

Yemen



Yemen's ongoing civil war has produced one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than 24 million of the country's 29 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. International Medical Corps first came to Yemen in 2012, focusing on healthcare, nutrition, food security and livelihoods, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene. We now also promote

protection mainstreaming across all of our programs.

International Medical Corps currently maintains a staff of more than 200 in the country, managing our response from a main office in the capital, Sana'a, with sub offices in Ibb and Aden. From these three offices, we serve communities directly affected by the war in seven of Yemen's 23 governorates: Sana'a, Amanat Al Asimah, Ibb, Taizz, Aden, Lahj and Al Dhalea. We also work to strengthen existing institutions, providing them with supplies and training that enable them to continue functioning.

International Medical Corps began its operations in Yemen in 2012, initially focusing on basic health care, reproductive health, nutrition, food security, and water, sanitation and hygiene—WASH.

After large scale armed conflict broke out in 2015, our programs expanded to provide additional emergency assistance for those affected by the fighting. Our current response targets communities directly affected by the war in six of Yemen's 23 governorates: Sana'a, Ibb, Taizz, Aden, Lahj and Al Dhalea. International Medical Corps currently maintains a staff of over 200 in country. We manage our Yemen response through a main office in the capital, Sana'a, with sub offices in Ibb and Aden.

The impact of ongoing civil war on the struggle for survival in Yemen, including the decline—and, in some cases, the complete disappearance of—basic of public services, has heightened the risk of frequent disease outbreaks. It has also increased the need for humanitarian support to address basic needs of both individuals and communities. International Medical Corps prioritizes the strengthening of existing social and public institutions, providing them with supplies, education and training that enable them to function in the midst of a debilitating crisis that has no end in sight. Our emergency response in Yemen also focuses on integrating health, nutrition, WASH and food security and livelihood activities in ways that reduce the country's disease burden and improves overall health outcomes.



NUTRITION

In a country where food security has been a challenge even in the best of times, International Medical Corps is implementing emergency nutrition and food security programs to address growing needs in an environment of continued conflict. Years of war have left one of every four Yemenis malnourished.

We conduct community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programs and equip health facilities at all levels to provide nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and malnourished children under 5. We also deliver lifesaving care

for severely malnourished children with complications at two in-patient facilities in Sana'a and three in Lahj. When required, we refer children from International Medical Corps-supported clinics to nearby hospitals.

In addition, we support 56 community-level healthcare centers in Sana'a, Taizz, Lahj and Aden governorates by providing training, essential drugs and nutritional supplies needed for outpatient therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs. These programs ensure that acutely malnourished children receive the best possible outpatient care as well as appropriate referral services. We also help health workers provide individual counseling to mothers and caregivers on Infant and young-child feeding practices.

At the community level, International Medical Corps works with community health volunteers (CHVs) to establish support groups where mothers and caregivers can share experiences on infant and young-child feeding and hygiene practices. Our teams ensure early detection and referral of acutely malnourished children and PLWs for specialized care. Our CHVs also trace children and nursing mothers who drop out of treatment or who have been referred but fail to show up for treatment. These volunteers provide families with critical information about the prevention of malnutrition. On average, we reach more than 6,500 individuals per month with health and nutrition education, 80% of whom are female.

HEALTHCARE

Drawing from our experience responding to armed conflict and natural disasters in more than 80 countries over the past 35 years, International Medical Corps supports and strengthens local human resources through training to build sustainability, acceptability and easier access to beneficiary communities. Since 2012, International Medical Corps has supported primary and secondary healthcare facilities in seven governorates, enabling them to remain functional and provide a wide range of services, including maternal and child care, sexual and reproductive health, prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, provision of essential medical commodities and proper waste management. Our use of mobile medical units gives us the flexibility to provide assistance to those reside in remote locations and are unable to reach static services.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is one of the key program pillars of our emergency response in Yemen, focusing on mitigating the increased risk of diseases caused by reduced access to clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene. We provide safe water, promote healthy hygiene practices to prevent the spread of disease, support latrine and water system construction and rehabilitation, and support responsible solid and medical waste management. Since we began WASH programming in Yemen in 2012, we have reached more than 2 million people, providing critical access to water, sanitation and hygiene during major cholera outbreaks over the last three years.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Food security and livelihoods (FSL) is a core component of International Medical Corps' program strategy in Yemen. In addition to providing conventional food assistance linked with sustainable livelihoods, we have a comprehensive program for food distribution using vouchers specifically for families affected by malnutrition. Our program to replace valuable livestock lost in the fighting helps regenerate wealth and strengthen household incomes. Working with our health and nutrition teams, our FSL team selects recipients of new livestock based on criteria developed in consultation with communities. Technical training on business and financial management is also available to support sustainable livelihoods. Currently, more than 1,300 households are being supported through the livestock assistance program in three governorates.

PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING

Protection and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention programming remain the most sensitive interventions in Yemen, both because of the extreme cultural sensitivities that surround them and because they often occur in areas where armed conflict and critical food shortages force communities to focus on survival. To promote protection mainstreaming across all sectors, International Medical Corps employs staff devoted solely to protection mainstreaming, ensuring that interventions are aligned to all applicable international protection standards in the health, nutrition, WASH and FSL programs.

Protection mainstreaming efforts within our Yemen mission are conducted in close coordination and communication with the United Nations' GBV Sub-Cluster and Protection Cluster in the country. All International Medical Corps program staff, as well as monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) staff are trained on how to include protection in planned activities. International Medical Corps monitoring tools are designed to capture the key elements of beneficiary protection as set out in approved guidelines.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Regular training on health, nutrition, WASH, food security and protection issues is a central component of International Medical Corps programming in Yemen, to ensure delivery of quality services in line with recognized standards and protocols. Due to the current humanitarian emergency and the severely weakened government healthcare system, we focus on improving healthcare staff members' knowledge and skills in services offered at the health facilities we support.

Training on health issues includes integrated management of childhood illnesses, expanded immunization programs, the minimum initial service package (MISP), training for reproductive health, HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention and treatment, emergency obstetrics and newborn care (EmONC) training, and infection prevention and control. Nutrition training focuses on all components of community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), and infant and young-child feeding (IYCF) in emergencies. International Medical Corps also trains



community-based health and nutrition staff to deliver WASH messages, along with health and nutrition services, to vulnerable Yemeni communities.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

International Medical Corps has an MEAL team in Yemen that systematically tracks outputs and outcomes of our programs and gathers beneficiary feedback for continuous improvement. To this end, we have developed District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2), an open-source data collection, aggregation and reporting software package that enables International Medical Corps to have access to timely data, minimize errors and help us make evidence-based decisions related to our programs. Whenever possible, the system captures data or information on interventions, disaggregated by sex, age and deprived groups, including the disabled.

We also use other technical systems, including accountability to affected population (AAP) and community-based feedback and response mechanism (CBFRM), based on the global International Medical Corps CBFRM framework.



www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org

A pre-eminent first responder for 35 years, International Medical Corps provides emergency relief to those struck by disaster, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions, working with them to recover, rebuild and, through training, gain the skills and tools required to achieve self-reliance.

November 2019

COUNTRY CONTACT: Wasim Bahja, Country Director
wbahja@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

HEADQUARTERS CONTACT: Elsona Agolli, Senior Regional Manager, Middle East
eagolli@InternationalMedicalCorps.org.uk

HEADQUARTERS: 12400 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1500 | Los Angeles, CA 90025
PHONE: 310-826-7800 | **Fax:** 310-442-6622

DC OFFICE: 1313 L St. NW, Suite 110 | Washington, DC 20005
PHONE: 202-828-5155 | **Fax:** 202-828-5156

UK OFFICE: Ground Floor 161 Marsh Wall | London E14 9SJ
PHONE: +44 (0) 207-253-0001