Afghanistan is descending into a humanitarian crisis. Against the backdrop of an already dire situation, following 40 years of war, economic decline, inflation and rising poverty, in 2021 Afghanistan faced intensified conflict, its worst drought in 27 years, the withdrawal of international forces and, in August, the takeover of the country by the Taliban. 24.4 million people—55% of the population—will require humanitarian assistance in 2022, which is a staggering 30% increase from last year.

International Medical Corps Response

In light of the situation in Afghanistan, International Medical Corps has been responding to increasing healthcare, psychosocial support and hygiene needs. To date, we have deployed five mobile health teams in Kabul to support internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in camps, reaching 70,173 people so far. This includes 28,479 people attending the mobile clinic for primary healthcare consultations; 2,965 women receiving antenatal care; 11,748 people accessing basic psychosocial support services, 3,703 people attending the clinic for family planning services; 4,890 receiving hygiene awareness; and 17,703 receiving health education. In addition, we provided 685 families with hygiene and dignity kits. We also have deployed three mobile teams in Nuristan province, to cover a population of 92,362 people.

Alongside this, we have provided lifesaving medicines and medical supplies to three hospitals and two comprehensive health centers. This includes Nangarhar regional hospital, one of the central hospitals in the eastern regions, which provides service to Nangahar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan provinces. It is important to keep this hospital functioning, as it is a main hub for health-related services. Overall, through these efforts...

FAST FACTS

- Since August, International Medical Corps has launched five mobile health teams in Kabul that have reached 70,173 people. Services include primary healthcare consultations, hygiene promotion, basic psychosocial support, nutrition screening, family planning and health education.
- International Medical Corps has supported three hospitals and two comprehensive health centers with lifesaving medicines, helping them to avoid shortages of medicines in the eastern region of Afghanistan.
- Alongside this, we have continued our health, WASH and protection programs, reaching 218,582 people since August.
International Medical Corps has supported 115,252 patients through emergency lifesaving trauma, outpatient, inpatient and obstetrical services.

Alongside this, International Medical Corps has been continuing to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations by providing health, protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, reaching 218,582 people in 15 provinces between August 1 and December 31, 2021. International Medical Corps makes sure to coordinate with clusters and various humanitarian partners to ensure a coherent and harmonized humanitarian response.

WASH

As an active partner in the WASH sector, International Medical Corps delivers WASH-related activities in the east, north and south regions of Afghanistan. This includes hygiene promotion sessions and ensuring that safe, clean drinking water is easily accessible to those in need. From August 1 to December 31, 2021, we reached 11,796 people with WASH services.

In addition, International Medical Corps has since August distributed 4,000 hygiene kits to vulnerable people in eastern Afghanistan, and constructed two water-pipe systems in Nangarhar province, providing 6,100 people with clean water.

Health

From August 1 to December 31, International Medical Corps has been providing outpatient consultations, postnatal and antenatal care, nutrition screening, and major and minor surgeries through trauma posts, health facilities and mobile health teams. Overall, we have provided 147,662 patients with the support they needed.

Protection

International Medical Corps has continued its community-based health education to provide awareness-raising sessions to 117,566 people on such topics as COVID-19 prevention measures, menstrual health and hygiene, antenatal care, pregnancy care, safe delivery, postnatal care, family planning, vaccinations, breastfeeding, early detection of breast cancer, diarrhea and transmission of diseases (including tuberculosis and malaria).

Through regular meetings with governmental and non-governmental organizations, our community-based health education program strives to ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders and to establish functional referral systems, so community members can access timely support and quality services. Since August, International Medical Corps has continued to provide one-on-one and group psychosocial support to IDPs, host communities and returnees, reaching 59,124 people through these services.