2021-2022 Programs Overview

1. Mexico – GRM maintains its commitment to asylum seekers fleeing dangerous economic and organized crime conditions from the Northern Triangle in Central America to the US-Mexican border. GRM also serves internally-displaced peoples in Mexico seeking asylum in the US. Beginning in 2019, GRM has provided medical care and WASH solutions in the region, expanding to three locations in 2021 and emergency medical response teams for moving caravans.
   a. Matamoros – While the Matamoros asylum camp closed in March of 2021, there is a steady stream of migratory asylum seekers either yet to be crossed in the MPP program or new arrivals to the area requiring medical care. GRM maintains a full-time clinic at the Resource Center Matamoros. GRM’s capabilities include primary and urgent care, women’s health, OB care, COVID testing and care, medication distribution, both telehealth and local specialty referral pathways, and health consultations pertinent to legal cases. Operations are forecast to continue through 2022.
   b. Reynosa – One hour west of Matamoros is Reynosa, an unopened asylum port of entry into the United States. Reynosa is an unofficial locale for deportations by both the Mexican government and the US government. The city is controlled by organized crime and thousands of migrants are living outdoors in the Plaza and in several shelters. Beginning on 5/24/21, GRM opened medical operations in Reynosa five days per week operating at the Plaza, the Hotel, and in Senda de Vida shelter. GRM’s capabilities include primary and urgent care, women’s health, OB care, COVID testing and care, medication distribution, both telehealth and local specialty referral pathways, mental health services, and health consultations pertinent to legal cases. Operations are forecast to continue through 2022.
   c. Tapachula – Located on the Mexican side of the border with Guatemala, Tapachula is home to tens of thousands of asylum seekers and internally displaced Mexicans who have not been permitted to move north. GRM operates a medical clinic in Tapachula daily with mobile clinics deployed to areas of need, including caravan response. GRM’s capabilities include primary and urgent care, women’s health, COVID testing and care, medication distribution, both telehealth and local specialty referral pathways, and health consultations pertinent to legal cases. Team Tapachula is also the only medical group responding to the recent migrant caravans and has treated more than 3,000 people in the last couple of months for injuries and illnesses sustained while traveling. Operations are forecast to continue through 2022.
2. Kurdistan, Iraq - GRM has had a presence in the northern region of Iraq since 2017. In 2021, operations expanded including the establishment of a permanent office and official registration with KRI. GRM has partnered with the Duhok Department of Health and Azadi Hospital System for three projects:
   a. Opening of the first Undifferentiated Emergency Department in Kurdistan in April of 2022.
   b. Professionalizing the EMS transport system based out of Azadi Hospital.
   c. Creation and standardization of Emergency Medicine as a discipline in Kurdistan.

3. Mosul, Iraq – Mosul General Hospital is a short drive from Erbil, but is located outside of the boundaries of Kurdistan and inside of Iraq. Mosul General has requested training and professionalization of the Emergency Medicine system. As such, GRM will expand Emergency Medicine professionalization from Duhok, to Kurdistan-wide, and then into Mosul as 2022 progresses. Each success along the way will create systems and momentum for further growth. First on the list is Point of Care Ultrasound Training for physicians practicing at Mosul General.

4. Northeast Syria – Officially registered as an NGO in Northeast Syria, GRM maintains a full-time office and staff of two dedicated employees. With support from our Kurdistan office, GRM has provided more than 15 tons of medical equipment to various hospitals and clinics in NE Syria during 2021. GRM also donated a generator to Raqqa COVID Hospital in order for it to reopen in the summer of 2021. In 2021, GRM completed a medical needs assessment in NE Syria, identifying 15 projects for potential funding and management.

5. Sierra Leone – GRM completed a general medical needs assessment in Sierra Leone during Q3 of 2021. Shortly after returning, an oil tanker explosion occurred in Freetown that resulted in more than 400 casualties. GRM, in conjunction with Temple University, the Health Ministry of Sierra Leone, and the UN Development Program, responded by sending a specialty burn team consisting of a Burn Surgeon, CC physician, CC/Burn nurses, and a Burn Physiotherapist for a five week operation to assist local staff in providing care for burn patients.

6. Rapid Response Team – Unique to GRM is the nexus between military medicine, civilian medicine, and academic medicine, which allows for GRM teams to respond to dynamic situations with mixed teams practicing the most advanced, evidence-based medical care. Over 2021, GRM was tapped for three rapid response missions to high-risk areas using this model. With a central ethos of “We Go Where Others Won’t”, GRM’s RRT will continue deployments in 2022 to disaster and conflict zones where others are not able to respond.
7. Publications – GRM has been active in the academic medical community with journal publications since its inception. In 2021, GRM expanded this department with three publications and the addition of Research and Training Medical Director, Dr. Amita Sudhir, from UVA. Dr. Sudhir will oversee publication from the field in order to inform best practice in Emergency Response to High-Risk areas.

8. Fellowships – In conjunction with Temple University and other academic institutions, GRM has incorporated Global Health fellows in both academic medicine and US veterans with applicable skills to participate in fellowship rotations and career development in Global Health Response with a focus on operations. Temple’s University’s first emergency medicine/global health fellow began June 1st overseeing the medical direction for the Tapachula, Mexico project. Two additional US veteran fellow positions have been budgeted for 2022.