



International Medical Corps staff members assist with a “vaccine marathon” in Lebanon.

The world has documented more than 176 million cases and more than 3.8 million deaths due to COVID-19. As wealthy countries continue to roll out COVID-19 vaccines, there is a growing misconception in these countries’ populations that the pandemic is nearing an end—but the data suggest otherwise. Recently, the number of confirmed deaths from COVID-19 in 2021 surpassed the number of deaths from the virus in all of 2020.¹

The world’s poorest countries continue to face deadly outbreaks and lack access to an adequate number of vaccines. In Africa, only 3% of the population have received their first dose of vaccine, and at least eight countries have documented case numbers that have risen by at least 30% since the beginning of June. The WHO Regional Director for Africa recently warned of the threat of a significant third wave across the continent and stressed the urgency of getting vaccines to the most vulnerable.²

The needed vaccines have become harder to acquire since India’s devastating outbreak over the past few months. India—the world’s leading manufacturer of COVID-19 vaccines—recently announced that it would not export any vaccines in 2021, as the country continues to average more than 3,000 deaths per day.

The Serum Institute in India was supposed to be the main contributor of vaccines to COVAX, the collaboration between GAVI, WHO, UNICEF and CEPI to ensure equitable worldwide distribution of vaccines. However, distribution thus far has been anything but equitable, with 85% of administered vaccines going to the wealthiest nations and 0.3% going to the poorest countries. In total, COVAX has distributed approximately 100 million doses—5% of its goal for 2021.³

With the export ban from India, COVAX will have to depend on doses from other countries and regions, including China and the west. The United States recently announced a donation of 500 million doses of Pfizer vaccines to COVAX—the

FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of June 14, there have been 176,050,568 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported in 192 countries and regions.
- In the US, we are supporting 43 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 6.2 million people for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 26.8 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 27,300 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/covid-19-deaths-this-year-have-already-eclipsed-2020s-toll-11623350773>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/03/world/africa/africa-coronavirus-cases.html>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/06/world/vaccine-coronavirus-global-stalls.html?referringSource=articleShare>

largest donation of vaccines by a single country in history—in addition to 80 million doses it previously pledged donate by the end of June.^{4,5} In another potential boost to COVAX’s vaccine stocks, China’s Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines were recently approved for emergency authorization by the WHO, paving the way for their inclusion in COVAX.⁶

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 U.S., 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 6.6 million items of PPE, including 1.7 million KN95 masks, 1.8 million surgical masks, nearly 900,000 surgical gowns, more than 900,000 N95 masks, 131,000 face shields and 100,000 cloth face masks. We have provided support to 43 hospitals, 21 primary health centers, 56 long-term care facilities and five community centers. In addition to procuring and donating PPE, International Medical Corps also has provided emergency medical field units to help hospitals expand critical-care services and has provided surge staffing support to ensure continuity of care for COVID-19 patients. We have so far deployed more than 130 clinical volunteers, nearly 60 of whom have supported vaccination efforts since March. Most recently, we began providing additional staffing support to Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH) in Los Angeles, and City Hospital in White Rock in Dallas. We also have staffing activities planned for Chicago.

| United States Response | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|  Locations | States/Territories: 10 | Hospitals: 43 | Health Clinics: 21 | Nursing homes: 56 |
|  Volunteers | MDs: 23 | Nurses: 78 | EMTs: 6 | Paramedics: 10 |
|  Infrastructure | Field Units: 70 | HVACs: 66 | Generators: 5 | Trailers: 4 Containers: 2 |
|  Equipment | Beds: 150 | Ventilators: 22 | Ultrasounds: 34 | Patient monitors: 143 |
| | Pulse oximeters: 269 | Suctions: 9 | Defibrillators: 51 | Medical consumables: 65,000 |
|  PPE | K95 masks: 1,730,460 | Surgical masks: 1,882,300 | Surgical gowns: 882,460 | |
| | N95 masks: 907,399 | Face shields: 131,860 | Nitrile gloves: 1,100,000 | |

In addition to providing support for 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 effort. At Kedren Community Health Clinic in South Central Los Angeles, we are providing three volunteer vaccinators five days per week to support rollout of the vaccine in one of the hardest-hit and underserved areas of California. Since March 1, our volunteer vaccinators, who are providing essential backstopping for exhausted clinical workers, have administered more than 150,000 vaccines alongside Kedren’s team. Our volunteers prepare and administer vaccines, and help monitor patients after they receive their vaccinations. As demand at the clinic has decreased, our volunteers have shifted from providing vaccines during the daytime to working on nights and weekends, to increase the convenience of getting a vaccine for

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/biden-announce-donation-500-million-pfizer-doses-urge-others-join-2021-06-10/>

⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/biden-vaccine-donate/2021/06/09/c2744674-c934-11eb-93fa-9053a95eb9f2_story.html

⁶ <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-06-2021-who-validates-sinovac-covid-19-vaccine-for-emergency-use-and-issues-interim-policy-recommendations>

those that have not yet received one. International Medical Corps also has supported Kedren by providing cold-chain equipment, supplies and medical consumables.

At MLKCH, International Medical Corps has supplied two vehicles for mobile vaccination efforts, along with cold-chain equipment, medical staffing support and PPE. We also have erected two emergency medical field units for the hospital's static vaccination site. Through the support of International Medical Corps, MLKCH has administered more than 25,000 vaccine doses.

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.

- On the **Gaza Strip**, International Medical Corps continues to provide assistance to women, children and men affected by conflict. Though a ceasefire is now in place, COVID-19 mitigation and prevention measures are more important than ever, as Gazans have had to shift their focus from the pandemic to dealing with the aftermath of airstrikes and bombings—including the trauma that accompanies conflict. Our team on the ground is screening individuals and referring suspected cases for COVID-19 testing. So far, eight International Medical Corps-supported facilities have screened 6,073 people for COVID-19 symptoms, and the team has reached 33,929 people with COVID-19 awareness messaging. Using our mobile medical units and working through two hospitals, we also are distributing hygiene kits and raising awareness about how to prevent and mitigate spread of the disease. We are providing PPE and IPC supplies to partner organizations. In addition, we are looking into conducting a vaccination hesitancy survey and developing educational materials about prevention across the strip.



Among other countries, we are responding to COVID-19 in Gaza, Jordan and South Sudan, as shown on the map above.

- In **Jordan**, International Medical Corps 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 vaccinations, registration, medical pre-screening and transportation. We also are raising awareness about the vaccine among refugee communities. Since the rollout, International Medical Corps has helped 14,046 refugees in the camps get their first dose of the vaccine. Within the same camps, International Medical Corps has also carried out 52,591 PCR tests for COVID. 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 also is providing a range of COVID-19-related services to an estimated 40,000 Azraq residents, where cases have now been confirmed. 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. Since March 2020, we have screened 335,102 people. In addition, our teams have distributed 1,838,244 PPE and IPC items to staff and the people we serve. 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 107,144 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 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 **South Sudan**, International Medical Corps continues to lead the pandemic response, serving as co-lead of the COVID-19 Case Management and IPC Technical Working Group, which is part of the Emergency Preparedness

and Response Group. We helped develop the National Case Management Strategy, based on WHO and CDC protocols. We are helping the Ministry of Health (MoH) develop its COVID-19 National Preparedness and Response Plan and its COVID-19 National Deployment and Vaccination Plan. International Medical Corps supports the MoH in managing three COVID-19 treatment facilities: Dr. John Garang Infectious Disease Unit (IDU) in Juba, the Malakal Teaching Hospital in Malakal and the Al Muktah primary healthcare clinic in Wau. We established a Level 1 intensive-care unit (ICU) at the Dr. John Garang IDU, the first ever ICU in the country accessible to the general public. Since April 2020, we have screened 971,631 people (463,740 men and 507,891 women) at health facilities and triage points in two former UN protection-of-civilian (PoC) sites, and in one current PoC, and have identified 1,263 suspected cases. We have provided facility-based medical, nutritional and psychosocial support to 248 admitted patients and 116 patients in home-based care. We have trained 1,346 healthcare workers on case management, standard IPC precautions, safe patient transportation, psychological first aid (PFA), pharmaceutical care, rational dispensing practice, medical and PPE logistics, and COVID-19 vaccine preparedness. In addition, we have provided 1,277 staff members with supportive supervision and mentoring, and have reached 404,895 people (32,369 men and 372,526 women) with risk communication messages. Our team has also provided one-on-one psychosocial support to 1,611 people (782 men and 829 women), including healthcare workers and other vulnerable individuals, and reached 66,566 people (27, 890 men and 38,676 women) with COVID-19 messages, including coping strategies. Our team has conducted vaccination hesitancy assessments in Juba, Wau and Malakal, and we are coordinating vaccine-deployment preparedness efforts with the MoH and other stakeholders.

| International Medical Corps' Impact at a Glance | | | | |
|---|---|------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities | 1,493 Primary Health Facilities | 179 Hospitals | 37 COVID-19 Treatment Centers | 51 Mobile Medical Clinics |
| Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness-Raising Activities |  5.0M Traditional | |  2.5M Remote | |
| P.P.E. and I.P.C. Items Distributed |  25.8M P.P.E. | |  1M IPC | |