

SITUATION UPDATE



Staff from an International Medical Corps' mobile medical unit measures the blood pressure of a displaced patient in South Lebanon.

On October 7, an armed conflict between Hamas-led militant groups and Israeli military forces began. Tensions have prevailed in South Lebanon after Hezbollah fired rockets and guided missiles at an Israeli military post in Shebaa Farms on October 8. Since then, armed confrontations have been taking place daily.

Clashes renewed in South Lebanon after the truce between Israel and Hamas ended. The week-long ceasefire had largely halted hostilities along the Lebanon-Israel border.

In recent days, Hezbollah has been launching extensive attacks, including rockets and missiles, on Israeli positions near the border, while the Israelis have returned fire. The fighting has caused internally displaced persons (IDPs) to flee northwards.

Since fighting began in October, more than 120 people have been killed on the Lebanese side, mostly Hezbollah fighters but also 14 civilians. As of December 7, International Organization for Migration estimates put the cumulative number of IDPs in the country at around 58,835, staying in 12 designated shelters.

International Medical Corps Response

Following these developments, International Medical Corps activated its emergency response to maintain continuity of care in all of its program locations and to support displaced populations. We immediately mobilized teams to address the urgent needs of IDPs through mobile medical units (MMUs) and other outreach activities.

FAST FACTS

- International Medical Corps has been present in Lebanon since 2006.
- We partner with more than 50 primary healthcare centers (PHCCs) throughout the country, supporting primary healthcare services for vulnerable populations, including Syrian refugees, Lebanese, and migrant workers in Akkar, Bekaa, Beirut, Mount Lebanon and other areas throughout the North and South.

OUR RESPONSE

- Since October 7, International Medical Corps has been supporting displaced populations in South Lebanon following military developments along the border.
- To date, our mobile medical units have conducted 27 visits in the South, providing:
 - 845 medical consultations;
 - medications to 769 patients; and
 - referrals for 108 patients to PHCCs that we support.
- At least 808 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have benefited from our health promotion and awareness activities.
- More than 190 IDPs attended sessions on psychological first aid, while 92 attended mental health awareness sessions.
- We donated medication and medical equipment to PHCCs we support, as well as to the Nabatiah, Tebnin and Tyre governmental hospitals.
- At least 214 IDPs attended gender-based violence (GBV) awareness sessions. We provided seven GBV consultations, as well as emergency cash assistance to two families affected by GBV.

International Medical Corps has been at the forefront of coordinating efforts with key stakeholders, spanning both national and field levels, to ensure effective emergency preparedness and response.

On a national scale, we have played a proactive role in collaborating with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and other key stakeholders. While the MoPH has activated its public health emergency operation center and conducted multiple meetings to develop a well-coordinated and effective preparedness strategy, International Medical Corps' involvement has been crucial in furthering these efforts.

Working closely with the National Mental Health Program (NMHP) and the Young Men's Christian Association, we continue to play a key role in replenishing the central stock of psychotropic medications. We also support other partners in the country, addressing the crucial aspect of staff-care needs.

During the past two weeks, we conducted seven MMU visits covering three designated shelters in Tyre (Lebanese German University, Tyre National School and Tyre Technical School) and five designated shelters in Hasbaia (Ahraj Hasbaia, Kawkabaa Club, Nour Association, Saidnaya Monastery and Salam Association Kawkaba). Through these MMUs, we provided 302 medical consultations, provided medication to 213 patients and made 35 referrals to the PHCCs we support. Our health outreach volunteers provided awareness training on various health-related topics to 150 IDPs, and provided dental kits to about 200 IDPs. Additionally, we responded to lice outbreaks in Lebanese German University and Tyre Technical School.

Our mental health case managers have been providing psychological first aid (PFA) consultations and conducting awareness sessions for IDPs at Al Hosh Vocational Institute, the Lebanese-German University in Bourj Al Chemali and the Tyre Vocational School. In the past two weeks, we have provided PFA consultations to more than 30 IDPs, while 19 participants attended mental health and psychosocial support awareness sessions that addressed challenges such as tension, conflict, exhaustion and domestic concerns while sharing coping strategies to deal with these challenges.

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the skills and preparedness of responders, especially frontline workers during emergencies, International Medical Corps worked with NMHP to conduct additional PFA training sessions for such workers from different organizations. To date, we have trained 105 frontline workers.

Finally, we provided awareness sessions to three IDPs on topics related to gender-based violence (GBV). So far, we have provided 18 GBV consultations and 29 general consultations, including referral to such other services as health, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene. We also offered case management services to GBV survivors, providing emergency cash assistance to two of them.