

Cameroon

International Medical Corps has worked in Cameroon since 2008, when we responded to a large influx of refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR).

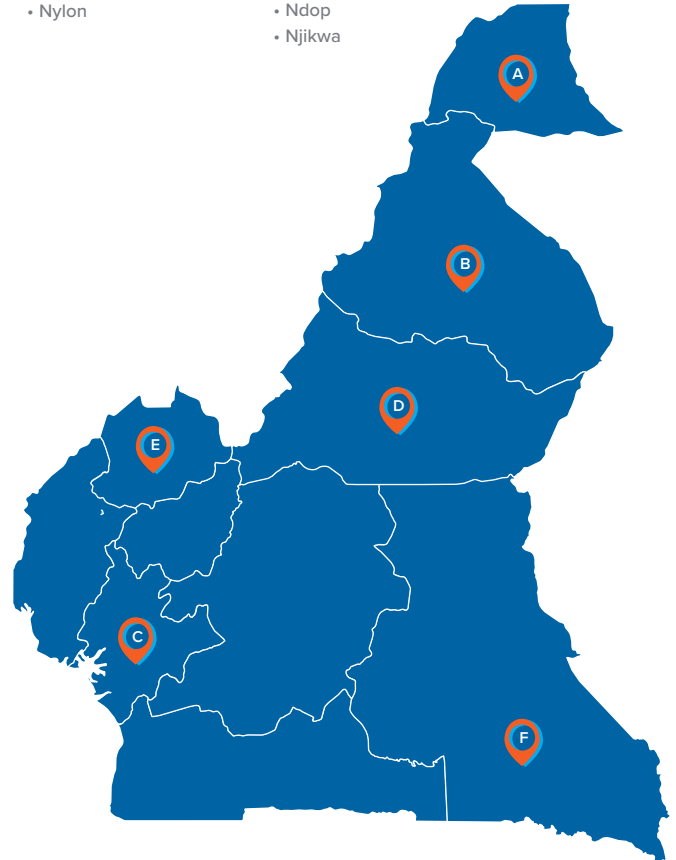
In the years since, we have provided lifesaving assistance in the midst of the Sahel food crisis and recurrent floods, responded to outbreaks of cholera and COVID-19, and cared for families fleeing ongoing violence in the CAR and the Lake Chad Basin.

With ongoing instability in CAR and Nigeria, Cameroon hosts more than 439,000 refugees and 321,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Far North region and another 439,000 IDPs in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

International Medical Corps is working in refugee camps and with some of the most vulnerable populations in six regions in Cameroon—Far North, North, Adamawa, Northwest, East and Littoral—to implement health programs that include disease surveillance, nutrition activities, gender-based violence (GBV) response, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and child protection.

WHERE WE WORK

- A FAR NORTH**
 - Bourha Fotokol
 - Goulfey Mada Makary
 - Mogode Mokolo Kolofata
 - Roua
- B NORTH**
 - Touboro
- C LITTORAL**
 - New Bell
 - Nylon
- D ADAMAWA**
 - Borgop
 - Djohong
 - Garoua Boulai
 - Meiganga
 - Ngam
 - Ngaoui
- E NORTHWEST**
 - Batibo Fundong
 - Mbengwi
 - Ndop
 - Njikwa
- F EAST**
 - Batouri
 - Gbiti
 - Kete
 - Kinzo
 - Lolo
 - Mandjou
 - Mbile
 - Timangolo
 - Yokadouma



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HEALTH CARE

International Medical Corps in Cameroon supports several healthcare facilities across six regions, and provides medical care directly through static health facilities, community health services and mobile outreach. Our services include:

- ▶ preventive and curative medical consultations with referrals to secondary and tertiary care;
- ▶ reproductive health services, including deliveries, antenatal care and postnatal care;
- ▶ provision of essential drugs, medical supplies and equipment;
- ▶ training and capacity-building for healthcare professionals;
- ▶ training for community health workers (CHWs) to educate local residents on public health issues, engage in disease surveillance and follow-up on vaccine-preventable illnesses such as polio, neonatal tetanus, yellow fever and measles; and
- ▶ construction and rehabilitation of health facilities.

International Medical Corps supports the community-based surveillance of diseases of epidemic potential, including polio, cholera and COVID-19, to facilitate early detection, prevention and response. Over the last five years, these efforts have led to a significant reduction in cholera cases in several health districts in the Far North and Littoral regions of Cameroon.





NUTRITION

Malnutrition rates remain high in Cameroon—a crisis that is driven by ongoing displacement, a protracted regional food crisis, an inadequate supply of clean water, and poor sanitation and hygiene practices. As a result, many children do not have the nutrients required for healthy development, leading to irreversible cognitive and physical stunting. International Medical Corps is providing nutrition services that include:

- ▶ malnutrition screening for vulnerable populations;
- ▶ targeted supplementary feeding for malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women, including treatment for those severely malnourished without medical complications;
- ▶ community outreach and nutrition promotion, to pass on good nutritional practices; and
- ▶ training and capacity-building for Ministry of Public Health staff and CHWs.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

International Medical Corps integrates MHPSS services into our general healthcare activities so that families have greater access to care. We also work with healthcare facilities and community health workers to increase the number of referrals for mental health services. To promote the greater availability of high-quality mental health services across Cameroon, International Medical Corps also designs and provides healthcare professionals with curriculum and educational materials that are in line with the World Health Organization's mhGAP Intervention Guidelines.

CHILD PROTECTION

Certain cultural and religious practices—including forced child marriage, child labor and lack of educational opportunities for girls—continue to impede children's rights in Cameroon. International Medical Corps works in refugee camps and host communities to prevent child abuse and promote the rights of refugee children from CAR and Nigeria, as well as IDP children. Our activities include:

- ▶ training members of parent committees, CHWs and religious leaders to prevent the abuse and exploitation of children and to promote child rights;
- ▶ providing protection and material support to unaccompanied and disabled children, and setting up referral pathways to address their cases;
- ▶ providing playtime activities and equipment for child-friendly spaces, and setting up girls' and boys' club structures, where children draw, garden, cook, dance and play;
- ▶ providing MHPSS support, in collaboration with our nutrition team, for children receiving in-patient care for severe acute malnutrition and their caregivers; and
- ▶ facilitating the production and issuing of birth certificates for vulnerable refugees and IDPs.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In armed-conflict environments, women and girls are especially vulnerable, often left with very little decisionmaking power. International Medical Corps has been implementing GBV prevention and protection programming in Cameroon since 2009, providing training to local healthcare providers on clinical management of rape. We also help ensure that psychosocial support is available to survivors and other vulnerable women and girls, and that the community is aware of the risks and consequences of GBV.

International Medical Corps has been working with refugees and IDPs to mitigate the risks of GBV and strengthen the support services available to survivors, including:

- ▶ medical care for GBV survivors, such as providing post-exposure prophylaxis kits for all rape cases reported within 72 hours;
- ▶ awareness-raising and advocacy to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with GBV;
- ▶ language classes, life-skills training, vocational training and social reintegration for GBV survivors; and
- ▶ training for key community and administrative healthcare professionals at GBV focal points.



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.

November 2022

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.