

## SITUATION UPDATE



An International Medical Corps' hygiene promoter provides a hygiene session in eastern Afghanistan.

### FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps reached 101,769 people with WASH, health and protection services in May 2022.
- In May, we set up five additional mobile health teams in Balkh province that are providing services in numerous districts.
- In the last month, we have distributed 940 hygiene kits and 420 water kits in Faryab, Kunar, Nangarhar and Sari-Pul provinces.

Afghanistan is facing a growing humanitarian crisis, with the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance continuing to increase. The health cluster monthly bulletin outlined that health facilities face a shortage of medical supplies and equipment, and the overall need at health centers is high. Because rehabilitation of health facilities has been impacted by conflict, it is difficult for such facilities to provide safe spaces for patients and caregivers. In addition, there is a dire need for training among health workers.<sup>1</sup>

The combined impact of a series of acute droughts since 2018, the protracted political crisis and conflict that has affected the country for more than 40 years, and the economic collapse in the second half of 2021 have generated a hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions. According to the May 2022 IPC analysis, 19.7 million people in Afghanistan are currently acutely food insecure (IPC 3+), including 20,000 in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe), 6.6 million in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 13 million in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Moreover, 4.7 million children, pregnant and lactating women are at risk of acute malnutrition in 2022, with 1.1 million children being acutely malnourished. Immediate action is needed to prevent further deterioration.

## International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to provide humanitarian assistance to people in Afghanistan's north, eastern and southern provinces, and has been running mobile health teams to respond to increasing humanitarian needs since August 2021.

### Health

In May 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 Faryab, Kunar, Nuristan and Paktika provinces. International Medical Corps supports 19 mobile health teams, five first-aid trauma posts, five static health centers and one 50-bed COVID-19 hospital that provide vital healthcare services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition screening, antenatal and postnatal care for women, and health and hygiene awareness. In May 2022, International Medical Corps reached 35,334 people through healthcare services across Afghanistan.

Through the five static health centers, International Medical Corps in May reached 9,841 people through outpatient consultations, while 675 women visited the clinics for family planning, 50 deliveries took place, 801 women attended antenatal and postnatal care, and 412 children were fully immunized. In addition, 1,209 people received trauma care, and 12 minor surgeries were successfully managed.

<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan Health Cluster Bulletin

In May, the mobile health teams reached 16,975 people through outpatient consultations, while 1,213 women attended antenatal and postnatal care appointments and 12,617 people accessed basic psychosocial support. Over the past month, 1,745 women visited the mobile health teams for family planning services, and 198 children were fully immunized. In addition, we carried out hygiene awareness-raising sessions that reached 30,606 people, and provided 18,026 people with health education.

### **WASH**

In May, 35,008 people attended hygiene promotion sessions, which covered how to prevent acute watery diarrhea and how to provide water treatment at the household level. International Medical Corps also distributed handwashing supplies and educational materials about sanitation, food hygiene, handwashing, personal care and environmental hygiene. Additionally, we distributed 420 water kits and 940 hygiene kits in Balkh, Faryab, Kunar, Nangarhar and Sari-Pul provinces. In May, we also rehabilitated 106 boreholes in Faryab and Sari-Pul provinces.

### **Protection**

In May, we reached 10,922 men and women through one-on-one and group psychological assistance in Balkh, Faryab, Kabul, Nuristan and Sari-Pul provinces. In addition, International Medical Corps continued to deliver community-based health education sessions, reaching 18,026 people. We continue to provide communication materials on various topics, including COVID-19, psychosocial support, and stress and mental health.

We have also distributed materials that include 7,221 leaflets on mental health and hygiene, and 4,137 pens and 411 notebooks. The leaflets educate people on how to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene and good mental health, helping communities to prevent the spread of contagious diseases and learn how to cope with stress.

### **Nutrition and food security**

International Medical Corps is currently recruiting 28 mobile health and nutrition teams that will provide an integrated package of health and nutrition services. The focus of nutrition services will be on identifying and managing acute malnutrition, covering at-risk mothers, infants under 6 months and IYCF-E support in Balkh, Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar provinces.



*An International Medical Corps doctor provides health services in Nuristan province.*



*Female health workers participate in an International Medical Corps training session.*