

Food Security and Livelihoods

International Medical Corps has run Food Security and Livelihoods programs since 2003. Our work has saved countless lives and helped restore sustainable futures for thousands of families as they emerge from humanitarian emergencies and begin their journey toward self-reliance.

Access to nutritious food and opportunities to earn a livelihood are cornerstones of a productive life. Our Food Security and Livelihoods programs provide people—especially women—and their communities with the tools and skills needed to meet these basic needs. Our programs provide direct and in-kind food assistance that helps prevent malnutrition during sudden onset emergencies and chronic crises. As communities begin recovery, we offer paths to marketable livelihoods, including training people in appropriate vocational skills and promoting micro-enterprises and local economic development through savings schemes. Such training helps people create income streams that enable communities not just to survive but to thrive.



OUR FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMS

FOOD ASSISTANCE

International Medical Corps provides emergency food assistance to save lives and help low-income families avoid selling their assets to purchase food to stay alive. In partnership with the World Food Programme, the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), Famine Relief Fund and others, we have provided food and blanket supplementary feeding programs to vulnerable families—especially those with children under 5—to prevent malnutrition.

CASH AND VOUCHER-BASED ASSISTANCE

To ensure the dignity and independence of those affected by crisis, we provide individuals and families with cash payments to purchase food and other life necessities. During times when local livelihoods have been disrupted or destroyed, cash and voucher assistance helps stabilize household income and spending to facilitate recovery. In Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ukraine and Yemen, we provide cash and voucher-based transfers to the vulnerable families of children with malnutrition and pregnant and lactating women, as well as to those experiencing high levels of food insecurity.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

As part of our holistic approach to gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, we offer training in technical skills to survivors and at-risk women and girls, enabling them to strengthen their support networks while building confidence in new productive skills. We also work with women to establish village savings and loans associations (VSLAs), set up micro-enterprises and develop vocational skills that empower them and facilitate their autonomy during crises. We support integrated economic development programs in Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and South Sudan.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

International Medical Corps supports agricultural development to increase dietary diversity and enrich the micronutrient content of meals with locally available foods. We provide vulnerable households with crop seeds, agricultural tools and technical training, in addition to supporting kitchen gardens to enable sustainable production and consumption for families. We also encourage safe and efficient household food-storage techniques to increase the shelf life of harvested food and to lower post-harvest losses.

LIVESTOCK INTERVENTIONS

In low-income countries, household food security and livelihoods are deeply connected, and depend upon livestock and agriculture. Livestock help families meet immediate dietary needs while serving as a household asset that can be sold or traded for other essential resources. We provide livestock to crisis-affected individuals—including sheep or goats with fodder, or poultry with starter feed—either in-kind or through vouchers.

VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In Cameroon, Ethiopia and Syria, we provide youth in refugee camps with vocational skills that are in short supply, then link them with employment opportunities. We also support them with start-up kits, grants and loans so they can operate small businesses in trades such as auto repair, hairdressing, soap-making, carpentry, mobile-phone repair and sewing .



COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

NIGERIA

In response to the humanitarian crisis in northeastern Nigeria, we have partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) since October 2016 to provide food assistance, including general food distribution, to approximately 200,000 people living in displacement camps and host communities. We also offer blanket supplementary feeding for children under 2 to prevent malnutrition, cash payments using mobile money and e-vouchers, poultry and goat distributions, kitchen gardening, high-value crop production and income-generating activities, including VSLAs to help internally displaced Nigerians and host communities rebuild their livelihoods.

YEMEN

With the support of BHA, we provide food assistance to vulnerable households via cash transfers, to reduce the risk of acute malnutrition and save lives. This assistance provided 5,040 people from 720 households with more than \$470,000 in 2022. From 2019 to 2022, with support from the Gates Foundation and BHA, we distributed 3,300 sheep and goats to more than 1,100 households whose farm animals were lost to war. In partnership with the Yemen Veterinary Service, we have undertaken large-scale veterinary vaccination, deworming and treatment campaigns to prevent livestock depletion, and we educate herders about improved animal production techniques.



ETHIOPIA

In drought-affected areas, we provide integrated nutrition and food security services to reduce mortality and morbidity associated with severe acute malnutrition. With the support of Famine Relief Fund, we work with 75 healthcare facilities to ensure the screening and treatment of acute malnutrition while providing multipurpose cash assistance and crop seeds to facilitate recovery and resilience among affected families—benefitting more than 3,000 people. In partnership with other international donors, we have also supported blanket supplementary feeding programs, vegetable and poultry production, fresh-food voucher and farming tool distributions, cash-based interventions, and entrepreneurship programs for young people who face intermittent forced migration to escape armed conflict and instability in the Gambella region.

UKRAINE

In response to a flash appeal from the United Nations to support more than 6 million Ukrainians with unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance, and with the support of PLAN Netherlands, we provided cash to vulnerable individuals in active conflict zones, as well as the liberated and transitional areas of Kyiv, Dnipro, Kharkiv and Odesa. As of October 2022, we have provided more than \$1.1 million to more than 5,400 Ukrainians, helping them—especially women, displaced persons and the elderly—meet their essential needs during the country's economic and political crisis.



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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