

# South Sudan



**International Medical Corps began working in the conflict-ridden region of southern Sudan in 1994, years before a 2011 national referendum led to Sudan's southernmost states becoming the independent country of South Sudan.**

Today, amid ongoing violence, we work with the government of South Sudan to strengthen local healthcare capacity in five of the country's 10 states,

where we help deliver health services through 65 health facilities in urban and rural areas.

International Medical Corps provides emergency preparedness, intervention and response assistance, as well as basic healthcare and integrated services that range from preventative care to emergency surgery. We run programs that provide nutrition services, battle gender-based violence, support mental health and support training programs that include our highly successful nursing and midwifery schools, which have graduated a majority of the midwives working in South Sudan today.



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

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 end the violence and address South Sudan's immense poverty, massive displacement, chronic food and nutrition insecurity, and ongoing human rights violations. Progress on these issues has been painfully slow. As a result, independence has left the people of South Sudan facing deteriorating humanitarian conditions in an environment poisoned by endemic violence, constraints on mobility and an array of public health challenges that include the direct and indirect effects of COVID-19. Climate-related shocks include major flooding and localized droughts that affect people's livelihoods while hampering access to education, health services, and water, sanitation and hygiene. Protection concerns remain high, as people affected by violence have only limited access to justice and the rule of law.

In 2023, an estimated 9.4 million people—approximately two-thirds of South Sudan's population—will require urgent humanitarian assistance, and 7.8 million people will continue to experience high levels of acute food insecurity, with thousands living in famine-like conditions.

### WHERE WE WORK



### HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

International Medical Corps provides essential primary and secondary healthcare services across Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity and Western Bahr el Ghazal states. In collaboration with the government and private-sector stakeholders, including local NGOs, International Medical Corps provides access to healthcare services in displacement camps in Juba, Malakal and Wau, and in 61 static health clinics in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states. International Medical Corps also supports health systems strengthening and sustainable development by collaborating with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to operate within government-owned primary healthcare facilities in host communities. To reach remote communities or populations isolated by natural disasters, like flooding, International Medical Corps implements mobile healthcare services either as part of ongoing programs or in response to emergencies.

Our primary health services in South Sudan include the following:

- ▶ outpatient consultations for common communicable and noncommunicable diseases;
- ▶ maternal and child health, including antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, immunization and emergency obstetric care;
- ▶ specialized services for high-risk pregnancies and mental health needs;
- ▶ sexual and reproductive health services, including disease prevention and treatment, clinical management of rape and integrated case management for HIV/AIDS; and
- ▶ community engagement for health education and promotion services.

### COVID-19 PREVENTION & RESPONSE

International Medical Corps continues to be at the forefront of COVID-19 prevention and response in South Sudan, providing medical expertise, equipment, training, triage, surveillance, risk communication and treatment—including health, nutrition and psychosocial services—in both urban and rural camp settings. We continue to support COVID-19 case management, infection prevention and control (IPC), and the Safe and Dignified Burial Working Group. Together with the MoH and the World Health Organization, we maintain operational readiness to scale up and co-manage the Dr. John Garang Infectious Diseases Unit, the only COVID-19 facility in Juba.





## NUTRITION

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, released in December 2022, about 6.6 million people—more than half of South Sudan's population—are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. Of those, 2.2 million people are experiencing emergency acute food insecurity and an estimated 61,000 people are experiencing catastrophic acute food insecurity. Experts estimate that 1.4 million children under five will suffer from acute malnutrition between July 2022 and June 2023.

International Medical Corps operates 56 treatment centers across sites for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Canal Pigi, Juba, Malakal and Panyjar. We work closely with the MoH and other partners to provide comprehensive treatment, incorporating a community-based model for the management of acute malnutrition with a maternal, infant and young-child feeding approach as curative and preventive measures. This combination includes minimal inpatient care for severely malnourished children with complications, to reduce their exposure to other diseases, combined with outpatient care to decrease their recovery time.



**7**

program  
sites



**92,730**

people reached  
in 2022



**102**

national staff  
employed

## MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

South Sudan has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with one in every 50 live births resulting in the death of the mother. Given the country's high fertility rate, this means that each mother has a one-in-seven chance of dying during childbirth in her lifetime. One-quarter of all South Sudanese children die from common, often preventable, childhood illnesses before they reach their fifth birthday. The high-impact services that International Medical Corps implements in primary health clinics in South Sudan focus on improving the health of women and their children. Several of our primary and secondary health facilities also provide emergency obstetric care, ensuring that women experiencing complications during delivery receive proper care.

We support health facilities with services that include:

- ▶ capacity building to reduce the gap in qualified health personnel;
- ▶ assisted deliveries, including obstetric surgical services;
- ▶ antenatal and postnatal care and family planning;
- ▶ emergency obstetric care and referral support; and
- ▶ facility-based sexual and reproductive health education and community awareness.



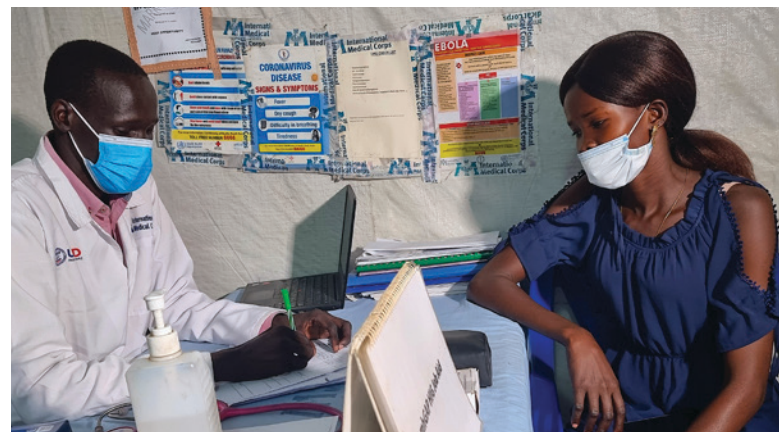
In 2011, when South Sudan declared independence, there were just eight midwives registered in the country's healthcare system.

Since 2012, International Medical Corps' three training schools have graduated **159 NURSES** and **472 MIDWIVES**. Most of the nurses and midwives working in South Sudan today are graduates of our schools' program.

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LOCAL HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY

South Sudan has fewer than 200 doctors to serve its population of more than 12 million. Similar deficits are seen in the number of nurses, midwives and other paramedical staff. To increase access to care, we have worked for more than a decade in South Sudan to build the capacity of the country's healthcare system through training programs that target health professionals and key community residents. We provide on-the-job training to midwives and other healthcare workers at Malakal Teaching Hospital and at more than 20 International Medical Corps-supported health facilities across Malakal.

International Medical Corps provides modern, computer-based data collection and analysis training for staff working on health management information systems. We also partner with state-level ministries of health to ensure that technical support continues through the coaching and mentoring of frontline health workers.





## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Violence against women and girls is an endemic problem in South Sudan, exacerbated by ongoing conflict and chronic displacement. That's why we put GBV prevention and response at the core of our 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 disasters.

Our priority is to strengthen the core services we provide to survivors of GBV and other vulnerable women and girls in Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile and Western Bahr el Ghazal states. These services include quality case management centered on the survivor, as well as counseling and psychosocial support to enhance healing and recovery.

In addition, we run women's and girls' safe spaces in displacement camps and communities. In these spaces, women and girls can socialize, make handicrafts and receive psychosocial support to help them recover from traumatic experiences. We provide gender-based violence prevention and response training to local leaders. And we establish women management committees in each location where we maintain women's and girls' safe spaces.



### TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED WITH GBV INTERVENTIONS IN 2021

**202,715**  
Females



**85,908**  
Males

## MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorders and substance abuse are growing issues in South Sudan. This is especially true in areas of conflict. Though the country's health system as a whole is inadequate, mental health services remain practically non-existent. There are only two trained practicing psychiatrists and just one neuropsychiatrist in the entire country.

As a key provider of MHPSS services in South Sudan, International Medical Corps delivers evidence-based pharmacological and psychosocial support services to clients

with mental, neurological and substance use conditions in three conflict-affected states: Central Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile. We also co-chair the national MHPSS Technical Working Group and contribute to national policy development.

Due to critical gaps in the country, International Medical Corps recruits technical staff members trained in psychiatry to work with non-specialized healthcare providers and conducts a mhGAP-HIG training series to accommodate the growing demand for mental health services in the country.

## PARTNERSHIPS

International Medical Corps works in close collaboration with relevant national and international NGOs, community groups, donor agencies and host-country governments, cultivating strong relationships with them to maximize the impact of our programs. We also help strengthen local partner organizations to ensure the sustainability of interventions. We have been a lead or co-lead agency in various technical working groups in the country and have proven our ability to work strategically and in collaboration with diverse stakeholders.



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

A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster, and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance, and become effective first responders themselves.

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