

Momentum Integrated Health Resilience (MIHR): Strengthening Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services in Rumbek Centre County, South Sudan.



Figure 1: Women and children gather during an integrated community outreach session supported by the MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience (MIHR) Project in Rumbek Centre County, where they receive maternal and child health services, nutrition screening, health education, and referrals to health facilities. © Yo' Care South Sudan / MIHR Project, 2026.

Building Resilient Health Systems, Saving Lives, and Bringing Quality Healthcare Closer to Communities

31 July 2026 (Juba, South Sudan)

Project Summary

The MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience (MIHR) Project is strengthening primary healthcare services in Rumbek Centre County, Lakes State, through investments in maternal, newborn and child health, nutrition, immunization, community health, and health systems

strengthening. Implemented by Yo' Care South Sudan through a Fixed Amount Subaward with IMA World Health and funded by the United States Government through the U.S. Department of State, the project improves access to quality healthcare for more than 322,000 people by strengthening health facilities, empowering frontline health workers, and expanding community-based health services.

About the Project

Every mother deserves a safe pregnancy and childbirth. Every newborn deserves a healthy start in life. Every child deserves access to quality healthcare regardless of where they live. Yet, for thousands of families across South Sudan, especially those living in rural and hard-to-reach communities, accessing essential healthcare remains a daily challenge. Long distances to health facilities, shortages of skilled healthcare workers, weak referral systems, seasonal flooding, disease outbreaks, and limited health infrastructure continue to prevent women and children from receiving timely, quality care.

To help address these challenges, Yo' Care South Sudan is implementing the MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience (MIHR) Project in Rumbek Centre County, Lakes State, through a Fixed Amount Subaward with IMA World Health, the prime recipient of the global MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience programme. The project is funded by the United States Government through the U.S. Department of State (DoS) under the MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience Cooperative Agreement, which supports lifesaving maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), nutrition, disease surveillance, and health system resilience interventions in fragile and crisis-affected settings worldwide.

Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Lakes State Ministry of Health, the Rumbek Centre County Health Department, community leaders, and health workers, the project strengthens existing government health systems rather than creating parallel structures. By investing in frontline health workers, improving the quality of healthcare, expanding community outreach services, and strengthening local health systems, the project is helping build healthier, more resilient communities where women, children, and families can thrive.

" Strong health systems are built by investing in people, strengthening local institutions, and empowering communities. Through the MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience Project, Yo' Care South Sudan is working alongside government and community partners to ensure that every mother, newborn, and child has access to quality healthcare and the opportunity to live a healthier future."

— **Dr. Yohanis Riek**
President & CEO, Yo' Care South Sudan

Project at a Glance

Project Information	
Project Name	MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience (MIHR)
Implementing Partner	Yo' Care South Sudan
Prime Recipient	IMA World Health
Funding	United States Government through the U.S. Department of State
Implementation Period	21 April – 30 September 2026
Location	Rumbek Centre County, Lakes State
Supported Health Facilities	4
Target Payams	Jiir, Matangai and Amongpiny
Target Bomas	11
Estimated Population Served	322,599 people

Our Impact at a Glance

 **322,599**
People Served

 **52**
Health Workers Supported

 **714**
Safe Deliveries

 **14,798**
Children Screened

 **1,196**
Children Immunized

Project Objectives

- Improve access to quality maternal, newborn and child health services.
- Strengthen primary healthcare systems in supported health facilities.
- Improve nutrition and routine immunization coverage.
- Strengthen the Boma Health Initiative.
- Build the capacity of frontline healthcare workers.
- Improve disease surveillance, referral systems, and emergency preparedness.

Why This Project Matters

South Sudan remains one of the world's most fragile health settings. Years of conflict, humanitarian emergencies, economic challenges, climate-related disasters, and underinvestment in health systems have significantly affected the availability and quality of essential health services. Women and children continue to bear the greatest burden of these challenges.

According to the South Sudan Health Sector Strategic Plan (2023–2027), the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the World Bank, South Sudan has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios globally, estimated at approximately 1,223 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, while neonatal and under-five mortality rates remain among the highest in the world (Ministry of Health, 2023; WHO, 2024; UNICEF, 2024; World Bank, 2024). Many of these deaths are preventable through timely access to quality antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care, newborn services, childhood immunization, adequate nutrition, and effective disease prevention.

These challenges are particularly pronounced in Rumbek Centre County, where scattered settlements, seasonal flooding, poor road networks, and shortages of healthcare workers often prevent families from accessing lifesaving services. Women frequently travel long distances to deliver in health facilities, while many children miss routine immunization or treatment for common illnesses because services are unavailable or inaccessible.

Recognizing these realities, the MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience Project focuses on strengthening both community-based and facility-based healthcare services to ensure that quality healthcare reaches those who need it most.

Our Approach

The project recognizes that improving health outcomes requires more than delivering clinical services. The MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience Project adopts an integrated health systems strengthening approach that improves service delivery at both health facility and community levels. Rather than focusing on a single disease or intervention, the project strengthens the entire continuum of care for mothers, newborns, and children.

Our approach therefore combines several complementary strategies and interventions:

- ✓ Maternal and Newborn Health
- ✓ Child Health
- ✓ Nutrition
- ✓ Routine Immunization
- ✓ Community Outreach
- ✓ Boma Health Initiative
- ✓ Quality Improvement
- ✓ MPDSR

- ✓ Disease Surveillance
- ✓ Health Workforce Development

This integrated approach ensures that healthcare services are both accessible and responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Bringing Healthcare Closer to Communities



Figure 2: A Yo' Care community health worker conducts a health education session with caregivers and children during an integrated outreach activity in Rumbek Centre County. Community engagement is central to improving health-seeking behaviour and increasing the use of maternal and child health services. © Yo' Care South Sudan / MIHR Project, 2026.

For many families living in remote villages, reaching a health facility can require several hours of walking, particularly during the rainy season. To overcome these barriers, the project supports

integrated outreach services and the Boma Health Initiative (BHI), bringing healthcare directly to communities.

Through household visits, health education sessions, nutrition screening, and community-based disease surveillance, trained Boma Health Workers serve as the first point of contact between communities and the formal health system. They identify pregnant women early, encourage antenatal care attendance, promote facility-based deliveries, educate caregivers on newborn and child health, and facilitate timely referrals for patients requiring specialized care.

This community-centred approach improves health-seeking behaviour while ensuring vulnerable populations are not left behind.

Strengthening the Health Workforce

Healthcare systems are built on people. The MIHR Project has recruited, deployed, trained, and mentored 52 frontline healthcare workers, including 36 Boma Health Workers and four Boma Health Supervisors, alongside facility-based clinical staff.

Regular mentorship, supportive supervision, and quality improvement coaching enable health workers to strengthen clinical skills, improve patient safety, enhance data quality, and provide respectful, evidence-based care. These investments not only improve immediate service delivery but also strengthen the long-term capacity of the local health workforce.

Improving Maternal and Newborn Health



Figure 3: Pregnant women and mothers participate in a health education and counselling session at a supported health facility. The MIHR Project promotes early antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, postnatal care, and respectful maternity services to improve maternal and newborn survival. © Yo' Care South Sudan / MIHR Project, 2026.

Every pregnancy should end with a healthy mother and a healthy baby. The project supports comprehensive maternal and newborn healthcare by improving access to antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric referrals, postnatal care, newborn resuscitation, and respectful maternity care.

Health facilities are also strengthening Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) systems to identify preventable causes of maternal and newborn deaths and implement evidence-based quality improvement actions that reduce future mortality.

Community education further encourages pregnant women to begin antenatal care early, complete recommended visits, deliver in health facilities, and seek timely postnatal care for both mother and newborn.

Giving Every Child a Healthy Start



Figure 4: Healthcare workers provide integrated child health services during an outreach clinic, including consultation, nutrition screening, growth monitoring, and referral for specialized care where needed. © Yo' Care South Sudan / MIHR Project, 2026.

Children under five are among the most vulnerable members of any community. The MIHR Project integrates child health, nutrition, and immunization services to ensure children receive comprehensive care from birth through early childhood.

Healthcare workers diagnose and treat common childhood illnesses such as malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhoea while promoting exclusive breastfeeding, nutrition counselling, growth monitoring, and routine immunization. Children are screened for acute malnutrition using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), enabling early identification and referral for treatment before complications arise. By integrating these services, the project contributes to improved child survival, healthier childhood development, and stronger community resilience.

Strengthening Health Systems for Long-Term Impact

The MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience Project goes beyond service delivery by strengthening the systems that support healthcare.

The project supports routine disease surveillance, integrated supportive supervision, quality improvement initiatives, health information management, emergency preparedness, referral coordination, and data-driven decision-making. Health facility Quality Improvement Teams use routine performance data to identify service gaps, implement practical solutions, and continuously improve healthcare delivery.

Rather than creating parallel systems, the project strengthens existing government structures, ensuring that investments continue benefiting communities long after project implementation.

Early Results

Although implementation began in April 2026, the project has already demonstrated encouraging progress.

Within the first months of implementation, supported health facilities recorded:

- 1,469 first antenatal care visits
- 714 skilled deliveries
- 721 live births
- 1,928 outpatient consultations for children under five years
- 14,798 children screened for acute malnutrition
- 1,196 children receiving routine immunization

These achievements reflect increasing community trust in health services, improved service availability, and the dedication of frontline healthcare workers serving some of South Sudan's most vulnerable populations.

Working in Partnership

The success of the MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience Project is built on strong partnerships. Yo' Care South Sudan works closely with the United States Government, IMA World Health, the Ministry of Health, the Lakes State Ministry of Health, the Rumbek Centre County Health Department, health facility staff, community leaders, and local communities to ensure coordinated implementation and sustainable impact. These partnerships strengthen local capacity, align project activities with national health priorities, and ensure that investments contribute to a more resilient and equitable health system for future generations.

Yo' Care South Sudan believes that sustainable health improvements are achieved when communities are empowered to participate actively in their own development. Through collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based programming, the project is helping build stronger health systems that will continue serving communities for years to come.

Beyond the implementation period, the project is strengthening local leadership, institutional capacity, and community ownership to ensure that improvements in service delivery continue long after project funding concludes.

Looking Ahead



Figure 5: Integrated outreach services continue to bring lifesaving healthcare closer to women and children living in remote communities across Rumbek Centre County. © Yo' Care South Sudan / MIHR Project, 2026.

While important progress has already been made, much work remains. Over the coming months, the project will continue strengthening health facilities, expanding integrated outreach services, supporting frontline healthcare workers, improving referral systems, promoting maternal and child health, strengthening disease surveillance, and enhancing community resilience across Rumbek Centre County.

Every mother who safely delivers at a health facility, every newborn who receives quality care, every child vaccinated against preventable diseases, and every family empowered with lifesaving health knowledge represents another step toward a healthier South Sudan.

Through the generous support of the United States Government, the technical leadership of IMA World Health, the commitment of the Government of South Sudan, and the dedication of Yo' Care South Sudan, the MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience Project is helping transform healthcare delivery for thousands of women, children, and families. Together, we are building stronger health systems, healthier communities, and a more resilient future where no mother or child is left behind.

Together, We Can Build Healthier Communities

Yo' Care South Sudan believes that resilient health systems are built through collaboration, innovation, and community leadership. We welcome partnerships with government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, researchers, and local communities to advance equitable, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare across South Sudan.

To learn more about Yo' Care South Sudan's work or explore partnership opportunities, please visit www.yocare.org, follow us on our social media platforms, or contact us at info@yocare.org.

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This improves credibility and aligns with donor publication standards.

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