

Yemen



Yemen's prolonged war has produced one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than 70% of the country's 31 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. International Medical Corps began working in the country in 2012, focusing on healthcare, nutrition, food security and livelihoods (FSL), protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

We currently maintain a staff of 160 in the country, managing our response from a main office in the capital, Sana'a, with sub

offices in Aden, Al Mukha and Ibb. From these four offices, we serve communities directly affected by the war in eight of Yemen's 23 governorates: Aden, Al Dhale'e, Al Hodiedah, Amanat Al Asimah, Ibb, Lahj, Sana'a and Taizz. We also work to strengthen existing institutions, providing them with the qualified health workers, supplies and training needed to enable them to continue functioning in the midst of a debilitating crisis affecting the delivery of basic services.

The impact of the ongoing war on the struggle for survival, including the decline—and, in some cases, the complete disappearance—of basic public services, has heightened the risk of frequent outbreaks of disease. It also has increased the need for humanitarian support to address basic needs of both individuals and communities.



NUTRITION

In a country where food security has been a challenge in even the best of times, we implement nutrition-specific interventions to address growing nutrition needs. Years of war have left four out of 10 Yemenis acutely malnourished—in parts of Yemen, acute malnutrition among children under 5 is at the highest level ever recorded.

We provide curative and preventive nutrition services through static health facilities and mobile teams in hard-to-reach areas, including IDP camps in Al Dhale'e, Lahj and Taiz governorates. We support the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children aged 6 months to 5 years, and acute malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women (PLWs), through outpatient therapeutic programs and targeted supplementary feeding programs. We refer children with SAM requiring further treatment due to medical complications to stabilization centers run by WHO and UNICEF. We also support infant and young-child feeding (IYCF) spaces that provide individual counseling to PLWs and encourage them to adopt optimal feeding practices for their children during the first 1,000 days of life. Our community health and nutrition networks actively detect and refer acutely malnourished children, while promoting IYCF in emergencies and hygiene practices among women and caregivers as strategies to prevent malnutrition at the household level.

HEALTHCARE

Since 2012, International Medical Corps has helped primary and secondary healthcare facilities remain functional. We provide a wide range of services, including maternal and child healthcare, sexual and reproductive health services, and prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), while also providing essential medical commodities and supporting proper waste management. We deliver chemotherapy and other supportive drugs to cancer patients in Yemen, where 57% of fatalities are caused by NCDs. We also provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services at basic healthcare facilities. In addition, our use of mobile medical units gives us the flexibility to help internally displaced persons (IDPs) and those who reside in remote locations who are unable to reach static healthcare centers.





WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

To promote public health and combat the increased risk of diseases caused by reduced access to clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene practices, we support communities living in poverty by providing them with clean water and promoting healthy hygiene habits. The WASH team supports the construction of latrines and water/sewage systems, and solid and medical waste management. Since 2012, we have reached more than 4 million people in Yemen with WASH services.

We provide safe and adequate water to health facilities, increase their water storage capacity, monitor water quality and treatment, support the rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure, provide solar-powered water systems and construct medical waste zones. In addition, we provide environmental health and infection prevention and control (IPC) kits, as well as hygiene and cholera kits for SAM/ MAM cases.

We train community health volunteers on key hygiene messages, and build the capacity of health facility staff by improving their knowledge on medical waste disposal. We also help communities and local authorities take ownership of WASH projects to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

To prevent malnutrition and reduce the vulnerability of crisis-affected families, we provide conventional food assistance and training on sustainable livelihoods. We implement a comprehensive program that includes distribution of small livestock to vulnerable families, to help them rebuild and



sustain their livelihoods. In addition, we organize mass vaccination and deworming campaigns to prevent outbreaks of animal disease and to protect livestock. Since November 2021, we have provided food assistance through cash-transfer programs to families with acutely malnourished children, helping them to meet their basic household food needs in a dignified way and avoid negative coping mechanisms, such as selling livelihood assets to purchase food.



PROTECTION

International Medical Corps places the protection of the people we serve from gender-based violence (GBV) at the center of our humanitarian response. Throughout our health, nutrition, FSL and WASH activities, we prioritize safety and dignity, promote meaningful access, ensure the participation of targeted groups and protect human rights without causing harm. To promote protection and GBV across all sectors, we train our staff in accordance with international GBV and protection guidelines. We conduct protection mainstreaming efforts in close coordination with the Yemen Protection Cluster and GBV Sub-Cluster.

We also train all program staff, as well as monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning staff, on including protection in planned activities and preventing GBV. Our Safeguarding Implementation Guide and Safeguarding Policy Implementation Toolkit support efforts to create and maintain safe environments in the communities where we operate.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Regular training on health, nutrition, WASH, food security and protection issues is a central component of our programming in Yemen, ensuring delivery of quality services in line with recognized standards and protocols. Due to the country's current humanitarian emergency and severely weakened healthcare system, we focus on improving the knowledge and skills of healthcare staff about the services offered at the health facilities we support.

Training on health issues includes integrated management of childhood illnesses, expanded immunization programs, minimum initial service packages, reproductive health, emergency obstetrics and newborn care, and IPC. Nutrition training focuses on all components of community-based management of acute malnutrition and IYCF in emergencies. We also train community-based health and nutrition staff to deliver WASH messages, along with health and nutrition services, to at-risk populations.



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.

COUNTRY CONTACT: Wasim Bahja, Country Director
wbahja@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

HEADQUARTERS CONTACT: Elsona Agolli, Deputy Director
(Middle East and Europe)
eagolli@InternationalMedicalCorps.org.uk

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.