



International Medical Corps supports health, nutrition, WASH, and food security and livelihoods programs in Yemen. In addition to a presence in Sana'a, Taizz, Lahj, and Aden, International Medical Corps recently expanded program activities to the governorates of Ibb and Al Dhale'e.

SITUATION UPDATE

Yemen's civilian population continues to face countless challenges as conditions in the country worsen after 10 months of renewed conflict, leading UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien to label the situation an unfolding humanitarian catastrophe. An estimated 21.2 million people in Yemen are in need of some kind of humanitarian relief, including health care, food, and access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Since airstrikes began in mid-March 2015, more than 6,200 people—including 2,900 civilians—have been killed and another 29,000 people injured. Airstrikes, bombings, and other violence have decimated Yemen's health system, with approximately 600 health facilities closed across the country due to damage, lack of supplies, or absence of staff, according to the UN. Attempts to resolve the Yemen conflict through UN-sponsored peace talks have stalled since mid-January.

Insecurity remains a key hurdle in the southern governorate of Aden, where militias and militant groups continue to challenge the authority of pro-government forces and the Saudi-led Coalition, which regained control of Aden from Al Houthi rebels in July 2015. Fighting, kidnappings, assassinations, carjackings, bombings, and other hazards have made Aden a difficult operational environment for relief actors, and most organizations have operated without international staff in Aden since mid-2015. After a 10-month hiatus, international personnel from International Medical Corps were able to travel to Aden in mid-February. International Medical Corps' Yemen country director visited two

FAST FIGURES

- 14.4 million people in Yemen are food insecure
- At least 2.5 million people are internally displaced
- Conflict has led to more than 6,200 deaths, including 2,900 civilians, since March 2015
- More than 29,000 people have been injured since March 2015

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

- International staff reach Aden after a long absence
- International Medical Corps expands WASH activities
- International Medical Corps teams tackle malaria and dengue in Aden and Lahj

For more information on International Medical Corps' Yemen response, see "A Look Inside Yemen's Civil War: A Humanitarian's Blog."

<https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/story-yemen-giorgio-trombatore-yemen-blog>

hospitals, Al Sadaqa and Al Jumhouria. Al Sadaqa, located in an insecure area of Ash Shaikh Outhman District, recently reopened with assistance from International Medical Corps following several months of closure due to conflict damage, during which period the hospital served intermittently as a shelter for internally displaced persons (IDPs). International Medical Corps provides medical supplies and equipment, as well as salary incentives for 80 percent of Al Sadaqa staff, to help keep the hospital functioning. At Al Jumhouria—one of the main referral hospitals in the area—patients with conflict-related injuries packed the emergency ward. International Medical Corps' Yemen country director also traveled to Lahj, where he met with local authorities. The five-day, overland trip to Aden and Lahj underscored the difficulty of transporting assistance from Sana'a to southern Yemen and within Aden itself, as routes featured numerous checkpoints that marked the frontlines of territory controlled by one party or another. International Medical Corps is exploring alternative ways to reach Aden, such as by boat or by air.



A war-damaged building in Aden Governorate.

In Taizz City, humanitarian organizations continue to negotiate with conflict parties to access areas of Al Mudhaffar, Al Qahirah, and Salh districts, where approximately 200,000 people have limited access to assistance and are living under siege conditions. After several months of effort, UN agencies, international organizations, and others successfully gained permission to enter the city in mid-February, delivering critical items such as family food rations; medicine, oxygen, and emergency medical supplies for hard-to-reach hospitals; and basic household items like blankets and mattresses. The humanitarian community continues to advocate with conflict parties for sustained, unrestricted access to Taizz. However, airstrikes are a continuous threat for civilians and relief workers, as are shelling, sniper fire, and other hazards. International Medical Corps staff in Yemen note that wounded individuals are often unable to access clinics and hospitals for assistance due to clashes and the difficulties of crossing the frontlines of fighting, leading medical personnel to provide emergency care in homes and other alternative locations.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Expanding Facility and Community-Level WASH Interventions in Yemen

Water shortages persist in Yemen, given the destruction of infrastructure, a lack of fuel and power, and other factors. The shortages place an additional burden on civilians, particularly IDPs and other vulnerable groups, and limit the ability of health facilities and hospitals to deliver care. In response to persistent needs, International Medical Corps has been expanding its water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities in Yemen. Since November 2015, International Medical Corps has added seven health facilities and seven hospitals in Sana'a, Taizz, Aden, and Lahj for water trucking support in order to keep health care providers operational in conflict-affected communities. International Medical Corps provided nearly 1.4 million liters (L) of water for the facilities and hospitals in December and January. Following needs assessments, International Medical Corps coordinated with local authorities and community leaders to set up water storage tanks in Sana'a, Taizz, Ibb, and Aden communities in areas with large concentrations of IDPs. Water trucking to 18 points in Sana'a and Aden began in January, with approximately 1 million L of water delivered through the end of the month. As a part of this program, WASH teams have been conducting hygiene promotion activities, and plan to distribute hygiene kits and ceramic water filters. The expanded WASH program is in addition to existing activities supporting water trucking for two hospitals in Sana'a; three hospitals in Taizz; one hospital in Ibb; and seven health facilities in Aden and Lahj. During February, International Medical Corps also trained 72



Women and children collect water from a water point in Aden.

staff from 24 health facilities on the maintenance of solar power systems—provided by International Medical Corps—that have helped restore cold chain capability for the storage of vaccines and medicines. WASH teams also facilitated hygiene promotion activities for Global Handwashing Day.

Assisting Food-Insecure Families in Taizz and Lahj

Food insecurity in Yemen has significantly worsened during the ongoing conflict due to the disruption of critical food imports, in addition to fuel shortages, limited ability to harvest crops, and interruption of livelihoods. In 2014, an estimated 10.6 million people were food insecure; in 2016, Yemen's food-insecure population had increased to approximately 14.4 million people. To help address needs, International Medical Corps is implementing food voucher programs in Taizz and Lahj—two governorates that are currently experiencing Emergency levels of food insecurity, per the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) scale. The programs assist vulnerable families, particularly those with malnourished children under five or with pregnant and lactating women, and provide households with access to basic food items, such as wheat flour, rice, sugar, beans, salt, and vegetable oil. In Lahj's Al Musaymir, Al Maqatirah, and Al Milah districts, International Medical Corps has reached its intended 950 households with food distributions; subsequent rounds of distributions are ongoing. In Taizz's Dimnat Khadir District, all 340 families targeted for assistance have been reached to date, with 191 of the households assisted during the first half of February. International Medical Corps also plans to provide food baskets for vulnerable families in Taizz's Mawiyah and Maqbanah districts.

Delivering Health Care and Nutrition Services in Heavily Affected Governorates

Yemen's health care system is in a state of near collapse, and the UN estimates that 14.1 million people in the country are without adequate access to health services. International Medical Corps operates mobile medical teams in Sana'a, Taizz, and Lahj to provide medical care and nutrition services in second- and third-tier areas, or more rural communities that are farther away from hospitals and health facilities. In Taizz, mobile team members conducted 1,069 health consultations during the first half of February, providing assistance in At Ta'iziyah, Dimnat Khadir, Mawiyah, and Maqbanah. The teams also screened 905 children under five for acute malnutrition, enrolling 214 children for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 35 for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In Sana'a, International Medical Corps operates mobile teams in Bani Matar, Al Haymah Al Kharijiyah, and Sanhan districts. During the first two weeks of February, Sana'a mobile teams conducted 1,129 health consultations and screened 278 children under five for acute malnutrition. Twenty-six children were enrolled for MAM treatment and four for SAM treatment. [Data for Lahj mobile teams will be included in the next situation report.] Mobile teams also provide reproductive health care services and pediatric care. International Medical Corps also directly supports more than 90 health facilities and hospitals in Sana'a, Taizz, Aden, and Lahj with medicines, supplies, and nutrition commodities.

In addition to routine services, International Medical Corps held multiple trainings for health staff during the month of February. From February 2–4, International Medical Corps held a first aid training for 60 community health volunteers (CHVs) in Sana'a Governorate. The training aimed to build the capacity of the CHVs to deliver first aid and serve as first responders in the communities where they operate, many of which lack medical personnel. The training is part of a larger initiative by International Medical Corps to reach 300 CHVs with first aid training in the coming months. International Medical Corps also held an extensive intensive care unit (ICU) and emergency training for 24 doctors from Aden and Lahj, focusing on topics such as central line and endotracheal tube insertions, utilizing electrocardiograms, and management of patients in the ICU. A separate a three-day training for 23 health workers in Lahj focused on child immunizations.

Yemen repeatedly struggles with outbreaks of vector-borne diseases like dengue fever and malaria. Although the diseases tend to spike on a seasonal basis in Yemen, the conflict situation has generated conditions suitable for mosquito breeding, such as uncollected trash, standing water, and open sewage. In February, International Medical Corps conducted a nine-day malaria spraying campaign in Lahj's Al Musaymir District. The campaign reached 5,302 of the intended 5,631 households; the sprayers' movements were severely limited by insecurity. International Medical Corps also held a nine-day community education and outreach campaign on dengue fever in Aden's Dar Sad District. The first half of the campaign focused on raising dengue fever awareness among community and religious leaders,

school health supervisors, women in leadership roles, and CHVs. The second half involved outreach through 120 CHVs to at least 5,529 households in Dar Sad.

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