

2020

# **IMPACT REPORT**

Thanks to your generous support, this year International Medical Corps remained one of the world's premier first responders. Because you care, we were able to reach more than 18 million people in 30 countries affected by armed conflict, natural disaster and disease.

Medical Corps

#### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

# In 2020 we directly served 18,541,622 people



### 5,020,152 **HEALTH CONSULTATIONS**



# PROVIDED

**HEALTH FACILITIES SUPPORTED** 



# 474,281

**DPT3 & MEASLES VACCINES GIVEN** 





#### 1,941,030 **PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH** NUTRITION SERVICES



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Medical Corp

# **735,478**

**PEOPLE BENEFITTED FROM** MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

### 3,810,018

**PEOPLE SUPPORTED WITH** WATER, SANITATION AND **HYGIENE SERVICES** 

### 1,225,168

**BENEFITTED FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SERVICES** 

# 2020: A YEAR OF COVID, CRISIS & COMMITMENT

For International Medical Corps, 2020 started with an earthquake in Puerto Rico on January 7, and ended with an earthquake in Croatia on December 29. Over the course of the year, our teams also responded to a massive explosion that destroyed large parts of Beirut, helped end two separate outbreaks of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and continued to help people around the world in a host of countries affected by conflict.

But the biggest emergency by far in 2020 was caused by a tiny virus: SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. By the end of the year, the disease had affected virtually every nation on Earth, and—despite the hope provided by vaccines developed in record time—showed no signs of slowing down.

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the United States surfaced on January 20 in Washington state. By then, International Medical Corps had already recognized the virus for the global threat it was, and had begun activating emergency protocols, creating guidelines to protect staff and ensure continuity of operations in all of our country missions, building training programs, and releasing stocks of personal protective



equipment (PPE) while working diligently to source new supplies of PPE and medical equipment in a increasingly competitive market.

By March, when the outbreak had been declared a pandemic and the virus had spread to all 50 states, International Medical Corps already was responding in the US, first in our home state of California—where we would eventually support 16 hospitals and 51 long-term care facilities—and later across the country.

We launched what would become our biggest emergency response to date amid global shelter-in-place orders and travel bans. Though most of our staff—seasoned humanitarians used to traversing the world to help people affected by conflict, disaster and disease—were working from home, we were able to quickly support overwhelmed hospitals and long-term eldercare facilities in the US while continuing our programs in 30 missions around the world. "When you go abroad for an emergency response, you know that you will eventually come back home, get some rest and the response will be all over," says Suha Mhanna, International Medical Corps' US Deputy Country Director and COVID-19 Response Manager. "But with COVID, everything changed. In this response, we were already home. No one was safe.

"With everything locked down, it was difficult at the beginning to fully understand the situation and get all the supplies we needed," she continues. "But we are International Medical Corps—we have an obligation to provide support wherever we are needed."

#### FIVE PILLARS OF OUR RESPONSE

International Medical Corps' COVID-19 response in the US initially focused on providing five essentials to our partners: emergency medical field units; medical equipment; medical supplies (including desperately needed PPE); clinical staff; and training.

In contrast with our overseas programs, which tend to prioritize primary care, our focus in the US was on critical care, due to the tremendous shortages of equipment and staff faced by hospitals nationwide. Some hospitals—like those we helped supply with clinical volunteers in New York City, during the first wave of the pandemic had nearly 100% occupancy by COVID patients.

"It was a terrible situation," remembers Dr. Scott Lillibridge, International Medical Corps' Director of Emergency Response. "Every bed in the hospital was filled with COVID patients, staff members were sick and there was no equipment or PPE. We knew we had to help."

Working around the clock during those first few months, our goal was to "fill the gaps," says Lillibridge. "So we gave it our all, emptied our warehouses for stricken hospitals—and have been doing that ever since." Despite heavily strained global supply chains, our teams managed to secure and deliver 2.5 million items of PPE in the US in 2020, and deploy 59 emergency medical field units, which hospitals could configure for testing, triage and treatment, or even use to house additional patient beds. We also deployed 150 volunteers and staff to hard-hit hospitals to relieve exhausted frontline professionals, and developed virtual and in-person training programs that reached almost 3,000 people. All in all, since the start of the pandemic,



#### RESPONDING TO OTHER GLOBAL DISASTERS

As we have done throughout our history, International Medical Corps responded to a range of disasters in 2020. Here is a sampling.

The year began and ended with earthquakes—in **Puerto Rico** on January 7, and in central **Croatia** on December 29. International Medical Corps, already in both countries, sprang into action. In Puerto Rico, we provided psychological first aid services to those affected by the quakes, distributed food, water and hygiene kits to communities and supported health partners. In Croatia, we distributed PPE to affected healthcare facilities from our prepositioned stock, and continue to support damaged healthcare facilities by providing temporary shelters while they conduct repairs.

On August 4, a massive explosion tore through the city of **Beirut, Lebanon**. Our in-country team

responded immediately, bringing help to survivors and support to health facilities. We sent mobile medical units to neighborhoods near the blast site, providing care to people affected by the crisis and reducing pressure on overburdened health centers near the explosion. And we helped to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by providing PPE and hygiene supplies to survivors and volunteer workers.

We helped end two outbreaks of Ebola in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, including the world's second-largest, which began in August 2018 on the country's conflict-ridden eastern edge and ended in June 2020. That same month, an outbreak appeared in the west, which we helped bring to a halt by November. In each, we leveraged our experience conducting disease treatment and surveillance, building screening and referral units, and providing training to local healthcare staff. We also were part of a clinical trial that resulted in two proven therapies, providing a huge breakthrough in the world's ongoing battle against the virus.



International Medical Corps has supported 42 hospitals and 56 long-term care facilities in 34 cities across nine states and Puerto Rico.

With COVID-19 cases—including new variants that have recently emerged—continuing to spread across the globe, the media is once again full of stories of hospitals pushed to their limits. But our efforts have continued unabated. "We're going to see our partners through until things return to a place where hospitals are fully able to manage on their own," insists Lillibridge.

#### SUPPORTING VACCINATION

Meanwhile, promising vaccines have been tested and approved for use, turning the attention of the medical community to a new mission: distributing billions of doses of vaccines as quickly and as safely as possible. International Medical Corps is uniquely poised to contribute to this effort, having developed a national network of partners in the US through the course of our COVID-19 response. We also have strong relationships with ministries of health in the almost 30 countries where we operate, and are working with them on strategies around cold-chain management, ways to overcome "last mile" challenges in low-resource environments, and how to conduct vaccine information campaigns that are accurate and effective.

In addition to working with ministries of health in individual countries, we are offering assistance to COVAX—an international partnership that is supporting the research,

#### SERVING ON THE FRONTLINES IN THE BATTLE AGAINST COVID

Amy Mott (left) is an intensive-care unit nurse who volunteered with International Medical Corps at Vista East Hospital in Chicago during the COVID-19 surge in spring 2020, and who continues to work on the frontlines of the pandemic.

When she first encountered COVID at the hospital where she works in her hometown of Seattle, Amy admits she was a bit scared and overwhelmed, given how little was known about the virus at the time. Yet, when she had the opportunity, she felt compelled to volunteer with International Medical Corps. "I think I would struggle, just personally, staying home and not being able to feel like I was helping," she explains.

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#### I'm grateful for the opportunity to be in a position where I have training that is needed."

As she's encountered successive waves of the pandemic, she's also encountered another scourge: the so-called "infodemic" of misinformation about the virus. "After working long and busy shifts, we are sometimes faced with friends and family who don't believe in COVID, or don't want to follow any restrictions. Let me be clear: no matter how bad it gets, we'll follow our noble profession and care for anyone who comes through our door. But living in two different realities is exhausting."

But ultimately she persists, buoyed by her knowledge that "we are in this together." She and her colleagues "find hope in the phone calls from family members of patients, who can only hear them over the phone or internet. I am honored by these family members' trust, and want to do everything I can to repay it. This is why I and my colleagues continue, in the face of frustration and weariness."



development and manufacturing of a wide range of COVID-19 vaccines, and will distribute them to participating countries.

Of the more than 180 countries included in the COVAX initiative, 92 are lower- or middleincome countries, including those that are experiencing conflict, humanitarian crises and acute outbreaks. Given International Medical Corps' long history of operating in difficult and dangerous environments, we are confident that we'll be able to help COVAX with its vaccination efforts in the coming months and years.

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This pandemic is a joint responsibility. We will overcome it by being responsible not only for ourselves and our loved ones, but also for our communities, our country—and our world."

Suha Mhanna International Medical Corps' US Deputy Country Director and COVID-19 Response Manager

Such collaboration will be key to defeating the COVID-19 pandemic globally. Perhaps this virus, experienced so collectively and so painfully, has driven home more than ever the importance of working together, both here and abroad.

To learn more about International Medical Corps' efforts to fight COVID-19 in the US and around the world, visit <u>internationalmedicalcorps.org/covid19</u>.





#### SPOTLIGHT ON TRAINING WAR & GRACE WINS THE WHO FILM FESTIVAL GRAND PRIX

Since our founding in 1984, training has remained at the foundation of all we do. It's how we are able, after helping communities recover from adversity, to help them rebuild and continue on their path toward self-reliance.

In South Sudan, we support three midwifery schools that have helped to lower both maternal and infant mortality in a war-torn country that also is one of the most dangerous places on Earth to give birth. To document our efforts there, we created a short film—titled WAR & GRACE, and narrated by executive producer Sienna Miller focusing on Grace Tindilo, a courageous leader who is teaching midwifery students to care for mothers and infants.

We entered the film in the World Health Organization's Health for All Film Festival, which received nearly 1,300 submissions from more than



110 countries. Because 2020 was the "International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife," we were especially pleased to learn that our documentary won the Grand Prix in the Nurses and Midwives category.

To find out more about the film, please visit internationalmedicalcorps.org/warandgrace. To read the stories of four students studying at the school to become midwives, please visit internationalmedicalcorps.org/southsudanstudents.

#### **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



# PBS NEWS HOUR

PBS Newshour airs a compelling interview with International Medical Corps' Sue Mangicaro about the organization's work in New York hospitals that have been overwhelmed with COVID patients.

## The New York Times VOGUE TIME

With the Met Gala, New York's biggest annual fashion event, canceled by COVID, the New York Times, Vogue and Time magazine run stories about the High Fashion Twitter Met Gala, a virtual event created by a 19-year-old aerospace engineering student, who urges the hundreds of online participants to donate to International Medical Corps.



International Medical Corps efforts to help hospitals across the US respond to COVID-19 with emergency medical field units, medical supplies and volunteers are covered by a host of print and broadcast media outlets, including ABC, CBS, NBC, NPR, Reuters and the Chicago Tribune.



Following the August port explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, major news organizations include us in their How to Help lists, describing our work to help people affected by the blast.

#### WHERE WE WORK

Afghanistan Bahamas Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Colombia Croatia Democratic Republic of the Congo Ethiopia Gaza Indonesia Iraq Japan Jordan Lebanon Libya Mali Nigeria Pakistan Philippines Puerto Rico Somalia South Sudan Sudan Syria Turkey Ukraine United States Venezuela Yemen Zimbabawe



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



88% of every dollar donated directly supports programs.



We've delivered a total \$3.6 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.



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