

SITUATION UPDATE



Staff from the mobile medical unit provides medical consultation to a displaced child in South Lebanon.

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

Since the hostilities began, 728 casualties and 158 fatalities have been reported. The fighting has also displaced tens of thousands of residents on both sides of the border. According to the International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, as of January 30 86,665 people had been forced to flee their homes since hostilities began.

International Medical Corps Response

To maintain continuity of care in all its program locations and to support displaced populations, International Medical Corps immediately mobilized teams to address the urgent needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) through mobile medical units (MMUs) and other outreach activities. International Medical Corps also 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. The MoPH has activated its public health emergency operation center (PHEOC) and conducted multiple meetings to develop a well-coordinated and effective preparedness strategy, and 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 and providing training on psychological first aid (PFA). We also support other partners in the country, addressing the crucial aspect of staff-care needs.

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 the displaced population in South Lebanon following military developments along the borders.
- To date, our mobile medical units (MMUs) have conducted 52 visits in the South, providing:
 - 1,383 medical consultations;
 - medications to 1,103 patient prescriptions; and
 - referrals for 205 patients to PHCCs that we support.
- At least 900 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have benefited from our health promotion and awareness activities.
- More than 190 IDPs attended sessions on psychological first aid (PFA), while 314 attended mental health awareness sessions and 239 people received training on PFA.
- We donated medications and medical equipment to the PHCCs we support, as well as to the Nabatiah, Tebnin and Tyre governmental hospitals.
- At least 230 IDPs attended gender-based violence (GBV)-related awareness sessions. We provided 41 GBV-related and 40 non-GBV consultations and provided emergency cash assistance to two families affected by GBV.

In January, we conducted 15 MMU visits to IDP shelters in Lebanese German University, Tyre National School and Tyre Technical School in Tyre, and Ahraj Hasbaia, Kawkabaa Club, Nour Association, Saidnaya Monastery and Salam Association Kawkaba in Hasbaia. We provided 324 medical consultations through these MMUs, and medication for 252 prescriptions. The MMUs and community health workers also provided 66 referrals to PHCCs for patients with more complicated needs.

Our community health workers provided awareness-raising sessions on various health topics to 197 IDPs. In coordination with the DRR Unit, we distributed 100 male hygiene kits at the Lebanese German University shelter, 52 female hygiene kits at Tyre National School and 39 kits for IDPs hosted by the community in the Tyre area. PHCCs supported by International Medical Corp provided medical consultations for 349 IDPs free of charge.

In addition, our mental health case managers provided 127 PFA consultations and conducted mental health-related awareness sessions for 105 people, including 12 children. During the sessions, which covered general mental health, psychosocial stressors and anxiety, participants expressed challenges related to tension, conflict, exhaustion and concerns about their homes, and learned about coping strategies. As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the skills and preparedness of stakeholders, especially frontline workers during emergencies, International Medical Corps worked with NMHP to conduct four PFA training sessions in late January for 32 first responders.

Also in January, we provided 15 GBV response consultations and eight non-GBV consultations.