

SITUATION UPDATE



Staff members conduct community dialogue session on protection in Dedadee district, Balkh province.

FAST FACTS

- In February, International Medical Corps mobilized a health team to respond to the mortar shelling in eastern Nuristan province. The team reached 189 people in two days.
- International Medical Corps reached 176,206 people with WASH, health and protection services in February 2022.
- In the last month, we distributed 883 water kits in Kunar province and are working to build 11 latrines in Torkham, Nangarhar province.

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is worsening, with more than 50 percent of the population expected to need humanitarian assistance in 2022. Afghans are facing persistent inflation and rising food costs, alongside decreasing salaries and labor demand. The healthcare system is struggling, as it continues to face the impact of COVID-19.¹ 22.8 million people—half of the country's population—are projected to be acutely food-insecure, and 4.7 million children and pregnant and lactating women are at risk of acute malnutrition.²

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to provide humanitarian assistance to people in north, east and south Afghanistan. To respond to the increasing humanitarian need, International Medical Corps has been running mobile health teams since August 2021. In February, the mobile health teams reached 24,447 people through outpatient consultations, 1,188 women with antenatal and postnatal care, and 22,610 people with basic psychosocial support. 637 people attended the clinics for family planning service, and 224 children have been fully immunized. In addition, our teams raised awareness about hygiene to 26,694 people, and provided 22,426 with health education.

When cross-border mortar shelling began in Kamdish district, Nuristan province, along the Pakistan border in mid-February, 158 families were displaced to adjacent villages, including Gawardish Markazi Ochat, Braza Ponza and Ochenza. Following the recent shelling, International Medical Corps deployed one of its mobile health teams to Kadish district. The team arrived in the region before other humanitarian organizations and stayed in the field for two days, providing primary healthcare, psychosocial support, health and hygiene education, and psychological first aid (PFA) and counseling services. The mobile health team served 189 patients, 74 of whom were children under 5. Of those treated, 137 people received mental health treatment and PFA, and 122 received hygiene instruction. The mobile team also shared COVID-19 preventive measures with patients.

In February 2022, International Medical Corps also provided three hospitals and two comprehensive health centers with lifesaving medicines and medical supplies that supported 868 major and minor surgeries.

Health

During February 2022, International Medical Corps continued to respond to health needs across Afghanistan by supporting the health system, strengthening community capacity and providing services in remote, hard-to-reach areas such as Nuristan, Kunar and Paktika. International Medical Corps supports seven mobile health teams, 11 first-aid trauma posts and 11 static health centers that provide vital healthcare services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition

¹ UNOCHA Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2022

² WFP Afghanistan Situation Report – 12 January 2022

screening, antenatal care and postnatal care for women, and health and hygiene awareness. In February 2022, International Medical Corps reached 20,333 people through healthcare services across Afghanistan.

In the same month, we provided essential messages on COVID-19 to 75,596 people, focusing on the benefits of the vaccine and debunking rumors. We also vaccinated 5,675 men and women in Kunar, eastern Afghanistan.

WASH

In February 2022, 26,694 people attended hygiene promotion sessions, which provided key messages on acute watery diarrhea, including prevention measures and water treatment at the household level. People also received hygiene supplies for handwashing, and appropriate education and communication materials with information on handwashing, personal and environmental hygiene, and sanitation and food hygiene. International Medical Corps is currently constructing 11 latrines in Torkham, Nangarhar province, which will be completed in March 2022. We have also provided 883 water kits in Kunar province and 15 hygiene kits in Kabul province.

Protection

In February, International Medical Corps continued to deliver community-based education sessions. The topics have included COVID-19 prevention measures, menstrual health, hygiene, antenatal care, pregnancy care, safe delivery, postnatal care, family planning, vaccinations, breastfeeding, early detection of breast cancer, diarrhea and disease transmission (including tuberculosis and malaria). Through these sessions, International Medical Corps reached 22,426 people in the past month.

International Medical Corps is collaborating closely with affected communities to understand their protection needs and identify the most appropriate and long-term solutions. International Medical Corps is providing one-on-one and group psychological assistance to internally displaced people, host communities and returnees, reaching 22,610 men and women in February.

In addition, we have provided printed materials—such as brochures and notebooks—on stress and mental health and psychosocial support associated with COVID-19, distributing them to frontline workers and to people with COVID-19 and their caregivers. This helps people use positive coping methods when confronted with stress and other types of mental health-related issues.



A member of one of our mobile health teams delivers healthcare services in Nuristan.



Construction of latrines in Torkham, Durand Line, bordering Pakistan.