


# Democratic Republic of the Congo



**Years after the official end of a decade of armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), violence remains pervasive throughout eastern DRC. Sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children continue to escalate, while more than one-third of**

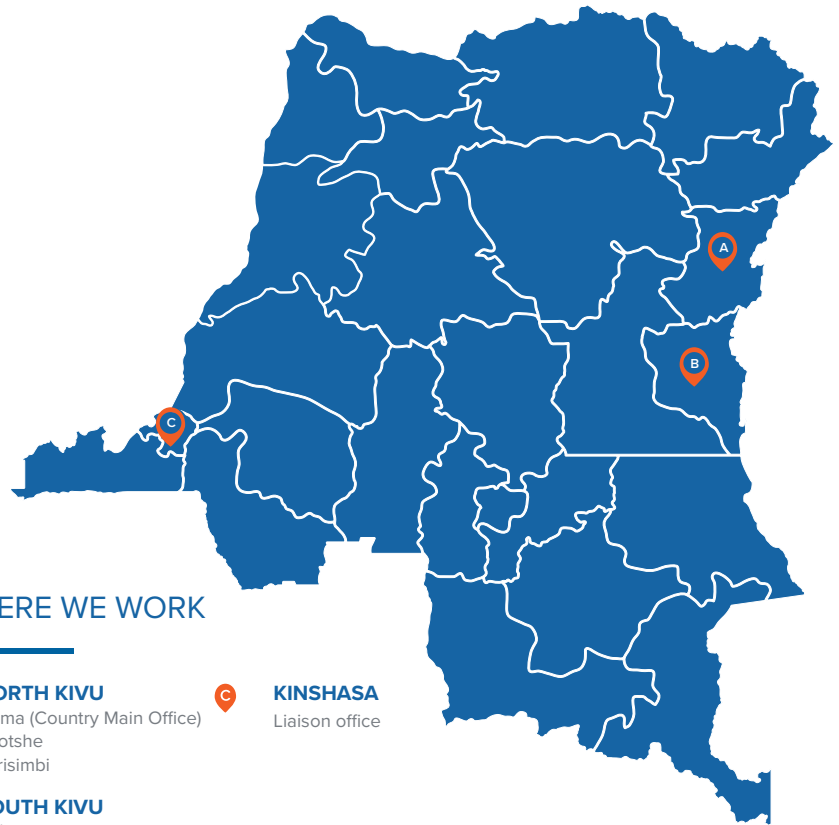
**the population lacks access to basic healthcare.**

Since the height of the conflict in 1999, International Medical Corps has worked in the DRC, helping communities transition from relief to self-reliance by conducting training sessions, providing direct services, rehabilitating infrastructure and supplying equipment and materials.

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

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

International Medical Corps, which currently serves communities in remote areas in North and South Kivu provinces in eastern DRC, has served more than 2 million people in the DRC, many of whom have been affected by armed conflict and natural disasters.



## WHERE WE WORK

**A NORTH KIVU**  
Goma (Country Main Office)  
Kirotshe  
Karisimbi

**C KINSHASA**  
Liaison office

**B SOUTH KIVU**  
Fizi  
Kaniola  
Kimbilulenge  
Minova

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HEALTHCARE

International Medical Corps supports more than 30 health centers and hospitals across four 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 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 sexual-violence case workers, and logistics and security staff. The teams provide no-cost, holistic and high-quality healthcare. At our mobile clinics, we also conduct health surveillance, monitoring the spread of communicable diseases and supporting early warning systems in the event of an outbreak.

## NUTRITION

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

## MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE

Our obstetric gynecological (OB-GYN) 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, as well as the uptake of these services—significantly improving long-term health outcomes for women and children.

Our staff has provided more than 200 health areas in the DRC with maternal and newborn care services, as well as education and counseling for sexual assault survivors and newborn-care supplies to health facilities and communities.

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Since 2002, International Medical Corps has helped lead the battle against conflict-related sexual violence in war-ravaged eastern DRC. Our team implements sexual violence prevention and management 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 sexual violence and assault. International Medical Corps supports more than 18 community-based organizations (CBOs) and health facilities in efforts to strengthen core services for sexual assault survivors—particularly quality medical case management and psychosocial support services. We also support capacity building of CBOs, community leaders and other local protection partners, referral pathways, women's rights, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

## CHILD PROTECTION

Since 2022, International Medical Corps has been implementing child protection activities in emergency situations by aligning with The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action's Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Emergencies, through a participatory, integrated and multi-sectoral approach. We offer recreational, educational and psycho-educational activities at child-friendly spaces with trained community facilitators, as well as individual case management.



## RESEARCH

Through 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 vaccination programs; and participating in a cohort study with Johns Hopkins University to examine the relation between nutritional status and COVID-19 outcomes.



[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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