

Lebanon



Almost seven years since the outbreak of war in Syria, Lebanon continues to host the highest per capita number of Syrian refugees anywhere.

The additional population has strained essential services, limiting access for both refugees and vulnerable Lebanese. As part of efforts to meet urgent needs, International Medical Corps is providing comprehensive primary health care, mental health services, and gender-based violence prevention and response programming for persons of concern throughout the country. Our primary goal is to support the expansion of an affordable health care system in Lebanon, one that enables those who are most vulnerable to access a broad range of quality services.



International Medical Corps began operating in Lebanon in 2006 and has played a key role providing relief to people affected by war. Remaining after the August 2006 ceasefire, International Medical Corps assisted in reconstruction efforts and maintained a strong presence in the country, providing services to Iraqi refugees and other persons of concern.

Since the 2011 outbreak of conflict in Syria, we have expanded programming to meet the health and mental health needs of Syrians who have sought refuge in Lebanon. Today, our health, mental health, and gender-based violence prevention and response activities address the needs of over 1.3 million refugees and vulnerable Lebanese residing in greater Tripoli, Akkar, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and the South.



PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

International Medical Corps works to ensure access to quality health services for Syrian refugees, vulnerable Lebanese and other persons of concern. We do this by supporting a network of about 50 primary health care clinics (PHCCs) and dispensaries across the country. The primary health care clinics focus on prevention and health maintenance, including routine physical examinations, wellness exams for children, malnutrition screening, immunizations, referrals, care and follow-up treatment for those with non-communicable diseases, as well as antenatal and postnatal care. International Medical Corps procures essential medications based on the Ministry of Public Health's drug lists and works closely with the supported PHCCs to dispense and monitor their use. Aside from providing financial assistance, International Medical Corps works closely with these PHCCs to provide continuous capacity-building support with the goal to improve the quality of services at each facility.

On average, International Medical Corps-supported facilities provide more than 27,000 consultations per month. Between September 2016 and August 2017, IMC provided health services to nearly one-quarter of a million beneficiaries.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Awareness raising and health education are key components of International Medical Corps' primary health care services. These services play a valuable role in limiting the spread of communicable diseases and minimizing both primary and secondary health care costs. International Medical Corps identifies volunteers from local communities and provides them with in-depth training and field coaching. Training includes a variety of health education topics including infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and other chronic illnesses, infant and young child feeding, nutrition for the life cycle, immunization, new born care, antenatal care, personal hygiene and sexually transmitted diseases. These Community Health Workers serve as a vital link between PHCCs and those residing in the surrounding areas. They provide referrals and follow up with refugees and vulnerable Lebanese at home, in informal settlements and collective shelters, as well as schools and underserved neighborhoods. The Community Health team also organizes health campaigns across the country in coordination with local and international partners to sensitize communities and distribute hygiene and feminine kits following interactive health and hygiene awareness sessions.

In 2017, IMC trained and supported 73 Community Health Workers, of which 65 were women. Between September 2016 and August 2017, the International Medical Corps Community Health team reached more than 32,000 beneficiaries through awareness sessions and referred over 16,000 beneficiaries to health care services.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

International Medical Corps has played a leading role in the delivery of comprehensive mental health programming since arriving in Lebanon. We have expanded access to services by training primary health care providers to diagnose and treat mild to moderate mental illnesses and disorders. Through the mental health care centers we support, primary health clinics, and community centers, multi-disciplinary case management teams comprised of case managers, psychotherapists, and psychiatrists provide continuous support to beneficiaries and refer cases to other services, according to need. Between September 2016 and August 2017, International Medical Corps provided over 22,500 MHPSS consultations to more than 2,500 beneficiaries.

As part of efforts to promote health and well-being among refugees and vulnerable Lebanese, International Medical Corps also offers community-based activities for youth and caregivers among other persons of concern. Programs around parenting skills and early childhood development, for example, are designed to raise awareness on a variety of mental health topics and equip individuals with the resources they need to help both themselves and those around them. Between September 2016 and August 2017, over 10,800 individuals have participated in awareness sessions. International Medical Corps has also developed 15 educational booklets on mental health disorders including depression, post-partum depression, loss and grief, enuresis, paranoia, schizophrenia, and psychosomatic disorders.

International Medical Corps also supports the Ministry of Public Health's National Mental Health Program, which provides national level guidelines and policies for mental health services in Lebanon. Our partnership with the National Mental Health Program helps integrate mental health into primary health care, ensuring access to quality mental health care within the existing health care structure.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

As part of efforts to prevent early marriage, domestic and sexual violence, among other forms of gender-based violence (GBV), International Medical Corps convenes community awareness sessions around women's empowerment and leads psychosocial activities such as support groups for vulnerable children, women and men. The Youth Empowerment Program (YEP), which culminates in community-based projects designed and implemented by youth, is also instrumental in raising awareness of GBV concerns. The program actively engages the wider community in prevention efforts and strengthens linkages with relevant service providers. Under the response component, International Medical Corps also provides case management and counselling services to women and girls in addition to men and boys through safe spaces and community centers across Lebanon. Between September 2016 and August 2017, International Medical Corps provided over 9,200 consultations for GBV survivors and other vulnerable women and girls in addition to reaching over 7,000 individuals with awareness messaging. We also conduct capacity building activities on clinical management of rape (CMR). Between September 2016 and August 2017, this included CMR trainings to 57 health professionals from 12 PHCCs across Lebanon.



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Since 1984, International Medical Corps has demonstrated the ability to deliver major relief and development programs to improve lives and strengthen national capacity through health, education, and social programming. International Medical Corps has responded to complex emergencies and implemented transitional development programs in more than 70 countries worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS IN THE REGION

International Medical Corps has been active in the Middle East since 2003 when it was one of the first international agencies to reengage in post-invasion Iraq. Since that time we have built robust programming in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Syria, and have responded to emergency needs in Gaza. International Medical Corps' Middle East programs focus on humanitarian relief, community development and government capacity building.



www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org

Since its inception more than 30 years ago, International Medical Corps' mission has been consistent: relieve the suffering of those impacted by war, natural disaster and disease, by delivering vital health care services that focus on training. This approach of helping people help themselves is critical to returning devastated populations to self-reliance.

NOVEMBER 2017

LEBANON CONTACT: **Eduard Tschan, Country Director**
Quantum Tower, 5th Floor, Charles Malek Street
Achrafiye - Beirut
ETschan@InternationalMedicalCorps.org
MOBILE: +961 1 424 931

HEADQUARTERS CONTACT: **Elsona Agolli, Programme Manager**
International Medical Corps UK
Ground Floor, 161 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9SJ
EAgolli@InternationalMedicalCorps.org
TEL: +44 (0) 203 870 9983

International Medical Corps Washington Office
1313 L. Street, NW, Suite 110, Washington, DC, 20005
TEL: +1 (202) 828 5155