

SITUATION UPDATE



An International Medical Corps doctor provides healthcare services in Nuristan province.

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps reached 130,851 people with WASH, health and protection services in June 2022.
- In June, we immediately responded to a deadly 5.9 magnitude earthquake, providing trauma-care services to 1,221 injured people and distributing 1,740 hygiene kits to people affected by the quake.
- In the last month, we have distributed 1,025 hygiene kits and 2,516 water kits in Balkh, Faryab, Nangarhar and Sari-Pul provinces.

Early in the morning of June 22, a 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan's Paktika and Khost provinces. The quake—which was recorded at a depth of about 6 miles—was felt as far away as Kabul, as well as in Pakistan and India. Gayan district in Paktika province, where International Medical Corps has been working since 2004, was the most affected. The quake left more than 1,000 people dead and many thousands injured and homeless. Damage to buildings and infrastructure was widespread, reaching levels of 70% of homes damaged or destroyed in some villages. Our teams have confirmed that many villages sustained significant damage, with most residents either killed or injured.

Priority needs included trauma care, emergency shelter, non-food items (NFIs), food assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support. Cholera outbreaks and an increase in COVID-19 cases following the widespread displacement and disruption in access to health and hygiene services continue to be of particular concern.

The earthquake compounds an already complex and increasingly severe humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, where all 34 provinces are struggling with persistent drought conditions, an ongoing economic crisis, conflict and COVID-19—leading to a widespread loss of livelihoods, skyrocketing prices for food and other essential commodities and increased hunger. An estimated 22.8 million Afghan people—more than half the country's population—are facing acute food insecurity. Children and pregnant and lactating women have been disproportionately impacted, with malnourishment all too common, but the health system has struggled to address the growing need.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps was the first to respond in Gayan district, within the first hours after the earthquake struck—mobilizing staff and ambulances and providing critical trauma care to impacted communities. Working hand-in-hand with local health authorities, we treated 1,221 patients via first-aid trauma posts and mobile health teams, and supported efforts to refer and transport seriously injured patients by ambulance and helicopter to nearby hospitals.

International Medical Corps also provided:

- lifesaving medicines and medical supplies to Urgon District Hospital;
- emergency shelter via tent distributions, as well as aiding in repairs of damaged homes through cash support;
- NFIs to affected communities—including blankets, sweaters, shawls, winter shoes, gloves and more;
- nutrition services that include infant and young-child feeding interventions, such as Mother-Baby friendly spaces and screening and responding to cases of malnutrition;
- MHPSS services, including counseling and psychological first aid; and

- WASH support, including hygiene promotion, water trucking, preparing for potential cholera outbreaks and distribution of 1,740 hygiene kits to earthquake-affected families.

Our first-aid trauma post and field teams are still in the area and providing healthcare services. International Medical Corps will maintain a high degree of flexibility and continue to work in collaboration with local health authorities and partners to address the most critical health needs as they arise.

Ongoing Activities

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.

In June, 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, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan and Paktika provinces. International Medical Corps supports 49 mobile health teams, five first-aid trauma posts, 17 static health centers and one 50-bed COVID-19 hospital, providing vital healthcare services, including outpatient consultations, nutrition screening, antenatal and postnatal care for women, and health and hygiene awareness.

Through the 17 static health centers, International Medical Corps provided 9,917 people with outpatient consultations. Clinics helped 483 women with family planning and supported 38 deliveries, and 771 women attended antenatal and postnatal care. In addition, the clinics provided 2,515 people with trauma care services.

In June, the mobile health teams reached 26,264 people through outpatient consultations, while 2,925 women attended antenatal and postnatal care appointments. Over the past month, 2,138 women have visited the mobile health teams for family planning services and the teams fully immunized 314 children. The teams also carried out health education sessions for 18,026 people in 15 provinces of Afghanistan.

WASH

In June, 56,627 people attended hygiene promotion sessions on how to treat water at the household level and prevent acute watery diarrhea. International Medical Corps also distributed handwashing supplies and educational materials about sanitation, food hygiene, handwashing, personal care and environmental hygiene. Additionally, we distributed 2,516 water kits and 1,025 hygiene kits in Balkh, Faryab, Nangarhar and Sari-Pul provinces.

Protection

In June, we reached 12,026 men and women through one-on-one and group MHPSS assistance in Balkh, Faryab, Kabul, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan and Sari-Pul provinces. In addition, International Medical Corps continued to deliver community-based health education sessions, reaching 18,127 people. We also provided communication materials on various topics, including COVID-19, psychosocial support, and stress and mental health.

We have distributed 10,508 leaflets on mental health and hygiene, 11,743 pens and 1,200 brochures that educate people on how to maintain good personal and environmental hygiene and good mental health, helping communities prevent the spread of contagious diseases and learn how to cope with stress.

Nutrition and Food Security

International Medical Corps' mobile health teams provide vital services in remote areas of Afghanistan. The mobile teams began a nutrition intervention in June 2022, providing training to field staff. Men and women received training that covered several topics, including malnutrition and its causes, screening and assessment of acute malnutrition, anthropometric measurements, admission criteria for the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) program, discharge criteria for the outpatient severe acute malnutrition (SAM) program and nutrition screening education for mothers.



International Medical Corps staff coordinate efforts with IOM staff at our trauma post in Paktika province.



Community members in Nangarhar province carry hygiene kits to their homes.