

# Somalia



**In Somalia, drought, flooding, long-term armed conflict and displacement continue to drive people from their homes and have left approximately half of the population dependent on outside support for their survival and livelihoods support.**

Restrictions on humanitarian access exacerbate the already precarious situation. Since 1991, International Medical Corps has worked in Somalia to implement programs that build local capacity while serving the immediate health, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, and gender-based protection needs of the most vulnerable.





More than 2.1 million Somali women, men and children are internally displaced, with nearly half of Somalia's estimated 12.3 million population in need of emergency healthcare services.

Cycles of drought continue to drive people from their homes in search of assistance, while disease outbreaks including cholera and measles continue to cause significant morbidity and mortality. Through our long-term presence on the ground, International Medical Corps has built strong relationships with communities throughout Somalia, making it possible to operate in highly unstable conditions. In addition to providing immediate relief, International Medical Corps builds a framework for program sustainability and long-term positive change, making Somali communities more self-reliant.



## HEALTH CARE

Access to basic medical and emergency care remains severely limited in Somalia due to decades of protracted conflict. International Medical Corps promotes the health of Somalis with health care and nutrition interventions that not only provide routine and emergency care, but also build local capacity through the training and education of local health workers.

We address urgent health needs and gaps by providing free and comprehensive primary health services to over 200,000 beneficiaries in Mudug, Galgaduud, Bay and Banadir, four regions classified at emergency levels of acute food insecurity. In Galkayo, we support ten primary health units (PHUs), one health center and one hospital. In Jowhar, we support one maternity ward, four health centers and six PHUs. In addition, International Medical Corps

supports 14 mobile teams across Somalia that work to increasing the access and coverage of health services to difficult-to-reach populations.

International Medical Corps' health care services in Somalia include:

- ▶ Outpatient consultations for common morbidities
- ▶ Health education and promotion at the facility and community levels through community health workers
- ▶ Routine immunization under the Somalia expanded program for immunizations (EPI)
- ▶ Antenatal/postnatal care, including nutrition screening/referral for pregnant and lactating women
- ▶ Promotion of birth spacing and provision of modern family planning methods
- ▶ Clinical management of rape
- ▶ Comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care at the Jowhar Maternity Unit

Wherever we engage in maternal health efforts, we strive to do so in a context of overall reproductive health promotion for both men and women, which enables families to thrive and reach their full developmental potential.



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

International Medical Corps prioritizes the prevention of WASH-related diseases as part of our comprehensive approach to health interventions, with a focus on the following key areas: providing access to safe and clean water; provision and improvement of sanitation facilities; and promotion of safe hygiene practices within communities and at the health facility level.

Across all operation sites, International Medical Corps is providing access to sanitation and hygiene facilities to the most vulnerable population in Mudug, Galgaduud, Middle Shebelle, Bay and Banadir regions. Through mass awareness campaigns and home visits, International Medical Corps educates communities on hand-washing, hygienic latrine usage, safe-water chains and solid waste disposal. In Jowhar and Galkayo, International Medical Corps is constructing ventilated improved pit latrines to serve internally displaced persons (IDP) at displacement camps. We are also rehabilitating shallow wells across for regions to provide safe drinking water to the community.



## NUTRITION

International Medical Corps delivers outpatient and inpatient management of severe acute malnutrition, integrated with health services to drought affected and displaced communities in Abudwak and Galkacyo South districts in Galmudug region. In addition, the International Medical Corps-supported Galkayo South hospital in Galmudug region provides inpatient management of medically complicated and uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition through a stabilization center and outpatient therapeutic program. International Medical Corps' nutrition services in Somalia include:

- ▶ Nutrition education and promotion at facility and community levels through community health workers
- ▶ Nutrition screening and growth monitoring for children under five
- ▶ Outpatient therapeutic programming
- ▶ Management of severe acute malnutrition

## PROTECTION

International Medical Corps provides clinical management of gender-based violence in Somalia— including rape, female genital mutilation and other physical violence—at all of our health centers. In response to the spike in protection needs in IDP settlements, International Medical Corps is currently providing comprehensive integrated GBV services at Baidoa and Kaxda camps.



International Medical Corps is working to bring GBV services closer to survivors by making them available in their communities through community support groups (CSGs). These CSGs provide basic psychosocial first aid, as well as awareness raising on where and how to access GBV services. International Medical Corps is also conducting distribution of dignity kits to survivors and other vulnerable women and girls.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

Training and health capacity building of national staff underpins International Medical Corps' work throughout Somalia. Somalia faces a critical shortage of trained healthcare staff, poorly resourced infrastructure and inadequately distributed facilities. All of our programs lay the foundation for long-term progress through training and education initiatives that teach community members and health workers how to provide and promote essential services within their communities. International Medical Corps ensures that all the health facilities we support in Somalia are staffed with local health workers who are trained to manage moderate and severe malnutrition, malaria, communicable diseases, cholera and psychosocial support, among other issues.



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

A preeminent First Responder for more than 30 years, International Medical Corps has provided emergency relief to those struck by disaster, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions, working with them to recover, rebuild and, through training, gain the skills and tools required to achieve self-reliance.

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