

# Afghanistan



**International Medical Corps was established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses to address the critical need for medical care in war-torn Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation.**

More than 34 years later we are still there, delivering services that improve the health, livelihoods and social standing of nearly 6 million people. International Medical Corps operates a broad range of assistance programs for Afghanistan's most vulnerable groups, including the internally displaced, refugees, returnees, host communities, women and children. Our main activities in Afghanistan include providing primary and secondary health care, training, education, emergency response, disaster resilience, gender-based violence services, water sanitation and hygiene and community empowerment.



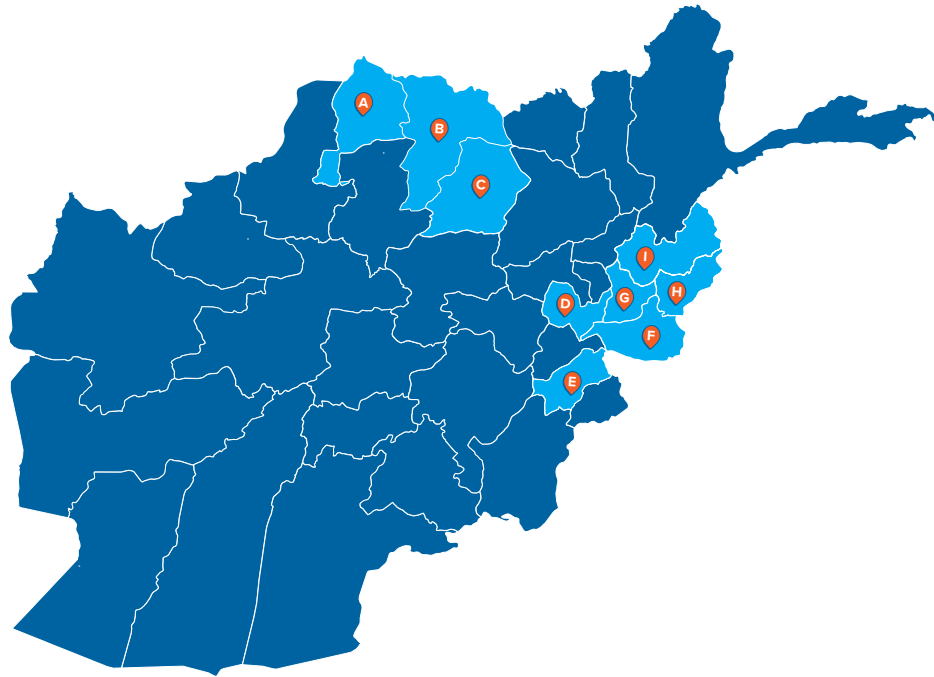
A punishing Soviet occupation in the 1980s, decades of uninterrupted civil war, and the lack of education and employment opportunities for women have taken their toll on Afghanistan's population and health infrastructure.

Continued armed conflict also makes security tenuous for civilians, who often find it difficult to obtain basic services when much of the country is inaccessible due to rugged terrain, poor infrastructure and unstable security conditions.

Despite the security challenges, International Medical Corps has supported Afghanistan's health care needs for more than three decades.

Current programs across Afghanistan include providing: primary and secondary health care; water, sanitation and hygiene; gender-based violence services; emergency response and disaster risk reduction.

In Paktika Province, we support one hospital, two health centers and three first aid trauma posts.



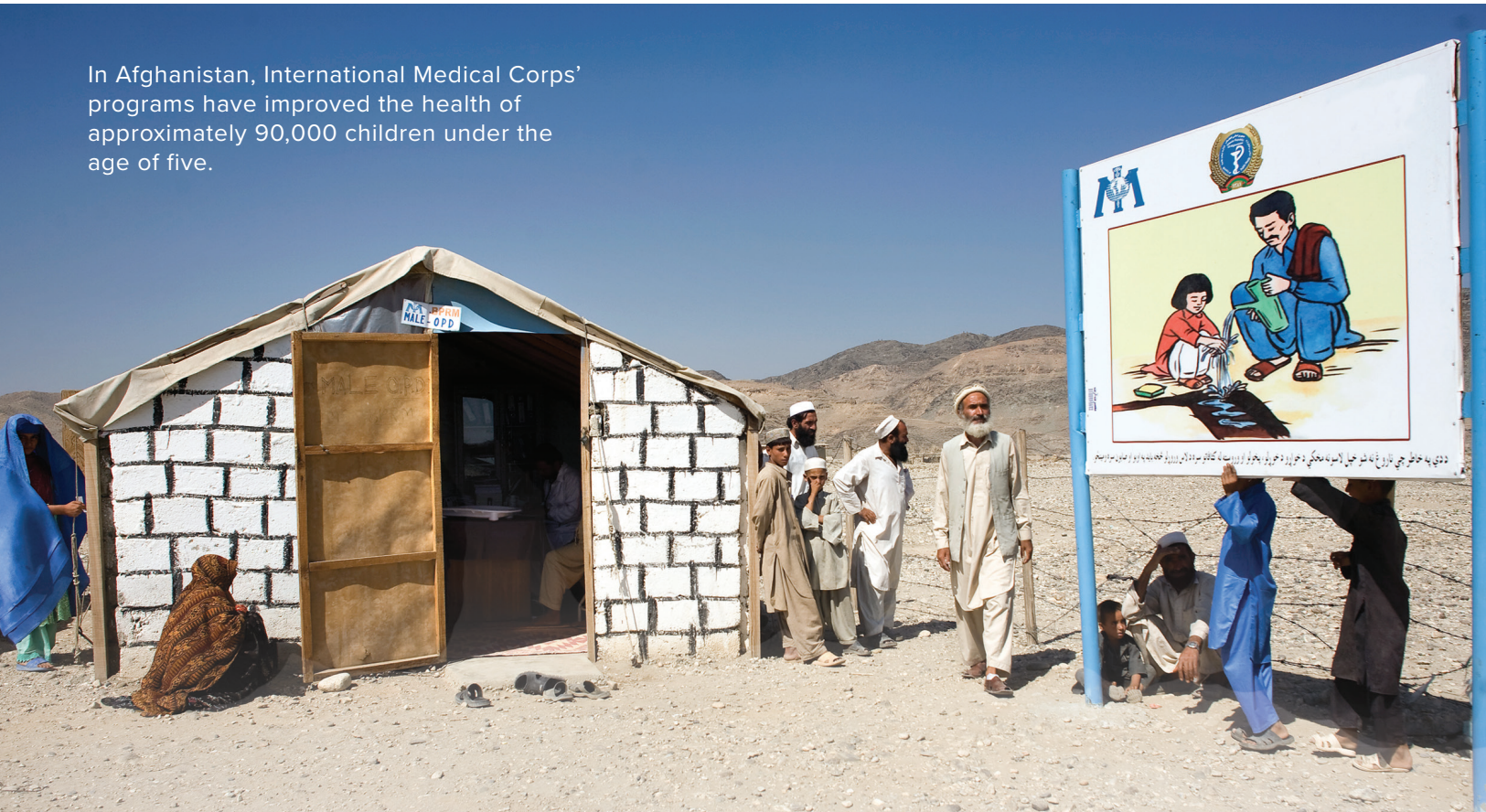
### WHERE WE WORK

- A Jawzjan
- B Balkh
- C Samangan
- D Kabul
- E Paktika
- F Nangarhar
- G Laghman
- H Kumar
- I Nuristan

**6** Health Facilities

**12** Health Posts Throughout Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, International Medical Corps' programs have improved the health of approximately 90,000 children under the age of five.



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

International Medical Corps has been implementing a program known as “Emergency Response to Conflict and Natural Disaster-Affected IDPs, Returnees and Host-Communities in Afghanistan” in the four eastern provinces of Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar. This project is a continuation of previous programs implemented since 2011 in the eastern regions of the country to support self-reliance, disaster risk reduction (DRR), capacity building and emergency response for affected populations. We are engaged in the following key activities: (1) Conducting joint assessments of conflict and natural disaster-affected families and responding with prepositioned non-food items, winterization kits and cash assistance. (2) Supporting disaster and conflict-affected IDPs, returnees and host communities by prioritizing protection and awareness. (3) Conducting GBV prevention and response by providing psychosocial support and other referral services. (4) Building the capacity of health staff to respond to GBV, including medical management of GBV and clinical management of rape. (5) Improving the capacity of hospitals and health facilities in emergency preparedness and response to disasters. (6) Providing technical support to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). (7) Coordinating and collaborating with provincial and national ANDMA line departments, the ES/NFI Cluster, the Health Cluster, UN agencies and other stakeholders.



Our work in these areas has helped reduce suffering among those affected and improved the capacity of health facilities to respond effectively during disasters.

## INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE AND NUTRITION

International Medical Corps offers primary and community health services in Paktika Province. Supplemental feeding programs have been implemented in Paktika to reduce morbidity and mortality risks associated with malnutrition. International Medical Corps also manages moderate and severe acute malnutrition for children under the age of five as well as pregnant and lactating women. Other services offered to children under five include prevention of, communicable diseases and treatment for diarrheal disease, acute respiratory infections and malaria. We also provide nearly 15,000 health consultations each month at six sites in Paktika province.

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

International Medical Corps works to discourage the attitudes and behaviors that contribute to incidents of GBV in Afghanistan. We also use targeted social and behavior change activities to reduce the stigma of survivors. The current GBV program serves four provinces--Kabul, Balkh, Samangan, and Jawzjan – ensuring that both medical and psychosocial support are available for GBV survivors through health facilities and community-based support mechanisms. In partnership with the Ministry of Public Health we are developing a capacity building plan to continue key GBV activities in the targeted communities. Since 2013, we have trained more than 4,300 health workers and key actors on GBV-related issues, established Family Protection Centers and registered and managed more than 12,000 GBV cases.

## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH)

Under the Essential Package of Hospital Services, International Medical Corps treats more than 300 women per month with antenatal care and more than 400 women and newborns with postnatal care within three days after delivery. In addition, we deliver the children of some 400 women per month, ensuring that the deliveries are attended by a gynecologist and carried out in properly controlled hygienic conditions.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

International Medical Corps provides lifesaving trauma care services through three First Aid Trauma Posts (FATPs) in hard-to-reach, conflict-affected districts of Paktika province--Barmel, Janikhel and Ziruk. The role of the FATPs is to stabilize the injured and refer them to the nearest hospital for advanced care based on need. To provide timely and standard referral, we maintain three ambulances (one at each FATP) equipped with all necessary items to provide first aid and basic life support. In addition, we have trained newly recruited nurses on basic life support to provide quality trauma care. Between February 15 and August 31, 2018, 3,327 individuals suffering wounds received trauma care in the three established FATPs. We also provide emergency WASH services to returnees, IDPs and underserved groups in Shams and Said Toba villages in Nangarhar Province's Surkhrood District.





## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

International Medical Corps provides emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services to Afghan IDPs, returnees, host communities and refugees crossing into the country from Pakistan along the Torkham and Momandara districts of Nangarhar Province, in the Surkhrood and Khiwa districts of Nangarhar Province, in the Marawara district of Kunar Province and Urgan district of Paktika Province. We also support residents of local host communities in these areas. Since October 2017, more than 64,000 individuals have received hygiene awareness instruction at the household, community, school and health facility level. We also have constructed about 250 latrines, drilled 125 boreholes, and trained 29 WASH committees and 85 community hygiene promoters. International Medical Corps is also successfully implementing a Community-Led Total Sanitation program (CLTS) in which nearly 120 villages were identified and certified as “clean villages” between July 2016 and May 2018.



[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

Since its inception more than 34 years ago, International Medical Corps' mission has been consistent: ease the suffering of those affected by war, natural disaster and disease by delivering vital healthcare services and focusing on training that provides the skills and tools required to foster self-reliance. This approach of helping people to help themselves is critical to returning devastated populations to self-reliance.

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