



International Medical Corps medical team provides medical consultations and medications to Sudanese refugees at an informal settlement in Kufra.

Since mid-April 2023, conflict in Sudan has displaced more than 11 million people, with more than 2 million fleeing to neighboring countries. Many Sudanese refugees have taken refuge in Kufra, a remote, sparsely populated area in southeastern Libya. UNHCR estimates the total Sudanese refugee population in Libya to be approximately 100,200.¹ According to recent data from Libya's national health authorities, more than 92,000 Sudanese refugees aged 18 and above have been in Kufra since January. This count includes only adults, as Libya's Ministry of Health requires health certificates for registration, which apply only to people over 18—meaning totals are likely higher. Refugee numbers are increasing steadily, with approximately 300 to 400 new arrivals settling in informal camps daily.

The situation for Sudanese refugees remains fluid, as many continue to move from Kufra to other cities across eastern and western Libya. This steady influx is worsening the already challenging conditions in Kufra, where the limited infrastructure of informal settlements is under strain. Refugees face critical needs in healthcare, food security, livelihoods, and essential water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Women and girls are especially vulnerable in these makeshift shelters, facing barriers to basic services and coping with inadequate living conditions. The growing demand for personal and menstrual hygiene products also poses a serious concern, with shortages impacting the health, dignity and safety of displaced women and girls in Kufra.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps has been delivering essential humanitarian assistance to both Sudanese and host communities in Kufra, in close partnership with local authorities, since June 2. These daily services include healthcare, mental health support and protection services. Efforts are centered at Alshaheed Atia Hospital, the city's main hospital, and across 14 designated informal settlements.

FAST FACTS

- Since the conflict began in Sudan in April 2023, more than 11 million people have been displaced, with more than 2 million fleeing to neighboring countries and more than 100,000 arriving in Libya.
- According to the Ministry of Health in Kufra, Libya, approximately 92,000 Sudanese refugees have reached the city, prompting serious concerns of a looming humanitarian crisis if rapid support isn't delivered.
- Providing immediate support is vital to ensuring that displaced individuals have access to healthcare, mental health services, food, shelter and essential household supplies.

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps was the first global humanitarian organization in Libya when the conflict began in 2011, and has since been providing critical health, nutrition, protection, mental health and psychosocial support, and water, sanitation and hygiene services.

OUR RESPONSE

- In Kufra, our medical team has identified 14 locations within Sudanese refugee communities where urgent needs are most pressing, providing health consultations at each site. To date, we have conducted 7,995 consultations and distributed essential medical supplies and consumables.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/sudan-situation-sudanese-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-libya-13-oct-2024>

As the demand for healthcare has grown, International Medical Corps has expanded our health response, doubling health teams from one to two mobile units, and expanding from the initial five settlements to 14. Each team now includes two physicians, one nurse, one pharmacist and one community health worker. To date, the teams have conducted 7,995 consultations and have referred 183 patients for specialized care at nearby facilities.

International Medical Corps is working in close coordination with health authorities, including the Kufra Emergency Cell and the Ministry of Health, as well as with other international partners through both the Sudan Response Health Taskforce and the Inter-Agency Working Group, to prevent overlap and maximize the delivery of health services as needed.

In October, Kufra's health authorities announced the opening of a new isolation center, to control transmission of disease. This facility, operating under Alshaheed Atia Hospital's management, opened on October 28 and is intended for Sudanese patients diagnosed with infectious diseases, including HIV, hepatitis B, tuberculosis and malaria. On October 24, a field officer from International Medical Corps visited the center to evaluate its capacity and discuss required support, and determined that additional staff, medical supplies and laboratory equipment are needed for effective operations. International Medical Corps, in coordination with the Kufra Emergency Cell and other international partners, will deploy health teams to the center to provide both primary and secondary healthcare services, along with essential medical equipment and supplies to bolster the center's efforts in patient care and disease control.