Thanks to your generous support, International Medical Corps remained one of the world’s premier first responders in 2019. Because you care, we were able to reach more than 8 million people in nearly 30 countries affected by armed conflict, natural disaster and disease.
With your help, International Medical Corps provides people in need with lifesaving healthcare and other related support. We also provide training, passing along the knowledge and skills needed by local communities, and planting the seeds of self-reliance that foster pride, comfort, confidence and real hope for the future, long after we leave.
Throughout 2019, International Medical Corps teams braved dangerous conditions as they fought to contain an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in two heavily populated eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The outbreak, now the second-largest on record, was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization (WHO) in July 2019.

Over the course of the year, our Ebola Treatment Center at Mangina, in North Kivu province, treated 405 confirmed and 2,578 suspected Ebola patients. Of those confirmed cases, 183 were treated and released as cured—including the 1,000th survivor of the outbreak, whose release from Mangina was celebrated on October 4.

We implemented additional measures to contain the outbreak as well, providing vaccinations to protect against the virus, tracing those who had come into contact with individuals later diagnosed with Ebola, training more than 1,700 healthcare providers in infection prevention and control, and constructing screening-and-referral units to test people for signs of the virus.

According to the WHO and DRC Ministry of Health, as of December 31, 2019, 3,380 cases had been reported in the current Ebola outbreak, with 2,232 deaths and 1,114 survivors.

Between the time the outbreak began in August 2018 and December 31, 2019, we trained 1,711 health staff in infection prevention and control.

During the same time period, we constructed 95 screening-and-referral units (SRUs), most in or adjacent to clinics and hospitals, to test people for signs of the virus. During that time, the SRUs provided nearly 1.2 million screenings.

International Medical Corps supported infection prevention and control measures at 72 local national health facilities, to ensure that healthcare delivery remained safe.

We carried out much of this lifesaving work in an extremely challenging environment that included ongoing armed conflict between militant groups and government forces, and resistance from local residents who suspected that international organizations were in some way responsible for the virus.

Throughout the response, International Medical Corps conducted clinical research with partners, as part of efforts extending back to the West African outbreak, to find new treatment options. In August, our medical team and patients at Mangina received good news: two new medications (Regeneron and MAB114) provided to patients there were declared effective treatments for Ebola, reducing the likelihood of death from the virus by half, especially in patients who seek treatment early.
Conditions deteriorated further in Yemen during 2019, as our teams there confronted chronic malnutrition and stubborn outbreaks of communicable disease, including cholera and diphtheria. Our work unfolded against the backdrop of a bitter civil war that has claimed an estimated 100,000 lives and caused immeasurable suffering since it broke out in 2015. With disconcerting clarity, the United Nations declared in November that “in 2020, Yemen will remain the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.” Children are among those most severely affected, with one in nine under the age of 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition—a condition that can cause permanent organ damage and lead quickly to death if not properly treated.

In the face of these challenges, International Medical Corps worked in seven of the country’s 23 governorates, supporting 66 primary healthcare centers, 11 mobile clinics, five nutrition stabilization centers and two secondary care hospitals. In addition, our ability to supply clean drinking water has enabled hospitals to remain open.

The Cost of Saving a Yemeni Child’s Life?
Three Weeks and $511

Far too many Yemeni children die from malnutrition, which is especially tragic considering that the cure is inexpensive and technically straightforward.

For example, earlier this year, the entire treatment that we provided to save a 17-month-old Yemeni boy named Shamekh totaled just $511.

This sum included all direct treatment costs during his three-week stay at Al Dorah Hospital, where International Medical Corps operates a therapeutic treatment center. Costs included staff care, special therapeutic food, diagnostic laboratory services, diapers for Shamekh and even snacks for family members. Antibiotics, medicine to control a high fever and a nasty cough, and IV fluids to stop his vomiting and bolster his immune system cost only $50.

When Shamekh first arrived at the center, his weight—just 10 pounds, 5 ounces—was closer to that of a newborn than an infant well into his second year. Gradually, his strength began to return and his weight started to increase. He began taking ready-to-use therapeutic foods—first a starter formula, high in carbohydrates, then a “catch-up” mixture higher in protein to rebuild wasted tissue.

After three weeks, he had gained almost 5 pounds and was transferred to an outpatient nutrition program for continued treatment. The months of anguish his parents had endured in their search for help had ended with success. Their son had survived.
In September 2019, International Medical Corps responded in Florida, North Carolina and the Bahamas to support survivors of Hurricane Dorian, one of the most powerful storms ever recorded in the region. As the monster hurricane gathered strength on its way northwest through the Caribbean toward the US mainland, the state of Florida asked for help. We deployed our emergency response team and six medical teams to assist elderly and other vulnerable residents along the state’s Atlantic coast, north of Daytona Beach.

But Dorian was an unpredictable storm. Instead of making landfall on Florida, it swelled into a Category 5 storm and stalled for nearly 30 hours over Grand Bahama and Abaco islands, claiming 70 lives, leaving an estimated 70,000 homeless and causing catastrophic flooding and wind damage.

We immediately redirected our teams from Florida to Grand Bahama, where little remained of the many small communities that dot the island’s central and eastern areas. We established a clinic in the community of High Rock, within sight of a health facility that the hurricane had reduced to rubble, and deployed mobile clinics to service smaller settlements further east. While we provided medical care, psychological first aid, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to thousands of dazed and bewildered survivors on Grand Bahama, we began work supporting efforts in North Carolina to recover from coastal flooding and structural damage caused by Dorian on the state’s Outer Banks.

International Medical Corps has remained on Grand Bahama, continuing to provide medical care and psychosocial support from our facility in High Rock, as well as additional staff and supplies to the local hospital and clinics as they work to recover and rebuild. And with the island’s existing municipal water and sanitation services severely damaged in the storm, our WASH specialists continue to support basic needs and prevent the spread of disease.

Our response to Hurricane Dorian marked only the second time in our 35-year history that we deployed both domestically and internationally to confront the same disaster.

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HURRICANE DORIAN

From our arrival on Grand Bahama on September 6 through the end of 2019, we conducted medical consultations with 1,157 local residents.

We supported seven Bahamian community clinics as well as the island’s lone major healthcare facility, Rand Memorial Hospital, and are reaching remote areas through mobile medical units and a new portable health facility.

We provided access to potable water for 2,000 island residents.

We provided mental health and psychological support to 430 individuals.

We trained 44 community health volunteers on health and hygiene promotion and mental health and psychosocial support, and another 68 social workers, physicians, nurses, law enforcement officers and community leaders on how to recognize and treat common psychological and emotional problems following a disaster.
International Medical Corps launched its first program in South Sudan in the mid-1990s, helping local workers rehabilitate a major hospital and implement an immunization program for more than 1,300 women and children. In 2019, we administered 11 separate programs, including mental health and psychosocial support, nutrition treatments focused on young children with malnutrition, and measures to prepare for and protect against the possibility of Ebola spreading across the border from Democratic Republic of the Congo.

International Medical Corps has built an especially robust presence in two other areas: primary and secondary healthcare, and maternal and child health. Our health facilities in Juba and Malakal both offer surgery services, while primary healthcare services include maternal and child health; prenatal and postnatal care; family planning and emergency obstetrics care (including specialized services for high-risk pregnancies); and care for mental health issues and HIV/AIDS. In Juba, our emergency department is open around the clock.

Although our work has expanded significantly during our years in South Sudan, the country’s needs have grown far faster. In 2019, there were more than 7 million people in need of assistance, 1.5 million of whom were internally displaced.

In 2011—when South Sudan had just eight registered midwives—we began offering a rigorous two-year training course. We now operate three midwifery schools that have collectively graduated 426 midwives. Although South Sudan’s maternal mortality rate remains high, it has dropped significantly—as has infant mortality. As the leader of the program, Grace Lisio, explains, “the more midwives we have, the more life we give our babies.”

To find out about the challenges that Grace has had to overcome to keep her school open—and her students safe—please visit www.InternationalMedicalcorps.org/WarAndGrace

In 2019, **1,433 individuals** attended the **75 training sessions** we conducted across a range of issues, including primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support, reproductive health, nutrition, and prevention and protection from gender-based violence.

A total of **87 students**, including **62 registered midwives** and **25 registered nurses**, graduated from our three Health Science Institutes in 2019.

We trained **116 staff members** on communicable disease management and control.

In 2019, we administered **11 different programs** in South Sudan, supported by seven different donors. Each included a training component.

**TRAINING IN SOUTH SUDAN**

Today, we hire and train more than 90% of our 7,000+ employees worldwide locally. As with our first program in 1984, training remains an essential component of every program we provide. It makes the more than $3.2 billion in services we have delivered to residents of 80+ countries during 35 years much more valuable and long-lasting, because every single life changed adds up to a better world—for all of us.
After deploying to help survivors of a major earthquake and tsunami that hit the Indonesian island of Sulawesi in fall 2018, International Medical Corps demonstrated its flexibility in an emergency, partnering in 2019 with local humanitarian groups to address one of the most pressing unmet needs: temporary shelter for tens of thousands left homeless by the disaster. We worked with residents of three villages whose homes had been destroyed on a project that was modest in size but that carried potentially broader significance—providing a cost-effective, environmentally friendly and culturally appropriate way to house residents left homeless in wake of the disaster.

With conventional construction materials needed to rebuild conventional homes in short supply and rising in cost, our local humanitarian partner, KUN Humanity System, proposed an alternative—yet familiar—building material: bamboo. Often used in the past for housing and available locally in abundance, bamboo keeps costs low, with the price of a bamboo shelter only about $1,100. Using bamboo also skirted the daunting challenge of transporting building materials into the village over poor roads during the rainy season.

Handover of the shelters occurred in July 2019. By year’s end, villagers trained how to build with bamboo had constructed about 20 additional bamboo structures elsewhere in the area. They hope to build more.

People Magazine features a photo of Sienna Miller at the podium of our Annual Awards Celebration, next to her daughter Marlowe, accepting our Humanitarian Award for her decade of service as our Global Ambassador.

National Public Radio highlights the challenges we face containing the spread of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

PBS NewsHour, Voice of America, Al Jazeera and The Washington Post are among the media outlets that interview staff members deployed to the Bahamas in the wake of Hurricane Dorian.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette publishes a year-end op-ed on the state of global affairs, written by Iowan Nancy Aossey, president and CEO of International Medical Corps.
WHERE WE WORK

Afghanistan  Bahamas  Burundi  Cameroon  Central African Republic  Chad
Democratic Republic of the Congo  Ethiopia  Guinea  Indonesia  Iraq  Japan  Jordan
Lebanon  Libya  Mali  Mexico  Nigeria  Pakistan  Philippines  Somalia  South Sudan
Sudan  Syria  Turkey  Ukraine  United States  Venezuela  Yemen  Zimbabwe

86% of every dollar donated directly supports programs.

We’ve delivered a total $3.2 billion in lifesaving healthcare services and training to millions of people globally.

Since 1984, we’ve worked to save and change lives around the world, operating in difficult and often dangerous conditions.

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

$30 EQUALS

86% GOES TO

3.2 BILLION

35 YEARS

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS