



An international Medical Corps' staff member administers a vaccine in Angono, Rizal, Philippines.

Today, nearly two years since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, the world has surpassed more than 441 million confirmed cases and almost 6 million confirmed deaths attributed to the virus. On a worldwide level, cases of the Omicron variant appear to have peaked, with daily cases sitting about half what they were one month ago, but still twice as high as during any other peak. Daily deaths also appear to have peaked, with levels today down 15% from the recent highs of 10,888 daily deaths in early February. A mixture of widespread immunity—both vaccine-derived and natural—and the less severe nature of Omicron have led to considerably lower death rates than previous waves. However, due to the unprecedented contagiousness of the Omicron variant, the total daily deaths remain very high. Even so, many governments worldwide are easing their COVID-19 restrictions in an attempt to learn to live with the virus.

On the vaccine front, 62.5% of the world have now received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, with more than 10.5 billion doses having been administered. More than 33 million doses are being delivered daily around the globe. Still, vaccine equity remains an enormous concern, with only 12% of people in low-income countries receiving a vaccine dose. However, getting highly efficacious vaccines into low-income countries may soon become easier. Sanofi and GSK recently said their vaccine—made using standard vaccine methods and not requiring the ultracold storage demanded by mRNA vaccines—is 100% effective against severe disease and hospitalization.¹ It can also be used as a booster when other vaccines are used as the initial dose. Another vaccine, developed by Novavax and using similar technology as the Sanofi vaccine, is currently in the application process for FDA approval.² There is hope that the older vaccine technology used in the Sanofi and Novavax vaccines will appeal to those who have been vaccine-hesitant due to fears of the technology used in the mRNA vaccines. Also of use in the fight against vaccine inequity is the new distribution system that the World Health Organization (WHO) is rolling out across the

FAST FACTS

- According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, which consolidates data from a range of sources, as of March 3, there have been 441,139,258 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported worldwide.
- In the US, we are supporting 43 hospitals across the country—including in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Puerto Rico and Texas—with a range of services and equipment, including emergency medical field units, supplies and volunteer staff.
- We have screened more than 7.9 million people for COVID-19 at our global missions and have distributed more than 32.5 million pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) items to supported health facilities.
- We have trained more than 29,000 frontline healthcare professionals on COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/02/23/world/covid-19-tests-cases-vaccine#a-new-covid-vaccine-shows-100-percent-efficacy-against-severe-disease-and-hospitalizations-its-makers-say>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/31/business/novavax-vaccine-fda.html>






African continent. Previously, countries were sent doses as they became available; now, countries can order quantities as needed, which should contribute to much higher vaccination rates.³

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps continues to provide essential medical assistance and training in the 30 or so countries where we operate. Highlights from our global response include the following.

United States Response

In the US, International Medical Corps has responded to COVID-19 by partnering with hospitals, clinics and nursing homes in Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and Texas. To date, we have distributed more than 6.6 million items of PPE, including 1.7 million KN95 masks, 1.8 million surgical masks, nearly 900,000 surgical gowns, more than 900,000 N95 masks, 131,000 face shields and 100,000 cloth face masks. We have provided support to 43 hospitals, 21 primary health centers, 56 long-term care facilities and five community centers. In addition to procuring and donating PPE, International Medical Corps has provided emergency medical field units to help hospitals expand critical-care services, and has provided surge-staffing support to ensure continuity of care for COVID-19 patients. In addition, we so far have deployed more than 140 clinical volunteers, more than 60 of whom have supported more than 200,000 vaccinations in efforts in Los Angeles, Puerto Rico and Texas.

United States Response				
 Locations	States/Territories: 10	Hospitals: 43	Health Clinics: 21	Nursing homes: 56
 Volunteers	MDs: 27	Nurses: 90	EMTs: 6	Paramedics: 10
 Infrastructure	Field Units: 70	HVACs: 66	Generators: 5	Trailers: 4 Containers: 2
 Equipment	Beds: 150	Ventilators: 22	Ultrasounds: 34	Patient monitors: 143
	Pulse oximeters: 269	Suctions: 9	Defibrillators: 51	Medical consumables: 65,000
 PPE	K95 masks: 1,730,460		Surgical masks: 1,882,300	Surgical gowns: 882,460
	N95 masks: 907,399		Face shields: 131,860	Nitrile gloves: 1,100,000

Global Response

International Medical Corps is focused on ensuring continuity of operations in existing programming in the more than 30 countries where we currently operate, while taking decisive action to respond to COVID-19 cases. We are continuing to distribute PPE and IPC items to our supported healthcare facilities, while providing training and support to frontline healthcare workers on the proper use of such equipment and the epidemiology of COVID-19. Additionally, our facilities are continuing to screen patients for COVID-19 and raising awareness—through traditional and remote activities—throughout communities. International Medical Corps also is participating with global, regional and local coordination bodies to support their COVID-19 responses. Highlights from our response this week include activities in the following countries.

- In 14 provinces in **Afghanistan**, International Medical Corps has since the beginning of the pandemic integrated COVID-19 awareness into its programming. The country team has so far reached more than 1.1 million people with awareness messaging, and has trained 422 community health workers and 160 community hygiene promoters, who in turn have provided information on COVID-19 symptoms and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures to people in their communities. From May through November 2021 and in January 2022, we

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/24/world/africa-who-covid-vaccine.html>

worked with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to support rollout of a COVID-19 vaccination program in the eastern region of Afghanistan. We conducted a vaccine hesitancy survey, supported vaccination efforts in health facilities and raised awareness about COVID-19 vaccinations among target populations. The project has directly reached 58,407 people and indirectly reached more than 165,000 people in Kunar province. In addition, International Medical Corps vaccinators directly administered COVID-19 vaccines to 8,229 people from July 2021 to January 2022.



Among other countries, we are responding to COVID-19 in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, as shown on the map above.

- In **India**, International Medical Corps has been providing resources to strengthen the existing—but overwhelmed—healthcare infrastructure. We partnered with three local organizations: Doctors For You (DFY), Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS) and VisionSpring. Together, we have enhanced critical-care capacity, strengthened infectious disease preparedness efforts at healthcare facilities and boosted vaccination efforts, particularly in rural areas. Since April 2021, International Medical Corps has provided urgently needed oxygen supplies, PPE, medicines and medical supplies in 17 states, including hotspots in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. We have supported 50 healthcare facilities and delivered 47,000 N95 masks to underserved communities. In addition, we are supporting the efforts of DFY to roll out vaccination campaigns in five states—Bihar, Jammu, Kashmir, Odisha, Manipur and Rajasthan—via nine vaccination centers. In January 2022, DFY vaccinated more than 30,000 people and provided two training sessions on how to raise awareness of COVID-19 infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in remote areas of India.
- In **Pakistan**, we have since March 2020 provided information to 189,119 community residents in our areas of operation about the symptoms and treatment of COVID-19, as well as how to protect against infection. We also have screened 17,695 patients for COVID-19. Our female doctors and health workers continue to offer essential sexual and reproductive healthcare in five public healthcare facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to women and girls needing urgent care, and our psychosocial counselors and gender-based violence (GBV) case managers located in Haripur, Lower Dir and Mansehra districts continue to provide both mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and GBV case management and referral services to those in dire need, as cases of MHPSS and GBV have been increasing during the pandemic. We have supported 1,681 people through 2,846 counseling sessions, including psychological first aid (PFA) and telephone counseling. Working with a consortium of partners, International Medical Corps is implementing “Improving National Capacity to Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic in Pakistan (Cap-COVID),” under which we have conducted 63 training sessions on COVID-19 for healthcare providers, multi-disciplinary responders and staff from our partner organizations in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. International Medical Corps also is working with the Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation (MERF) to implement a project to improve COVID-19 vaccination coverage in Peshawar district. During this four-month project, 52,370 people received their first vaccine dose and 33,244 people received their second dose. In addition, we conducted nine training sessions on COVID-19 vaccination protocols, and trained 225 people. We also distributed 96,947 medical equipment items (syringes, thermal guns, vaccine carriers, cold boxes and safety boxes) to support the government’s COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

International Medical Corps' Impact at a Glance

Number of Supported Facilities Provided with COVID-19 Activities

1,315
Primary Health
Facilities

214
Hospitals

39
COVID-19
Treatment
Centers

98
Mobile Medical
Clinics

Community Members Reached Through COVID-19 Awareness-Raising Activities



6.9M Traditional



2.8M Remote

PPE and IPC
Items Distributed



31.0M PPE



1.5M IPC