

# Libya



**International Medical Corps was the first international humanitarian organization to arrive in Libya following the outbreak of war in early 2011.**

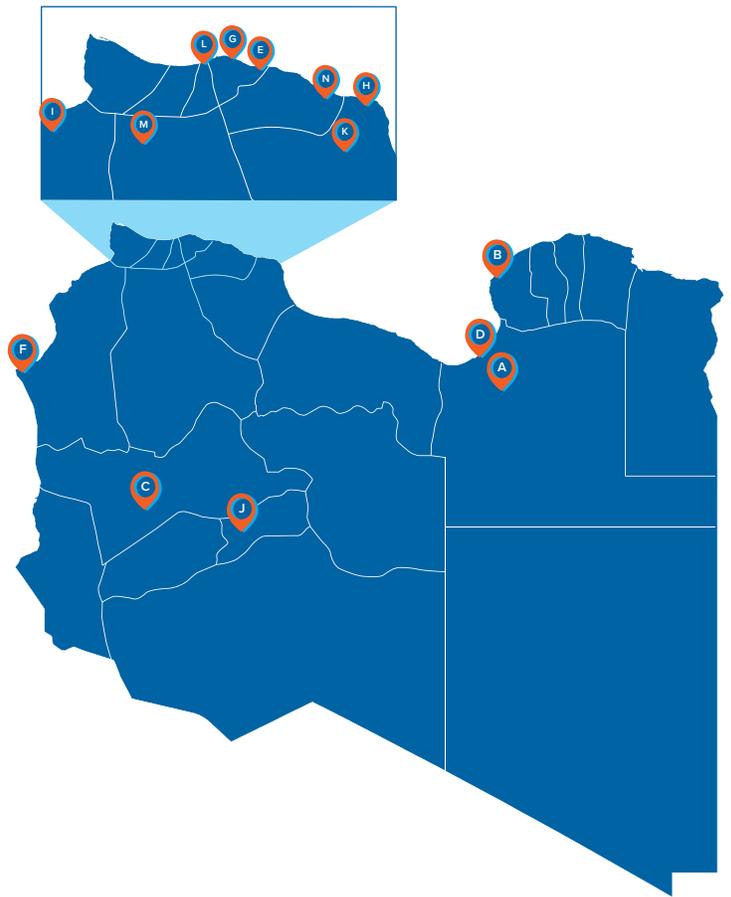
Over the past decade and more, we have focused on providing medical relief and gained significant in-country expertise and widespread programmatic reach by supporting conflict-affected populations. Today, as economic and political instability remain major factors in Libya, International Medical Corps continues to support the most vulnerable populations and strengthen the country's health system.

Shortly after Libya's civil war began in 2011, International Medical Corps deployed teams to provide countrywide 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 front lines 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 health 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.

Our focus shifted again in light of these new conditions—this time targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the growing number of migrants transiting the country on their way to Europe. We devised effective and efficient solutions to meet the challenges to support the most vulnerable populations deprived of access to basic healthcare, and continue to provide medical aid to those in urgent need of care while providing a broader range of activities that benefits the wider Libyan and non-Libyan populations.

Beginning in 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we focused on our partnership with the Ministry of Health and the National Center for Disease Control by donating personal protective equipment (PPE) and providing in-person and remote training on COVID-19 prevention and response.



## WHERE WE WORK

- |                         |                    |                  |                   |                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>A</b> AJDABIYA       | <b>D</b> BREGA     | <b>G</b> JANZOUR | <b>J</b> SABHA    | <b>M</b> ZINTAN |
| <b>B</b> BENGHAZI       | <b>E</b> GARABOULI | <b>H</b> MISRATA | <b>K</b> TAWERGHA | <b>N</b> ZLITEN |
| <b>C</b> BRAK ASH SHATI | <b>F</b> GHADAMES  | <b>I</b> NALUT   | <b>L</b> TRIPOLI  |                 |



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.



## 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 Libyan psychiatrists and psychosocial counselors who are managed by our MHPSS specialist. The team provides specialized services to patients identified by medical doctors and refers severe cases to the national psychiatric hospital.

We are the co-chair of the MHPSS technical working group, which operates across sectors to ensure continued collaboration between governmental actors, international NGOs and Libyan NGOs that provide MHPSS services across Libya.

## HEALTHCARE SUPPORT

International Medical Corps operates mobile medical units (MMUs) that serve Libyans and non-Libyans in Misrata, Sabha and Tripoli. Some of these MMUs are supported by community health workers (CHWs), who raise awareness among migrant and refugee communities about common health problems, as well as the need to promote psychosocial well-being and prevent outbreaks of disease.

International Medical Corps is focused on strengthening the national healthcare system through our long-term partnership with the Ministry of Health. This partnership includes training healthcare workers, providing medications and medical equipment, and rehabilitating healthcare facilities.



## PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

International Medical Corps continues to expand its capacity in GBV prevention and response in Libya. Our in-country GBV manager has trained our Libya staff on the basics of protection for women and children, GBV in emergencies and the case management of rape.

Our GBV team currently operates in Tripoli and Misrata, providing women's empowerment activities; life-skills courses, such as beginner's English; soft-skills courses, including painting and basket weaving; and case management for those who are internally displaced and others who are returning home. Our staff also refers those needing further care to available psychosocial support and medical services in their communities.



[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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