



An International Medical Corps staff member in South Sudan gets vaccinated.

Nearly two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has endured more than one-quarter of a billion confirmed cases and more than 5 million confirmed deaths. Nevertheless, the ongoing vaccination effort continues to push forward across the globe, with India recently surpassing 1 billion doses administered and more than 4 billion people across the world having received at least one dose—equalling more than 52% of the world's population.¹ Still, inequity remains a massive problem, as many developing nations—concentrated mainly in Africa—still haven't received enough doses to cover more than a small percentage of their citizens.² In an attempt to provide vaccine doses to some of the most vulnerable people on the planet, the US State Department recently stated that they would provide Johnson & Johnson doses to those in conflict zones.³

In the United States, where total cases and deaths have been the highest globally, the total death toll from COVID-19 recently passed 750,000. With winter arriving, it is uncertain what the future holds for the country. Though cases have historically risen in the winter, there also is hope that increased vaccine coverage and improved treatments will help to mitigate the next phase of the pandemic. The CDC recently made COVID-19 vaccines available to more than 28 million Americans when it approved the use of the Pfizer vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old.⁴ The CDC also approved booster shots for high-risk individuals who received the Moderna vaccine, and for those 18 years or older who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than two months ago.⁵ In other positive news, Pfizer recently stated that its new pill-based treatment is 89% effective at preventing severe illness or death when started within three days of the onset of symptoms.⁶ These new treatments and continued vaccinations are essential, as the country is still averaging more than 1,000 deaths per day,

FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of November 11, there have been 251,624,371 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported worldwide.
- 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 7.9 million people for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 30.6 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 28,500 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/20/world/asia/india-vaccination-covid.html>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccinations-tracker.html>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/10/us/politics/blinden-johnson-johnson-vaccine-covax.html>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p1021-covid-booster.html>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/05/world/covid-delta-variant-vaccine>






even as the most recent surge in cases has decreased by more than 50%. In the context of these declining cases, the US recently reopened its borders to vaccinated travelers after more than 18 months of restrictions, which has allowed for the reunification of loved ones.⁷

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to provide essential medical assistance and training in the more than 30 countries where we operate. Highlights from our global response include the following.

United States Response

In the US, International Medical Corps has responded to COVID-19 by partnering with hospitals, clinics and nursing homes in Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and Texas. 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. In addition, we so far have deployed more than 140 clinical volunteers, more than 60 of whom have supported more than 200,000 vaccinations in efforts in Los Angeles, Puerto Rico and Texas.

United States Response				
 Locations	States/Territories: 10	Hospitals: 43	Health Clinics: 21	Nursing homes: 56
 Volunteers	MDs: 27	Nurses: 90	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

Global Response

International Medical Corps is focused on ensuring continuity of operations in existing programming in the more than 30 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 raising 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 **Somalia**, International Medical Corps is coordinating its response to COVID-19 through the Ministry of Health (MoH) at both the federal and regional government levels, and is a member of Somalia's Inter-Agency Risk

⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/08/travel/us-travel-ban-vaccination.html>

Communication and Community Engagement Taskforce. International Medical Corps supports 26 health facilities in four of Somalia's 18 regions and continues to screen people for signs of the virus. Since we began our COVID-19 response in March 2020, we have screened 442,895 people for COVID-19, reached 727,995 people through COVID-19 awareness-raising activities and distributed 300,762 PPE







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

and IPC items to frontline health workers. International Medical Corps supports the COVID-19 isolation center at Galkacyo South Hospital to help raise awareness and correct misinformation about the pandemic. We have also been operating toll-free phone lines at our field sites, enabling community residents to receive accurate messages and information about COVID-19. With the drastic rise in infections and deaths due to a new wave of COVID-19, we trained 20 response staff members on the proper use of PPE and IPC. In October 2021, we screened 15,714 people for COVID-19, identified 745 suspected cases and referred those patients to the MoH isolation center for testing. Of those, 70 were positive and eight patients were admitted to Galkacyo South Hospital isolation unit due to severe symptoms, while most of the patients isolated in their homes, because their signs and symptoms were mild. In addition, International Medical Corps is supporting COVID-19 vaccine rollout activities in Galkacyo South, which began the last week of September. To promote the government's vaccine rollout campaign, we have recruited three mobile teams with dedicated supervisors, and recruited and trained 121 community health workers. With support from the Ministry of Health (MoH), we conducted two radio call-in sessions on COVID-19 myths, misinformation and rumors, with 65 callers each session. Together with MoH staff, our team conducted a community sensitization event on COVID-19 vaccines with key community representatives in the remote Mudug region. As a result, 105 community representatives were vaccinated.

- 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 helped the MoH develop its COVID-19 National Preparedness and Response Plan, and its COVID-19 National Vaccination Deployment Plan. International Medical Corps supports the MoH in managing the main COVID-19 treatment facility at Dr. John Garang Infectious Disease Unit (IDU) in Juba. 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 1,180,741 people at health facilities and triage points in two former UN protection-of-civilian (PoC) sites, and in one current PoC, and have identified 1,511 suspected cases. We have provided facility-based medical, nutritional and psychosocial support to 256 admitted patients and 148 patients in home-based care. We have trained 1,778 healthcare workers on critical care, 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 3,010 healthcare staff with supportive supervision and mentoring, and have reached 486,842 people with risk communication messages. Our team has also provided one-on-one psychosocial support to 1,741 people, including healthcare workers and other vulnerable individuals, and reached 75,544 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 1,871 people. We also are supporting the national effort to improve testing capacity by rolling out COVID-19 rapid testing in the IDU, Malakal PoC, and Juba and Wau IDP camps.
- In **Venezuela**, more than 100,000 people have been forced to return to their home country in recent months due to the pandemic, with some walking for thousands of miles after facing job losses and business closures while working abroad because of national lockdowns. Hospitals continue to be understaffed, and the nurses who risk their lives to show up for work take home barely enough money to buy the day's groceries. International Medical Corps is one of only a few international non-governmental organizations to receive import licensing to support healthcare facilities in Venezuela. Our team has provided COVID-19 training for 1,029 frontline staff in 36 health facilities. Since late February 2020, we have screened 13,143 patients for COVID-19, have donated 402,977 items of PPE and have reached more than 2.5 million people indirectly to date. Our mental health team in the country has provided consultations to more than 3,170 vulnerable people and their families, including those affected by COVID-19. In addition, we have successfully transported and delivered more than 1.7 million doses

of vaccines by providing cold-chain support, reaching 118,164 direct beneficiaries in nine states. The team continues to actively coordinate with UN agencies, INGOs, key health officials and mayors of municipalities, as well as directors of health facilities in Miranda and Bolivar states.

International Medical Corps' Impact at a Glance				
Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities	1,280 Primary Health Facilities	201 Hospitals	38 COVID-19 Treatment Centers	87 Mobile Medical Clinics
Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness-Raising Activities	 6.3M Traditional		 2.7M Remote	
PPE and IPC Items Distributed	 29.2M PPE		 1.4M IPC	