



FAST FACTS

Our Footprint

- International Medical Corps has key staff in Bhopal (in the state of Madhya Pradesh) and in Gurgaon (just southwest of the capital of New Delhi).
- International Medical Corps is working with three local partners to support healthcare facilities in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Odisha, Rajasthan and other hotspots across the country.

Our Response

- In collaboration with our partners, International Medical Corps delivered oxygen cylinders, oxygen plants and cryogenic containers to facilities in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.
- International Medical Corps is focusing on medical staff coverage, oxygen supplies, medicine and medical equipment needs to combat surges of COVID-19.
- Needs include medical oxygen, personal protective equipment, medicine, testing kits, hospital beds and ventilators.

India's second wave of COVID-19 infections has overwhelmed its fragile healthcare system, leaving hospitals struggling to cope and critical drugs and oxygen supplies in short supply. Though new case totals have dipped from their peak of more than 400,000 per day in early May, the scale of the crisis remains staggering. The country has so far reported more than 28.3 million confirmed cases, with more than 335,000 deaths attributed to the virus—totals that experts state are far lower than actual totals. India is not alone in this—even in countries with robust disease surveillance and reporting systems, the number of actual infections is probably much higher than the number of confirmed cases reported, because many people have contracted and/or died from the virus but have not reported it or been tested for it. On May 21, the World Health Organization estimated that the actual global death toll from COVID-19 may be two or three times higher than official reports.

Because hospitals in India are overwhelmed, many COVID-19 deaths are occurring at home, especially in rural areas—meaning they may be omitted from the official count. In addition, there are few COVID-19 tests available and families are often unwilling to say that their loved ones died from the virus.

On Monday, May 24, the number of new confirmed daily cases fell below 200,000 for the first time since April 14. However, many states are still in a precarious position. Though the wave appears to have crested in states such as Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Maharashtra, cases are continuing to rise in Tamil Nadu and throughout the northeast, and the

situation in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal remains uncertain.¹ In addition, limited rural surveillance complicates the picture. It is possible that total transmission nationwide has not yet peaked, but is not visible in official reports because infections are spreading largely in rural areas now.

Further complicating the situation, the country has been hit by two tropical cyclones in the past month. Tropical Cyclone Tauktae made landfall in northwestern India on May 17. Tauktae, the strongest cyclone to ever make landfall on the country's western coast, brought heavy rainfall and flash flooding to the area and resulted in 169 deaths. The storm displaced more than 200,000 people in Gujarat. A few days later, on May 26, Tropical Cyclone Yaas made landfall in Odisha, on the east coast of India. The storm caused widespread damage along the coast, including the devastation of more than 4,500 villages in West Bengal. The mass displacement strengthens concerns about increased transmission of the virus in the wake of the storm. In an attempt to allow adequate social distancing, the state has established additional temporary evacuation centers.

Though India remains the current epicenter of the global coronavirus pandemic, neighboring countries also are continuing to record increases in infections over the last few weeks—for example, a surge in COVID-19 cases is overloading Nepal's fragile healthcare system. The landlocked country, with a population of roughly 29 million, has recorded more than 567,000 cases as of June 2. Seventy-five of the nation's 77 districts have imposed lockdowns as the number of infections and deaths have continued to rise. There is a lack of isolation centers, and a shortage of healthcare staff and essential commodities, including oxygen, pulse oximeters and testing equipment.

International Medical Corps Response

In India, International Medical Corps is continuing to work with local partners across the country to provide critical medications, equipment and supplies—including oxygen generators, oxygen-delivery and storage supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE) and more—to hospitals and COVID-19 treatment facilities responding to the urgent crisis.

With support from Walmart.org, International Medical Corps is partnering with local organization Doctors For You, setting up a 150 liter-per-minute (LPM) oxygen plant in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, and a 280 LPM oxygen plant, as well as 250 oxygen cylinders, in Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, Bihar. The site was converted into a 110-bed COVID-19 hospital in an effort to increase treatment for COVID-19 in the region, which is home to more than 2 million people. Walmart.org's assistance also has enabled the delivery of cryogenic cylinders to hospitals in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, and oxygen cylinders to Bangalore Charaka Hospital COVID Center in Karnataka, with additional deployments underway to address other critical needs for oxygen across the country.



Staff deliver cryogenic containers to Thirumangalam Government Hospital in Tamil Nadu to support COVID-19 patients.

International Medical Corps also is supporting the costs of providing additional doctors and nurses; is providing medications; and is addressing additional equipment and supply needs, including ventilators, pulse oximeters, stretchers and patient care beds. This support will prove particularly critical as infections continue to rise outside of urban centers.

Cases of mucormycosis, also known as black fungus, also are rising as a result of complications among some COVID-19 patients. International Medical Corps is preparing to provide amphotericin-B to combat this, as well as other needed medications for COVID and other medical care, such as methylprednisolone, enoxaparin and dexamethasone.

International Medical Corps also is working with local partner Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) and local organization VisionSpring to procure and deliver more than 300 additional oxygen concentrators, as well as oxygen cylinders and PPE, including 8,000 N95 masks to safeguard healthcare workers responding to the crisis. Our support will focus on the hospitals and community health centers in Rajasthan while remaining flexible to address other urban and rural hotspot locations, such as Assam, New Delhi, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and more, based on the most urgent needs. And while it continues to increase its efforts to address medical needs, International Medical Corps is prepared to address vaccination needs to prevent future surges.

As neighboring countries begin to grapple with increased transmission, International Medical Corps is coordinating with local partners in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan to assess and address urgent gaps in the COVID-19 response. Where possible, our team will continue to support the critical needs of healthcare facilities responding to the pandemic.

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-57225922>