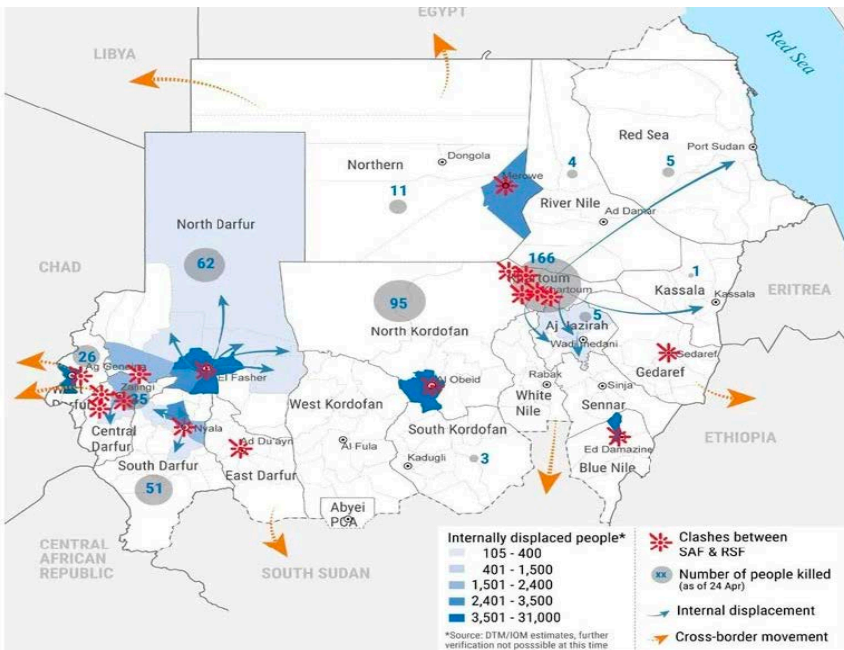


# SITUATION UPDATE



Conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces has led to the deaths of more than 450 civilians, 4,000 injuries and the displacement of some 21,000 people. Source: UNOCHA

On April 15, conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted in Khartoum, the nation’s capital. Since then, there have been clashes between the SAF and RSF in Kassala, North Darfur, North Kordofan and South Darfur states. More than 450 deaths and more than 4,000 injuries have been recorded since the violence began. However, the actual death toll is likely much higher, as current figures include only deaths reported to health facilities and access to many locations within the country is restricted. As of April 27, at least 18 humanitarian aid workers have been killed, including three aid workers in North Darfur.<sup>1</sup> Attacks on humanitarian premises in several areas have led to the suspension of aid operations in most parts of the country, leaving thousands without access to essential services.

A three-day US-mediated ceasefire between the SAF and RSF began at midnight on Tuesday, April 24, after several previously failed attempts.<sup>2</sup> With a temporary pause in fighting in some areas, both Sudanese and foreigners have been desperately trying to flee the country.<sup>3</sup>

So far, the most significant cross-border movements in the region have been Sudanese fleeing to Chad, and South Sudanese refugees returning to South Sudan. Current estimates from UNHCR indicate that more than 21,000 refugees have left the country since this conflict began. However, Sudan—along with neighboring countries, including Chad, the Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan—already have large numbers of existing refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in need of essential services.

## FAST FACTS

- On April 15, clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted in Khartoum. More than 450 people have been killed nationwide, and more than 4,000 have been injured.
- More than 21,000 people have fled Sudan to neighboring countries. This number is expected to increase as the violence continues.

## OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has been providing critical health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and protection services in Sudan since 2004.

## OUR RESPONSE

- Given the rapidly evolving security context, International Medical Corps has launched a regional response focused on expanding existing services and activities to meet the increased needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan and refugees seeking safety in the Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan.
- In Sudan, International Medical Corps is continuing to support the operations of 65 health facilities in five states, providing staffing support, medical consumables, supplies and pharmaceuticals.
- In CAR and South Sudan, International Medical Corps has deployed emergency response teams and is prepositioning supplies to expand health, nutrition, MHPSS, gender-based violence (GBV) and WASH services.

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-clashes-between-saf-and-rsf-flash-update-no-7-26-april-2023-enar>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.state.gov/announcement-of-nationwide-ceasefire-in-sudan/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/04/25/sudan-ceasefire-foreign-evacuations/>

## International Medical Corps Response

To respond to the crisis, International Medical Corps is prioritizing the safety and security of staff and the continuity of essential services in Sudan, while scaling up activities and pre-positioning critically needed supplies in CAR and South Sudan to support refugees fleeing the violence. International Medical Corps has been operating in **Sudan** since 2004, providing critical health, nutrition, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Prior to this conflict, the health system in Sudan was already fragile, with many health facilities lacking skilled healthcare workers, leading to high rates of morbidity and mortality.

Before this outbreak of violence, International Medical Corps supported 81 health facilities across five of Sudan's 18 states, including Blue Nile, South Kordofan and three states in the Darfur region. This conflict has led to large segments of the population being completely cut off from essential services. Supply chains have been disrupted and damage to critical infrastructure has been reported throughout the country. In Khartoum, where the conflict began, only one in four health facilities are fully functional. Frontline healthcare facilities across the country are overburdened and have reported shortages of medical supplies and lack of adequate personnel.



*Given the volatility of the crisis, International Medical Corps has launched a regional response to the conflict in Sudan, rapidly scaling up activities in CAR and South Sudan, where we have existing operations.*

Despite challenges related to security and access, in Sudan, our teams are continuing to operate in 65 health facilities at approximately 70% capacity. In coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH), International Medical Corps is supporting hospitals and trauma centers with essential items—including pharmaceuticals, trauma kits, consumables and support for staffing—to sustain continuity of healthcare services. Frontline facilities are overwhelmed because of increased needs, so this support is critical. Our team is coordinating with country, regional and global actor to support these facilities with the required commodities and, where possible, staff resources to enable them to continue providing lifesaving services. Our teams also are prioritizing facilities in the Darfur region, where pre-existing large-scale displacement, coupled with a volatile security situation, is expected to worsen health outcomes, restrict access to critical services and lead to further displacement.

Additionally, International Medical Corps is preparing to expand operations to provide essential services to those affected by the crisis. Our teams are continually assessing the security situation, and will—as soon as it is feasible in conflict-affected areas—rapidly increase critically needed services, which may include providing lifesaving healthcare interventions through fixed and/or mobile medical units, training frontline staff on trauma and mass casualty management, providing WASH and protection services, and distributing non-food items or other supplies based on specific needs of the affected population. To support these efforts, International Medical Corps is re-establishing its senior management team in Nairobi to continue coordinating our response, ensure national staff well-being, and directly coordinate with donors and partners in the region as the situation continues to evolve.

Though the ceasefire is holding in some parts of the country, sporadic fighting throughout some regions of the country has resumed, which has led to concerns related to mass displacement and possible expansion of the conflict into neighboring countries, particularly in countries where the security situation is already tenuous. In response, International Medical Corps is expanding activities in CAR and South Sudan, where we have existing operations.

International Medical Corps began working in **CAR** in 2007, and today our teams provide services in three regions, including Haute Kotto and Vakaga districts, which border Sudan. International Medical Corps provides basic health services, reproductive health services, counseling and testing for HIV, treatment for acute respiratory infections, psychosocial and clinical support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), protection activities, MHPSS and nutrition services. In 2020, to address the staffing gap of qualified health staff in the country, International Medical Corps began supporting health education for auxiliary midwives.

In response to this crisis, International Medical Corps has deployed an emergency response team to conduct a mission to Am Dafok, a village in Vakaga that borders South Darfur. The team, which will be in Am Dafok for the next 10 days, will meet with local authorities and focus on strengthening emergency healthcare, nutrition and protection services at the Am Dafok health center to support the influx of refugees. Our teams also are securing dignity kits and essential



*In South Sudan, International Medical Corps has deployed emergency response teams—including service providers, program managers and community liaisons—and supplies to rapidly expand health, protection and MHPSS services.*

pharmaceuticals to support vulnerable women and children arriving in Am Dafok, and is procuring interagency emergency health kits (IEHKs)—comprising essential medications, supplies and minor equipment—to support priority health needs. The kits include enough medicines and medical devices to serve approximately 10,000 people for three months.

In **South Sudan**, International Medical Corps provides primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare, maternal and child health, nutrition, GBV prevention and response, and MHPSS services. International Medical Corps has been working in South Sudan since the mid-1990s, nearly 20 years before a national referendum in 2011 led to the southernmost states of Sudan becoming an independent country that year. The latest conflict in Sudan is expected to worsen conditions in South Sudan, further exacerbating its fragile healthcare system, high rates of food insecurity and pre-existing large numbers of IDPs.

Currently, 3,475 returnees and refugees are stranded at the Sudanese border, awaiting clearance to cross into South Sudan. The majority of returnees and refugees who have arrived in country entered through Renk, a small town located in the northeast. Given the increased needs at the border and the anticipated increase in refugees and returnees, International Medical Corps has deployed a team—comprising a program manager, a GBV manager, logistics manager and community liaison—to Renk to support the implementation and coordination of operations there. International Medical Corps has also deployed a team of service providers—including two clinical officers, a nurse, a pharmacist, a nutrition assistant, a lab assistant, a GBV caseworker and a MEAL officer—to

provide emergency healthcare services, nutrition screenings and GBV services. International Medical Corps has also deployed a nutrition manager to work with the Upper Nile State Ministry of Health.

As the conflict continues, International Medical Corps is continuing to monitor the situation closely while working ensure continuity of services, wherever feasible, within Sudan. Our teams in CAR and South Sudan also are working closely with local authorities and other non-governmental organizations to increase services along the border to meet the increased and anticipated needs of refugees and returnees.