

Emergency Response & Preparedness

Because disaster can strike anywhere, anytime, the ability to respond even in the most remote areas of the world is essential for effective emergency response.

And with the acute phase of disaster response—the brief window when the most lives can be saved—measured in just hours, deployment speed is critical. Experience has taught us that preparedness is key to achieving this speed.

With a large roster of volunteer healthcare specialists on call and a well-trained and experienced global staff that today numbers more than 9,000, International Medical Corps has deployed to emergencies in more than 80 countries on six continents since we first began our work in 1984.

In addition to nearly four decades of experience, our emergency response capacity is strengthened by important preparedness measures, including pre-positioning medical equipment and other supplies in regions where we are active, and developing disaster-vulnerability profiles with emergency response strategies for each country where we work.



The World Health Organization has classified us as an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1 provider—acknowledging us as capable of deploying quickly and providing both fixed and mobile medical services in response to a disaster anywhere in the world.

With this classification, we join an elite group of first responders. We are the only NGO in the world to offer both Fixed and Mobile EMT Type 1 capabilities (only the governments of New Zealand and Norway also offer both capabilities). We also are the first NGO in the US to offer EMT Type 1 Fixed capability, and the second NGO in the US to offer Mobile EMT Type 1 capability.

Visit InternationalMedicalCorps.org/EMT to find out more.



Nearly 40 years in 80+ countries

Our experiences in emergency response and preparedness



The first 72 hours

The acute phase of disaster response



24 hours a day, seven days a week

Our early-warning and alert system immediately detects and recognizes emergencies





International Medical Corps quickly responded when:



a series of powerful earthquakes struck Türkiye and Syria in February 2023, killing more than 50,000 people and injuring many more.



conflict in Sudan displaced 4.6 million people and left 24.7 million people—nearly half the population—in need of humanitarian assistance.



Storm Daniel led to the collapse of two dams, causing catastrophic flooding in Derna, Libya, killing as many as 20,000 people and injuring many more.



the conflict in Gaza led to immense suffering among the civilian population.

Current Emergencies

International Medical Corps staff works on the frontlines of the world's most urgent crises every day, providing treatment, comfort and hope to millions of people caught up in the world's most dangerous and challenging humanitarian emergencies. In the Middle East, for example, our teams in Syria and Yemen have braved years of armed violence, yet they continue to deliver vital assistance to innocent people engulfed by civil wars in what are recognized as two of the world's worst humanitarian catastrophes. In Africa, we continue to confront hunger, disease and famine across the Sahel region, a broad strip of semi-arid land that touches a dozen countries as it stretches from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, separating the vast deserts of the Saharan north from the grasslands, rivers and forests in the south. Chronic poverty, armed conflict and the alarming impact of climate change all make the Sahel a major humanitarian challenge—both for today and for the future.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, we have expanded our relief efforts there and are providing medical, mental health and protection services to the millions of people affected by the conflict. According to UN figures, almost 22 million Ukrainians—nearly half of the country's population—are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, while about 11 million people, or about one-quarter of the population, have been forced to flee their homes.

For the most up-to-date information on our emergency deployments, visit our website at InternationalMedicalCorps.org/emergencies.



We have provided more than \$4.4 billion in lifesaving healthcare that has saved millions of lives.



We've operated on six continents in more than 80 countries, at times facing some of the toughest conditions imaginable, to deliver aid to those in great need.

Past Emergencies

Since 1984, when disaster struck—no matter how distant or how dangerous the conditions—we responded to help those in urgent need. In 2014, when an outbreak of Ebola in West Africa was declared a potential threat to global public health, we were one of the very few international humanitarian relief groups to deploy immediately to confront that threat at its source—in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Our teams have saved millions of lives over a span of 40 years by delivering emergency healthcare and other vital relief. And from the start of every emergency deployment, we have offered training to those directly affected by disaster, passing along to them the tools, skills and knowledge needed to become their own best first responders.

A more complete list of our past emergency deployments can be found on our website at InternationalMedicalCorps.org/emergencies.





Thanks to logistics expertise, careful planning and valued partnerships, we can deliver tons of critical supplies quickly to relief workers around the world in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters.



Tens of thousands of people globally have used our online course materials to learn how to better coordinate emergency assistance for fast delivery to those in urgent need.



We have provided scores of in-person workshops on four continents to build the capacity of local, national and international NGOs.

Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is a key element of our response strategy. We maintain an early-warning and alert system that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to recognize emergencies in their early stages. The system relies on mapped emergency landscapes across our mission areas and offers strategies to ensure an early and effective response to an acute crisis. Our teams in each country where we work maintain their own response plans, shaped by their country's disaster vulnerabilities and the capacity of our staff there to respond effectively. Response plans are routinely evaluated and updated with support from our organization's Emergency Response Unit and its regional focal points.

In addition, we believe that training local residents in disaster-prone areas to better withstand adversity is an essential part of every emergency response we undertake. The goal of that training—to anchor essential skills and knowledge in vulnerable communities so they can respond quickly and efficiently to the next disaster on their own—lies at the heart of our mission as an emergency humanitarian response organization. Our goal, always, is to help these communities move from emergency relief to self-reliance. As part of our ongoing localization efforts, our Emergency Response Unit focuses on building the capacity of local actors to better support sustainable and effective responses.



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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