



A nurse at Ponce Health Sciences University, in Ponce, Puerto Rico, vaccinates a person during a drive-in clinic.

The world has documented more than 192 million cases and more than 4.1 million deaths due to COVID-19. Globally, more than 3.7 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. However, inequity in vaccine availability continues to be a considerable concern, with only 1.1% of people in low-income countries having received at least one dose, compared to 26.5% of people globally having received at least one dose. This inequity in vaccine availability is exacerbated by vaccine hesitancy and the lack of capacity of governments in some countries to roll out the vaccine. Since the beginning of the vaccine rollout, some 450,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa have expired.¹ These expired doses come in the context of a surge on the continent that already has surpassed other surges in the number of cases and has tied the surge in January for daily deaths.² In the second week of July alone, Africa's number of weekly COVID-19 deaths rose by 43% over the previous week.³

Many other countries around the world also have seen an upswing in cases. Since June 21, the caseloads in the UK, USA and globally have risen by 366%, 181% and 44%, respectively. Also since June 21, the latest epicenter for the coronavirus—Indonesia—has seen an increase of 36% in its total deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. Much of the rise in cases is attributed to the more transmissible Delta variant, which is set to become the dominant variant in the world over the coming months.⁴ In response to this threat, Pfizer has created a new version of its vaccine to directly target the Delta variant, and will begin clinical trials in August.⁵

On the vaccine front, there have been many developments. The global vaccine alliance, GAVI, has said it hopes that India will begin to allow exports of vaccines this quarter, which would be instrumental in providing vaccines to lower- and

FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of July 22, there have been 192,174,864 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 6.5 million people for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 27.9 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 27,600 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

¹ <https://www.devex.com/news/african-nations-have-destroyed-450-000-expired-covid-19-vaccine-doses-100389>

² <https://graphics.reuters.com/world-coronavirus-tracker-and-maps/regions/africa/>

³ <https://www.afro.who.int/news/covid-19-deaths-africa-surge-more-40-over-previous-week>

⁴ <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/weekly-epidemiological-update-on-covid-19---20-july-2021>

⁵ https://cdn.pfizer.com/pfizercom/2021-07/Delta_Variant_Study_Press_Statement_Final_7.8.21.pdf?IPpR1xZjIwvaUMQ9sRn2FkePcBiRPGqw

middle-income countries.⁶ Recently, China made its first donation to COVAX in the form of 550 million Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines.⁷ Though this donation is sure to be a great contributor to COVAX's goal of providing 2 billion doses by the end of the year, there continue to be concerns about the efficacy of both vaccines. Thailand previously had provided two doses of Sinovac to more than 600,000 medical workers but will now begin to provide Sinovac on the first shot and AstraZeneca on the second, in the hopes of higher efficacy. Thailand and neighboring Indonesia also plan to provide mRNA boosters to those who previously had received the two-dose regimen of Sinovac.⁸ Malaysia also plans to use up its available stock of Sinovac before pivoting to a campaign that will focus on the Pfizer vaccine.






Meanwhile, questions around the need for Pfizer booster shots have arisen in the US and Israel. Israel has begun to allow adults with weak immune systems to receive a third shot, while the United States has opted to wait for more data to become available.^{9,10} The decision on whether or not to provide booster shots will have an enormous impact on what already has been an inequitable global distribution of vaccines, with the possibility of even more vaccines being used in upper-income countries.

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 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 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 so far have deployed more than 130 clinical volunteers, nearly 60 of whom have supported vaccination efforts since March. We recently began providing additional staffing support to Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital (MLKCH), in Los Angeles, and to City Hospital at 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	

⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/global-vaccine-alliance-gavi-hopes-india-will-resume-exports-july-quarter-2021-07-07/>

⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/world/gavi-signs-covid-19-vaccine-supply-deals-with-sinovac-sinopharm-covax-2021-07-12/>

⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/thailand-starts-tighter-coronavirus-lockdown-around-capital-2021-07-12/>

⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-offers-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-boosters-shots-adults-risk-2021-07-11/>

¹⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/13/coronavirus-vaccine-boosters-pfizer-fauci>

In addition to providing support for immediate needs related to treating COVID-19 patients, International Medical Corps has partnered with sites in Los Angeles to provide support for vaccination efforts. At Kedren Community Health Clinic in South Central Los Angeles, we deployed volunteers to support the rollout of the vaccine in one of the hardest-hit and underserved areas of California. From March 1 to July 2, our volunteer vaccinators administered more than 166,300 vaccines alongside Kedren's team. At MLKCH, International Medical Corps 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 administered more than 29,700 vaccine doses by the end of May.

In Puerto Rico, International Medical Corps has supported the Ponce Health Sciences University mass vaccination clinic with 10 surge positions, which—along with other support—has provided the capacity to vaccinate more than 5,500 people. International Medical Corps has also procured four pharmacy refrigerators that will be delivered to four separate health facilities in Puerto Rico for vaccine storage. Additionally, International Medical Corps has trained 125 health personnel and nine community leaders on how to counter vaccine misinformation, share information about vaccine efficacy and share personal experiences of being vaccinated. Lastly, International Medical Corps reached 24,000 people through social media messaging that promoted COVID-19 vaccination.

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







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

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 **Lebanon**, in the wake of the August 2020 [Beirut explosion](#), International Medical Corps 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 also has 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, 84 facilities that we support have screened 688,331 people for COVID-19 symptoms. In total, we have distributed more than 4.7 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 109,893 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 also is providing home-based medical assistance to people with certain conditions—including terminal illnesses and COVID-19—who are shielding at home due to the pandemic. In addition, we are developing activities and guidance for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) during the pandemic. And 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. We have reached 4,778 community members through vaccine-awareness campaigns and have conducted a nationwide vaccine hesitancy survey covering 3,928 people and 99 primary health centers.

- In the **Philippines**, International Medical Corps began COVID-related work in early March 2020, when our team first supported the Manila Health Department's efforts to protect the central city area's 1.8 million people from the virus. Our team has since provided a training-of-trainers course for health facility management staff on emerging infectious diseases, and installed triage tents where clinicians can screen all who enter and exit Manila's Santa Ana Hospital, the city's designated infectious disease center. To help protect healthcare workers, we have provided full sets of PPE and 5,770,339 PPE items to the Manila Health Department, Paliparan Health Center III in Dasmaringas (Cavite), San Lazaro Hospital (Manila) and Southern Philippines Medical Center (Davao). We also have provided transportation support to Santa Ana Hospital, Manila Health Department and East Avenue Medical Center for their health staff. We provided 6,050 households in Manila, Quezon City, Cavite, Rizal and Albay, and three municipalities in Eastern Visayas, with washable masks, isopropyl alcohol and laundry soap, as well as information on how to prevent COVID-19, and reached 35,165 people with COVID-19 awareness-raising activities through traditional and remote messaging. We distributed 500 hygiene kits with COVID-19 information and washable face masks to those affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano in Taal, Batangas, about 50 miles south of Manila. We have trained 265 health workers and community members from Cavite, Manila, Rizal and Albay in IPC. Our team also provided expanded hygiene kits (which include washable facemasks, alcohol and educational materials on COVID-19, in addition to standard hygiene items) to 1,535 households affected by Super Typhoon Goni and Typhoon Vamco in Rizal and Albay provinces. We also installed handwashing facilities in 17 health facilities in Manila and Dasmaringas (Cavite), and provided 22 alcohol dispensers, along with temperature scanners, in 30 health facilities in Manila, Dasmaringas, Rizal and Albay provinces, where we also distributed 2,095 liters of isopropyl alcohol, and 1,260 kilograms of WASH and environmental health consumables. We provided four tents to Pagamutan ng Dasmaringas (Cavite), and one ambulance stretcher, six tables and two drinking-water dispensers to Santa Ana Hospital in Manila. We distributed alcohol dispensers with temperature scanners to three villages in Manila and 200 COVID-19 kits to vendors, delivery drivers and public utility drivers. We provided logistics support (extension cables, isopropyl alcohol and a drinking-water dispenser) and data encoders to the city of Manila's vaccination teams, and we are conducting a vaccine hesitancy survey there.
- 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 also 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 1,124,235 people at health facilities and triage points in two former UN protection-of-civilian (PoC) sites, and in one current PoC, and have identified 1,418 suspected cases. We have provided facility-based medical, nutritional and psychosocial support to 239 admitted patients and 148 patients in home-based care. We have trained 1,703 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 1,657 healthcare staff with supportive supervision and mentoring and have reached 463,445 people with risk communication messages. Our team also has provided one-on-one psychosocial support to 1,690 people, including healthcare workers and other vulnerable individuals, and reached 73,046 people with COVID-19 messages, including coping strategies. We are supporting the MoH COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan—for example, our team is conducting COVID-19 vaccinations at Malakal Teaching Hospital and Malakal PoC, where we have vaccinated 355 people.

International Medical Corps' Impact at a Glance

Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities	1,113 Primary Health Facilities	183 Hospitals	39 COVID-19 Treatment Centers	53 Mobile Medical Clinics
Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness-Raising Activities	 5.1M Traditional	 2.6M Remote		
PPE and IPC Items Distributed	 26.9M PPE.	 1M IPC		