International Medical Corps was the first international humanitarian organization to arrive in Libya following the outbreak of war in early 2011. Over the past nine years, we have continued to focus on providing medical relief, and have gained significant in-country expertise and widespread programmatic reach by supporting conflict-affected populations. Today, as the country continues to face economic and political instability, International Medical Corps is still working in Libya, supporting the most vulnerable populations.
Shortly after the Libyan civil war began in 2011, International Medical Corps deployed teams to provide country-wide emergency medical services, train health workers and deliver vital medicines and supplies. Starting in the country’s east, we built makeshift health facilities to provide critical care to conflict-affected populations and moved with the frontlines westward until the fighting dissipated.

As the situation progressed, we transitioned from emergency activities to programs that fostered recovery and self-reliance. International Medical Corps supported the physical rehabilitation of clinics and invested heavily in gender-based violence (GBV) protection activities—culminating in the first women’s march in the country’s capital. However, these popular programs were halted following a new wave of violence in the summer of 2014.

International Medical Corps’ focus shifted again in light of these new dynamics—this time targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the growing waves of migrants traversing the country on their way to Europe. We have devised effective and efficient solutions for complex challenges in support of the most vulnerable populations deprived of access to basic healthcare. We provide medical aid vulnerable populations in urgent need of medical care while providing a broader range of activities that benefits the wider Libyan and non-Libyan populations.

WHERE WE WORK

We are the only international humanitarian organization that has worked uninterrupted in Libya since the outbreak of the civil war in 2011, and are among the few organizations that have expatriate personnel fully based in Libya.
HEALTH CARE SUPPORT

With funding from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), International Medical Corps operates six mobile medical units (MMUs) that serve IDPs in Benghazi, Misrata, Sabha and Tripoli. The MMUs are supported by community health workers (CHWs) who raise awareness among target communities on common health problems, to promote family well-being and prevent disease outbreaks.

International Medical Corps also receives funding from the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF), the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) to support primary health clinics by providing medical staff, medications, medical equipment, training and rehabilitation.

MENTAL HEALTH

International Medical Corps has a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) specialist who provides mental health training for medical personnel in Libya. This specialist helps medical doctors navigate the identification, management and referral of priority mental health conditions in line with World Health Organization guidelines. We also employ a team of psychiatrists who are led by our MHPSS specialist. These psychiatrists provide specialized services to patients identified by medical doctors, and refer more severe cases to the national psychiatric hospital.

PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

International Medical Corps has been expanding its capacity in GBV treatment and prevention, as well as protection services for women, in Libya. With the support of our in-country GBV specialist, International Medical Corps’ Libya staff have been trained on the basics of protection for women and children, GBV in emergencies and case management of rape.

International Medical Corps has created a women’s and girl’s safe space (WGSS) in one of the IDP camps in Tripoli, a place where women and girls can feel physically and emotionally secure, tailored to their needs and the context. Programming in the WGSS includes life-skills courses, as well as psychosocial support and medical treatment for those seeking care.
A pre-eminent first responder for 35 years, International Medical Corps provides 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.

January 2020