

# Emergency Response & Preparedness

FIRST THERE, NO MATTER WHERE



**Families and communities remain central to the well-being of all who are part of them—from the very young to the very old.**

The strength and health of these fundamental social building blocks lie at the core of achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for ending poverty and advancing social development and better

health for all by 2030. Family and community health programs are crucial to meeting public health needs, especially for those living in fragile environments.

In a world where an estimated 400 million people lack access to even the most basic health-related services, International Medical Corps provides this care for those in remote, underserved areas as well as for residents of urban communities hit by conflict, disease or natural disaster.

**Because disaster can strike anywhere, anytime, the ability to respond even in the most remote areas of the world is essential for effective emergency response. And with the acute phase of disaster response—the brief window when most lives can be saved—measured in just hours, deployment speed is critical. Experience has taught us that preparedness is a key ingredient to achieve this speed.**

With a large roster of volunteer healthcare specialists on call and a well-trained experienced, global staff that today measures more than 7,300, International Medical Corps has deployed to emergencies in more than 80 countries on six continents since we first began our work in 1984. The World Health Organization has acknowledged our experience and proven capacity to respond by classifying us as an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1 provider—making us the first international NGO to earn both the fixed and mobile Type 1 classifications.

In addition to the knowledge gained in nearly four decades of experience, our emergency response capacity is strengthened by important preparedness measures, including pre-positioning medical equipment and other supplies internationally in regions where we work, and developing disaster vulnerability profiles with emergency response strategies for each country where we work.



## **Nearly 40 years in 80+ countries**

Our experiences in emergency response and preparedness



## **The first 72 hours**

The acute phase of disaster response



## **24 hours a day, seven days a week**

The time our early-warning and alert system operates to detect and recognize emergencies



## **We are the only international humanitarian aid organization classified by the WHO as an Emergency Medical Team Type 1, Fixed and Mobile.**

By classifying us as an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1 provider, the World Health Organization has said we are capable of deploying quickly and providing both fixed and mobile medical services in response to a disaster anywhere in the world. With this classification, we join an elite group of first responders. We are the only NGO in the world to offer both Fixed and Mobile EMT Type 1 capabilities (only the governments of New Zealand and Norway also offer both capabilities). We also are the first NGO in the US to offer EMT Type 1 Fixed capability, and the second NGO in the US to offer Mobile EMT Type 1 capability.

Visit [InternationalMedicalCorps.org/EMT](https://www.internationalmedicalcorps.org/EMT) to find out more.





A massive explosion that ripped through much of the Lebanese capital of Beirut in August 2020, causing major loss of life, thousands of injuries and widespread displacement, has added to the humanitarian needs of a country that had already declared more than half its population of 6 million as in need of such assistance.



In the vast Sahel region of Africa, where the effects of climate change, poverty and armed conflict are intensifying, a UN report released in late 2021 stated almost 29 million people need humanitarian assistance to survive, while more than 5 million others have been displaced as the crisis deepens at a disturbing rate. Food insecurity affected 14 million individuals in 2021, a sharp rise from previous years.



In Northeast Nigeria's Borno State, nearly a quarter of a million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

## Current Emergencies

International Medical Corps staff works on the frontlines of the world's most urgent crises every day, providing treatment, comfort and hope to millions of people caught up in the world's most dangerous, challenging humanitarian emergencies. In the Middle East, for example, our teams in Syria and Yemen have braved years of armed violence, yet they continue to deliver vital assistance to innocent people engulfed by civil wars in what are recognized as two of the world's worst humanitarian catastrophes. In Africa, we confront hunger, disease and famine in the Sahel region, a broad strip of semi-arid land that touches a dozen countries as it stretches across the continent from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, separating the vast deserts of the Saharan north from the grasslands, rivers and forests in the

south. Chronic poverty, armed conflict and the alarming impact of climate change all make the Sahel a major humanitarian challenge—both for today and for the future.

We also remain heavily engaged on five continents responding to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the largest emergency we've ever faced. We are active in 28 countries and territories, including the United States, working with health organizations and agencies at all levels of government to provide expertise, equipment and training skills, plus vaccination services, in the struggle to contain the coronavirus.

**For the most up to date information on our emergency deployments, visit our website at <https://InternationalMedicalCorps.org/emergencies>.**



## Past Emergencies

Since 1984, when disaster strikes—no matter how distant or how dangerous the conditions—we have responded to help those in urgent need. In 2014, when an outbreak of Ebola in West Africa was declared a potential threat to global public health, we were one of the very few international humanitarian relief groups to deploy immediately to confront that threat at its source—in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Our teams have saved millions of lives over a span of almost 40 years by delivering emergency healthcare and other vital relief. And from the start of every emergency deployment, we have offered training to those affected directly by disaster, passing along to them the tools, skills and knowledge they needed to become their own best first responders.

**A more complete list of our past emergency deployments can be found on our website at <https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/emergencies>.**



We have provided more than \$3.6 billion in lifesaving healthcare that has saved millions of lives



We've operated on six continents in more than 80 countries, at times facing some of the toughest conditions imaginable to deliver aid to those in great need.



## Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is a key element of our response strategy. We maintain an early-warning and alert system that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to recognize emergencies in their early stages. The system relies on mapped emergency landscapes across our mission area and offers strategies to ensure early and effective response to an acute crisis. Our team in each country where we work maintains its own response plan, shaped to the country's disaster vulnerabilities and the capacity of our staff to respond effectively.

We believe that training local residents in disaster-prone areas to better withstand adversity is an essential part of every emergency response we undertake. The goal of that training—to anchor essential skills and knowledge in vulnerable communities so they can respond quickly and efficiently to the next disaster on their own—lies at the heart of our mission as an emergency humanitarian response organization. Our goal, always, is to help these communities move from emergency relief to self-reliance.



Thanks to logistics expertise, careful planning and valued partnerships, we can deliver tons of critical supplies quickly to relief workers around the world in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters.



Tens of thousands of people globally have used our online course materials to learn how to better coordinate emergency assistance for fast delivery to those in urgent need.



We have provided more than 50 in-person workshops on four continents to build the capacity of local national and other international NGOs.



[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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