

Afghanistan

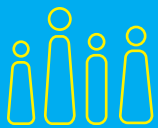
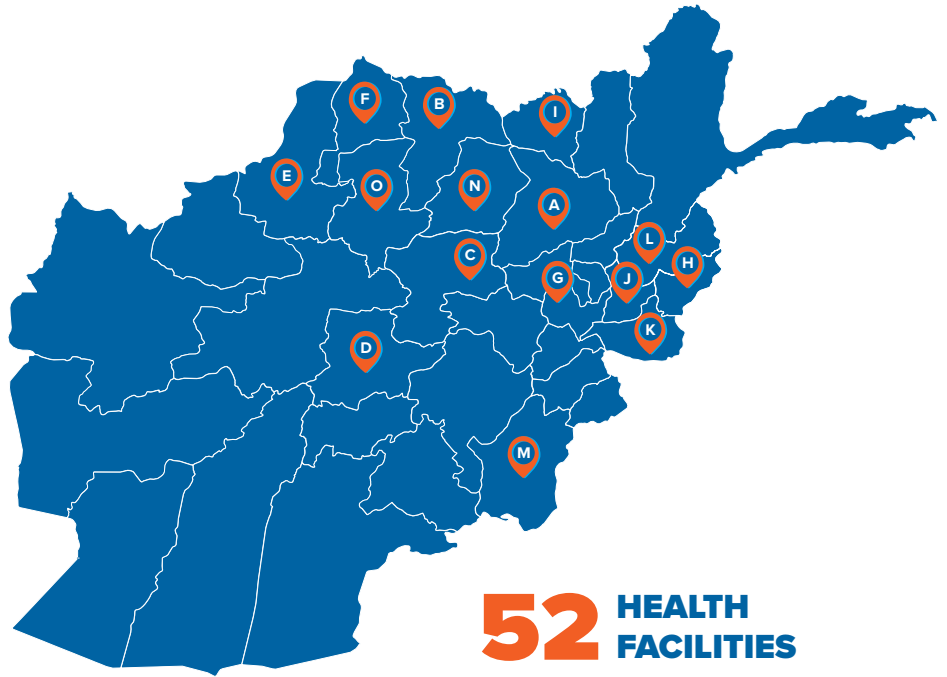
International Medical Corps was established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses to address the critical need for medical care in war-torn Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation.

Almost four decades later, we are still there, delivering services that improve the health, livelihoods and

social standing of nearly 1.2 million people each year. 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 and health education, emergency response, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), nutrition, protection, capacity building, community empowerment, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

Decades of uninterrupted civil war, natural disasters, poverty, 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. In 2024, an estimated 23.7 million people will likely be in dire need of humanitarian assistance, as the country enters its fourth consecutive year of drought-like conditions and the third 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.



In 2023, International Medical Corps provided services, supplies and support to nearly

1.2 million people in Afghanistan.

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



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 2023, we provided 644,011 health consultations, including emergency trauma-care services, to people affected by conflict and natural disasters. In addition, we offered reproductive health services—including antenatal care, delivery assistance, postnatal care and family planning—to 48,374 women.

We provided lifesaving curative and preventive nutrition services to 203,588 children under 5 and 14,346 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 behaviors 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 surrounding survivors.

We provide protection services, including psychosocial support (PSS) and counseling services, in Baghlan, Balkh, Bamyān, Dikundi, Faryab, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kunduz and Samangan provinces through three PSS mobile teams, 13 psychosocial counseling centers, 14 women-friendly health spaces and two mobile outreach teams.

We ensure that medical and PSS services are available to survivors and that they receive life-skills and vocational training to increase their resilience. We also provide PSS services through mobile PSS teams integrated with mobile health and nutrition teams 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 2023, we provided protection services, including psychosocial support, to 144,998 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

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 (PFA), 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 World Health Organization's Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) to expand care for mental, neurological and substance-use disorders in non-specialized settings.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE, AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

International Medical Corps provides WASH services to internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities in Balkh, Faryab, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Paktika and Sar-e-Pul provinces. In 2023, International Medical Corps improved access to WASH services for 229,061 people across the eastern, northern and southeastern provinces of Afghanistan.

Our teams constructed 20 community-based solar-powered water supply systems and rehabilitated 12 water supply systems and 214 community-based boreholes and wells, delivering clean water to more than 77,000 people. We also provided 6,000 people with access to hygienic latrines by rehabilitating or constructing 24 flush toilets near schools, health facilities and communities.

Our teams distributed NFIs—including dignity, hygiene, water and winterization kits—to 31,097 families. We provided hygiene promotion sessions to 228,941 people and distributed 56,808 bars of soap and 15,396 chlorine bottles to families in need.

In 2023, we responded to a catastrophic earthquake in Herat province, providing MHPSS services and distributing winterization kits, including blankets, to 1,470 people. We conducted PFA training for 179 staff members from various international and local non-governmental organizations, enabling them to provide MHPSS services to those in need.



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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COUNTRY CONTACT: **Ahmed Kassas, Country Director**
akassas@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

HEADQUARTERS CONTACT: **Megan Greenhalgh,**
Director of International Programs
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.