



*An International Medical Corps volunteer administers a COVID-19 vaccine at Kedren Community Health Center, in south Los Angeles.*

As of March 10, almost 118 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 2.6 million confirmed deaths have been attributed to the virus. Except for a small uptick in cases over the last two weeks, the situation in terms of daily cases and deaths has improved considerably over the peak seen after the holiday season. Daily cases are down 46% and daily deaths are down 40% from levels seen in January. Although the situation has improved considerably, the number of daily cases and deaths seen today are significantly higher than any figures seen during the spring and summer peaks of 2020, which ground the world to a halt.

The COVID-19 vaccine landscape continues to change swiftly. After Phase III trials showed a 72% efficacy rate in the United States and a 64% efficacy in South Africa, Johnson & Johnson was given an emergency authorization by the FDA.<sup>1</sup> This single-shot vaccine can be stored at refrigerator temperatures for months, which will ease the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. Merck, a Johnson & Johnson competitor, has also agreed to help manufacture the vaccine, which will significantly increase its rate of production.<sup>2</sup> In addition to Johnson & Johnson's arrival on the scene, multiple other vaccines are rolling out in parts of the world. Bharat Biotech, an Indian vaccine maker, released interim Phase III results demonstrating 81% efficacy, and Sinovac's vaccine—a single-dose shot with similar refrigeration benefits as Johnson & Johnson's vaccine—showed 83% efficacy in Phase III trials in Turkey.

The COVAX Facility—a partnership between the WHO, Gavi, Unicef and CEPI, intended to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines—has delivered more than 12 million doses to 21 countries over the past two weeks. Receiving countries included Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, the Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, South Korea, Sudan and

### FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of March 10, there have been 117,837,555 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in 192 countries and regions.
- In the US, we are supporting 42 hospitals across the country—including in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Puerto Rico and Texas—with a range of services and equipment, including emergency medical field units, supplies and volunteer staff.
- We have screened more than 5.2 million people for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 24.5 million pieces of personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control (IPC) items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 24,000 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/24/science/johnson-johnson-vaccine-update.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.merck.com/news/merck-to-help-produce-johnson-barda-to-provide-merck-with-funding-to-expand-mercks-manufacturing-capacity-for-covid-19-vaccines-and-medicines/>

Uganda.<sup>3</sup> Still, even with these new shipments, distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine has been anything but equitable. The United States, with 4% of the world's population, has provided roughly 30% of all the doses administered in the world. If this inequitable distribution continues, it could lead to additional mutations of concern, leading to the need for new booster vaccines that target the mutations.

## International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to provide essential medical assistance and training in the 29 countries where we operate. Highlights from our global response include the following.

### United States Response

In the US, International Medical Corps has partnered with hospitals, clinics and nursing homes in Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and Texas to respond to COVID-19. To date, we have distributed more than 5.3 million items of PPE, including 1.7 million KN95 masks, 1.8 million surgical masks, 850,000 surgical gowns, nearly 600,000 N95 masks, 121,000 face shields and 100,000 cloth face masks. We have provided support to 42 hospitals, 56 long-term care facilities, seven health clinics and five community centers. In addition to procuring and donating PPE, International Medical Corps has also provided emergency medical field units to expand critical-care services and has provided surge staffing support to ensure continuity of care for COVID-19 patients. To date, we have deployed more than 70 clinical volunteers and are most recently providing additional staffing support to Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH) in Los Angeles, California, and City Hospital in White Rock in Dallas, Texas, with additional staffing activities planned for Chicago.

In addition to providing support for the immediate needs related to treating COVID-19 patients, International Medical Corps is working with hospital and clinic partners in Los Angeles to provide support for vaccination efforts. The vaccine rollout in the US has had a slower-than-expected start, with many state officials and hospital leaders around the country attributing the delays to several critical factors, including vaccine shortages; the unpredictability of vaccine delivery, with many health agencies receiving a different number of doses from week-to-week, making long-term planning and scheduling difficult; lack of appropriate cold-chain storage and equipment to support the distribution of the vaccine; and insufficient health staff to both treat and care for COVID-19 patients while simultaneously ramping up vaccination efforts.

In response to these gaps, International Medical Corps has provided technical and logistical assistance, cold-chain equipment, emergency medical field units and PPE to support vaccination efforts to two Los Angeles facilities. At Kedren Community Health Clinic in South Central Los Angeles, we also are providing six volunteer vaccinators each business day to support the rollout of the vaccine in one of the hardest-hit and underserved areas of California. Our volunteer vaccinators, who are providing essential backstopping for exhausted clinical workers, have since March 1 administered more than 15,000 vaccines alongside Kedren's team. Our volunteers rotate between five vaccination areas and a draw station where vaccines are drawn into syringes. In addition to vaccinators, we are supplying Kedren with materials and shelters that will more than double the square footage of its vaccine program, making it one of the country's largest walk-in ambulatory vaccination sites.

At MLKCH, International Medical Corps is supplying two vehicles for mobile vaccination efforts, along with cold-chain equipment, medical staffing support and PPE. We have erected two emergency medical field units for the hospital's static vaccination site.



*International Medical Corps volunteer Manuel Belderol vaccinates a patient at Kedren Community Health Center.*

<sup>3</sup> <https://launchandscalefaster.org/blog/covid-19-vaccines-are-flowing-private-sector-what-does-mean-equity>

## United States Response

 <b>Locations</b>	States/Territories: 10	Hospitals: 42		Nursing homes: 56
 <b>Volunteers</b>	MDs: 17	Nurses: 48	EMTs: 3	Paramedics: 8
 <b>Infrastructure</b>	Field Units: 70	HVACs: 66	Generators: 5	Trailers: 4 Containers: 2
 <b>Equipment</b>	Beds: 150	Ventilators: 22	Ultrasounds: 34	
	Pulse oximeters: 269	Suctions: 9	Defibrillators: 43	
 <b>PPE</b>	Medical consumables: 5,000	Anesthesia pumps: 1	Patient monitors: 143	
	K95 masks: 1,730,460	Surgical masks: 1,882,300	Surgical gowns: 825,200	
	N95 masks: 597,650	Face shields: 121,860	Nitrile gloves: 1,100,000	

## Global Response

International Medical Corps is focused on ensuring continuity of operations in existing programming in the 29 countries where we currently operate while taking decisive action to respond to COVID-19 cases. We are continuing to distribute PPE and IPC items to our supported healthcare facilities while providing training and support to frontline healthcare workers on the proper use of such equipment and the epidemiology of COVID-19. Additionally, our facilities are continuing to screen patients for COVID-19 and to raise awareness—through traditional and remote activities—throughout communities. International Medical Corps also is participating with global, regional and local coordination bodies to support their COVID-19 responses. Highlights from our response this week include activities in the following countries.

- In **Jordan**, International Medical Corps' team continues to operate vital lifesaving health services across the country. The team is playing a central role in coordinating vaccination efforts now underway in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps, including raising awareness about the vaccine among refugee communities. All other health services in Azraq and Zaatari, as well as in Irbid, remain ongoing, with non-lifesaving services—including outpatient sexual and reproductive health—resumed to full capacity. International Medical Corps is also providing a range of COVID-19-related services to an estimated 40,000 Azraq Refugee Camp residents. Working with camp management, International Medical Corps has deployed a medical team to the camp's entry and exit points to measure the temperature of all entering or exiting, and since March 2020 has screened 318,739 people. In addition, our teams have distributed 1,454,273 PPE and IPC items to staff and the people we serve using International Medical Corps facilities. Within Azraq, International Medical Corps has established a 50-patient isolation area and has created an area where immediate treatment can be provided to suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases. In addition, our health team in the camp continues to provide awareness sessions on COVID-19 to residents, reaching more than 85,294 community residents as well as NGO and security staff. Working with the Ministry of Health and the Jordanian Psychiatrist Society, our mental health team has established a 24/7 psychosocial



*Among other countries, we are responding to COVID-19 in Jordan, Lebanon and the DRC, shown on the map above.*

Working with the Ministry of Health and the Jordanian Psychiatrist Society, our mental health team has established a 24/7 psychosocial

support hotline in Jordan to respond to the growing mental health needs in the face of COVID-19. As curfew restrictions now have been lifted in the country, our team in Jordan has resumed in-person mental health consultations, as well as child protection and nutrition services for refugees and vulnerable Jordanians. However, we continue to conduct all group psychosocial-support activities remotely, in accordance with government regulations.

- In **Lebanon**, the [explosion in Beirut](#) and the easing of COVID-19 precautionary measures have increased transmission rates of the virus. In the wake of the explosion, we distributed 488,940 PPE items to primary health clinics, hospitals and mobile medical units in the Beirut area. We delivered masks, gloves and gowns to 62 healthcare facilities, as well as other medical supplies to 54 of these. We also delivered PPE to more than 4,000 volunteers working to remove debris and repair damaged homes. Before the blast, our team had developed a COVID-19 contingency plan to address disruptions caused by the outbreak and related restrictions on movement. This involved procuring additional PPE and IPC supplies—including hand sanitizer, sterilization alcohol, gloves, masks and soap—to protect frontline health workers. The team has also raised awareness about COVID-19 among community residents and provided psychological first-aid training to frontline workers. We are collaborating closely with the government and partner NGOs, participating in sub-working groups of national COVID-19 taskforces. So far, 81 facilities that we support have screened 475,221 individuals for COVID-19 symptoms. In total, we have distributed more than 3.4 million PPE and IPC items to International Medical Corps-supported centers and safe spaces for women and girls. Furthermore, we have organized COVID-19 awareness-raising training sessions, reaching 89,190 community residents. In Tripoli and Akkar, we are the health lead for rapid response teams in both cities, an initiative coordinated by UNHCR that works to mitigate the spread and damage caused by the virus in refugee communities. Our team is also providing medical assistance to people with certain conditions—including terminal illnesses—who are shielding at home due to the pandemic. In addition, we are developing activities and guidance for mental health and psychosocial support during the pandemic. Finally, working alongside the Lebanon Ministry of Health, International Medical Corps is preparing to support vaccination efforts in the country, focusing on raising awareness among vulnerable groups about the vaccine, as well as providing hospitals and vaccination centers with relevant supplies, such as syringes. In addition, we have conducted a nationwide vaccine hesitancy survey covering 3,928 people and 99 primary health centers.
- The **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, like many countries around the world, has been hit with a new wave of COVID-19, but no cases of the new variants have been observed so far. Our DRC mission has trained 2,827 frontline staff and community health workers (CHWs) on COVID-19 case management, IPC, community-based surveillance and risk communication for behavior change. To date, facilities that we support have screened 2,086,416 people for COVID-19, with 25,282 identified as suspected cases. The DRC mission has completed training on IPC for all staff members at facilities we support. So far, we have reached 511,320 community members through traditional means of communication, such as awareness-raising activities by CHWs, community-based organizations and community action groups. Additionally, we have reached 593,567 community members through remote measures, such as COVID-19 prevention messages disseminated through SMS and radio. The DRC mission has so far distributed 180,455 hygiene items and PPE, including 98,755 gloves, 10,082 gowns, 32,940 masks for healthcare workers and 3,966 chlorine containers, among other items. International Medical Corps continues to partner with the Ministry of Health in responding to the pandemic by strengthening IPC measures in supported health facilities across North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces, targeting 82 health facilities under our COVID-19 response. In addition, the DRC mission has developed a children’s cartoon book with COVID-19 prevention messages.

International Medical Corps’ Impact at a Glance				
Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities	1,045 Primary Health Facilities	171 Hospitals	39 COVID-19 Treatment Centers	44 Mobile Medical Clinics
Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness-Raising Activities	 3.8M Traditional		 2.3M Remote	
PPE and IPC Items Distributed	 23.5M PPE		 1M IPC	