

IOM and International Medical Corps (IMC) - A Partnership to Improve Access to Medical Services for Affected Populations



LOCATION OF PARTNERSHIP



South Sudan

CONTEXT

The Republic of South Sudan seceded from Sudan in 2011, in line with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The newly formed Government of the Republic of South Sudan had articulated a development agenda but ambitious state-building initiatives were curtailed by the emergence of civil conflict in December 2013. Violence broke out in the

capital Juba and rapidly spread with other communities and regions increasingly drawn into the conflict. Forces have since splintered, and factions continue to change sides swiftly. Long-term structural and proximate issues have been major catalysts of the protracted conflict and the rapid escalation of violence. The current conflict in South Sudan can be characterized as 'an emergency within an emergency', with fluid mobility trends.

In April and May of 2014 and 2015, Leer County was overrun by fighting displacing a majority of the population. In 2016, as the peace agreement held, populations began returning to towns and villages, leaving their hiding places in swamps.

IOM - IMC PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

In close coordination with the Cluster system, IOM, through the Rapid Response Fund (RRF), supports national and international NGOs to respond across seven sectors (WASH, NFI, Health, Nutrition, Protection, Humanitarian Coordination, and Shelter) throughout the country.

IOM supported IMC to provide primary and reproductive health care to IDPs sheltering in the Protection of Civilians (PoC) site in Juba after the outbreak of conflict in December 2013. As the conflict continued, IOM supported IMC to respond to conflict-affected populations in Adok, Leer County, Unity, one of the hardest hit areas and most inaccessible for much of 2014 and 2015.

After the PoC site in Malakal was attacked, IMC turned to IOM for support to respond to provide emergency nutrition services to vulnerable IDPs both within and outside the PoC site.



THE NECESSITY OF PARTNERSHIP

Based on the recommendations of the Health and Nutrition Clusters, and with escalating needs in remote areas, IMC reached out IOM for support to meet the needs of displaced, conflict affected populations. IMC was able to scale up to meet needs quickly thanks to the rapid support of the IOM.

PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Together, IMC and IOM ensured access to health or nutrition services to over 50,000 IDPs, both within PoC sites and in hard to reach areas of South Sudan. IMC was able to build from the original IOM support to continue to provide services for affected populations. In turn, IMC in Adok supports a national NGO who will take over at the end of the project. IMC provides on the job training as well as surge capacity to respond to medical emergencies when needed.

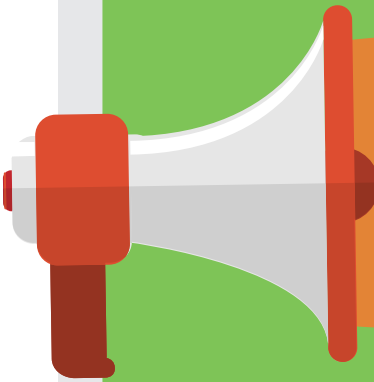
ADDED VALUE OF THIS PARTNERSHIP

Through the RRF, IOM can provide support quickly to respond to emergencies across South Sudan. IOM assists in the proposal process and, based on sound understanding of the context, responds flexibly to changes in the operating environment.



IOM
Christina Burwell
cburwell@iom.int

IMC
Manager, Rapid Response Fund, South Sudan
asadiq@InternationalMedicalCorps.org



IMC has medical staff on the ground to provide quality medical care and nutrition services to displaced and conflict-affected populations, and works to build capacity of local partners for a more sustainable response.

