

Democratic Republic of the Congo

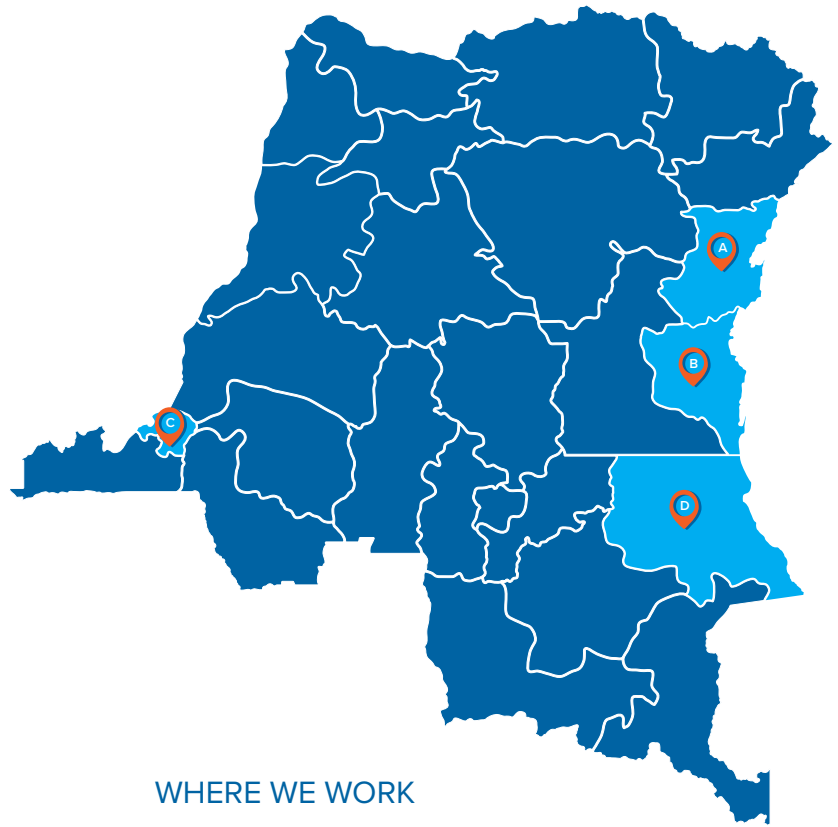
Years after the official end of a decade-long civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), violence remains pervasive throughout eastern DRC, sexual abuse of women and children continues to escalate and more than one-third of the population lacks access to basic healthcare.

Since the height of the conflict, International Medical Corps has worked in this volatile environment, helping communities achieve resilience by providing training, direct services, infrastructure rehabilitation, equipment and supplies.

International Medical Corps has worked in the DRC since 1999, providing primary and secondary healthcare, capacity building, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and treatment, nutrition support, social and behavioral change, food security programs, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

In recent years, we have responded to multiple outbreaks of disease, including Ebola, measles, polio and the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also provided support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in the distribution of the oral cholera vaccine.

International Medical Corps is currently serving communities in remote and hard-to-reach areas in Tanganyika and South Kivu provinces in eastern DRC. We have served more than 2 million people in the DRC, many of whom have been affected by armed conflict.



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HEALTHCARE

International Medical Corps currently supports more than 200 health centers and hospitals across 11 health zones, building the capacity of healthcare workers and community volunteers, conducting training sessions and providing healthcare, essential medicines, medical consumables and medical equipment. We also are improving the referral and counter-referral system, including system monitoring and reporting. With the response teams composed of medical doctors, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, hygienists, logistics and security staff, we deploy mobile medical clinics that give free access to quality healthcare to internally displaced persons (IDPs), host families and other under-resourced populations.

Given the considerable gaps in primary healthcare services in our intervention areas, we focus on providing comprehensive and integrated primary care packages, including immunization

WHERE WE WORK

- A NORTH KIVU**
Country Main Office
- B SOUTH KIVU**
Bukavu (liaison office)
Bunyakiri
Fizi
Idjwi
Itombwe
Kalehe
Katan
Kimbilulenge
Minembwe
Minova
Nundu
Uvira
- C KINSHASA**
Liaison office
- D TANGANYIKA**
Kalemie (liaison office)
Kongolo
Mbulula

campaigns, maternal and child health services, basic mental health and psychosocial support and improvement of environmental sanitation and hygiene practices at targeted health facilities. We continue to support capacity-building within these health centers to ensure that the quality of care remains high and support the referral of cases to secondary facilities for specialized care.

International Medical Corps leverages decades of experience with infectious diseases in our work with the MoH to improve prevention, detection and treatment. We provide logistical and technical support to the MoH with the World Health Organization's integrated disease surveillance and response (IDSR) strategy and One Health approach. Our response team is ready to deploy mobile medical units in remote areas to provide lifesaving services to under-resourced people.



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

International Medical Corps prioritizes reproductive health services and family planning in the DRC. OB/GYN care is especially important, because nearly all obstetric complications among women in the DRC result from either subpar medical care or rape. By increasing the quality and availability of reproductive and maternal healthcare, as well as the uptake of these services, International Medical Corps has significantly improved long-term health outcomes for women and children. Our staff supports more than 200 health areas in the DRC with sexual and reproductive health services while providing education and counseling for sexual assault survivors and family planning commodities to health facilities and communities. In addition, International Medical Corps has constructed a reproductive health complex in Chambucha Hospital in North Kivu where we have trained health professionals in advanced gynecological and obstetric care.

NUTRITION

Together with our global partners, International Medical Corps has provided nutrition services in communities of North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces, helping thousands of children recover from malnutrition. Our nutrition services 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 nutritional education and training sessions, to help people cultivate staple crops. Our teams also support procurement, transportation and distribution of nutrition supplements like ready-to-use therapeutic food and therapeutic milk while providing monitoring tools to health facilities.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Since 2002, International Medical Corps has helped lead the battle against GBV in war-ravaged eastern DRC. International Medical Corps is implementing protection, child protection and GBV activities, including establishing women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS), training paralegals and providing psychological first aid and post-exposure prophylaxis kits to survivors of GBV. International Medical Corps supports more than 30 community-based organizations (CBOs) and health facilities in efforts to strengthen core services for GBV survivors, particularly quality medical GBV case management and psychosocial support services. We also support capacity building of CBOs, community leaders and other local protection partners on GBV components, referral pathways, women's rights and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.



RESEARCH

Thorough partnerships with the DRC government, donors and academic institutions, International Medical Corps works to generate knowledge while supporting local communities. Examples include the participation of an International Medical Corps-managed Ebola treatment center (ETC) in the PALM trial during the country's 10th Ebola outbreak, which led to

the identification of groundbreaking therapeutics; carrying out vaccine hesitancy studies on both Ebola and COVID-19 to support demand generation; and participating in a cohort study, working with Johns Hopkins University and with funding from BHA, to examine the relation between nutritional status and COVID-19 outcomes.



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.

January 2024

COUNTRY CONTACT: Romain Gitenet, Country Director
rgitenet@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

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.