First Responders for more than 33 years

With your support and commitment, International Medical Corps is a premier First Responder to conflict, natural disaster or disease. No matter where, no matter the conditions, International Medical Corps is there.
Since 2012, we have provided primary health care, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene services in both urban and rural areas of Yemen. We support hospitals and clinics with medications and fresh water, while we rebuild support systems in war-damaged communities. We also provide training and technical support to strengthen local and national health care capacity.

Today, while Yemen hovers on the brink of famine, 3 out of every 4 Yemenis rely on humanitarian assistance for survival. We are responding to contain the world’s largest cholera outbreak, exceeding 1 million people—more than a third are children.

The underlying cause of the cholera outbreak is Yemen’s ongoing civil war. Much of the country’s basic infrastructure—already fragile before the war—has been destroyed or damaged in fighting. The war has left more than 8,400 dead, 48,000 wounded and 3 million displaced.

“This is a godsend for my family...[we have] not gotten any illnesses since then.”
-Sami, Yemen

Sami used to run a small business in Aden, where he has lived since childhood. Sami’s father, a retired policeman, used to receive a pension from the Yemeni government, adding to the family’s income.

With the war, Sami could no longer run his business; then the government suspended his father’s pension, dramatically reducing the family’s income. “We could not afford to buy water anymore,” Sami recalls.

Desperate, the family collected water from local water pipes. However, this water from shallow wells jeopardized their health, with few guarantees of its safety. Sami’s son Abdullah soon suffered from severe diarrhea, requiring urgent medical care.

Yemen has coped with severe poverty and sectarian violence for decades—now exacerbated with the war. Today, health care services are scarce and the cost of medicine is quickly rising, putting the internally displaced and poor at even greater risk. Like Sami, more than half the population also lacks access to clean water.

To help, International Medical Corps is implementing a water, sanitation and hygiene project, while providing cholera treatment in local health facilities, monitoring the quality of water and health, and offering training to increase personal hygiene awareness. We are also installing water tanks and distributing water in at least twelve locations. Sami and other vulnerable families in this area recently received water filters and hygiene kits.

Life has become a little easier for Sami’s family. “My daughter does not need to search for water,” he says. “We also hear from community health volunteers about personal hygiene to protect us from cholera,” Sami adds.

Now, Sami has committed to assist his community with cholera and disease prevention awareness as well as waste management control.
As street signs and roofs across Puerto Rico began to rattle on September 19th as Hurricane Maria barreled toward the island, residents of the neighborhood of La Charca, located in a ravine in the foothills of central Puerto Rico, feared for the worst. Over the course of the next two days, the storm dropped up to 20 inches of rain on the region, much of which poured down the hillsides, submerging La Charca in floodwater.

Helminia and her sister, Mercedes, were two survivors of the floods. The hurricane submerged the bottom floors of both of their houses in blackwater–water contaminated by untreated sewage–and ripped the roof off Mercedes’ home. Five months after the storm, Helminia is still sleeping on the top floor of her home due to damage from the flood. Mercedes comes over to her house at night to sleep as her own house, made mostly of wood planks and plywood, is still missing its roof.

International Medical Corps visited Helminia and Mercedes in December to check their health and provide them with hygiene kits as a part of our support of Florida Medical Plaza, a Puerto Rican local health care clinic serving vulnerable populations in the Florida municipality. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, we provided the Florida Medical Plaza clinic with a generator and fuel to help them keep their doors open and provide uninterrupted health care services to hard-hit communities like La Charca.

To support individuals like Helminia and Mercedes who are continuing to recover from the storm, International Medical Corps is working with a network of local health clinics to operate mobile medical units (MMUs) in remote locations of the island and has provided fuel, generators, hygiene kits, and cash grants for repairs to keep clinic doors open and restore services.
As 2017 closed, there was no end in sight for the many-sided civil war in Syria—now entering its eighth year. Inside Syria, more than 13 million people need humanitarian aid, including some 6 million internally displaced persons. More than 5 million refugees have fled to other countries. In Syria, we continue to provide relief to these millions caught up in the heart-wrenching suffering that has accompanied this major conflict while we are also supporting Syrian refugees in neighboring countries and the communities that host them.

Aside from medical care, one critical component of our effort is providing psychosocial support. This may be something as simple as fostering discussion among women in a community or as structured as regular one-on-one counseling.

Particularly in neighboring countries, we are working to leave behind a more functional, resilient health system once conflict ends and stability returns.

For a little while, human suffering seemed to be subsiding in war-torn Syria.

However, intensive fighting recently returned to the conflict that has now lasted longer than World War II.

Jordan hosts more than 655,000 Syrians in exile, many of whom call Azraq Camp their home. The camp, which can shelter 50,000 people, has several primary health care centers and one fully equipped hospital. With support from donors, International Medical Corps runs the hospital focusing on reproductive health and delivery care.

Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among women of reproductive age in developing countries. But, with training and the necessary medical and human resources, this can be changed, as we see in Azraq Hospital.

Responding to pregnant women in need, the staff in the delivery ward at Azraq Hospital have assisted thousands of women with their deliveries, safely bringing well over one thousand healthy baby boys and girls into the world in just one year alone.

Sadly, these healthy babies are born into limbo, to lives “on hold.” Nevertheless, for just a brief moment in time, their births shut out the tragedy and pain of the world around them, bringing sheer joy to their parents—they can think about tomorrow’s challenges later. Brave mothers, supported by family and skilled medical staff, can still celebrate one of life’s great milestones.
Twenty million people are at risk of starvation in South Sudan, Somalia, northeastern Nigeria and Yemen. In these countries, drought, increasing conflict and displacement have created a humanitarian crisis on a scale not seen in decades.

In South Sudan, more than half the population is in urgent need of humanitarian aid. While starvation takes hold of the people and chronic conflict endures, our teams on the front lines continue to provide health care, psychosocial support, clean drinking water and critically needed nutrition.

In Somalia, where more than 6 million people face acute food insecurity and 3 million are at risk of famine, we maintain a 54-bed stabilization center in the country. Plus, we are one of just three providers of static outpatient therapeutic programs in southern Mudug, where some 40% of the population faces crisis levels of malnutrition.

Nigeria is experiencing a deepening crisis as people flee conflict fueled by Boko Haram. More than 10 million people need humanitarian aid in northeastern Nigeria where we provide health care, nutrition support, water/sanitation services, and gender-based violence care and prevention training.

When four-year-old Nyalada came to International Medical Corps' nutrition site in Unity State, she was severely malnourished. She fled fighting with her grandmother—her parents have been missing since the fighting started in 2013. It took them five days on foot to reach Nyal. "Security is better [here]," her grandmother said, but Nyalada's condition worsened during their five-day walk. "We still suffer...we don't have food," she said. Before, when hunger was a way of life, they lived on water lilies. "Now is the first time we [can] get services like these," she explained, "food, shelter...everything."

Martha fled Mayendit for Nyal with her husband and five children. The grueling journey took them six days on foot through the bush, often at night. "We were terrified," she said. "We also suffered a lot without food." They have lived off water lilies for the past year. "This is why all of the children have malnutrition," she explained. "They are also suffering from diarrhea." While security is better in Nyal, they sleep under a tree and food is a struggle. "I want peace to come. Here we can get food for the children. We left everything behind."

Rhoda arrived on Majjok Island, traveling for seven days with her children, moving from island to island to escape the fighting; her husband has been missing for a year. Living off water lilies to survive, the children are suffering from diarrhea; they need the basics—food, clean water, medical care, shelter. "We feel comfortable here," Rhoda said, "but we are lacking food." Now, all she wants for her children is peace.

Given the urgent and precarious drought conditions and the dire humanitarian needs in multiple countries, International Medical Corps is providing primary health and nutrition services in displacement settlements as well as implementing water-trucking interventions in certain locations. Screening for and treatment of acute malnutrition is being provided, as is community education for healthy infant and young child feeding practices and distribution of food rations.
Since our founding in 1984, training has been an essential and consistent component of all that we do. It was the central part of our first program more than 33 years ago and remains key to our efforts today as we partner with communities hit by disaster to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to be their own best First Responders.

International Medical Corps builds capacity, from the local level up through government health offices, using an approach that includes pre-service and in-service training, mentoring and supportive supervision.

Today, our global staff numbers some 7,000—90% of them recruited and trained locally. We work with local leaders to support them in strengthening their communities and building self-reliance. This way, we pass essential skills into local hands, preparing them to better withstand adversity.

Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, was at the forefront of the fight against Islamic State, waged by neighborhood, with civilians caught in the crossfire. Almost 3 million people were affected in the effort to retake Mosul. Not included in those numbers are those—like Douma’s friend—who didn’t receive medical care in time. “With trauma injuries, there is the ‘golden hour’ when medical attention is needed to survive,” said Dr. Teferie Ayalow, our Iraq medical director.

Additional trained First Responders inside Mosul were needed, so International Medical Corps recruited 120 Mosul residents and provided them skills and tools to be effective First Responders in an emergency. “We wanted to embed first aid skills within Mosul’s neighborhoods so that more residents had access to trained First Responders, especially if other options were not available during conflict,” Dr. Ayalow said.

These 120 volunteers were mostly young—20 to 25—whose educations were halted under Islamic State rule. For all, it was a chance to develop skills to make the difference between life and death for those in a city where war is an everyday reality. Douma, 24, was among them. “It was an opportunity to learn and help people in Mosul.”

After a week of first aid training, 20 volunteers were selected as team leaders, receiving more advanced trauma care courses, including managing heavy bleeding and cessation of breathing. The team leaders received medical supply kits plus emergency phones to call others to the scene of emergencies. Together, the teams cover neighborhoods across eastern Mosul, giving residents another lifeline as war rages, injuring hundreds each day.

“I am grateful to learn how to help the wounded. Not [many] know how to do that.”
—Mustafa, Iraq
From RELIEF to SELF-RELIANCE

Emergency Response & Preparedness
Health Services Support
Family & Community Health
Women’s & Children’s Health
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
Nutrition & Food Security

2017
IN THE SPOTLIGHT

60 Minutes reports from International Medical Corps’ nutrition stabilization center in South Sudan
An International Medical Corps doctor assesses gaps in the Puerto Rican response after Hurricane Maria
In collaboration with International Medical Corps, National Geographic gathers recipes from refugees and displaced people around the world
HuffPo reports on the need for mental health services in South Sudan and features an International Medical Corps expert

The Late Late Show
James Corden airs a segment to draw attention to the devastating famine in Yemen and calls for support of International Medical Corps

The Daily Show
Trevor Noah calls on viewers to donate in support of Puerto Rico and features International Medical Corps
WHERE WE WORK

Afghanistan  Burundi  Cameroon  Central African Republic  Chad
Democratic Republic of Congo  Dominica  Ethiopia  Gaza  Greece  Guinea  Haiti
Iraq  Japan  Jordan  Kenya  Lebanon  Libya  Mali  Mexico  Nigeria  Pakistan
Sierra Leone  Somalia  South Sudan  Sudan  Syria  Turkey  Ukraine
United States (Florida & Puerto Rico)  Yemen  Zimbabwe

$1
EQUALS
30

Every unrestricted dollar you contribute unlocks up to an additional $30 in grants, donated medicines, and supplies.

88%
GOES TO
PROGRAMS

88 percent of every dollar directly supports programs.

$2.7 BILLION

We've delivered $2.7 billion in lifesaving health care services and training over 30 years.