



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continues to face acute and complex humanitarian crises characterized by internal displacement and widespread insecurity. According to the World Bank, the mortality rate for children under-five remains one of the highest in the world at 62 deaths per 1,000 live births (2021). These causes of death, often preventable, are aggravated by high rates of malnutrition, lack of access to clean water and gender-based violence (GBV).

Since 2000, IMA World Health (IMA) has been a key partner in the DRC's development and humanitarian response, working alongside the Congolese government and local and international organizations, to revitalize the health system and fight disease. Through long-standing relationships with the Ministry of Health and a robust faith-based network, IMA has provided direct assistance in 251 health zones, consistently and distinctively operating in the country's most remote and challenging areas where successive armed conflicts and political instability have demanded creativity and unparalleled local partnership.

Project Highlights

Essential Services for Maternal and Child Health (SEMI) | 2022 – 2025

The SEMI project builds on a decade of health system strengthening investment by UK Aid in the DRC through the IMA-implemented ASSP and ASSR projects. The FCDO-funded SEMI project focuses on improving access to essential maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health services, promoting rights-based family planning services, and strengthening the health system in the areas of community governance, human resources for health, drug supply chain management, health information system quality and completeness, and public finance management. To date, the SEMI project has supported 936,177 patients receive curative services. Four doses of intermittent preventative treatment (IPT) for malaria have been given to 25,717 pregnant women during antenatal visits, and 52,882 deliveries (96% of all deliveries in Kasai province) have been assisted by a skilled attendant.

OUR GLOBAL APPROACHES

Health Systems Strengthening

IMA works with governments and local partners to provide technical assistance and capacity strengthening to increase engagement, services and investment in a country's health system.

Maternal and Child Health

IMA improves the access to and availability of high-quality, person-centered maternal, newborn and child health services and voluntary family planning and reproductive health care in fragile and conflict affected settings.

Disease Treatment & Prevention

IMA aids in the treatment and prevention of deadly diseases that disproportionately affect people living in poverty, such as malaria, NTDs, HIV/AIDS and Ebola.

Nutrition

IMA implements evidence-based, multi-sector approaches targeting a range of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive factors to prevent malnutrition and reduce stunting.

WASH

IMA improves water and sanitation infrastructure and promotes education in healthy WASH practices at schools and health centers.

Gender-based Violence

IMA strengthens community-based prevention of and response to GBV and improves the quality of and access to holistic care for survivors.



IMA WORLD HEALTH

In concert with Corus International

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Mass Distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLINs) | 2021 – 2023

Funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFTAM), and in partnership with national NGO SANRU, IMA is implementing a third round of mass distribution initiatives to provide LLINs to all households in 5 provinces of the DRC. These initiatives have led to over 18.7 million LLINs being distributed since 2018, reaching about one-third of the DRC's population across nine provinces. IMA continues to innovate and ensure high quality data collection from distributions and was the first organization in the DRC to leverage mobile technology to help the government and local partners track malaria incidence and maintain LLIN coverage. To support mass distribution campaigns, IMA recruits locally in each province to distribute LLINs and monitor follow-up activities.

Counter Gender-Based Violence (C-GBV) | 2017 – 2023

Funded by USAID, the C-GBV project (Tushinde Ujeuri) supports communities in eastern DRC to prevent and respond to GBV with the goal of reducing violence, combatting stigma and improving holistic care for survivors. Building on the highly successful USAID-funded Ushindi program implemented by IMA (2010-2017), the C-GBV project provides urgent medical care, psychosocial counseling, legal support, and socioeconomic support (access to village savings and loan associations, literacy circles, and women's empowerment groups) to help survivors gain financial independence and social support. Together, these activities restore health, dignity, justice and opportunity to survivors. To date, the project has reached close to 800,000 community members with GBV prevention information; more than 10,000 survivors have received psychosocial support; and more than 2,000 have received post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) Kits to prevent HIV following assault.

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Kit Procurement and Distribution | 2018 – 2024

Funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, IMA has procured and distributed PEP Kits in the DRC since 2018, improving the supply chain for PEP Kits in up to 16 provinces with a high prevalence of GBV. IMA employs a multi-pronged supply and distribution strategy which increases access, reduces stock-out, and reduces cost per kit through a cost-effective bulk procurement and local kitting solution. Through this approach, IMA has cumulatively purchased, kitted and distributed over 107,800 PEP Kits, dramatically increasing access to life saving medication for survivors of sexual violence. Complementarily, the project trains health care providers in GBV survivor care, supports PEP Kit administration, supply chain management, tracking and monitoring, and strengthened coordination among humanitarian actors and local partners.

MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience | 2020 - 2025

IMA World Health leads the five-year, USAID-funded MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience program, which is part of a suite of innovative MOMENTUM awards designed to holistically strengthen quality voluntary family planning, reproductive health, and maternal, newborn, and child health in host countries around the world including DRC, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Yemen. Working alongside local organizations, governments, and humanitarian and development partners in fragile settings, the project helps accelerate reductions in maternal, newborn, and child illness and death by increasing the capacity of host country institutions and local organizations—including new and underutilized partners—to introduce, deliver, scale up, and sustain the use of evidence-based, quality care.

Humanitarian Response | 2021 – 2023

Nyiragongo Volcano response (May 2021): IMA responded to immediate needs of displaced individuals and overburdened health facilities. IMA supplied essential medicines to four health facilities and distributed 5,958 blankets and 45 water filtration systems.

Resurgence of armed conflict (June 2022): IMA responded to mass internal displacement by supporting 16, 380 individuals and six health facilities used by the displaced population and host communities. IMA support included essential medicines, medical equipment, infection prevention and control supplies, water filtration devices and blankets

Cholera prevention (February 2023): Responding to continued internal displacement, IMA provides humanitarian assistance in the form of food and non-food distributions (including blankets), while supplying essential medicines and building latrines and showers to improve WASH situations and support cholera prevention.

The Corus Effect

Founded in 1960, IMA World Health is part of Corus International, an ensemble of long-serving, global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to IMA World Health, the Corus family includes global aid and development organization Lutheran World Relief, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing firm Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

