



With a roster of volunteer health care specialists on call, a well-trained, experienced staff of 4,500 globally and supplies pre-positioned internationally to speed deployment, International Medical Corps has earned the reputation as a **fast, reliable first responder** with the ability to bring emergency medicine, primary and secondary health care, nutrition, water and sanitation and other health services to those in urgent need — wherever they are. Since its founding in 1984, International Medical Corps has responded to humanitarian emergencies **in more than 70 countries on 6 continents.**

Unparalleled Surge Capacity

International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team (ERT), located in Washington, D.C., has immediate deployment capability and access to experienced staff in some 30 countries around the world. The ERT is able to draw upon a wide variety of qualified staff and has a significant surge capacity with hundreds of emergency responders worldwide.

Critical Window for Response

Aware that the period immediately following a natural disaster is crucial for saving lives, International Medical Corps' goal is to be on the scene and operational within 48 hours of a decision to deploy. Sometimes the response is faster — as it was following the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti when International Medical Corps medical teams were on the scene treating victims within 22 hours of the disaster, providing emergency care and assessing the immediate needs of affected communities. Our response to the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and the 2004 Asian tsunami were equally swift. Closer to home, when Hurricane Katrina hit the America's Gulf Coast in 2005, we deployed for the first time on American soil, providing urgent medical care and supplies to a community supporting more than 20,000 evacuees in Luling, Louisiana, southwest of New Orleans.

Maximizing Results

More than speed underpins our success. International Medical Corps has learned how to work effectively in the most challenging environments — whether it's reaching populations cut off from normal supply routes by natural disaster or assisting those displaced by armed conflict in politically volatile environments such as Afghanistan, Darfur, or the Democratic Republic of Congo. Time-tested relationships with partner agencies including those from the United Nations, the U.S., European and other governments, and private sector non-government organizations (NGOs), add to our ability to move quickly and effectively in crisis.

Collectively, these three factors — deployment speed, experience in challenging conditions, and well-established working relationships with partner groups — combine to make International Medical Corps a recognized, respected leader in the field of emergency response. We are also one of the few relief groups to offer mental health services in emergency settings.

International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team deploys immediately with hundreds of emergency responders worldwide on its roster including:

- ▶ Physicians
- ▶ Nurses
- ▶ Nurse midwives
- ▶ Nutritionists
- ▶ Epidemiologists
- ▶ Emergency public health specialists
- ▶ General, orthopedic and trauma surgeons
- ▶ Logisticians
- ▶ Administrative personnel

Step 1: Mobilize Emergency Response Team

Step 2: Assess Conditions on the Ground

Step 3: Establish Partnerships

Step 4: Deliver Vital Services

Step 5: Begin Long-Term Recovery



30 Years of Experience in Disaster Response

Haiti

Just 22 hours after the devastating 7.0-earthquake hit in January 2010, International Medical Corps' Emergency Response Team was on the ground in Haiti providing medical care to survivors. Our doctors and nurses were able to mobilize on an unparalleled scale to provide 24-hour emergency care to the acutely injured at the Hôpital de l'Université d'État d'Haiti (HUEH), a 700-bed hospital in Port-au-Prince. HUEH was badly damaged in the earthquake and many local health care professionals were missing or feared dead. We were able to save thousands of lives through emergency and trauma care in the critical hours and days following the earthquake.

International Medical Corps also coordinated from the outset with other NGOs and hospital administration to fill critical gaps. At the height of emergency operations at the hospital, International Medical Corps treated approximately 1,000 patients per day. Our early entry also gave us the foundation to aggressively expand our operations to 15 mobile clinics throughout Haiti to provide critical services. Through the hospital and mobile and fixed clinics, International Medical Corps teams provided more than 110,000 patient consultations.

Pakistan

International Medical Corps responded within 12 hours of the October 8, 2005 earthquake that killed nearly 80,000 people, and was among the leading agencies providing immediate relief to the disaster-struck population in the North West Frontier Province and Kashmir regions. We established basic health units (BHUs) in the most affected areas, reaching over 4,000 people weekly. We then initiated the operation of 11 government-owned BHUs, recognized by UNICEF as "model" health facilities for all partners working in health activities in the earthquake affected areas.



“It is when disasters are first unfolding — amid confusion, fear and the great threats to life — that International Medical Corps’ skills are so crucial. A calm head and a compassionate heart in a storm of rage. That’s the role of International Medical Corps.”

- The late U.S. Senator Paul Simon

Somalia

In 1991 we deployed into the chaotic Somali capital, Mogadishu, despite raging battles between local warlord armies, becoming the only U.S.-based emergency relief group to aid civilians trapped in the capital's fighting. One International Medical Corps staff member later described the scene to a congressional hearing: "The grounds of the hospital were littered with the dead and dying. Gunmen roamed unimpeded through the compound... Stray bullets flew across the compound and everywhere, day and night, the sound of gunfire."

International Medical Corps teams treated the sick and the wounded, and also trained dozens of Somali doctors and nurses — setting a foundation for self reliance while still in the emergency response phase of the crisis.



Indonesia

Strong working relationships with other humanitarian actors are crucial. Trust forged with local Indonesian relief groups in Aceh well before the 2004 South Asian tsunami enabled International Medical Corps to cut its response time dramatically and be among the first to reach victims in the remote, outlying areas of the province. Within hours of the disaster, our local staff organized a trip into Aceh which had been completely cut off from the outside world, its roads destroyed, its airports closed. It took 2 days of travel for an International Medical Corps convoy to reach the area and begin assisting a stunned and desperate population. Our convoy marked the beginning of what would become a major relief operation that used boats, motorbikes, and helicopters to deliver needed relief to areas too remote for others to reach.

Darfur, Sudan

In 2004, International Medical Corps deployed to a very different kind of emergency unfolding in Sudan's troubled Darfur region to provide primary health care, nutritional assistance, and access to clean water to several hundred thousand internally displaced persons. Despite repeated armed attacks on our vehicles and a shrinking humanitarian space, we continue helping those trapped by the protracted conflict. In the years since our arrival, we have expanded our work to help refugees who have fled Darfur to seek the relative safety of neighboring Chad and Central African Republic.



Myanmar/Russia

International Medical Corps partnered with a local organization in Myanmar to distribute emergency relief supplies to cyclone victims in the spring of 2008 that included medicines, hygiene kits, and water purification tablets. A few months later, working in coordination with the United Nations and international and national NGOs, we found populations affected by the fighting between Russia and Georgia to be in need of mental health support — services that both International Medical Corps and the Ministry of Health in Georgia have prioritized.

Photo: REUTERS/ Gleb Garanich



Today, as we have for 30 years, International Medical Corps stands ready to deploy quickly to help populations hit by disaster, whatever the conditions, wherever the location.

International Medical Corps

Headquarters: 12400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025 • Phone: 310-826-7800 • Fax: 310-442-6622

Washington, DC: 1313 L Street, NW, Suite 220 • Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-828-5155 • Fax: 202-828-5156

www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org