

Nigeria

The ongoing conflict in northeast Nigeria continues to fuel one of Africa's most significant humanitarian crises. Amid the fighting, more than 8.4 million people need lifesaving assistance and more than 2.3 million are internally displaced.

More than 30 million people are facing acute food insecurity. Globally, Nigeria accounts for more than 34% of maternal mortality—despite being 1% of the world's population. International Medical Corps is responding to emergency needs in Borno State—the epicenter of these crises—as well as Kano and Katsina states.

International Medical Corps has worked in Nigeria since 2013. Our teams deliver programs addressing health, nutrition, violence against women and girls (VAWG), food security, livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

In Borno, where political and religious violence drives instability and displacement, International Medical Corps is working in the state capital, Maiduguri—as well as in the northern, central and southern parts of the state—to provide lifesaving assistance to community members and families forced from their homes by violence. We also serve as a key actor supporting polio-eradication efforts across the state, including in areas that have only recently become accessible to humanitarian organizations.



NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Nigeria is experiencing one of the world's most widespread and severe food crises. The 2025 floods were catastrophic for food security and agriculture, while the encroaching desert consumes farmland, limiting food production. Meanwhile, armed conflict has destroyed livelihoods, livestock and farmlands. For many, these challenges pose the threat of extreme, famine-like conditions, while hundreds of thousands of children face life-threatening malnutrition.

International Medical Corps, in partnership with the governments of Borno and Katsina, provides lifesaving treatment for severe acute malnutrition to children under 5. Our team coordinates with and trains community volunteers who go house to house screening children for malnutrition and referring cases to International Medical Corps outpatient treatment centers—which we manage with the state ministries of health—and stabilization centers for malnutrition cases with medical complications. Community volunteers also train mothers and caretakers on healthy maternal, infant and young-child nutrition, especially among pregnant and nursing mothers. In Borno, we treat child malnutrition and work to improve food access for more than 92,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).



HEALTHCARE

International Medical Corps works with state ministries of health to improve healthcare access for IDPs and host-community residents. We operate surveillance and referral systems to respond to outbreaks of disease, including cholera, diphtheria, measles, Lassa fever and COVID-19. We also collaborate with community-based organizations to strengthen local healthcare structures in Borno, Katsina and Kano. Our teams provide lifesaving interventions and facilitate referrals during mass-casualty incidents and outbreak responses through a government-owned secondary healthcare center. For example, during the 2024 flash flood in Maiduguri, International Medical Corps deployed a mobile team and provided emergency night services to flood victims in two IDP camps.

International Medical Corps and our local implementing partners work with governments at all levels to keep Nigeria free of polio. With our partners in Borno and Kano, we have trained and deployed more than 900 community health workers (CHWs) to link community members with health services, promote immunization awareness and report suspected cases. Our CHWs have supported the vaccination of thousands of children in Borno and Kano against vaccine-preventable diseases while providing other essential health and nutrition services.

We have an agreement with the Borno State Ministry of Health to support the Gwoza General Hospital, where in 2024 we supported more than 40 caesarean sections, 1,250 blood transfusions and more than 4,550 hospitalization services.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

We work to prevent and respond to VAWG in four local government authorities (LGAs) of Borno State and one local government area in Katsina State. We provide survivor-centered comprehensive case-management services, including referrals to advanced specialized care services. We train service providers on core concepts, referral pathways to available services and clinical management of rape, ensuring that survivors receive appropriate care. In 2024, our team reached nearly 457,000 people with awareness-raising information on VAWG, its consequences and available services for women and girls.

Locally operated women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) offer emotional healing and support to vulnerable women, girls and VAWG survivors, creating places where women and girls can connect, share information and build skills. We engage hundreds of men through the "Engaging Men through Accountable Practices" approach, which focuses on individual behavior change with men to reduce VAWG. In Borno and Katsina, we integrate VAWG case-management services into operational health facilities.

We reach hundreds of women through women's economic and social empowerment programs, with a three-pronged approach comprising village savings-and-loans associations, discussion groups and competency-based enterprise programs. And hundreds of girls in our VAWG program have participated in our "Girl Shine" course, which supports them in self-determination and empowerment.





WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

To protect the health of IDPs, International Medical Corps provides access to drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation services to approximately 67,000 people across three LGAs— Askira/Uba, Damboa and Gwoza—in Borno State.

In 2024, our teams delivered key messages about hygiene through a door-to-door campaign that reached nearly 35,550 people. We also rehabilitated eight water-supply systems and provided 10 formal and informal IDP camps in Damboa with access to clean water through water-trucking services and water jetting. Today, we provide more than 23,000 people with approximately 350,000 liters of clean water daily.

International Medical Corps also rehabilitated waste-disposal pits in Gwoza General Hospital and Rumirgo Primary Health Center in Askira/Uba, and we are collaborating with government officials to provide infection-prevention-and-control materials—including cleaning supplies and equipment—to mitigate the spread of disease in health centers in Borno, Kankia and Katsina.



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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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