International Medical Corps has worked in Cameroon since 2008 when we responded to a large influx of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR).

In the years since, we have provided life-saving assistance in the midst of cholera outbreaks and floods as well as care for families fleeing ongoing violence in the CAR and the Lake Chad Basin.
Where we work

With ongoing instability in the CAR and Nigeria, Cameroon is hosting over 370,000 refugees in addition to over 240,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Far North Region and another 430,000 IDPs in the Northwest and Southwest Regions.

International Medical Corps is working in refugee camps as well as with some of the most vulnerable populations in Cameroon to implement programs in health, nutrition, gender-based violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and child protection in six regions of Cameroon—Far North, North, Adamawa, East, Northwest and Southwest.

Primary and secondary health care

International Medical Corps supports several health care facilities across the six regions and provides medical care directly through mobile medical units (MMUs) in rural areas that are isolated from health facilities. Our services include:

- Preventive and curative medical consultations with referrals to secondary and tertiary care
- Reproductive health services, including deliveries, antenatal care, and postnatal care
- Supply of essential drugs, medical supplies, and equipment
- Training and capacity-building for health care professionals, including those employed by the Ministry of Public Health
- Training community health workers (CHWs) to educate local residents on public health issues, engage in disease surveillance, and follow up on vaccine-preventable illnesses such as acute flaccid paralysis (polio), neonatal tetanus, yellow fever, and measles
MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

International Medical Corps integrates MHPSS services into its general health care activities so families have greater access to care. We also work with health care facilities and community health workers to increase the number of referrals for mental health care services. To promote the greater availability of high quality mental health care across Cameroon, International Medical Corps also designs and provides health care professionals with curriculum and educational materials that are in line with the World Health Organization mhGAP Intervention Guidelines.

CHILD PROTECTION

Certain cultural and religious practices, including forced child marriage, child labor, and lack of education for girls, continue to impede children's rights in Cameroon. International Medical Corps works in refugee camps to prevent child abuse and promote the rights of refugee children from CAR and Nigeria as well as the internally displaced population. Activities include:

- Training members of parents committees, CHWs, and religious leaders to prevent abuse and exploitation of children and to promote child rights
- Providing protection and material support to unaccompanied and disabled children and setting-up referral pathways to address their cases
- Providing playtime activities and equipment for child friendly spaces and setting up girls’ and boys’ club structures where children draw, garden, cook, dance, and play
- Providing MHPSS support for children receiving in-patient care for severe acute malnutrition and their caregivers in collaboration with our nutrition team

International Medical Corps implements life-saving programs in six regions through the support of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (ECHO), World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

In armed conflict environments, women and girls are especially vulnerable, often left with very little power in decision-making. International Medical Corps has been implementing gender-based violence prevention and protection programming in Cameroon since 2009, providing training to local health care providers on clinical management of rape as part of the Minimum Initial Service Package. We also help ensure that psychosocial support is available to survivors and other vulnerable women and girls, and that the community is aware of the risks and consequences of GBV.

International Medical Corps has been working primarily with refugees and IDPs in order to mitigate the risk of GBV, as well as strengthen the support services available to survivors, including:

- Medical care for GBV survivors, such as the provision of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits for all rape cases reported within 72 hours
- Awareness-raising and advocacy to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with GBV
- Language lessons, life skills, vocational training, and social reintegration for GBV survivors
- Training of key community and administrative health care professionals at GBV focal points on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines

NUTRITION

Malnutrition rates remain high in Cameroon—a crisis that is driven by ongoing displacement, a protracted regional food crisis, as well as an inadequate supply of clean water and poor sanitation and hygiene practices. As a result, many children do not have the nutrients required for full and healthy development leading to irreversible cognitive and physical stunting. International Medical Corps is providing nutrition services that include:

- Malnutrition screenings of vulnerable populations
- Targeted supplementary feeding for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women, including treatment for those severely malnourished with complications
- Outreach and nutrition promotion messages to pass on good nutritional practices
- Training and capacity-building for Ministry of Public Health staff and CHWs
A pre-eminent first responder for more than 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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