

# Health Services Support



**Efficient, well-organized and well-supported health services can be life-changing and life-saving for many of the more than 3 million children under 5 and more than 300,000 pregnant women die each year globally from preventable causes.**

International Medical Corps' approach to health systems strengthening ensures comprehensive models of health workforce capacity building at national, sub-national and health facility levels to support local stewardship.

International Medical Corps offers technical assistance to improve service delivery, clinical quality of care and community participation—all essential requirements for positive health

outcomes and sustainability. We also work to strengthen local emergency preparedness and response mechanisms for disease outbreaks and disaster to improve key stakeholders' capacity for planning, management and leadership response, and recovery programming—ensuring the continuum of essential health service delivery.

We work with local health authorities and vulnerable communities in fragile and conflict-affected settings to provide access to high-quality primary and secondary healthcare services. In 2022, we supported 1,675 health facilities across 27 countries, reaching 14 million people with health services, and conducting 7.7 million preventive and curative consultations for adults and children, including providing more than 400,000 children under 5 with measles and DPT or pentavalent vaccinations.



## HEALTH SYSTEMS

International Medical Corps responded to the 2014–2016 Ebola outbreaks in **Guinea**, **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**, and in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** in 2018. We constructed 95 screening and referral units, conducted more than 2 million Ebola screenings, and trained 1,700 healthcare workers (HCWs) on infection prevention and control—helping to build a resilient system capable of prevention, early detection and response to future outbreaks.



In **Cameroon**, the **DRC** and **Nigeria**, we are strengthening global polio eradication efforts by supporting community- and health facility-based acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance. We trained 4,600 CHWs, 220 disease surveillance officers, 3,100 community key informants and more 400 HCWs. This contributed to the detection of 2,400 suspected AFP and 91 confirmed circulating vaccine-derived polio virus cases. Our work also contributed to the independent Africa Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication's August 2020 declaration that the African continent was free of wild poliovirus.

We also implemented integrated community case management (iCCM) and integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) approaches in **Cameroon**, **Central African Republic**, **DRC**, **Mali**, **Somalia**, **South Sudan**, **Sudan** and **Yemen**, targeting the most common causes of death in children under 5: malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections (ARI). In Sudan in 2022 alone, nearly 291,000 children under 5 were screened, and around 146,000 were treated for ARI, 87,000 for diarrhea and 58,000 for malaria.

### Yemen

In 2022, we trained more than 1,200 HCWs on integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses, iCCM, basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care, clinical management of rape (CMR), public health emergency management, the Expanded Program on Immunizations, family planning, and infection prevention and control (IPC). We supported more than 50 primary healthcare (PHC) facilities and five hospitals providing primary and secondary healthcare—including the management of noncommunicable diseases with provision of medications—to ensure that primary care services are provided free of charge and to alleviate the costs related to specialized care. In 2022, the national oncology center in Sana'a provided more than 90,000 consultations.

### South Sudan

We contributed to strengthening the health system by working with the World Bank and UNICEF to revitalize 23 health facilities in Upper Nile state—improving infrastructure, increasing the number of qualified staff, building capacity and establishing a referral and supply chain management system to ensure the availability of PHC services. We also supported three midwifery and nursing schools and guided 631 students through a rigorous two-year course to graduate as nurses and midwives.

### Lebanon

International Medical Corps is one of the Ministry of Public Health's largest health partners, helping to conduct large-scale COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy surveys and establishing home-based care for COVID-19. International Medical Corps currently supports 50 PHCs in Lebanon. After the August 2020 Beirut Port explosion, our MMU provided 1,200 medical and 1,500 psychological first-aid consultations.

### Ukraine

We partnered with Harvard Humanitarian Initiative to provide advanced trauma training for more than 2,300 frontline workers and supported 133 health facilities—providing 726,000 clinical consultations and 6,800 admissions.





## HEALTH RESILIENCE

Health resilience is the ability of a community or healthcare system to withstand adversity, adapt to its impact and recover quickly. Training and capacity-building are key elements that support health resilience and lie at the core of our work. We believe that strengthening health resilience requires us to:

- ▶ improve individual health habits *before* a crisis hits, enabling communities to better absorb sudden shocks, then remain resilient during and immediately after a crisis;
- ▶ foster social behavior change, along with IPC practices, to better shield communities from communicable diseases;
- ▶ invest in and implement reforms that restore and improve health systems to levels equal to or beyond their pre-crisis status;
- ▶ ensure equitable access to and availability of experts in key health and health related areas; and
- ▶ assess and fill health-related gaps required to identify threats to resilience, and act to neutralize those threats at both local and national levels.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, we supported 1,730 health facilities in Asia, Africa and the Americas, including 39 specialized COVID-19 treatment centers, 214 hospitals, 1,315 primary healthcare facilities and 98 mobile medical units (MMUs). We trained more than 42,000 HCWs in various health topics, including CMR; basic and advanced life support; IPC; maternal, newborn and child health; communicable and non-communicable diseases; and pharmaceutical supply-chain management. We also distributed more than 32 million pieces of personal protective equipment and IPC supplies, reached more than 9.7 million people with COVID-19 awareness messages, and conducted 1.2 million COVID screenings.



In 2022, our programs worldwide supported 7.7 million primary healthcare consultations and nearly 273,000 secondary care services and reached 2.9 million people through our community health activities.

## HEALTH INFORMATION

Reliable data on the health status of individuals and communities, and on the quality of service, are essential for evaluating healthcare programs. Accurate data is needed to assess individual and community public health, as well as the performance of health facilities.

## OUR EXPERIENCE

In northern **Ethiopia**, we conducted a research study to determine health, nutrition and social needs of urban adolescents. The goals were to determine needs surrounding sexual and reproductive health (SRH), general health, well-being and nutrition, and income generation. The findings found six specific issues affecting the community's youth—including a lack of recreational space, which drove youth to engage in risky behavior in questionable locations, and an unwelcoming environment at local health centers.

In northern **Nigeria**, we helped train government staff to use smartphones to collect and transmit data on the progress of our polio eradication project there. In rural areas of **Ethiopia**, **Guinea** and **Sierra Leone**, we have improved data collection and analysis on disease surveillance at the community level.



Two-thirds of the 56 million deaths that occur annually are not registered, while nearly half the world's children go unregistered at birth.



**International  
Medical Corps**

[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://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.

April 2023

**CONTACT  
INFO:** **Jill John-Kall, Senior Health Advisor**  
[jjohnkall@InternationalMedicalCorps.org](mailto:jjohnkall@InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

International Medical Corps is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA, and has offices in Washington, DC; London, UK; and Split, Croatia.

For contact information, visit [InternationalMedicalCorps.org/contact](http://InternationalMedicalCorps.org/contact).