

# Ethiopia

**International Medical Corps has worked in Ethiopia since 2003, with emergency programs in nutrition, primary healthcare, community health, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender-based violence (GBV), livelihoods and disaster-risk reduction, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).**

We have provided humanitarian assistance to Ethiopian communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Addis Ababa, the Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, Somali and Tigray regions.

We have provided programs in more than 60 woredas (districts) in nine regions—Afar, Amhara, Benishagul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Sidama, Somali, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR), and Tigray—providing support through livelihoods, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, emergency health, GBV prevention and response, and WASH services.

## INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS OFFICES

- A** ADDIS ABABA
- B** ASSAYITA
- C** BAHIR DAR
- D** BOKOLMAYO AND MELKADIDA
- E** CHIRO
- F** DANSHA
- G** DIMA
- H** GAMBELLA
- I** HARAR
- J** JIGJIGA (AWUBERE AND SHEDER)
- K** MEKELE
- L** NEGELE
- M** SEMERA
- N** SHIRE
- O** WOLAYITA SODO



## WHERE WE WORK

- ADDIS ABABA**
- AFAR REGION**
- AMHARA REGION**
- GAMBELLA REGION**
- OROMIA REGION**
- SNNP REGION**
- SOMALI REGION**
- TIGRAY REGION**

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

We operate GBV prevention and response programs in 15 refugee camps, serving Somali refugees in east and southeastern Ethiopia, South Sudanese refugees in the west (Gambella) and IDPs in four targeted woredas in the Oromia region. Our GBV-related services include psychosocial support and case management; construction and rehabilitation of women’s and girls’ safe spaces (WGSS), where we offer programming to community members regardless of survivor status and train providers on basic case management skills, distribution of dignity kits, safety audits as a means of risk mitigation and psychosocial support. In response to the recent conflict in northern Ethiopia, we extended our GBV programming to Afar, Amhara and seven woredas in Tigray.

To promote confidential, competent, and compassionate care to survivors of rape and other forms of sexual assault, our staff trains healthcare providers on clinical management of rape. The program also trains service providers, refugee volunteers and influential elders on basic concepts of GBV, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, case management and GBV referral pathways. To support community awareness of GBV response, International Medical Corps disseminates information on the importance of timely reporting and of seeking services. To support GBV prevention, we hold informal curriculum-based “coffee and tea” discussions, strategy sessions on SASA! (an evidence-based community mobilization approach to prevent violence against women), home visits and campaigns that challenge social norms that enable violence against women and girls.





## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

International Medical Corps has implemented comprehensive emergency WASH programs in the Afar, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray regions since 2003. Currently, we implement programming to meet the emergency response, recovery and developmental needs of vulnerable local communities, as well as the immediate needs of refugees, IDPs and those returning to conflict-affected communities.

International Medical Corps improves access to WASH services both in conflict-affected communities and in refugee camps by developing water sources, rehabilitating and upgrading existing water systems; constructing emergency sanitation facilities; providing lifesaving WASH supplies, water trucking and environmental health services; and promoting safe hygiene and capacity building through training and by providing necessary equipment and tools. We help communities and relevant authorities develop and implement sustainable WASH programs.

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS

Since 2013, International Medical Corps has implemented emergency and development programming; strengthened local capacity that is focused on sexual and reproductive health (SRH), maternal and child healthcare; and provided primary healthcare in the Afar, Gambella, Oromia, SNNPR and Somali regions, reaching more than 880,000 people.

We currently are implementing SRH and HIV/AIDS programs in seven refugee camps in Gambella to support South Sudanese refugees, five camps in Dollo Ado for Somali refugees and three camps in Afar for Eritrean refugees. We are improving the quality of, and access to, SRH and HIV/AIDS services at these facilities to improve the health status of women of childbearing age, adolescents, youth and children.

SRH services available to adolescents include peer-to-peer educational drama and music programs that cover such topics as family planning, adolescent and maternal nutrition, HIV/STI prevention, premarital sex, early marriage, cervical cancer screening and management, female genital mutilation and



life-skills training. Our community outreach services raise awareness and mobilize the community through house-to-house visits, tea-talk sessions and training for community cadres.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

International Medical Corps has implemented MHPSS programming at five camps in Dollo Ado for Somali refugees, and in seven camps in Gambella assisting South Sudanese refugees. The program continues to support government efforts to integrate MHPSS services into existing primary healthcare services. In 2021, in response to the Tigray conflict, International Medical Corps expanded our MHPSS programming through mobile teams in Afar, Amhara and Tigray through mobile teams. We also extended MHPSS services to Oromia in response to internal conflicts and drought.

We provide comprehensive psychosocial support services to promote resilience, well-being and functioning. We offer MHPSS activities in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) MHPSS guidelines for emergency contexts. We also address a wide range of needs, from basic support, to community and family support, to focused non-specialized and specialized services.

## EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE

Since 2015, International Medical Corps has helped local public health authorities in the Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, SNNPR and Tigray regions to confront emergency health issues caused by drought, conflict and other catastrophes that have affected host communities, IDPs and returnees. We have strengthened the government's capacity to prepare for, investigate and respond to disease outbreaks and emergency health needs during crisis situations. We deploy mobile health and nutrition teams to support local staff—providing essential health services, medicine and medical supplies, technical and logistical support, helping with public health surveillance, preparedness and response.

We have also conducted training on public health emergency management-related topics to build local healthcare capacity and strengthen coordination between government-operated healthcare units. In addition, we support routine immunization campaigns for measles and other illnesses.

We also conduct multi-sectoral rapid assessments to help design evidence-based programs while maintaining the capacity to deploy mobile health and nutrition teams to remote areas without requiring an established office.

## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

Our FSL program operates in the refugee camps of the Somali region and in host communities in Oromia East and West Hararge, providing fresh-food vouchers, vegetable gardening, cash-based intervention, restocking and poultry production, among other services. The program aims to improve dietary diversity and micronutrient deficiency among children ages 6–23 months, as well as purchasing capabilities for pregnant and lactating women.

In the SNNPR region, International Medical Corps promotes optimal infant and young-child feeding practices, including complementary feeding programs for mothers. We procure and distribute vegetable seeds, backyard gardening materials, farm tools and fruit seedlings to underserved and lactating mothers, and promote complementary feeding practices to help treat underweight children.



## NUTRITION

International Medical Corps has implemented nutrition programming at five camps and one reception center in Dollo Ado for Somali refugees, as well as in the Afar, Amhara, Dansha, Oromia and Tigray regions.

We help refugees and host communities provide community-based management of acute malnutrition through health systems, and through mobile health and nutrition clinics. Our nutrition program provides technical and logistics support to the Ministry of Health during times of high caseloads. Our capacity-building training sessions focus on infant and young-child feeding practices in emergency contexts, quality screening and treatment of acute malnutrition in children under 5, and pregnant and lactating women.

We provide a combination of growth monitoring, nutrition counseling and micronutrient supplements, working through available health facilities and community nutrition centers, and provide routine mother and infant checkups and other outpatient visits. We also promote nutrition education and healthy pregnancies by promoting exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate introduction of complementary food to ensure healthy growth at the fetal stage, infancy and early childhood.



[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.

August 2023

**COUNTRY CONTACT:** Lawrence Mutharia, Country Director  
[lmutharia@InternationalMedicalCorps.org](mailto:lmutharia@InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

**HEADQUARTERS CONTACT:** Megan Greenhalgh, Deputy Director of Programs  
[mgreenhalgh@InternationalMedicalCorps.org.uk](mailto:mgreenhalgh@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](http://InternationalMedicalCorps.org/contact).