



*In response to the conflict, International Medical Corps deployed a field hospital to provide emergency, primary and secondary healthcare services in southern Gaza, where millions of IDPs are living.*

It has been 15 weeks since the conflict in Gaza began, and access to basic services remains severely limited. The health system is on the brink of collapse, with only 15 out of Gaza's 36 hospitals functioning—and doing so at nearly three times their capacity, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Additionally, out of the country's 72 primary healthcare centers, only 13 are functional.<sup>1</sup> Mass displacement, overcrowding and disruptions to water and sanitation infrastructure, along with shortages of food and medicine, have left millions in need of humanitarian aid.

## International Medical Corps Response

In response to the vast needs, International Medical Corps has deployed a field hospital to southern Gaza to provide emergency and primary healthcare services, surgical care for trauma, comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care services, and anesthesia services. As of January 18, our team has provided 3,397 outpatient consultations, has performed 15 major and minor surgeries, and currently is treating 30 inpatients.

The field hospital is equipped with six beds to support the emergency room, 20 beds for post-operative care/surgical ward, 10 beds in the postnatal ward and 20 beds for inpatient management of acute medical conditions. There is a Level 1 intensive-care unit (ICU) with four beds, two operating theaters and a fully stocked pharmacy. We are providing outpatient services in accordance with the WHO's Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1 Fixed facility standards, which entail providing primary healthcare consultations to patients of all age groups for communicable and non-communicable diseases, outpatient reproductive healthcare services (including antenatal and postnatal care for women) and ambulatory therapeutic feeding programs to identify, manage and treat children with severe acute

### FAST FACTS

- Heavy bombardments have continued across much of the Gaza Strip leaving more than 25,000 Gazans dead and at least 61,500 injured.
- Since October 7, nearly 1.9 million people—more than 85% of the population—have been displaced across Gaza, some multiple times.
- Nearly 60% of the hospitals and more than 80% of the country's primary healthcare centers are no longer functioning.

### OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps has worked in Gaza since 2008.
- Based on our experience providing health, protection and disaster risk reduction services across Gaza, we are now rapidly scaling up health activities in response to the crisis.

### OUR RESPONSE

- In the immediate weeks of the conflict, International Medical Corps delivered 30 cubic meters of medicines and more than 370,000 items of medical consumables and supplies to support emergency and trauma healthcare services in Gaza City.
- Given the vast damage and destruction of healthcare facilities, International Medical Corps deployed a field hospital to provide emergency, primary and secondary healthcare services in southern Gaza, where millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled seeking safety.
- We are providing inpatient and emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and essential outpatient services during daylight hours. As of January 18, the team has provided almost 3,400 consultations.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2023/11/11/1212465136/gaza-hospitals-updates-israel-military-rantisi-shifa>

malnutrition. Additionally, our site includes a physiotherapy rehabilitation clinic and space to accommodate protection services, including psychosocial activities and women's and girls' safe spaces.

The Level 1 ICU ensures that patients have access to stabilization and critically needed oxygen therapy and non-invasive respiratory support. The field hospital also includes ancillary services, such as a laboratory, ultrasound machines, blood-transfusion services and a blood bank, to ensure quality of care.

The field hospital site was selected and confirmed in December 2023, and construction began in early January 2024. To ensure immediate access to critical services, International Medical Corps implemented a phased approach to operations, opening its emergency department on January 6 to begin providing trauma and primary healthcare services while the team finalized the construction and setup of the hospital's inpatient and surgical departments. By mid-January, the field hospital was fully operational, with inpatient and emergency services provided 24 hours per day, seven days a week, and essential outpatient services available during daylight hours.

Our teams so far have provided services to an average of approximately 350 patients per day, with daily numbers continuing to rise. The majority of patients seeking outpatient services have required care for chronic diseases, including diabetes and hypertension, as well as acute respiratory infections and malnutrition. Inpatients and surgical patients have required treatment for conflict-related injuries, including fractured bones and severe shrapnel wounds.

In addition to healthcare services, International Medical Corps is providing integrated water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection and nutrition services at the field hospital site. International Medical Corps is distributing bottled water to outpatients, discharged patients and healthcare personnel, and will establish communal water points to reduce health risks and encourage the adoption of best WASH practices. International Medical Corps also will install latrines and provide temporary waste-disposal facilities equipped with handwashing stations.

International Medical Corps is also providing psychological first aid (PFA), psychosocial support, risk mitigation, coordination and advocacy services to address MHPSS and protection concerns. We are working with partners to identify protection risks at shelters and other sites, and we have integrated gender-based violence (GBV) response services into medical services, to ensure that case management and psychosocial support services in women's and girls' safe spaces are co-located within the field hospital site.

International Medical Corps is providing maternal, infant and young-child nutrition programming to treat malnutrition, including severe acute malnutrition, and has established mother-baby spaces to provide a safe space for breastfeeding and counseling. We also are providing complementary food for both children and their caregivers.

Given the continuing conflict and the rising number of IDPs in southern Gaza, International Medical Corps will continue coordinating closely with local partners to identify opportunities to expand services and address urgent needs, providing critical health, WASH, nutrition, MHPSS and protection services.



*International Medical Corps staff help fit a child for crutches after his leg had to be amputated due to injuries caused by the war.*



*International Medical Corps' field hospital, which opened on January 6, has so far provided an average of 300 consultations per day. Inpatient and emergency care services are available 24/7, while essential outpatient services are available during daylight hours.*