

# Afghanistan

**International Medical Corps was established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses to address the critical need for medical care in war-torn Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation.**

Almost four decades later, we are still there, delivering services that improve the health, livelihoods and social standing of nearly 3.5 million people.

International Medical Corps operates a broad range of assistance programs for Afghanistan's most vulnerable groups, including the internally displaced, refugees, returnees, host communities, women and children. Our main activities in Afghanistan include providing primary and secondary healthcare, training, health education, emergency response, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), nutrition services, protection services, community empowerment, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.



## Decades of uninterrupted civil war and a lack of education and employment opportunities have taken their toll on Afghanistan's population and health infrastructure.

Afghanistan remains one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Two-thirds of Afghanistan's population—a record 28.3 million people—will likely be in need of humanitarian and protection assistance in 2023 as the country enters its third consecutive year of drought-like conditions and the second year of crippling economic decline, all while still reeling from the effects of decades of conflict and recurrent natural disasters. Despite these challenges, International Medical Corps continues to support Afghanistan's healthcare needs.

Current programs across Afghanistan include primary and secondary healthcare, WASH, MHPSS, nutrition and protection services. Our emergency response program includes providing emergency shelters and essential non-food items (NFI), which reduce risks from disasters and diseases.



**52 HEALTH FACILITIES**

### WHERE WE WORK

**A BAGHLAN**  
**B BALKH**  
**C BAMYAN**  
**D DIKUNDI**

**E FARYAB**  
**F JAWZJAN**  
**G KABUL**  
**H KUNAR**

**I KUNDUZ**  
**J LAGHMAN**  
**K NANGARHAR**  
**L NURISTAN**

**M PAKTIKA**  
**N SAMANGAN**  
**O SAR-E-PUL**



In 2022, International Medical Corps programs in Afghanistan improved the health of more than 175,000 children under 5.







## INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION

International Medical Corps provides primary and community healthcare and lifesaving medical services in Balkh, Faryab, Kabul, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktika and Sar-e-Pul provinces. In 2022, we provided 596,458 health consultations, including emergency trauma-care services, to people affected by conflict. In addition, we offered reproductive health services—including antenatal care, delivery assistance, postnatal care and family planning—to 43,337 women.

In 2022, International Medical Corps also provided lifesaving curative and preventive nutrition services to 94,882 children under 5 and to 13,022 pregnant and lactating women.

International Medical Corps supports one hospital in Balkh province, providing lifesaving secondary-level health services, medicines and medical supplies.

## PROTECTION SERVICES

International Medical Corps works to discourage attitudes and behavior that contribute to protection incidents in Afghanistan. We also use targeted social- and behavior-change activities, such as community dialogues and awareness sessions about protection and other issues—including mother and child health, vaccination and human rights—to achieve this goal and reduce the stigma of survivors.

We provide protection services, including psychosocial support (PSS) and counseling services, in Baghlan, Balkh, Bamiyan, Dikundi, Faryab, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kunduz and Samangan provinces through three PSS mobile teams, 12 psychosocial counseling centers, eight women-friendly health spaces and two mobile outreach teams. We ensure that medical and psychosocial support services are available to survivors and that they receive life-skills and basic vocational training to increase their resilience. We also provide PSS services through mobile PSS teams integrated with MHNTs in Balkh, Faryab, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Sar-e-Pul provinces, and provide protection services—including child protection—through our children and family social centers and community well-being groups in Balkh, Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar provinces. We provide parents and caregivers with parenting-skills training and support children through recreational activities and child-protection case management.

In 2022, we provided protection services, including psychosocial support, to 261,384 people.

Our health educators work to increase the general knowledge of protection issues and the services available to address them. We engage with influential groups—including elders, school principals and religious leaders—to organize community dialogues. The teams also work closely with key actors, including local health facility staff, community focal points and MHPSS centers in each province, to protect anonymity and arrange discrete referrals. We identify one male and one female in each community who become focal points and facilitate referrals for our services.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

We provide MHPSS services to help people and communities rebuild social structures after an emergency or critical event. We train MHPSS counselors to detect mental health needs and provide services through our mobile teams, health sub-centers and hospitals. Training includes mental health case management, psychological first aid, interpersonal therapy and problem management. Counselors offer both group and individual counseling to those exposed to distressing life experiences, such as armed conflict, natural disasters and displacement, and refer people with severe mental health conditions to appropriate health facilities. We also train medical doctors in the mental health gap action program (mhGAP) to expand care for mental, neurological and substance-use disorders in non-specialized settings.





## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

International Medical Corps provides WASH services to internally displaced persons, returnees, host communities and refugees in Balkh, Faryab, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktika and Sar-e-Pul provinces. In 2022, International Medical Corps constructed 15 community-based solar-powered water supply systems, and rehabilitated five water supply systems and 106 community-based boreholes and wells, delivering clean water to 68,990 people. We also provided 8,075 people with access to hygienic latrines by rehabilitating or constructing 25 flush toilets near schools, health facilities and communities. Our teams distributed 11,245 hygiene kits and 12,560 water kits to 166,635 families, provided hygiene promotion sessions to 172,608 people and distributed 71,988 soap bars and 2,100 Aqua tablets to families in need. International Medical Corps also provided 114,335 people who crossed the Torkham border with access to hygienic toilets and handwashing facilities.

In 2022, we responded to a deadly earthquake in Paktika province, providing lifesaving emergency medical services through our first-aid trauma post and WASH activities. We reached 2,346 people with emergency medical services, 16,840 people with emergency WASH services, and more than 5,000 people with emergency shelter, NFIs and winterization kits.



[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.

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