



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) directly 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 Chad, 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, regain their dignity and move toward self-reliance. International Medical Corp has implemented multiple CVA programs, including direct cash transfers, combined cash and food-voucher assistance, and food vouchers.

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
Chad	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



Chad

In Chad, we are implementing cash programming in accordance with our Global CVA Guidelines, country-level procedures, donor requirements and relevant Cash Working Group guidance. Working with the World Food Programme, our Chad team has distributed \$292,000 in cash.

Ethiopia

We've implemented cash assistance alongside broader emergency, protection and food security and livelihoods (FSL) programming in Ethiopia—our largest FSL-related country program in 2025. We reached about 193,800 people through food assistance and nearly 700 more with livelihoods support. We also provided more than \$20,000 in direct cash transfers.

Nigeria

In 2025, Nigeria remained one of International Medical Corps' largest Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) programs, reaching more than 169,000 people, including more than



161,000 who received food assistance through cash and in-kind programs. This work demonstrates our continued capacity to deliver large-scale food assistance and integrate cash-based programs within broader food security, nutrition and livelihoods programming.

Somalia

Somalia represents an important part of International Medical Corps' voucher-based assistance portfolio. In 2025, we provided more than \$2.3 million in food vouchers, reaching more than 18,000 people, primarily through food assistance and voucher programming.

United States

In 2025, International Medical Corps facilitated about \$7,500 in food voucher redemptions, helping people access food assistance in the aftermath of the Los Angeles wildfires. Though this volume is relatively small compared with our broader international humanitarian CVA portfolio, it demonstrates our experience in implementing voucher-based assistance in any context.

Yemen

Yemen remains an important context for our cash-based food assistance programming. In 2025, we provided nearly \$124,000 in direct cash transfers and \$37,000 in food vouchers. Overall, we reached nearly 4,700 people with cash, food assistance and livelihoods support.



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.

August 2026

CONTACT

Mateen ul Hassan, Advisor, Global Food Security and Livelihoods
muhkhan@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.