



International Medical Corps staff during an mpox orientation in South Sudan.

On August 14, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared mpox—formerly referred to as monkeypox—a public health emergency of international concern, signaling the severity of the growing outbreak. Though the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has seen the majority of confirmed cases, neighboring countries, including the Central African Republic (CAR), South Sudan and others, are beginning to report increased numbers of confirmed and suspected cases.

International Medical Corps is developing both an organization-wide response strategy, as well as individual country response frameworks, to ensure that this response is context specific and best serves affected populations.

## International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps' response varies between counties, as described below.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** has the highest number of confirmed cases of mpox, with more than 20,460 suspected cases, 5,000 confirmed cases and 635 deaths since January 2024. The International Medical Corps mission in country has quickly mobilized to provide training for healthcare providers in the case prevention, identification and management of mpox, reaching more than 50 health areas across Fizi and Minova provinces in South Kivu, a hard-hit province. In addition to donating personal protective equipment (PPE) to health facilities in the conflict-affected Karisimbi Health Zone in North Kivu, our in-country team is helping local health actors transport testing samples for lab diagnosis.

The **Central African Republic (CAR)** has seen 45 confirmed and more than 250 suspected cases of mpox since the outbreak began. As the outbreak spread, our staff engaged with the CAR Ministry of Health to coordinate response mechanisms. We have begun distributing PPE to the Bria Hospital and the PK-3 camp for internally displaced persons, to protect frontline health care providers there.

Though **South Sudan** has yet to confirm mpox cases, there are 35 suspected cases so far. Our country team has established a task force to ensure a swift, coordinated response to mpox prevention and control, and is preparing to provide mpox case identification, prevention and management training to local health service providers in both fixed and mobile medical facilities.

## FAST FACTS

- Mpox was declared a public health emergency of international concern by the WHO on August 14.
- The global number of cases reported so far this year has exceeded last year's total, and have expanded to countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.
- Though the outbreak is centered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, confirmed cases of mpox have rapidly been rising in neighboring countries, including Central African Republic and South Sudan.

## OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps' response is specific to each country's unique context and needs.
- Our DRC and CAR responses are currently focused on training healthcare providers on case prevention, identification and prevention. Both missions are donating PPE to fixed and mobile health facilities.
- Our South Sudan mission is anticipating an increase in numbers, and is putting measures in place to respond immediately.