up to 10,000 Sudanese refugees crossing from South Darfur state. Our Emergency Response team will be providing additional emergency and surgical supplies, and we plan to mobilize support from community health workers who will triage refugee needs and refer them for care.