Providing Health and Hope for 35 Years

Thanks to your support and commitment, International Medical Corps is first there, no matter where—helping people whenever conflict, natural disaster or disease strikes, then staying to provide the training that local communities need to build self-reliance.
Since our founding in 1984, International Medical Corps has helped tens of millions of people in more than 80 countries, delivering emergency relief and training valued at more than $2.9 billion.

As a preeminent first responder, International Medical Corps quickly provides emergency relief to those affected by disaster, conflict or disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We then stay to provide training that transfers essential skills into local hands, preparing those in disaster-prone areas to better withstand adversity and respond to its effects.

Our staff of 7,000—90% of whom are hired locally—currently provide services and training in 30 countries, often in difficult and dangerous conditions. Throughout our 35-year history, International Medical Corps’ organizational values and guiding principles have remained consistent: to provide relief, rebuild communities and enable self-reliance.

Your support makes our work possible. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment. Thank you!

From Relief to Self-Reliance

Our Core Programs

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

Training underpins all we do
YEMEN

A brutal civil war now in its fourth year has turned Yemen—the poorest country in the Middle East—into one of the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophes. Three-quarters of its 29 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. More than 8 million are considered at risk of starvation, according to United Nations figures, with an estimated 3.3 million children and nursing mothers acutely malnourished.

International Medical Corps has worked in Yemen since 2012, providing primary healthcare, medical supplies, nutrition and livelihood services, as well as water, sanitation and hygiene services, in both urban and outlying areas. Our response also includes training and technical support to strengthen capacity in healthcare facilities at both the local and national levels.

“They took very good care of my daughter. We had 24-hour care.”

Om Saleh, Yemen

The Salehs are proud parents of twins—a boy and a girl. They became concerned when their daughter, Intissar, struggled with diarrhea and vomiting after transitioning from breast to bottle feeding. Worried about losing their daughter, the baby’s father decided to take Intissar to International Medical Corps’ stabilization center in the village of Al Dorah. When the seven-month-old arrived, she weighed just 3.9 kg (about 8 pounds, 9 ounces)—a size considered normal for newborns in most developed countries.

After a week in our stabilization center, Intissar’s weight increased to 4.1 kg (a little more than 9 pounds) and she was able to be transferred to our outpatient therapeutic program. Intissar continued to gain weight, and by her first birthday, in August 2018, she was pronounced healthy.

“She returns now periodically so her progress can be monitored,” notes International Medical Corps Senior Medical Officer Dr. Abdullah Ibrahim.

International Medical Corps works in six of Yemen’s 23 governorates, including areas where fighting has been heavy and malnutrition is a constant danger. In Sana’a Governorate, for example, we operate two of our five nutrition stabilization centers in Yemen, treating an average of 15 children at each location at one time. Nutrition Program Manager Samuel Mbuto says that the children usually remain at the center for an average of eight days before being transferred to an outpatient program, where treatment continues. “Results are impressive,” Mbuto says. “Most of the children respond very well.” Between January and September 2018, not one death was reported among the 71 girls and 69 boys treated at the two centers.

333,887
health consultations provided

20,160
children treated for moderate acute malnutrition

17,170
pregnant and lactating women treated for moderate acute malnutrition
According to the World Health Organization, the number of reported weather-related natural disasters has more than tripled globally since the 1960s. We know this because our resources in 2018 were stretched as never before, as we combatted disasters in both the U.S. and around the world.

We were on the ground immediately after Hurricane Florence hit the Carolinas and Hurricane Michael made landfall in Florida. We partnered with state authorities and local organizations to fill gaps in primary healthcare to those in crisis. Our mobile medical units brought healthcare services to those isolated by the storm while we distributed much-needed supplies.

In the Carolinas, where Hurricane Florence was the most intense storm to strike in 25 years, catastrophic flooding affected millions and caused more than 40 deaths. Our teams worked with state authorities to provide medical care and sanitation supplies to those most in need in North Carolina, where we continue to help healthcare professionals prepare for future storms.

Within 48 hours of Hurricane Michael making landfall on the Florida Panhandle, with winds reaching 155 mph, we mobilized some 50 medical volunteers and emergency response staff and, at the request of the state, provided 24/7 medical care at a major shelter near Tampa.

We continued our support by establishing temporary clinical spaces, providing additional medical staff and training community health workers to manage future emergencies—longer-term relief and recovery efforts that are crucial to vulnerable communities.

“I can’t believe they would care about us that much. The compassion they’ve shown is amazing.”

Hurricane Michael survivor Dennis Etheridge

Sitting up in a hospital bed at a special-needs center north of Tampa, proudly showing off his new defibrillation belt, Dennis Etheridge knew he was lucky to be alive after the most tumultuous eight days of his life.

Under our emergency response team’s care, the 63-year-old electrician was one of 36 special-needs patients brought to the center after being evacuated from some of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Michael on October 10.

His journey included being trapped for two days inside his Panama City mobile home, partially buried under fallen trees, without food or water, with no cell phone coverage to call for help, and no power to operate his oxygen tank or charge his defibrillation belt. He admitted that there were moments when he was unsure whether he’d make it out alive.

When finally found by a fire-and-rescue team, he was sent first to a high school shelter in Panama City for two nights, then for two nights to the Florida State University campus in Tallahassee, two hours away. From there, it was another 200-mile trip south to reach the special-needs center.

In the excitement of his chaotic, emotional discovery and rescue, Etheridge left his defibrillation belt behind in his mobile home. Worn by those suffering from heart problems, such belts produce an electric shock that corrects a potentially life-threatening arrhythmic heartbeat. With our help, he now had a new belt.

Of our staff and volunteers he said, “They’ve come from all over this country—from California, from Arizona, from Oregon, from everywhere, just to help us here. I can’t believe they would care about us that much. The compassion they’ve shown is amazing.”

16 medical facilities supported

1,440 health consultations provided

9,500 hygiene kits distributed
EBOLA OUTBREAK
IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In late July, an outbreak of Ebola in a northwest province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was officially declared over. Our team, which had been helping fight the disease, breathed a sigh of relief. Yet on August 1, the government confirmed new cases of the deadly virus in provinces some 750 miles to the east—an outbreak that has since grown to become the second-largest ever.

Cases are occurring near Uganda and Rwanda, increasing the chances that the virus could spread beyond borders. Security issues have further complicated response efforts, as the area has been plagued by conflict for the last 20 years. Yet despite the difficulties and dangers of providing treatment in this war-torn region, we have opened an Ebola Treatment Center, screened hundreds of thousands of individuals for symptoms, and trained hundreds of healthcare staff.

The global health community is better prepared to face the largest outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease since the 2014–2016 West African epidemic claimed more than 11,000 lives. Dr. Adam Levine, the technical lead of International Medical Corps’ Ebola response, discusses the challenges facing those responding to the new Ebola crisis in eastern DRC:

“We went into that emergency four years ago with essentially no evidence base on how to diagnose or treat those who had contracted the Ebola virus. Since Ebola was first identified in 1976, there had been almost no research, and what we knew about the disease was largely anecdotal. During the 2014–16 epidemic, we learned about its epidemiology and the typical signs and symptoms it causes in humans. We developed new tools for rapid diagnosis, vaccines to slow the spread of disease, and a promising new potential treatment, ZMapp, that may reduce mortality. All these are in our toolkit now.

We must continue to focus on community education, public health messaging, health worker training, establishing screening to discover those suspected of having the disease and proper lab testing to confirm cases. We also need specially configured facilities—known as Ebola Treatment Centers, or ETCs—to isolate and provide care for Ebola patients. International Medical Corps is currently one of four NGOs operating ETCs in the current outbreak. We are also participating in a large, randomized, controlled trial exploring four new drugs for treating Ebola, hoping that at least one of them proves to be a definitive cure for this highly fatal disease.

There have been tremendous challenges in this response, the most important of which has been ongoing fighting between government forces and rebel militias in the region—limiting the ability for both case-finding and vaccination teams to reach certain areas, and limiting the ability of sick patients to reach our ETCs. More work needs to be done to secure a ceasefire in the region and improve outreach to local communities, to finally end what has now become the second-biggest Ebola epidemic in history.”
Since beginning our lifesaving work in 1984, training has been an essential and consistent part of what we do. Our commitment to training, and to passing key skills and knowledge to local communities in crisis, helps those recovering from disaster emerge stronger and closer to their goal of self-reliance. Our training helps thousands of people each year from local communities, non-governmental organizations, and national, regional and local governments—including health professionals—to prepare for emergencies and to sustain programs long after relief efforts have ended.

**MEXICO**

In September 2017, an 8.2-magnitude earthquake struck off the southern coast of Mexico. It was the strongest earthquake recorded in the country in more than a century, with the vast majority of the damage and loss of life occurring in Oaxaca and Chiapas, two of the poorest states in the country.

Twelve days later, a 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck central Mexico, near the city of Puebla. Together, these catastrophic earthquakes caused 465 deaths, left 6,300 injured, and damaged 184,000 homes, 175 health facilities and 16,000 schools.

With roughly 6,000 small aftershocks, the earthquake was not just a one-time event consigned to memory; for days, it was ever-present. Community members experienced fear and anxiety, which often presented as headaches and insomnia. Children and teens would wake from nightmares, and many experienced sadness and depression. But at the time, very few programs existed in Mexico focused on youth mental health—and in Oaxaca, none existed.

In 2018, International Medical Corps partnered with a local organization in Oaxaca, Fundación Origen, to build mental health and psychosocial support programs through training and support of key partner staff—including an emotional support coordinator, youth coordinator and four psychologists—who were then able to identify people with mental health needs and refer them to appropriate services. International Medical Corps also has worked in schools with children, teachers and parents on how to best support the needs of those affected.

“It’s so important we give the youth space to talk about how they feel, not only about the earthquake, but also childhoods, experiences, fears and hopes.”

* Larina Contreras, Youth & Children coordinator, Fundación Origen
ETIOPIA

Ethiopia, Africa’s oldest independent nation and, to many, a symbol of liberty, is today afflicted by a lack of clean, accessible water. Though this is not the only battle that the people of Ethiopia are facing, given the already immense levels of poverty and instability in the region, it makes life much harder.

Such struggles have left the country—which often lacks the resources for recovery—with the highest rates of child malnutrition on record. And not only are the children suffering—the reality is that the drought has left nearly 8 million people in need of support simply to survive.

In Wolaita, south-central Ethiopia, the lack of available and clean water has left two towns—Boloso Sore and Damot Pulasa—and their community members in dire conditions. To help the people in these towns, International Medical Corps recently implemented two programs that increased access to safe water and sanitation, and focused on promoting hygiene education.

These programs transformed the schools and communities in which they are based, as well as the lives of individuals involved, on a personal and profound level.

Our programs have increased access to clean and sanitary water and promoted hygiene education—more than 10,000 students and teachers now have a reliable source of clean water. The effects have gone beyond the schools, benefitting communities at large. A small number of targeted programs can change thousands of lives.

—I used to wake up early in the morning to go far from our village to get clean water. As a result, I was late and often absent from class... I couldn’t get back on time.”

Tesfanesh, an Ethiopian teenager

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PBS NewsHour’s Nick Schifrin interviews International Medical Corps President & CEO Nancy Aossey about the latest outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—the second-largest in history.

Watch the video at InternationalMedicalCorps.org/PBS

KABC reports on the International Medical Corps mobile field hospital setup in downtown Los Angeles, where we simulated an infectious disease outbreak and trained first responders.

Watch the video at InternationalMedicalCorps.org/KABC

Vogue reports on a New York event hosted by actress and International Medical Corps Global Ambassador Sienna Miller where she talked about her visits to camps for displaced persons in Nigeria.

Read the piece at InternationalMedicalCorps.org/Vogue

The Miami Herald outlines International Medical Corps’ support activities in Puerto Rico following the destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Read the piece at InternationalMedicalCorps.org/Miami
WHERE WE WORK

Afghanistan  Burundi  Cameroon  Central African Republic  Chad  Democratic Republic of the Congo  Dominica  Ethiopia  Gaza  Guinea  Indonesia  Iraq  Japan  Jordan  Lebanon  Libya  Mali  Mexico  Nigeria  Pakistan  Philippines  Somalia  South Sudan  Sudan  Syria  Turkey  Ukraine  United States (Florida, the Carolinas, and Puerto Rico)  Yemen  Zimbabwe

$1
EQUALS
30

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

87%
GOES TO
PROGRAMS

87 percent of every dollar directly supports programs.

$2.9
BILLION

We’ve delivered $2.9 billion in lifesaving healthcare services and training over 35 years.

International Medical Corps
CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

12400 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1500 • Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 826-7800 • www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org