

Mali

International Medical Corps has worked in Mali since 2013, following a coup d'état that caused mass displacement and the disruption of many public services, including healthcare. Violence and insecurity in the north aggravated already fragile health and nutritional conditions in the region, while women and girls

became increasingly exposed to acts of sexual violence.

To support those affected by the conflict, International Medical Corps provides lifesaving assistance to address the immediate needs of vulnerable populations in north, central and south Mali. Interventions focus on nutrition; mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); maternal, newborn and child health; family planning and reproductive health; and gender-based violence (GBV) interventions, including the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. We currently operate in nine regions, supporting 142 health facilities and five mobile clinics that serve almost 1 million people.

In response to an outbreak of violence in 2013, International Medical Corps began working in the most seriously affected communities in the Gourma Rharous and Timbuktu districts, with programs focused on health, nutrition and protection.

Today, while we continue to meet the urgent needs of populations affected by the ongoing crisis, we also contribute to the resilience of the local system. In the Timbuktu region, we help 16 primary healthcare clinics, two mobile clinics and two referral health centers, all of which provide primary and secondary healthcare, MHPSS, nutrition services, and GBV response and prevention services. In Mopti, we support 10 primary healthcare clinics and two secondary healthcare clinics that provide MHPSS and GBV services. In Douentza, we support 14 primary healthcare clinics and one mobile clinic that provide primary healthcare and nutrition services. In Bandiagara, International Medical Corps supports 32 primary healthcare clinics that improve maternal and child healthcare and provide vaccinations, including against COVID-19. Since June 2023, International Medical Corps has expanded its support in the Gao region, where we support 16 primary healthcare clinics and deploy three mobile clinics to provide primary and secondary healthcare, MHPSS, nutrition and GBV services.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HEALTH

International Medical Corps' health and nutrition programs in Mali address deficits and inequities in healthcare delivery by improving healthcare services and meeting the growing demand for access to such services, especially in remote areas. International Medical Corps is one of the few organizations operating mobile teams and supporting referrals between the community, primary healthcare facilities and secondary healthcare facilities in the Gourma Rharous and Timbuktu health districts, despite the geographical complexity of the area and the unstable security situation. In 2022, in the facilities we support in these health districts provided:

- ▶ more than 120,000 people with curative consultations;
- ▶ nearly 400 medical and surgical emergency referrals;
- ▶ more than 7,700 antenatal care consultations; and
- ▶ nearly 3,700 deliveries by qualified personnel.

Since June 2023, we have expanded our intervention in the Gao region, one of the areas most affected by the crisis and where needs are great. International Medical Corps supports primary healthcare centers and deploys three mobile clinics to reach internally displaced persons (IDPs) in remote areas.

HEALTHCARE TRAINING

Preparing the health workforce is a key objective of our mission in Mali. International Medical Corps trains healthcare personnel and provides on-the-job coaching and supervision. In 2022, International Medical Corps helped the Ministry of Health train more than 480 health workers on healthcare skills, including treatment for malnutrition, emergency obstetric and newborn care, infection prevention and control, health information system management, the WHO's Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and more. In addition, we trained 170 community health volunteers and more than 100 nutrition-support-group members in health promotion, disease prevention and COVID-19 response, as well as on how to screen and, if needed, refer malnourished children and of pregnant and breastfeeding women.

RESTORING HEALTHCARE TO CONFLICT AREAS

Our health response in northern Mali promotes quality curative and preventive health services in areas severely affected by the recent war. Since 2013, International Medical Corps has helped local healthcare systems in the Gourma Rharous and Timbuktu districts regain self-reliance and credibility by rehabilitating and supplying community health centers, recruiting and training health workers, and strengthening emergency response and disease surveillance.

International Medical Corps supports a mobile clinic that provides maternal, child and newborn health services in such remote areas as Taoudénit and Timbuktu. We support rapid response teams that provide emergency assistance when mass displacements occur. This support for rapid response teams helped nearly 28,000 IDPs in 2022. We also have enhanced water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in all the health centers that we support, providing essential equipment like water pumps, tanks, handwashing stations and latrines.





NUTRITION

International Medical Corps supports community health centers and secondary healthcare facilities in the northern and central regions of Mali, battling high rates of malnutrition by:



strengthening referral systems from community health centers to regional health facilities and hospitals, including providing vehicles in Timbuktu to ensure the transfer of complicated cases from primary healthcare facilities to secondary healthcare facilities and regional hospitals;



training healthcare providers in the treatment of malnutrition through a preventive and curative approach, with a focus on the community-based management of malnutrition;



providing nutrition supplies and medication for the treatment of acute malnutrition in its different stages, including ready-to-use therapeutic foods, medicines and medical equipment for 34 health facilities; and



forming nutrition support groups, and training pregnant women and mothers on how to identify malnutrition.

Because the first 1,000 days of life are critical to a child's growth and development, we engage with partners, families and communities to confront the conditions that cause childhood malnutrition, supporting cost-effective and capacity-building interventions. We work within a multi-sectoral framework to ensure that key services, including WASH and health education, are integrated into our nutrition programs, reaching more than 1,200 women through nutrition support groups in 2022.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

In 2022, International Medical Corps began the first integrated mental and primary health program in Mali, a pilot of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) in 18 health structures. By May 2023 our team extended the mhGAP approach to more than 30 health structures and provided nearly 3,000 consultations for people living with mental health issues.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Mali significantly increased during the recent conflict in the north. Because sexual

violence causes painful social disruptions among families and communities, we focus on building community resilience and on providing support to survivors in Diré, Gourma Rharous, Mopti and Timbuktu, and through mobile clinics. We also work in partnership with community-based organizations, ensuring sustainability by training community volunteers and local health staff, and designing referral paths to other relevant services.

Our teams provide clinical and psychosocial care in a confidential, competent and compassionate manner. In 2022, our teams supported nearly 400 GBV survivors and provided more than 250 vulnerability kits. We also trained 280 people on GBV response and prevention, including basic concepts of GBV, case referral and facilitation techniques, and women's leadership.



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.

October 2023

COUNTRY CONTACT: Jean Mukenga, Country Director
jmukenga@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

HEADQUARTERS CONTACT: Paula Olson, Deputy Director, HQ Programs
polson@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.