



Central African Republic

Political turmoil and unrest have plagued the Central African Republic (CAR) since it won independence from France in 1960.

Today, CAR is among the poorest countries in the world—and one of the most dangerous for humanitarian workers. Violence routinely and forcibly displaces people nationwide, with the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) exceeding 433,000. Adding to this is the ongoing conflict in Sudan, which has driven more than 43,000 Sudanese refugees into northern CAR.

Millions in CAR lack access to nutritious food, clean water and healthcare. The health system faces a chronic shortage of qualified health personnel, medical equipment and basic drugs. International Medical Corps provides lifesaving services in eight prefectures—including the country's troubled northeastern region, where International Medical Corps is one of the few operating international organizations.

International Medical Corps began working in CAR in 2007, providing lifesaving care to Sudanese refugees.

Today, we provide primary, emergency, secondary, maternal and newborn health services, as well as infection-prevention and control (IPC), services related to violence against women and girls (VAWG), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and nutrition services. Our programs strengthen local health systems by providing supplies, logistical and staffing support, and by training health workers—for example, to address CAR's shortage of qualified health personnel, International Medical Corps partners with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the University of Bangui to train auxiliary midwives in Bria.



PREFECTURES WHERE WE WORK

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|--------|
| A | BAMINGUI BANGORAN | D | KEMO |
| B | HAUTE KOTTO | E | OUAKA |
| C | NANA GRIBIZI | F | VAKAGA |



2.3 MILLION PEOPLE out of a population of 5.7 million need urgent humanitarian assistance—even as an increasing number of security incidents has affected the ability of humanitarian organizations to reach those most in need.



Primary and Secondary Healthcare

Noncommunicable diseases pose a growing public health challenge in CAR. We provide technical and logistical support to the MoH to strengthen integrated disease surveillance and response. We also provide lifesaving services through 250 health facilities that reach most of CAR's remote communities. Our primary healthcare services include:

- ▶ curative and preventive consultations;
- ▶ training, coaching and supportive supervision;
- ▶ integrated management of childhood illnesses;
- ▶ prevention of and response to common diseases;
- ▶ health promotion and education;
- ▶ rehabilitation and construction of health infrastructure; and
- ▶ community health support.

Maternal and Child Health

CAR faces a severe shortage of maternal and child health services, with far fewer health professionals than the WHO target requires. Many rural communities cannot access maternal and newborn healthcare. CAR has one of the worst infant-mortality and one of the worst maternal-mortality rates in the world.

To address these challenges, International Medical Corps provides:

- ▶ antenatal and postnatal care;
- ▶ clean and safe deliveries;
- ▶ emergency obstetric care;
- ▶ integrated maternal and newborn health services;
- ▶ immunization services for pregnant and lactating women, and children under 5;
- ▶ prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission of diseases; and

- ▶ comprehensive clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence.

To expand access to health services and ensure the long-term delivery of care to reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality, International Medical Corps supports capacity-building for MoH personnel and operates a midwife assistant school jointly with the MoH. Eighteen midwife assistants have so far graduated from our school and are continuing their professional training in Bria hospital, while 43 students are on track to graduate as nurse assistants and midwife assistants in 2026.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

The humanitarian crisis in CAR threatens the long-term mental health and well-being of children and adolescents across the country. We provide direct services, integrate mental health services into other programs, combat discrimination, train and supervise professionals, and engage communities through education with the support of community leaders and community health workers (CHWs).

Nutrition

To prevent malnutrition, our team educates communities and trains CHWs on maternal, infant and young-child nutrition. We also train CHWs, community leaders and families on how to screen children for acute malnutrition, and provide cooking demonstrations that reinforce this guidance and help families learn how to meet children's dietary needs.

We train traditional birth attendants and healthcare providers on how to counsel families on breastfeeding and complementary feeding. We also offer individual counseling sessions in supportive spaces for breastfeeding women and mothers of children under 2.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Conflict, displacement and inadequate protections expose women and girls in CAR to severe risks. Women and girls make up more than half of CAR's displaced population and often live with minimal human-rights protections. Discriminatory social norms reinforce women's and girls' weak decisionmaking power, financial dependence and unequal access to resources. International Medical Corps takes a community-based approach to implementing VAWG prevention and response programs, using a bottom-up model to improve community resources for survivors and promoting initiatives that strengthen grassroots protections.

Our CAR team operates women's and girls' safe spaces (WGSS) that offer VAWG-related information and services safely and discreetly. Our WGSS help survivors integrate into the community while reducing stigmatization and isolation. We provide adolescent girls with life-skills courses to increase their knowledge of maternal and infant health, as well as VAWG risks. The courses also help adolescent girls voice concerns and seek support safely.

To address women's financial dependence and strengthen their role as decisionmakers, International Medical Corps has established 85 village savings-and-loan associations (VSLAs) in which nearly 2,300 women from rural and urban areas participate. This approach enables women to meet their basic needs and those of their families.

And because men learn violence from the traditional definitions and conventions of masculinity, our programs help men recognize their power to challenge and change these gender norms. We conduct community-based discussion groups where facilitators help participants address roles and create change. Our team also trains community and religious leaders to create and improve community-based mechanisms to prevent VAWG.

Capacity Building

International Medical Corps equips community groups to strengthen local resilience and improve the management of healthcare, nutrition and protection programs. In CAR, our capacity-building approach includes:

- ▶ providing ongoing, on-the-job training for nurses and midwives to improve healthcare management and clinical knowledge;



- ▶ engaging CHWs and traditional birth attendants to improve the effectiveness of healthcare and nutrition services;
- ▶ strengthening health facilities, service-delivery systems and supply chains, in coordination with local committees and the MoH;
- ▶ training healthcare providers; and
- ▶ strengthening local response networks.

Health Systems Strengthening

International Medical Corps works with a network of local and national NGOs to improve readiness and response to outbreaks of infectious disease of epidemic or pandemic potential. For example, our programs have strengthened the WHO's Expanded Programme on Immunization in Bamingui-Bangoran, Haute-Kotto and Vakaga health districts since October 2024. In addition, since June 2024, International Medical Corps has served as a subrecipient of World Vision International under the main Global Fund award, and we support the MoH's implementation of national HIV, TB and malaria programs in seven health districts: Bambari, Bamingui-Bangoran, Grimari, Haute-Kotto, Kemo, Nana-Gribizi and Vakaga.



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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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