

Ethiopia

Since 2003, International Medical Corps has operated a multi-faceted program in Ethiopia, strengthening local capacities and delivering services in HIV/AIDS and infectious disease; reproductive health; nutrition; psychosocial support; maternal and child health; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and livelihood security

All International Medical Corps programs are designed to be sustainable, encouraging full community participation and strengthening government capacity in healthcare and disease prevention.

- A Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- B Harar, East Hararge Zone
- C Boqolmayo/Dolo Ado, Liben Zone
- D Shashemene, West Arsi Zone
- E Wolayta Sodo, Wolayata Zone
- F Gambella–Gambella Region
- G Menz Gera–Amhara Region



SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Medical Corps works in Somali refugee camps in southeastern Ethiopia to prevent new and manage existing GBV cases. Since September 2009, we have provided psychosocial support to GBV survivors in the camps and strengthened camp service providers through training on basic counseling skills and psychosocial care.

To date, we have trained 147 health professionals from referral hospitals and camp-based clinics on the identification, reporting and clinical case management of GBV, clinical management of STIs, and treatment for female genital mutilation. In addition, we trained 885 health and protection service providers, 1,456 refugee volunteers and more than 1,165 clan and religious elders on the basic concepts of and the referral pathway for GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse prevention. Every GBV case reported to International Medical Corps has received psychosocial support and more than 150 refugee social workers and community volunteers have been trained on survivor-centered case management.

To promote behaviors that prevent GBV, we have held numerous campaigns, tea-talk sessions and home visits, reaching more than 137,000 community members with messages and informational materials. In addition, International Medical Corps has constructed 14 women's centers (three in each camp except Nguenyiel camp, one in Pungido II and two in Dollo Kobe and Melkadida), both fully equipped with materials needed for recovery activities—including musical instruments, henna design, books and art supplies.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Since 2010, International Medical Corps has integrated WASH into our nutrition programs in drought-affected and food-insecure areas of Ethiopia, including East Hararghe and West Hararghe Zones in Oromia Region, and Wolayita Zone in SNNP Region. WASH programs reduce susceptibility to diarrhea-related morbidity and mortality among malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

To date, International Medical Corps has:

- ▶ constructed 44 communal latrines and 11 handwashing units in health centers
- ▶ procured and donated acute watery diarrhea preparedness materials to 78,000 households
- ▶ trained 112 health bureau members and 392 voluntary hygiene promoters on Community-Led Total Sanitation
- ▶ reached more than 186,990 community members through community volunteer hygiene and sanitation promoters
- ▶ implemented hygiene and sanitation activities in three Somali refugee camps to improve access to sanitation and hygiene facilities for more than 103,000 refugees
- ▶ reached over 5,000 refugees with hygiene and sanitation messages

LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

International Medical Corps supported 5,000 female-headed households in food-insecure areas of West Hararghe zone in Oromia region through training in vegetable gardening and distribution of vegetable seeds and tools. Income earned from gardening enables women to send their children to school and buy household assets, such as goats and chickens. Our activities also helped to reduce the impact of future food shocks on female-headed households by giving women more diversified and productive agricultural outputs.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

In addition to our reproductive health and malnutrition programs, International Medical Corps works with Ethiopia's Ministry of Health to improve the health of mothers and children by training healthcare workers on the integrated management of childhood illnesses. This program has been implemented in Borena zone of Oromia Region, and in the Liben and Afer zones of Somali Region. International Medical Corps also implemented an expanded program on immunization to vaccinate children and pregnant women in West Hararghe.

HIV/AIDS

International Medical Corps implements a broad range of HIV/AIDS programs around the world, including direct service delivery, integrated tuberculosis testing and treatment, food security, counseling and testing, training of health staff and prevention of mother-to-child transmission. In Ethiopia, we integrate community health education—including critical HIV prevention messages—into our overall programming. As a result, we have reached more than 100,000 mothers and caregivers in three Ethiopian regions with HIV-prevention education.



NUTRITION

In collaboration with Ethiopia's Ministry of Health, International Medical Corps' Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programs have provided essential nutrition services to more than 5 million food-insecure people across the Oromia Region, the Somali Region, and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNP). To date, we have trained more than 819 medical professionals at health posts, clinics and hospitals on screening, referral and treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition. We also educate on nutrition using behavior-change methods and community awareness programs.

As an integral part of our CMAM programs, International Medical Corps establishes and supports Outpatient Therapeutic Programs (OTPs), Stabilization Centers (SCs) and supplementary feeding centers for the treatment of severe and moderate malnourished children and PLW. Since 2009, we have successfully treated more than 51,600 severely malnourished and 40,500 moderately malnourished children and PLW in Ethiopia. Since 2011, we have established 83 OTPs and eight SCs, in addition to supporting 146 existing OTPs and 19 existing SCs with medicines and medical supplies.

International Medical Corps prioritizes the training of community volunteers, mostly women, on nutrition education, screening and follow-up for malnourished children, and essential nutrition actions, including exclusive breast feeding, appropriate complementary feeding and other relevant preventive measures. Since 2010, International Medical Corps has trained 515 community volunteer health promoters on community mobilization

and prevention of malnutrition, as well as 448 female health extension workers in CMAM methodology. International Medical Corps also trains Mother Care Groups (MCGs) to actively promote nutrition and healthy behavior by visiting households and conducting education sessions. Through these mothers, we have reached more than 153,000 households with health and nutrition messages since 2009.

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

International Medical Corps supports mental health care for refugees in the Jijiga camps in the Somali Region by training health professionals and establishing effective referral systems with local hospitals, as well as facilitating community-based psychosocial support groups. We designed an innovative program integrating Early Childhood Development into CMAM programs through MCGs. This program aims to improve the emotional and psychological well-being of infants and mothers, and enhance their physical and psychological development. In addition, we have started a mental health program at the Dolo Ado camps for Somali refugees.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

With an estimated 673 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births, Ethiopia has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. International Medical Corps is committed to safeguarding the reproductive health of Ethiopian women and girls by improving awareness of maternal health, and by working to prevent HIV/AIDS and traditional harmful practices. We have trained and mentored more than 500 Health Extension Workers (HEWs), 465 healthcare providers (doctors and nurses) and 400 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) on safe delivery practices, antenatal and postnatal care (ANC and PNC), family planning and the treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV. International Medical Corps has also provided nutritional supplements, including vitamin A and iron, to 1,500 PLW, more than 17,283 delivery kits to TBAs and HEWs, and emergency obstetric equipment and STI treatment kits to health centers. In 2011 alone, we trained more than 155 community health workers on sexual reproductive health, HIV prevention, GBV prevention, adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, and the identification and referral of malnourished PLW to ANC and PNC services.



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Since its inception more than 34 years ago, International Medical Corps' mission has been consistent: ease the suffering of those affected by war, natural disaster and disease by delivering vital healthcare services and focusing on training that provides the skills and tools required to foster self-reliance. This approach of helping people to help themselves is critical to returning devastated populations to self-reliance.

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