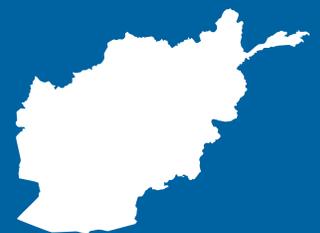


Afghanistan



International Medical Corps was established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses to address the critical need for medical care in war-torn Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation.

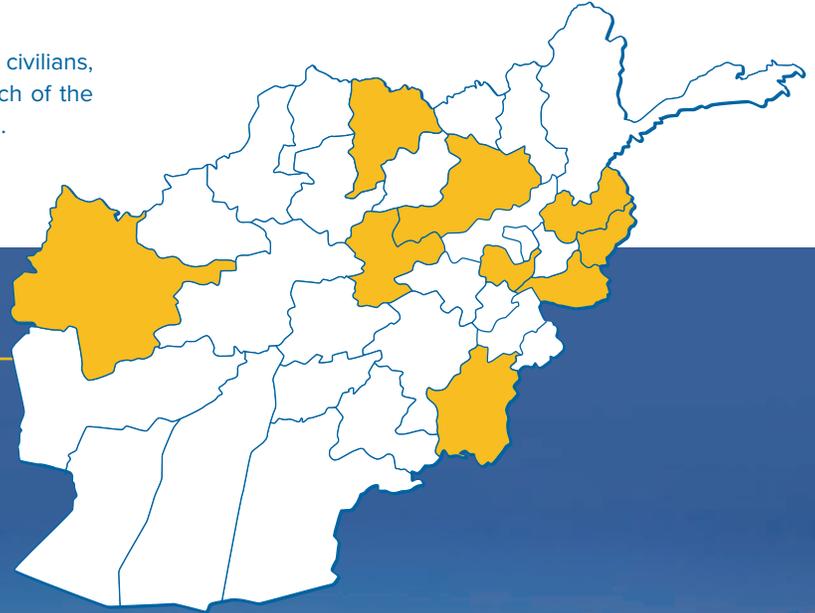
30 years later, we are still there, delivering services that improve the health, livelihoods and social status of approximately four million people. International Medical Corps operates a broad range of assistance programs for Afghanistan's most vulnerable groups, including the internally displaced, refugee returnees, women, and children. Primary and secondary health care service delivery, training, education, and local empowerment are central to all of International Medical Corps' activities in Afghanistan.



A punishing Soviet occupation in the 1980s, decades of uninterrupted civil war, and the lack of education and employment opportunities for women, have taken their toll on Afghanistan's population and health infrastructure.

Continued armed conflict also makes security tenuous for civilians, who can find it difficult to obtain basic services when much of the country is inaccessible to international assistance agencies.

Despite the unsettled security conditions, International Medical Corps has tended to Afghan health care needs for over a quarter of a century. We provide support to three hospitals in Paktika and to three hospitals in Nuristan. We also support a mental health hospital and associated substance misuse center and provide psychosocial support in Kabul. Current programs throughout Afghanistan include emergency preparedness and response, integrated health care and nutrition, sexual and reproductive health care, gender-based violence services and mental health and psychosocial services.

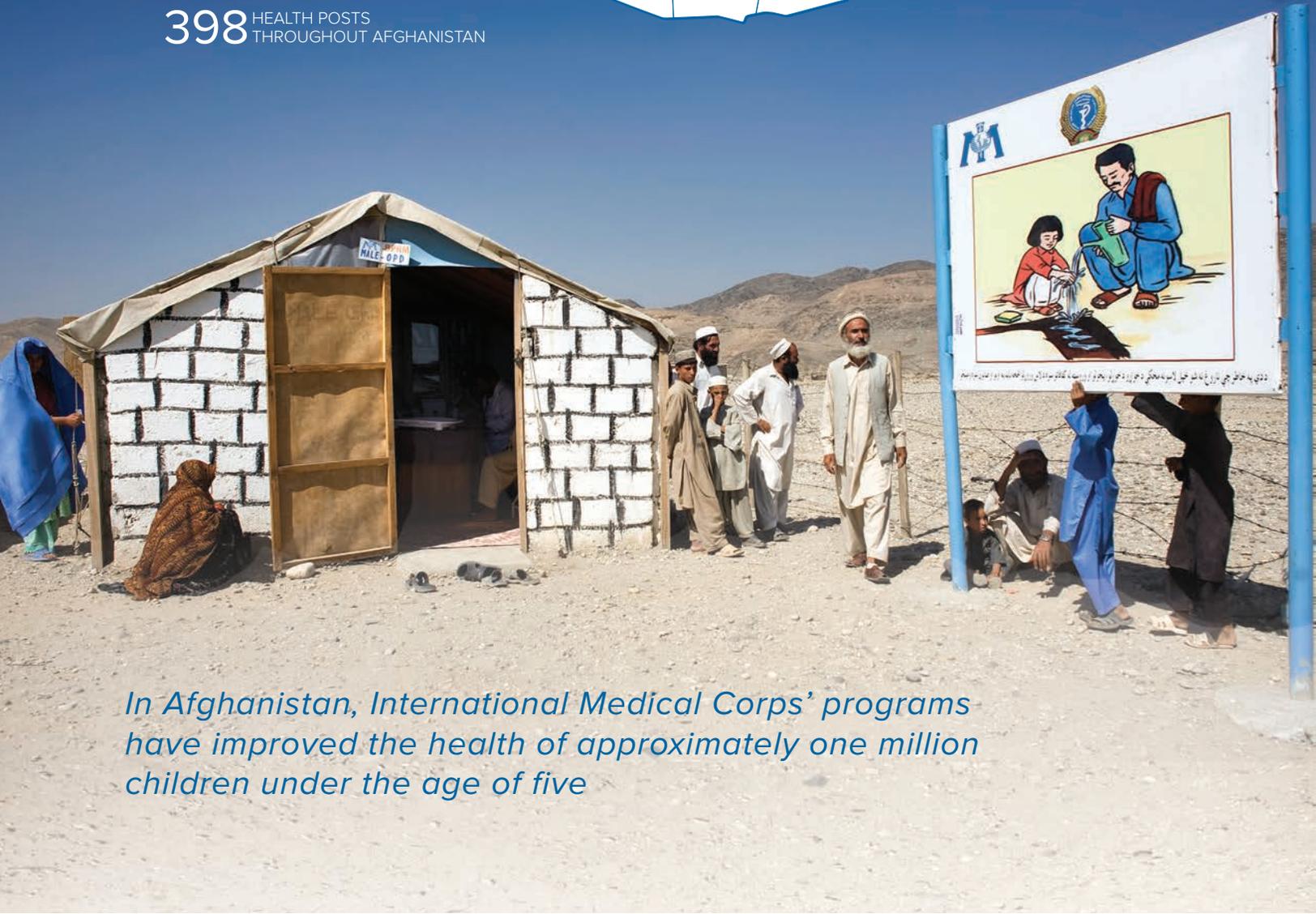


Where we work:

- Herat
- Balkh
- Baghlan
- Bamiyan
- Kabul
- Paktika
- Kunar
- Nuristan
- Nangarhar

60 HEALTH FACILITIES

398 HEALTH POSTS THROUGHOUT AFGHANISTAN



In Afghanistan, International Medical Corps' programs have improved the health of approximately one million children under the age of five

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

With a need for greater emergency preparedness and response in Afghanistan, International Medical Corps is building sustainable response capacity among at-risk communities and front-line emergency responders. This program trains locals at the community and district level in pre-positioning, mobilization and distribution of non-food items (NFIs) and shelter supplies, which can help save lives during emergencies such as natural disasters and armed conflict. Our strategy also includes disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures by raising awareness of community DRR, increasing community preparedness for disaster and enabling community beneficiaries to respond to disasters as de-facto First Responders.

INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE AND NUTRITION

International Medical Corps offers primary and community health and nutrition care services in Paktika and Nuristan provinces. These programs help serve their populations of 407,100 and 149,721 respectively. We also implement supplemental feeding programs in these regions to reduce morbidity and mortality risks associated with malnutrition.

International Medical Corps provides nearly 100,000 health consultations each month at 458 sites throughout Afghanistan in urban and rural settings. For children under five we focus on communicable disease prevention and treatments for diarrheal disease, acute respiratory infections, and malaria. We also manage moderate and severe acute malnutrition for children under five and pregnant and lactating women.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

International Medical Corps plans to reduce attitudes and behaviors that contribute to incidents of GBV in Afghanistan and reduce the stigma of survivors through targeted social and behavior change activities. International Medical Corps works to ensure that medical and psychosocial support is available for survivors of GBV through health facilities and community-based support mechanisms and is developing a capacity building plan for national partners to continue key GBV activities in the targeted communities. International Medical Corps serves as the co-lead for the GBV working group under the Eastern Region Protection Cluster. Ongoing community-based mechanisms treat and refer GBV cases in nine returnee settlements in the Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, where over 6,000 males and females have been sensitized to GBV prevention messages. We also coordinate a multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence, using the integration of professional assistance in Kabul, Nangarhar, Baghlan, Bamyán, Herat and Balkh.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH)

International Medical Corps treats over 2,000 women with antenatal care and over 1,000 women and newborns with postnatal care within three days after delivery each month. Moreover, we are currently operating a Community Midwifery Education (CME) program in Nuristan to train 24 young women to assist expectant mothers through pregnancy, child birth and post-natal care. Students will learn essential clinical skills, including how to perform an antenatal exam, manage severe hypertension, and resuscitate a newborn. Graduates of the program – all raised in the province – will help ease a major shortage of midwives in a country that has one of the world's highest infant mortality rates.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

As of January 2011, International Medical Corps has been working at the mental health hospital in Kabul, the only psychiatric hospital in the country. Since that time, the hospital has served over 78,000 patients. As mental illness accounts for 4 of the 10 leading causes of disability worldwide, we prioritize a mental health response with psychosocial services. Our goal is to improve patients' day to day functioning, mental health symptoms and well-being.





INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

For 30 years, 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 more than 70 countries worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS IN AFGHANISTAN

With 30 years of experience in Afghanistan, International Medical Corps has a deep understanding of the country's development needs and is well-placed to improve the lives and livelihoods of the Afghan population. Our programs translate Afghanistan's most pressing, complex problems into solutions that respond to immediate needs while establishing a foundation for sustainable 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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