SITUATION UPDATE

Nine months since the war erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on April 15, 2023, in the capital of Khartoum, about 7.6 million people have fled their homes, taking refuge inside and outside Sudan, with children representing about half of the people displaced. Sudan now has the world’s largest number of displaced people and most significant child displacement crisis.

More than 70% of hospitals in conflict-afflicted states are no longer functional. Inability to access pharmaceutical supplies has left hundreds of thousands of patients at risk of further harm. With the decline of health services, outbreaks of disease—including cholera, dengue fever, malaria and measles—that were under control before the conflict have been on the rise and causing deaths. More than 9,700 suspected cases of cholera had been reported as of January 16 from 60 localities of 11 states, with 269 associated deaths, according to the Sudan Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization’s Sudan Outbreaks Dashboard.

The conflict—particularly in Darfur, Khartoum and Kordofan—has exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation. Humanitarian needs across Sudan are at record highs, with 24.8 million people—or every second person—needing humanitarian assistance. This is 9 million more than in 2023. Millions lack access to essential goods and services such as food, water, shelter, electricity, education, healthcare and nutrition.¹

International Medical Corps Response

Since April 2023, International Medical Corps has provided health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to affected communities. We continue collaborating with local authorities and international actors to assess and address evolving humanitarian needs. Currently, International

¹ UN OCHA Situation Report - Sudan Humanitarian Update (21 January 2024)
Medical Corps supports and operates in 84 health facilities across Al-Jazeera, Blue Nile, Central Darfur, South Darfur, West Darfur, Khartoum, South Kordofan and Sennar states that cover a population of 2.7 million people.

Since April 2023, International Medical Corps has provided 235,508 medical consultations, addressing various health concerns in the community. Our educational sessions have reached 28,424 participants, covering topics such as nutrition, hygiene, reproductive health and mental health. And to promote awareness of important health issues, we have conducted awareness-raising campaigns on topics such as hygiene and antenatal care (ANC), reaching 38,653 people.

We have administered 17,740 immunizations, crucial in safeguarding children and pregnant women against vaccine-preventable diseases. Our services have reached 1,052 children through the outpatient therapeutic program (OTP), where we addressed severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases. We have helped support 17,667 women’s ANC visits, safely delivering 3,189 newborns, and providing essential services such as skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and newborn care. Following delivery, we’ve facilitated postnatal care (PNC) visits for 3,097 women, offering them necessary follow-up services and support. Furthermore, we have conducted 1,197 MHPSS consultations for people suffering from stress and trauma.

In Blue Nile, South Kordofan, and Central, South and West Darfur states, International Medical Corps supported 58 health facilities and nine stabilization centers in the last two weeks of December. Working with three local partners, our teams provided 50,846 consultations, assisted with 824 deliveries and provided 578 mothers and newborns with PNC consultations, while 4,860 women attended ANC visits. We delivered 2,460 immunizations, and provided 62 people with MHPSS services. We reached 16,512 people through group education sessions and awareness-raising sessions.

In mid-December, we deployed a mobile health and nutrition team (MHNT) in Sennar state, enabling the team to expand their reach to new IDP gathering points and provide health services and medical supplies. The MHNT offers essential health services, MHPSS assistance and nutritional support, including hygiene and IPC items, and has been reaching at least 80 patients daily.

In South Darfur state, as part of our efforts to strengthen a decentralized health system for displaced populations, International Medical Corps is collaborating with local partner NIDO to implement community-based activities. We began activities in Taiba and Laiba after establishing mother support groups and recruiting community volunteers in December. The volunteers conduct community-based activities such as awareness-raising; refer cases, such as pregnant women, from the community to health facilities; track patients who do not follow up on treatment and refer them back to healthcare facilities; and conduct mass nutritional screenings. International Medical Corps also continued routine health and nutrition services in all supported facilities, reaching more than 5,700 people in the last two weeks of December.

In December 2023, the RSF seized control of Gezira state, including its capital Wad Medani, and subsequently entered Sennar, displacing over 500,000 people who fled to neighboring states. This has led to blocked main roads, hindering the movement of people and goods, and causing price hikes for essential items. Sennar now grapples with such challenges as food insecurity, malnutrition, outbreaks of disease, and limited access to health, water and sanitation services, with recurrent cholera outbreaks. Consequently, we have decided to deploy three MHNTs to provide integrated, lifesaving services to the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities in Sennar. We also support five healthcare facilities in El Suki and Sinja localities, helping to serve the influx of more than 50,000 IDPs who will require access to essential health, nutrition and WASH services.