



From left, WASH Manager Juliette de Gaultier de Laguionie, Logistics Assistant Pierre Ludger Beuzile, and Medical Coordinator Nelson Lugo explain hygiene on Global Handwashing Day.

FAST FACTS

- On August 14, a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, leaving more than 650,000 people in need of emergency humanitarian assistance.
- 800,000 people in the southwest of Haiti remain affected by the earthquake. More than 137,000 homes and 60 health facilities were damaged or destroyed.
- As of October 24, International Medical Corps had provided nearly 3,900 medical consultations and reached nearly 3,000 community members with hygiene messaging.

On August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti's Tiburon Peninsula, causing at least 2,248 deaths and injuring more than 12,760 people. Two months after the earthquake, aid organizations face challenges in providing relief due an upsurge in gang violence and fuel shortages throughout the country. The earthquake-affected region and the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, also have faced transportation strikes and road blockades, with frequency and duration increasing in the month of October. Fuel shortages have thwarted ongoing relief efforts by limiting the use of generators, preventing humanitarian convoys, delaying delivery schedules of goods, inhibiting movement of workers and creating increased security risks for all. According to the UN Integrated Office in Haiti, reserves of fuel at hospitals in the capital are running so low that critical care will begin to halt if fuel supplies are not increased by October 26.

International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps deployed its [Emergency Medical Team \(EMT\) Type 1 Fixed medical facility](#) to Acquin, in southwest Haiti, in late August to address the urgent health needs of earthquake-affected populations. The EMT is a self-sufficient outpatient health facility that is fully equipped to serve a minimum of 100 patients per day. We deployed the EMT in Haiti in partnership with the Haitian Resource Development Foundation (HRDF), a nonprofit organization with the mission of supporting projects and programs that provide measurable results for at-risk populations and ensure greater economic vitality in Haitian villages.

As of October 24, staff and volunteers at the EMT had provided 3,884 medical consultations to area residents, with 103 consultations directly related to the earthquake and 302 indirectly related to the event. The majority of health consultations at the EMT are related to non-communicable diseases, with others related to communicable diseases, reproductive health and injury. The EMT now also provides fully integrated gender-based violence (GBV) services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services as part of its health programming.

International Medical Corps is working with the Ministry of Health and Hospital Referencia d'Acquin to promote and coordinate COVID-19 vaccinations for patients and clinic staff. Last week, more than 40 people at the clinic received their first dose of the Moderna vaccine, as provided by the Ministry of Health through the reference hospital. Efforts to promote and deliver COVID-19 vaccinations are ongoing, and provided at no cost to the general population.

Through the weekly EMT Coordination Meeting of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), International Medical Corps has engaged with other EMTs responding to the earthquake. At the closing of its site last week, the Norwegian EMT donated a surplus of medications and medical consumables to International Medical Corps, including 2,500 COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, 80 doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccines, 20 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, and gloves, gowns and drapes.

The GBV team opened the Center for Women and Girls on October 15, adjacent to the EMT. The center is hosting daily activities for women Monday through Friday, and activities for adolescents on Saturdays. GBV services are ongoing at the EMT, and GBV response officers continue to receive supportive supervision and mentorship to ensure that quality services are being provided to survivors. The center will continue to host activities, including information sessions in collaboration with the health, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) teams.



GBV Manager Meghana Kulkarni leads a training for healthcare providers on GBV core concepts and guiding principles.

In coordination with the Mayor’s office and the commune chiefs, GBV outreach officers will conduct community sensitization throughout Aquin regarding GBV core concepts, and raise awareness of available response services. Training on GBV core concepts is planned for local secondary schools once the national strike is over. This past weekend, the GBV team began delivering the first of its two-part training series— titled “GBV Core Concepts and Guiding Principles”—to healthcare providers, including EMT medical staff and Ministry of Health staff. The team will conduct the second part of the training on October 30.

Since the integration of MHPSS clinical services at the EMT, health providers have referred approximately 20 patients per week for services. On October 16, the MHPSS team delivered training on psychological first aid to International Medical Corps clinical staff and Ministry of Health representatives. This training will improve the ability of healthcare providers to engage with patients who have experienced distress or trauma, and to appropriately address their concerns and needs.

International Medical Corps celebrated Global Handwashing Day with a week-long campaign that reached 566 people. The WASH team promoted messages on the importance of handwashing with patients at the EMT and at Aquin hospital. The team celebrated Global Handwashing Day on October 15, with the theme “Our Future is At Hand—Let’s Move Forward Together,” by conducting a mass hygiene promotion campaign featuring a sound truck as well as a series of other activities that included 182 participants. Activities included a series of games and activities centered around the topic of handwashing; a demonstration and construction competition of tippy taps involving women; a relay race centered around the concept of the effects of water wastage and contamination through contact; and an obstacle race highlighting the different steps involved in handwashing.

| Haiti Earthquake EMT Type I Response | | | | |
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| Patient consultations delivered | Total health consultations: 3,884 | Directly related to earthquake: 103 | Indirectly related to earthquake: 302 | Unrelated to earthquake: 3,479 |
| Medical volunteers deployed | Doctors: 6 | Nurses: 13 | Nurse Midwives: 3 | Pharmacists: 4 |
| Persons trained | Health: 45 | GBV: 55 | MHPSS: 130 | WASH: 19 |
| Community members reached | Health Talks for patients and family: 1,605 | GBV activities for women and girls: 129 | MHPSS sensitization outreach: 740 | WASH hygiene promotion: 2,924 |