

Gaza

Gaza's population of more than 2 million resides in a politically tense, 25-mile long, 6-mile-wide strip of land that has passed from Egyptian to Israeli to Palestinian administrative control over the past 70 years.

The long-running Israeli–Palestinian dispute continues to exacerbate development efforts, causing delays in the delivery of supplies and restrictions on the mobility of humanitarian workers, and significantly affecting the health and well-being of Palestinians living in Gaza. A confluence of stressors—more than 55 years of occupation, a 15-year blockade, cross-border escalations in 2021, a protracted economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic—has overwhelmed already fragile infrastructures and resulted in almost the entire population requiring humanitarian assistance, even as the population faces severe barriers when accessing healthcare and protection services.

International Medical Corps has provided humanitarian assistance in Gaza since 2008, implementing emergency preparedness and coordination projects, and providing primary and secondary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and child protection (CP) and gender-based violence (GBV) services. With a robust long-term presence in the region, we monitor Gaza's security situation closely and remain prepared to respond to emergencies. We also work with a wide-ranging group of local Palestinian organizations in Gaza and have been developing new programs for the occupied West Bank.

HEALTHCARE

Primary healthcare

Working with local partners, International Medical Corps provides support for primary healthcare through static facilities and community and/or mobile health teams throughout the Gaza Strip. Services include outpatient consultations for adults and children (including initial check-up and follow-up) to diagnose and treat common illnesses and injuries; routine immunizations; prevention, early detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases; and essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) education and services, including information on family planning and SRH rights,



syndromic management of sexually transmitted infections, referrals for high-risk pregnancies, deliveries, and emergency obstetric and newborn care. International Medical Corps also supports local health education and hygiene promotion through facility-based community awareness sessions on such topics as handwashing, oral rehydration solutions to treat dehydration, early and exclusive breastfeeding, child nutrition and vaccination promotion. In addition, we provide laboratory and OB-GYN ultrasound services.

Secondary healthcare

International Medical Corps provides training to health facility staff in patient safety and infection prevention and control (IPC), and provides critical medical supplies and equipment. Through local partners, we support pre- and post-operation consultations and vital surgeries (including general, minimally invasive orthopedic, ENT, urology, pediatric and gynecological procedures), and provide free pharmaceuticals to those in need and who otherwise are unable to access services.

Ophthalmic services

Through a local partner, International Medical Corps supports pre- and post-operative consultations, ophthalmic surgeries (including glaucoma, cataract, squint and cornea), Avastin injections and laser surgeries.

Physiotherapy and wound care

We work with a local partner to support facility- and home-based physiotherapy and wound care/dressing for people with severe wounds or injuries (those that restrict basic daily functioning) as a result of the ongoing conflict or resulting from such conditions as diabetes-related wounds or amputations. We also provide wound-dressing kits to people in need, and offer coaching sessions to caregivers on wound care/dressing.



PROTECTION

All of International Medical Corps' protection services are conducted in secure spaces established in local community centers, or are integrated with health programming to increase access to these services for marginalized and vulnerable communities, especially women and children.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

Our MHPSS programming promotes well-being, protects against additional distress or potential psychiatric emergencies, and includes core training and supervision to ensure high-quality implementation. We have extensive experience providing psychological first aid, individual case management, structured group activities, community outreach and psychoeducation, and capacity-building for local professionals and community leaders.

Child protection (CP)

International Medical Corps' CP programming focuses on the safety and well-being of children through group activities and individual support services for children, as well as for parents and caregivers—aimed at strengthening the protective environment for children and supporting their resilience and recovery. We have experience designing structured skill-building and recreational activities for children, and structured support groups for parents/caregivers, in addition to case management for children, awareness-raising sessions and capacity-building for local professionals and community leaders.



Gender-based violence (GBV)

Our GBV programming focuses on preventing and responding to GBV by addressing the needs of women and girls, as well as the risks they face, in a safe and secure manner. We have many years of experience in case management for women and girls. Our GBV activities include group awareness sessions, community outreach, group empowerment sessions and capacity-building for local professionals and community leaders.



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

International Medical Corps builds communities' resilience and emergency response to and preparedness for natural disasters, especially flooding, through disaster risk reduction programming. Our services focus on prevention and protection, including reducing the number of people affected by disasters, reducing the damage to critical infrastructure and preventing the disruption of basic services at the community level.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

International Medical Corps establishes effective WASH facilities in partner health clinics and hospitals, and provides necessary IPC materials to minimize infection and transmission risks for staff and patients, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We provide hygiene kits to people in need, and increase awareness of effective and safe health and hygiene practices through information, education and communication materials.

VITAL SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

The availability of primary and secondary healthcare services, along with MHPSS, GBV and CP services, is essential to healthy people and communities. International Medical Corps plays a significant role, both programmatically and operationally, in making these services available to marginalized and vulnerable communities throughout all five governorates in Gaza (which otherwise do not have access to these services), and in enhancing local capacity for the delivery and sustainability of high-quality services.



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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