

Lebanon

After years of war in neighboring Syria, Lebanon continues to host the highest per-capita number of Syrian refugees anywhere. The additional population has strained essential services, limiting access

for both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese.

To help meet urgent needs, International Medical Corps is providing comprehensive primary healthcare, mental health services, as well as gender-based violence prevention and response programming for at-risk people throughout the country. Our primary goal is to support the expansion of an affordable healthcare system in Lebanon, one that enables those who are most vulnerable to access a broad range of quality services.

International Medical Corps began operating in Lebanon in 2006 and has played a key role providing relief to people affected by war in the years since.

Following the 2011 outbreak of armed conflict in Syria, we have expanded programming to meet the basic health and mental health needs of Syrians who have sought refuge in Lebanon. Today, our activities address the needs of refugees and vulnerable Lebanese residing in greater Tripoli, Akkar, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, Bekaa and the south.



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

International Medical Corps works to ensure access to quality health services for Syrian refugees, vulnerable Lebanese and people at risk. We do this by supporting a network of about 50 primary healthcare clinics (PHCCs) and dispensaries across the country. These clinics focus on prevention and health maintenance, including routine physical examinations, wellness exams for children, malnutrition screening, immunizations, referrals, care and follow-up treatment for those with non-communicable diseases; specialized health services for people with disabilities; and antenatal and postnatal care. International Medical Corps procures essential medications based on the Ministry of Public Health's drug lists and works closely with supported PHCCs to dispense and monitor their use. In addition

to providing financial support, International Medical Corps works closely with these PHCCs to help build capacity, with the goal improving the quality of services at each facility, maintaining their status as members of the Ministry of Public Health's PHC Network and preparing them to meet accreditation requirements in the future.

Awareness-raising and health education through community health clubs are key components of International Medical Corps' primary healthcare services, which play a valuable role in limiting the spread of communicable diseases and minimizing both primary and secondary healthcare costs. To expand outreach in communities, International Medical Corps identifies volunteers from local areas and provides them with in-depth training and field coaching, enabling them to become Community Health Workers (CHWs). Training includes a variety of health education topics, including infectious and non-infectious diseases, infant and young-child feeding, immunization, antenatal care and personal hygiene, among others.

CHWs serve as a vital link between PHCCs and those residing in the surrounding areas. They provide referrals and follow up with refugees and vulnerable Lebanese at home, in informal settlements and collective shelters, and in schools and underserved neighborhoods. International Medical Corps' Community Health team also organizes health campaigns across the country in coordination with local and international partners, to inform communities through interactive health and hygiene awareness sessions, and distribute hygiene and feminine kits.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Women and girls in Lebanon continue to be disproportionately affected by GBV, with early marriage, domestic violence, sexual violence (rape and physical assault), exploitation and survival sex being its most common forms. GBV goes unreported or is under-reported due to the fear, shame and stigma that beset many survivors.

Recognized as a leader in humanitarian GBV prevention and response programming, International Medical Corps' interventions span across all regions of Lebanon. We design our programs to support and empower women and girls who face particular risks after being exposed to conflict. Our priority is to strengthen core services for survivors of GBV, particularly case management and psychosocial support services, as well as quality healthcare. To prevent future incidents of GBV, we also work with communities to address protection risks and combat harmful practices. Through our programs, International Medical Corps contributes to the development of best practices and standards around prevention and treatment of GBV in Lebanon.

We work with local organizations, community-based support workers and healthcare providers to address these risks and deliver quality, focused support services for survivors of GBV through community centers and safe spaces for women and girls. We also work with communities to promote women's equality and combat beliefs and practices that perpetuate different forms of GBV, particularly through activities that engage men and boys on



concepts of gender equality and help transform behaviors based on negative social paradigms into respectful behaviors.

At the national level, International Medical Corps is a member of the GBV Information Management System and the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) task force. Our programs are tailored to ensure that interventions are needs-driven, adapted for cultural and security considerations, and responsive to the nature and extent of GBV present in different contexts. International Medical Corps' key GBV prevention and response activities include individual GBV case management according to GBV guiding principles; organized safe spaces that enable women and adolescent girls to access information, seek help and establish support networks; psychosocial support through focused and non-focused activities; and stress- and anger-management and masculinities workshops directed toward men.

MENTAL HEALTH

Since arriving in Lebanon, International Medical Corps has played a leading role in delivering comprehensive mental health programming. We have expanded access to services by training primary healthcare providers to detect, refer, diagnose and treat mild to moderate mental disorders in order to integrate mental health into primary healthcare. Through the support of primary healthcare centers and community centers, multidisciplinary case management teams comprising case managers, psychotherapists, child psychotherapists and psychiatrists provide continuous support to beneficiaries and refer cases to other services, according to need and free of charge.

As part of our efforts to promote health and well-being among refugees and vulnerable Lebanese, International Medical Corps also offers community-based activities for youth and caregivers, as well as other at-risk people. Psychosocial support

activities, such as community support group interventions, are designed to raise awareness of a variety of mental health topics and to equip individuals with the resources they need to help themselves and those around them. International Medical Corps also has developed educational booklets on mental health disorders, including depression, postpartum depression, loss and grief, enuresis and psychosomatic disorders.

International Medical Corps coordinates closely with the Ministry of Public Health's National Mental Health Program on various activities and services. The National Mental Health Program provides national-level guidelines and policies for mental health services in Lebanon, while our partnership with the national program helps integrate mental health into primary healthcare, ensuring access to quality mental health care within the existing healthcare structure.



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Since 1984, 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 THE REGION

International Medical Corps has been active in the Middle East since 2003 when it was one of the first international agencies to reengage in post-invasion Iraq. Since that time we have built robust programming in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Syria, and have responded to emergency needs in Gaza. International Medical Corps' Middle East programs focus on humanitarian relief, community development and government capacity building.



www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org

A pre-eminent first responder for 35 years, International Medical Corps provides emergency relief to those struck by disaster, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions, working with them to recover, rebuild and, through training, gain the skills and tools required to achieve self-reliance.

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