

Central African Republic



International Medical Corps in Central African Republic (CAR) provides lifesaving services to internally displaced people, refugees and conflict-affected host communities in six regions and remains one of the few international organizations with a presence in the northeastern region.

International Medical Corps began working in CAR in 2007 by providing services to Sudanese refugees in the Haute Kotto region. Since then, International Medical Corps' portfolio in CAR has expanded to include health systems strengthening and service provision, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and child protection. Our long-term programs have established International Medical Corps as an experienced and knowledgeable organization in the country. Our teams work closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and community counterparts to design, implement and evaluate programs.



CAR continues to struggle under the pressures of ongoing conflict, food insecurity and disease.

Conflict and insecurity in CAR have resulted in increased vulnerability of the population through displacement, disrupted livelihoods and weakened support systems to provide lifesaving services. The country has been heavily affected by violent conflict for the past several years which has resulted in an almost constant volatile security situation. There is little to no infrastructure or access to health care, constant population movement and a large presence of armed actors in certain regions where International Medical Corps works. Banditry is widespread and increases the difficulty of delivering commodities to program sites, like medicines and equipment, as UN agencies and NGOs are targeted by armed groups along supply roads.

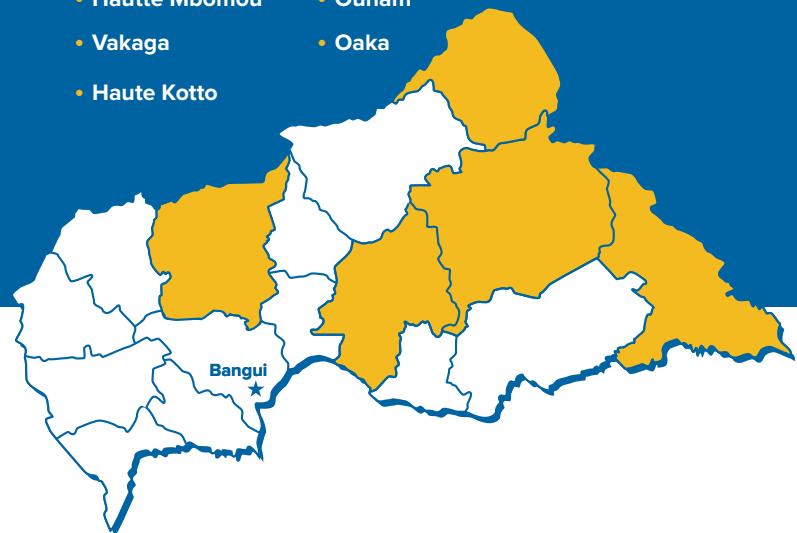
International Medical Corps provides an integrated and inclusive package of high quality services that contributes to the well-being of refugees and host communities in CAR. Despite challenges in remote and insecure environments, International Medical Corps

continues to provide basic health services; reproductive health services; counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS; treatment for acute respiratory infections including tuberculosis, malaria, and diarrhea; psychosocial and clinical support to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV); nutrition services and treatment for malnutrition; and child protection activities. To build resiliency into the health system and ensure long-term quality of care and services, International Medical Corps provides ongoing training and supervision for health and community actors as well as the MOH.

WHERE WE WORK:

COVERAGE IN CAR

- Haute Mbomou
- Ouham
- Vakaga
- Oaka
- Haute Kotto



CHILD PROTECTION

International Medical Corps works to identify and provide response to children at risk (former child soldiers, vulnerable children, orphans, etc.) through medical and psychosocial support. The child protection program includes activities to help mitigate the emotional and psychological impact of conflict by:

- Creating child protection and youth committees who advocate for children's rights, promote a safer environment for children, and identify and refer any children at risk,
- Providing trainings and mass campaigns on human rights, school management, peace education and the protection of children,
- Supporting recreational, sport and creative activities for youth and children,
- Providing medical care for identified children,
- Offering case management and psychosocial support for individual child protection cases and literacy training and
- Making referrals (if possible) to appropriate community-based services.

Educational and vocational activities included workshops and apprenticeship schemes in carpentry, masonry, sewing and hairdressing; providing school kits and vocational start up kits; and forming protection committees to engage young people actively in discussing their needs and their rights.

During 2014 and 2015, International Medical Corps assisted over 2,000 vulnerable children through psychosocial support, medical care, recreational activities and educational and vocational activities.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

International Medical Corps provides quality lifesaving health services through health facilities and mobile medical units that can reach the most remote communities. Services include:

- Curative and preventive consultations and essential drugs distributions free of charge,
- Integrated management of childhood illnesses services based on expanded immunization programs, prevention and care,
- Prevention and response activities for common diseases (i.e. malaria, acute respiratory infection and diarrhea),
- Access to referral services, especially for pregnant women needing emergency obstetric and newborn care, and children with complicated severe acute malnutrition,
- Health promotion and education and
- Health systems strengthening, which includes disease surveillance, improvement of the management capacity of health facility management committees and joint supervisions with the MOH.

International Medical Corps provides basic health care services throughout 41 health centers and hospitals and 17 mobile clinics. In 2015, International Medical Corps conducted 232,659 curative consultations, of which 87,115 were for children under 5 years.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

GBV is pervasive in CAR; women and girls are routinely targeted by armed groups and face sexual and physical violence in their homes and communities. Given the current levels of violence in the country, women and girls are extremely vulnerable to rape, abduction, and sexual exploitation and abuse. International Medical Corps trains medical staff on the clinical management of rape, works with local communities to raise awareness of GBV, provides basic psychosocial support, gives information on relevant available services and provides referrals as needed.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH) PROMOTION

Access to safe drinking water remains a challenge in CAR. In order to improve access to clean water and reduce infectious disease, International Medical Corps is:

- Rehabilitating and improving wells,
- Installing latrine blocks,
- Promoting hygiene and water conservation in target communities and
- Distributing emergency kits containing essential water collection/storage containers and hygiene items to refugees at two refugee and internally displaced persons camps.

In 2015, International Medical Corps built 160 latrines and rehabilitated 26 wells in an effort to improve hygiene and sanitation and reduce water-borne disease.

NUTRITION

About 1.5 million people require food assistance in CAR. The conflict has greatly affected people's ability to move freely which diminishes their ability to grow crops, buy food and access health care. In these types of complex conflict situations, vulnerable populations such as pregnant women and children under 5 years of age are often at an increased risk of acute malnutrition.

International Medical Corps' nutrition program includes:

- Community mobilization to increase the understanding, engagement and participation of the target population,
- Supplementary feeding programs,
- An outpatient therapeutic program for those with severe acute malnutrition and
- A stabilization center for those with severe acute malnutrition with medical complications.

In addition, International Medical Corps implements a voucher distribution in the Zemio refugee camp to help camp households meet their basic food requirements and prevent malnutrition. International Medical Corps conducts surveillance of malnutrition within the most affected communities to ensure individuals receive appropriate and timely treatment.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN CAR

By building the capacity and awareness of community groups, we ensure community resilience and independence, and the ability to manage health care, nutrition, and GBV programs locally.

- We provide ongoing, on-the-job training for nurses, midwives and protection assistants to increase management and clinical knowledge.
- We use a network of community health workers and traditional birth attendants, already trusted assets in the community, to encourage the use and scope of health care and nutrition services.
- We strengthen national health facility, service delivery and supply chain systems through the support of local health facility management committees and village health committees, as well as joint supervisions with the Ministry of Health.

REPRODUCTIVE, MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Maternal and child health care services are desperately needed in CAR where there are only 2.6 nurses and midwives per 10,000 people and a maternal mortality ratio of 890 per 100,000 live births. To address this gap, International Medical Corps provides reproductive health services including the clinical management of rape/sexual assault, emergency obstetric and neonatal care, the distribution of adequate drugs and equipment, in addition to:

- Integrated family planning services,
- Antenatal care,
- Clean and safe deliveries,
- Postpartum care,
- Immunization services for pregnant and lactating women and children under five,
- HIV prevention and syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the illness and
- Integrated management of childhood illnesses.

To expand access to these services and ensure the long-term delivery of care to reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality, International Medical Corps also provides training to traditional birth attendants and community health workers who link medical programs to their communities. In 2015, nearly 4,000 women had deliveries in an International Medical Corps-supported health facility, over 8,600 women received at least one prenatal consultation and over 2,000 women and newborns received postnatal care within three days of delivery. In addition, over 8,000 women and men were diagnosed and appropriately treated for STI infections.

In 2015, over 145,000 children under five and pregnant and lactating women were screened for malnutrition. International Medical Corps treated nearly 10,000 people for moderate acute malnutrition and nearly 3,000 people for severe acute malnutrition.



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Since 1984, International Medical Corps has demonstrated the ability to deliver major relief and development programs to improve lives and strengthen national capacity through health, education, and social programming. International Medical Corps has responded to complex emergencies and implemented transitional development programs in 70 countries worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS IN AFRICA

For nearly three decades, International Medical Corps has worked in the most difficult and war-torn nations of Africa. International Medical Corps has consistently provided lifesaving interventions during times of war and prolonged conflict and has remained in relatively stable areas to initiate and sustain long-term development.



www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org

Since its inception over 30 years ago, International Medical Corps' mission has been consistent: relieve the suffering of those impacted by war, natural disaster and disease, by delivering vital health care services that focus on training. This approach of helping people help themselves is critical to returning devastated populations to self-reliance.

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