International Medical Corps

Democratic Republic of the Congo

After decades of conflict that have ebbed and flowed, violence remains pervasive throughout the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children continue to escalate, while more than one-third of the population lacks access to basic healthcare. International Medical Corps has worked in the DRC since 1999, helping communities transition from relief to self-reliance by providing direct services and training, rehabilitating infrastructure, and supplying equipment and materials.

WHERE WE WORK

A BAS-UÉLÉ

B HAUT-UÉLÉ

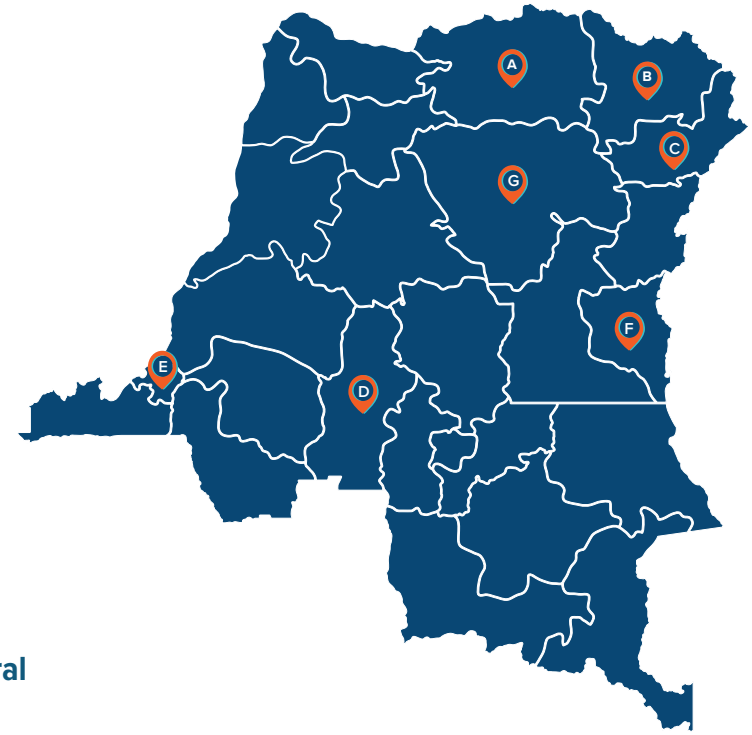
C ITURI
Bunia
Rwampara

D KASAI
Bulape
Mweka

E KINSHASA
Liaison office
North Kivu Beni
Goma (Country Main Office)
Karisimbi
Katwa
Kirotshe

F SOUTH KIVU
Fizi
Kaniola
Katana
Minova
Muti-Murhesa

G TSHOPO
Bafwasende
Kisangani



In the DRC, International Medical Corps provides services related to primary and secondary healthcare, capacity building, violence against women and girls (VAWG), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), social and behavioral change, nutrition, food security, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

In recent years, we have responded to multiple outbreaks of disease, including Ebola, measles, cholera, polio, COVID-19 and mpox. We also provide support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in the distribution of the oral cholera vaccine and have donated ambulances to facilitate patient mobility.

International Medical Corps serves communities in remote areas in the provinces of Bas-Uélé, Haut-Uélé, Ituri, Kasai, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tshopo. Since beginning work in the country in 1999, we have served more than 2 million people in the DRC, many of whom have been affected by armed conflict, outbreaks of disease and natural disasters.

Primary and Secondary Healthcare

International Medical Corps supports more than 30 health centers and hospitals across five health zones in the DRC, building the capacity of healthcare workers, conducting training sessions and providing healthcare, essential medicines, medical consumables and medical equipment. In our work with the MoH, we provide logistical and technical support with the World Health Organization's integrated disease surveillance and response strategy and with the One Health approach.

To address gaps in primary healthcare, we focus on providing comprehensive and integrated primary-care packages, including immunization campaigns, maternal and child health services, basic MHPSS services and improvement of environmental sanitation and hygiene practices at health facilities. We support capacity-building within these health centers to ensure that the quality of care remains high, while referring cases to secondary facilities for specialized care and improving referral and counter-referral systems, including monitoring and reporting. International Medical Corps also facilitates the presence of specialists such as gynecologists, pediatricians and internists in remote hospitals so that they can share their practical experience through onsite training.

Mobile Medical Clinics

International Medical Corps responds to urgent healthcare needs with mobile teams composed of medical doctors, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, hygienists, conflict-related VAWG case workers, and logistics and security staff. The teams provide no-cost, holistic, high-quality healthcare. We also conduct health surveillance, monitoring the spread of communicable diseases and supporting early-warning systems in the event of an outbreak.

Nutrition

International Medical Corps provides nutrition services in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, helping thousands of children recover from malnutrition. We treat severely and moderately malnourished children and adults—particularly pregnant and lactating women—and support livelihood interventions. To help parents take ownership of their families' nutritional needs, we provide education and training on the cultivation of staple crops. Our teams also support the procurement, transportation and distribution of supplements such as ready-to-use therapeutic food and therapeutic milk, and provide monitoring tools to health facilities.

Maternal and Newborn Care

Our obstetric-gynecological care is especially important in the DRC, where the cause of nearly all obstetric complications is either poor medical care or rape. Our programs increase the quality and availability of maternal and newborn care (MNC), as well as the uptake of these services—significantly improving long-term health outcomes for women and children. Our staff has provided more than 260 health areas in the DRC with MNC services, newborn-care supplies to health facilities and communities, and education and counseling for survivors of sexual assault.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Since 2002, International Medical Corps has helped lead the battle against conflict-related VAWG in war-ravaged eastern DRC. Our team implements sexual-violence prevention and management activities, including establishing women's and girls' safe spaces, training paralegals and providing psychological first-aid and other care to survivors of sexual violence and assault. International Medical Corps supports more than 20 community-based organizations (CBOs) and health facilities in their efforts to strengthen core services for survivors of sexual assault—particularly medical case management and psychosocial support services. We support the capacity building of CBOs, community leaders and other local protection partners. We also support referral pathways, women's rights and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Communicable Diseases

International Medical Corps has been responding to outbreaks of communicable disease since our arrival in the DRC. Since 2018, International Medical Corps has responded to multiple outbreaks of Ebola, setting up treatment centers, providing case management, and risk communication and community engagement, and training healthcare workers to prepare for current and future outbreaks. We regularly respond to outbreaks of communicable disease (such as cholera and measles), conduct polio surveillance and were a key responder to outbreaks of COVID-19 and mpox in the country.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Since the outbreak of Ebola in Kasai in 2025, International Medical Corps has been actively implementing WASH and infection prevention and control (IPC) interventions in the province. We provide WASH equipment, personal protective equipment and training to strengthen health-facility readiness and to improve local staff's ability to treat patients while minimizing the risk of transmission. As part of this effort, we constructed three screening-and-referral units and rehabilitated an existing isolation center to improve patient flow, screening capacity and IPC measures. Today, International Medical Corps is improving access to water at Kasai health facilities through context-adapted solutions, including the construction of new connections to existing water networks and construction of water-catchment systems.

Research

Through partnerships with the DRC government, donors and academic institutions, International Medical Corps works to generate knowledge while supporting local communities. Examples include participation of an International Medical Corps-managed Ebola treatment center in the PALM trial during the country's 10th outbreak, which led to the identification of groundbreaking therapeutics; carrying out vaccine hesitancy studies on both Ebola and COVID-19, to support vaccination programs; and participating in a cohort study with Johns Hopkins University to examine the relation between nutritional status and COVID-19 outcomes.

International Medical Corps

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.

September 2026

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