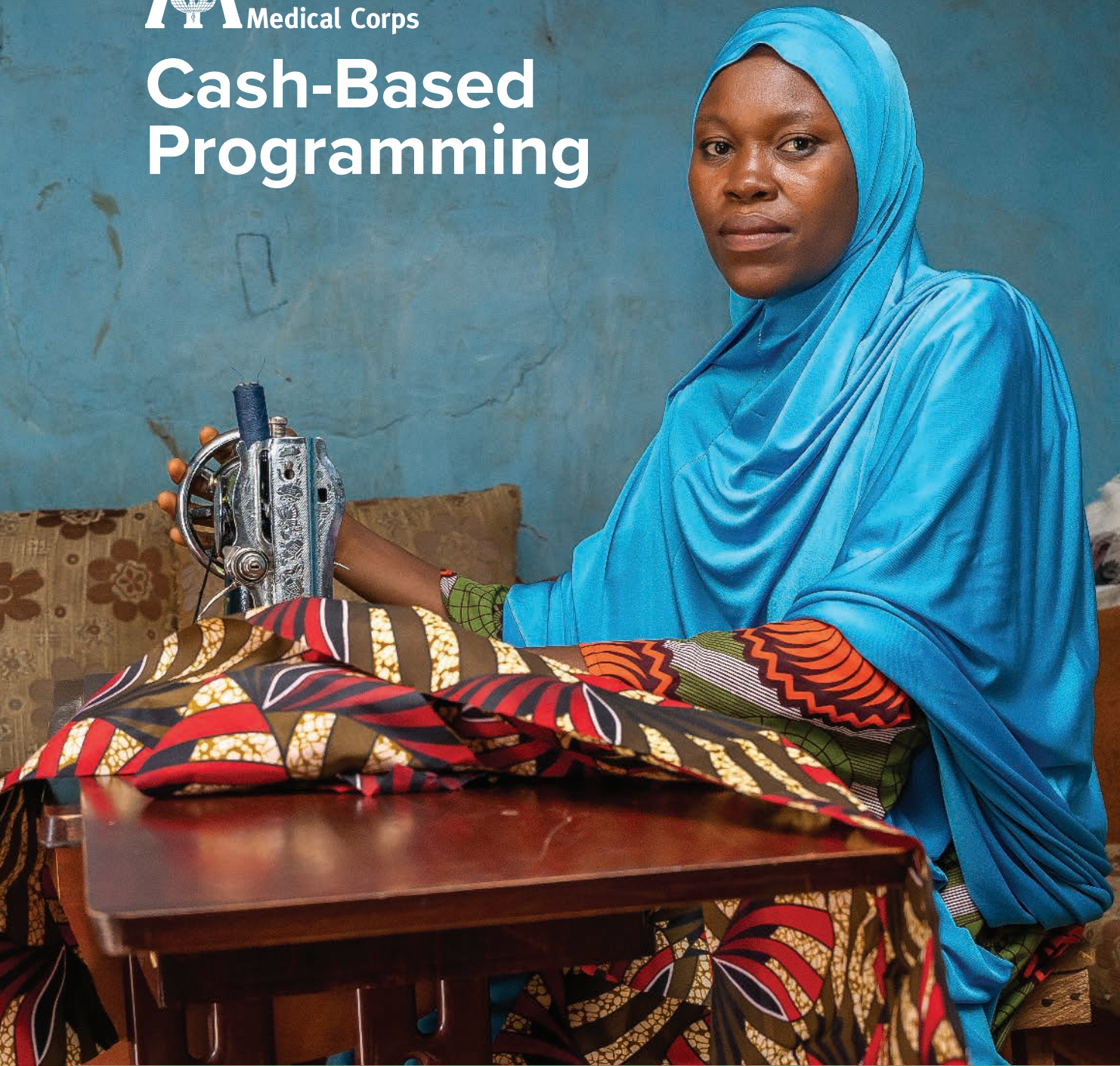


# Cash-Based Programming



**People affected by crisis and disaster often rely on cash as a key tool to ensure their recovery and, in some cases, survival.**

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) is a type of humanitarian assistance that meets this need by putting cash or cash equivalents (such as vouchers

redeemable for goods) in the hands of people affected by emergencies. Unlike the distribution of materials such as food, cash provides families with choice and agency to determine how best to meet their needs in the aftermath of disaster. Recipients of CVA are able to address a wide range of needs for basic goods and services—including food, healthcare, clothing, and education supplies and fees—with the flexibility of cash.





**International Medical Corps, which has provided cash-based assistance since 2015, supports CVA programs in Cameroon, Central African Republic,**

**Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ukraine and Yemen, among other countries. Our approach to CVA is based on needs and outcomes, wherever cash transfer or vouchers may be identified as the most appropriate way of reducing individual or household vulnerabilities, addressing basic needs and empowering communities.**



International Medical Corps is committed to providing CVA as a market-based approach because of its ability both to meet the needs of crisis-affected people and to support the recovery of local economies. Households that receive cash spend it in markets or on services within the community, which makes them and the providers of goods and services active contributors to market recovery. When combined with complementary approaches such as vocational training, malnutrition treatment and prevention, and services related to violence against women and girls, cash assistance can help families and individuals meet their immediate needs and regain their dignity, and set them on a course for resilience.

## INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS CASH TRANSFER APPROACHES

COUNTRY	OBJECTIVE	CASH		VOUCHER		COMPLIMENTARY INTERVENTIONS
		Account	Physical	Paper	Electronic	
Cameroon	Food assistance				✓	Livelihoods development
Central African Republic	Food assistance		✓			Malnutrition treatment and prevention
Ethiopia	Food assistance		✓			Malnutrition treatment and prevention
Ethiopia	Response to and reduction of violence against women and girls		✓			Case management related to violence against women and girls
Lebanon	Response to and reduction of violence against women and girls		✓			Case management related to violence against women and girls
Nigeria	Food assistance/multipurpose cash assistance	✓		✓	✓	General food distribution
Yemen	Food assistance		✓			Malnutrition treatment and prevention





## NIGERIA

In February 2018, International Medical Corps began supporting cash voucher assistance in Nigeria's Northeast region, where the Boko Haram crisis has caused the displacement of more than 2 million people. Since then, we have reached more than 25,000 households with cash-based transfers, totaling \$10.5 million. Working with the World Food Programme (WFP), International Medical Corps supports three types of cash transfers: mobile money transfers, e-vouchers and pre-paid bank cards. Under the project, WFP is responsible for carrying out the cash transfer to people in need using its SCOPE platform, while International Medical Corps supports beneficiary targeting, registration, sensitization, site preparation, market assessments, technical support, retailer and case-agent monitoring, and in-kind food distributions.

Our current project in Nigeria covers two local government areas of Borno state and uses a community-based targeting approach where beneficiaries of cash transfer are selected with the participation of community members (village representatives, women's and youth associations, elders, etc.) who mutually determine needs-based criteria.

## ETHIOPIA

As part of our efforts to support the economic empowerment of vulnerable women and girls, International Medical Corps supports cash transfers in the Gambella, Oromia, Somali and Tigray regions of Ethiopia. International Medical Corps is supporting multipurpose cash transfers in the woredas of West Wollega and northwest Tigray, as well as business-skills development, entrepreneurship training and short-term vocational skills training.

International Medical Corps is also providing cash assistance in the Somali and Gambella regions of Ethiopia for women and girls who have survived violence. We provide cash assistance to women as part of the case management process, depending on individual needs and circumstances. We also cover the costs of transportation for survivors of violence to access medical care and legal services, as part of their care plan. This support follows the survivor-centered approach and adheres to the guiding principles of safety, confidentiality, dignity, self-determination and non-discrimination.



## YEMEN

Eleven years of armed conflict in Yemen have resulted in a dire food crisis, with more than 17 million Yemenis facing food insecurity and 5 million children in need of treatment for acute malnutrition. To prevent malnutrition and reduce the vulnerability of crisis-affected families in Al Dhale'e and Ibb governates, International Medical Corps is providing food assistance through unconditional cash transfer. As part the project's integrated approach, International Medical Corps targets vulnerable households with children under 5 who have severe acute or moderate acute malnutrition, as well as pregnant and lactating women, who are registered at International Medical Corps-supported health facilities.

In 2024, International Medical Corps provided cash assistance totaling \$367,000 to 4,200 people from 600 households. Because people in the project locations generally do not have bank accounts, and because financial services such e-pay or mobile cash transfers are not yet offered in Yemen, International Medical Corps provides direct cash payments, using the International Bank of Yemen's mobile cash payment service.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The Sudanese civil war that began in April 2023 caused a sudden influx of refugees from Sudan into the Vakaga region in the north of CAR. In response, International Medical Corps provided approximately \$545,000 to 11,400 vulnerable people—in addition to food assistance and malnutrition prevention and response services—to ensure that refugee families were able to afford food and protect the health and nutrition status of their children. We provided assistance to refugee households—as well as to CAR returnees and mothers of children with acute malnutrition—in the form of physical cash, due to a lack of banks and of internet access in Birao and the surrounding areas.



[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://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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